

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

July 2022



Dear Friends,

As I write this note, I and my family have just returned from our vacation to Hawaii. We were blessed to have a former member of my former congregation gift us with the use of the condominium, which she and her husband own on the island of Oahu, for the week. It was a true blessing in many ways, one of which was simply that of being awed at the majesty of God. Around every turn was another mountain, another tree, another beach or coastline that left us in awe of God's creative beauty and majesty. As we stood on the east side of the island, the west, the north, and the south, we realized that this vast body of water stretched on for thousands of miles in each of those directions. And yet in the midst of this vast ocean and vast creation, God cares about and watches over each one of us.

Our summer sermon series in taking a look at some of the songs from contemporary Christian music and the beautiful themes from Scriptures which they present. As we continue this series in July we will begin with the song and the theme of "Who am I" by Casting Crowns. As we think about our relative size and worth as compared to the grandeur of God's immense creation, we are tempted to ask, "Who am I, that God should care for me and give His son to save me?" A good question, and one we will seek to answer this Sunday, July 3, in worship. I hope to see you there.

Have a blessed month, Pastor John

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



Special Prayers in June Worship Services

Our sick family members and friends

Pete Fay – cancer
Clayton Pillack – healing from eye surgery
Richard Ziehr – healing from muscle injury
John Dunn – knee pain
Roy Pietsch – successful surgery & healing.
Alice Werchan – injured foot
Dorothy Richter – stroke
Michael & Ginger Gonzalez – Covid
Leo Castella – Throat cancer
Patrice Radar – Pneumonia
Bill Martin – sinus infection
Gary Lippe – Covid

Rain

For the Texas Hill Country and West Texas (the livestock and ranchers are in desperate need of rain, especially in this heat).

Thanks

Kara, friend of (Cory Rabitoy), just completed her chemo and surgery for breast cancer and has gone home .
Clayton Pillack came thru eye surgery well

Travel

Betty Joyce Stephens

WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church
4 Celebrations!

Stewardship Verse

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart,
as working for the Lord, not for men

Colossians 3:23



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



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.

Pastor John started a summer sermon series based some of today's contemporary Christian music. I think this will be a great series and introduce everyone to some of today's contemporary Christian music. If you miss any of these sermons they are available on our website.

The church council met on Tuesday 6/14. During the meeting we discussed the possibility of communion at the rail and passing of the offering plate. At this time, we decided to leave things the way they are. We also set the date for the next voters meeting. It will be on August 21 @ 10:45 in the sanctuary.

The 75th anniversary continues this month with a recognition for our members who have been part of "Caring Fellowship" which is part of our mission statement.

Our fellowship after church continues to be an enjoyable time for our members. We are still in need of people to sign up to provide refreshments for for these fellowships. Please consider signing for one Sunday to bring refreshments.

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

75th Anniversary Report

As part of our 75th anniversary celebrations, we are using the months prior to our big anniversary service/meal to recognize those that have been part of the four methods of connecting people to Jesus outlined in our mission statement here at Christ Lutheran Church. For July, we are using "Caring Fellowship" to acknowledge the people and groups that contribute to "Caring Fellowship." Please join us on July 3rd to be recognized and join us is a time of fellowship after worship. For the month of August, we will be recognizing "Relevant Education," and in September we will be recognizing those that have been involved in the "business side" of the church (committees, council, elders, etc.)

On Sunday, September 11, we will be hosting our "Rally Around Christ" picnic in the Christ workshop backyard after worship. This will be a Thrivent event in which we will ask members to bring can goods to donate to the food bank, in place of selling tickets. More details on this event will be announced later.

We will be selling t-shirts to celebrate the 75th anniversary. Please look forward to more details on this to come.

Please remember to submit recipes for the 75th anniversary cookbook. Contact Jordan or Barbara Craig for more information.

As a culmination celebration, we will be having a celebratory anniversary worship service on October 23 featuring the President of the Texas District of the LCMS, Pastor Michael Newman, as our guest preacher. Service for that day will be held at 10 AM. Following the service, we will have a BBQ catered meal. Tickets for the meal will be \$10/ person.

Caring Fellowship—On July 3rd, as part of our 75th anniversary year celebration, we will recognize and thank those who have been involved with the "Caring Fellowship" aspect of our congregation's mission statement. This means that we will honor those who have helped with fellowship committee, provided food for funerals, rally day, BBQ crew, Easter breakfast, chili cook off, Christmas party, Eunice guild, R&R, Mastics, women, or men retreats. Please join us to celebrate and say thank you to all of our members that were part of "Caring Fellowship".





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 —

"My Dusty Old Bug-eaten Book" - I had no topic ideas for the July Newsletter's Meditation. What was relevant? Where should I search in God's Word? I sat with my two favorite Bibles and prayed for guidance. But I felt nothing. Maybe walking around a bit would help. I got up, and as I walked past my bookcase, I saw two books not aligned to my liking. I tried straightening them to no avail and then pulled out a small book that was shoved between them. It was a mess - old, sun faded on one corner, dusty, and yuck! - munched on by some bug! The title was, "Teenager, Christ's Love Will Make You Live." Where did I ever get *that* book? O sure. I remembered when I flipped the cover open and read the inscription in my uncle's very distinctive back-slanting left-handed print, "To Duannah on Your Confirmation Day March 19, 1967 From Merty and Uncle Prof," (my grandmother and uncle). From Concordia Publishing House, copyright 1962, Walter Riess author, it comprises 22 very short lessons concerning teenage issues and Christian faith, and 11 "Prayers to Help You Live." I didn't recall ever reading the book, but two lessons had been dog-eared by someone. Well, being age 68, a few years have passed since I had teenage issues, but I decided to read the dog-eared lessons beginning with "Those Inner Feelings Are Saying Something." The author told teenaged me that my "feelings run up and down inside [of me] . . . bobbing like a raft on an ocean." I remembered that, and before I finished the lesson's two pages, I was moved to tears. He wrote it's "one reason we need our church the way lungs need air." "Even when we're old," I whispered. He said we need to "connect our inner spiritual life with a place, a group of people - a home." We see Christ's Love in the "real, touchable crucifix." We see the history of Christ's "people and their praises to Him," in the pages of our hymnal. For "visible, touchable evidence" of God's Love, we should "touch the bread and taste the wine that carries into your very body His own body and blood," and at "the baptismal font, remember how you carry that Baptism with you every single day of your life." The author wrote that we see God Himself "in the realness of cross and font and Communion cup - and in the miracle of the Word of God moving through pulpit and sacraments into your flesh and blood." Beautiful statements of reasons to "go to church," but within the lesson, an even more profound message emerged as a much-loved Bible verse came to mind. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8)! This lesson, written 60-plus years ago, remains relevant. It has not changed, because the Savior has not changed. It does seem as if right now more than any time in my life, God's Word is under relentless attack. But I take heart. No matter what Satan tries to do in and through this sinful world, there are absolutely NO ifs, ands, or buts about Christ, NO compromises to God's Word! Isaiah said, "the Word of our God stands forever" (Isa. 40:8). It stands with nothing added or taken away, because The Word is Jesus, the Christ. He remains steadfast and faithful to His promises of Unfailing Love and Life everlasting with Him! God said, "Even to your old age and gray hairs, I am He who will sustain you" (Isa. 46:4). Who would have thought an old, bug-eaten book for teenagers, would become a Meditation topic - and hold a needed message of hope for an old, gray-headed woman? I will read more! And the book has endured - yes, it's on Amazon. I would think it has perhaps been updated to include current teenager issues, and I certainly pray the author is true to God's Word. But this I know for certain: Christ has always been true to me, and no matter what, He will always remain true to ALL believers! *In Christ, Duannah*

Pete's Red Water

This is a family favorite, featured at many get-togethers! It's a quick and easy crowd pleaser and goes with everything from a summer bar-b-que to a Thanksgiving feast! Many heartfelt "Thank You's" to our Pete for sharing his famous Red Water recipe!

5-gallon thermos/cooler

1 bag of ice (10 lbs.)

3 - 3 1/2 gallons water

6 pkgs. Kool-Aid, assorted flavors (use a mix of Tropical Punch, strawberry, orange, lemon, lemon/lime, etc. **HOWEVER, DO NOT** use grape or cherry!)

White granulated sugar (5 lb. bag)

1 can pineapple juice (46 oz.)

Pour 1/2 bag of ice into cooler. Fill cooler to about 2/3 full with water (about 3 gallons). With a big spoon, stir in the 6 packages of assorted Kool-Aid flavors and the sugar until all dissolved. Stir in the can of pineapple juice. Just before serving, add the other 1/2 bag of ice. **SO GOOD!!!**



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July 2022

July Birthdays

Patty Brodbeck	7/6
Linda Mitchell	7/6
Douglas Bynum	7/10
Earnest David Sermons	7/11
Annette Batts	7/13
Susan Sermons	7/14
Madeline Robb	7/16
Micah Stennfeld	7/17
Harold Derenberger	7/26
Mary Carrion	7/29

July Anniversaries

Gerald & Ellen Decker	7/5/1958
Jeremy & Dana Magruder	7/8/2006
Steve & Cynthia Bailey	7/12/1984
Donn & Phyllis Trautner	7/26/1975
Bill & Christina Martin	7/26/2014

Lectors

7/3/2022	Clayton Pillack
7/10/2022	MaryLou Moore
7/17/2020	Gary Lippe
7/24/2022	MaryLou Moore
7/31/2022	Micah Stennfeld

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 - If you sign up for a particular date on the flower chart, please remember to send/turn in your payment for your flowers, \$45 per arrangement (in advance of that Sunday).

Communion Set-up Assistants Still Needed

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

July Flower Chart

Given by...

July 3

Karotkin

Parents' 64th Wedding Anniversary
And Richters'

July 10

Deborah & Douglas Bynum

Doug's Birthday

July 17

Roy Pietsch & Mary Ann Triesch

July 24

Donn & Phyllis Trautner

July 31

Christ Lutheran Church 75th Anniversary Cookbook

For the 75th anniversary of Christ Lutheran Church, we will be creating a cookbook similar to the ones created for past church milestones. We are collecting recipes now to get the cookbook ready for distribution this fall.

Submit recipes by **August 1, 2022** to Jordan by email jordan@christaustin.org or drop them off at the church office.

Please see the Announcement sheet for the required information template.

Braille will be on the third Tuesday, July 19, at 9:00 a.m. at Hope Lutheran Church. Car pool from Christ @8:30. Let Mildred Westfall (512) 385-6609 know if you plan to go.

Quilting will be the second and fourth Thursdays (July 15 and July 29) at 10:00 a.m. in rooms 7 and 8.

Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

www.christaustin.org | Facebook | Twitter | You Tube