

TABLE TALK

Christ the King Lutheran Church
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Pastor's Letter

Grace and peace to you. As I write to you during Holy Week, we are transitioning from the Season of Lent into the Season of Easter. We are a people on the move and in transition. What a joy it is to be Easter people, that is, living on this side of the resurrection, knowing of God's love shown to us and all of creation in Christ's life, death and resurrection.

Speaking of transitions, over the last year and a half since rejoining you, we have been praying, pondering, and considering where God is calling our CTK congregation to share and live the gospel message we receive in and through Jesus Christ in the present and the years ahead. The Ad hoc Committee remains steadfast in its dedication and commitment, meeting regularly and being in conversation with Lutheran ministry partners to consider various ministry directions. Thank you for your continued prayers and witness to the gospel.

Back to the present, as we live into each new day as Easter people, we are called to grow in our relationship with gracious God, we are also to grow in relationship with family and friends and those we have yet to meet in our communities. We are to move simply beyond self and grow in awareness and compassion for the whole of creation. In closing I would like to share a poem I wrote based on Rev. Howard Thurman's poem entitled *The Work of Christmas*. My poem is entitled *The Work of Easter People*:

When Jesus has been turned
over to the authorities,
When Pontius Pilate and the Empire
have finished their mock trial,
crucifixion and buried Him in a tomb,
When the Lenten reflections
and soul searching are over,
And after His resurrection and ascension,
When the song of the lament is stilled,

The work of Easter People begins:

To find the lost.
To heal the broken.
To feed the hungry.
To release the prisoner.
To rebuild the nations.
To bring peace among all peoples.
To make music in the heart.
And to share Christ's love
with all those we encounter.

Shalom, Salam, Peace,

Pastor Raymond

President's Corner

Hello Church!

Spring: the time when days are getting longer, flowers are blooming, and everyone's baseball team still has a shot at the World Series. It is also a time for hope and renewal in the church. We celebrate Easter, the hope for eternal life, and Pentacost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to all believers. There are also some important new happenings and people at Christ the King Church.

The Property Committee, under the leadership of Peggy Claassen has successfully renegotiated a new 3 year contract with Kidango. This extends our partnership with an organization that supports child care and education for lower income families. The increased income will help us close the gap on our expected revenue shortfall for the 2024 budget.

We have also hired a new Music Director for CTK, Maretha Davel. Originally from South Africa, Maretha has multiple degrees from the University of Pretoria, including a Masters in Music Education. She has continued her education in the US with a Masters in Music Composition from Cal State Hayward, and extended studies with the Julliard School of Music. Maretha is currently teaching music at Sunol Glen School. Maretha will officially start on staff April 1st to provide worship music and lead our returning choir. Thanks again to Peggy Claassen for leading the search committee.

Finally, this past month we have continued to strengthen our relationships with other ELCA churches in the area by worshipping together during Lent. And we have a few new faces attending worship at CTK. If you have not yet met them, please introduce yourself at your next opportunity.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Sepeda

Say Hello to CTK's New Music Director

We are pleased to welcome Maretha Davel as CTK's Music Director starting in April!

In addition to Music Director, Maretha will also be playing piano, organ and flute at Worship Service as well as directing the choir.



From Maretha:

Born and educated in South Africa, I pursued my musical education at the University of Pretoria, focusing on flute and piano. Relocating to the UK in 2004, I embarked on a journey teaching at various schools before landing in the Bay Area in 2011, where I currently live with my two sons, Ben and Thilo. Continuing my passion for both teaching and performing, I unexpectedly discovered a new love for composition, which has become an active pursuit in my musical endeavors.

I was raised in a church-going family, and my upbringing instilled in me a deep appreciation for all forms of music within the church, from majestic organ solos to heartfelt praise hymns. Throughout my life, I've found profound spiritual connection through music, experiencing moments of sublime communion with God.

I am deeply honored to have been chosen as your Music Director and am committed to serving our community through the power of beautiful musical worship.



Thank You for the Music!

A big thank you to our substitute musicians during the past three months: Maretha, along with Todd Anderson, Grace Lee, Barney Tiller and Jason Tiller.

We thank them all from the bottom of our hearts for sharing their musical gifts with the CTK congregation.

Backpack Project

For

2024-2025 School Year



We are working on our Backpack Project for the 2024-2025 school year. While it may seem early to be planning for the next school year, some schools start in early August. We want children in need to be prepared with a backpack filled with school supplies when school starts.

Donations are appreciated to help us shop for backpacks and school supplies. Be sure to indicate "Backpacks" on your check made out to CTK. Donations may also be made on CTK's website. Click on "Donate" and then "Give to Backpacks for Kids in Tri-City."

We are planning a Panera Fundraiser for our Backpack Project in early May. Stay tuned.

Thank you for your support!

Bonnie Immecker, Social Ministry Committee



Timely Lessons & Fun at AbleLight



Our AbleLight team brought two timely lessons to our neighbors in March. First, Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Next, of course, was the resurrection of Jesus and the newness of life that God gives to all. Residents made paper palm fronds for Palm Sunday. And since our second lesson was only days before Easter, they very enthusiastically dyed eggs to share with other residents. All four "leaders" were there again and agree that no matter how we feel when we come in, we all leave happy!

Save the Date!

Mission Peak Chamber Singers and the East Bay People's Choir return to CTK Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 7:30 pm for their spring concert.

Join the Mission Peak Choirs for a light-filled evening featuring Eliane Hagenberg's exquisite choral masterpiece, *Illuminare*, as well as Moroccan guest artist Fattah Abbou, as he joins both Mission Peak choirs with songs from his homeland of love, longing, and life. You don't want to miss this light-filled concert that will leave all inspired and heartened through song.

CTK previously hosted the Mission Peak Choirs concerts in June 2022 and May 2023. We are looking forward to their return.



UPCOMING EVENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CTK BOOK CLUB: The CTK Book Club will continue through April on Thursdays at 10am on Zoom. We will pick up with "Living Buddha, Living Christ," Chapters 7 and 8. Buddhism has many of the same values and practices of Christianity, with a focus on meditation and appreciating the more simple things of this world that bring us together in a world that is fractured in so many ways. If you don't have the book, just come and hear what others are sharing. Ask Bunny if you have questions: dbdubel@sbcglobal.net Join us if this is a meaningful study for you. All are welcome.

CTK COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, April 9th at 7:15 pm via CTK Zoom.

LUNCH BUNCH: Wednesday, April 10, Lunch Bunch will meet at 1pm at Olive Garden 39145 Farwell Dr., Fremont. All are welcome; feel free to invite your friends. Plan for at least a 2-hour lunch, as it takes more time with a group. If possible, please bring cash as separate checks are not always doable. Cost will be your order plus tax and tip. Please RSVP to Bonnie Immecker: (510) 657-0910; immecker@comcast.net.

SOCIAL JUSTICE MEETING: Wednesday, April 3rd, at 10am via CTK Zoom.

SOCIAL MINISTRY MEETING: Monday, April 15th, at 6pm via CTK Zoom.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, April 1st, at 7pm via CTK Zoom.

TRI-CITY VOLUNTEERS FOOD BANK: Donations may be dropped off Monday to Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 37350 Joseph Street, Fremont.

Urgently needed items:

- Bottled Water (16.9 oz. or Smaller)
- Individually Wrapped Beef Sticks/Jerky
- Canned Goods and Packaged Foods (No dented cans and no items past their expiration date)
- Fresh Fruits and Vegetables from your Garden

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, April 22nd at 7pm via CTK Zoom.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR APRIL:

4/7	2 nd	Sunday of Easter	Rev. Ray Waespi
4/14	3 rd	Sunday of Easter	Rev. Ray Waespi
4/21	4 th	Sunday of Easter	Rev. Geraldine King
4/28	5 th	Sunday of Easter	Rev. Jim Brun

Reminder about e-mail addresses and your contact list

Remember to double check the email address of any mail you want to send. You may have deleted or changed an e-mail address in your Contacts List but old e-mail addresses can still pop up when you are sending e-mails. If you want to verify a CTK member's address, please contact Dana.

2024 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Jim Sepeda, *President*
Alan Claassen, *Vice President*
Jan Holbrook, *Council Secretary*
Dana Brambley, *Treasurer*
Debbie Pollak, *Financial Secretary*
Kris Adams
Bunny Dubel
Bill Kemp
Laurel King
Chris O'Halloran
Terry Pearson
Debbie Ward

CTK STAFF

Rev. Raymond Waespi, *Pastor*
Maretha Davel, *Music Director*
Dana Brambley, *Office Administrator/Table Talk Editor*
Christina Bauer, *Webmaster/Designer*