

# Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

September 2022



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The opening words of the theme song from the Broadway hit, *The Fantasticks*, states:

"Try to remember the kind of September

When life was slow and oh, so mellow

Try to remember the kind of September

When grass was green and grain was yellow."

I haven't really experienced those kinds of Septembers since I was a boy. My adult life has been anything but slow and mellow, and as far as green grass in September... I have lived in California and Texas, neither of which is prone to wet summers, thus the grass has been much more yellow than green come September. The point of the song is to think back to a simpler and happier time, when life was not so complicated as it has now become. I think many of us long for days gone by, I know I do, like days before Covid. But longing for the past does not move us forward in the future. Like it or not, things have changed, and we have got to move and change and adapt to keep pace with our ever-changing world. That being said, what a blessing it is for us as Christians to worship a God who doesn't change - who is the same yesterday and today and forever. Though we live in an ever-changing world, we make it through this life by building our lives on the certain and changeless nature of His love. David states it most beautifully in Psalm 62: "Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken."

Have a blessed month,  
Pastor John

**PASTOR  
JOHN  
STENNFELD**



## Special Prayers in August Worship Services for Our sick family members and friends

Jean Wiley – healing from broken wrist

Dorothy Richter – high blood pressure & pacemaker surgery

Roy Pietsch – healing from aortic aneurysm surgery

Pete Fay – cancer

Alice Werchan – foot is healing properly

Richard & Connie Ziehr – Covid

Stuart Perry (son of Camille Perry) – pancreatic cancer

Lloyd (mother of Caitlin Rowlette's friend, Morgan) - brain surgery for an aneurysm.

Micka Ziehr - hernia

MaryLou Moore—surgery and sore knee

Richard Karotkin (father-in-law of Mary Karotkin) - stroke

**Pumpkin Patch** - We will host an unloading fellowship event on Sunday, October 16. At 6:00 p.m., we will form a pumpkin brigade to unload around 500 bulk pumpkins. Starting Sunday, September 11th, sign-ups will begin to serve in various ways with the patch, including for shifts to sell pumpkins thru October 31st. 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.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church  
4 Celebrations!

## Stewardship Verse

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple."

*1 Corinthians 3:16-17*



# Letter from the President

We held our August voters' meeting on Sunday 8/21/2022. We heard reports from Pastor John, Jordan, and others. No actionable issues were discussed, but information for our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was given and quarterly reports were received.

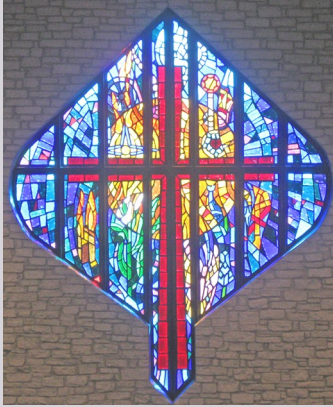
This month on Sunday, September 11, we will have a "Rally Day" picnic event. We have made this event a Thrivent Action Team event, so instead of selling tickets, we will be collecting food for the local food bank. We are also asking anyone that attends to bring a dessert to share. We are in need of volunteers to help with food prep and set up in the back yard of Christ workshop.

Our fellowship after church continues to be an enjoyable time for our members. We are always in need of folks taking a turn to provide refreshments for our time of fellowship following our church service. Please consider signing for one Sunday to bring refreshments. A big 'thank you' for all those who have taken a turn, or two, to provide refreshments for us.

Donn Trautner continues to lead discipleship class to allow Pastor John some time to heal his voice. Donn is hosting a study on prayer provided by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Please join us for this time of growth and encouragement. Thank you, Donn, for taking this task on.

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 Shaare



### **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.

### **75th Anniversary Update**

As a final recognition, the 75th anniversary committee would like to recognize the members of the congregation that have been part of the business side of the Church - boards, committees, and council members. Please join us on September 4<sup>th</sup> to recognize these members.

On Sunday September 11 we will be hosting our "Rally Around Christ" picnic in the Christ workshop backyard after worship. This will be a Thrivent Action event in which we will ask members to bring can goods to donate to the food bank, in place of selling tickets. More details to come.

We are taking orders for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary t-shirt. For more information and to order please see David or Kimberly Schaare, or contact via email [schaarehome@gmail.com](mailto:schaarehome@gmail.com)

As a final celebration and culmination of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will be having an anniversary worship service on October 23 with the Texas District President, the Rev. Michael Newman, as our guest preacher. Following the service, we will have a BBQ catered meal. Meal will consist of BBQ brisket, smoked turkey, pinto beans, macaroni and cheese, and jalapeno cornbread casserole. Tickets for the meal will be \$10/person and will go on sale Sunday, September 11.



### **34th Annual Wendish Fest**

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society and St. Paul Lutheran Church at Serbin will host the 34th Annual Wendish Fest on Sunday, the 25th of September 2022. The English worship service will be held at 8:30 a.m. followed by the German worship service at 10:30 a.m. Both St. Paul Lutheran Church and the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum Complex will be open for tours and the day will be filled with enjoyable heritage activities for everyone to enjoy. The noon meal will be the traditional Wendish meal of sausage, sauerkraut, noodles, etc. Meal tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children. For more information: [museum@texaswendish.org](mailto:museum@texaswendish.org) or 979-366-2441.



## 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 —

#### "GOD is THERE!"

LEIF, the leaf, would be different. This Autumn, when the other leaves had all been blown away, he would remain with his tree. It had filled Leif with chlorophyll to make as much energy as possible. Chlorophyll turns sunlight into the sugars and energy trees need to survive, and Leif would work hard to gather extra sunlight. His tree would be pleased and surely hang onto him. Leif was determined. He would not wither and be blown away. All through spring and summer he worked hard, and it showed. Leaves are naturally yellow due to the carotenes in their system, but they display the green of their chlorophyll, and Leif was much greener than the other leaves. But, rather than marveling at his beautiful color and hard work, the other leaves took no notice and just went diligently about their work. They seemed resolved to except their fate. Well, not him! He would please his tree and gain a lasting bond. But as the days shortened, and the temperatures dropped, he grew worried. He was losing his green and looking more and more yellow! The other leaves were also changing colors – yellows, oranges and reds – and, a dried brown just before being blown away! Leif was afraid! He could feel the hormone, auxin, which he needed to stay on his tree, running low, weakening the bond he had with his branch - but his tree did nothing! He cried out for help, and a withered brown leaf nearby replied, "There is nothing that can be done. The tree will drop us all so that it can conserve water and use less energy to survive the winter. It is our destiny." Poor Leif the leaf. But, isn't Creation amazing! Everywhere we look, the Lord is there, in control, caring – even for His trees! The prophet-priest Ezekiel, in comforting the captives in Babylon, prophesied and promised they would return home to a new Jerusalem. He was shown a vision of a river flowing from the rebuilt Temple, with fruit trees on both banks, and he said, "Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail . . . because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing" (Ezk. 47:12). Ezekiel's prophesies were made long before the birth of Jesus. He envisioned a physical new home for the Israelites. He also saw another new Jerusalem, one that would be for all people. It was the everlasting kingdom of a Savior who offers the forgiveness of sins and peace with God – the Kingdom of Christ. All believers, through God's gift of faith by the power of the Holy Spirit, belong to this kingdom. In Baptism, we are watered from the river flowing from the sanctuary of God, and our bond with Christ is sealed. There is nothing we need do, or can do, to ensure it. It was done, once and forever on the tree of Jesus' death and by the broken seal of His grave. We belong to Christ forever! Nothing, not even death, can separate us from Him! And, in the Book of Revelation, John wrote of a river "flowing from the throne of God," and of "the tree of life" whose leaves "are for the healing of the nations," (Rev. 22:1, 2). God's loving promise of an everlasting bond with Him is indeed offered to everyone. I find the Lord's Hands at work in everything that touches my life. Everywhere I look, I see Him, even in the Autumn splendor of the life of a tree. I think that's the happy ending to my little story of Leif, the Leaf. As I pondered his rather short life with the tree, I was reminded of the unbreakable bond and life eternal I have with my Savior. He holds onto me with faithful and steadfast LOVE, and He is EVER-present in every moment of my life! Yes, His greatness is beyond my understanding. But, with Ezekiel, I can say in faith, "The LORD IS THERE!" (Ezk. 48:35). *Autumn Blessings! In Christ, Duannah.*

#### Green Chilis & Beans

A quick, easy, and delicious side dish.

- 1 slice bacon, diced
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1/4 cup diced onion
- 1 Tbsp minced garlic
- 1 small can diced green chilis, drained
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 2 Tbsp. flour
- 1/2 cup chicken broth, or more to taste
- 2 cans (15.8 oz) Great Northern white beans
- Salt, to taste

In skillet, cook bacon until crisp. Remove from skillet, and set aside. To the bacon grease in the skillet, add butter, onion and garlic. Cook over medium heat 3 minutes. Add green chilis, cumin, and pepper. Stir in the flour. Cook another 3 minutes. Add chicken broth and stir until thickened (add more broth to desired consistency). Drain beans and add to skillet. Crumble bacon and fold in to beans. Cook 5-10 mins. Add salt and adjust seasonings.



# Christ Lutheran Church

September 2022

## September Birthdays

Matias Reveles	9/4
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
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

## September Anniversaries

Charles & Val Kanetzky  
9/2/1972

## Lectors

9/04/2022	MaryLou Moore
9/11/2022	Micah Stennfeld
9/18/2022	Alan Werchan
9/25/2022	Clayton Pillack

September Flower Chart  
Given by...

### September 4

Fred & Dorothy Richter  
Brenda Richter Birthday

September 11— Available

### September 18

Gerald & Ellen Decker  
For Mary Karotkin birthday

September 25 - Dale & Patty Brodbeck

**Braille** is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, September 15, 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.

**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 after Worship** - We have a Fellowship after our worship service each Sunday. A sign up 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.

**New Flower Chart** - If you sign up for a particular date on the flower chart, please remember to send/turn in your payment for your flowers, \$45 per arrangement (in advance of that Sunday).

**Men's Discipleship Study** (monthly) begins a study of the Armor of God on Tuesday, September 6 at 7:30 pm in Workshop.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study** (weekly) begins a study of the book of Hebrews on September 8 at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall.

**Nurturing Your Faith:** Called is a Bible study based on the New Testament book of Ephesians. Donn Trautner will lead this study during the Adult Discipleship class on Sundays at 10:45 beginning on Sunday, September 18.

God calls us to faith through His Word, through Baptism, through Communion, and through the witness of faithful Christians. In Nurturing Your Faith: Called, learners will see how God's call changes us and shapes us into His people. Called from the world to be new creations, by faith we recognize God at work in our lives. There will be challenges; however, as we find our voice to speak the truth in love, the world will try to silence us. Thankfully, it is God's Spirit who empowers us, giving us the words to say. . Lutheran Hour Speaker Rev. Dr. Mike Zeigler gives a video introduction to all four sessions.

**Lutheran Hymn Festival 2022** - Our congregation is due to attend the Lutheran Hymn Festival at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas on September 18 at 4:30 p.m. The festival will be led by guest organist Kantor Kevin Hildebrand, with support from brass, tympani, adult and children's choirs. Under the theme, "O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High" we will celebrate the 11th festival at the Meyerson. For ordering tickets go to [www.lutheranhymnfestival.org/tickets](http://www.lutheranhymnfestival.org/tickets). Cost of the tickets are \$20.00 each (Orchestra floor, Terrance 3rd & 4th floor boxes) and \$15.00 each (Dress Circle and Grand Tier). You will be able to select your exact seat location! All ticket subscribers must bring a printed ticket to the Meyerson. For help or more information contact Adam Hengeveld at 972-646-0905 or email at [tickets@lutheranhymnfestival.org](mailto:tickets@lutheranhymnfestival.org). This will be an inspiring and exciting event.

**Quilting** will be the second and fourth Thursdays (September 8 and September 22) at 11:00 a.m. in rooms 7 and 8.

## Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

[www.christaustin.org](http://www.christaustin.org) | Facebook | Twitter | You Tube