

# Christ Lutheran Church

February 2019



## The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ.



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& Community Connections
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of Christ
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*Dear Friends,*

*With the arrival of February comes the arrival of Valentine's Day, and so the theme of love is a prominent one seen in store displays, television commercials, and promotional advertising.*

*Vendors hope that if love is on your mind, gift buying will be on your agenda.*

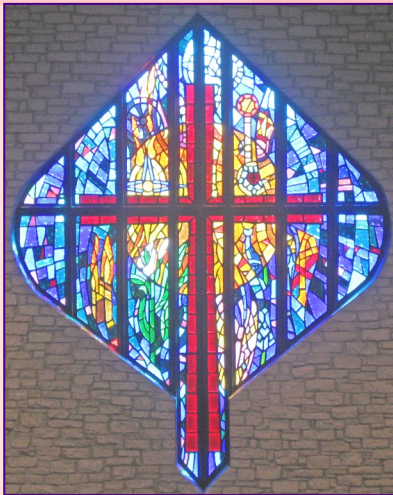
*In keeping with this theme of love I read this quote the other day from French moralist Francois De La Rochefoucauld. He said, "If one judges love by most of it's results, it is closer to hatred than friendship." That is, unfortunately, a sad but true commentary on the quality of the love that is so often displayed by sinful humanity. What we deem to be love is too often overshadowed by selfish motives and hurtful actions.*

*And thus to see and know love we have to look beyond ourselves: we have to look to God. John wrote in his 1st epistle: "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." Think about that as you contemplate, this Valentine's Day, how best to express your love to others.*



**PASTOR JOHN STENNFELD**

*-Pastor John*



## 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](http://www.christaustin.org)

### Facebook

look for  
"Christ Austin 78704"

### Twitter

@ChristATX78704

## Eunice Guild Announcement

Everyone is invited to a gathering on Tuesday, Feb. 19th, 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

*The main way most members of Christ Lutheran give their tithes and offerings has historically been through envelopes in the offering plate. Using envelopes requires individuals to carry cash and/or write, a check. In today's world more and more people do neither, instead relying on online banking or debit/credit cards. Recognizing this, we are working with a provider to add the ability to give online through our website ([www.christaustin.org](http://www.christaustin.org)). This function should become active in the very near future. Look for more information in an upcoming bulletin insert. Additionally, members of Christ Lutheran have had the opportunity to contribute directly from their bank account to the church via an electronic funds transfer. This program, historically known as Simply Giving, is continuing. Our financial secretary, Michael Zieschang, can assist you in enrolling in the program or adjusting your existing contribution. One of our congregation's great fellowship opportunities is the annual Super Bowl-of-Chili Cook-off on Sunday February 3rd beginning at 5 pm. Even if you don't want to enter the cook-off, come watch the game, share some snacks, and be a chili judge. I encourage you to participate along with the Kingdom Quest kids in our Souper Bowl of Caring food drive supporting the Bread for All Food Pantry which serves our neighbors. We will be collecting food through Sunday, February 3rd. Finally, don't forget to regularly check our website or follow us on Facebook (look for "Christ Austin 78704") for the latest information or to watch one of Pastor's sermons. We are also on Twitter (@ChristATX78704).*

- Alan Werchan



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

## Meditation

Ah, February, when words such as cold, chili, cupid and chocolates, come to mind - the latter two having to do mostly with Valentine's Day, Feb. 14th. The Lutheran Service Book (our hymnal), on page xii lists Feb. 14th as a day to remember St. Valentine, Martyr. It instructs us to look to him, and other saints, as "examples by which we may imitate both their faith and their holy living according to our calling in life" - "as examples of those in whom the saving work of Jesus Christ has been made manifest to the glory of His holy name." St. Valentine of Rome was a priest who was beheaded on Feb. 14, 269, for converting many to Christianity and helping Christians, in a pagan Rome. He refused to denounce Christ and convert to paganism to save his life. He also secretly performed many marriages within the Christian church at a time when marriage was prohibited. He is said to have restored the sight of his jailer's blind daughter through prayer before his execution, and he left a note to her signed, "Your Valentine." Valentine's Day, the celebration of romantic love, began to evolve during the 14th Century, and poems expressing this love were written and shared. My sister surprised me the other day with half a bag of "Tiny Conversation Hearts." I remember exchanging little boxes of these as a child with other children on Valentine's Day. The candies had sentiments such as "TRUE LOVE", "HUG ME", and "BE MINE" printed on them. I gave no thought to these missives of "love" before popping their nondescript sweetness into my mouth. Today's messages have changed to reflect the times with "AWESOME", "WINK WINK", and "TEXT ME", and are accompanied by flavors such as wintergreen, orange, and banana. The bag of hearts made me think of an Advent devotion I had read. I looked back through the booklet and found it for Dec. 19th, titled, "A Christmas Letter". The four short paragraphs were based on John 1:1-14, and the author wrote, "We could say that the original Christmas love letter was Jesus, the Word made flesh." She concluded by calling Jesus, "God's love letter to us." My first thought was, "Oh, that's kind of neat," but, I then began to take exception as it seemed too simplistic. I now know that I made my mistake by not giving much thought to the Bible verses assigned for the daily reading. In thinking about Valentine's Day and the sharing of words of love, I read again the verses from John, paying particular attention to John 1:1, 14, 18: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." "No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known." "The Word." It is through words that we reveal who we are - our thoughts and our intentions - to others. It is through God's precious Word that He fully and perfectly shows Himself to us, and John tells us that God's Word was and is eternally His "One and Only" Son, Jesus, Himself true God. I cannot grasp this, but by the Holy Spirit working faith in me through God's Word, I do so believe it. In 1 John 4:10, we find these beautiful words, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." It is in Jesus that God reveals His unmotivated, unfailing "True Love." This must have been what St. Valentine knew and believed, what gave him the strength and courage to share with others the words of love found only in Christ our hope for salvation. Yes. I do think we can say that Jesus is "God's love letter to us," - a message of love eager to be shared with others. It is the sweetest love - a love given freely and in abundance by our Heavenly Father in His Son, Jesus, our Savior.

Joy in Christ! -Duannah

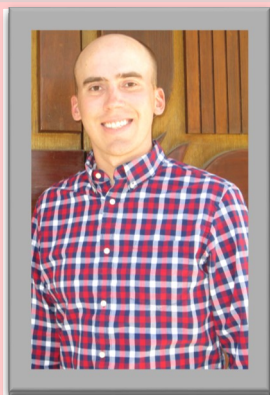


## Oatmeal Raisin Bars

1 c flour	1 tsp vanilla
1/2 c sugar	1 egg, beaten
1/2 c brown sugar	1/2 c butter (melted & cooled)
1/2 tsp baking soda	2 c old fashioned oats
1/2 tsp salt	1 c raisins
1/2 tsp cinnamon	
1/4 tsp nutmeg	



Preheat oven to 350°. Grease an 8X8 inch baking pan & line with parchment. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugars, baking soda, salt, cinnamon & nutmeg. In a small bowl, mix together the vanilla, egg, & butter. Stir this into the dry ingredients. Fold in the oats & raisins. Batter will be thick. Spread the batter into the prepared pan & bake for 25 - 30 minutes. Remove from oven; allow to cool before cutting into bars.



**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.**

### **Church Pictorial Directory**

On Sundays, now thru February 24th, 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. To have your photos taken, please meet with

Jordan in the Narthex after Worship on your scheduled Sunday. Photos will be taken on the Church porch, or in the Sanctuary, depending on the weather.



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 photo sessions as well.

### **Marbridge House**

We are making plans to volunteer again at the Ranch (assisted living) of Marbridge House on Saturday, February 16th from 9:45am-11:15am, to lead/help with arts and crafts, and have games available too. Marbridge is located at 2310 Bliss Spillar Road, Manchaca, TX 78652. Please contact Jordan for information.



### **Free Workshop from Thrivent!**

*Get tips to maximize retirement income and creating an estate strategy.*

Retirement is something many of us look forward to with anticipation. Turn that anticipation into action by assessing your retirement income sources and discovering tips to maximize your Social Security benefits. Plus, consider ways to leave something to those you care about.

Attend a Thrivent Workshop on:

Tuesday, February 12th at Noon—Economic Update  
Redeemer Lutheran Church—Reception Room A

Tuesday, February 12th at 5pm—Retirement and Estate Strategies  
Overture Domain—Lobby

Thursday, February 21st at Noon—Economic Update  
Abiding Love Lutheran Church—Classroom

Thursday, February 21st at 6:30pm—Economic Update  
Bethany Lutheran Church—Room 112

Please call 512-339-9339 or email [arborsgroup@thrivent.com](mailto:arborsgroup@thrivent.com) to reserve a place for yourself and a guest.

## 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.



**Men's Discipleship Study** - Our "The End of Me" study will continue on the first Tuesday of February, the 5th, at 7:30 P.M. Please contact Tim, or Jordan, for information.

**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.

**Super Bowl-of-Chili Cookoff**— Come join us Sunday, February 3rd, at 5 pm, for our annual Chili-Cook-Off held in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and try your hand at cooking a pot of the red stuff (chili). We'll be watching the big pro football game, and snacking/eating/judging chili entries during half-time. There will be a prize provided for the winner of the chili cookoff, and with no obligation for the winner to host the event the next time around. Soda/lemonade/tea will be provided. Contact Jordan with questions. We look forward to seeing you all there for this fun fellowship event.



**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 donations by the final "quarter" of our food drive: 4th Quarter—February 3. Please bring these items to the metal soup container, and table, that will be outside the Tree House Room 1&2.

**Feed My Lambs** – Our ministry providing sack lunches on Thursdays is **in need of supplies**; at this time, we need **fruit cups**, **granola bars**, **protein** (Vienna sausages, tuna and **crackers**, etc.), and **desserts** (cookies, pudding, or Jell-O) for our lunches to hand out to the hungry souls that come to our door on Thursday mornings.

### *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.*



## Sharing the Love of Christ



Pastor John leading the Children's Message



First Eunice Guild Gathering of 2019



Caring Fellowship




H.I.S. Band



8:15am Worship Service Musicians



Christmas Crèche Undecorating




## PUZZLE

### WITH LOVE FROM ABOVE

The Bible is full of special words from our loving God.

Directions: Using the messages on the candy hearts, complete the Bible verses (all NIV) below.



God is our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_,  
an ever-present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

"Surely I am with you \_\_\_\_\_." Matthew 28:20

And the \_\_\_\_\_ of God ... will guard  
your hearts and your minds in  
\_\_\_\_\_. Philippians 4:7

Whoever lives in \_\_\_\_\_ lives in God,  
and God in them. 1 John 4:16

\_\_\_\_\_ love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18

Answer: refuge, strength, always, love, perfect, Christ Jesus, peace, love, perfect

## Stewardship Word for the Month

### Colossians 3:23

"Whatever  
you do,  
work at it  
with all your  
heart, as  
working for  
the Lord, not  
for men."



## February Birthdays

Tommy Taylor	2/1
Valerie Kanetzky	2/4
Donn Trautner	2/7
Richard Fletcher	2/8
David Schaare	2/8
Brett Egge	2/9
Justin Medina	2/9
Nora Juszczak	2/10
Davis Magruder	2/10
Phil Etter	2/11
Sonny Mitchell	2/11
Freddie Richter	2/11
Helen Karcher	2/12
Maria Calvo	2/14
Lisa Castille	2/14
Albert Carrion Jr.	2/15
Joyce Veloz	2/15
Matthew Ristow	2/16
Frank Veloz	2/16
Michael Zieschang	2/20
Joe Albert Aguilera	2/21
Barbara Craig	2/22
Isela Martinez	2/24
Jo Kautz	2/26
Joseph Calvo	2/27
Kimberly Schaare	2/27
Sarah Zieschang	2/29



## February Anniversaries

Chuck Cazzola & Jena Carpenter	2/13
Alan & Alice Werchan	2/17





# Christ Lutheran Church



February 2019

**Feb 3**

**Flowers:** Benjamin Schaare in  
Honor of David Schaare's birthday

**Tellers:** J. Carrion/A. Carrion

**8:15am: Lector:** Alex Stivers

**Acolyte:**

**10:45am: Lector:** Norma Nanyes

**Acolyte:** Ben Ristow

**Communion Guild**

**8:15 am** Kimberly & Benjamin Schaare

**10:45 am** Gerald & Ellen Decker; Mary Karotkin

**Fellowship:** Norma Nanyes

**Feb 10**

**Flowers:**

**Tellers:** J. Carrion/A. Carrion

**8:15am: Lector:** Charles Kanetzky

**Acolyte:** Katy Herber

**10:45am: Lector:** Gary Lippe

**Acolyte:** Emily Richter

**Communion Guild**

**8:15 am** Felix & Louise Alexander

**10:45 am** Gerald & Ellen Decker; Mary Karotkin

**Fellowship:** The Stennfeld Family

**Feb 17**

**Flowers:** Kevin Craig in Honor of  
Barbara's birthday on 2/22

**Tellers:** M. Moore/ A. Moore

**8:15am: Lector:** Clayton Pillack

**Acolyte:**

**10:45am: Lector:** Phil Etter

**Acolyte:** Katherine Werchan

**Communion Guild**

**8:15 am** LeMorris Galbreath

**10:45 am** Yolanda Faulkner

**Fellowship:**

**Feb 24**

**Flowers:** Cindy Zieschang, in

Honor of Michael and Sarah's Birthday's

**Tellers:** M. Moore/ A. Moore

**8:15am: Lector:** Mark Herber

**Acolyte:** Katy Herber

**10:45am: Lector:** Bob Wiley

**Acolyte:** Seth Werchan

**Communion Guild 8:15 am**

**10:45 am** Ronnie & Bryan Richter

**Fellowship:** Gerald and Ellen Decker

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: Sonny Mitchell  
10:45 am: Kevin Craig

\* Flowers will be donated