

CENTRAL LUTHERAN MESSENGER

1604 W. Yakima Avenue,
Yakima, WA 98902 (509) 575-6490
office@clcyakima.org · www.clcyakima.org

VOLUME 71 Number 3

March 2021



March Messenger Deadline March 26th, 2021

Please e-mail your articles to
Central Lutheran Church

Lea.Ramirez@clcyakima.org



It's a fact that collective congregational anxiety level heightens during a transition, although it doesn't have to. In my experience most faith communities are fairly high-anxiety anyway for a variety of reasons mostly of their

own making, but even the slightest hint of something different appears to exacerbate the anxiety. And again, this is anxiety most of their own making. This is especially true for clergy-centered congregations, that is, congregations that depend heavily on their pastor for all aspects of their communal life. Reliance on clergy for what is supposed to be shared ministry, however, is only an abdication of congregational ministry and even congregational proclamation. Pastors are not the only ones who are called to do the work of the kingdom. Why else would we be called the "body" of Christ? If a congregation is only along for the ride and not doing their part to help steer or row, then they have made the move to country club and are no longer a congregation. Anxiety can manifest in different ways, of course, and one of those ways is a slide into micromanagement on the part of leadership, elected or called. One early sign of micromanagement is a congregation being or becoming permission-denying rather than permission-giving.

The desire for control is a very human desire. Particularly during a crisis, such as a pandemic, when so much feels out of our control, we try to control the things we can. But humans are not meant to control each other, especially within the body of Christ. We all are one in baptism, no one above anyone else, but all work together in mutual ministry toward a common goal—at least ideally. As most of us know, life is seldom ideal, but that doesn't mean that we don't strive toward that in our interaction with each other. Luther wrote about the "priesthood of all believers" and within that priesthood any of us can act as a priest to another. For example, Luther believed that any Christian could hear the confession of another Christian and offer them absolution, two things that, in his time, were reserved for clergy only. For good order, according to Luther, the pastoral office exists to preach, teach, and administer the sacraments. Everyone may be a priest, but everyone is not charged to fulfill the tasks of the office. Through the Holy Spirit, pastors are called into service from out of the community by the community.

We all have opinions on how things should be "run", of course, and we all want things to "run" the way we want them to. However, the body of Christ is called to put the interests and needs of our neighbors first because we are called to serve others, not ourselves. The church, in fact, exists solely for the sake of others and not at all for the sake of those within its walls. A congregation is an emotional system, in much the same way that a family is, in the sense that one person's emotions affect everyone else's.

Emotional systems seek balance, and we think we can achieve balance through control, but that doesn't last and is not the way the body of Christ is called to act. Instead of controlling every aspect of congregational life, Jesus Christ gives us the freedom to do the work to which we are called. Bill Easum, who is the president of 21st Century Strategies, is a church consultant and adviser on congregational health and vitality, and he has excellent advice on being and becoming a permission-giving congregation.

"Permission-giving churches," Easum writes in *Sacred Cows Make Gourmet Burgers*, "live to say yes instead of no. . . Making disciples, not making decisions, is their passion. . . Just as the human body does not try to manage everything that happens with the human body, neither do permission-giving churches. Mistakes are made, but leaders learn from their mistakes." He goes on to relate from personal experience that, "Every time I talk about permission-giving churches, someone asks, 'But how do you keep bad things from happening?' It's as if some people would rather see a church die without ever making a mistake than they would to see [the church] thrive and make some mistakes along the way. It is almost as if we have designed our efforts around making sure *nothing* happens in order to avoid the worst possible scenario. Trust and love are at the heart of permission-giving churches. Love lets go and permits the other to stretch her or his wings. Trust operates on mutual respect. Grace abounds in permission-giving churches."

If I haven't mentioned it yet, you'll hear me say that congregations cannot operate exactly as they have in the past. We live in a different world now, and in some matters we need to learn a new language and a new way of doing things. "Permission-giving churches believe that the role of God's people is to minister to people, in the world, every day of the week, by living out their spiritual gifts instead of running the church by sitting on committees and making decisions about what can and cannot be done." (Easum)

We need to look forward to the future and begin to build church structures that will work for the spread of the gospel with the participation of everyone in any given congregation. Easum writes, "Permission-giving churches encourage autonomous, on-the-spot decision making by collaborative individuals and self-organizing teams. Decisions are delegated to the person closest to the ministry. . . Permission-giving churches develop a flat organizational structure that encourages and facilitates ministry instead of coordinating or managing it. Throughout most of the last half of the twentieth century the role of organization has been to help church leaders manage, control, and coordinate what already exists.

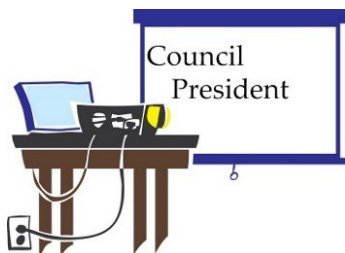
Organization has become an end in itself. Being appointed, nominated, or elected to serve on committees is the primary form of [nonordained] ministry. [Nonordained] people see their primary leadership role to be 'running the church'. They spend most of their time and energy focused on what exists within the institutional church. The permission-giving structure is just the opposite. It is a holistic, organic, self-generating, interactive, horizontal, and chaotic network of peers designed to deliver a unique and customized mission in a timely and consistent manner. . . any place, any time by anyone in the organization."

Change is something that we in congregations are often slow to embrace, if we embrace it at all, but change cannot be prevented. It is inevitable. It happens whether we embrace it or not, and how we deal with it as a congregation is extremely important. Sometimes change needs to happen in order to maintain vitality or to revitalize the church. People may argue from the standpoint that God doesn't change, because God is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. This is what scripture tells us. But I will argue that God changes *in order* to remain the same. If God is an organic being, like we are—and if we are made in God's image then it follows that God, too, is an organic being—then God does not remain static. God's people do not need to remain static, either. We also need to learn to change in order to remain the same—because the message of our proclamation doesn't change. We still preach Christ crucified and risen and we still regard ourselves as servants to the world. As one of my seminary professors put it, "It's hard to preach about sheep and shepherds to Eskimos." The substance doesn't change, but sometimes the form does. Sometimes the form has to.

Peace to you, Pastor Anderson



MARCH 20TH IS THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING!



Oh my goodness. After eleven months and two weeks, we can be back in-person worship. This is something I've been looking forward to for, oh, eleven months and two weeks. PLEASE read, understand and agree to all the protocols printed in this Messenger. This will only work if we all make it work, by following all the protocols. I think after all this time we have the basics down, but PLEASE be sure you are willing to be on board with expectations. We don't expect everyone to be comfortable with being in-person, and that's fine. Live streaming will still be available, and I'm glad it is. For a variety of reasons some will be more comfortable worshipping on line and I'm so glad that is an option.

This would be a time to celebrate a lot of people who have been working behind the scenes doing very vital jobs. A huge thank you to the Covid Committee. They have spent hours coming up with procedures and advice to keep us all safe. Your church council puts in the time to review everything, hash through reports, and make the best decisions we can, once again with safety as our number one priority. And last but not least, a huge thank you to all the technology people who have made it possible to live-stream our services so far and will continue to make everything work for worshippers, whether in-person or on-line. And prayers of thanksgiving that we had Pastor David for so many awkward months and that we now have Pastor Kathleen to shepherd us as we continue on.

Praying for God's blessings on Central Lutheran Church as we pass another milestone in our journey together, Karen

February 25, 2021

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in this holiest of seasons in the church, the time when we make our own journey to the cross of Jesus.

The Lutheran grapevine being what it is, you may already know that at February's meeting the council decided to go ahead with reconvening in-person worship at the church on this upcoming Sunday, February 28, at 9:00 a.m. Our worship in the time of pandemic, however, will not yet look the same as it did before the virus. This letter is to help you navigate some of the strange waters into which we now sail. Any precautions that we take are for the benefit of the community and to maintain as safe a worship space as possible for everyone. If you're curious, even though the council has voted to move forward, the COVID advisory team is uncertain about resuming worship at this time and has stated a wish for more discussion amongst themselves before rendering a decisive opinion.

The following are procedures and protocols that **must** be observed so that we can worship together again as safely as possible.

In order to maintain physical distancing, we ask you to call the church office in the week before a service is scheduled and let Lea know that you will be in attendance on the upcoming Sunday. The number of people allowed to gather is limited by state mandate to 25% of capacity. Lea will ask you how many in your family will be attending and will write down names. This will help not only with attendance, but also with contact tracing in case someone contracts the virus. When you come into the narthex, please check in at the table where you will sign in next to your name after a short screening. Names will be helpful if someone has to be notified about an outbreak. Families and couples from the same household can, of course, sit together; however, individuals of different households cannot be seated together. Please sit in designated pews. The pews that are off-limits will be marked. If the pew you're looking at does NOT have a sign on it, then you may sit in that pew. Everyone should be seated keeping in mind the six-foot distancing required except for people from the same household. Everyone who attends worship **MUST** wear a mask and wear it properly. A face mask should cover both nose and mouth. As for singing, the COVID advisory team advises no congregational singing or speaking in unison; however, we all know that it's unrealistic to think people can be prevented from singing based on orders alone. Therefore, you are encouraged not to sing or speak in unison, but if you get caught up in the moment, please either try to limit yourself to humming along or singing or speaking quietly to yourself. The place where you will be asked to speak in unison is during the confession, which is a back and forth between leader and congregation. It's a short confession, but important, especially during the season of Lent where God calls us to repentance and amendment of life. Again, please speak quietly as you confess and offer absolution.

Entrances and exits into the sanctuary are marked and the doors will be propped open. Please use only the designated entrances and exits as they are marked. The same is true of the narthex: please exit and enter through designated doors. There will be disposable masks available in the narthex for you to use if you don't have one or didn't bring a mask with you. Children under two years of age do not need to, and

should not, wear masks, according to the CDC. You are encouraged to print out your own bulletin and bring it with you, but if, for some reason, you don't bring it with you, bulletins will be placed in pews for you to use. Since the hymnals have been removed from the church, everything will be printed in the bulletin. There will be plenty of hand sanitizer available, so please make use of it. When a children's message is included, children will not be invited forward but will be addressed where they are sitting with their families. Remember that if you don't feel well, please stay home, particularly if you have a fever or a persistent cough.

If you choose to attend worship on Sunday morning, please do not leave the sanctuary. There are bathroom facilities in the narthex. Please do not greet one another in the narthex either before or after the worship service. We haven't seen one another for a while in this context and the urge to greet one another with a hug or a handshake probably will be tempting, but please confine such greetings to outside, not inside. As you enter the church you will see both offering envelopes and plates on a table in case you wish to use them. No plates will be passed for offering.

Distribution of communion will be at the end of the service in the narthex. There is a table set up in the narthex where communion servers will be stationed. Pews will be dismissed for communion beginning at the back of the sanctuary and moving forward, so that the people sitting closest to the front will be the last to commune before any singers. Remember to keep physical distance between you and the people in front of you. There is a line of dark wood inside the sanctuary door; please stay behind that until the person in front of you has received communion and moved away from the table. When you receive communion, please hold out an open hand so that a wafer can be placed in it. When you receive the wine, the cup will be placed on the table in front of you for you to pick up. Please do not attempt to take the cup from the hand of the server. After you have received communion, please note that there is a bin at the end of the table for used communion cups and a recycling bin for bulletins. Please do not confuse the two. After you have communed, please deposit your cup and exit the narthex via the designated door. If you want to greet one another and catch up, please do that outside.

There will continue to be no coffee hour for the time being.

We hope that you will not necessarily consider this procedure to be the "new normal" because we don't yet know what that will be and may not know what that is for several months yet. This is how we proceed right now with the best knowledge that we have and with the welfare of the whole community in mind. And so we adjust, one day at a time, and adapt as best we can to the situation and continue to follow Christ where he leads us.

As always, you are welcome to contact anyone from council, the pastor, or the office with questions.

Remember that worship will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube and a link to the broadcast will be posted on both CLC's website and Facebook page.

May the peace of Christ be with you all,

CLC Staff—Pastor Kathleen Anderson, Felicity Pittman, Lea Ramirez



St Patrick's Day Dinner

***Support our youth by purchasing a
St Patrick's Day dinner to go!***

March 17th, 5-7pm

\$10/meal or two meals for \$15

Three members of our congregation will be preparing corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes and putting them into to-go boxes.

To make sure we have enough food for everyone please call the church office between 9am and 12pm to place your order by Sunday, March 14th.

Swing by the CLC lower parking lot between 5pm and 7pm on 3/17/21 and one of our youth will run your meals to you.

Our youth will collect payment when your meals are delivered to your car.

Please be sure to have your mask fully covering your mouth and nose before opening your car window.



From the Property Committee

As we begin to open back up here's what you need to know:

1. Follow our Covid Group's guidelines for who can meet, remember to be cautious and stay on Zoom if you don't meet the safe criteria for showing no symptoms and having no exposure to positive cases.
2. Call Lea in the office to request the meeting form. She might even use it to take notes on, filling it out for you.
3. Fill out your form. Be sure to include how many people and when you're meeting.
4. The office assigns you the best room (but you can make a suggestion) and fills out the main calendar.
5. Pastor Kathleen gives the final approval
6. Be prepared to keep an attendance list and wear masks.

Property has not yet asked for a full time janitorial applicant, and we are doing our best to keep rooms clean with just a bit of help. Knowing what rooms are used is important. We expect many groups to continue Zooms along with in-person attendees.

Starting in the month of March:

Tuesday Morning Bible Study will be in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am Starting March 2nd

High School Hang Outs will be in the Multipurpose Room Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00pm until 6:00pm

Middle School & High School Youth Group in the Multipurpose Room Wednesdays 4:00pm until 6:00pm

Piecemakers will be in Rooms 107/108 Thursdays 9am until 1:00pm

Preschool will be in the Gym Monday through Thursday 9am until noon

On the Corner will be in the Fellowship Hall Wednesdays 5:00pm until 6:00pm

Foot Care will be in the Youth Room Tuesdays & Fridays 9:00am until 5:00pm

Boy Scouts will be in the Fellowship Hall Monday evenings 6:30pm until 8:30 pm



March 14th Daylight
Saving Time Begins.
Do not forget to set
clocks forward one
hour!

Committee Meetings for the month of March:

6th **Worship Committee** meeting 10:00am Zoom

8th **Property Committee** meeting 6:00pm

In Person room 204 or Zoom

11th **Executive Committee** meeting 10:45am Zoom

15th **Church Council** meeting 6:30pm Zoom

22nd **MSP Task Force** meeting 6:30pm

In person room 203 or Zoom

30th **On the Corner** meeting 6:30pm

In Person room 204 or Zoom



Are you a Thrivent member?

Our youth have two projects that could
use the help of your

Thrivent Action Team kits.

Give Felicity a call and she can tell you all
about the possible projects.

LUTHERHAVEN SUMMER CAMP

Felicity will be serving as Resource Staff at Lutherhaven August 8th-13th.

If you would like to register your child(ren) for camp that week Felicity
would be happy to take them!

Register your child(ren) at www.lutherhaven.com

Please call or email Felicity with any questions!

“Celebrating Central”

1st Paul Soderstrom

4th Elizabeth McKeirnan

6th Bryan Simison & Brad Christianson

7th Judy Johnson

10th Elise Bowman

11th Julie Peterson & Jazmin Monroy

12th Hudson Gillespie

14th Mark Pittman

15th Jean Gunderson & Julianne Lybeck

16th Dorothy Brink

17th Claudia Burkhardt & Patti Rolls

19th Lewis & Henry Argo, Janet Barnes

21st Carrie Reirson

22nd Devyani Baken

23th Joyce Rikerd, Alessandra Nygard, Kevin Simison

24th Toni Perschke

25th Zach Dixon

26th Anne Chapman

28th Gail Hills

30th Francisco Monroy & Virginia Prochnow

31st Bonnie Molsberry & Alison Juarez



MARCH



16th James & Kae Miller

19th Ron & Kathy Gillespie

20th Rudy & Lea Ramirez

24th Gordon & Elaine Bueling

30th James Board & Fransisca Trevino



February 17th was Ash Wednesday. Pastor Kathleen Anderson was in the Narthex. Many people came including Tim Franks, his daughter and granddaughter. Also Jennifer Crane and her children did their ashes from the Sunday School boxes.



Sunday school children received items for Shrove Tuesday to keep the traditions going.

Prayer Concerns

Prayers for our valley, our nation and the world affected with the Covid virus pandemic.

Ongoing Prayer

Phyllis Gillihan (*Ponderosa*)
Mary Frances Jones (*Cedar Hills*)
Joanne Puyear (*Arbor House*)
Art Ries (*Livingcare*)
Toni Perschke (*Avamere*)
Walter & Edith Mabry (*Yakima*)
Betty Douglas (*Moxee*)
Elaine Bueling (*Fieldstone Memory Care*)
Mel Carlson (*Fieldstone Memory Care*)
Gail Hills (*Home with Hospice*)
Gary Pierone (*Good Samaritan*)
Dale Miller (*Yakima*)
Julie Peterson (*Yakima*)
Wilma Aspevig (*Yakima*)
Doris Benish (*High Gate Memory Care*)
Julie Peterson, having cancer treatments.
Rudy Ramirez (*Parkside*)
Kathern Carmichael Karen Franklund's friend



Please update any
prayer request

Camp Hope:

Meal Prep Helpers Wanted

Denise will provide all the ingredients and the recipe. This is a great opportunity for CLC families, committees, and other groups to participate in this ministry to the homeless. You wouldn't need to serve the meal unless you were comfortable doing so.

Contact Denise Svendsen @509-949-8580

Items Always Needed: Serving 100

Pop/Juice

Jello Pudding Cups / Applesauce Cups / Fruit Cups
Individually Wrapped Cookies & Rice Krispie Treats
Large sturdy plates, napkins, plastic forks and spoons

HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP

Youth Group

Middle School and High School Youth Group will be starting back up on March 10th, 4-6pm!

Masks and social distancing will be required.

Youth, please give Felicity or the church office a call to update your contact information.

Felicity (509) 594-2666

CLC (509) 575-6490

High School Hangout

Felicity will be in the multipurpose room Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4pm-6pm for High School students to fellowship and work on school work.

Masks and social distancing will be required.



The Corner Update:

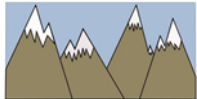
We had a busy February handing out meals and doing a community service project for the Meals on Wheels program. Our OTC kids created over 150 Valentine's Day placemats that we then laminated and delivered to Meals on Wheels to be handed out to some of their clients on Valentine's Day.



Coming early this summer...OTC Fundraiser!

We are excited to be teaming up with Evergreen Machine and Fabrication Inc. (EMF) to do a fundraiser. OTC kids will be providing the art work for cards and calendars to be sold online this summer. EMF will cover all of the printing costs and purchase their Christmas cards from us. Thank you to Karen Franklund for supplying us with a \$250 Thrivent card to purchase the necessary art supplies and Kathy Moen who will cover any additional costs. We will keep you updated as this fundraiser unfolds.



						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- **We need egg cartons, plastic bags and printer paper size boxes for our meal distribution!**

If you are a Thrivent member please contact Denise to see how you can support us. Don't let your donation Thrivent cards go to waste!

For more information contact Denise at denise.svendsen@clcyakima.org.



President Karen Baken (509) 952-1280
(Finance Committee) klbaken@gmail.com

Vice President Melissa Christianson (509) 952-8435
(Property Committee & MSP Task Force)
melissachristianson@live.com

Secretary Shane Pierone (509) 654-8465
(Endowment Committee) shane@bbold1.com

Treasurer Tim Franks (509) 952-9908
(On the Corner) timf@hcyakima.com New Email!

Ron Burkhardt (509) 453-4429
(Hospitality Committee) ron.burkhardt42@gmail.com

Melissa Falk (509) 307-2785
(Youth & Family Committee) lissy.1109@hotmail.com

Stephen Merz (509) 952-1706
(Church in Society Committee) stephen.merz5@gmail.com

Felicity Pittman (509) 594-2666
(Stewardship Committee) felicity.pittman@clcyakima.org

Chris Svendsen (509) 949-6707
(Worship Committee) csvendsen8327@chater.net

Pastor Kathleen Anderson (206) 719-5302
pastorpkanderson@clcyakima.org

Church & Society: Ann Willis

amwillis103@gmail.com

Executive Committee: Karen Baken

klbaken@gmail.com

Endowment Committee: Duane Monick

monick.d@gmail.com

Finance Committee: Tim Franks

timf@hcyakima.com

Hospitality Committee: Kirsten Monick

kmonick@charter.net

On The Corner: Denise Svendsen

denise.svendsen@clcyakima.org

Property Committee: Anne Chapman

chapmana.0216@gmail.com

Stewardship Committee: Kathy Buckingham

kc Buckingham2020@gmail.com

Worship Committee: Jane Peterson

ycchoir@gmail.com

Youth and Family Committee: Melissa Christianson

melissachristianson@live.com



The **COVID-19 Advisory Committee** is no longer in existence. If anyone in the congregation has questions, please feel free to call Laura Hahn, 509-930-8846. Peace and Grace

