

# Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

February 2023



Dear Friends,

With the arrival of February, our thoughts may turn to Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, Superbowl Sunday, and maybe even President's Day. But this year another important day is in February also, Ash Wednesday. And with it begins the season of Lent.

Lent is a time of penitence, a time to prepare our hearts and minds for the sorrows of Holy Week followed by the joy of Easter. And the best way for us to prepare for those highs and lows is through the humble recognition and confession of our sins. Thus may David's words of repentance in Psalm 51 become our words of penitence too as we go through this season of Lent.

<sup>1</sup> "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. <sup>2</sup> Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. <sup>4</sup> Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, <sup>5</sup> Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. <sup>6</sup> Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>7</sup> Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. <sup>8</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."

Have a blessed month,  
Pastor John

**PASTOR  
JOHN  
STENNFELD**



## WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the  
Church

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

Mary Karotkin – healing from tumor

Hector Mercedes (Mike Mercedes' dad) – brain tumor

Family of John Dunn on the occasion of his death.

Peaceful Release from this life for Nancy (sister-in law of Gwendy Lewis) as she approaches death. And peace of heart and mind for Nancy's husband, Phil.

## Stewardship Verse

As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

*John 9:4*



## Letter from the President

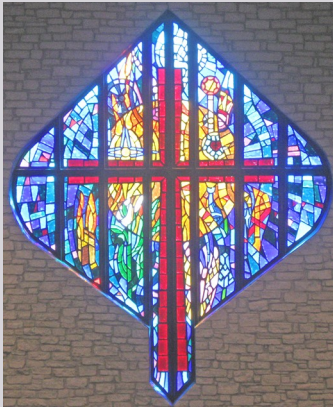
I want to thank all the elders for helping with our worship service to allow Pastor John to continue to rest his voice so he can continue to recover.

One of our congregation's great fellowship opportunities is the annual Super Bowl-of-Chili Cook-off on Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5 pm. Even if you don't want to enter the cook-off, come watch the game, share some snacks, and be a chili judge. I encourage you to participate in our Souper Bowl of Caring food drive supporting the Bread for All Food Pantry which serves our neighbors. We will be collecting food through Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

On Wednesday February 22, 2023, we start the Lenten season with Ash Wednesday. Through Lent, we will be having our soup and salad luncheon following the noon services.

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 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



### ***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.***

**2023 Church Pictorial Directory-** Starting on Sunday, January 22nd, through March 5th, we will be taking photos for a new Christ Lutheran Church Pictorial Directory. Schedule an appointment to have your photo taken after Worship, or contact Jordan and set up a time during weekly Church Office hours. To have your photos taken, please meet with Jordan in the Narthex after Worship on your scheduled Sunday. Photos will be taken on the Church porch, or in the Sanctuary, depending on the weather.

In addition, please complete an Information Card to help us make sure that your information for the directory, as well as the information for our office records (including birthday, baptismal, confirmation, wedding dates) are all correct. The printed directories will be available, one copy per family, additional copies for a nominal cost, sometime in May. We will also be updating wedding anniversary and birthday photos (for our announcement slide shows) during these photo sessions as well.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study** - We began on Thursday, January 12th at 10 am in Room 7 & 8. This class will meet each Thursday morning from 10-11 am from January 12th - March 9th, with the exception of February 2nd. The class will be studying Hebrews chapter 11 (and 12:1-13) under the theme of CPH's "The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament" book. Our study will draw upon illustrations of the Biblical narrative from various artwork and murals.

### ***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.

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

**Braille** is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, February 21, 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.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-shirts**—We have some 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary t-shirts still available. For more information, please see David or Kimberly Schaare, or contact via email [schaarehome@gmail.com](mailto:schaarehome@gmail.com)



### "I will meditate"

**"I will meditate on Your wonderful works. Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise!"**  
**Psalm 145:5, 3**

#### So Great, This Love

My sister, Yvette, and I love to handcraft cards and send them to folks, and also to each other. My favorite arrives each year around April 25<sup>th</sup>, my "second birthday." It's always lovingly designed to celebrate the day I became God's child - my Baptism, the most important day of my life! Recently, a friend told me their priest would not baptize their little boy (for personal reasons), and they were worried if something were to happen to him. She thought maybe she and her husband would talk to another priest, and I promised to pray for them. Her little boy loves his new "Papa" at church who always shakes his hand and has donuts! He was recently baptized, and my prayers of thanks are many! Since I have no children, I can't know the great joy of a parent at their child's baptism, but the Lord has blessed me through several extraordinary "baptism experiences." When my fiancé, Bill, and I were planning our lives together, my dad gave us only one bit of advice. It was priceless. He said, "I don't care where you go, but you find a good Christian church, join it, and go to worship together!" So, Bill took lessons to become Lutheran at my church, Christ Lutheran. A much older man, in his 80's, took the lessons with Bill. The Sunday they joined our family of faith, Bill stood watching as the elderly gentleman first lowered his head and was baptized, and then knelt with him at the altar. It was so poignant! A few years later, our aunt asked if it was "too late" for her son, a man in his mid-40's with severe mental retardation, to be baptized. I told her with a hug, it would be a wonderful, loving thing to do. We watched with her as our pastor baptized our bed-bound cousin who seemed captivated by the man who put water on his forehead and then wiped it off. What an amazing moment! In my government job, chats with a coworker, a nice young woman, sometimes turned to whispers on matters of faith. One day, she whispered that she was to be baptized and could Bill and I come to witness and be with her. We were there for that wonderful day! Thinking about these experiences, I was led to Jesus' own baptism. When He "was about thirty years old" (Luke 3:23), Jesus traveled from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John knowing He was the One who would take on the sins of all mankind and in our stead suffer the punishment for those sins, and overcome death by His resurrection. Those are the very blessings we receive in baptism – forgiveness, rescue from death and eternal life! We also receive Christ's Holy Spirit who freely gives us our faith in the Savior and His redeeming work - our only means of salvation. But our baptisms are not just "one and done"! St. Paul said that "inwardly we are being renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16). This "renewing" is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit who lives in us, teaching and guiding us, preparing us for Heaven; Who, with God's Word and His Holy Communion, strengthens our faith. I am in such awe of our Lord's great Love in His desire for ALL people to be His children and heirs of Heaven! And, His works through Baptism, no matter one's age, or abilities, or station in life, are such mysteries to me. But by God's Grace through the power of His Holy Spirit, I know it all to be true. So Great, This Love, His Love! My "Happy Baptism!" card from my family remains on my dresser to remind me every day that first and foremost, I am God's Child! May we all, always celebrate the blessed day of our rebirth and adoption, our Baptism! "Renewing Spirit, hear our praise for Your baptismal power that washes us through all our days; Lord, cleanse again this hour!" (LSB 591). *God's child forever, Duannah*

#### FRUIT DIP

Enjoy your Valentine's Day with this wonderful, sweet treat!

8 oz. cream cheese, room temp.  
3/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1 Tbsp. milk  
Assorted fruits, cut into chunks for dipping.

Mix all ingredients with a hand mixer until smooth. Add additional milk to desired consistency. Refrigerate. Really good with strawberries, melons, peaches, bananas, grapes, apples, etc.!



# Christ Lutheran Church

February 2023

## Birthdays

Valerie Kanetzky	2/4
Betty Joyce Stephens	2/6
Haylee Rowlette	2/7
Donn Trautner	2/7
David Schaare	2/8
Davis Magruder	2/10
Freddie Richter	2/11
Sonny Mitchell	2/11
Phil Etter	2/11
Maria Calvo	2/14
Lisa Castille	2/14
Joyce Veloz	2/15
Albert Carrion, Jr	2/15
Michael Zieschang	2/20
Barbara Craig	2/22
Jo Kautz	2/26
Joseph Calvo	2/27
Kimberly Schaare	2/27
Sarah Zieschang	2/29

## Anniversaries

Alan & Alice Werchan  
2/17/1996

## Lectors

2/5/2023	Donn Trautner
2/12/2023	Alan Werchan
2/19/2023	Taylor Teeters
2/26/2023	Clayton Pillack

## Flower Chart Given by...

### February 5

Vacant

### February 12

Brenda & Dorothy Richter & Mark Vrabel  
For Freddie Richter's Birthday

### February 19

Kevin Craig  
In honor of Barbara's birthday February 22

### February 26

Michael & Cindy Zieschang

**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.

**Lenten Soup** - The Fellowship Committee is looking for a few people to help out with the Lenten Soup after the Noon Service during Lent. We have about 50 people that stay and enjoy the soup provided with a small salad and dessert. We schedule the person with the type of soup that they will be providing and try to have a variety of soup. If you have a soup that you like to cook and can make it for 50 people, let me know at [schaarehome@gmail.com](mailto:schaarehome@gmail.com) with the name of the soup and the date you want. I need to know by February 5th, 2023 thank you. The dates of the Lenten Soup are the following Wednesdays: March 1<sup>st</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, March 15<sup>th</sup>, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Desserts** - The Fellowship Committee is asking for dessert donations for Lenten Soup lunch starting with Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Please drop them off in the kitchen and label them "For Lenten Soup Lunch" and your name. Thank you

**Souper Bowl of Caring** - The Sundays leading up to the big pro football game present an opportunity for us to collect cans and containers of soup for the Bread for All Food Pantry. Chip in during the four "quarters" of our food drive: 1st Quarter—January 22<sup>nd</sup>; 2nd Quarter—January 29<sup>th</sup>; 3rd Quarter—February 5<sup>th</sup>; 4th Quarter—February 12<sup>th</sup> by bringing non-perishable food items to the metal soup container, and table, that will be outside the Tree House Room 1 & 2 (or to the red barrel in the narthex) each of those Sundays.

**Super Bowl-of-Chili Cook-off Party** - Come join us Sunday, February 12th at 5 pm, for our Chili-Cook-Off held in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a snack to share and try your hand at cooking a pot of chili. We'll be watching the big pro football game, and snacking/eating/judging chili entries during half-time. There will be a prize provided for the winner of the chili cook-off, and with no obligation for the winner to host the event the next time around. Soda/lemonade/tea will be provided. Contact Jordan with questions. We look forward to seeing you all there for this fun fellowship event.

**2023 Flower Chart** - The flower chart for the 2023 calendar year is now posted in the narthex. Sign up early to get your preferred dates. If you sign up for a particular date, please remember to send/turn in your payment for your flowers (in advance of that Sunday). The cost is \$45 per flower arrangement.

## What is Lutheran Hour Ministries?

A Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide in its mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church.*

For more information, visit [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) or call 1-800-876-9880.

**Men's Discipleship Study** - Meets on the First Tuesday of each month through May 2023. We'll continue on February 7 at 7:30 pm in-person in the Christ's Workshop. Our topic is the Armor of God. Please contact Jordan for details, and to sign up.

## Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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