

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

January 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

My Dad's favorite verse in the Scriptures were the words of God in Revelation 21:5: "Behold I make all things new." In a world of sin—where old things wear out, break, rust, decay, and ultimately die—my Dad found great comfort and hope in the newness that God promises us in the life that is to come. And it is that same hope of newness that makes the starting of new year joyful and hopeful. No matter what sorrows and struggles we suffered through in the past year, the start of a new year brings with it the hope and possibility of positive change. And whether that proves to be the case or not, the hope of a better tomorrow is still there. And for us who are in Christ, that hope is not simply a wishful longing but a certain promise. We read in Lamentations 3:22-23: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning."

Thus we don't need to wait until we get to heaven, or even wait until the new year, to experience newness in our lives. With God it is a daily thing. His compassion for us and love of us and forgiveness covering us is new each and every day. May we all remember this as we begin this new year.

God be with you,
Pastor John

Special Prayers in December Worship Services

Dino—Broken hip—Husband of Sue Etter's Mom

Family of David Cano at his passing

Family of Ed Stephens at his passing

Family of Frank Veloz at his passing

Victims of tornado in Kentucky

Kara and Patrick, friends of Cory Rabitoy. Kara is being treat for cancer but has now been hospitalized due to high fever.

Christmas Greeting

We here at Christ Lutheran received Christmas cards and greetings from the leadership staff at Marbridge, one of the children from the daycare ministry we support in Thailand, Lee Roy and Susan Anderson, and Sherri Shadrock.

Thank You

On behalf of myself, and Jordan, and the rest of our staff, I would like to say a big and humble "Thank You" for your generous Christmas gifts. It is much appreciated by each of us. Likewise, your prayers and support are so important to us, and we thank you for all of that too. May God continue to bless you, and us, as the body of Christ, that we might continue to be a blessing to others.

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2-3 Around the Church
- 4 Celebrations!

Stewardship Verse

- ¹ The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
² for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Psalms 24:1-2



Letter from the President

Happy New Year! Also, Happy 75th Anniversary to Christ Lutheran Church! It was nice to see that during 2021 we started to bring back the activities that we missed during the previous year. To recap, we brought back fellowship after church service, we held a "Rally Day" event, and successfully held a Pumpkin Patch. Thanks to all of you who helped make these events successful. On behalf of the congregation, I would also like to say thank you to Pastor John, Jordan, Phyllis, Gary, and all our musicians for their dedication to bring us the services through the year.

So, let us talk about 2022! It is our responsibility to continue to bring the word of God not only to our members, but also to the world. As a church, there is only one option for 2022, and that is to continue to move forward. As a church we will continue to offer livestreaming, with the goal in mind to improve the service as well as simplify operations so that it takes less people to operate the live streaming. Also, remember, that live streaming is not meant to be a replacement for in person worship. Even though we offer livestreaming of our worship, we as children of God are meant to worship together in person, so for those that can, I would suggest that you consider worshipping in person. No matter what happens, the mission stays the same here at Christ, connecting people to Jesus's love that others may know Jesus. Also, one more reminder, we do offer adult discipleship class for adults, after our worship service, and so I would ask you to consider attending.

I would also ask that you consider being more involved at Christ than just **attending** worship. How can you become more involved? Can you be an usher? Do you have musical talents that you can use at church? Can you be a lector? Can you simply provide refreshments after service? There are so many opportunities, please consider where you can become more involved, please think about how you can serve.

We held our Voters' assembly of 2021 on December 5th. At that meeting, the 2022 budget and officers for 2022 were discussed and approved. We also discussed how to celebrate the church's 75th anniversary. At the meeting, we have members of the church volunteer to be part of a committee to discuss and suggest ways to celebrate the anniversary throughout 2022. Thank you to everyone that volunteered to be on this committee.

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.

I am confident that Christ Lutheran will continue connecting people to Jesus through inspirational worship, loving service, caring fellowship, and relevant education. Thanks to each of you for the continuing part you play.

David Schaare
President

This is a note we received from Water to Thrive regarding our donation from the 2021 Pumpkin Patch

Water to Thrive

Dear Pastor Stennfeld and Friends at Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your \$1,214.96 contribution made on 11/29/2021. Your generous donation will transform lives through the gift of clean, safe water. Families in rural Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania are avoiding illness and early death. Women have time to care for their homes, Children are gaining the opportunity to attend school. You have invested in the change of community that has the potential to break the cycle of poverty.

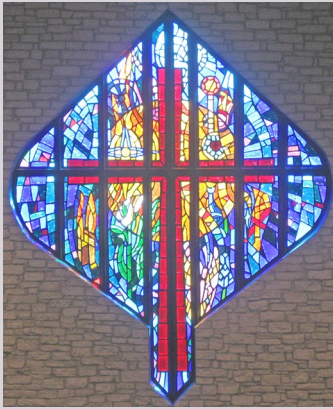
Thank you again and God bless you. Your fit is making a difference in so many lives.

With Gratitude,

Susanne M. Wilson Executive Director

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



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

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 —

I Doubt

Sing with me: "O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home" *LSB* 733. Excellent! I love this magnificent hymn text, called a "paraphrase of Psalm 90," written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), and set to the majestic tune, "St. Anne," written by William Croft (1678-1727). As an organist, I played for many funerals and most often played this hymn as the casket was escorted from the church. And of course, I played it for congregational singing during many worship services. But my favorite use of the hymn was for our New Year's Eve worship service. Many hymn verses provide meaningful New Year's prayers, but this is my favorite (and easily recalled from memory). "*O God, our help in ages past.*" True. He's always "been there" for me. How can I ever doubt Him? Yet, I do doubt. Looking back over my "ages past," I can cite time after time where God's Hand has seen me through - helped me, guided me, protected me, saved me. So, how many times must He prove Himself to me? HE'S GOD! Everlasting GOD, Eternal GOD! He so does NOT have to prove Himself! And still I doubt. In writing this meditation, well, I really don't know where to go from here. Maybe Psalm 90. Moses' prayer begins strong and positive, telling God that He has "been our dwelling place throughout all generations," our secure spot, our refuge. Okay, I'm with him. But then, Moses' words become rather depressing. He says we are swept "away in the sleep of death," after a brief life - "seventy years, or eighty, if we have the strength" - filled with "trouble and sorrow," and passing quickly as "we fly away." Moses is absolutely right, and he cries out to God, "Relent, O Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants." I can definitely relate. The last few years seem to have been exceptionally difficult for everyone in many different ways, on many different levels. For me personally, the damage to my spinal cord, which has been taking its toll little by little over many years on my body's strength, control, balance, coordination and sensation, has over the past two years, greatly, and alarmingly, accelerated. And therein lie my doubts. What will the New Year bring? What abilities will I still have? Where will I be? What about my family? I'm often afraid. Luther said Psalm 90 "shows that life here is not only short but also miserable, so that it may well be called a daily death." But then he wrote, "such a life is good, so that through it we would be driven to see God's grace and His help to deliver us from it all." There it is. God does not have to prove Himself, but He does - and He has! In all chaos wrought by sin and the devil, we may not always realize it, but God's strong hand of compassion is there, reaching for us, holding us. He is there as we sit bent under the weight of fear and despair, as we battle illness and pain, as we lose hope and grieve loss, and He tells us to look to Him for courage, strength and consolation. Moses prayed, "Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad ALL our days." Unfailing love, indeed! That LOVE is CHRIST, the only necessary, the ultimate proof! God sent His only Son who lived, suffered, died, and rose to live again, for us! Jesus told His Father, "I want those you have given me to be with me!" (John 17:24), and He paid the ultimate price to make it so! He is so NOT EVER going to turn His back on us. I will doubt because I'm a sinner. But I'm a sinner redeemed, and I know to whom I belong. Christ is my strength, my joy, my salvation! "*O God, my help in ages past, my hope for years to come, my shelter from the stormy blast, and my eternal home. Amen!*" A blessed 2022, Duannah

Berries and Cream Pie

This easy and tasty pie recipe was featured in the November 2021 *Texas CO-OP Power* magazine. Use your favorite berry or a combination. If using frozen fruit, be sure to dry it well with paper towels so your pie isn't gooey or runny.

PIE

- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie crust
- 2 1/2 cups berries, washed and patted dry
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla

TOPPING

- 1/2 cup plus 2 Tbsp. flour
- 2 Tbsp. packed brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Roll out pie crust and arrange in a 9-inch pie dish. Arrange berries evenly in crust. In a small bowl, mix together sugar and flour. In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, sour cream and vanilla until blended. Stir in the sugar/flour mixture whisking until smooth. Pour over berries. Prepare topping: in a small bowl, mix together flour, sugars, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add melted butter and mix with a fork until combined and crumbly. Scatter topping evenly over custard. Bake about 50 minutes, until top is golden. Let cool before serving.



Christ Lutheran Church

January 2022

January Birthdays

Lauren Chapman	1/1
Samuel Chapman	1/1
Bill Martin	1/1
Tommie Craig	1/3
John Dunn	1/4
Phyllis Trautner	1/6
Phyllis Mitchell	1/8
Brody Richter	1/9
Chloe Calvo	1/13
David Hamil	1/14
Emily Richter	1/17
Donald Kirby	1/20
Conner Mitchell	1/24
Dorothy Richter	1/26
Geneva Mensing	1/29
Thomas Craig	1/30
Louise Alexander	1/31

January Anniversaries

Felix & Louise Alexander
01/06/1963

Mitchell & Taylor Teeters
01/25/2020

John & Linda Mitchell
01/27/2000

Lectors

1/02/2022	Taylor Teeters
1/09/2022	Clayton Pillack
1/16/2022	MaryLou Moore
1/23/2022	Gary Lippe
1/30/2022	Alan Werchan

January Flower Chart
Given by...

January 2

January 9

January 16

Debbie & Eric Harrison
For Taylor and Mitch's 2nd Anniversary

January 23

January 30
The Decker Family
Ruby Decker's Birthday

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.

Fellowship after Worship - We have a Fellowship after our worship service each Sunday. A signup sheet is posted in the narthex that has a list of Sundays available for you to choose from to bring some type of snack. Fellowship committee will provide coffee and juice and paper products. Please consider hosting one of our Sunday Fellowships.

New Flower Chart

The flower chart for the 2022 calendar year is now posted in the narthex. Sign up early to get your preferred dates. If you sign up for a particular date, please remember to send/turn in your payment for your flowers, \$45 per arrangement (in advance of that Sunday).

Men's Discipleship Study - Will meet on January 4 and each first Tuesday through May 2022. We'll continue on January 4 at 7:30 pm in-person in the Christ's Workshop. Our topic is the CPH book and FaithCourse "Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose" by Jeffery Leininger. We are studying the book of Philipians. Please contact Jordan for details, and to sign up.

Thursday Morning Bible Class - Our study from January 13th through March 11th will be the CPH LifeLight Bible Study called "Proverbs." The cost is \$10 for the workbook. We'll meet in the dining room of the Fellowship Hall. Those interested should sign-up on the sheet in the narthex, and note how many workbooks you wish to purchase. Payments can be made 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, January 2. We will be ordering the workbooks on Tuesday, January 4. Please contact Jordan for more information.

Souper Bowl of Caring - The Sundays leading up to the big pro football game present an opportunity for us to collect cans and containers of soup for the Bread for All Food Pantry. Chip in during the four "quarters" of our food drive: 1st Quarter—January 23rd; 2nd Quarter—January 30th; 3rd Quarter—February 6th; 4th Quarter—February 13th by bringing non-perishable food items to the metal soup container, and table, that will be outside the Tree House Room 1&2 (or to the red barrel in the narthex) each of those Sundays.

Super Bowl-of-Chili Cook-off Party - Save the date of Sunday, February 13 for our annual fellowship with our Church family at Christ around food and football. We'll huddle together in the Fellowship Hall at 5 pm for some snacks and to get good seats for kick-off. Please stay tuned at Church in mid-January for how to get involved in competing in our chili cookoff contest.