

# Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

August 2020



Dear friends,

As I sit down to write this letter, we have just completed our 4th month in exile (mid March to mid April to mid May to mid June to mid July). Though we are able to meet and worship in person, it still feels like we are in exile because so few of our members have returned. It's a little frustrating and worrisome to see this exile go on so long, but then I am reminded that the Israelites were slaves in Egypt for 400 years. And after being freed from their bondage in Egypt, they spent 40 years in exile in the desert of Sinai. And then after some 800 years of freedom, they were again exiled in Babylon for another 150 years or so. And through it all, God remained faithful to His people and faithful to His promises. Thus let us not become discouraged or lose heart in the midst of our current crisis, regardless of its length, for the same God who was faithful to our ancestors in the past will be faithful to us. This we know because the God who gave his son, Jesus, to die for us is the same yesterday, and today, and forever . . . and He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. May we thus meet every day of crisis and each day of challenge with the confidence and courage that this is ours through faith in Christ Jesus. To God be the glory.

Have a great month,  
Pastor John



**PASTOR  
JOHN  
STENNFELD**

## WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2-3 Around the Church
- 4 Celebrations!

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

Dear Friends at Christ Lutheran,

Even with the covid health situation, you continue to send your regular gifts to Concordia University. THANK YOU! Although the world is uncertain of its future, you know more than others that our hope and foundation rests securely on Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord for that. As for Concordia, our eyes are fixed on Jesus too. Know that your church and community are in my prayers.

In Christ,  
Pastor J. Brown

## Stewardship

"No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Matthew 6:24



## Letter from the President

It is safe to say that the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically changed the way we do things. How we shop, how we work, how we go out to eat, if we choose to do so, and how we choose to go to church, whether in person or in the safety of wherever you are via the Facebook live feed. It is safe to say that it has created fear in all of us. Fear is one of our enemy's most popular weapons that he uses against us. Worry, anxiety, fear...can overwhelm us with a thick shadow of darkness, controlling our every move and decision. We shall not let this fear overtake us, as we have a greater power in our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. *"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love."* Romans 8:38-39.

God's love for us continues even as we continue to practice social distancing and not able to be the family that we were before the pandemic started. We cannot let fear separate us from the fellowship and worship of God. We continue to thank those that make worship possible every Sunday and I highly encourage everyone that can worship in person to attend church in person. For those that cannot attend church in person please join on Facebook via the live feed and please check in so that we know who is in attendance. Unable to watch live? Pastor John's sermons are posted by Jordan to Facebook, website and our YouTube channel within a day or two of the sermon. The mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to connect people to Jesus through inspirational worship, loving service, caring fellowship, and relevant education, and I think our website does a great job on this mission. Please continue to keep Christ Lutheran church in your prayers as Pastor John and Jordan continue to bring the word of God to us every Sunday. One final note, even though the way we attend church might have changed, the financial needs have not, so 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, 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**



Please contact Jordan for more information ...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**

- ✚ Go to Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Austin-78704-121095017909219/> especially to tune into Facebook Live streaming of our Worship services, and Pastor's Discipleship class
- ✚ Go to Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ChristATX78704> especially to read Bible verses that also get posted on Facebook during the week
- ✚ Go to [www.christaustin.org](http://www.christaustin.org) - click on 'YouTube' for videos of Pastor John's sermons and hymns from the previous Sunday; and be encouraged by "Songs of Our Faith"

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# Christ Lutheran Church

## Eunice Guild

August 2020

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 — "A Moment in Time"

If my husband, Bill, had not died very unexpectedly almost three years ago, we would celebrate our 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month. We were married in the unairconditioned Birkmann chapel on the old Concordia College campus. The August weather that day was Texas hot with stifling humidity. (Probably not wise planning on our part!) We were young and had so many plans for long lives together. The future was big and bright, and nothing could stop us! Then one day, we shared a quick kiss goodbye, and he left to run a few errands only to never return. I went through the motions of making his funeral and burial arrangements, and then 44 years as my dear Bill's wife, ended in the blink of an eye. But wait! What about our retirement plans, our hopes and dreams? During these "pandemic" days, I've mostly just stayed home. I feared the days would drag by, but surprisingly, time has sped up! How is it possible that only a moment ago I shared smiles and hugs with my family of faith in the church's Narthex? And, I'm sure it's partly due to my weak self-discipline, but I have not even begun to go through the boxes of stuff in that last closet. This was to be the perfect opportunity for that! How fast time passes by, taking us with it! Where did yesterday go?? Let me catch my breath! Well, Job knew this way back over 1,000 years before Jesus. He said, "Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure" (14:1, 2). Yep! I am just a moment in time. Bill and I chose congregational singing of the hymn "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus" (LSB 685) for our wedding processional. The hymn was certainly foretelling with words such as: "a world that would deceive us," "today we sow no laughter," and "all discomforts that annoy." Life is indeed, as Job said, "full of trouble." The other day, a devotion I was reading led me to 2 Corinthians 4 where Paul says, "outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (16, 17). And then this, "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (18). Bill and I loved to look to our future, and to plan and work toward our hopes and dreams. After he died, I was afraid to look past one day in my life. I chose to stay focused on what I could see, and that is where I filled my time. The author of the devotion I mentioned, called it being "nearsighted - consumed by the pain of this world." She said we should be "more farsighted - filled with hope in our loving God." Almost everything going on in our world today is inconceivable to me, and I am again often tempted to be near-sighted rather than far-sighted. I take my eyes off of the Savior and His cross. But my study Bible says that all of "the experiences in the present life are merely phenomena in the passing parade of our fallen age and are therefore fleeting." Yes. Life goes by in the blink of an eye, and I am barely a moment in time. But thanks be to God who in His great love, sees ALL, both near and far, and for whom my moment in time is precious! Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and the hope and glory of eternal life we know by faith in the Savior, are far greater and more powerful than anything! I can say with Paul, "therefore I do not lose heart" (2 Cor 4:16). I can forget "what is behind and . . . press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus! (Php 3:13, 14). *With Joy in Christ! Duannah*

### Cooking With Eunice

#### Hot Summer Afternoon Snacks

*These yummy recipes are taken from JELL-O's "fun and fabulous recipes" book of 1988.*

#### FROZEN CHOCOLATE GRAHAM CUPS (8 servings)

1 1/2 cups cold milk  
1 pkg. (4-serving size) JELL-O chocolate  
flavor instant pudding  
1 cup thawed Cool Whip  
7 whole graham crackers, broken into pieces  
1/2 cup miniature marshmallows  
1/4 cup chopped salted peanuts

Pour cold milk into bowl. Add pudding mix. Whisk until well blended, 2 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes. Fold in Cool Whip, crackers, marshmallows and peanuts. Spoon into muffin pan lined with paper baking cups. Freeze until firm, about 3 hours. Garnish with additional Cool Whip, if desired.

For vanilla cups, substitute vanilla flavor instant pudding, and add slivered almonds and diced maraschino cherries, instead of marshmallows and peanuts.

#### EASY PUDDING MILK SHAKE (makes about 5 cups)

3 cups cold milk  
1 pkg. (4-serving size) JELL-O instant  
pudding, any flavor  
3 scoops (about 1 1/2 cups) ice cream, any  
flavor

Pour cold milk into blender. Add pudding mix and ice cream. Cover and blend at high speed for 15 seconds or until smooth. Enjoy at once. Mixture will thicken as it stands; thin with additional milk, if desired.





## August Birthdays

Fred Frieling, Jr. 8/3  
Scott Mitchell 8/5  
Dexter Juszczak 8/6  
Caitlin Rowlette 8/7  
Bob Wiley 8/11  
Sara Calvo 8/13  
Sherri Shadrock 8/13  
Lindsey Sermons 8/15  
Mark Ziehr 8/16  
Tyler Hentschke 8/18  
Micka Ziehr 8/18  
Belinda Reveles 8/19  
Tracy Ristow 8/19  
Clayton Pillack 8/23  
Dana Magruder 8/24  
Keith Craig 8/28  
LeMorris Galbreath 8/29  
Mehkiya Batts 8/31

## August Anniversaries

Bob & Jean Wiley  
8/11/1979

Rev. John & Pachalin Stennfeld  
8/13/1989

Michael & Cindy Zieschang  
8/15/1987

Frank & Joyce Veloz  
8/16/1968

Harold & Shirley Hoes  
8/18/1962

Albert & Jane Carrion  
8/20/1988

Richard & Connie Ziehr  
8/25/1957

## 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.

## 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)

