

# Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

February 2024



Dear friends,

With the arrival of February this year we also arrive at the beginning of Lent . We also arrive at our annual Super Bowl of Chili party and contest. Each year as we test out the variety of chili we have, crackers are on hand so the judges (all those present) can cleanse their pallet, so to speak, to prepare them to taste the next chili. It is very hard to appreciate the next chili if the flavor of the last chili is still in your mouth.

In a strange way, I kind of see Lent as our spiritual crackers as we prepare for the events of Holy Week. It is very difficult for us to have a full appreciation for the events and service of Holy week if we have not prepared our hearts and minds properly. And the way that we properly prepare to remember and celebrate the betrayal, the suffering, the death, and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus is through a time of spiritual reflection and repentance. And that's why we recognize Lent, so as to spend these days before Holy Week in preparation for the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and for his victorious resurrection from the dead. We cannot fully appreciate the magnitude of his sacrifice without a full understanding of our sin.

May this time of Lent be a blessing for us as we prepare to remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. To God be the glory.

Pastor John

**PASTOR  
JOHN  
STENNFELD**



## WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

### Continuing Prayers from January Worship Services for Our family members and friends

Gary Lippe – COPD  
Ian Hailles, son of Paul & Erica (friend of Phyllis Trautner) - diagnosed with leukemia.  
Bijan Azari (cousin of BJ Zamora). Surgery to replace his aortic valve.  
Donnie Leitko (father of Debbie Harrison and grandfather of Taylor Teeters)- fell and broke his hip  
Michelle Bennight - in hospital with pneumonia

### Death

Family of Richard Ziehr at his passing.  
Freddie Richter at passing of his sister, Dorothy Cook.  
Family of Ted Zoch at his passing.

**Women of Christ** – Please plan to join us for a monthly small group gathering for discipleship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All women of the church are invited to attend. We will be using the book “Grace Under Pressure: Responding Faithfully to Stress” by Rev. Christopher Kennedy; the same book the Men’s Discipleship group is using. These books will be provided at no cost to participants thanks to a generous gift.

We will meet on **Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm at the home of Barbara Craig**. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Barbara Craig (512) 695-8192 [bcraig9@austin.rr.com](mailto:bcraig9@austin.rr.com) or Patty Brodbeck (512) 554-1697; [pbrodbrobeck@austin.rr.com](mailto:pbrodbrobeck@austin.rr.com) and we will add you to our Women of Christ communication list. We will meet regularly on the first Tuesday of each month. If you can’t join us in February, our next meeting will be March 5<sup>th</sup>, hope to see you then.

## Stewardship Verse

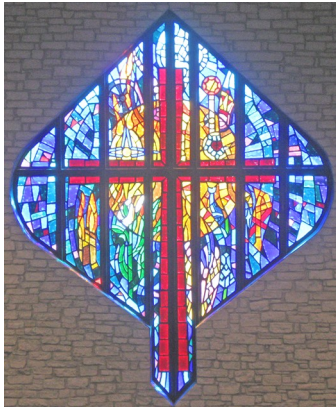
Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Romans 12:1





# 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.

It seems we are in the time of year where everyone has a little letdown. Christmas and New Years are over. The weather has been cold and miserable. Maybe we've already broken our New Year's resolutions. Blah, blah, blah. Now, more than ever, we need to reenergize and rededicate ourselves for the coming year. There is no better way to recharge than through the inspirational worship here at Christ that points us to Jesus and His saving grace. Make it a resolution to worship here on Sundays or to join through the Facebook stream if unable to be here in person.

We've recently experienced some "mischief" around the church facilities. During the funeral for Rev. Ziehr, there was no water in the building. An outage was reported to Austin Water. When they arrived, it was determined that someone had deliberately turned off the main valve near the meter. Thankfully, the workers turned this back on, and water was quickly restored. The point of mentioning this is to make you aware and to encourage each of you to keep your eyes open for things that are maybe out of the ordinary. Like the popular phrase goes, "If you see something, say something."

The Church Council will meet this month to discuss the ongoing business of the church and consider some of the goals for 2024. One of the key things we will need to consider over the next few months is continuation of the Pumpkin Patch. If we do continue, how will we staff it. If we don't, what will we do in its place to fulfill our mission of loving service to our community. If you have thoughts, I know the Council and I would value your input.

Thanks to those who worked at the Central Texas Food Bank this past Saturday. Finally, please consider supporting our Souper Bowl of Caring canned food drive that will benefit the Bread for All Food Pantry. February 11<sup>th</sup> will be the final Sunday of this effort.

Dear Christ Lutheran,

I am so grateful for the loving and generous support of the members of Christ. CTX notified me that Christ Lutheran has once again continued their contribution to the Kieschnick Endowment Fund at Concordia. Praise the Lord! With Christ's contribution and those of many others the fund now exceeds \$1,000,000.

Blessings in this new year of God's grace.  
John Kieschnick

### Lenten Soup Schedule

—Salad, Cookies, Tea/Water will be provided with each lunch.

- February 14—Milton: Chicken Noodle Soup
- February 21—BJ: Hamburger Soup
- February 28—Betty Joyce: Beef Stew
- March 6—Mildred: Corn Chowder
- March 13—Katherine: Potato Soup
- March 20—Pach: Asian Soup
- March 28—Donn: Sloppy Joes

Please consider donating desserts for the Lenten Soup lunches. Please put them in the church's kitchen with the label 'For Lenten Soup lunch. Thank you.

**Adult Discipleship Class for Lent** "I identify as ..." are words that we hear so often today, and are often words that divide us, and words that have taken on a political and social life of their own. For many, their "identity" has become their god. But in reality, for Christians, our identity is centered in the knowledge of and love for Jesus Christ and His redeeming work on the cross. Join us during the Adult Bible Class on Sundays in Lent to explore how the Triune God delivers us from the tyranny of identity confusion in "Nurturing Your Faith: Identity."

**Men's Discipleship Study** - Our monthly men's study for 2023-2024 will meet on Tuesday, February 7 at 7:30pm in Christ's Workshop.





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## "I will meditate"

**"I will meditate on Your wonderful works. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise!"**

**Psalm 145:5, 3**

"A Valentine Message"

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." These beautiful words from the Gospel of John (3:16, 17), came to mind as I thought about the observance of both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday this year, 2024, on February 14<sup>th</sup>. As a child in parochial school, I remember cutting hearts from red construction paper, pasting them to a brown paper lunch bag, and using a few crayons to decorate it and print my name. Our teacher then tacked each child's decorated bag to the cork wallboard. On Valentine's Day, we all arrived with a handful of valentine cards from the dime store, on which we had printed our name next to preprinted words of friendship. We dropped one into each of the bags on the wall, and then waited anxiously for the afternoon party when we received our little bags to sort through and read the pretty cards inside. Fun! After a few days, they were forgotten, and Mom tossed them out. St. Valentine was a 3<sup>rd</sup> century evangelist in the Roman Empire. When he refused to renounce his faith and cease his work in telling others of Christ, he was condemned to death. Just before his execution, he is said to have written a note to his friend, the blind daughter of his jailor, both of whom had been brought to faith and baptized. The note was signed, "from your Valentine," inspiring the tradition of sharing messages of love on Valentine's Day. It's a nice tradition, and I still enjoy sending a few valentine cards as a reminder of my love, or by gifting flowers or candy. But eventually, candy is eaten, flowers wither, and cards are tossed. However, there is a message of LOVE that is everlasting, the one shared by St. Valentine. It's the most wonderful "Valentine message" ever! "For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son!" If ever I need to be reminded that I am loved with a LOVE freely given to me by faith, with no conditions, no terms, eternal – I open my Bible, God's message of LOVE, and I read, and listen. "The Lord is . . . loving toward all He has made" (Ps 145:13). "My unfailing LOVE for you will not be shaken" (Is 54:10). "This is how God showed His LOVE among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him" (1 Jn 4:9). "How great is the LOVE the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 Jn 3:1). "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ro 5:1). "Come to me . . . and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28). "I am with you always" (Mt 28:20). And on and on. But the one I turn to most often and say with St. Paul: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, . . . nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate [me] from the LOVE of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Ro. 8:38, 39). When a little girl, the messages on my valentine cards did not mean much, and were soon forgotten, but what I do remember well, is happily singing, "Jesus loves me, this I know; for the Bible tells me so!" Little did I know then how much I would come to cling to that truth! Ash Wednesday, which begins Lent, and Valentine's Day are the same day this year. I'll observe it by reading in my Bible, God's messages of LOVE, the LOVE that is Jesus. And then, I'll bow my head to reflect on and repent of my sins with all confidence in the forgiveness I know in Him, Christ, my Savior! "Yes, Jesus Loves me. The Bible tells me so!"

*In the unfailing LOVE of Christ, Duannah.*

7-can Soup

Pour into large pot (do NOT drain):

- 1 can chili (15 oz)
- 1 can kidney beans (15 oz)
- 1 can pinto beans (15 oz)
- 1 can ranch beans (15 oz)
- 1 can Fiesta corn (15 oz), or whole kernel
- 1 can diced tomatoes (15 oz)
- 1 can Rotel (10 oz)

Add salt, pepper, and other seasonings, to taste. Bring to boil, lower heat and immer at least 30 min. to best blend flavors.

Add 8 oz Velveeta (or your favorite) and stir to melt. ENJOY!

Make this to your taste:

Substitute cans of your favorites, black beans, garbanzo beans, etc. Add diced onion, bell pepper, celery, softened in 1 Tbsp butter.

Add browned ground meat or sausage pieces, or cooked chicken.

**Easter Lilies** - The Easter lilies are \$13.50/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 ASAP. 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.

**Volunteer with Down Home Ranch**—On Saturday, February 17 from 9 am - 12 noon, we'll be helping Down Home Ranch ([downhomeranch.org](http://downhomeranch.org)) with a spring planting event in their greenhouse located at 20250 FM 619, Elgin, TX, 78621. We are in need of 8-15 volunteers for this group service outing. The mission of the Ranch - "Empowering the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through social, educational, residential and vocational opportunities." Please contact Jordan for more information, and to sign up to serve there that morning.





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## Birthdays

Stephen Becker	2/1
Myrna Herber	2/4
Betty Joyce Stephens	2/6
Haylee Rowlette	2/7
Donn Trautner	2/7
David Schaare	2/8
Davis Magruder	2/10
Freddie Richter	2/11
Sonny Mitchell	2/11
Phil Etter	2/11
Maria Calvo	2/14
Lisa Castille	2/14
Joyce Veloz	2/15
Albert Carrion, Jr	2/15
Michael Zieschang	2/20
Barbara Craig	2/22
Jo Kautz	2/26
Joseph Calvo	2/27
Kimberly Schaare	2/27
Sarah Zieschang	2/29

**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.

**Altar Flower Chart** - The flower chart for the 2024 calendar year is now posted in the narthex. If you sign up for a particular date, please remember to send/turn in your payment for your flowers (in advance of that Sunday). The cost is \$45 per flower arrangement.

**Fellowship after Worship** - 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. There are 2 spaces for each Sunday. If you would like to host a Sunday alone, please cross out the second space, but if you would like to have a partner to host it with you, leave that space open for someone to team up with you. There is also a Sign Up Genius link where you can go online and sign up to help out in this capacity. Sign Up Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FA5A82DAAF4C43-45825210-fellowship>

The Fellowship committee will provide coffee and juice and paper products. Please consider hosting one of our Sunday Fellowships.

## Anniversaries

Alan & Alice Werchan  
2/17/1996

## Flower Chart Given by...

February 4

Myrna Herber  
The Herber Family

February 11

Freddie Richter  
Brenda, Mark, Dorothy

February 18

Kevin Craig  
In Honor of Barbara's Birthday

February 25

Vacant

## Lectors

2/04/2024	Micah Stennfeld
2/11/2024	Alan Werchan
2/18/2024	Taylor Teeters
2/25/2024	Clayton Pillack

**Braille** is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, February 20, at 9:00 a.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Car pool from Christ @8:30. Let Mildred Westfall (512) 385-6609 know if you plan to go.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study** - We will meet on Thursday, February 1, 8, 15, 29 and March 7 from 10-11 am in Room 7 & 8.

**Lutheran Hour Ministries**—Over the last few months we have tried to bring you information on Lutheran Hour Ministries “Project Connect.” In the narthex you will find a spinner with booklet pertinent to the Christian walk. These booklets can serve you as you grow in your faith and can serve others you know who need a stronger connection to our Lord.

At this time of year, many folks make New Year’s resolutions. How about a resolution to share the Good News more each day as God gives opportunity. You know, you don’t always have to use your words to share the Good News, sometimes you can use the words of someone else. And that is what the Project Connect books help you to do.—Maybe there is a neighbor who has expressed and issue she/he is facing—Maybe on your visit to a nursing home you can provide something that will help a special person in need. - Maybe a coworker has expressed a dilemma with which they are dealing.

In each case you may find a Project Connect book to share. Let us know if you need a booklet dealing with a specific issue and we will try to provide that resource. You can find more info at LHM about Project connect and how you can help LHM with your prayers and financial help. Go to [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) for more information or talk to Donn Trautner.

**LHM Lenten Devotions:** - Each year Lutheran Hour Ministries provides these poignant messages of God doing His redemptive work through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, and are read by thousands in English and Spanish. Included are reflection questions which are great for families or individuals to explore deeper! You can put these resources in the hands of friends and neighbors. They can be downloaded, printed, and shared. During the Lenten season, you can also read the text online, receive them in your inbox as a daily email, or subscribe to listen to the audio podcast! For more information, visit [lhm.org/lent](http://lhm.org/lent). For more information about LHM go to [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) or talk to Donn Trautner.

**Super Bowl-of-Chili Cook-off Party** - Come join us Sunday, February 11th at 5 pm, for our Chili-Cook-Off held in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and try your hand at cooking a pot of chili. We’ll be watching the big pro football game, and snacking/eating/judging chili entries during half-time. There will be a prize provided for the winner of the chili cook-off, and with no obligation for the winner to host the event the next time around. Soda/lemonade/tea will be provided. Contact Jordan with questions. We look forward to seeing you all there for this fun fellowship event.

## Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

[www.christaustin.org](http://www.christaustin.org) | Facebook | Twitter | You Tube