

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

May 2023



Dear Friends,

As I write this note I am only 23 days away from turning 60. I don't quite understand where the years have gone and how I got this old so quickly. Seems like only yesterday I was going to the high school prom, playing college tennis, going on my vicarage, getting married, baptizing my children . . . and now somehow I am turning 60.

James wrote in his epistle: "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." The older I get, the more I understand how true these words are. So what are we to do with these lives of ours that are here but for a moment on this earth and then are gone? Solomon wrote at the end of Ecclesiastes: "Here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

You and I are here to love and serve and worship and glorify and obey God. That's why we exist. That's our purpose on this earth. That's what our lives are to consist of, regardless if our days are few or many. And that's the only thing that will make any difference on that day when Christ wakes us from our death to stand before his throne of judgment. May we all take these truths to heart as we live out our remaining days on this earth.

In Christ's love,

Pastor John

Psalm 150:6 - "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!"

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

Special Prayers in April Worship Services for Our family members and friends

Yvette Emmrich –health issues

Michelle Bennight and friend in car accident

Christopher (Gwendy Lewis' brother) – recovering from stroke

Gary Lippe – breathing difficulties

Theresa (grandmother of Jordan Reid) - took a fall

Birth of son to Nori and Justin Vail

Family of Jewel Anderson – Jewel's passing

Michael & Liz (Phyllis Trautner's nephew & wife) - passing of their newly born infant son, Shepherd.

Family of Lola Garcia (neighbor and friend of Yolanda Faulkner) - died of massive heart attack

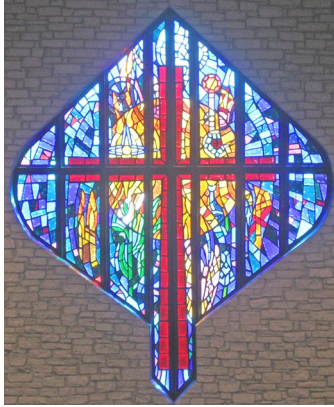
Stewardship Verse

“Everything under heaven belongs to me.” — God

Job 41:11b



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.

This past April, we celebrated Easter with a joyful worship celebration. Christ is Risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia! I am thankful for Jesus' death and resurrection and for all who helped make our celebration possible.

A big thank you to those that provide soup or desserts for the Lent lunches after Wednesday lent service. Also, a big thank you to those that provided refreshments after the Easter service. It was a great time of fellowship that our members enjoyed.

Again, thank you to the elders that helped with the church services as Pastor John continued to recover his voice.

On April 30th we held our voter's meeting. There were no pressing issues, we mainly reviewed financial reports as well as reports from the trustees.

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

2023 Church Pictorial Directory - We are in the final stages of producing a new Christ Lutheran Church Pictorial Directory. The printed directories will be available, one copy per family, additional copies for a nominal cost, sometime in mid/late May.

Christ Lutheran Social Media & Pastor's Sermons

-Go to the Church's web site at <http://www.christaustin.org> for Gospel content and CLC information

-Go to Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Austin-78704-121095017909219/> especially to tune into Facebook Live streaming of our Worship services

-Go to Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ChristATX78704> especially to read Bible verses that also get posted on Facebook during the week

-Go to YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@ChristAustinSermons>) for Pastor John's sermon videos (with visuals) from the past five years

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.

Braille is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, May 9 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.

75th Anniversary T-shirts—We still have some 75th anniversary t-shirts available. For more information, please see David or Kimberly Schaare, or contact via email schaarehome@gmail.com





“I will meditate”

“I will meditate on Your wonderful works. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise!”
Psalm 145:5, 3

THE END?

My brother and I watched a favorite gangster movie the other night, “*White Heat*.” We’ve seen it so many times, but this time there was one scene that caught my attention. Cody Jarrett, a psychopathic criminal played by James Cagney, and his gang are standing next to an empty 5,000-gallon gas truck as he explains his plans to rob the payroll of a large refinery. He tells them, “Ma told me when I was a kid, a story about a horse. Way back, there was a whole army trying to knock over a place called Troy. And gettin’ nowhere fast, couldn’t even put a dent in the wall. And one mornin’ the people of Troy wake up and look over the wall and the entire army had disappeared – men, boats, the works – taken a powder. But they left one thing after them, a great big wooden horse. Accordin’ to Ma . . . “. That’s it! The movie goes to the next scene, and Jarrett never finishes the story for the audience! Well, I’ve never been one to need “closure,” but leaving a story half-told makes my toes curl. I may know the ending, but for some reason I’ve got to hear it to be freed from anticipation. Strangely, thinking about this took me to thoughts of Easter. It seems only yesterday I prayerfully awaited the Savior’s birth, worshipped Him with shepherds and Magi, and prayed “Amen. Come Lord Jesus.” Only yesterday I whispered my repentant prayers of Lent, watched Jesus die on a cross, and have shouted “Christ is Risen, Indeed!” with “Alleluias!” And . . . my toes are curling. A good friend and I talked often of memories of growing up Lutheran and attending church services on Ascension Day, and how we missed that. It was good to sing more “Alleluias” and observe the day our risen Savior was taken up into Heaven. Thirty-nine days after His resurrection day, Jesus and His apostles gathered on the Mount of Olives, and “He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight” (Acts 1:9). The apostles “were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.” They said, “This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven” (Acts 1:10, 11). The End. Or, was it? There was no “good-bye” from Jesus. Instead, He promised, “I am with you always” (Matt 28:19), and “I will come back and take you to be with me” (John 14:3). At Christ’s Ascension, He was exalted to His position on the throne of God with “all authority in heaven and on earth” (Matt 28:18). But He is not apart from us. He took His place as the Head of His Church, the assembly of believers, where He is fully present and active. Ten days after His ascension (Pentecost), He sent His Holy Spirit to be with us as He promised, to bring us to faith and keep us in faith. He is fully present in His Word, and His true body and blood are present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. He is our advocate on God’s throne, and He blesses us with gifts of forgiveness and life eternal even as He prepares a place for us in heaven. And, just as He ascended true God and true Man, He will return. This is the Unfailing Love of our Christ, since before creation, today and forever! He is never apart from us. No matter what we go through in life, He is by our side, fully attentive. My toes are uncurled! My anticipation is HOPE fulfilled! By faith, I am His – FOREVER! The End! (And, I so look forward to the sequel - “Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!” - the Savior’s return to take me home to heaven!) “Be now our joy on earth, O Lord, and be our future great reward. Then, throned with You forever, we shall praise Your name eternally. ALLELUIA!” (LSB 493). *In Christ, Duannah*

(ASCENSION DAY is May 18th! Say a special prayer of thanksgiving!)

BUSY DAY CAKE

This delicious and simple cake recipe is from a dear friend and past member of our church, Sophie Werchan. It’s a “go-to” recipe as it uses ingredients most always in our pantries. I’ve added the “Optional” which makes a bit more crumb topping.

2 cups flour
1 ½ cups sugar
2 tsp baking powder
2/3 cup oleo, cold
2 eggs
¾ cup milk
1 tsp vanilla

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine flour, sugar and baking powder. Cut in oleo to form rough crumb. Set aside ½ cup of this mixture. Add the eggs, milk and vanilla to the remaining mixture. Pour into a buttered (or use spray oil) 9X13 baking pan. Sprinkle with reserved half cup of crumbed mixture. Bake 35 to 40 minutes.

Variation: Cover batter with peach slices, blueberries, apples, etc. Sprinkle with the ½ cup crumb mixture, and bake.

Optional: To reserved ½ cup crumb mixture, stir in ½ c graham cracker crumbs, ½ tsp cinnamon, and 1 Tbsp. sugar. Cut in 1 Tbsp oleo. Sprinkle about ½ cup of this onto top of cake. Add fruit and cover with remaining crumbs. Bake and enjoy!



Christ Lutheran Church

May 2023

Birthdays

Julian Campos	5/2
Yvette Emmrich	5/4
Christin Mercedes	5/4
Teresa Kirby	5/6
Mark Herber	5/6
Katherine Richter	5/7
Kasey Hentschke	5/13
John Mitchell	5/14
Norma Nanyes	5/15
Taylor Teeters	5/15
Justin Vail	5/18
John Stennfeld	5/19
Kristen Boessling	5/22
Jimmy Westfall	5/22
Daniel Mackey	5/23
Fran Ross	5/27
Onyema Ogwuegbu	5/28

Anniversaries

Robert & Yogi Strait	5/23/2009
Donald & Teresa Kirby	5/27/1978
Joe & Maria Calvo	5/29/1960

Lectors

5/7/2023	Micah Stennfeld
5/14/2023	Taylor Teeters
5/21/2023	Clayton Pillack
5/28/2023	MaryLou Moore

Flower Chart Given by...

May 7

David & Pamela Hamil

By Betty Shaw's family in honor of what would have been her 98th birthday

May 14

Brenda & Mark Vrbal
Mother's Day

May 21

Jo Kautz

May 28

Vacant

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.

Do you know someone who could really use some encouragement? Someone facing a major life change? Someone struggling with grief, regret or forgiveness? If so, check out the Project Connect display located next to the pew in the narthex. A number of new publications from Lutheran Hour Ministries have been added to the spinner in hopes of helping you, or someone you love, with a life issue. If you don't see a topic for which you are seeking information, please talk to LHM Ambassador Donn Trautner, or go to the Lutheran Hour website page at lhm.org/projectconnect

Remember you can listen to the Lutheran Hour each week online at lutheranhour.org or on the following:

KHCB	Austin, TX	90.9	FM	Sun	12:30 PM
KHIB	Austin, TX	88.5	FM	Sun	12:30 PM
KLBJ	Austin, TX	590	AM	Sun	7:04 AM
KLBJ	Austin, TX	99.7	FM	Sun	7:04 AM
KTXW	Austin, TX	1120	AM	Sun	6:00 PM

Community Event - Camp Lone Star Work Weekend

Camp Lone Star's annual Work Weekend at 2016 Camp Lone Star Rd in La Grange, TX 78945 is Friday-Sunday, May 19-21. The weekend kicks off Friday evening and lasts through worship on Sunday morning. Adults will be able to sign up for Saturday work projects while Camp Lone Star staff will lead the youth in age-appropriate service projects on Saturday morning and classic camp activities in the afternoon. This weekend is free for everyone but lodging is limited, so register today! Housing is awarded in order of registrations received. For more information, and to register for the weekend, www.camplonestar.org/work-weekend.

What is Lutheran Hour Ministries?

A Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church.*

For more information, visit www.lhm.org or call 1-800-876-9880.

The (Im)partial Church Podcast released its second season on February 6th! The (Im)partial Church is a hopeful podcast about race, culture, diversity, and the Christian faith. Hosted by LCMS Pastor Gerard Bolling and his sister, Professor Janine Bolling, this podcast is a hopeful and helpful dialogue from the personal experiences and deep Biblical knowledge of the hosts. You can learn more at <https://www.lhm.org/theimpartialchurch/>.

2023 Flower Chart - The flower chart for the 2023 calendar year is 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.

Men's Discipleship Study - Meets on the First Tuesday of each month through May 2023. We will conclude on May at 7:30 pm in-person in the Christ's Workshop. Our topic is the Armor of God. Please contact Jordan for details, and to sign up.

Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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