

# Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

April 2023



Dear Friends,

As Lutherans, we talk a lot about the theology of the cross, and how Jesus atoned for our sins through his suffering and death on the cross. The substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus on the cross stands at the center of our theology and our faith. We are a Good Friday people.

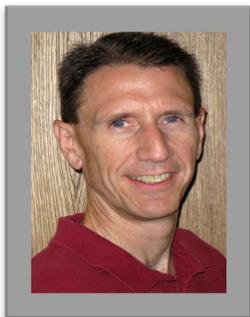
But we are also an Easter people, for without the resurrection of Jesus there is no victory over death and the grave, which means there is no eternal life and salvation. The empty tomb is as vital to our theology and faith as is the blood stained cross, and that's why the angel rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb. That stone was not moved to let Jesus out, but to let the women in, and the disciples in, and anyone who chose to look in also, so that everyone might see that Jesus was no longer there, but that he had risen, just as he said.

As we prepare to celebrate the events of Holy Week, and as we worship each and every Sunday, may we always see the importance and the necessity of both the cross and the empty tomb. We cannot have one without the other. The death and resurrection of Jesus must always be proclaimed together, for only together do they make up the whole of our salvation—forgiveness and everlasting life. To God be the glory.

In Christ,  
Pastor John

**Easter Lilies**—The Easter lilies are **\$13.50/plant** this year. Please fill out the cut away portion at the bottom of the announcement sheet or use the envelopes in the narthex and return in the offering plates or by mail to the church office ASAP. We only have 36 Easter lilies for purchase (first come, first served/paid), so please be sure to get your orders in quickly. Please make sure you write legibly, fill out the form completely, and include payment for the proper amount.

**PASTOR  
JOHN  
STENNFELD**



## WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

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

Ellen Decker – healing from broken hip  
Katherine Richter – having pacemaker put in on Thursday  
Yvette Emmrich –multiple blood clots  
BJ Zamora and Lucille Herrera - involved in a car accident  
Lucy Nieto (cousin of BJ Zamora) - Stage 4 kidney disease

**Pregnancy**—Nori Vail (Justin Vail's wife) – due in April

### Loss of Loved One

Charles and Nitia Schroeder (brother & sister-in-law of Dorothy Traugott) - Unexpected loss of their son.  
Family of Betty Shaw - Betty passed away suddenly at the age of 97.  
Gerald & Ellen Decker—loss of their daughter, Mary Karotkin  
Family of Katherine Richter, at the loss of her sister-in-law Alice Albrecht  
The Astran family (son-in-law of Lucille Herrera) - Their father, Armando, passed away.  
The De Leon family (brother of Betty Jean Herrera, daughter-in-law of Lucille Herrera - Their father, Art, passed away.  
Connie Ziehr and her family—her brother, Bill, passed away  
Family of Jewel Anderson - Jewel passed away

## Stewardship Verse

“Everything under heaven belongs to me.” — God

*Job 41:11b*



### 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



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.

This month we are coming to the end of the Lenten season culminating in our April 9<sup>th</sup> Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection and victory.

I want to personally thank all those that have provided refreshments for the fellowship after church. I know that our members that attend enjoy the fellowship. Also, another big thank you to those that provided soups and desserts for the luncheon after the midweek Lenten services as well as providing refreshments.

Also, if you have not been able to attend the weekly Lenten services, I recommend that you catch up on Pastor's sermons during this Lent season. You can find them on our website.

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

**2023 Church Pictorial Directory** - We are in the final stages of taking photos for a new Christ Lutheran Church Pictorial Directory. Schedule an appointment ASAP 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. Easter Sunday is the final day to have your picture taken.

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.

**Easter Fellowship** - The Fellowship Committee would appreciate it if everyone would bring something to share for the Fellowship on the porch after the Easter Service on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Please let David or Kim Schaare know that you are willing to bring something for that day. If you prefer to send an email our email address is: [schaarehome@gmail.com](mailto:schaarehome@gmail.com) subject line "Easter Sunday". Thank you.

**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, April 18, 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 still have some 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary t-shirts 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**

Please, first take a moment to read Psalm 8. It's only nine verses. . . . My sister told me her bluebirds arrived and are beginning to nest. They show little fear and seem to enjoy her company as she watches them catch bugs to eat and bathe in a birdbath. Soon she will watch with joy as they teach their little ones to catch their own tasty bugs and show them the delights of splashing about in the birdbath. Throughout a long history, bluebirds have come to symbolize many things to many cultures. Most notably, joy that a cold dark winter is past, and hope for spring and a productive garden. An important word to me in my walk of faith, is “HOPE.” Specifically, my HOPE in Christ - not just an expectation, but a reality; not a wish, but a confidence. I read about Psalm 8, written by David, in one of my favorite books, “Reading the Psalms with Luther.” The devotion's prayer ended with, “after the sufferings of this life, grant us to celebrate a happy Easter.” And Luther wrote, “Psalm 8 is a prophecy of Christ – His sufferings, resurrection, and kingly rule over all creatures.” Well, I didn't get that, not in this short prayerful hymn of praise. So, as I usually do, I read it out loud, several times. My Bible's Preface to Psalms reveals Luther read the Psalms VERY personally, and reading them out loud, helps make them personal for me. I realized Who I was speaking to as I said, “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens” (vs 1). And, I know I'm merely a poor, miserable sinner. In a Psalm 8 commentary I read online, the author wrote this about God's presence in the Psalms: “He is ready to crush you. His justice demands it. His power enables Him to do it . . . – but for Christ!” Yes, Christ is my only HOPE. I can say with David, “What am I that you care for me?” (vs 4), and know by faith I belong to God. I am in awe of the writers of the Psalms. They didn't know Jesus the Christ yet spoke so confidently of God's righteousness and promised salvation, His power and might, and His steadfast love, and they sang His praises. They knew that in their special relationship to God, they could pour out their hearts to Him, their joys, their fears, their highs and lows, their hopes and doubts – their longings and “Why's?,” and God would hear them and care for them. They display such trust in God as their refuge and strength. Whatever happened in their lives was fully in God's control and according to His will, and they trusted Him. I am a person of Easter. In God's Word, I've seen Jesus the Savior, a baby born of a woman, a man scorned and betrayed, pouring out His heart in prayer to His Heavenly Father, brutally beaten, nailed to a cross and forsaken by God - Who then raised Him from the dead! But for sin, how can I not trust Him? Christ is my reality, my confidence, my HOPE! I see God's power and authority over all creation everywhere I look – His majesty and glory are there. Even the sweet little bluebirds going about their lives cannot escape His gaze and care (Mt. 10:29, Lk.12:24). Such is His LOVE. Yes, I'm starting to get it. The Psalms point to Jesus! When I read them at a personal level, Christ has to be in the Psalms. He is my only HOPE! Yes, Psalm 8 is a prophecy of the Savior, a promise of His Kingdom come, of our Easter and HOPE fulfilled! And so, I can pray my devotional book's prayer for Psalm 8: “Lord Jesus, You were delivered for our offenses, and raised again for our justification. Endue Your Word with power, strengthen our faith, and after the sufferings of this life grant us to celebrate a *HAPPY EASTER*, rising again to live and reign with You in all eternity. Amen.” *Duannah*

### CORN CASSEROLE

A great side dish for your Easter meal, especially with ham.

8 oz box Jiffy Corn Muffin mix

15 oz can whole kernel corn, drained

15 oz can cream-style corn

1 cup sour cream

4 Tbsp butter, melted

1 egg, beaten

Preheat oven to 350°. Stir together all ingredients and pour into a greased baking dish (9X11). Bake uncovered 45 to 50 minutes. Serve warm.

Make it your own by adding:

bacon or sausage crumbles, shredded cheese, diced green onion or peppers, your favorite spices, etc.



### Birthdays

Lawrence Oldham 4/1  
 Trinity Stennfeld 4/6  
 Charles Kanetzky 4/9  
 Amanda Ogwuegbu 4/11  
 Stella Magruder 4/11  
 MaryLou Moore 4/13  
 Alan Werchan 4/16  
 Michelle Bennight 4/19  
 Cindy Bailey 4/26  
 Daniel Albers 4/27

### Anniversaries

Douglas & Deborah Bynum  
 4/2/1977  
  
 Mark & Micka Ziehr  
 4/3/1983  
  
 Jordan & Kristen Boessling  
 4/18/2021  
  
 James & Elizabeth Chapman  
 4/25/1987

### Lectors

4/02/2023 Taylor Teeters  
 4/09/2023 Clayton Pillack  
 4/16/2023 MaryLou Moore  
 4/23/2023 Gary Lippe

### Flower Chart Given by...

April 2  
 Duannah Ashmore  
April 9  
 Shefstad/Brodbeck  
April 16  
 In Remembrance of  
 Dorothy Craig's Birthday 4/20  
April 23  
 David & Pamela Hamil  
 Nori & Justin's Anniversary  
April 30  
 Vacant

**Men's Discipleship Study** - Meets on the First Tuesday of each month through May 2023. We'll continue on April 4 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.

**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.

Do you know someone who could really use some encouragement? Someone facing a major life change? Someone struggling with grief, regret or forgiveness? If so, check out the Project Connect display located next to the pew in the narthex. A number of new publications from Lutheran Hour Ministries have been added to the spinner in hopes of helping you, or someone you love, with a life issue. If you don't see a topic for which you are seeking information, please talk to LHM Ambassador Donn Trautner, or go to the Lutheran Hour website page at [lhm.org/projectconnect](http://lhm.org/projectconnect)

Remember you can listen to the Lutheran Hour each week online at [lutheranhour.org](http://lutheranhour.org) or on the following:

KHCB	Austin, TX	90.9	FM	Sun	12:30 PM
KHIB	Austin, TX	88.5	FM	Sun	12:30 PM
KLBJ	Austin, TX	590	AM	Sun	7:04 AM
KLBJ	Austin, TX	99.7	FM	Sun	7:04 AM
KTXW	Austin, TX	1120	AM	Sun	6:00 PM

### Adult Discipleship Study

Continuing each Sunday through Lent, the Adult Discipleship Class will look at a course entitled **The Intersection of Church and State**. Over the six weeks, we will examine the dynamic give-and-take relationship that has marked the crossroads of church and state in the United States. Though roadblocks are frequent where church and state meet, there is still tremendous potential for significant work to be done where they work together. This study is one of many resources that are available on the Lutheran Hour website ([lhm.org](http://lhm.org))

### 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.

The (Im)partial Church Podcast released its second season on February 6th! The (Im)partial Church is a hopeful podcast about race, culture, diversity, and the Christian faith. Hosted by LCMS Pastor Gerard Bolling and his sister, Professor Janine Bolling, this podcast is a hopeful and helpful dialogue from the personal experiences and deep Biblical knowledge of the hosts. You can learn more at <https://www.lhm.org/theimpartialchurch/>.

LHM has a Lenten series entitled *Man of Sorrows, People of Joy* available at [lhm.org/lent](http://lhm.org/lent).

**2023 Flower Chart** - The flower chart for the 2023 calendar year is posted in the narthex. 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.

### Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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