

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

December 2021



Dear Friends,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas—the trees are arriving, the lights are being put up, and the songs have begun to play. But most importantly, our Advent readings at church have begun to focus on the coming of Jesus. And thus, as we go through this season of Advent before Christmas, and as we prepare our homes to celebrate Christmas, we each should also be preparing our hearts to see Jesus—the baby who first came in a manger to be our Savior, and the man who is coming again in the clouds to be our king.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas as you prepare your hearts for Jesus.

In Christ,
Pastor John

Special Prayers in November Worship Services

Pastor John – Covid 19

Jena Carpenter – in rehab facility

Peter – pastor friend of Pastor John whose son had turned away from his faith.

Karen (and Karen's mom, **Alice**) - (Karen is a friend of Pastor John's friend). Karen's mother's cancer has returned.

Marilyn's mom – (Marilyn is a friend of Pastor John). She has just recently suffered a stroke.

Joe Serrano – (friend of BJ Zamora). Hospitalized for diabetes and might have to amputate leg

BJ Zamora – traveling

Jim and Mildred Westfall – traveling

Harold & Shirley Hoes – traveling

Bill Martin's parents – death of son, Joe

Jim & MaryLou Moore and Onyema & Amanda Ogwuegbus - traveling

Jordan & Kristen Boessling – Covid 19

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

4 Celebrations!

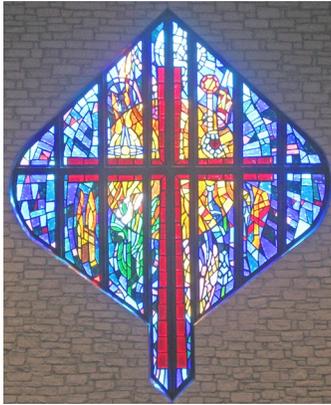
Stewardship Verse

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

Colossians 1:15-16



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



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.

We will have a voter's meeting on December 5th at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary. The most significant topics will be next year's budget and officers. As always, we will have updates from Pastor John, Jordan, the Treasurer, Trustees, and other groups. Please plan to attend and do your part to address the business of the church. Saturday, December 4th we will set up our outdoor nativity and decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Check the bulletin for details and please help if you can.

Advent represents the start of a new church year. Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ both in the past in His incarnation as the baby Jesus, but also in the future with His promised second coming as Christ. It is my continuing prayer that each of you make Sunday, time of worship a priority. Our congregation is not the same when you are not here.

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
President

Christmas Party

You are invited to join your Christ Lutheran family for a Christmas party fellowship at the home of Douglas and Deborah Bynum on Friday evening, December 10, at 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Deborah Bynum at 361-548-9620. We thank the Bynums for hosting this Christmas celebration and opening their home to us. Please make sure to RSVP if you plan to attend.

Christ Lutheran Social Media

- ✚ Go to [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Austin-78704-121095017909219/) - <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) - <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"





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 —

FAMILY

My earliest and fondest memories are of Christmas. There were Children's Christmas programs EVERY Christmas Eve at St. Paul Lutheran Church where we were members and attended parochial school. All students, kindergarten through 7th grade, took part. Christmas morning, it was hurry up, dress and help Mom prepare for family arriving for the noon meal, and football on T.V. One year we gathered here, in Austin, and the next year we gathered in Lee County. We ate sausage, sauerkraut, noodles, boiled potatoes, and canned peaches. At our house, Mom added broccoli spears with her Velveeta cheese sauce, and bowls of Lays Potato Chips and Fritos for dipping into plastic tubs of actual store-bought French Onion Dip. And Mom made lots of Christmas cookies! The table was so pretty with the "good plates," and Mom's silverware, lovingly removed from a wooden velvet lined box and polished until it sparkled. We children sat on the piano bench or folding chairs at the card table! Too fun! We prayed, ate, unwrapped gifts, laughed and hugged. We spoke a common language laced with German words, and talked of ancestors. I listened and learned. We ate Wendish coffecake and drank beer. We shared a faith deeply rooted in Christ. We were small in number, but huge in happiness and love. We were not perfect, but we were "perfectly united." When we parted, as a little girl I was content knowing I would see them again. Of course, that was not always true. Now, most of my family rest in the Savior's arms, and our Christmas is only "four." So many memories - very few about the presents that Santa brought, but a heart bursting with loving memories of my favorite gift - my Christmas family. I have another very special family with many similar characteristics. It's the family of all believers in Christ, but especially, my family of the saints of Christ Lutheran Church. EVERY Sunday we can hurry up, dress, drive to our dear church just in time to sit in or near our favorite pew (too fun!), and become enveloped in our sanctuary's beauty, and in loving moments and hugs shared with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Together we receive Christ and His precious gift of the forgiveness of sins, as we eat the Holy Meal of His body and blood. And together, He comes to us through His Holy Word, strengthening us by His Holy Spirit. Our patriarch's name is familiar and from the Book of Genesis. God said, *"your name will be Abraham. . . . I will establish my everlasting covenant between me and you . . . for the generations to come, to be your God"* (17:5,7). Together we pray, listen and learn, and cling to the pure and true Word of God. We speak a language laced with words of the common faith we live by - a faith deeply rooted in Christ. When we part, we are content in knowing with all certainty that we will see each other again - if not on earth, then definitely in our eternal Heavenly Home. Just before Jesus was arrested and took His last steps to the cross, He prayed to His Father, *"You granted [me] authority over all people that [I] might give eternal life to all those You have given [me]. . . . I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do. . . . I pray for those who will believe in me, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that You have sent me. . . . Father, I want those You have given me to be with me where I am!"* (John 17). On December 4, 1946, our church's forefathers adopted our Constitution, and Christ Lutheran Church became an official LCMS Church Family. In Christ, we are perfectly united - One in the ONE whose name we bear! Happy 75th Anniversary! And, all Glory to JESUS, God's dearest gift!
Dear Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Merry Christmas with love, Duannah.

GREEN SAUCE

This wonderfully delicious green dip/sauce would be perfect on your Christmas table, or anytime! Thank you to my neighbor for sharing the recipe.

- 14 ounces mayonnaise
- 16 ounces sour cream
- 1 package dry ranch
- 1 to 1 1/2 bunches of cilantro (cut stems off)
- 1 small can (7 ounces) jalapenos with carrots (use the juice)
- 3 pods of garlic

Blend all ingredients in a blender. Use as a dip or enjoy as a spicy topping on your favorite dishes.





December Birthdays

Milton Ihlo	12/1
Roy Pietsch	12/1
Esmeralda Cano	12/2
Holly Herber	12/3
Robert Strait	12/3
Eric Harrison	12/6
B J Zamora	12/6
Tim Ristow	12/14
Blaine Bartels	12/16
Jean Wiley	12/20
Benjamin Schaare	12/27
Jewel Anderson	12/28
Cory Rabitoy	12/30

December Anniversaries

Sonny & Phyllis Mitchell
12/17/1966

Dale & Patty Brodbeck
12/19/2015

Earnest & Susan Sermons
12/22/1985

Lectors

12/08/2021	Alan Werchan
12/12/2021	Pachalin Stennfeld
12/19/2021	Taylor Teeters
12/26/2021	Clayton Pillack

December Flower Chart
Given by...

December 5
B J Zamora's Birthday

December 12
Michael & Cindy Zieschang

December 19
Patty & Dale Brodbeck
6th Anniversary

December 27
David & Kim Schaare
Ben'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.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! At least it will if you come out and help us decorate our facilities here at Christ on Saturday, December 4th, at 9am. We will be working to decorate both the inside of our facility (narthex, sanctuary, tree, etc.), and also the outside of our building (setting up our beautiful yard creche). There will be songs of the season, food, and plenty of opportunities for fellowship. So, come join us for some morning fun as we decorate our facilities for the holiday season.

Men's Discipleship Study - Will meet on the First Tuesday of each month through May 2022. We'll continue on December 7 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 Philippians. Please contact Jordan for details, and to sign up.

Angel Tree Project -We are blessed to partner with Upbring once again this Christmas season on the Angel Tree Project. This is a tradition at Christ where we have the opportunity to buy and bring in wish list gifts for the children living in foster homes served by Upbring. We'll have the angel tree displayed with ornaments starting Sunday, November 14th, and we'll be collecting the presents thru **4:00 PM, December 2.**

Voter's Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 5, at 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary following worship. All members are encouraged to attend.

Thursday Morning Bible Study - On Thursday, January 13rd, we will begin a new study from 10:00 - 11:00 am study in the Dining Room. We'll conclude on Thursday, March 10. We'll start a new CPH LifeLight workbook study (of the book of Proverbs) in January. Stay tuned for more details. Please contact Jordan for more information.