

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ



September 2021

Dear Friends,

A big part of our September tradition, here at Christ, has been our annual Rally Day, often held the 2nd Sunday of September. This has been a day in which we have rallied around Christian education. Along with handing out attendance awards to our children for their participation in our discipleship classes, we have also had a big fellowship meal and hosted other activities to raise money for our children's programs.

But our Rally Day this year will be different. Since the Covid crisis hit, our numbers of worshippers, volunteers, and discipleship class attendees is way down. And unlike in years past, we have been sufficiently blessed to run our children's programs without raising funds on Rally Day.

This year, we as a congregation, will rally around the concept of being "One in Christ." We will rally around the importance of coming together each week for worship and study. We will rally around the fellowship that is ours as God's people. Our focus will simply be upon celebrating and thanking God for the gift he has given us in each other.

Our meal will be a simple, inexpensive picnic type meal, not designed to raise money but promote fellowship. We will still have many of the traditional activities to add to the fun of the day, and any funds raised will be used to restock our kitchen with paper products for future fellowship activities.

Please plan on joining your family of faith here at Christ Lutheran on September 26, following worship, for this day of fellowship and food. And for those of you who have been away for a while, please come back to your worship home. Your faith family misses you.

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:

- Chips—individual bags
- Breakfast/granola bars
- Fruit—raisins, fruit cups
- Dessert—pudding, jello cups
- Gum/mints

To help not have an abundance of one item, please email (office@christaustin.org) or call the church (512-442-5844) to let us know what you would like to bring.



**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**

Special Prayers in August Worship Services

- Geneva Mensing** – in rehab facility after hip surgery
- Bill and Ruth Heath**—Son-in-law and daughter of Ed and Betty Joyce Stephens, adjusting to life now after his leg amputation
- Shirley Martin** - Mother of Bill Martin, kidney surgery.
- Alex Martin** - son of Bill Martin, kidney issues
- Eddie Gonzalez** -Liz Martin's dad. He is very sick in the hospital.
- Barry Casey Jr.**, friend of Thomas Craig, electrocuted at work.
- Maigan**, coworker/friend of Amanda Ogwuegbu, in hospital with Covid.
- Pastor John**—at home, sich with some virus (but not covid).
- Isaiah Ochoa**—BJ Zarmora's oldest grandson's father. He is battling Covid and Pneumonia.
- MaryLou' Moore's family** members in Michigan, her nephew, two children, son-in-law & 2 grandchildren, have Covid. Russ, Brianne, Cody, Elliot, Matt and Amalen .
- BJ Zamora** and her family as they mourn the passing of BJ's Aunt Yolanda.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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4 Celebrations!

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

Stewardship Verses

¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20



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.

We held our August voters' meeting on Sunday, August 22. We heard reports from Pastor John, Jordan, and others. Major discussion was the Pumpkin Patch and whether or not we will host one. No decision came out of the voters' meeting, but we decided to take a vote on Sunday, August 29, after Jordan received answers from questions that were raised during the meeting.

We have started discipleship classes for our children, again, starting @10:45 and going to 11:30 each Sunday, so if you have children or grandchildren, please bring them. For the adult discipleship class, we continue to look at the parables of Jesus.

This month on Sunday, September 26, we will have a "Rally Day" type event. This event will be a little different than the typical Rally Day in the past but will be more of an event for the church to come together and rally together around Christ our Savior as well as Christ our church community. For our focus will not be to rally around Christian education, but to rally around our coming together to worship and serve as the body of Christ. We hope to see all of our members there.

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's 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

Quilting

Quilting will be the second and fourth Thursdays (September 9 and 23) at 11:00 a.m. in rooms 7 and 8.

Men's Discipleship Study Fall 2021 - Will meet on the First Tuesday of each month from September 2021 through May 2022. We'll start on September 7th at 7:30 pm in-person in the Christ's Workshop. Our topic will be the CPH book and FaithCourse "Callings for Life: God's Plan, Your Purpose" by Jeffery Leininger. If you wish to order the book (optional) on your own, and read about the sessions ahead of time, please go to cph.org. We'll be studying the book of Philippians. Please contact Jordan for details, and to sign up.

Thursday Morning Bible Study - Our study for Fall 2021 will be the CPH Life Light Bible Study called "Selected Psalms." We will meet on Thursdays at 10 am in classroom 7 & 8 from September 9th through November 11th. The cost is \$10/person for the workbook. Payments are due by Sunday, August 29th. Please contact Jordan for more information.

Pumpkin Patch—We are moving forward with hosting a pumpkin patch at Christ in 2021! We will need a lot of help in order to host the pumpkin patch in the backyard of the Christ's Workshop from Saturday, October 16th thru October 31st (or until we sell out of pumpkins). We will be having an unloading fellowship event on Friday, afternoon/evening, October 15, and forming a pumpkin brigade to unload around 500 bulk pumpkins.

Starting Sunday, September 12, sign-ups will begin to serve in various ways, including advertising and decorating the patch, helping with the unloading fellowship event, and staffing the shifts across 16 days of operation. Signing up for a shift or two to sit/stand at the patch, to greet our guests, and to sell pumpkins is a wonderful way to serve our neighborhood/community, and will enable us to hopefully keep the patch open as much as up to eight hours each weekday. The shifts are Monday-Friday 11 am-3 pm and 3-7 pm; Saturday 10 am - 2:30 pm and 2:30-7:00 pm; Sunday 12 noon-3:30 pm and 3:30 pm-7 pm.

All church proceeds from this year's pumpkin patch will benefit the wonderful non-profit organization, Water to Thrive, which builds wells and helps to bring clean water to those living in rural parts of Africa. Please contact Jordan, or Deborah Bynum, regarding this year's pumpkin patch.



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

"CHRIST EYES"

It was December 26, 1986, and I was getting dressed for work. I grabbed my underarm deodorant and rubbed it under my right arm. Then I switched hands and rubbed it under my left arm. "That's weird," I thought. It felt cool and wet, but I hadn't really noticed that on my right side. I tried it again, but nope, nothing, just the numb hardness of the rounded applicator. Over several weeks, I prayed things would change, but the numbness remained. For four years I had been seeing a neurologist about horrible pains in my lower skull brought on whenever I sneezed or bent over quickly, but all things pointed to just migraines. Maybe it was time to go back to him. The doctor's little rubber-ended hammer searched for a reflex, but my right arm stayed motionless on my lap. He said we needed some more tests. After several, there was still no diagnosis, so he mentioned a new technology, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). At the time, there was only one machine in Austin, and I was in it. Before the imaging was complete, the doctors present had a diagnosis - a Chiari Malformation with Syringomyelia. Several days later as my doctor was showing the films to us, I asked how this condition was ever diagnosed before MRI's. I'll never forget his answer: "Only in the autopsy." I love reading the Psalms. One of my favorites is Psalm 139 in which King David confesses a deep intimacy with the Lord. You hear it right from the start in verse 1, "O Lord, you have searched me and you know me." Whenever I am in our church's beautiful sanctuary and look up at the magnificent portrait of Jesus which hangs above and behind the pulpit, I think of this verse. The painting, dedicated in memory of our dear friend Judy Pietsch on April 8, 2007, is called "Christ Eyes," by artist Mike Lewis, of JesusPainter Ministries. Pastor John chose it for our church after watching him paint a similar one. No matter what, or how I'm feeling when I look at it, the eyes remind me that Jesus knows all about it. David said, "You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar (vs 2);" "Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely (vs 4);" and "All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be (vs 16)." MRI technology looked deep within my head to find the malformation that had me one hard sneeze away from death, but it could not see my pain, fear, or how my life would change. The eyes of Christ though, see everything about me. His eyes saw me before I was formed. They look into every cell of my body and see my strengths and weaknesses, the changes and pain of disease and age. They observe my every action no matter where I am, and they see perfectly, my future. His eyes peer into my mind - my thoughts, memories, desires and hopes. He looks deeply into my soul, the very essence of me, my "Duannah-ness." He sees the great joy I feel at being a Child of God, but also, every thought I have of Him, my wavering faith, the temptations, worries, doubts and fears. He sees it all - good and bad - my sinful nature that without Him, condemns me to eternal death. And what comfort this gives me!!! Yes, "Christ Eyes," the painting, is just that, paint on canvas, but also a reminder that when we look into Christ's Eyes through His Word and Sacraments, there is only mercy, compassion, forgiveness and great LOVE. Christ alone, is my true joy and salvation. And so, with David, I boldly pray, "Search me, O God, and know my heart (vs 23)." Live in me, O Lord and Savior, that I may live in You, now and forever. Amen.

With Joy in Christ! Duannah

© September is National Chiari Awareness Month. Please remember in prayer, those who live with this condition and the related Syringomyelia, as well as those researching for better ways of treatment and for a cure. Thank you, and God's Blessings!

Super Creamy Cheesy Southern Grits

Try these even if you cannot stand the thought of grits! You may be pleasantly surprised. The secret is in the same long cooking time whether using regular or quick-cooking grits. (Please, NEVER use instant grits!) These cheesy grits pair very well with a crock pot of short ribs, blackened shrimp, a simple meatloaf, or of course, a big Autumn breakfast of ham and eggs.

- 3 cups water
- 2 tsp kosher salt
- 3/4 cup regular (or quick-cooking) grits
- 1 cup evaporated milk (regular, half 'n half, or even buttermilk work well)
- 3 Tbsp. butter
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper (or to taste)
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder (or to taste)
- 1/2 to 1 cup grated sharp white cheddar cheese (or your favorite!)

*We often add a little onion powder or hot paprika.

In a medium sauce pot, bring water and salt to a full boil. Slowly add grits in a thin steady stream while whisking. Lower heat and simmer for 7 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in milk, butter and seasonings. Return to a slow boil. Then lower heat to a simmer, cover and allow to cook for at least 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add cheese. YUM!



Birthdays

Matias Reveles 9/4
Irene Flores 9/5
Harold Hoes 9/6
Debbie Harrison 9/8
Bert Stuenkel 9/9
Sandy Van Velthoven 9/13
Gracie Cano 9/14
Mary Ellen Karotkin 9/17
Joe Calvo 9/18
Peyton Rangel 9/19
Sue Etter 9/23
Adam Werchan 9/23
Katherine Werchan 9/23
Seth Werchan 9/23
Yogi Strait 9/25
Jeremy Magruder 9/27
Connie Ziehr 9/27
Margaret Cano 9/28
Cindy Zieschang 9/29

Anniversaries

Charles & Val Kanetzky
9/2/1972

Harry & Sandy Van Velthoven
9/20/2004

Lectors

9/05/2021 Gary Lippe
9/12/2021 Alan Werchan
9/19/2021 Pachalin Stennfeld
9/26/2021 Taylor Teeters

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

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.

Fellowship Committee Reports

We have started to have Fellowship after church service each Sunday. We will have a signup sheet posted in the narthex that will have a list of Sundays available for you to choose from to bring some type of refreshment. Fellowship committee will provide coffee and juice and paper products. We are planning on hosting a Rally Day type of event on Sunday, September 26, 2021. The current plan is to host a picnic type of event in the backyard of Christ workshop. Please watch the bulletin for more details. If you would like to help with any events, please contact Kim Schaare. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please feel free to email me at schaarehome@gmail.com.

Children's Discipleship Class

Classes for children on Sunday mornings have resumed. They 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.

Flower Chart

Given by...

September 5

Shirley Hoes

BJ Zamora

In honor of her Step-father's birthday, Blas "Moe" Moya

September 12

Gerald & Ellen Decker

September 19

Alice & Alan Werchan

In honor of Adam, Seth, & Katherine's 21st birthdays

September 26

Michael & Cindy Zieschang