

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

October 2020



Dear Friends,

One of my favorite books is a book by a man named Viktor Frankl, who was a holocaust survivor. The book is entitled “Man’s Search for Meaning.” In it Frankl wrote: “When we are no longer able to change a situation: just think of an incurable disease such as incurable cancer — we are challenged to change ourselves.”

And so it is with us concerning our current covid-19 situation. We cannot change the situation. It is here, and maybe here to stay. So we must now change ourselves to meet the challenge of living God-fearing, servant-filled lives under a new set of rules. Luckily for us we have a God who is bigger than the corona virus, and more powerful too. Remember that as you navigate these uncharted waters. “I can do all things in him (meaning Christ) who strengthens me.” - Philippians 4:13

Have a blessed month,
Pastor John



**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**

Dear beloved Saints at Christ Lutheran,

You are an incredible blessing to Concordia University Texas. Your continued support makes a path for students, faculty, and staff to make unbelievable impacts on campus in the community, and across the globe. Thank you for your most recent give of \$750.00

In Christ,
Pastor J. Brown

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2-3 Around the Church
- 4 Celebrations!

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

Stewardship

“Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

II Corinthians 9:10-11





Letter from the President

As we enter October, we are now 7 months into the pandemic, and leaders at the church continue to bring us the word of God every Sunday. We continue to only have the one church service at 9:30, followed by Discipleship class at 10:45. In person attendance has seen a slight increase, but there is still plenty of room for others to attend and still maintain social distancing.

The month of October is also Pastor Appreciation month. Every month we should show our appreciation for our pastor but this month we should make a more conscious effort to show it in more tangible ways. We all know that Pastor John has been working very hard during this pandemic. As members of the congregation, I encourage the congregation to reach out to Pastor during the month of October to show him appreciation for all the hard work and effort that he has put in this year. Some suggestions are an email, phone call, a hand written note or simply give one a heartfelt thank you. Of course, one of the most important ways to show you care is by assuring that you attend the services and discipleship classes regularly.

Please continue to keep Christ Lutheran Church in your prayers as well as Pastor John and Jordan as they 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 Church, but to those that might find our website or our YouTube channel.

David Schaare

Paul's Missionary Journeys |

The Men's Study Group continues our study on Paul's Missionary Journeys on October 6 at 7:30 pm. We will continue our study via Zoom online. We using "Bringing the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth: Paul's Missionary Journeys" from CPH's online video bible study series and also "Which Way, Lord?" by Rob Fuquay as resources. We will examine finding purpose and meaning in our lives using events from Paul's journeys (and, of course, God's Word) and relate the to the journeys our own lives are taking today. Join us online! Contact Tim Ristow or Jordan to receive details on how to get connected via Zoom.

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"



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 Church

Eunice Guild

October 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 —

THE SPIDER's STORY

I watched a spider the other day. He, or she, was brown, about the size of a fifty-cent piece, and on the floor in the corner of my bedroom, under Dad's old wooden ladder that decoratively leans against the wall. The spider was attempting to climb up the wall, but each time it got up about seven inches, it fell back down. Its technique seemed good as it straddled the corner, with four legs on one wall and four on the other, but time after time, it crashed to the floor. The seven inches did not seem like much of a fall, but from the spider's point of view, it was probably distressing. Over and over this continued, and I wondered why it didn't just go back outside via the nearby small raised area of the baseboard through which I felt it must have come in. Suddenly, it began to violently wiggle several of its large hind legs. Upon closer examination, I noticed it had gotten them entangled in cobwebs! How odd. After all, aren't cobwebs mostly dusty old spiderwebs? I wanted to help and decided I'd ask my brother to carefully capture it and release it outside. A few days later, while reading 2 Corinthians 4, I thought of my spider. Paul wrote, "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" (vs 8,9). I'm not sure, but I don't think Paul was talking about being physically "struck down," or falling to the ground as did my spider, because in verse 4 he had written, "The god of this age has *blinded* the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the *light* of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." Paul and the missionaries in Corinth felt hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted, and struck down by the divided Christian church they found there - believers who had distorted and compromised God's Word for their own desires and needs. Paul knew they needed to get back to the true and uncompromised Gospel teachings for the sake of their salvation. Too often in these recent times, I feel hard pressed, perplexed, persecuted, or struck down as the world, our government, our neighbors, and all forms of social media tell me I must compromise my Christian beliefs or keep silent. Do otherwise and I risk being politically incorrect or racist or out of touch - or even unloving and "unchristian!" It's *blinding*! I have even been tempted by my own sinful nature to stay home on Sunday mornings because church may be too risky for me - but, it's okay to go to the store and a restaurant? Am I at risk of being *blinded* to the danger in not receiving Holy Communion?!?! *I've become entangled in my own cobwebs!!!* God forgive me! Yes, He does - He has! (Respectfully, this is my own personal struggle. We must each prayerfully decide, with God's guidance, when it is safe to return to Church and other public places - and none of us may judge. My family and I have attended church several times, and for us, the service feels safe and uplifting, the fellowship safe and loving. I pray it is God's will we are all safely, happily, together again soon.) Paul told the Corinthians that their salvation is in Christ, "the *light* of the Gospel," pure and true. Only in Jesus can I find the answers to my "cobwebs" - those things that "entangle," or "*blind*" me. Only in the uncompromised Word of God can I find strength to persevere and to strive to obey God's will. Only in Christ can I find true comfort, hope, and JOY! Only in You, Dear Savior, is my Salvation! I do not know the ending to the spider's story because sadly, I forgot to ask my brother to rescue it, and when I looked again, my spider was gone. But thanks be to the Almighty God and Heavenly Father, I do know the never-ending story of my life in Christ! *With Joy in my Savior! Duannah*

Cooking With Eunice

Spicy Dr. Pepper Shredded Pork

by Ree Drummond, the Pioneer Woman

This recipe was shared by Susan, who is currently helping out in our church office. She said it goes well with the Sauerkraut Corn Relish Recipe featured in the September Newsletter. Thank you, Susan, for this wonderful fall meal suggestion!

1 whole large onion
1 whole pork shoulder ("pork butt"), 5 to 7 pounds
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 can (11-ounce) chipotle peppers in adobo sauce (very spicy so you may want to limit the amount of peppers you use)
2 cans Dr. Pepper
2 Tbsp. brown sugar

1. Preheat oven to 300°. Peel onion and cut into wedges. Lay them in the bottom of a large dutch oven. Generously salt and pepper the pork roast, then set it on top of the onions. Pour the can of chipotle peppers over the pork (include the sauce). Pour in both cans of Dr. Pepper. Stir in the brown sugar.

2. Place lid tightly on pot and set in the oven. Cook for at least six hours, turning roast two or three times during cooking process. Check meat after six hours. If it does not fall apart when tested with two forks, bake another hour.

3. Remove meat from pot to a work surface. Use two forks to shred the meat, discarding large pieces of fat. Spoon as much of the fat off top of cooking liquid as possible and discard. Return shredded meat to the cooking liquid, and keep warm until ready to serve. (May refrigerate shredded meat and liquid separately. When cold, remove hardened fat. Heat up liquid on stove. Return meat to liquid to warm up.)

Serve on warm flour tortillas or hamburger buns. Top with shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, grated cheese, avocado slices, salsa, and whatever else you'd like!





October Birthdays

Ellen Decker	10/1
Mitchell Teeters	10/1
Louise Stuenkel	10/2
Seth Mendoza	10/4
Chandler Mitchell	10/5
Shelbi Hentschke	10/9
Richard Ziehr	10/12
Mary Ann Triesch	10/20

October Anniversaries

Randy & LeMorris Galbreath
11/1/1976

Bryan & Ronnie Richter
10/03/2003

Jared and Lisa Castille
10/06/2017

Eric & Debra Harrison
10/10/1992

Phil & Sue Etter
10/14/1989

Tim & Tracy Ristow
10/14/2000

Kevin & Barbara Craig
10/21/1989

October Flower Chart

Given by...

October 4

Harold and Shirley Hoes

October 11

Rev. Richard and Connie Ziehr
Richard's Birthday

October 18

Kevin and Barbara Craig
31st Wedding Anniversary

October 25

Michael and Cindy Zieschang

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)

