

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

January 2020



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2-3 Around the Church
- 4-6 Creative Communication
and Community
Connections
- 7 Celebrations!
- 8 Serving this Month

MAY YOU SHINE
THE LIGHT OF
CHRIST IN THE
NEW YEAR!

Pastor John



PASTOR JOHN STENNFELD

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! It's that time again—time to join a health club, go on a diet, change our living patterns, refrain from our vices, and make resolutions. And one year from now it will be time to do it all over again because we will have most likely failed at everything we attempted in this new year. It's frustrating, isn't it, to have the desire to make changes to better oneself and yet not to have the fortitude and discipline and strength to actually make those changes.

Paul knew something about those feelings of frustration also. He states in Romans 7: *"I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing."* Paul was so frustrated with himself that he even states about himself: *"What a wretched man I am."*

At times in the new year we might feel kind of wretched also, or feel like a loser, or just not be happy with ourselves for not being able to achieve or to be or to do what we desire to and aspire to. In those times especially we need to be reminded of Paul's words to himself about his wretched condition: "Thanks be to God, through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Our victory over our sinful nature—that nature that makes mistakes and lacks discipline and over indulge—is not won nor awarded through our perseverance but through Jesus Christ's endurance on the cross, and his victory over the grave. With that in mind, have a wonderful year, knowing that even if our resolutions fail, the victory is still ours through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Happy New Year,

Pastor John



Letter from the President



Happy New Year! We held our final voters' assembly of 2019 on December 8th. At that meeting, the 2020 budget and officers were approved. We also elected a new council where I, David Schaare, was elected president. I would like to thank Alan Werchan and Bob Wiley for their service as president and vice president over the past years. The budget for 2020 will be \$380,026 which is up 1.74% from 2019. We discussed facilities issues including our continual battle with roof leaks, and the congregation approved the council to spend up to \$50,000 to repair the roof. In 2020, I encourage you to be more involved in church, through regular church attendance, attending Pastor John's discipleship class, serving either as a lector, helping with communion set up or getting involved with a community. I ask you to pray for our church and 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.

David Schaare
President



Pastor John on Christmas Eve

On behalf of the paid staff of Christ Lutheran Church, I would like to offer each of you a very warm and special "thank you" for our Christmas bonus/gift this year. We are blessed to be a part of this Church family, and we are honored to serve you, the members of our Lord's body in this place. Please accept our gratitude for your generosity and know that your gifts to us and prayers for us are most appreciated.

God Bless,
Pastor John



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.

Fellowship Committee Report

The Fellowship Committee is looking for people to volunteer to help with the events throughout the year. Please contact Kimberly Schaare, schaarehome@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with events throughout the year.

We know it is early, but we are seeing if anyone can make soups for the luncheons after Lenten Midweek services. First soup is Ash Wednesday, February 26 th. Even if you can only provide the soup, we will be able to find people to help serve. These meals are appreciated by the people who attend these services.

Kimberly Schaare
Fellowship Chairman



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 — "Bring It On!"

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." This quote, most often attributed to Martin Luther, came to mind as I was starting this "New Year" meditation. 2020! It sounds like a movie year straight out of Hollywood - the title for a science fiction flick written 50 years ago. But 2020 - the year - is now! I've always looked forward to, in a weird sort of way, stepping from one calendar to the next, into a new year, and wondering what was ahead. Meeting the sweetest guy and marrying him! Moving into a first real home. Being assigned to a great work project that would take me all over the U.S. Buying a new truck and taking an overnight trip that on a whim, became a 10-day jaunt to the Canadian border and back. Finally receiving a diagnosis - but, one with no cure. Burying a precious husband very unexpectedly. Becoming dependent and experiencing true loneliness. 2020 is a leap year, but will we even be around for all 366 days? Oh! That brings to mind another adage: "I'm getting too old to buy green bananas." Well, no one knows if they will live to see their bananas ripen - what the year, or tomorrow, or even the next blink of an eye will bring - no one, that is, except our Lord. And isn't that a good thing! He tells us through David in my favorite Psalm, "All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be." (Ps. 139:16). And He says, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." (Matt. 6:34). My dear Mother-in-law was always worrying. I so often told her, "Don't worry. Have faith." But her comeback was always, "Yeah. Just tell me how." It was not in her nature to NOT worry (and she did live to be 97 years old!), but oh, how much time was wasted in worrying. I suppose I must confess that I also sometimes give in to worry although I tend to call it "really thinking hard about things!" In one of my Bibles, the notes had this from Martin Luther under Psalm 63: "With our own concerns and thoughts we torture ourselves . . . There is an evil and clever devil riding me . . . He immediately butts in and makes you start stewing over it." Yes, he does. But we have a surefire antidote in our Savior! We throw ourselves into His loving arms, and with David we pray: "My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me." (Ps. 63:8). Our Savior sees the big picture. He knows what has been and what is coming. He bought us with His very life. He is absolutely not ever going to let us go. Nothing can separate us from His love! He placed me in this time, in this place, for His purposes. He's got this!!! He wants me to live a full life that reflects His love and His joy. Jesus said: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete." (John 15:9,11). JOY! So, what is it? I found this explanation: "Joy is not the absence of daily hardship, but rather the ability to see beyond it and to look to the Lord in confident expectation." YES! By faith through the Holy Spirit, I am filled with the Joy of Christ. I know to Whom I belong, and I know the hope of eternal life I have in Him. 2020! Bring it on! I may plant an apple tree AND buy some green bananas. I will let the Savior take me by the hand, and I will boldly, bravely, joyfully, step into 2020 - and beyond! "Surely God is my salvation. I will trust and not be afraid." (Is. 12:2). With Joy in Christ, Indeed! Duannah

Cooking With Eunice

Mom's Milk Rice

♥ The Recipe for last month, December 2019, was for Peanut Butter Fudge. We just had an incorrect title. Hope you had a chance to try it and enjoyed it!

This was Mom's go-to recipe for something warm & filling & comforting for we 3 kids growing up. We ate it as a side dish (it pairs especially well with pork). Or, add a little extra milk (& a few raisins) for delicious rice pudding. My loving thanks to Yvette, my sister, for providing it for the newsletter.

1 1/3 - 1 1/2 c. white rice
1 tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. butter
3 c. water
2 Tbsp. butter
1 (12 oz.) can evaporated milk
1/2 c. sugar
1/4 tsp. cinnamon (or more to taste)
1 stick butter

Put the first 4 ingredients (rice, salt, 1 T. butter, water) into a large pot & bring to a boil. Cover & lower heat. Simmer 15 mins. Fluff with a fork.

Add the next 4 ingredients (2 T. butter, canned milk, sugar, cinnamon). Stir to combine, cover & continue to simmer - folding gently & often to keep from burning. Do not over stir. Do this until milk is absorbed (about 10 minutes).

Remove from heat. In a separate small frying pan, brown 1 stick of butter.

Watch closely so it does not burn. Turn milk rice out into serving dish. Sprinkle it with additional cinnamon & sugar - do not stir. Pour hot browned butter over the top. (You may gently poke a few holes into the rice so the browned butter can infuse it nicely.) baking the next day. Bake at 350° for 35 to 40 minutes.



JORDAN BOESSLING

Creative Communication and 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.

Discipleship Classes at 9:30 am on Sunday Mornings

Pastor's Class – Mark

Discipleship Classes for All Ages

Our Nursery Room is available throughout the morning.

Thursday Morning Bible Class

Come join us as we study the Book of Joshua in Bible Study lead by Jordan Boessling on Thursdays from 10:00a.m. to 11:00a.m., starting January 16th. Payments of \$10/per person for workbooks due Sunday, January 5th.

Game Night with Christ's Friends!

When: January 31, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Where: 3117 Argento Place, Cedar Park 78613

(Home of Mark and Micka Ziehr)

RSVP: 512 573-2368

Bring and appetizer to share and BYOB

If you have any questions, contact Micka Ziehr at 512 573-2368 or email: mickaz@austin.rr.com

Marbridge

We are planning to volunteer at The Ranch (assisted living of Marbridge (www.marbridge.org) on Saturday, January 18th from 9:45 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. to lead/help with arts and crafts, and to spend time with the residents. Marbridge is located at 2310 Bliss Spillar Road, Manchaca, TX 78652. Please contact Jordan for information, and to sign up to serve.

Men's Discipleship

We will continue a study for 2019-2020 led by Tim Ristow and based on the book "Navigate Your Faith: A Christian's Field Guide to Not Getting Lost" (by Ron Pratt) on the first Tuesday of January the 7th, at 7:30 P.M in the Christ's Workshop. Please contact Tim, or Jordan, for information.

Christmas Crèche Undecorating

We are getting a team together to take down, and store, the outdoor Christmas Crèche on Saturday, January 11th at 9 am; please contact Jordan to sign up to serve. We will be undecorating the Sanctuary and the indoors of our building on Sunday, January 5th, after late service.



Christ's Friends Christmas Party



15th Annual Austin & Central Texas Senior Fest!

Date: Saturday, February 1, 2020 - 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Location: Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (ELCA), Austin
Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Michael Newman, President of the Texas District, LC-MS
Keynote Topic: "Getting Through It: Facing an Uphill Life with God's Gifts."

Seniors, come join other area Lutheran seniors in February for a fun-filled day of joy, learning, and inspiration! Brochures are available in the narthex and the church office. For additional information, to download a PDF version of the brochure, or to register online, visit our new secure website, <https://sites.google.com/view/austinseniorfest/home>—for more information or questions, contact David Austin at 512-939-4010 or my e-mail at austinseniorfest@gmail.com

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 12; 2nd Quarter—January 19; 3rd Quarter—January 26; 4th Quarter—February 2 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 2 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.

2019 Pumpkin Patch Non-Profit Beneficiaries "Thank You" Notes

Dear Christ Lutheran Church Of Austin:

Thank you so much for your generous contribution of \$1,791.21. Your Contribution has been a blessing to SWEFT-USA and is very much appreciated. Your generous gift will be used on projects that are highest on the list of needs. More specifically, it is to support the Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation Thailand, a non-profit organization legally registered in Thailand that serves people in need.

*"Thank you for your generous support of Gospel outreach in Thailand.
May you have a blessed Christmas!"*

Sincerely,
David Karkan

Dear Pastor Stennfeld,

I want to thank you for your \$1,844.39 contribution. 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

*Water to Thrive



Christ Lutheran Church

January 2020

Sharing the Love of Christ



Decorating Saturday



Christmas Eve Pre-Service



Christmas Party with Presence



Christmas Fellowship at Christ



Christmas Eve Candlelight



Christ Lutheran Church

January 2020

January Birthdays

Lauren Chapman	1/1
Samuel 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
Conner Mitchell	1/24
Dorothy Richter	1/26
Geneva Mensing	1/29
Thomas Craig	1/30
Louise Alexander	1/31



Chi-Rho
Chrismon



Christmas Day



The ABC's of Christmas Program

Stewardship Colossians 3:23-24

²³Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, ²⁴since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.



January Anniversaries

Felix & Louise Alexander
01/06/1963

John & Linda Mitchell
01/27/2000





January 5th

Flowers: Given by Ron & Jo Kautz

Tellers: P. Bost/ S. Etter

8:15am: Lector: Paul Kern

10:45am: Lector: Gary Lippe

Acolyte: Emily Richter

Communion Guild:

8:15am: Kimberly and Benjamin Schaare

10:45am Belina Reveles

Fellowship: Norma Nanyes

January 12th

Flowers:

Tellers: P. Bost/ S. Etter

8:15am: Lector: Jessica Engs

10:45am: Lector: Divina Stennfeld

Communion Guild:

8:15am: Felix and Louise Alexander

10:45am: Debbie and Eric Harrison

Fellowship: Sue Etter

ELDERS:

8:15am: Roy Pietsch

10:45am: Kevin Craig

January 19th

Flowers: For Helen Pillacks 92nd birthday by Claying Pillack, Norene Crawford, Betty Joyce Stephens

Tellers: J. Carrion / A. Carrion

8:15am: Lector: Clayton Pillack

10:45am: Lector: Alan Werchan

Communion Guild:

8:15am: LeMorris Galbreath

10:45am: Jared Juszczak

January 26th

Flowers: Given by Ellen Decker

Tellers: J. Carrion / A. Carrion

8:15am: Lector: Alex Stivers

Acolyte: Katy Herber

10:45am: Lector: MaryLou Moore

Communion Guild:

8:15am:

10:45am: Doug and Deborah Bynum

Fellowship: Patricia Jaimes & Stella Campos

*** Flowers will be donated**

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.