



Christ Lutheran Church


The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ.

The *Lord*
is my
LIGHT
and my
SALVATION,
WHOM SHALL I FEAR?

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The Lord
IS MY SHEPHERD.
I SHALL NOT WANT
PSALM 23:1



Dear Friends,

Happy 2019! I say this every year, but I can't believe that we are starting a new year again so soon. The older I get the faster time flies. All of which makes these words of Peter in II Peter 3:8 make a little more sense to make. Peter wrote: "With the Lord a day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day."



PASTOR JOHN STENNFELD

When you have existed for the great expanse of time, and beyond time into eternity, as God has, it is easy to see how one's perspective of time might be different. To a child, waiting for Christmas to arrive each year can seem like an eternity. To an elderly adult, the Christmas of 20 years ago seems like only yesterday. To many, we look back at our lives and wonder how the year slipped by so quickly. What a joy it is to know that no matter how short or long our lives on this earth, no matter how swift or prolonged our days, that we will each enjoy eternal life with God in His heavenly kingdom. Because of Jesus, one day a thousand years will seem but a day to each one of us also.

To God be the Glory,

-Pastor John

"When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun."



Stay connected

Videos of Pastor John's messages are available each week online! (visuals added in) Our website links to YouTube to help us stay connected to Jesus throughout the week. Stay connected with our social media pages to get the latest information.

Website

www.christaustin.org

Facebook

look for
"Christ Austin 78704"

Twitter

@ChristATX78704

Eunice Guild Announcement

Everyone is invited to a gathering on Tuesday, Jan. 15th, at 12:00 noon, in Rms 7/8 for a time together in Christ centered devotion, discussion and fellowship sponsored by the ladies of the Eunice Guild. Even if you cannot make it by noon, we are generally together for at least one and a half hours, and you are welcome to arrive at any time! This is always a truly wonderful and relaxed opportunity to be together as sisters in faith.

Lutheran World Relief Quilters - Can you sew a straight seam, cut a fabric square, or tie a knot? We would love to have you join the quilters group. The group meets every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 11:00 am. (Some work, like cutting and/or sewing squares, can be done at home.) Come help put the finishing touches on some beautiful quilts and send them out into the world to be a blessing in someone's life. If you are looking for an opportunity to fellowship and do great works, come join us. Donations of fabric pieces and "gently used" sheets are appreciated. Please contact Katherine Richter for more details and to get involved.



Letter from the President

Happy New Year! We held our final voters' assembly of 2018 on December 9th. At that meeting, the 2019 budget and officers were approved. I am honored to continue to serve as president for another year. I would like to thank those who have served in 2018 and those who have agreed to serve in 2019. The budget for 2019 will be \$373,551 which is up 1.6% from 2018. We discussed facilities issues including our continual battle with roof leaks, but took no immediate action. We also named me as a lay representative to vote on behalf of our congregation along with Pastor John in the 2019 Synodical presidential election. Thank you for the confidence you continue to show in the congregation's leadership.

In 2019, I encourage you to be intentional about our mission of connecting people to Jesus through inspirational worship, loving service, caring fellowship, and relevant education. Thanks to each of you for the continuing part you play. As always, check our regularly updated website (www.christaustin.org) and follow us on Facebook (look for "Christ Austin 78704") or Twitter (@ChristATX78704) to get the latest information or to watch Pastor John's sermons.

- Alan Werchan



*This column is lovingly sponsored by the Eunice Guild.
God bless you as you cook "with Eunice".*

Meditation

"I Resolve"

"Lord, Thank You for this New Year. I'm excited to see what awaits me, and knowing You are "with me, I will not be afraid." (Ps. 118:6.) Amen! Do you make New Year's Resolutions? I have trouble with them. Oh, there are a lot of things I could and should resolve to do, to do less, to not do. I'd probably feel better, look better, be better equipped to deal with the present and to meet the future, but in my 64 New Years, I've never kept a resolution. I give up rather than put in the extra effort to keep trying. It's much easier to just not make them! My husband, Bill, found great joy in serving as an elder of our church. When called on to help lead our worship, he would often greet the congregants with, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!" (Ps. 118:24.) Forgive me, but I sometimes thought, "How trite, how overused." How sinful of me! Bill had it right. Several weeks ago, I looked out my window to an amazingly beautiful sunrise across our little valley. I said out loud, "WOW! Lord, thank You!" The next morning brought a thick fog which shrouded the trees in a gray peacefulness. "WOW, dearest Lord!" The other night, I witnessed a sunset that was painted in brilliant colors. "WOW! And the sun rises and sets each day without fail." I stood in awe of our Lord's might and His love displayed in His creation. I snuggled into a warm bed and listened to the soft hum of the heater working to bring the temperature up a bit, and I thought, "WOW! Thank You for my extra blanket and warmth on this cold night." Last night, I took a bite of potato chowder my brother had fixed, and said, "WOW! This is SO GOOD! (Thank You, Lord, for our food.)" I once watched a pretty young lady successfully pull her paralyzed body from the floor to a low couch after struggling for weeks to accomplish this maneuver. All of us in the rehab gym clapped and cheered, and I whispered through tears, "WOW! Thank You for Your miracles." I saw a dear friend give her restaurant take home leftovers to a homeless man. "WOW! Thank You for those who care." And, I hold in my heart, a memory from several weeks before my husband died. The worship service had ended and folks were greeting each other in our church's Narthex. Bill and I had become separated. I looked to see where he was and saw him talking to someone else while watching me. Our eyes met as he smiled sweetly, and I so felt his loving devotion. "WOW . . . thank You my dearest Savior." Our days are filled with "WOW!" moments which we must recognize and celebrate in response to God's Unfailing Love. He is always with us and sees to our every need. He cares for us. In Lam. 3:19-26, we are told that "because of the Lord's great love," His compassion for us never fails and is "new every morning." And, in 2 Cor. 4:16, "Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." Every day of every year, through the good, the bad, the ho-hum, God is constantly at work in us, equipping us for His purposes while preparing us for heaven. Every day of every year, "This is the day the Lord has made!" Our day of Salvation! Every day of every year, we experience an amazing life in our Savior who was born, died, rose to live again, and is coming back to gather us up! "WOW!" Okay, back to resolutions. If God does not give up on me, why do I? So, as a beginning: I resolve to purposely articulate and thank my Savior for at least one "WOW!" moment every day. My favorite Bible verse will be my inspiration: "The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation!" (Ps. 118:14).

Happy New Year with Joy in Christ! **-Duannah**



O My Cornbread

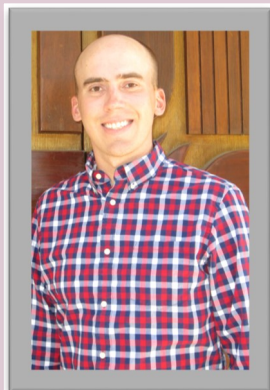
4 Tbsp unsalted butter
½ c water
½ c milk
2 Tbsp canola oil
2 eggs, slightly beaten
2 – 3 drops vanilla

1 Tbsp brown sugar
½ c cornmeal
1 ½ c flour
1/3 c sugar
1 Tbsp baking powder
1 tsp salt



Preheat oven to 400°. Place butter in a 10" cast iron skillet over low heat to melt and heat up the pan while you prepare the batter. Watch so it does not burn. In a small bowl, stir together the water, milk, oil, eggs, vanilla and brown sugar. In a medium mixing bowl, combine the cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Stir in the wet ingredients just until combined (do not overmix). Carefully pour the melted butter from the skillet into the batter. Stir lightly. Pour batter into the hot skillet and place in the oven. Bake for 15 – 20 minutes or until top of cornbread is lightly browned. O My!

For a decadent breakfast treat, top wedges of warm cornbread with this silky milk gravy: In frying pan over low heat, melt 2 Tbsp unsalted butter. Stir in 2 Tbsp flour and cook 2 minutes. Add 1 Tbsp. sugar, ¼ tsp. salt and pinch black pepper. In a 1 cup liquid measuring cup, pour 1 small can evaporated milk (5 oz.). Fill with water to ¾ cup. Add ¼ cup Half 'n Half. Slowly pour this mixture into the flour/butter while stirring. Raise to medium heat and cook while stirring until bubbly and thick.



JORDAN BOESSLING

**Minister of Creative
Communication
&
Community
Connections**

*Please contact Jordan for
more
information on any of the
activities on pages 4-5.*

**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.**



Thank You, Thank You, Thank You

On behalf of myself, and the entire staff of Christ Lutheran Church, I would like to thank all of you for the loving congregational gift presented to each us made possible by your generous donations. We are thankful for, and humbled by, your generosity and love. We also thank you for your continuous prayers sent heavenward on our behalf. I know I am constantly in need of that prayer support, and I am sure that applies to the rest of the staff as well. May God bless you all in 2019, and may He bless us that we might continue to be a blessing to others. In Christ's love, Pastor John

Senior Fest—is coming! This year's event will be held here in Austin on Saturday, February, 2019, from 8:30am-3:00pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River Street. For more information and to register, please pick up one of the Senior Fest brochures on the table in the Narthex.

Loving Service - We will be volunteering again on Saturday, January 19th from 9:45am—11:15am with Marbridge House at The Ranch (assisted living) to start 2019. We are in the process of scheduling something where we would lead/help an arts and crafts and/or sports activity for the residents. Please contact Jordan for information.



Christmas 2018 -

- ✝ Thanks for serving out in the community with Operation Blue Santa (to wrap presents), with Marbridge House (to engage residents in arts and crafts), and with Brush Country Nursing & Rehab (to sing Christmas carols).
- ✝ Thanks for partnering with Upbring to sponsor 41 children and youth living in foster homes, and to provide these families with Angel Tree wish list gifts.
- ✝ Thanks for decorating our Sanctuary once again for the season, and thanks for the eighth year now, for adorning our front lawn with a Christmas Crèche for our community.
- ✝ Thanks for continuing to make donations to the Bread for All Food Pantry, especially for the holidays via the R&R / Eunice Guild Christmas Party.
- ✝ Thanks for helping us bring back a Christmas program from 2010, to present "The Xmas Files Revisited," and thanks for bringing in snacks for our fellowship reception afterward.
- ✝ Thanks Pastor and people of Christ, for your prayers and support, and for our partnership in the Gospel of Jesus.

-Jordan

Water to Thrive

Dear CLC Friends,
I want to thank you for your \$1,726.35 contribution on 11/14/2018. Your generous donation is transforming lives through the gift of clean, safe water. Families in rural Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania are avoiding illness and early death. Women have time to care for their homes. Children are gaining the opportunity to attend school. You have invested in the change of a community that has the potential to break the cycle of poverty.

Thank you again and God bless you. Your gift is making a difference in so many lives.

With Gratitude,
Susanne M. Wilson
Executive Director



Be sure to check out Pastor John's class, where the Bible becomes relevant as we study the New Testament book of II Timothy. Our nursery room is available for families throughout Sunday morn-

Discipleship Classes at 9:30 am on Sunday Mornings

Pastor's Class – Titus

Discipleship Classes for All Ages

Our Nursery Room is available throughout the morning.

Church Pictorial Directory In January and February, we will be taking photos for a new Christ Lutheran Church Pictorial Directory. Schedule an appointment to have your photo taken after an early or late service during the first two months of 2019, or contact Jordan and set up a time during weekly Church Office hours, or submit to him a photo via hard copy or by e-mail. In addition, please complete a Directory Information Card to help us make sure that your contact information on file with the Church Office is correct. The directory will be available, one copy per family, additional copies for a nominal cost, sometime after Easter Sunday, April 21. We will also be updating wedding anniversary and birthday photos (for our announcement slide shows) during these portrait sessions as well.

Sanctuary Un-Decorating - Please consider helping take down the Christmas decorations inside our building at Christ on Sunday, December 30, after 10:45 service, as we organize and put the decorations into storage.



Christmas Crèche

We are getting a team together to take down, and store, the outdoor Christmas Crèche on Saturday, January 5 at 9 am; please contact Jordan to sign up to serve.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Sundays leading up to the big pro football game present an opportunity for us to collect cans and containers of soup for the Bread for All Food Pantry. Chip in during the four “quarters” of our food drive: 1st Quarter—January 13; 2nd Quarter—January 20; 3rd Quarter—January 27; 4th Quarter—February 3 by bringing these items to the metal soup container, and table, that will be outside the Tree House Room 1&2 each of those Sundays.



Souper Bowl-of-Chili Cook-off Party

Save the date of Sunday, February 3 for our annual fellowship with our Church family at Christ around food and football. We'll huddle together in the Fellowship Hall at 5 pm for some snacks and to get good seats for kick-off. Please stay tuned at Church in mid-January for how to get involved in competing in our chili-cookoff contest.

Thursday Morning Bible Class— We will start the NEW Year with a study of the Book of James. We will have an 8 week series beginning on January 3rd. The 1 hour class sessions, led by Rev. Richard Ziehr, start at 10:00 a.m. The Book of James will be good sequel to the study of Galatians. While Galatians emphasizes the core of the Christian faith, James takes a look at the more practical aspects of living the Christian faith. Galatians and James also hold the distinction of being the first New Testament books to be written; thus we will be exploring the early struggle of what it means to be a Christian. Bring your own Bible and come join in—even if you weren't in the study of Galatians.

Men's Discipleship Study - Our “The End of Me” study will continue in January 2019 at a to be determined date/time specific to the first month of the new calendar year. Please contact Tim, or Jordan, for information.

Sharing the Love of Christ



The X-Mas Files Revisited



R&R/Eunice Guild Christmas Party




Christmas at Christ



Youth Lunch at Voter's Meeting



Christmas Decorating



A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.

We were there**f**ore buried with him
through bapt**i**sm into death in order that,
just as Christ was rais**e**d from the dead
through the gl**o**ry of the Fath**e**r,
we too may live a _____.

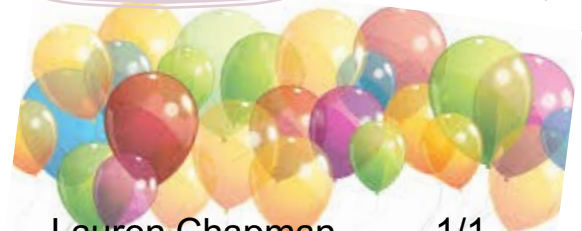
Romans 6:4, NIV

Stewardship Word for the Month

Matthew
6:21

For where
your treasure
is, there your
heart will be
also.

January Birthdays



Lauren Chapman	1/1
Sam Chapman	1/1
Bill Martin	1/1
Tommie Craig	1/3
John Dunn	1/4
Phyllis Trautner	1/6
Phyllis Mitchell	1/8
Brody Richter	1/9
Chloe Calvo	1/13
Emily Richter	1/17
Isaiah Martinez	1/19
Donald Kirby	1/20
Helen Pillack	1/21
Tommy Nanyes	1/23
Mitchell Conner	1/24
Dorothy Richter	1/26
Geneva Mensing	1/29
Thomas Craig	1/30
Louise Alexander	1/31



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ? ?

In Luke's account of Jesus calling the first disciples from their work as fishermen to follow him and "fish for people" (NIV), which disciple is not named?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Simon
- D. Andrew



January Anniversaries

Felix & Louise Alexander	1/6
Avatar & Maria Boardman	1/6
LeeRoy & Susan Anderson	1/17
John & Linda Mitchell	1/27

Christ Lutheran Church

January 2019



Jan 6

Flowers:

Tellers: P. Hamil/J. Wiley

8:15am: Lector: Alex Stivers

Acolyte:

10:45am: Lector: Divina Stennfeld

Acolyte: Emily Richter

Communion Guild 8:15 am Kim & Ben Schaare

10:45 am Bob & Jean Wiley

Fellowship:

Jan 13

Flowers:

Tellers: P. Hamil/J. Wiley

8:15am: Lector: Charles Kanetzky

Acolyte: Katy Herber

10:45am: Lector: Connie Ziehr

Acolyte: Katherine Werchan

Communion Guild

8:15 am Felix & Louise Alexander

10:45 am Debbie & Eric Harrison

Fellowship:

Jan 20

Flowers:

Tellers: P. Bost/S. Etter

8:15am: Lector: Clayton Pillack

Acolyte:

10:45am: Lector: Alan Werchan

Acolyte: Seth Werchan

Communion Guild

8:15 am LeMorris Galbreath

10:45 am Jared Juszczak

Fellowship:

Jan 27

Flowers:

Tellers: P. Bost/S. Etter

8:15am: Lector: Mark Herber

Acolyte: Katy Herber

10:45am: Lector: Marylou Moore

Acolyte: Adam Werchan

Communion Guild 8:15 am Gracie Cano

10:45 am Doug & Deborah Bynum

Fellowship:

If you cannot serve as scheduled,
it is YOUR responsibility to find a replacement.
If a problem arises Sunday morning,
please call the church to let Pastor know.

Elders: 8:15 am: Roy Pietsch
10:45 am: Tim Ristow

* Flowers will be donated