

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

April 2021



Dear Friends,

He has risen! No other words have so changed the course of human history as have those 3 words first spoken by the angel at the tomb, and now spoken by millions upon millions of Christ's followers each year at Easter . . . and at many of the funerals and burials of God's saints too. Paul states in I Corinthians 15: "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead." The resurrection of Jesus is the exclamation point to everything Jesus ever said or did, and it turns the death of Jesus on the cross from an event of sorrow and defeat to an event of joy and victory. Because he lives, so will we . . . and thus we can face tomorrow, whatever tomorrow might bring. May this season of Easter be a time of renewed hope and joy for each of us as we once again celebrate the victory and life that are ours in Christ Jesus.

Have a blessed Easter,
Pastor John

Holy Week

Our Maundy Thursday services with Holy Communion will be at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. Our Good Friday services will also be at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. Please be advised that both of the noon-time services, on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday respectively, will also be live streamed on our Facebook page. We will have one service on Easter Sunday at our current regular Sunday service time of 9:30 a.m., followed by a fellowship time on the patio and front yard of our campus, and an Easter Egg Hunt in Christ's workshop's playground area at 11:00 a.m. for children 10 and under. For more information on the Easter Egg Hunt, please read the specific announcement for this event in this newsletter. Please continue to follow our covid guidelines for these services and events.

Easter Egg Hunt

For families with children age 10 and under. Easter Sunday, April 4 at 11:00 a.m. Contact Jordan at (512) 442-5844 or jordan@christaustin.org by Wednesday, March 31 for details, and to sign up your children/grandchildren to participate (all participants must pre-register). **COVID-19 Safety Protocols:** We request that all participants – parents/grandparents & children – wear masks while in the playscape/backyard area of the Christ's Workshop for the duration of the event for the safety of all.



**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**

Special Prayers in March Worship Services

Jo Kautz (and Jo's family) - at the passing of her husband, Ron.

Melody Vasquez - Lucille Herrera's granddaughter. Melody was in the hospital with Covid-19 and pneumonia.

Lucille Herrera & Family - Loss of niece, Lori Alba, to Coronavirus.

Donald Lewis and his family as they mourn the passing of Donald's father, James Lewis. (James was a WWII veteran and was buried with full military honors.)

Family of Rita Hernandez who passed away due to complications from diabetes. She is a sister of Lucille's daughter-in-law.

Sonny & Phyllis Mitchell, and Chandler & Conner, as they mourn the passing of their son, and dad, Scott.

WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

4 Celebrations!

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

Stewardship Verse

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20



Letter from the President

This month we are coming to end of the Lenten season culminating in our April 4th Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection and victory. As we head into Easter 2021, it looks different than Easter 2020. In 2020, we were in our homes live streaming Easter service while Pastor John and Jordan got to enjoy the lovely flowers in the sanctuary. This Easter the whole congregation can come together in a joyous response to, "He Is Risen, He is Risen Indeed Hallelujah!"

On April 4th after Easter service, we will have a fellowship time on the patio of the church. I want to assure that proper guidelines and all safety protocol will be followed to make this a safe event. This will be the first fellowship event in over a year. I ask that all persons that chose to attend keep on mind the feelings of others and keep social distancing practices in place for those that you do not know.

It is great to see that more people are attending in person service. We are starting to see more members returning on a weekly basis.

Also, if you haven't been able to attend some or all of the weekly Lenten services, I recommend that you catch up on Pastor's sermons during this Lent season. You can find them on our website.

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. On a final note, even though the way we attend church might have changed, the financial needs have not. 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
President

Wedding of Jordan Boessling & Kristen Smith - On April 18, at approximately 3:00 p.m. (or soon after), Jordan and Kristen will be united in holy marriage. While their ceremony is private, everyone is invited to tune in to the live stream of the event. Pastor John will be emailing information to the congregation for those interested in watching the live stream of their wedding and for those who would like to visit their wedding website. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this momentous day in their lives. Jordan will be out of the office April 18-23.

Paul's Missionary Journeys—The Men's Study Group continues our study on Paul's Missionary Journeys on Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30 pm. We've had such a great response and good group of participants that we will be continuing our study via Zoom online throughout this study. We're 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. Contact Tim Ristow or Jordan for details on how to get connected for this next session via Zoom.

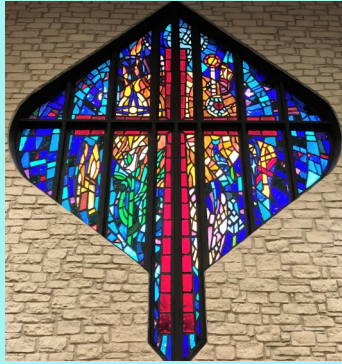
Birth in the Family—Congratulations to Brett and Sarah Egge (2 of our former members who now live in Iowa) at the birth of their second child. Olive Joy Egge was born on January 7, 2021. To God be the glory.

Dear Christ Lutheran Family.

Thank you for all the love and support you have shown to Franklin and I and our family through your prayers memorials, cards and phone calls during his illness and passing. May God bless all of you!

Love,
Katherine Richter

Pastor John Gone—Pastor John will be taking the week after Easter off to recreate and rejuvenate following the busy Lenten Season and the events of Holy Week. He will be out of the office April 5-12.



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**

**Jordan
Boessling**



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.



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 — "HANDS"

Hands. Have you ever looked at people's hands, or studied your own? They may be large or petite, wrinkly, scarred, warty, smooth, tanned or blue-veined. Most have fingers long and thin, or stubby and chubby, straight, crooked, big knuckled, arthritic, clean, stained, or missing. And thankfully, there are even hands of metal, plastic and computer components! Hands are always doing something. We use them daily to grab the bedcovers we lift off when we awake, to button a shirt, to hold utensils of food, and on and on. We use our hands to help others, and look to the hands of others for help. When we are in need, it often comes from the hands of strangers - police officers, first responders, health care professionals, a concerned bystander. We don't know those hands, but we need them. There are hands of soldiers gripping weapons, of politicians raised in oath, of builders operating machinery, of a musician on an instrument - of a pastor baptizing a child. Aren't hands amazing? Such a precious part of God's Creation! After my husband, Bill, died three years ago, I felt our love was such that I would never forget anything about him, but no matter how hard I try, there are some things I just cannot seem to hang onto. While the memory of our love is strong, little things about him are fading. Oddly though, the one thing that remains vivid, is the feel of his hand on mine. Beginning with our first dates, his left hand was always reaching for and holding onto my right hand. It seemed to happen without thought. When I exited our vehicle, his hand was waiting for mine. If I rose from being seated, his hand grabbed mine. Before I drifted to sleep each night, his left hand squeezed my right. And as my muscles weakened from disease, and I grew weary from pain and despair, his grip grew tighter. His left hand held me, while his strong right hand was there to help me. Even when a walker forced my hands away from him, he was still at my side - and, I still felt his hand squeeze mine each night. I was his, and I was not afraid. But, when death yanked his hand from me, I felt a more powerful and more loving hand still gripping mine. This was not the hand of a stranger, here one moment and gone the next, and it was not a hand death could ever take from me. No. This was a hand I read about in Isaiah 41:13, "For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, 'Do not fear; I will help you.'" And in these beautiful words from Asaph's song to the Lord, Psalm 73, "Yet I am always with You; You hold me by my right hand. God is the strength of my heart and my portion (my life) forever." Yes! In my Baptism, God took possession of me, and from that moment, through Bill's death, and still, He holds my hand, and His grip just gets tighter. I am His! He said, "Do not fear; I will help you," but why? He tells me, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor. 12:9), but what is this "grace," and again, why? David knew "why" when he wrote Psalm 16 and sang, "I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. My heart is glad . . . because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay." He was speaking of the Christ! With HANDS nailed to a cruel cross, He grabbed me by my hand into death and then, into new life with Him! This is God's Grace - His mercy and favor - His unfailing LOVE for us! His right HAND - HIS POWER - is our help and protection, our strength and joy! We must not be afraid! CHRIST, our RISEN LORD, is ever holding us by His Hand. HE is our SALVATION - the source of LIFE with HIM, FOREVER! *With Easter Joy in Christ! Duannah*

Cooking With Eunice — Chocolate-Raspberry Cheesecake Muffins Perfect for Easter brunch after church! (*Adapted from a Feb 2021 Texas* *Co-op Power magazine recipe.*) Makes 6 jumbo muffins.

2 cups flour	2 eggs
2 tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. orange zest
1/2 tsp. baking soda	1 tsp. vanilla
1/4 tsp. salt	3/4 cup milk
1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, melted & cool	3/4 cup sugar
1 cup raspberries (or any berry), diced if large	
3 ounces cream cheese, cut into chunks	
1 cup chocolate chips	

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Butter a jumbo (Texas-size) muffin tin, or use spray oil.
2. In a small bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.
3. In a large bowl, whisk together sugar, eggs, orange zest and vanilla until blended. Whisk in butter, then add milk.
4. Stir in flour mixture until just blended. Gently fold in berries, cheese and chocolate.
5. Fill muffin tins with all of the batter.
6. Optional topping: combine 4 tsp. raw sugar, 2 tsp. white granulated sugar, 1/8 tsp. cinnamon. Sprinkle 1 tsp. on top of muffins.
7. Bake 20-24 minutes.



April Birthdays

Lawrence Oldham	4/1
Morgan Stivers	4/1
Riley Stivers	4/1
Arliss Shefstad	4/6
Trinity Stennfeld	4/6
Charles Kanetzky	4/9
Amanda Moore	4/11
Stella Magruder	4/11
MaryLou Moore	4/13
Glory Whitehurst	4/13
Alan Werchan	4/16
Michelle Bennight	4/19
Cindy Bailey	4/26
Daniel Albers	4/27

April Anniversaries

Douglas & Deborah Bynum	4/2/1977
Mark & Micka Ziehr	4/3/1983
David & Margaret Cano	4/18/1980
James & Elizabeth Chapman	4/25/1987

April Flower Chart

Given by...

April 4

Doug & Deborah Bynum

April 11

In honor of Tommy & Norma Nanyes anniversary by Aaron & Natalie Woolverton

In honor of Amanda Noelle's birthday and Amanda and Onyema's engagement anniversary given by Jim and MaryLou Moore

April 18

By Kevin & Barbara Craig in memory of Dorothy Craig's birthday on April 20

April 25

Patty Brodbeck

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)

Lectors

April 4 -	Clayton Pillack
April 11 -	Mary Lou Moore
April 18 -	Gary Lippe
April 25 -	Alan Werchan

Online Giving

A word of thanks to all of you for your continued support of our ministry here at Christ Lutheran Church, and a special note of thanks to all of you who have chosen to give online through our website with the Vanco portal. In a time of less volunteerism due to Covid-19 and such, the online giving is less cumbersome and more streamlined for our Financial Secretary to manage. That being said, we would ask those of you giving through this online way to consider giving through your bank accounts (savings or checking) as opposed to using a credit/debit card. We are charged a 2.75% transaction fee whenever a credit/debit card is used, and while that may not seem like a lot for a \$25 offering (\$0.69 fee), for a \$500 offering (\$13.75 fee) those fees become quite significant. Again, we are grateful for any and all offerings and gifts to Christ Lutheran, but in order to be the best stewards of what God has entrusted to us we do kindly ask all of you credit debit card givers to consider using one of your bank accounts instead. Thank you.