

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

February 2021



Dear Friends,

I write this on the heels of the inauguration of our new president, President Joseph Biden. I took the time to watch this historic event. It was full of some beautiful music by famous artists, some wonderful pageantry, an amazing poem by a lovely young lady, a couple of carefully crafted prayers by members of the clergy, and an impassioned speech calling for unity delivered by our new president. It was an event full of hope and promise.

But . . . and I'm sorry to say there is a but. But when the Catholic priest opened and closed his opening invocation, he did it in the name of "God." And when the Methodist Episcopal pastor closed his closing benediction, he did it "in the strong name of our collective faith." What "strong name" was he referring to, because there is no "collective faith" in America. And when you pray simply in the name of "God," what God are you referring to . . . the God of the Jews, the Muslims, the Christians, the Hindus, the Buddhists?

We as Christian citizens certainly want to strive for peace in our nation, and we are called to be obedient to our authorities. Furthermore, God's word exhorts us to love others, even our enemies, and to show proper respect to everyone. But we are not called to be in unity with those who have a different confession than we do. We are called to believe in and worship always and only the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How can we pray in unity with a person who does not believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior? The answer, according to Scripture, is that we can't.

As Christian Americans, let us join together in praying for our new leadership, and let us become the examples of love and respect for others, even for those with whom we disagree. But let us never seek to be unified with others if that unity means that we must compromise or diminish that faith and truth into which we have been baptized.

In Christ,
Pastor John

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



**www.
christaustin.
org**

Lenten Worship Services

We begin our mid-week Lenten services on Ash Wednesday, February 17, at 12 noon. Due to covid-19 safety protocols we will not be having an evening service on Ash Wednesday, but will only have the service at noon, which will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and available for watching after the livestream also. Please note also that due to covid-19 safety precautions there will not be any imposition of ashes as part of our worship this year. We will celebrate Holy Communion as part of our service, but again, no ashes. On the following Wednesdays of Lent the services will continue to be each week at 12 noon. Please join us each week in person or online as we examine some of the key events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday that led up to the death of Jesus under the theme, "The Death of Jesus."

Special Prayers in January Worship Services

From	3rd	- Richter Family -At the passing of Franklin Richter
	17th	- Lemorris Galbreath's daughter, Randa - health issues
		- Jewel Anderson – Took a fall and rehab
		- Fran Ross - Covid
		- Albert Carrion Sr. family - niece, Sylvia Rosplock, passed away due to Covid
		- Lucille Herrera's family – nephew, Joe Alvarado, Jr. passed away due to Covid
		- Zoe Allen
	Sue Etter	Christy Juszczak
	Liz LaGrone	Dana Magruder
	Ronnie Richter	
	Caitlin Rowlette	Haylee Rowlette—our nurses working during this covid crisis

WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

4 Celebrations!

Please view back page for guidelines on returning to the sanctuary for service.

Stewardship Verse

But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. " Isaiah 43:1





Letter from the President



Most of us might find the current situation a very stressful time in their life. I suggest that you take the time and visit the church's website to find a way to relieve your stress. There are so many valuable resources that you can use to help whether listen to an old sermon of Pastor John or listening to one of the songs written by Pastor John.

It is also great to see that we are starting to see more members attending church in person. Even though we continue to live stream the services, there is something different about attending church in person that you do not get by watching via the live stream.

The council met this past week to discuss the situation with the sanctuary roof and the old sanctuary roof. Our recommendation was taking to the church at the special voters meeting that was held on Sunday 1/24/21. Some of you might be thinking didn't we just fix the roof? We recent replaced the roof on the flat part of the building and so far, no leaks on that part that we fixed.

Pastor John has started a new discipleship class where we will be looking at the parables of Jesus. Feel free to join either in person or via the Facebook live streaming. Don't have to attend or watch live, you can find it and watch it any time on Facebook. I highly suggest that you take time to watch it.

Please continue to keep Christ Lutheran Church in your prayers as well as Pastor John and Jordan as they continue to bring the word of God to us every Sunday. On a final note, even though the way we attend church might have changed, the financial needs have not. Please continue to contribute to the church so that we can continue to bring the word of God not only to the members of Christ Lutheran Church, but to those that might find our website or our YouTube channel.

David Schaare
President

Mission Statement
The mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to connect people to Jesus through:

- ✦ *Inspirational Worship*
- ✦ *Loving Service*
- ✦ *Caring Fellowship*
- ✦ *Relevant Education*

So that they may know, and grow in, his love.

Update Regarding the Roof—Due to the age and leakage of the roof over the sanctuary, the assembled voters of the congregation (on January 24) approved the recommendation by the council to move forward on re-roofing the sanctuary, and also on doing some repairs to the roof over the old sanctuary (fellowship/kitchen area). An amount of \$45,000 was approved by the voters to cover both projects, with an additional 10% allotted to the council if such was needed to cover any other costs involved in replacing/repairing these roofs. Our congregational head trustee, Phil Etter, hired a roofing company based on his bids and interactions with a variety of companies, and work began on Wednesday, January 27. Please contact Phil or Pastor John or Jordan if you have any questions. We thank you for your support in caring for this facility with which God has blessed us.

Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive—We are once again hosting a food drive for the Bread For All Food Pantry during the Souper Bowl of Caring. Starting today, and lasting until Sunday, February 7th, please bring nonperishable food items (especially cans and cups of soup) to the church. These will be collected in the narthex on Sunday mornings, or you can drop them off during the week by coordinating that with Jordan. Please contact Concordia Director of Christian Education Practicum Student Savannah Simmons (Savannah.Simmons@ctx.edu) with any questions.

Paul's Missionary Journeys—The Men's Study Group continues our study on Paul's Missionary Journeys on Tuesday, February 2nd at 7:30 pm. We've had such a great response and good group of participants that we will be continuing our study via Zoom online throughout this study. We're using "Bringing the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth: Paul's Missionary Journeys" from CPH's online video bible study series and also "Which Way, Lord?" by Rob Fuquay as resources. Contact Tim Ristow or Jordan for details on how to get connected for this next session via Zoom.

Creative Communication and Community Connections

Jordan Boessling



Just a reminder that we often take photos, and at times, video, of ministry events to put up around Church on the screen on Sundays and to post to the web that publicizes the worship, service, fellowship, and education life of Christ Lutheran.

Christ Lutheran Social Media

- ✦ [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Austin-78704-121095017909219/) - <https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Austin-78704-121095017909219/>
(Facebook Live streaming of our Worship services, and Pastor's Discipleship class)
- ✦ [Twitter](https://twitter.com/ChristATX78704) - <https://twitter.com/ChristATX78704>
- ✦ www.christaustin.org - click on 'YouTube'
(Videos of Pastor John's sermons and hymns from the previous Sunday)





Eunice Guild

St. Paul says in 2 Tim. 1:5, that Eunice, the mother of Timothy, was a woman of "sincere faith." She loved her Lord and Savior, and she lived her faith. It is our prayer that we may all be granted this same sincere faith. God be with you and bless you as you spend time in Meditation and in Cooking With Eunice.

This page is sponsored by the Women of the Eunice Guild.



Meditation —

"LOVE STORY"

My childhood was filled with books. Mom said Dad, a new father, began reading story books to me before I learned to read. He read them over and over again, pointing to the pictures as he went along. One day she thought she heard me reading "The Little Red Hen," which she knew was impossible. When she looked, she saw I was actually reciting the story while pointing to the pictures as Dad had done. Sitting on Daddy's lap and delighting in brightly colored pictures of farm animals, became a lesson for me in the love of a father. Several Sundays ago, I was in a pew preparing for worship. It was cold out, but the sun was shining all the brighter. I said a silent prayer and lifted my eyes toward the altar, and then higher, up into our church's magnificent *Christ Window*. I'm not sure why, but I thought of Dad and the story books we shared in love so many years ago. Like that little girl, I was delighting in the beauty of the window's faceted thick blocks of colored glass, with little thought about the beauty of the story they tell, God's great "LOVE STORY." So, for a few moments that Sunday, I sat in the presence of my Heavenly Father, silently reciting the *Christ Window's* story. Page 1, the window's central theme jumps out at me, the empty Cross, stained red with the blood of the Christ who suffered there as the punishment for my sins, and the black emptiness of His tomb. Bright yellows and oranges, the Savior's Light, bursting from around the Cross, fading into hues of blue, the peace He brings. Page 2, there, to the left of the Cross, the Life of Christ in pictures. The Light of the baby Jesus seen in the flames of Christmas candles, two, representing His twofold nature, both human and divine. Next to them, the new greens and pure white of the Easter lily, Christ is Risen, Indeed! Just above, the Epiphany Star, Jesus, the Savior of all people. And a wheel of flames, Christ's Ascension to complete His bodily presence on earth. Page 3, I look high, to the very top of the window, a descending dove connecting the window's two sides. It's Christ's Holy Spirit, sent to bring us to faith and a life in Christ. Page 4, the right side of the window is, can it be? My life in Christ! It's all there: the scepter of my Lord and King; the crown I will wear with Him in Heaven; Luther's Coat of Arms, the faith and heritage I share with Lutherans; a fish, the symbol connecting me in faith to the earliest Christians; the Chi Rho, Christ's monogram which I wear; my new life as seen in a butterfly; and a bluebonnet representing all blessings in God's Creation. Page 5, the window's shape is that of opening hands, God's powerful Hands in all things, and my feeble hands in prayer. Through the *Christ Window*, we see into our own hearts, into the Savior's Light of Salvation, and into God's Heart of Love. But windows are also for looking out. When we look out of this beautiful window, we see a world dirtied by sin and evil. It can make me very sad and even afraid, but then I hear my Savior say, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only begotten Son" (John 3:16). "SO LOVED," "GAVE," "ONE AND ONLY SON." In our *Christ Window*, I see the faith-filled love of the window's designer, our own Tommie Craig. I see the love of those who made it possible and have gazed upon it through the years. I see the LOVE of the Heavenly Father for all of these, for all people, and for His Christ. And, I see the LOVE of the Savior in His life, death and resurrection. Ash Wednesday is February 17th and then begins Lent when we look inward and down in prayer to repent of our sinful nature. But also, I invite you to look up and into our beautiful *Christ Window* - whether in our church's sanctuary or in your memories - to see GOD's great "LOVE STORY," and then, look outward to what awaits us all in the Great EASTER to come! *Ever in Christ's Love! Duannah*

Cooking With Eunice

Even Better Rice Krispies Treats

This is a variation of the classic Rice Krispies Treats recipe found on boxes of Kellogg's Rice Krispies - an oldie but goodie. It's quick & easy & enjoyed by Valentines young & old!

6 Tbsp. salted butter (if using unsalted, add a pinch of salt to butter while melting)

16 oz. bag of Jet-Puffed mini marshmallows

1/4 tsp. vanilla

7 - 8 cups Rice Krispies cereal

Butter a 9x13 pan. Set aside. Melt butter in a large pot over low heat (add a pinch of salt if butter is unsalted). Add marshmallows to pot & stir continuously. When marshmallows are about 75% melted, turn heat off. Add vanilla & continue to stir until marshmallows are completely melted & smooth. Stir in cereal & quickly toss to combine. Pour into the buttered 9x13 pan. Gently press into an even layer using buttered fingers or parchment paper. Cool at least 45 minutes before cutting.

Add your favorite extras! Stir in chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, peanut butter, M&M's, nuts, etc. Top with a hazelnut cocoa spread or a favorite icing, and shake on some sprinkles. For your favorite Valentine, cut into heart shapes using a cookie cutter!

Treats taste best if eaten within the first few days, or store in an airtight container.





Guidelines for In-Person Worship at Christ

We ask all those who plan to attend the worship service or discipleship class to:

- ✦ Avoid all handshaking, hugging, or touching of any kind with those outside their family.
- ✦ Bring a mask and wear it at all times within our facilities (except when receiving the Lord's Supper).
- ✦ Maintain social distancing at all times while entering/exiting/attending our worship and/or discipleship class.
- ✦ Please do not touch/handle/use any of the hymnals for any purpose (hymns/liturgies will be printed in the bulletin).
- ✦ Please wash and/or sanitize your hands often while in attendance at Christ (i.e. entering the sanctuary, prior to Holy Communion, leaving the sanctuary).
- ✦ Please do not gather in the narthex, sanctuary, or hallways to talk before or after worship.
- ✦ Please wait for your row to be dismissed at the end of worship and proceed to exit the building (unless you are attending the discipleship study or using the restroom).
- ✦ Please do not attend worship if you have any signs of illness (i.e. elevated temperature, sore throat, coughing, body aches, etc).
- ✦ Err on the side of caution – be respectful of others' fears and precautions
- ✦ Come prepared to praise and thank God for bringing us back together, and continue to ask God to protect us as we once again gather for worship.

February Birthdays

Name	Month/Day
Valerie Kanetzky	2/4
Donn Trautner	2/7
David Schaare	2/8
Davis Magruder	2/10
Nora Juszczak	2/10
Freddie Richter	2/11
Sonny Mitchell	2/11
Phil Etter	2/11
Maria Calvo	2/14
Lisa Castille	2/14
Joyce Veloz	2/15
Albert Carrion, Jr	2/15
Matthew Ristow	2/16
Frank Veloz	2/16
Michael Zieschang	2/20
Barbara Craig	2/22
Jo Kautz	2/26
Joseph Calvo	2/27
Kimberly Schaare	2/27
Sarah Zieschang	2/29

February Anniversaries

Alan & Alice Werchan
2/17/1996

Lectors

2/07 Taylor Teeters
2/14 Clayton Pillack
2/21 Mary Lou Moore
2/28 Gary Lippe

February Flower Chart

Given by...

February 7

Michael & Cindy Zieschang

February 14

Alan & Alice Werchan
25th Wedding Anniversary

February 21

Ben Schaare and Kim Schaare's Birthdays

February 28

Kevin Craig in Honor of
Barbara Craig's birthday 2/22

Sunday Morning Schedule (until further notice)

Worship at 9:30 am

(For in-person attendance & streamed via Facebook Live)

Pastor's Discipleship Class at 10:45 am

(For in-person attendance & streamed via Facebook Live)

New Flower Chart

The flower chart for the 2021 calendar year is now posted in the narthex. Sign up early to get your preferred dates. If you have signed up for a particular date, please remember to send/turn in your payment for your flowers.

Online Giving

A word of thanks to all of you for your continued support of our ministry here at Christ Lutheran Church, and a special note of thanks to all of you who have chosen to give online through our website with the Vanco portal. In a time of less volunteerism due to Covid-19 and such, the online giving is less cumbersome and more streamlined for our Financial Secretary to manage. That being said, we would ask those of you giving through this online way to consider giving through your bank accounts (savings or checking) as opposed to using a credit/debit card. We are charged a 2.75% transaction fee whenever a credit/debit card is used, and while that may not seem like a lot for a \$25 offering (\$0.69 fee), for a \$500 offering (\$13.75 fee) those fees become quite significant. Again, we are grateful for any and all offerings and gifts to Christ Lutheran, but in order to be the best stewards of what God has entrusted to us we do kindly ask all of you credit debit card givers to consider using one of your bank accounts instead. Thank you.