

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

July 2020



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I have always been a planner. I plan my vacations many months in advance, my work schedule each week, and my workout schedule each week. Even on vacation, my days are carefully planned out so that I can maximize my time and fit as much into each day as possible. As such one of the greatest frustrations for me with this whole Covid-19 thing is that I can't really plan my future. I can't plan our next trip, plan for my mom to visit, plan our church's schedule of activities, and so on, because we don't really know what tomorrow will bring and what will be open and such.

In James 4 we read these words: "Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.""

James' words remind us that with or without Covid-19, tomorrow is always a mystery... to us anyway. And thus we live and walk by faith, never really knowing what tomorrow will bring regardless of our planning, but knowing and trusting that we live, and move, and have our being in God Himself. And as such, we move toward tomorrow without fear, knowing that God will care and provide for us always.

May you all have a blessed month knowing that we are always in God's care,

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 Pastor Stennfeld,

In 2019, your congregation was **among the top sixty contributors** to our Texas District LCMS mission efforts (which puts us in the top 15 % of Churches in our District). I can't begin to thank you enough for the impact your offerings have had on thousands of people who now have a home in heaven and a Refuge and Strength here on earth because of you. A dozen new churches were planted in Texas last year. More than 30 evangelists were trained and deployed. The Gospel ripple effects are immeasurable. Your self-sacrificial gifts are making a significant Kingdom difference and fueling a Gospel movement in Texas. Please accept my sincere appreciation.

Grateful to walk with you in mission,

Mike

Rev. Michael W. Newman

President, Texas District LCMS





Letter from the President

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to force us to social distance, but nothing can stop the fellowship of the family of Christ. As our church starts to reopen it is nice to see our congregation start to join in person. As we start with one service to reopen the church, it has united and brought us closer together than ever before. We want to continue to thank Pastor John, Jordan, Phyllis, Donn, the HIS band, and our musicians—Jo Kautz, Mark and Katy Herber - for bringing us our worship each and every week during this pandemic. Pastor John's sermons throughout these trying times have been very meaningful and helpful whether you hear them in person, watch them live, or catch them later via Facebook. On another note, our church is currently without a secretary so we are asking for everyone to be a little patient and forgiving if something gets delayed or overlooked. I am happy to report that during the time that the Sanctuary was closed, the sound system was replaced. Thanks goes out to Phil for all his hard work and staying on top of this project. 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).

David Schaare, President

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.



Stewardship

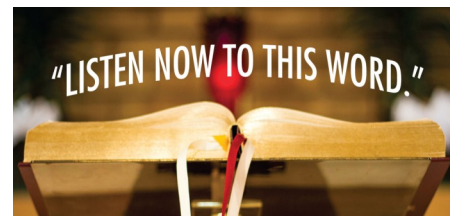
**"Freely you have received,
freely give."**

Matthew 10:8b

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 - 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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the sanctuary for service.***





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.

This page is sponsored
by the Women of the
Eunice Guild.



Meditation — "The HAIRCUT"

I got a haircut the other day. It felt strange to be out in public, but there were COVID-19 rules to protect the stylists and clients. Only a few were allowed in at one time, and everyone had to wear a mask. I asked my stylist if anyone had refused to obey their rules. She said only two. They were told they could not enter without a mask unless they had a medical condition that prevented it, and they were "free" to go elsewhere. In both cases, the person voiced their objection and left without incident. In preparation for attending a worship service, I reviewed our church's guidelines for protection from the virus - wear a mask, no hugging, don't touch the hymnals, use hand sanitizer, etc. It brought to mind something I read in George Nielsen's book, *Johann Kilian, Pastor, A Wendish Lutheran in Germany and Texas*. The Wends, ancestors of many Lutherans, were Slavic people who settled in what is now eastern Germany. During the Reformation, many became Lutherans, accepting a faith based on Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. When the regional governments formed state churches, this faith was threatened. Lutheran churches were merged with Reformed churches and forced to incorporate vague, or conflicting religious beliefs. Pastors were jailed and parishioners fined for failure to obey, and monetary support was withheld. The political and economic oppression, and danger of a compromised faith, ultimately threatened the Wendish people - their culture and language - with extinction. In the 1850's, they came to America seeking freedom of religion and life-style. Through suffering and hard work, they established a settlement in Serbin, Texas, and a church - St. Paul's Lutheran. But, there were rules to be followed: government rules for civil matters, guidelines as the first Texas church to join the Missouri Synod, and rules established for the good of their congregation. According to Nielsen's book, in 1866, the Wends adopted "proper Lutheran church decorum" rules - "instead of excluding the guests." They included items such as, "It is: forbidden for men to wear hats during worship or carry six-shooters into the church building, not permissible to smoke a pipe or chew tobacco in the church building nor for anyone to leave during worship," and "not permissible to speak aloud in or near the church while services are being held nor to laugh in church." To me, they read as rules meant, at that time, to ensure a meaningful worship for all - for the collective good. The haircut, our church worship, the Wends - it seems that with all freedoms come responsibilities. I suppose it all began with a tree. "Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden" (Gen. 2:8). Man was free to live in joy and peace, with God, in His beautiful Creation, but the freedom came with responsibility. God said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2:16,17). Man chose to use his freedom irresponsibly and disobeyed, resulting in separation from God, and loss of freedom from sin and death. But God had a plan, and it involved another tree. We "were redeemed [ransomed] . . . with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Pt. 1:18,19). Jesus died on a tree to give us life free from the threat of sin and death, and to reunite us with God. With this freedom, He exhorts us to "Live as free men, show proper respect to everyone, serve others, and above all, love each other deeply" (1 Pt. 2:16,17 & 4:8,10). He wants us to "Be holy" - as Jesus showed us how to live, and He gives us guidelines in His commandments and throughout Scripture. In faith, and in love for my Savior, I will strive to follow God's commands even as I observe earthly rules established for the collective good. I know I live free to lawfully voice my opinion when I see injustice, and frankly, it's not just about me. It's about all of us. God is Good. He is in control. Thanks be to our loving God! *Joyfully free in Christ! Duannah*

Cooking With Eunice

Patty Pan Cake - a delicious way to use up overgrown late squash from your garden. Patty pans (white round scalloped squash), with their mild taste & firm flesh, make the best cake - sort of a mock apple cake (or use patty pans to make a mock apple pie!). May use pears, apples, carrots, etc., instead of squash.

3 cups diced Patty Pan squash (if large squash, peel & remove seeds)
2 cups flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp dried orange peel (optional)
2 cups sugar
3 eggs
3/4 cup canola oil
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup raisins
1 cup chopped pecans, toasted a bit

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease a 9X13 baking dish. In medium mixing bowl, whisk together flour, & next 5 dry ingredients. In large mixing bowl, cream sugar & eggs. Mix in oil & vanilla. Stir the dry ingredients into the wet. Stir in the patty pan, raisins & pecans. Pour into prepared baking dish. Bake for 35 - 40 minutes. A sharp knife inserted into cake should pull out clean. Cool cake on a rack. Store well covered. (Or, bake in a lightly greased Bundt pan for 50 to 60 minutes.)

Icing (optional): In a glass 2 cup measuring cup, melt 1 Tbsp. butter with 1 Tbsp. water, in microwave. With fork or small whisk, stir in 1 cup powdered sugar & a small pinch of salt. Add 1/4 tsp. vanilla. Add warm water, 1 tsp. at a time, until desired drizzle consistency. Drizzle over the cooled cake.



July Birthdays

Patty Brodbeck 7/6
Linda Mitchell 7/6
Douglas Bynum 7/10
Earnest David Sermons 7/11
Jared Juszczak 7/12
Annette Batts 7/13
Susan Sermons 7/14
Madeline Robb 7/16
Micah Stennfeld 7/17
George Whitehurst 7/21
Harold Derenberger 7/26
Ben Ristow 7/28
Mary Carrion 7/29

July Anniversaries

**Franklin & Katherine
Richter 7/5/1958**
**Gerald & Ellen Decker
7/5/1958**
**Jeremy & Dana Magruder
7/8/2006**
**John & Dolores Dunn
7/12/1955**
**Steve & Cynthia Bailey
7/12/1984**
**Donn & Phyllis Trautner
7/26/1975**
**Bill & Christina Martin
7/26/2014**

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)

