



Together We Are The Church

February, 2025

Christ Lutheran Church Newsletter

February, 2025

**“In Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek,
no slave or free, no male or female,
for in Christ you are all one.” Galatians 3:28”**

Dear friends in Christ,

This week the President of the United States declared there are only two genders: male and female. We write today to say something which we would not think needed to be said: The president does not get to dictate human gender classification. The law does not get to dictate gender classification. Even the apostle Paul, almost two thousand years ago, knew that human-imposed definitions, such as ethnicity, social class, oppressor’s titles or gender were not valid. Because of the unifying work of Jesus Christ, all human labels no longer apply.

We understand that each of our human brains is complex, beautiful, and elastic. We continue to evolve as individuals, and as a species. God knows us personally and intimately, even “knowing the number of hairs on your head,” according to Jesus (Luke 12:7). God knows the body, soul and mind of each person, including, and perhaps especially those who do not fit neatly in society’s categories. Jesus defied society’s definitions, and loves others who do as well.

Christians believe ALL humans are created in God’s image. We also confess that God is best revealed in the Trinity, a diverse, complex, interwoven expression.

So, too, then, our human identity and expression will be diverse and interwoven.

This diversity includes the myriad ways gender is understood and expressed by each human. I invite us into a broader-than-we-can comprehend God and God’s creation.

The Evangelical Lutheran in America wrote in its 2019 social statement Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Call to Action that Christians are called to “advocate for and support laws, policies, and practices that respect diverse bodies rather than discriminating against, objectifying, or devaluing them. Women, girls, and people who identify as non-binary must not be deprived of their human or civil rights.” (p. 60). For the president to declare someone’s gender identity does not exist is to deprive them of their very right to personhood, a basic human right.

The same ELCA social statement declares, “Studies of humans reveal rich diversity, showing that individuals do not neatly fall into two categories. Some people are intersex: their bodies are neither male nor female. People have a diversity of characteristics, most of which cannot be assigned exclusively to one sex or gender or another. Among humans, sex and gender are more accurately characterized as multidimensional.” (p.32)

(Continued on page 2)



Welcome ~ E Komo Mai!



*You are welcome at the table
found at Christ Lutheran Church.*

*Welcome to those of you who come bearing diverse gifts
including wisdom regarding sexual orientations,
gender identities and gender expressions.*



*Welcome to all of you for your diverse colors,
shapes, cultures, backgrounds, and traditions.*

Welcome to those of you born here and to those of you flown here.

*We seek to rejoice, grieve, heal and reconcile together
as we gather around Jesus' table, which has been laid out for all.*

For transgender, non-binary, gender queer and non-conforming people, you are loved. To the families of those same people, know that the ELCA is not perfect or of one mind about many things, but as synod leaders we stand united in solidarity with and celebrate people of all gender expressions.

Please pray for all who are in harm's way because of our President's words.

In Christ,

Bishop Brenda Bos
Southwest California Synod, ELCA

Lisa Curtis, Vice President
Southwest California Synod, ELCA

Bishop Deborah Hutterer,
Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA

Barbara Carl, Vice President
Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA

Bishop Dave Nagler
Pacifica Synod, ELCA

Jeff Cours, Vice President
Pacifica Synod, ELCA

Bishop Meghan Johnston,
Aelabouni Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Ruth Hoffman, Vice President
Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Bishop Jeff Johnson
Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA

Simon Wong, Vice President
Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA

Celebrations - Blessings to All of You

Happy Birthday

February 4 Bryan DePowell
February 5 William Belcher
February 11 Ethan Chong
Nora Mohrmann
February 12 Carolyn Koehler
February 13 Emily Stanford
February 15 Sally Kino
February 20 Noah McMann
February 21 Keene Rosetter
February 28 Barbara Burke



Wedding Anniversaries

February 10 Russ & Sally Kino

Baptismal Anniversaries

February 2 Ellie Stanford

If we missed your special day, please let the office know (office@clcmilani.org)



OUT OF OFFICE NOTICE

Pastor Keith will be on vacation from **February 3rd through February 11th, 2025** and attending the Bishops Retreat from **February 17th through February 19th**.

Please welcome **Pastor Christina Mauntel**, who will be our **Guest Pastor** for the services on **Sunday, Feb.9th** in his absence.

If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Dale at 808-561-8765.

- **During P. Keith's absence, the 8am Service will not be livestreamed on FB, please join us at 10am on zoom or check CLC's youtube channel.**
- **There will be no Morning Prayer from February 3rd through February 23rd, Prayer videos will resume again on February 24th.**



From the Bishop , Dancing as a Spiritual Practice

Rick Steeves makes distinctions between tourists, travelers, and pilgrims. Tourists want the Instagram moments, checking off the key sites from the guidebook, and bringing back a souvenir. Travelers want to experience the culture more deeply. They avoid the places that cruise ships visit. The goal is to know more about the culture, the land, and the food. Pilgrims want to go beyond what travelers experience. They want to be changed. They want to return home with a new understanding of themselves and the place they call home.

The Bishop's Academy this year was in Puerto Rico. Our location, our worship experiences, and our presenters pushed us toward becoming pilgrims. We learned about the colonial history of Puerto Rico and the injustices that they endure even as the people are citizens of the United States. I learned how much I didn't know about this place or its history. We also learned how to dance!

The traditional dance of Puerto Rico is called Bomba. It is a percussion led fusion of indigenous, African and Spanish sounds and movements. The main singer holds the maracas and sets the rhythm. A base drum picks up and holds the beat. Another drummer uses sticks to fill in the sounds and accentuate the rhythm. Finally, another drummer called the Primo watches the dancer's moves and musically interprets them into the song. The result is a beautiful, joyful, communal dance experience that conveys passion, pride, love, and hope.

After watching the dancers and learning about the elements of Bomba, we were invited to join in. A few simple steps were taught and then we were off to the races. It was good for our overly intellectual leaders to get into their bodies and move. I'm not saying that many of us were any good, but that wasn't the point. It was feeling the rhythm and letting it flow through our bodies that mattered. For me, that was when I felt a shift from traveler to pilgrim. I came back home changed.

As I consider all the challenges that we face in our lives I want to incorporate the lessons I learned while dancing. First of all, it is important to remember to dance. When we become anxious or overwhelmed with all that is on our plate, both individually and collectively, we can get stuck in concrete. Our brows furrow. We feel like we aren't up to the task or that we should be doing more. That is when we need to listen to the rhythm of life all around us and begin to dance to its beat.

Scripture tells of leaders who danced. Miriam danced when the Hebrew people were delivered from slavery on the dry side of the Red Sea. David danced with all his might as the ark of the covenant was brought into the tabernacle. Dancing was for celebrating life in the midst of struggle.

In 2016 I was part of a group that traveled to Jojutla, Mexico. That city is near the site of one of the largest mass graves. We were with the "Mothers of the Disappeared" who shared stories of their spouses and children being taken by military personnel or by the cartels suddenly and never seen again. For some, after 20 years they still met, prayed, and demanded an answer to the whereabouts of their loved ones.

We were there for several nights. After each day of sharing stories, the music would start and these women would invite us to join them in dancing. They said that dancing together gave them the strength that they needed to go on. It bolstered their faith. So we danced and danced!

There is a lot on our plates as a synod and as a society right now. Many of you have shared your concerns about the future of your congregation or about what may happen to your immigrant neighbors. The weight of these days can become a burden. May we take a lesson from the Bomba dancers in Puerto Rico or the mothers of Jojutla and remember to dance! Dance even if you are a terrible dancer! Let your freak flag fly! Allow the Spirit to infuse your bones again by listening to the rhythm of life, and dancing into whatever comes next.

When was the last time you danced? If you can't remember, do it today. When was the last time you danced in church? Break out the djembe, the tambourine, and the cow bell! Play something in worship that has a beat! Take the hand of someone near you and invite them into the dance of the beloved people of God!

Peace,
Bp. Dave Nagler



FEBRUARY, 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>** Not a CLC Event: Please contact Al Anon or AA for further information.</p> <p>*** Pastor Keith on vacation from Feb 3rd—Feb 11th. & Bishop's Retreat from Feb. 17th-19th</p>						<p>1</p> <p>IHS Ministry</p>
<p>2 His Name Is Jesus</p> <p>8 am In-person Worship</p> <p>9:15am Keiki Church</p> <p>10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</p>	3	4	5	6	7	8
					<p>*Al-Anon 7:30 pm</p> <p>*AA 7:30pm</p>	
<p>9 5th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>**Healing Sunday</p> <p>Guest Pastor Christina Mauntel</p> <p>8 am In-person Worship</p> <p>9:15 am Keiki Church</p> <p>10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</p>	10	11	12	13	14	15
				<p>Men's Prayer Breakfast 7:30am</p> <p>Rise N Shine Café</p>	<p>*Al-Anon 7:30 pm</p> <p>*AA 7:30pm</p> 	
<p>16 6th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>8 am In-person Worship</p> <p>9:15am Sunday Brunch</p> <p>9:15 am Keiki Church</p> <p>10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</p> <p>11:30am Church Council Mtg.</p>	17	18	19	20	21	22
	<p>President's Day</p> <p>*Church Office Closed</p>				<p>*Al-Anon 7:30 pm</p> <p>* AA 7:30pm</p>	
<p>23 7th Sunday after Epiphany</p> <p>8 am In-person Worship</p> <p>9:15 am Keiki Church</p> <p>10 am In-person Worship & by Zoom invitation</p>	24	25	26	27	28	
	<p>Morning Prayer</p>	<p>Morning Prayer</p>	<p>Morning Prayer</p>	<p>Morning Prayer</p>	<p>Morning Prayer</p>	



The Church Office will be closed in observance of Presidents Day

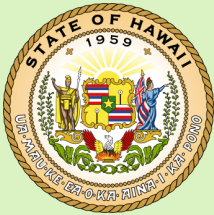
February 17th, 2025



Sunday Brunch

The next **Sunday Brunch** will take place on **Sunday, February**

16th between services (approximately 9:15-9:45am). Bring whatever you'd like to share or just bring your appetite. All are welcome to this monthly time of fellowship and fun.



Pastor Keith Receives A Certificate of Commemoration from the Hawaii State Senate recognizing his life's work in the secular and Non Profit organization sectors as well as his 40th Anniversary of Ordination.

Congratulations Pastor Keith!

We are so blessed to have you at CLC!



The Senate

CONGRATULATES PASTOR OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
REVEREND KEITH R. WOLTER
ON THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION

The Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i commemorates the 40th anniversary of **REVEREND KEITH R. WOLTER's** ordination. Ordained by his father, Reverend Ronald Wolter, **REVEREND KEITH WOLTER's** journey in ministry has been both inspiring and impactful. For nearly four decades, **REVEREND WOLTER** has made a profound impact on the lives of many, serving faithfully in ministry.

REVEREND KEITH R. WOLTER devoted his life to serving others, both in religious and secular nonprofit settings. Throughout his career, **REVEREND WOLTER** has worked with large and small parishes and has led two prominent AIDS Service Organizations — one in North Idaho and one on Maui — where he made an impressionable mark on those he served.

After his dedicated work with the Maui AIDS Foundation, **REVEREND KEITH R. WOLTER** later became a Pastor of **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** in Mililani, since January 2013. Under his guidance, **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** has flourished, growing both in numbers and in its vital role within the Mililani community. Reverend Wolter's tireless commitment to serving others, both locally and beyond, has made **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** a special place where faith and community truly come together to support and uplift those in need.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH has become a beacon of hope in Mililani Town, hosting a community garden that provides fresh vegetables monthly to Kupuna at Olaloa Retirement Community, and offering a ministry at the Institute for Human Services Homeless Shelter in Honolulu. Additionally, **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** runs a successful weekday daycare center and actively participates and encourages nonpartisan voter registration efforts. The church is known for its open and welcoming spirit, with a public declaration of hospitality to all.

REVEREND WOLTER's dedication to service and his leadership have made **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** a truly special place, where faith and community come together to serve others.

The Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i recognizes and congratulates **REVEREND KEITH R. WOLTER** for his 40 years of faithful service, honors his achievements, and extends best wishes for continued success in his future endeavors in his unwavering commitment to his work and the Church.

Bob Kal Rende *Paul Hwang* *Ray Allen* *David Doka*
Kurt Towler *Diane Wadsworth* *BS* *C. S. Smith*
Mike Galtland
Anna Drougas
Freddie R. Orange
Donna

Done this _____ 29th _____ day of _____ December 2024
State Capitol, Honolulu, Hawai'i

Michelle N. Kidani
Michelle N. Kidani, Sponsoring Senator

Rid D. Kral
Ronald D. Krosch, President of the Senate

Carol Taniguchi
Carol Taniguchi, Clerk of the Senate



The 32nd Legislature
Certificate No. 846

Upcoming Lent Worship Schedule



Ash Wednesday
March 5th at 7pm



Lenten Soup Suppers

Please Join us Every Wednesday evening beginning March 12th through April 9th for CLC's Midweek Lenten Service & Soup Supper.

We will gather between 6:00pm and 6:30pm for a light, soup supper potluck. We will follow that at 7pm with a short Bible study and worship using Responsive Prayer.

Feel free to show up for any or all of the above.
Let Pastor Keith know if you are interested in attending!



*A special
Message
from Andy &
Karen Conrad
& Family*



*May all the joys
of the season be yours.*

Wishing a wonderful Christmas to the Christ Lutheran family. We attended from 1997-1999 and our oldest son was baptized here. We were able to attend when we visited the island in 2021. Thankful for your fellowship during our time living there and all you continue to do for the community in God's name. All our best, Andy & Karen Conrad & family





Christ Lutheran Church
95-1361 Meheula Parkway
Mililani, HI 96789

February Worship

Sunday Worship
8 am and 10 am



The 8 am service is offered on
Facebook and the 10 am
service is offered on Zoom.

Both feature
on-line Communion.

The Liturgy of Healing is
included in each service on the
2nd Sunday of the month.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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