



# Christ Lutheran Church

December 2017

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ



## Pastor John



PASTOR JOHN STENNFELD

### WHAT'S INSIDE

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#### Voters' Meeting

December 10  
After Worship Service

#### Sunday, December 24

Worship Services  
8:15am, 10:45am

#### Christmas Eve

Worship with  
Holy Communion  
6:00pm

#### Christmas Day

Worship with  
Holy Communion  
At 10:00 am

Dear Friends,

It is that time of year again... time to decorate our homes, shop for gifts, and visit with friends and family. Soon also the airwaves will be full of folks waxing philosophical and telling us what Christmas is all about. Much of what will be spoken will have elements of truth mixed in with the traditional platitudes of the season. As we go about our duties preparing for our family celebrations may we never forget that Jesus is what this season is truly all about. He was born as a child so that he could die as a man so that we could be saved from the penalty of our sin. That is the essence of Christmas. May we remember this singular truth as we celebrate this multi-faceted holiday.

To God be the Glory.

*Pastor John*

*"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." — Luke 2:11*





## Letter from the President



A voters' assembly has been set for December 10th. Immediately following late service, lunch will be served by the youth and their families. The meeting will commence once lunch is done (around 12:45 pm). The most significant topics include our communion schedule, next year's budget and officers, nominations for district president and vice president, as well as reports from Pastor, Jordan, and others. Please attend to stay informed and to help conduct the business of the church.

The recent tragic events in Sutherland Springs have undoubtedly caused you to think about our own church. Rest assured, the Council and I share your concerns and are talking about our own circumstances. If you are ever aware of any threats against our church or see something or someone suspicious, tell someone. We have resources available to help us evaluate the credibility of threats.

I just returned from the annual Lutheran Church Extension Fund Fall Leadership conference where the theme was "love BOLDLY!" based on 1st Corinthians 13:13. I believe we at Christ show our love through our interactions and fellowship with each other and our connections with our surrounding community such as our recent Pumpkin Patch, our sausage meal benefitting hurricane relief, and our participation in the Travis Heights Art Trail. Stay tuned for more opportunities to love BOLDLY in 2018.

It is my prayer that God continue to bless each of you — *Alan Werchan*  
this Christmas season and always.



## Feed My Lambs

The sack lunch program handed out 36 lunches in October and 38 lunches in November. We continue to make fresh sandwiches on the last Thursday of each month. Please contact the church office with any questions. *We are currently in need of protein items, fruit cups, and water bottles. We are also low on socks for the care packages provided upon request.*

## Pledge Sunday

Sunday, December 3, will be pledge Sunday at Christ. Although these pledge cards are not 'looked at' to help us determine our budget, and are in fact not seen by anyone at all, they do serve an important purpose. The pledge cards give each of us an opportunity to make a concrete commitment to God, something to which we can hold ourselves accountable. By putting our pledge down in writing and presenting it to God on His altar there is a greater chance that we will be more disciplined and consistent in our monthly giving. Therefore please take some time to prayerfully consider what is an appropriate financial response to God's blessings in your life and mark that down as your pledge for the coming year and present it to God on December 3.

## Decorating Fellowship

Our annual Christmas decoration will take place on Saturday morning, **December 2, at 9:00 am.** We will be decoration both the inside and outside of our church, and thus will need lots of hands. Join us for this fun morning of decoration and fellowship, and maybe a few Christmas snacks too!

## Attention Congregation:

With 2018 right around the corner we are tidying up the office and updating our files. We need to **verify** that we have all of **your information** on file. Please contact Sara at the office with all of your family's information. Specifically we need birthdays and anniversaries as well as updated addresses, email address, phone number (s). Even if there is a possibility that we already have the information, we still want to hear from you. There are several ways to get the information to us. *You can email [saran@christaustin.org](mailto:saran@christaustin.org), call the office at (512) 442-5844 or fill out a form* (located on a table in the Narthex) *and drop it into the file box on the outside of the office door.* Thank you for your assistance.





Cooking with Eunice



**Snowman Cheeseball**

- 2 8oz packages cream cheese (softened)
- 1 pound cheddar cheese (shredded)
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 packet dry Ranch dressing mix
- 1 teaspoon mustard
- 8 oz pecans (chopped and roasted)



This column is lovingly sponsored by the Eunice Guild. Each recipe includes corresponding Bible verses to use for meditation during those “down” times found in most all good recipes. God bless you as you cook “with Eunice”.



In a large mixing bowl, combine softened cream cheese, shredded cheese, Worcestershire, dry Ranch mix, and mustard. When combined well, divide cheese mixture 1/3 amount for one portion and 2/3 amount for the second portion. Roll each portion into a ball with your hands and set on a lined cookie sheet in the freezer. Let set for 30-60 minutes. While the cheese mixture is in the freezer you can chop and roast pecan pieces. (This may be done on a shallow baking dish in a 350 degree oven, stirring frequently. This should only take 5-10 minutes, watch closely. Set aside to cool.

Roll the frozen “snowballs” in chopped pecans. Place largest ball as the base on a serving plate and top with smaller one pressing slightly together.

Now have fun and decorate your snowman with items from kitchen! (*Example:* whole peppercorns for eyes and mouth, pimento scarf, a sprig of Rosemary for broom, a Ritz cracker topped with an olive for the hat, pretzel rods for arms.)

**\*Meditation for while you cook:**

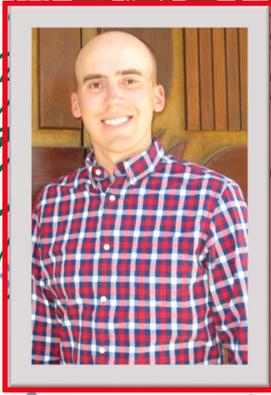
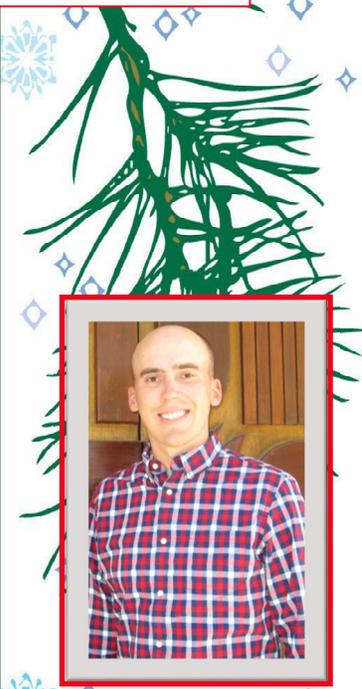
As we recently celebrated the Thanksgiving season and enter the season of Advent, it is appropriate to reflect on the fortuitousness of preceding Advent with a season of giving thanks. For you see, the announcement of the birth of Christ and of His cousin John the Baptist were initially met not with thanksgiving, but with skepticism and fear and anger. Mary trembled and doubted the words of Gabriel (Luke 1: 29-34). Joseph initially shunned Mary but still sought to protect her reputation by trying to end their engagement quietly (Matthew 1:18-19). Zechariah, the father of John and Aaronic priest, doubted because of his age and the advanced age of his wife, Elizabeth, and was struck mute until the day of John’s consecration (Luke 1:18-19). Only Elizabeth greeted the news of her pregnancy with thanksgiving from the outset, thanking God for removing her “disgrace” as barrenness was viewed as a sign of God’s displeasure upon a woman in that day and age.

Herod greeted the news with fear and murderous rage as he ordered the systematic slaughter of all children under the age of 2 in the region of Judea. Not much different from many sentiments in our world today that seek to downplay and obfuscate the birth of the Christ, and marginalize His central role in this season where we celebrate His coming into this world.

It was Elizabeth that inspired gratitude in Mary as they met and celebrated the coming birth of a prophet and Messiah. It was the shepherds - the lowest of the low in Judean society - that worshipped at the news of the newborn Savior. It was the foreign magi that brought gifts for the newborn King. And all of these experiences, Mary treasured in her heart and pondered them, likely for the rest of her days - living in wonder at that majesty and miracle that Almighty God would choose her - a young girl - to bear His Son in a dirty old stable and heralded by those He had come to save. She meditated upon these as she and Joseph and Jesus escaped to Egypt. She trusted the promises of God as they returned years later to Jerusalem. She celebrated with Him at a wedding and prodded Him in Cana to turn water into wine. And she wept at his crucifixion, all the while remembering that dark night when she bore him into this world. And she was, no doubt, among the first to celebrate at the announcement of his resurrection as she remembered the words of the angel “For no word from God will ever fail.” (Luke 1:37).

This Christmas season, no matter your doubts or your struggles to reconcile your lot in life with the grace of mercy of our Eternal King, remember “For no word from God will ever fail.” No matter what opposition comes against you as you seek His will in your daily life, remember “For no word from God will ever fail.” Celebrate! For He is faithful to His word. **Merry Christmas!**





JORDAN BOESSLING

Minister of Creative  
Communication  
&  
Community  
Connections

*Please contact Jordan for more information on any of the activities on pages 4-5.*

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.

## “The Real Tree of Christmas”

Our Christmas Program at Christ is Sunday, December 17, during 10:45 am worship. If your family plans to be a part of it, please make it a priority to be here on Sundays at 9:30 am, starting Sunday, November 12.

During our discipleship classes thru the end of 2017, we are going to be singing songs and practicing speaking lines, and making things to keep and to share around the theme of "The Real Tree of Christmas." Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 16 from 9:30-11:30 am for a rehearsal in the Sanctuary. Please contact Jordan to commit your family to participating in this year's program.

## Travis Heights Art Trail Thank You

Praise The Lord for the opportunity to be in loving service to welcome those who came to see the handmade quilts, and the pieces from art camps, as advertised by the Art Trail booklet. We were also able to serve some who walked near our refreshment table and hadn't yet heard about the Art Trail. Our second try as an artist location on our neighborhood's annual Art Trail resulted in us making around double the contacts from that of 2016.

This year, the local non-profit Art From The Streets, brought in a variety of art created by homeless, and formerly homeless people, and helped bring attendees to the Fellowship Hall where we were able to appreciate the work of artists who participate in their program. (Art From the Street's 25th Annual Show and Sale is happening Saturday & Sunday, December 2 & 3 from 11 am - 5 pm at Austin Convention Center.) In addition, Smart Trips Austin was represented to inform us of their work around Travis Heights, Bouldin Creek, and Zilker Park to provide resources that increase trips taken by foot, bike, bus, or shared car.

Finally, a big thank you to the people of Christ for your arts and crafts that have given us the opportunity to connect with our community through involvement in this neighborhood art trail.

## 13th Annual Texas Senior Fest

Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 8:30 am—4:00 pm at Christ Lutheran Church, 510 Luther Drive, Georgetown, Texas 78628.

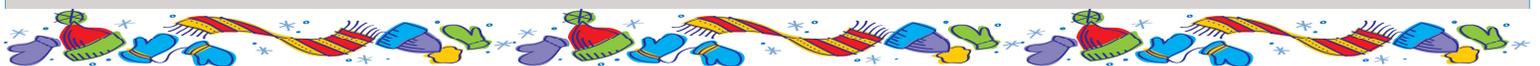
The keynote speaker will be The Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick on “Being a Christian in 2018.” Rev. Dr. Kieschnick served for nine years as national president of the 2.2 million-member Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Upon completion of his third 3-year term in 2010, he and his wife Terry returned to Texas, where he served Concordia University in Austin as Presidential Ambassador for Mission Advancement and developed Concordia’s Christian Leadership Institute.

*Registration is \$25.00 per person. Forms available in the Narthex.*

## R&R Meeting

R&R—Relaxed and Retired  
— but “Always Rarin’ to Go!”

Our Planning Meeting for 2018 will be on January 11th at 11 am. Bring your lunch and IDEAS for activities and the MONTH you would like to host. February 1st will be our “Mardi Gras” celebration hosted by the Kanetzksys.





### Youth Fundraiser

December 10, following our 10:45am worship service we will hold our final voters' meeting of the year, preceded by a fellowship luncheon.

The luncheon is being sponsored by the youth and their families . The luncheon will consist of hamburgers and sausage wraps and other sides. A free will donation will be received as a fundraiser to help the youth of our congregation attend the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN in 2019. This is a Thrivent Action event. Following the luncheon, at about 12:45pm, the voters' meeting will commence. Big topics to be covered are the 2018 budget and the consideration of moving to Holy Communion in both services every Sunday. *Please put it on your calendar to attend both of these important events.*



### Kingdom Quest and Lutheranism 101

Sunday mornings at 9:30 am give us the chance as a Church Family to spend time together walking with Jesus in Christian community. Our discipleship classes offer us the opportunity to catch up from the previous week, and to start the new one in prayer. We get to challenge and cheer each other on in things that really matter in life, and to be sent forth with God's blessing knowing that we are not alone in this life.

During October, our Kingdom Quest Kids started to craft a construction paper mosaic of Luther's Rose, as a way to share the love of Christ Jesus. And that's who our "The Bible in One Year" timeline mural panels we are making, is all about. We are just beginning to put together the pieces of the people, places, and events of The Bible, and to make connections to how they prepare us to live each day loved by Christ Jesus, and to live for The Day of His return. Our teens continue reading through Lutheranism 101, responding with questions, and returning to God's Word to find answers that remind us that we are saved by

### Upbring's Angel Tree Project

If you have taken an ornament from the Christmas tree in the narthex please bring all gifts in plastic bags (w/ the names and ages of the children you signed up to sponsor to Church and set under the Christmas tree. **December 3 is the deadline for gifts.** Thanks for your support!

### December R & R / Eunice Guild

Please join us on December 7th, starting at 11:30 am, for the annual R&R / Eunice Guild Christmas party. We will have a potluck lunch, gift exchange and fellowship. Bring a main dish, side dish, salad or dessert to share. Drinks will be provided. Our optional gift exchange is just for fun and you can't spend more than \$1.00 on each gift. We will also be collecting items to be donated to the Bread for All food pantry. Donations of healthy, non-perishable food within the expiration date or donations of money will help provide food to families in crisis in the Austin area. *Please contact Jo Kautz (512) 217-0328 or Katherine Richter (512) 442-7724 if you have questions.*

### Men's Discipleship Group

Join us Tuesday, December 5 at 7:30pm in the Workshop as we continue our study "Every Man's Story." We are seeking examples of men from the Bible, as well as current examples of men today who are living out their faith amid trials of the world. We'll also dig deeper into our own individual faith stories as we discuss and share about living lives that reflect and point to Christ. *For more information contact Tim Ristow at (512) 799-0450 or Jordan Boessling.*

### Octoberfest Thank You!

A big thank you of the many who had a part in making our Octoberfest meal a success. The food was delicious and enjoyed by all. Profits came to \$1,783.96. All was sent to the Texas District for Hurricane Harvey Relief.

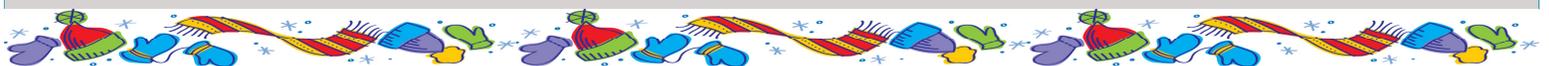
### Christmas at Concordia "A Service of Lessons and Carols"

Featuring Artist in Residence **Joseph Martin**, piano with the University Choir Wednesday, December 13, 2017

**Reception with cocktails & heavy hors d'oeuvres**

5:30-7:00pm Black Box Theatre

**Service 7:00pm Chapel**





# Sharing the Love of Christ

## German Meal Supporting Hurricane Harvey



## Travis Heights Art Trail



## *In November we prayed for...*

**Joki Gonzalez** – brain tumor, **Jean Cazzola** – back surgery, **Shirley Hoes** – treatments for breast cancer, **Duannah Ashmore**—and her family, at the passing of her husband **Bill**, **Meredith Baird** – niece of MaryLou Moore, started chemo for recurring cancer, **Bev Hiscock** – cousin of MaryLou Moore, prayer of thanks, **Jena Cazzola** – healing from back surgery, **Anna Mae Miller** – hospitalized for pacemaker implant, **Jeff Stuenkel** – son of Bert & Louise Stuenkel, hospitalized for kidney infection and liver issues





### December Anniversaries

- Carl & Geneva Mensing  
12/11/1953
- Sonny & Phyllis Mitchell  
12/17/1966
- Patty & Dale Brodbeck  
12/19/2015
- David & Sue Sermons  
12/22/1985

### December Birthdays

- Milton Ihlo 12/1
- Roy Pietsch 12/1
- Esmeralda Cano 12/2
- John Anthony Montoya 12/2
- Holly Herber 12/3
- Robert Strait 12/3
- Eric Harrison 12/6
- Crystal Aguilera 12/8
- Tim Ristow 12/14
- Blaine Bartels 12/16
- Jean Wiley 12/20
- Anna Mae Kubsch 12/25
- Franklin Richter 12/26
- Ben Schaare 12/27
- Jewel Anderson 12/28
- Cory Rabitoy 12/30

## "Away in a Manger" PLATE



Make this special plate as a gift to give this Christmas.

#### What you need:

- Clear glass plate
- Acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush and water
- Black permanent marker

#### What you do:

1. Turn plate upside-down on table. Paint one of your palms brown, and press it on the center of the plate.
2. Rotate the plate so fingers point down. Using yellow paint, make a straw bed in the palm.
3. Mix white and brown paint for Jesus' face. Use white paint for a swaddled body.
4. Paint a yellow star above Jesus and a yellow border around the plate rim.
5. When paint is dry, turn plate over. With the marker, draw dots for Jesus' eyes and write the words of Luke 2:12 around the plate rim.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL



"Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse' is NOT a Bible verse!"





# December 2017



### December 3

**Flowers:** Karotkin family  
**Tellers:** P. Hamil / J. Wiley  
**8:15am:** Lector: Mark Herber  
 Acolyte: Katy Herber  
**10:45am:** Lector: MaryLou Moore  
 Acolyte: Ben Ristow  
**Communion Guild**  
**8:15am:** LeMorris Galbreath  
**Fellowship:** Carrion family

### December 10

**Flowers:** Sermons family  
**Tellers:** P. Bost / M. Moore  
**8:15am:** Lector: Lucille Herrera  
 Acolyte: Katy Herber  
**10:45am:** Lector: Gary Lippe  
 Acolyte: Emily Richter  
**Communion Guild**  
**10:45am:** Debbie & Eric Harrison  
**Fellowship:** Decker family

### December 17

**Flowers:** Dale and Patty Brodbeck,  
 In honor of 2nd anniversary  
**Tellers:** P. Bost / M. Moore  
**8:15am:** Lector: Clayton Pillack  
 Acolyte: Justin Medina  
**10:45am:** Lector: MaryLou Moore  
 Acolyte:  
**Communion Guild**  
**8:15am:** Felix & Louise Alexander  
**Fellowship:** *Christmas Program*

### December 24

**Flowers:** In honor of Beth Shaw,  
 given by her children  
**Tellers:** C. Kanetzky / V.Kanetzky  
**8:15am:** Lector:  
 Acolyte: Justin Medina  
**10:45am:** Lector:  
 Acolyte: Ben Ristow  
**6:00pm:** Lector: Kevin Craig  
 Acolyte:  
**Communion Guild**  
**10:45am:** Mary Karotkin,  
 Ellen & Gerald Decker  
**Fellowship:** Ronnie Richter

### December 25

**Flowers:**  
**Tellers:** C. Kanetzky / V. Kanetzky  
**10:00am:** Lector: Gary Lippe  
 Acolyte:  
**Communion Guild**  
**Fellowship:** Stennfeld family

### December 31

**Flowers:** Sophie Werchan  
**Tellers:** C. Kanetzky / V.Kanetzky  
**8:15am:** Lector: Mark Herber  
 Acolyte: Katy Herber  
**10:45am:** Lector: Norma Nanyes  
 Acolyte: Emily Richter  
**Communion Guild**  
**8:15am** Alex & Christine Stivers  
**10:45am** Jared Juszczak  
**Fellowship:** *vacant*

### ELDERS:

**8:15am:**

**10:45am:**  
**Tommie Craig**



The LORD  
 is my  
 strength  
 and my  
 song;  
 he has  
 become  
 my  
 salvation.  
 Exodus 15:2, NIV

If you cannot serve as scheduled, it is YOUR responsibility to find a replacement. If you know a schedule change before 9:00 am on Thursday of the week you're scheduled, please contact the church office (512-442-5844) to inform the secretary of the change. If a problem arises Sunday morning, please call the office and leave a message.

**\* Flowers will be donated**

