

# Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

July 2021



Dear Friends,

In Jesus' parable of the talents in Matthew's Gospel, after two of the servants had been faithful to their master and increased the number of talents that had been entrusted to them by the master, the master said to them, "Well done, good and faithful servant." I would like to offer those same words of commendation and thanks and blessings to you. "Well done, good and faithful servants of God." Throughout the pandemic you continued to support the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, you continued to check in on and care for others, and now that the church is fully reopened, you have returned to worship with your family of faith. Well done!

But there is still more to do. There are still many of our family members who have not returned. There are quite a few of our family members who are not supporting our God given ministry. There are many among us who need emotional support and spiritual encouragement. And while Austin continues to grow, Christ Lutheran continues to shrink.

So yes, while so many of you are deserving of a "Well done," please know there is still so much for us to do. Pray that God would continue to bless us and grow us that we might continue to bless others.

In Christ,  
Pastor John

**Homeless Sack Lunches:** It is time to refresh our supply of items to serve the homeless community. As you purchase items, please be mindful of the expirations dates. Items needed are:

Protein—tuna, peanut butter, protein bars

Fruit—raisins, fruit cups

Breakfast/granola bars

Chips—individual bags

Dessert—pudding, jello cups

Gum/mints

To help not have an abundance of one item, please email ([office@christaustin.org](mailto:office@christaustin.org)) or call the church (512-442-5844) to let us know what you would like to bring. We will update our needs in the announcement sheet as they arise.

## Special Prayers in June Worship Services

**Freddie Richter** – cancer

**Geneva Mensing** – in rehab facility after hip surgery

**Rev. Richard Ziehr** – injured back from fall, cellulitis on his ankle, and current loss of driving privileges

**Lauren Wiatrek** - a 36-year-old friend of Amanda Moore who has stage 4 metastatic cancer.

**Alex Martin** – vision problems

**Ed Boessling** - Jordan's dad is hospitalized from a fall; also being monitored for his heart condition.

**Bill Heath** (and his wife, Ruth) - the son in law of Betty Joyce & Ed Stephens, will have surgery on July 1 to remove his cancerous tumor.

**Harold Derenberger** – in hospital

**Hunter** - (friend of pastor John), shoulder injury



PASTOR  
JOHN  
STENNFELD

## WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

4 Celebrations!

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

## Stewardship Verses

The Parable of the Talents

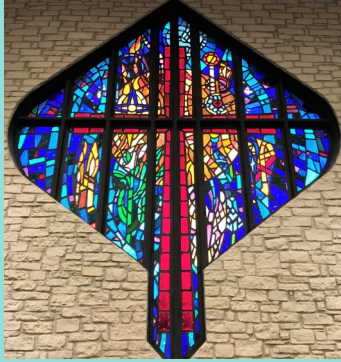
Please read

Matthew 25:14-30





# Letter from the President



## Mission Statement

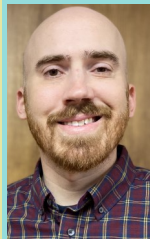
*The mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to connect people to Jesus through:*

- ✚ *Inspirational Worship*
- ✚ *Loving Service*
- ✚ *Caring Fellowship*
- ✚ *Relevant Education*

*So that they may know, and grow in, his love.*

## Creative Communication and Community Connections

Jordan Boessling



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.

I would like to start with something personal. I recently received a text message from a person who works for me, on occasion, at the restaurant that I manage. To quote the text, "Hello, just checking on buddy I hope all is well." This is the second time that this person has done this. It got me to thinking: "Oh wait it was mentioned in discipleship class." When was the last time you reached out to a fellow member to see how they were doing. If someone that has little connection to me, reaches out to me to see how I am doing, why as a congregation should we not do the same?

It was my honor to represent our congregation at the Texas District convention. Being my first time to attend a convention, I found it interesting to see the business side of the church. Also, I like to mention that Pastor John was elected as our Circuit Visitor.

We have made some changes at church from the Covid19 pandemic. We are not requiring masks any longer. We do ask that you respect the social distancing preferences of those around you, and please do not gather in the narthex before or after service. We continue to look for volunteers to serve as ushers, lectors or help with the fellowship time after church. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping with any of these.

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. 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

## Children's Discipleship Class

We have resumed Sunday morning discipleship classes for our children at 10:45 a.m. They will meet in the Puppet House room to begin each Sunday. Class will go from 10:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. We hope to see your children there.

## Thursday Morning Bible Class

We are making plans for Fall 2021 to resume this mid-week class on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Classroom 7 & 8. In August, we'll begin to take orders for the CPH Life Light - Selected Psalms study guide workbooks. We'll start the ten weeks of material on September 9, and complete the course on November 11. Jordan

## Pumpkin Patch

We are moving forward with hosting a 2021 Pumpkin Patch at Christ, and we need your help in order to provide this Loving Service again for our community. We are waiting to hear back regarding if the pumpkins will be delivered on either Thursday, October 14 at 6:00 p.m., or Saturday, October 16 at 8:00 a.m. More details to follow regarding opportunities to advertise this event, decorate the patch, and help with the unloading fellowship, and to sell the pumpkins. Please contact Jordan, or Deborah Bynum, regarding this year's pumpkin patch.

## Quilting

Quilting will be the second and fourth Thursdays (July 8 and July 22) at 10:00 a.m. in rooms 7 and 8.

## Note of Thanks

From Clayton Pillack to all the Christ Lutheran members for their support and prayers as he was rebuilding his flooded condo and living elsewhere since February 2021

## Flower Chart

### Given by...

#### July 4

Katherine Richter

Memory of Franklin Richter

In Honor of the Decker's Anniversary

#### July 11

Roy Pietsch & Mary Ann Triesch

Memory of Larry and Judy

#### July 18

Gerald & Ellen Decker

#### July 25

Donn & Phyllis Trautner





## Eunice Guild

This page is sponsored by  
the Women of the 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.**

### Meditation

#### "Two Flags"

The Americans watched the fierce bombardment from the British ship *Minden*. An Episcopalian attorney in the group had successfully negotiated a prisoner release from the British Fleet, but the group was being detained. The British, having captured and burned Washington D.C., now had their sights on the important port city of Baltimore. To capture the city, nineteen of their battle ships in Chesapeake Bay had to first silence Fort McHenry's guns. The battle continued all night as the attorney kept vigil with little hope the fort, with only 20 guns and 1,000 men, could hold back the onslaught. As dawn approached, the fort's commander ordered the small U.S. flag that had been flying, to be lowered, and then raised the garrison flag which measured an imposing 30 feet by 42 feet. The sounds of shelling began to cease, and the tired attorney peered through the clearing smoke with building excitement! The "flag was still there!" The 25-hour attack had been ineffective, and when the British Vice Admiral saw the intimidating flag flying proudly over the fort, he ordered retreat. On July 4, 1776, thirteen American colonies declared that they were united, free and independent - and now, on September 14, 1814, they were still free! The attorney, Francis Scott Key, scrawled out a poem which would become known as *The Star-Spangled Banner*. I love our country's flag, the symbol of a nation founded on the principles of freedom, democracy and equal justice. There is a U.S. flag in our church that has been there for as long as I can remember, but I seldom notice it. It stands just to the left of the altar. On the other side of the altar is the flag of the Christian church with its white field of peace, blue waters of Baptism and faith, and the cross of Christ. Some may say flags have no place in a church, especially displayed prominently next to the altar and the table where we gather for our Lord's Supper, but nothing could be further from the truth. These two flags stand silently as reminders of the two kingdoms in which we are citizens. On the right hand is God's Heavenly Kingdom. All believers, born anew and made God's saints through Baptism, live in this kingdom where God is ever present and reigns in His great love through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. On the left hand is the Kingdom of the world. This is the kingdom into which we were born as sinners and enemies of God, the visible earthly kingdom. Here, God is also ever present, and He governs through the people to whom He gives the authority to maintain good order, from parents to presidents. St. Paul said, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist, have been instituted by God" (Rom. 13:1). We are to honor and respect all those in authority and to obey our country's laws. However, we must boldly speak out in peace where we see injustice, and when told to go against God's Word, we must disobey. As God's children, we have a profound calling. We are to "be holy," loving and serving everyone, not to gain God's favor, but out of great love for Him! The righteousness of Christ is ours and so we live in the earthly kingdom freely, as God's children, proclaiming His Gospel in all we do. Our country is of this sinful world, and thus, there will always be many injustices, and God's Word will always be under attack. But for now, by God's mercy, I am still free to live as His child, to worship according to Lutheran confessions, and to enjoy the traditions of my culture - the freedoms my Wendish ancestors sought in coming to this country. So, I will try to notice our sanctuary's flags more often, always thanking God for the freedoms I know in both Kingdoms. But ultimately, the sanctuary's two flags stand to the Glory of God, and as testaments to His boundless blessings. Praise be to the Lord who holds all things in His Hands, the final authority and judge!

*In Christ! Duannah*

This is so tasty, quick and easy - perfect for a Fourth of July picnic! Be sure to use the brands mentioned for best flavor and texture.

- 2 slices bacon, chopped
- 4 Bar-S Brand wieners (cut into 1/4" slices)
- 1 15 oz. can Hormel Chili (no beans)
- 1 16 oz. can Bush's pinto beans (drained)
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 1/2 cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1 Tbsp. minced garlic
- 1 jalapeno, chopped (optional)
- 1 tomato, chopped (optional)
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 tsp. each, onion & garlic powder
- Queso (or grated cheese)

In a large skillet or pot, brown bacon until almost crisp. Add wieners and toast lightly. Remove bacon and wieners from skillet. Add butter to pan, and sweat onions, bell pepper, garlic, jalapeno, and tomato. Add black pepper, onion and garlic powders, and cook for 2 mins. Stir in bacon, wieners, chili, and pinto beans. Allow to simmer while you prepare your favorite queso. Serve beanie-weenies over your favorite corn chips and top with a scoop of queso, chopped green onion, fresh jalapeno or serrano peppers! Or, add one more sliced wiener, scoop into hot dog buns - & don't forget the queso! YUM!





**Birthdays**

Patty Brodbeck	7/6
Linda Mitchell	7/6
Douglas Bynum	7/10
Earnest David Sermons	7/11
Jared Juszcak	7/12
Annette Batts	7/13
Susan Sermons	7/14
Madeline Robb	7/16
Micah Stennfeld	7/17
George Whitehurst	7/21
Harold Derenberger	7/26
Ben Ristow	7/28
Mary Carrion	7/29

**Anniversaries**

Gerald & Ellen Decker  
7/5/1958

Jeremy & Dana Magruder  
7/8/2006

John & Dolores Dunn  
7/12/1955

Steve & Cynthia Bailey  
7/12/1984

Donn & Phyllis Trautner  
7/26/1975

Bill & Christina Martin  
7/26/2014

**Covid Changes**

All mask restrictions at Christ are now lifted. Please continue to be sensitive to those who might still choose to wear a mask and who want to keep their distance.

Also, please note that we will be doing a few things differently for Holy Communion starting in July. Details will be announced in worship.

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

**Worship at 9:30 am**

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

**Discipleship Classes at 10:45 am** (For in-person attendance only)

Pastor's - Fellowship Hall

**Children's Discipleship Classes at 10:45 am**  
in Tree House Room

**Lectors**

July 4	Taylor Teeters
July 11	Clayton Pillack
July 18	MaryLou Moore
July 25	Gary Lippe

**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.