

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

May 2021



Dear Friends,

With the arrival of May we now reach the one year anniversary of when we first resumed in-person worship in our sanctuary following the original Covid-19 shutdown. I am pleased to share with you that we are now back up to about 60% of our pre-covid worshiping numbers. While we still have a ways to go, we are definitely making progress at getting our family back together.

Jesus once said, "If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand." And so it is that Satan has tried to use this corona virus to divide the church, and to divide individual churches, including Christ Lutheran. He cannot and will not divide and destroy us as long as we continue to come together in Christ's name, for when we come together in Christ's name Jesus is here with us, and when we partake of Holy Communion together we are united as one body of believers in the one body of Christ.

And so I encourage all of you who are not back to worship to come back to worship. Your family in Christ, and of Christ Lutheran, misses you. We still maintain our distance, and we still wear our masks, and we still avoid contact, but we are united in our songs, and prayers, and our reception of the sacrament. And for those who choose to, there is always some impromptu fellowship and conversation outside after worship.

May God continue to unite us as a body of believers even as we are distanced from each other because of this terrible disease, and may He continue to draw us back together in His house, that together we might continue to receive an abundance of his blessings.

In Christ,
Pastor John



Thank You—Dear People of Christ, I would like to say "Praise The Lord! Alleluia!" for His goodness through you throughout the last almost fourteen years. Kristen and I are greatly appreciative of the many well wishes we've received upon our engagement, and recent wedding. We are greatly humbled by your notes and cards and calls, and the various wonderful love gifts and cake and punch reception you generously gave us. A special thanks to Pastor John for preparing me, and Kristen and I, for that moment at the Chandelier of Gruene on April 18th, and for our marriage. Kristen and I are grateful for all Pastor and his family did from a standpoint of the ceremony, photography, and live streaming toward you being able to celebrate with Kristen and I as were united in Holy Matrimony.—Jordan



**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**

Special Prayers in April Worship Services

Freddie Richter – In Hospital

Fred Frieling – Health issues

Geneva Mensing – In hospital following hip surgery

Jewel Anderson – Healing from fall

Bill Heath - son-in-law of Ed and Betty Joyce Stephens, who has been diagnosed with cancer and is in the process of being treated at MD Anderson in Houston.

Daniel Cano - Gracie's brother, who has hip pain and is going to rehab.

Gary Teeters - Health and comfort for Mitch's dad and peace for the Teeters family, as they continue the battle against cancer.

Family of Connor Lyle – Passed away (the teenage son of one of Kevin Craig's cousins)

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

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Genesis 1:28



Letter from the President

First of all, I want to congratulate Jordan and Kristen on their marriage last month. We all wish them their best as they begin their life together.

April 18th was the last Sunday for Savannah Simmons, our practicum student from Concordia University, to serve at Christ Lutheran. We wish her the best as she has just graduated from Concordia Austin and will be headed to Hong Kong to continue her education in the Fall.

Pastor John does a great job of leading the service and with sermons, but that is only one part of the week. We want to thank all the musicians that continue to provide the wonderful music each service. Thank you, Phyllis Trautner, Jo Kautz, Mark and Katy Herber and the HIS band, for your weekly contribution to our service. Our HIS band members are Gary Lippe, Phil Etter, Bill Martin, and Trinity Stennfeld and we are all grateful that they are able to keep the band going. I know that they will be happy to have other members join them, especially anyone that can play the guitar, or drums. If you are interested feel free to reach out to any of them.

It is great to see more people attending service in person. We continue to see a steady number of members attending on a regular basis. We still have room for more members to attend and maintain social distancing protocols. We had a wonderful fellowship after Easter service on the patio. We are looking forward to adding more fellowship time on the patio in the near future.

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

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.

Concordia University & Mission of Christ Network—On June 7th of last year, just after we resumed in-person Worship at Christ, our 2020-2021 Concordia TX Director of Christian Education Practicum Student Savannah began to volunteer at the Church before her collegiate senior year officially began. Savannah is to be commended for her distinguished, conscientious, and meticulous service on Sunday mornings amid the pandemic to help with our audio visual needs. Savannah's work over the last ten months will surely have a long-lasting impact on Creative Communication and Community Connections at Christ, specifically regarding service opportunities she researched, as well resources she developed, for families. In recognition of Savannah's steadfastness and purposefulness in her calling during COVID-19, and how resolute she is to enter the global mission field, Savannah was named Concordia's DCE Student of the Year! Here is an article for your individual consideration regarding Savannah's future endeavors in ministry.—Jordan

Mission of Christ Network is a lay-person run Lutheran missionary sending organization. They specialize in partnering missionaries directly with local churches and organizations. Savannah will be serving in Hong Kong. There she will teach conversational English and act as a source of Gospel at an elementary school and a secondary school on Hong Kong Island. She will also be acting as a Co-Family Ministry DCE at a Cantonese language church that partners with the schools. If you would like to partner with Savannah or learn more about her mission: <https://missionofchrist.org/savannah-simmons/>

Paul's Missionary Journeys—The Men's Study Group concludes our study on Paul's Missionary Journeys on Tuesday May 4 at 7:30 pm. 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 upcoming sessions via Zoom.

Down Home Ranch—We received some information from Down Home Ranch in Elgin regarding their upcoming summer camp (week-long sessions from June 6 thru July 15) and the correlated service opportunities. Ranch Camp is a unique, safe and fun summer experience for campers 18 years and over with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For more details, please visit: <https://www.downhomeranch.org/ranch-camp/>, and click on the tab for Volunteering.



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

"Laugh Out Loud (LOL)"

Have you heard the one about the guy who walked into a bar and said, "OW!"... *(pause)*... Doesn't it feel so good to smile, giggle, chuckle or laugh? My favorite giggle ever was at our Dad's funeral. I was standing by myself in the Narthex, watching my family at the front of the church. They were gathered around Dad's casket with its display of memorabilia items that included a rather large metal purple martin nesting box. For months, my sister and I had been too busy with extended hospitalizations, Mom's worsening dementia, our brother's needs, etc., to think about little else, but suddenly, I felt the full weight of it all as my eyes swelled with tears. An arm encircled mine and the young, well-accomplished funeral director asked if all was to our liking. Oh yes. Was there anything more he could do before they closed the coffin? No. Did we want to take any of the tributes with us? Oh no. Those were all to go with Dad. There was a pause, and then he whispered, "what if we can't shut the lid?" We looked at each other and giggled - a most blessed giggle. It was exactly what I needed, a gentle nudge that life goes on, even in death, when lived in Christ. Martin Luther knew this, and it made him so happy. He wrote, "God is the spirit of joy who saves us," and, "The Gospel is nothing less than laughter and joy!" I thought about this the other day and wondered if Jesus laughed. I would think so as He was born true Man while yet true God, and experienced all of our emotions, without sin. My Bible Concordance lists no mention of Jesus' laughter, but we know He shed tears. "Jesus wept" (John 11:35), out of deep love for the family and friends of Lazarus upon his death. He knew the depth of sorrow and the struggle for hope, that sin and death bring even to those who believe in Him. He also wept over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41), the City of David, knowing that out of sin, it would be destroyed. So, why no mention of His laughter? I don't know, but I do know from reading Jesus' biography in the inspired words of the Gospel writers, that Jesus hated sin and death. And I know that His birth, life, suffering and death are dead serious! Our lives depend on it! Still, it's easy to imagine Jesus smiling and laughing at the wedding at Cana as He interacted with family and friends; His soft, sweet laughter as He lifted little children who were allowed to come to Him; and His grin as He lovingly nicknamed James and John, the "Sons of Thunder." As I studied, I was drawn to John 15:11. Jesus told His disciples, and us, "I have told you this so that My Joy may be in you and that your Joy may be complete." Jesus said, "My Joy." He wants us to live in His Joy, the joy He knew in a deep and complete loving relationship with His Father. Out of this great LOVE, He endured the humiliation and pain of the cross, and laughed, a contemptuous laugh at death by His victorious resurrection from the grave! Through faith by His Holy Spirit, we do join in His Joy - that same loving relationship with the Heavenly Father and promise of eternal life with Him! We are His, and Christ's Joy in us is complete. It fills and satisfies us through whatever life brings. Like Luther, we know true joy and happiness in a life lived in Christ. And, we know true joy, His Joy, even in the deepest grief of worry, loneliness, pain and loss. I cried, and I giggled, at Dad's funeral, and as God's child, I was filled with Joy - Christ's Joy, and the knowledge that my life is lived in His love, and my hope and everlasting joy, is in His Heaven! Nehemiah told the Israelites, "Do not grieve, for the Joy of the Lord is your strength," (Neh. 8:10). So go ahead, Child of God, and LOL! *With the Joy of Christ! Duannah*

Cheeseburger Pie

Quick, easy & fun! Oh, & tasty, too!

1 lb. ground beef
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/2 cup chopped bell pepper
1 Tbsp. butter
1 Tbsp. each: ketchup, mustard & mayonnaise
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1/2 tsp. each: garlic powder, salt, & pepper
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
1 cup milk
2 eggs
1/2 cup biscuit mix

Preheat oven to 350°. Brown ground beef, drain & set aside. In a large frying pan, soften vegetables in butter. Stir in ground beef, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, Worcestershire, garlic powder, salt & pepper. Spread in a lightly greased 9" pie plate, & top with grated cheese. Whisk together milk, eggs & biscuit mix, & pour over the pie. Bake for 25 to 30 mins. Knife should come out clean when inserted in center. Top with your favorite cheeseburger toppings such as crumbled fried bacon, tomato, lettuce, guacamole, green onion, etc. Slice & enjoy!



Birthdays

Betty Shaw	5/6
Teresa Kirby	5/6
Mark Herber	5/6
Katherine Richter	5/7
Kasey Hentschke	5/13
John Mitchell	5/14
Norma Nanyes	5/15
Christine Stivers	5/15
Gilrena Rangel	5/15
Taylor Teeters	5/15
Justin Vail	5/18
John Stennfeld	5/19
Kristen Smith-Boessling	5/22
Jimmy Westfall	5/22
Fran Ross	5/27

May Anniversaries

Robert & Yogi Strait

5/23/2009

Joe & Maria Calvo

5/29/1960

Donald & Teresa Kirby

5/27/1978

May Flower Chart

Given by...

May 2

Duannah Ashmore

To the Glory of God, and in thanksgiving and love for my family - Nathan, Yvette, Pete

May 9

David & Kim Schaare

Aaron & Natalie Woolverton

In honor of Norma Nanyes Birthday May 15

May 16

Michael & Cindy Zieschang

May 23

Jordan Boessling

In Honor of Kristen's Birthday

May 30

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

May 2 -	Pachalin Stennfeld
May 9 -	Donn Trautner
May 16 -	Taylor Teeters
May 23 -	Clayton Pillack
May 30 -	Gary Lippe

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.