

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

April 2024



Dear Friends,

Christ is risen, he is risen indeed. As we live in the afterglow of our Easter celebrations, we do so always remembering that Jesus is not dead; he is alive. This news changed the history and the future of the world, and completely changed the trajectory of our lives. Every day we live, every trial we endure, we do so in light of the truth that Jesus is alive, and because he is alive he reigns as our Lord — our Lord over illness and danger and sorrow and hardship, and even over death. And he will be with us always, just as he promised and will give us the strength to overcome. His loving, powerful, death defying grace will always be sufficient for us.

May the empty tomb of Jesus be a constant reminder to us of the present and eternal victory that is our through faith in Christ Jesus.

To God be the glory,
Pastor John

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



WHAT'S INSIDE

2-4 Around the Church

Continuing Prayers from March Worship Services for Our family members and friends

Duannah Ashmore - Rehab
Paul Albrecht (brother of Katherine Richter) – heart problems
Donn Trautner - blood in the eye causing some blurry vision
Ron Bautista (friend of Kevin Craig) - bone cancer
Bryan Richter and family - Bryan is being called up for active duty
Kristi and Dennis Andersen (Pastor's sister) - adult son with autism in mental hospital

Expecting Parents

Amanda and Onyema Ogwuegbu

Live Streaming of Worship Services & Archives of Pastor's Sermons

-Please be sure to go to Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Austin-78704-121095017909219/> for Facebook Live streaming (and archives) of our Worship services
-Please be sure to go to YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@ChristAustinSermons>) for Pastor John's weekly sermon videos (with visuals)

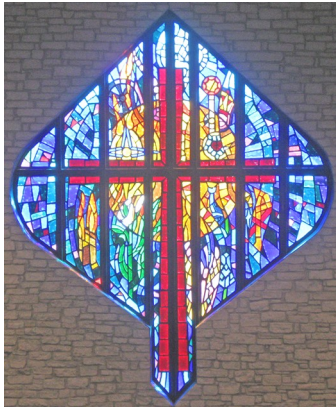
Stewardship Verse

Freely you have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:8b



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.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Thanks to all who made our Easter celebration possible.

There will be a voter's meeting on April 21st after the worship service. At this meeting, the voters will be asked to consider an amendment to the Constitution of our church recommended by the Council that would allow both men and women to serve our congregation in the role of president and vice-president. Over the last number of years, it has been increasingly difficult to find individuals willing to serve in these roles. The Council has proposed the change to expand the pool of eligible candidates. While our church body limits the pastoral office and the exercise of pastoral authority to men, it is the opinion of Council and of Pastor John that the roles of president and vice-president do not involve the pastoral office or exercise of pastoral authority. Rather, these roles are seen as ensuring the orderly conduct of the earthly affairs of our congregation. We ask you to prayerfully consider this amendment and talk to any of the council members, Pastor John or me if you have questions or concerns. Beyond the proposed amendment, we plan to have a debriefing and discussion on the Pumpkin Patch as well as to hear and approve other reports.

In the last couple of weeks, the Council approved a new insurance policy for our congregation. Like many other churches in Texas, our prior insurer notified us last fall that they were not renewing our policies. I would like to extend a special word of thanks to Trustee Chair Phil Etter, who worked tirelessly to get us coverage. Although we have a significant increase in cost, we are one of the fortunate congregations that was able secure that coverage.

I will close by quoting the refrain of one of my favorite Easter hymns, *This Joyful Eastertide*: "Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst His three-day prison, our faith had been in vain; but now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen; but now has Christ arisen!" Thanks be to God for this certainty!

Women of Christ - We will meet at the home of Barbara Craig on Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm.
Contact Barbara Craig or Patty Brodbeck for additional information.

Altar Flower Chart - The flower chart for the 2024 calendar year is now 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. Please note on the flower chart if the flowers are being dedicated.

Adult Discipleship Class—"I identify as ..." are words that we hear so often today, and are often words that divide us, and words that have taken on a political and social life of their own. For many, their "identity" has become their god. But in reality, for Christians, our identity is centered in the knowledge of and love for Jesus Christ and His redeeming work on the cross. Join us during the Adult Bible Class on Sundays to explore how the Triune God delivers us from the tyranny of identity confusion in "Nurturing Your Faith: Identity."





“I will meditate”

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

“THE Story of LOVE”

May I tell you a story of LOVE? It's not merely a story, a work of fiction. Rather, it is a truth foretold by the Creator, Himself, and foretold by the Ancients through the ages. It is a true narrative written and recorded by four biographers, and expounded upon by those who witnessed or had knowledge of the narrative. You know this story of LOVE, so inexplicable to man, so unbelievable, and yet, by the power of the Holy Spirit, you do so believe! May I share with you, a few of my favorite words from our Holy Bible, words inspired by God, to tell the story of LOVE. God told Satan in His first promise of LOVE, “I will put enmity between you and the woman; He will crush your head” (Gen 3:15). And the Lord promised, “I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel...I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more” (Jer 31:31,34). Some 700 years prior to the birth of Jesus, Micah and Isaiah prophesied. “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, ...out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old (Mic 5:2). “The Lord will give you a sign; The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel” (Isa 7:14). And now, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light” (Isa 9:2). “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isa 9:6). Jesus, being without sin, was baptized by John to prepare the waters of forgiveness in Holy Baptism, for all sinners. To this, God said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased” (Matt 3:17). But throughout His life, “He was despised and rejected by men” (Isa 53:3). Then, as Zechariah predicted almost 500 years before Jesus' birth, He entered Jerusalem to shouts of Hosanna! (John 12:13), “righteous and having salvation...riding on a donkey” (Zech 9:9). But, at His Last Supper, Jesus said to His disciples, “One of you will betray me.” And to Judas, “What you are about to do, do quickly” (John 13:21,27). Jesus was arrested and taken away. Soldiers put a scarlet robe and a crown of thorns on Him. They mocked Him and spit on Him, and struck Him on the head again and again, and led Him away to crucify Him (Matt 27:28-31). Jesus cried out from His cross, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt 27:46). And, He breathed His last breath. A centurion who heard and saw it all, said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!” (Mark 15:39). Jesus was laid in a tomb, and “Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where He was laid” (Mark 15:47). On the third day, the women who had prepared spices for Jesus' body, found the tomb empty! An angel told them, “He is not here; He has risen, just as He said!” “So the women hurried away from the tomb... and ran to tell His disciples” (Matt 28:6,8). The story of LOVE, the LOVE of God manifest in His only Son who lived, suffered and died for the forgiveness of all sin, and then rose in victory over death, is indeed not just a story, but a truth spoken by a cloud of witnesses throughout the ages that fill the pages of my Bible. Before his arrest, Jesus prayed, “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory You have given me” (John 17:24). Because of this great LOVE, because of the work of Jesus Christ, we will know Him fully and live in the presence of God the Father forever! And I can say with Job, “I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And... in my flesh I will see God!” (Job 19:25,26). HE IS RISEN! INDEED! *In Christ's LOVE, Duannah*

To my family of faith in and of Christ: Thank you so very much for your thoughts, cards, encouraging words, and especially, your prayers during my recent illness. By our loving Lord's will, I am home and continuing with therapy to try to restore and strengthen my muscles. May the Lord be with you and bless you always. Duannah

Blonde Brownies

Pack up a batch of these easy to make brownies for your Total Solar Eclipse viewing on Monday, April 8, 2024! A great addition to a fun outing!

- 1 1/2 sticks butter, melted
- 1 box brown sugar (about 2 1/4 c. + 1 Tbsp firmly packed)
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 2/3 c. flour
- 2 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 1 small pkg. chocolate chips (6 oz)
- 1/2 c. chopped nuts (optional)

With mixer, combine melted butter and brown sugar. Add eggs and vanilla. In another mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt, chocolate chips, and nuts. Stir into brown sugar mixture. Spread into a 9x13, or 10 1/2 x 15 1/2 lightly greased pan. Bake at 350° for 20-25 minutes.



Christ Lutheran Church

April 2024

Birthdays

Lawrence Oldham 4/1
 Trinity Becker 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

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

Flower Chart Given by...

April 7

MaryLou Moore
MaryLou & Amanda's birthdays

April 14

Patty Brodbeck

April 21

Kevin & Barbara Craig
In memory of Dorothy & Tommie Craig

April 28

Duannah Ashmore

Lectors

4/07/2024 Clayton Pillack
 4/14/2024 MaryLou Moore
 4/21/2024 Gary Lippe
 4/28/2024 Alan Werchan

Braille is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, April 19, at 9:00 a.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Car pool from Christ @8:30. Let Mildred Westfall (512) 385-6609 know if you plan to go.

Men's Discipleship Study - Our monthly men's study for 2023-2024 will meet on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:30pm in Christ's Workshop.

Online Giving - The donation tool interface for Online giving, please go to <https://www.christaustin.org/vanco-online-giving/>. If you have the old link saved, you might need to delete and add a new bookmark for the new link.

Fellowship after Worship - 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. There are 2 spaces for each Sunday. If you would like to host a Sunday alone, please cross out the second space, but if you would like to have a partner to host it with you, leave that space open for someone to team up with you. There is also a Sign Up Genius link where you can go online and sign up to help out in this capacity. Sign Up Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FA5A82DAAF4C43-45825210-fellowship>

The Fellowship committee will provide coffee and juice and paper products. Please consider hosting one of our Sunday Fellowships.

Lutheran Hour Ministries—Lutheran Hour Ministries has introduced a new online program called “Three.” Thred empowers, equips, and inspires you to engage in meaningful conversations with confidence. At Thred.org, you’ll discover:

Free Resources Download free content to help you embrace your God-given purpose, share your faith online, and more.

In-Depth Courses: Grow your skills and confidence to truly listen to others and initiate spiritual conversations as you engage online.

The Thred Blog: Explore diverse voices from our growing community of contributors speaking into matters of faith and culture.

Dynamic Community: Share ideas and learn from others who are creating authentic, relevant, and meaningful digital experiences. Visit the new site to explore how to use your digital voice and engage in more meaningful spiritual conversations with confidence.

Volunteer Opportunities in the Community - For more information regarding how to get connected to how to sign up with these organizations to help with some upcoming volunteer projects this Spring, please contact Jordan.

On Saturday morning, April 20th, thousands of volunteers will be out caring for Austin's streets, creeks, parks, and more at over 100 sites in all ten city council districts. During Keep Austin Beautiful Day, volunteers have the opportunity to work together to remove litter, restore native habitats, and beautify neighborhoods.

BookSpring is hosting BookSpring Fest, a Read Aloud Celebration at their headquarters (1807 W Slaughter Ln, BLDG 1, Austin, TX 78748) on Saturday, May 4th from 12-6pm. BookSpring is looking for volunteers to help with the carnival games, parking, check-in, and other day-of tasks that will need to be completed. Volunteers must be 16 years of age to participate.

Camp Lone Star's annual Work Weekend is taking place in La Grange, TX from Friday, May 17 through Sunday, May 19 to prepare the Camp for summer 2024 programming. Adults will be able to sign up for Saturday work projects, while Camp Lone Star summer staff will lead the youth in age-appropriate service projects on Saturday morning and classic Camp activities in the afternoon.

Keep Austin Beautiful - <https://www.givepulse.com/group/238371-Keep-Austin-Beautiful-Day>

BookSpring - <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1248108956024/false#/invitation>

Camp Lone Star - <https://camplonestar.org/work-weekend/>

Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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