

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

March 2021



Dear Friends,

In I Timothy 6 Paul wrote: “For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”

Those are great words, but so often, in our lives of plenty, they aren’t really true for us. We aren’t content with the mere necessities of life. We want more — more toys, more possessions, more gadgets, etc.

And then something happens, like what happened to all of us here in Texas the week of February 14, and we realize that we don’t really need all of the toys and possessions and gadgets and what not. What we need is the basics of life — a home that shelters us from the elements and food and water to sustain our bodies. All the rest is just window dressing. The beautiful furniture doesn’t really matter if we are freezing to death in our homes. The latest computer and big screen 4k television are of no use if we’ve got no power.

The great Texas freeze of 2021 that we all recently went through is a reminder to us of what it is that we really need in life, and what are the things that are just the extras of life. It’s also a reminder of how 99.9% of the time in our lives we always have life’s necessities (and often many of the extras too), and thus how incredibly blessed and provided for we are by God. May we thus learn to say, and truly live and believe, the words of Paul to Timothy: “For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.”

“O give thanks to the Lord for He is good.”

In Christ,
Pastor John

Lenten Worship Services

Just a reminder that we will continue to have our midweek services throughout Lent each Wednesday at noon. These services can be followed along with or viewed later on our ChristAustin78704 Facebook page. Our sermon series for Lent is an original series being written by Pastor John entitled: “The Death of Jesus.” The sermons for March are as follows: March 3— “The Denial;” March 10— “The Consolation;” March 17— “The Prayer;” March 24— “The Arrest.” Please join us each week as we examine the various events that took place in the hours before Jesus’ death that all led up to, and played a part in, his death for our forgiveness.



**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**

Special Prayers in Febuary Worship Services

B.J. Zamora—Loss of relatives Olivia Contreras, Ambrosia Ochoa, Ruby Flores

Clayton Pillack—Home damage from storm

Gilrena Rangel—Loss of her mother

Chelsea Holtz—Loss of her aunt

Karen Matthijetz—Mother of Tracy Ristow, hospitalized for stroke

Lucille Leitko—Mother of Debbie Harrison, hospitalized for tests

Harold Derenberger—Death of brother, Charles Derenberger

WHAT’S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

4 Celebrations!

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

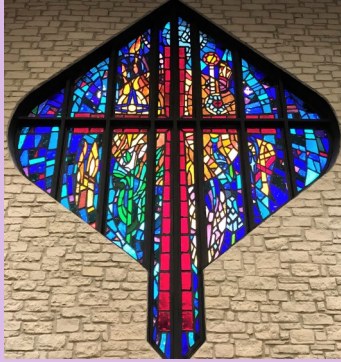
Stewardship Verse

Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 10:8b



Letter from the President



I hope that everyone stayed safe during the past winter storms. It is safe to say, that these past winter storms have taught he how blessed we are. A beautiful reminder as we went through and continue to go through difficult time, God is always present.

The Lenten season began on February 17th. This month we will again observe it together through weekly Wednesday services (at Noon). All services can also be watch vid Facebook live or watch any time on our Facebook page.

On January 24th we had an emergency congregation meeting to discuss the roofs over the new and old sanctuary. At the meeting, the church approved the council’s recommendation to replace the roof over the new sanctuary and a roof rescrew of the old sanctuary. The roof over the new sanctuary was replaced that week after getting approval from the congregation.

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

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.

Creative Communication and Community Connections

Jordan Boessling



Marbridge - We have the opportunity to write cards and posters of encouragement to positively uplift and encourage the residents of Marbridge during COVID-19. You can provide your own stationary, or pick up supplies provided by the church for an "at home" service project. We will be collecting these cards and posters in the narthex thru Sunday, March 7th, to then deliver/send to Marbridge. Please contact Concordia DCE 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, March 2 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.

Christ Lutheran Social Media

- ✦ [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Austin-78704) - <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)

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.



Eunice Guild

This page is sponsored by
the Women of the 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.

Meditation —

“Meals” - Think for a moment about some of your life's more memorable meals - what made them special. Here's two of mine. One was when I was very young and asked Mommy for a second helping. She said, "No," as we'd have peaches for dessert. I guess I demanded it and then pushed it aside when the peaches appeared, because I vividly remember Dad saying, "We don't waste food in this house!" - just before my spanking. Lesson learned. I also remember well my first meal with the guy who would become my husband. One evening at work, a little wadded piece of paper flew over my shoulder and onto my desk. It read simply, "How about a pizza after work? Bill." It was the best pizza I ever ate! Meals are important in our lives. Paging through the Bible, it's easy to see that meals were important in Jesus' and His Disciples' lives, and if they are in the Bible, they are important to us, teaching us about the Lord. There was Jesus' parent's memorable Passover meal in Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve - and He was left behind. Surely Matthew remembered the banquet he held at his house for Jesus. Jesus used the Pharisees' complaints about His eating with tax collectors and sinners, to make a point. The disciples probably told many times, how Jesus took two small fish and five small loaves of bread, blessed it and fed over 5,000 people with them!! There was also the Risen Jesus' meal with two men on the road to Emmaus. I'm sure you can recall other meals and the lessons taught. One of my favorites occurred the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection. From John, Chapter 21: "Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore." Oh my! How beautiful that must have been! "He called out to [the disciples], 'Friends, haven't you any fish?'" Then, through a miracle, they caught 153 large fish. When they got to shore, Jesus was cooking! He said, "Come and have breakfast." That was our Lord! There was another meal I hold very dear. It was Maundy Thursday, April 2009, in my rehab hospital's gym. My left arm was tied into a sling on a contraption which raised it so I could work muscles weakened by spinal cord damage. There were only a few therapists in the gym, working on paperwork, and talking. I was working on my own as I struggled with the knowledge that I had lost full use of my limbs. In anger, I worked all the harder to prove everyone, my own hopelessness, and even God, wrong. If there was ever a moment when I needed my Savior, it was then! Someone pulled up a chair and said, "Hi." I looked up and saw Pastor John! He said he knew I would want communion on Maundy Thursday. He began with a prayer, and the gym went silent. I will never forget that Holy Meal. I sorely needed its forgiveness of sins, strength for my new life in Christ, and hope of Heaven! I was not visibly in communion with other believers, but as I ate, I was in communion with my Savior, and that's what I most needed. This was the most important meal Jesus prepared for His disciples - and, for all believers - *The Lord's Supper*. He knew the place, a large furnished upper room. He had Peter and John go there to make the preparations. He said, "This is my body given for you." "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you." "Do this in remembrance of Me." To us He adds, "Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes," (1 Cor. 11:26). That is an urgent meal invitation from our Savior - one to which we can send no regrets. We are all, always, deeply in need of its forgiveness, strength, and hope. It is an ever-satisfying meal which leaves us craving even more. We must eat it, often, and until that wonderful day, our Easter, when we sit at the Lord's table forever! *Amen. Come Lord Jesus! Duannah*

Cooking With Eunice — Broccoli Salad

Florets from 1 head of broccoli, or 2 pkgs. broccoli slaw
3/4 cup red seedless grapes (halved), or 1/2 cup raisins
3 green onions (chopped), or 1/4 cup diced red onion
6 - 8 slices bacon, cook until crisp & then crumble
1 cup mayonnaise
1/3 cup sugar
2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar (or your favorite vinegar)

In a large bowl, toss together broccoli florets or slaw, grapes or raisins, onions & bacon. In a small bowl, combine mayonnaise, sugar & vinegar. Pour this dressing over slaw mix & toss. Cover & refrigerate until ready to serve.





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.

March Birthdays

Gary Lippe	3/1
Jordan Boessling	3/3
Alex Stivers	3/3
Jane Carrion	3/6
Nathan Emmrich	3/12
Duannah Ashmore	3/21
Divina Stennfeld	3/22
Donald Lewis	3/23
Joyce Jakobeit	3/26
Shirley Hoes	3/27
Pachalin Stennfeld	3/30

March Anniversaries

Matias & Belinda Reveles	3/2/1996
Bert & Louise Stuenkel	3/4/1972
Jared & Christina Juszczak	3/6/2010
Alex & Christine Stivers	3/7/2015
Brian & Mary Karotkin	3/19/1990

March Flower Chart
Given by...

March 7

In honor of our Church musicians
Duannah, Nathan, Yvette & Pete

In remembrance of Tommy Nanyes’
passing March 17

March 14

Michael & Cindy Zieschang

March 21

Ben & Kim Schaare

March 28

Pachalin Stennfeld

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)

Lectors

3/7	Alan Werchan
3/14	Pachalin Stennfeld
3/21	Donn Trautner
3/28	Taylor Teeters

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