

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

April 2022



Dear Friends,

In I Corinthians 15 Paul wrote: "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." That 'but' in this I Corinthians passage is always what I like to call God's big 'but.' That 'but' changes everything for us. It is the reason that we can get out of the bed each day with hope instead of a sense of doom, why we worship God with joy instead of fear, and why death no longer holds any terror for us. If Christ Jesus had not come back to life, none of this good news would be true for us . . . 'but' Jesus was raised from the dead. Thanks be to God for His big 'but.'

Have a blessed month,
Pastor John

75th Anniversary of Christ

The planning for our 75th anniversary celebration has begun. If you have any input, or any ideas for a possible theme, please share your ideas with Pastor John or one of the other planning committee members (Jordan Boessling, David and Kim Schaare, Tommie Craig, Barbara Craig, Deborah Bynum, Milton Ihlo, Bob Wiley, Caitlin Rowlette).

Communion Set-up Assistants

Since the beginning of Covid, Pastor John has been setting up the elements for Holy Communion, and taking them down also. He would like to surrender that activity back over to our laity. If you would be willing to help out with the preparation for and clean up from Holy Communion, please contact Susan in the church office so that you might be added to the schedule. Thank you in advance for your willingness to play a part in serving the other parts of this body of Christ at Christ Lutheran by tending to the elements of this precious sacrament.

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



Voter's Meeting

Our spring voter's meeting will be held on Sunday, April 3, following worship in the sanctuary. Please plan to attend.

Special Prayers in March Worship Services

Jewel Anderson – in rehab facility after a fall
Pete Fay – cancer
Roy Cano – Acute Diverticulitis
Freddie Richter - fall
Roy Pietsch—eye surgery

Prayers for Ukraine

The people of Ukraine.

WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church
4 Celebrations!

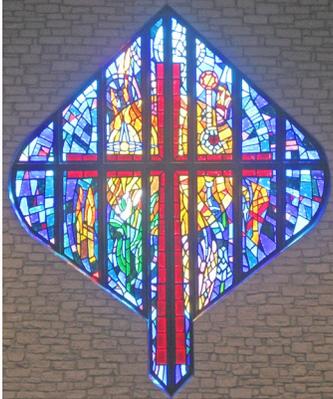
Stewardship Verse

So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty."

Luke 17:10



Letter from the President



This month we are coming to the end of the Lenten season culminating in our April 17th Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection and victory.

I want to personally thank all those that have provided refreshments for the fellowship after church. I know that our members that attend enjoy the fellowship. Also, another big thank you to those that provided soups and desserts for the luncheon after the midweek Lenten services.

The church council met in March, and during our meeting we discussed repairs to the kitchen and setting a date and agenda for the April voters' meeting. Our next voters meeting will be on April 3rd after church service in the sanctuary. Please plan to attend as your involvement and feedback keeps the church moving forward.

On April 17th after Easter service, we will have a fellowship time on the patio of the church.

Also, if you have not been able to attend the weekly Lenten services, I recommend that you catch up on Pastor's sermons during this Lenten 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.

Dave 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.

Lenten Lunches

Following our final midweek, midday, Lenten service will be our traditional soup/salad/dessert luncheon. The service will begin on Wednesday at noon with the luncheon taking place directly following the worship services. There will also be a meal following our Maundy Thursday noontime service. Please consider donating a dessert for these luncheons.

Along with soup, salad, cookies, tea and water will be available.
April 6—Tortilla Soup

Special Midweek Services

We will have our final midweek Lenten service at 12:00 noon on April 6 followed by our soup luncheon. Our Maundy Thursday services will be held on April 14 at both 12:00 noon (followed by a sloppy Joe lunch) and 7:00 p.m. Our Good Friday services on April 15 will also be at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there. (These services will also be available on our Facebook page.)

Creative Communication and Community



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.

Easter Lilies

The Easter lilies are \$12.50/plant this year. Please fill out the cut away portion at the bottom of the announcement sheet or use the envelopes in the narthex and return in the offering plates or by mail to the church office. We only have 36 Easter lilies for purchase (first come, first served/paid), so please be sure to get your orders in quickly. Please make sure you write legibly, fill out the form completely, and include payment for the proper amount.

Easter Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday, April 17 at 11:00 a.m. there will be an Easter Egg Hunt For families with children 5th grade and under at the playscape/backyard of Christ's Workshop. Contact Jordan ASAP at (512) 442-5844 or jordan@christaustin.org by Wednesday, April 13th, for details and to sign up your children/grandchildren to participate. All participants must pre-register)



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 —

"Holding On to the Alleluias!"

For several years before my husband Bill died, he took care of disposing of our church's unclaimed lilies after Easter. There was little joy left in their yellowed droopy leaves and shriveled flowers, but he would toss them into his pickup and home they came. Eventually, he'd dig a hole somewhere and plant whatever was left of the once pretty lily. To my delight, Easter lilies still surprise me each spring as they emerge from their winter slumber to bloom in our yard!! Many churches are decorated to the Glory of God with these lilies on Easter mornings because of their beauty and symbolism. Their pungent perfume hints of the sweetness of new life. The beautiful white of the flowers reminds us of Christ's purity as their trumpet shapes herald His Resurrection and the "Alleluias!" we will soon sing. With much turmoil around us - war and destruction, uncertainty and fear, corruption, madness, rising costs, crime, COVID, cancer - the ongoing war against God's WORD and the Christian faith . . . whew! I do need something to "Alleluia!" about! On Easter morning, we will once again gather to worship in our beautiful sanctuary with the lilies and to sing joyful Alleluias, but I'm afraid my Alleluias may be short lived when I head right back out into the turmoil! How do I hold on to my Easter Alleluias? I went to my Bible for an answer. After Job lost everything, and his sons and daughters had been killed, he said, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of *the Lord be praised*" (Job 1:21); and later, "Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him" (13:15). The Psalmist, feeling alone in a godless world and longing for the comfort of God's Word in temple worship once again, said, "Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for *I will yet praise Him*, my Savior and my God" (Ps 42:5). And this ending to Habakkuk's amazing prayer: "Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet *I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior*" (Hab. 3:17, 18). These men, in the midst of great turmoil, knew that no matter what sin, the world and Satan bring about, true comfort and hope begin with an "Alleluia!" - a "Praise the Lord!" You see, as believers, our Alleluias are expressions of faith - heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving, praising Christ for His victory over death! By His death and Resurrection, He claimed us as His own and that is the only thing that nothing can ever take from us! We are His, and in His great unfailing LOVE, He is always with us, caring for us. In every Alleluia we utter, even the silent tear-stained ones in the night, our Savior's Holy Spirit strengthens us and fills us with hope! As I write this, I have pause to wonder about the word "hope." I use it often to express my wishes and desires, but hope in Christ has to be so much more, and it is. The Hope we know in Christ is not merely a wish. It is an absolute expectation - a confidence that fills us with all joy and peace! And this confidence, in faith from our Lord, is how we hang on to our Alleluia's! He is Risen, He lives, and as He has promised, He will someday return in Glory to take us home. The Easter Lily's flowering season, it's season of "Alleluias," is only 3 months long. Not so with us as God's children. We sing our Alleluias every day in the Hope of Christ, we will sing our Alleluias on Easter morning, and we most assuredly will sing Alleluias to our Savior King in Heaven - Forever! *In Christ, Duannah*

So Good & Easy Chicken 'n Dumplin's

This recipe is too good to save for a cold day. It's great year-round and a snap to make! We used a Pillsbury recipe and changed it to make it our own. You'll find it very adaptable to your own tastes.

- 1 carton (32 oz.) chicken broth
- 1 can (10.75 oz) cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 tsp poultry seasoning (or your favorite mix - sage, thyme, rosemary)
- 1/2 tsp turmeric
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1 can (8 count) homestyle buttermilk biscuits
- 3 - 4 cups shredded cooked chicken (or rotisserie chicken)
- 1 12-oz. bag frozen peas and carrots
- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 1/2 medium onion, chopped

In large Dutch oven, combine broth, chicken soup, and seasonings. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer. On lightly floured surface, roll each biscuit to about 1/8" thickness and cut into 1/2" slices. Return the broth mixture to a low boil. Drop dumplings in one at a time. Stir in chicken and vegetables. Reduce heat to low, cover and simmer 25 - 30 minutes, or until dumplings are cooked through. Adjust seasonings to taste. May thicken with flour/ broth mixture, or with heavy cream.



April Birthdays

Lawrence Oldham 4/1
 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

Jordan & Kristen Boessling
4/18/2021

James & Elizabeth Chapman
4/25/1987

Lectors

4/3/2022 Taylor Teeters
 4/10/2022 Clayton Pillack
 4/17/2022 MaryLou Moore
 4/24/2022 Gary Lippe

April Flower Chart
Given by...

April 3

Douglas & Deborah Bynum
Anniversary

April 10

Dale & Patty Brodbeck

April 17

Duannah Ashmore

April 24

Jordan & Kristen Boessling
1st Anniversary

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 - Our next Men's Discipleship Study will meet on Tuesday, April 5th 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.

Easter Request - The Fellowship Committee would appreciate it if everyone would bring something to share for the Fellowship time after the Easter Service on Sunday, April 17th, 2022. Please let David or Kim Schaare know that you are willing to bring something for that day. If you prefer to send an email our email address is: schaarehome@gmail.com subject line "Easter Sunday". Thank you.

Thank you - The Fellowship would like to thank everyone that signed up to provide soups for the Lenten Soup lunches after our noon Lenten service and the Sloppy Joes lunch after the noon Maundy Thursday service. We would like to thank everyone that donated desserts as well.

Thank you - Dear Pastor Stennfeld and members of Christ Lutheran, Austin. I have been informed that you were so kind and generous to give a gift recently to an Endowment Fund in my name at Concordia Texas. Thanks from the bottom of my heart. God's blessings! Pastor John Kieschnick

Set Apart to Serve - Do you know any young man who would make a great pastor? How about someone who would be a great Lutheran school teacher, deaconess or DCE? Jesus gives His church people who work full time in service to the Gospel. He told us to pray for such workers. The LCMS continues to pray, and has begun *Set Apart to Serve (SAS)*, an intentional effort to encourage young people to consider church work as their career. Your opinion can help improve SAS. Please fill out a brief survey at lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve-survey by March 15, and let us know how you think SAS can be beneficial to your congregation. Thank you.