

# Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

December 2020



Dear Friends,

Theodore Roosevelt once said: “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” President Roosevelt recognized that sometimes you just have to make do with what you’ve got, you have to play the cards you are dealt the best you can.

And so it is that we continue to do the best we can given our current situation. As such things will be a little bit different around Christ Lutheran this Christmas.

Our Christmas Eve candlelight service will be on Thursday, December 24th, at 6:00 p.m. Due to covid protocols this year we will not be making use of the individual candles for this service. Please note also that due to cleaning measures connected with Covid-19 our Christmas Day service will not be held on December 25th (Christmas Day morning), but will be recognized and celebrated on Sunday morning, December 27th. Please note these times and changes for our Christmas celebrations for this year.

Christmas Eve Service—December 24—6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service—December 27—9:30 a.m.

Have a blessed month,  
Pastor John

**PASTOR  
JOHN STENNFELD**

**Decorating at Christ** - We will be decorating the sanctuary at Christ on Saturday, December 5th, at 9:00 a.m. We will be wearing masks and maintaining our distance as best we can. If you feel comfortable and are available please consider coming to help us beautify our sanctuary for the season.

**Pledge Sunday** - We will make our 2021 pledges to God during our worship service on December 6. (Pledge cards will be in the bulletin on December 6.) Please prayerfully consider your pledge to God for the coming

**Voter's Meeting** - Our end of year voter's meeting will be held in the sanctuary following the worship on Sunday, December 6. Our main discussion will concern the approval of the budget for 2021. Please consider attending and help to make the decisions concerning our congregation for the coming year.



**Blessing of The Quilts**



### **Vacation Days**

Pastor John will be out of the office December 29–January 3. Please contact Jordan or one of the elders for any pastoral needs or to be connected with a covering pastor.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

4 Celebrations!

*Please view back page for guidelines on returning to the sanctuary for service.*

## Stewardship Verse

Freely you have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:8b

PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS PEACE LOVE HOPE JESUS



### Letter from the President



We will have a voters' meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 in the sanctuary. The most significant topics will be next year's budget and officers. As always, we will have updates from Pastor John, Jordan, the Treasurer, Trustees and other groups. Please plan to attend and do your part to address the business of the church. Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> we will set up our outdoor nativity and decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Check the bulletin for details and please help if you can.

Advent represents the start of a new church year. Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ both in the past in His incarnation as the baby Jesus, but also in the future with His promised second coming as Christ. Even though we are still in the Covid pandemic, we should use this time of advent to renew our commitments to God and to Christ Lutheran through faithful attendance, faithful stewardship, and faithful giving of our time in support of the mission. Even in this pandemic we are starting to see a slight increase in those that are attending in person. It is my continuing prayer that each of you make Sunday, time of worship a priority. Our congregation is not the same when you aren't here.

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. One final note, even though the way we attend church might have changed, the financial needs have not, so 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



#### 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 Connections



Please contact Jordan for more information ...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.

**Paul's Missionary Journeys** - The Men's Study Group continues our study on Paul's Missionary Journeys on Tuesday, December 1st at 7:30 pm. We've had such a great response and good group of participants that we will be continuing our study via Zoom online. We're using "Bringing the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth: Paul's Missionary Journeys" from CPH's online video Bible study series and also "Which Way, Lord?" by Rob Fuquay as resources. This, our third session, will pick up with Paul on his journey from Antioch Pisidia to Iconium and beyond. Contact Tim Ristow or Jordan for details on how to get connected via Zoom.



#### Confirmation Sunday

**Angel Tree Project** — For the children living in foster homes served by Upbring, we'll be collecting the presents thru the morning of December 6<sup>th</sup>. Please take an angel, tear off the white tag of paper attached, sign the white tag and place the tag into the Christmas box next to the tree. Please contact Jordan with questions. Thanks for your support!

#### Christ Lutheran Social Media

- ✦ Go to Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Austin-78704-121095017909219/> especially to tune into Facebook Live streaming of our Worship services, and Pastor's Discipleship class
- ✦ Go to Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ChristATX78704> especially to read Bible verses that also get posted on Facebook during the week
- ✦ Go to [www.christaustin.org](http://www.christaustin.org) - click on 'YouTube' for videos of Pastor John's sermons and hymns from the previous Sunday; and be encouraged by "Songs of Our Faith"



## 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 —

#### FOREVER CHANGED

It was Thursday, October 16, 2020, a nice sunny warm fall day. A memorable day because I finally realized that my life had once again truly been forever changed. There have been other, much more dramatic and heart-wrenching days when I truly realized the certainty of changing moments, and this one by no means can compare. Instead of a "smack in the face," it was more of a "tap on the forehead." My family and I were out running errands. First stop, my doctor's office for a flu shot, but this time there would be no wait with a bunch of "sick people," nor a cold exam room. This was a drive-thru appointment. We parked in a specially marked space, called to announce our arrival, sat back and waited. After a few minutes, my doctor's nurse came running, yes running, to our vehicle. I sat there as she happily leaned in, gave the shot, put a little round band-aid on my arm, said good-bye, and ran back to the building. Then my sister asked if I wanted to vote. "Sure, if it's not too crowded." The line of voters seemed to stretch for miles, but strangely there were empty parking spaces up front! We pulled in and saw the sign, "Handicap Drive-Up Voting!" I remained seated as a woman scanned my ID and had me sign a small computer screen. A nice man wheeled a voting machine over, opened a large umbrella to block the sunlight, helped me insert the ballot, and waited patiently until I finished my voting - all from the comfort of the front seat! Next, we went to Walmart for a few groceries. We drove in and my brother hopped out with a short list to do our shopping. We simply parked, sat back and relaxed. On the way home, I of course had to endure some teasing for having gotten a flu shot, voting, and buying groceries without ever leaving the vehicle! It was all drive-thru, drive-up, and drive-in for me! I felt like royalty - yet oddly, a bit cheated. It all seemed so incomplete and devoid of humanity! I thanked God for the blessings of those who helped me, but deep down, I wondered if due to my disabilities, seasoned age, and the world's "pandemic" ways, this was to be my new way of life - and I did not like it! Then, my sister wisely said this, "Be thankful Jesus didn't do a drive-thru!" John wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1), and yet, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us" (vs 14). The Word, our Savior and true God, was with the Heavenly Father since before Creation. Yet, at the first Christmas long ago, He gave it up to fulfill His Father's promise to the serpent Satan: "He will crush your head!" (Gen. 3:15). God's Son was born on earth from a woman. He stayed on earth, a person - a growing little boy, a carpenter, a teacher, a friend. He prayed and went to temple. He was Baptized. He ate and got thirsty. He laughed, He wept. He was happy, sad, disappointed. He was adored, He was despised. He was betrayed, beaten, and brutally executed for doing no wrong. He died and was buried. And through it all, He never sinned. He was "made . . . to be sin who knew no sin" (2 Cor. 5:21). This was no "drive-thru!" Jesus' life was in every way complete, and filled with humanity. In great love for His Father, He was made Man. In great love for His creation, for all people of all times, He completed God's Will by suffering and dying on the cross, the punishment for all sin of all times. And He conquered death by rising victoriously from His grave! He crushed Evil! Because of Jesus, as believers we live forever with GOD! Yes! May we always truly realize and cling to the certainty of our life's most important changing moment - the one that began that first Christmas - the first step toward our Easter! "Amen. Come Lord Jesus!"(Rev. 22:20). Amen! Christmas Blessings! Duannah

### Cooking With Eunice

#### TACO CRESCENT RING (WREATH)

Quick & Easy - Fun & Festive  
A perfect dish to grace your Christmas Luncheon table! *from Pillsbury.com*

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 (1 oz) pkg. taco seasoning mix
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 cans (8 oz each) refrigerated crescent rolls

1. Heat oven to 375°.
2. Brown meat in skillet. Drain off grease. Add taco seasoning, any additional seasonings you like, and 1/2 cup water. Stir and simmer 3 to 4 minutes. Turn off heat and allow to cool slightly. Stir in cheese and set aside.
3. Unroll crescent rolls and separate into 16 triangles. On ungreased large baking sheet, arrange triangles in a circle with the longest point extending out. Overlap short sides of the triangles to form a 5-inch circle in the center. (Crescent ring will look like the sun.)
4. Spoon beef filling mixture onto the half of each triangle closest to the center. Use all of the filling. Bring each outer triangle point up over filling and tuck point under bottom of the triangle. Repeat around ring until entire filling is enclosed. (Some filling will show through.)
5. Brush ring with an egg wash (1 egg beaten with a spoonful of water.) Bake 20 - 25 minutes until golden brown. Cool 5 - 10 minutes before cutting into serving slices.

Garnish your pretty wreath with shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, chopped green onions, additional cheese. Put a bowl in the center or your wreath and fill with guacamole, salsa, ranch dressing, sour cream, etc. Find many other crescent roll ring variations at Pillsbury.com.





**December Birthdays**

Milton Ihlo	12/1
Roy Pietsch	12/1
Esmeralda Cano	12/2
Holly Herber	12/3
Robert Strait	12/3
Eric Harrison	12/6
Tim Ristow	12/14
Blaine Bartels	12/16
Jean Wiley	12/20
Franklin Richter	12/26
Benjamin Schaare	12/27
Jewel Anderson	12/28
Cory Rabitoy	12/30

**December Anniversaries**

Sonny & Phyllis Mitchell
12/17/1966
Dale & Patty Brodbeck
12/19/2015
Earnest & Susan Sermons
12/22/1985

**December Flower Chart  
Given by...**

December 6  
B J Zamora

December 13  
Patty & Dale Brodbeck  
5th Anniversary

December 20  
In honor of Betty Shaw  
by her children

December 27  
David & Kim Schaare  
Ben's Birthday

**Guidelines for In-Person Worship at Christ**

We ask all those who plan to attend the worship service or discipleship class to:

- ✦ Avoid all handshaking, hugging, or touching of any kind with those outside their family.
- ✦ Bring a mask and wear it at all times within our facilities (except when receiving the Lord's Supper).
- ✦ Maintain social distancing at all times while entering/exiting/attending our worship and/or discipleship class.
- ✦ Please do not touch/handle/use any of the hymnals for any purpose (hymns/liturgies will be printed in the bulletin).
- ✦ Please wash and/or sanitize your hands often while in attendance at Christ (i.e. entering the sanctuary, prior to Holy Communion, leaving the sanctuary).
- ✦ Please do not gather in the narthex, sanctuary, or hallways to talk before or after worship.
- ✦ Please wait for your row to be dismissed at the end of worship and proceed to exit the building (unless you are attending the discipleship study or using the restroom).
- ✦ Please do not attend worship if you have any signs of illness (i.e. elevated temperature, sore throat, coughing, body aches, etc).
- ✦ Err on the side of caution – be respectful of others' fears and precautions
- ✦ Come prepared to praise and thank God for bringing us back together, and continue to ask God to protect us as we once again gather for worship.

**Sunday Morning Schedule (until further notice)**

**Worship at 9:30 am**

(For in-person attendance & streamed via Facebook Live)

**Pastor's Discipleship Class at 10:45 am**

(For in-person attendance & streamed via Facebook Live)

**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.

