

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

August 2021



Dear Friends,

The Olympics are in full swing as I write this letter. I so enjoy watching these amazing athletes compete in their respective sports, and I especially enjoy watching the emotion of the winners as they receive their medals. I can't even imagine the feeling of winning an Olympic gold medal.

You and I will never know that feeling. But in actuality, you and I will one day know something even better. Jesus says in Revelation 2:10 that those who remain in the faith, who continue to look to him for their life and salvation, even to the point of death, will in eternity receive the crown of life. And the crown that Jesus was referring to was the victory crown that was given to an athlete who won a competition. In essence, this crown that Jesus was talking about is like a gold medal in today's Olympics. It was the prize for being first.

Because of Jesus, you and I will one day receive the gold medal of eternal life. To God be the glory for the gift of His son, Jesus.

Have a great month,
Pastor John

In recognition of Rev. Ziehr's 65th Anniversary of Ordination



Homeless Sack Lunches: It is time to refresh our supply of items to serve the homeless community. As you purchase items, please be mindful of the expirations dates. Items needed are:

Water Chips—individual bags Breakfast/granola bars
Fruit—raisins, fruit cups Dessert—pudding, jello cups Gum/mints

To help not have an abundance of one item, please email (office@christaustin.org) or call the church (512-442-5844) to let us know what you would like to bring. We will update our needs in the announcement sheet as they arise.



**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**

Special Prayers in July Worship Services

Freddie Richter – cancer

Geneva Mensing – in rehab facility after hip surgery

Lauren Wiatrek - a 36-year-old friend of Amanda Moore who has stage 4 metastatic cancer.

Ed Boessling - Jordan's dad, heart surgery

Harold Derenberger – in hospital

Hunter - (friend of pastor John), shoulder injury

Bob Wiley - Knee surgery

Shirley Martin - Mother of Bill Martin, kidney surgery.

Yolanda, Ramona, Jason, and Robert Jr. Herrera - sick relatives of BJ Zamora and Lucille Herrera.

WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

4 Celebrations!

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

Stewardship Verses

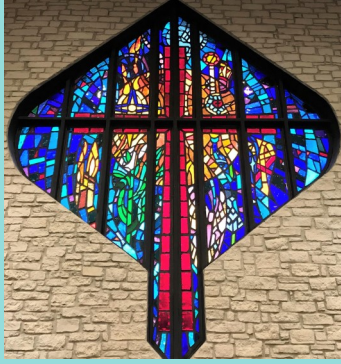
From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Luke 12:48b





Letter from the President



Mission Statement

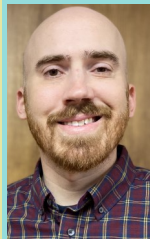
The mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to connect people to Jesus through:

- ✝ *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.

First, I would like to take time to honor Rev. Ziehr on his 65th anniversary of his ordination. Our church is so blessed to have him as part of our congregation. For those of you that may not know, we did honor him on 7/25/2021

It is also great to see that we continue to maintain a regular attendance on a weekly basis. There is still space available, so we hope to see more members attend on a regular basis. Also, as we continue to get back to some sense of normalcy there are many opportunities for members to voluntary. Whether it is lector, ushering, or helping with fellowship after church service, there are many opportunities for people to voluntary. For those that would like to voluntary please reach out to Pastor John or Jordan.

The church council met on July 13th, during the council meeting we set the date for the next Voters Meeting, which is 8/22/21 @ 10:45 AM. Also, the council decided that we will have a "Rally Day" type event. This event will be a little different then the typical Rally Day in the past, but will be more of an event for the church to come together and rally together around Christ our Savior as well as Christ our church community. The date of this event is scheduled for 9/26, more details about event will be release later. Also, as a reminder we will be hosting the Pumpkin Patch this year, I am reaching out to everyone early to make sure that you can put this on your schedule and help in some way to make this a successful event.

As a reminder, we did take out a loan to pay for the roof replacement as well as the upgrade to the sound system. If you would like to make an extra donation to pay off this loan, please feel free to do so, please label any donations as "Debt reduction"

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. Reminder that all of Pastor John's sermons are available on our website, so if you ever want to relisten to one of our pastor inspiring sermons, they are always available. 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

Men's Discipleship Study

We are making plans to resume our Men's Discipleship Study in the Fall (first Tuesdays September 2021 thru May 2022). Starting September 7th, we'll meet in-person in the Christ's Workshop and start the study at 7:30 pm. The topic will be the CPH book and FaithCourse "Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose" by Jeffery Leininger. If you wish to order the book (optional) on your own, and read about the sessions ahead of time, please go to cph.org. Please contact Jordan for details, and to sign up.

Thursday Morning Bible Class

Our study for Fall 2021 will be the CPH Life Light Bible Study called "Selected Psalms." We will begin a 10-week course about the book of Psalms on Thursday, September 9th at 10 am. The cost is \$10/person for the workbook. We will conclude the study on November 11th. All participants should recognize that there are weekly/daily assignments in preparation for each class. Those interested should sign-up on the sheet in the narthex. Payments can be made (starting Sunday, August 1st) by using the specially marked envelope in the narthex (located next to the class sign-up sheet) and placing it into the offering plate or handing it to Jordan at the Church. Payments are due by Sunday, August 29th. Please contact Jordan for more information.

2021 Pumpkin Patch at Christ

Delivery Day Unloading Fellowship Event: still to be determined. We'll host the pumpkin patch in the backyard of the Christ's Workshop from Mid October thru October 31st (or until we sell out of pumpkins). There will be a number of ways to help provide this Loving Service again for our community including to advertise, decorate the patch, coordinate the unloading fellowship event, join in on the pumpkin brigade, and sell the pumpkins during shifts.

Stay tuned in September for more details. All church proceeds from this year's pumpkin patch will benefit a wonderful non-profit organization: Water to Thrive, which builds wells and helps to bring clean water to those living in rural parts of Africa. Please contact Jordan, or Deborah Bynum, regarding this year's pumpkin patch.

Children's Discipleship Class

Classes for children on Sunday mornings have resumed. They meet in the Puppet House room to begin each Sunday. Class will go from 10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. We hope to see your children there.





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

"Eutyclus"

There is a hidden gem within our church building which perhaps only few of us have seen, and if we have, we may have forgotten. It is a window in the north stairway to the balcony, placed when our present sanctuary was built, and given "to the Glory of God" by one of our faithful families. The Texas Capitol Dome and UT Tower, a tumbling potted lily, and "Eutyclus Acts 20:9-12," are etched into the glass of the beautiful "Eutyclus Window" in the north wall about three stories above our parking lot. As an organist, I would sometimes use the north stairway instead of the more convenient south stairway, so I could stop to appreciate the window. Eutyclus was the young man who became drowsy during one of St. Paul's long sermons. He fell sound asleep and tumbled out of a third story window. St. Luke, one of Paul's frequent companions, recorded his eyewitness account of this event in Acts 20:7-12. It happened in Troas (in present day Turkey) on the Aegean coast, in an upstairs room where folks had gathered to hear Paul preach. It was Sunday and knowing he would be leaving the next day, Paul "talked on and on" (Acts 20:9), because he had much he wanted to teach about the Savior. It was probably stuffy and uncomfortable in the crowded room with the "many [oil] lamps" that were burning, so Eutyclus found a place to sit in an open window. Around midnight, he fell asleep and tumbled out of the window to his death. "Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'He's alive!'" (vs. 10). Then, Paul "went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left," (vs. 11). What? Paul raised a fellow from the dead, went upstairs, ate, preached some more, and left? This seems almost "ho-hum." So, why did Luke include those few verses about Eutyclus in his Book of Acts? Martin Luther wrote that Luke "puts side by side both the doctrine about faith and the examples of faith." In Acts 3, after healing a crippled beggar, St. Peter said, "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? . . . It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him that has given this complete healing to him," (vs. 12, 16). And when Paul was on trial before a king, he said, "This is the promise [we, the Jews] are hoping to see . . . Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?" (Acts 26:7, 8). At the time, witnesses to Jesus' resurrection were traveling far and wide sharing the Good News that God's promise of a Messiah had been fulfilled, and doing so with further examples of God's power in faith. While many believed, many others, even with true witnessed examples, rejected it. Luther also said, Luke's examples "are sure and comforting testimonies to this doctrine." And, the last verse of Eutyclus' story reads, "The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted!" (vs. 12). This true story - the tumble of Eutyclus - points to the power of God in the resurrection of Jesus, and the hope and comfort it gives by faith! So why does that power ever "surprise me"? Because sometimes, like Eutyclus, I become "drowsy" in faith. My sinful nature takes my focus away from Jesus, and I neglect reading, hearing and studying God's Word. It becomes easier to sit in "a comfy cool window" of opportunity rather than "a hard church pew," and I'm tempted to "fall sound asleep" rather than "stay wide awake" for worship, communion, and fellowship with my family of faith. But I am comforted. Jesus is ever-present to catch me when I tumble, and His Holy Spirit is at work daily renewing and strengthening my faith! Ho-hum, it's a fact! The Lord's power and love surpass ALL understanding! There is and will be no surprise! Like Eutyclus, in Jesus' Name by faith, we live with the Savior now, and WILL be raised from the dead to live with Him FOREVER!



In Christ! Duannah

Banana Split Dessert

This is easy and oh so good - especially during the hot days of a Texas summer! Enjoy chilled from the refrigerator, or out of the freezer with a little thaw time. Aaaaah!

- 2 1/2 c. graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 c packed light brown sugar (or white)
- Pinch salt
- 3/4 c. butter, melted
- 14 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
- 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 tsp, vanilla
- Or, your favorite banana split toppings!

- Strawberries, thin sliced
- 3 bananas, sliced
- 8 oz. crushed pineapple, well drained
- 8 oz. Cool Whip, room temperature
- Chocolate syrup
- 1/3 c. finely chopped pecans, or peanuts
- Maraschino cherries

Lightly coat 9X13 pan with cooking spray. In medium bowl, combine crumbs, sugar, salt and butter. Press mixture onto bottom of pan. Refrigerate 30 minutes. In large bowl, combine cream cheese, milk and vanilla with a mixer, and beat 2 minutes until fluffy. Spoon mixture over chilled crumb crust and spread evenly. Add a layer of sliced bananas and strawberries. Add layer of crushed pineapple. Spread whipped topping over the top and chill until set. When ready to serve, drizzle with chocolate syrup, sprinkle on nuts, and add cherries. (Or, use any of your favorite banana split toppings!) Store covered in refrigerator, or may be frozen.



Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Fred Frieling, Jr. | 8/3 |
| Dexter Juszcak | 8/6 |
| Caitlin Rowlette | 8/7 |
| Bob Wiley | 8/11 |
| Sara Calvo | 8/13 |
| Sherry Shadrock | 8/13 |
| Lindsey Sermons | 8/15 |
| Mark Ziehr | 8/16 |
| Tyler Hentschke | 8/18 |
| Micka Ziehr | 8/18 |
| Belinda Reveles | 8/19 |
| Tracy Ristow | 8/19 |
| Clayton Pillack | 8/23 |
| Dana Magruder | 8/24 |
| Kevin Craig | 8/28 |
| LeMorris Galbreath | 8/29 |
| Mehkiya Batts | 8/31 |

Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Bob & Jean Wiley | 8/11/1979 |
| Rev. John & Pachalin Stennfeld | 8/13/1989 |
| Michael & Cindy Zieschang | 8/15/1987 |
| Frank & Joyce Veloz | 8/16/1968 |
| Harold & Shirley Hoes | 8/18/1962 |
| Albert & Jane Carrion | 8/20/1988 |
| Richard & Connie Ziehr | 8/25/1957 |

Lectors

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| 8/1/2021 | Alan Werchan |
| 8/8/2021 | Pachalin Stennfeld |
| 8/15/2021 | Taylor Teeters |
| 8/22/2021 | Clayton Pillack |
| 8/29/2021 | MaryLou Moore |

Contribution Opportunity:

February 2020, Christ Lutheran obtained a loan with Church Extension Fund for roof repairs. If you would like to contribute directly to paying the remaining amount off, please mark your contribution as DEBT REDUCTION, place in a separate envelope marked DEBT REDUCTION and this money will go directly to paying down the principal. Currently, \$13,000 is owed on the note. Please see Alice Werchan if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday Morning Schedule (until further notice)

Worship at 9:30 am

(For in-person attendance & streamed via Facebook Live)

Discipleship Classes at 10:45 am (For in-person attendance only)

Pastor's - Fellowship Hall

Children's Discipleship Classes at 10:45 am in Tree House Room

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.

Quilting

Quilting will be the second and fourth Thursdays (August 12 and August 26) at 10:00 a.m. in rooms 7 and 8.

Flower Chart

Given by...

August 1

Ben Schaare

August 8

Vrabel Anniversary

Given by Brenda Richter &

Mark Vrabel

August 15

Michael and Cindy Zieschang

August 22

Patty Brodbeck

August 29

In memory of Helen Pillack by Clayton Pillack,
Norene & Alan Crawford, Betty Joyce & Ed Stephens