

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

August 2023



Dear Friends,

One of my favorite chapters in the Bible is John 6. And my favorite part of that chapter is not the miracle of Jesus feeding the 5,000, or the one of him walking on the water, but it is the part where he calls himself the bread of life and where he says to the crowds: ⁵³“I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.” ⁵⁴Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. “ And then the text of John states: ⁶⁶“From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.” To which Jesus then asks his 12 disciples: “You do not want to leave too do you?” And Simon Peter then answered him: “Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

It doesn't matter how difficult or trying the trial that lay before us, there is no better way to face it than with Christ Jesus by our side. He is the one who has the words of life, and He is the one that can get us through or over or past our trials and temptations. He endured the cross for us and overcame the grave for us, and by his all sufficient grace he will help us through whatever struggle we face. To God be the glory for the gift of His son.

Have a blessed month,
Pastor John

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

Special Prayers in July Worship Services for Our family members and friends

Kathy Bartels (former member of Christ and family member of the Roy Pietsch and the Werchans) - blocked intestine
Gwendy Lewis – broken wrist
Buddy Evaristo Reyna (two week old son of a friend of Alicia Zamora) -lung issues
Lucille Herrera – Eye Surgery
Gary Lippe – continued healing from cancer
Katherine Richter - thyroid surgery on Wednesday, July 26
Clayton Pillack– melanoma on arm
Family of Juanita Londenberg (former member) at her passing

Traveling

Donn & Phyllis Trautner
Roy Pietsch & Mary Ann Triesch
Felix & Louise Alexander

Pregnancy

Christin Mercedes – health and safety during pregnancy

Prayer of Thanks

Lucille Herrera's eye surgery went well.
Katherine Richter came through her thyroid surgery well

Special Requests - Rain

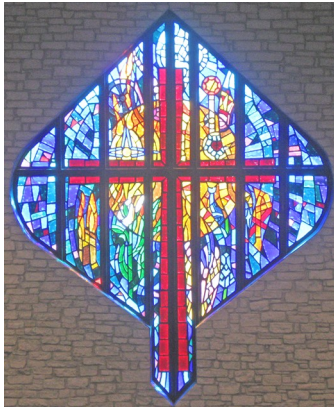
Stewardship Verse

¹³ Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. ¹⁴ At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality, ¹⁵ as it is written: "He who gathered much did not have too much, and he who gathered little did not have too little."

II Corinthians 8:13-15



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.

Pastor John continues his summer sermon series based on God's Promises. If you miss any of these sermons, they are available on our website. In discipleship class we are studying the book of Galatians.

The church council met on July 11th 2023. One of the main topics was to set the date of the August voters meeting. It will be held on August 27 @ 10:45 in the sanctuary. Please plan to attend to help take care of some of the business of the church.

Our fellowship after church continues to be an enjoyable time for most of our members. We are still in need of people to sign up to provide refreshments after our church service. Please consider signing up for one Sunday to bring refreshments. A big thank you to those that have signed up.

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

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Because some of you don't have access to the emails we send out, I am including this letter in our August newsletter also. For many of you this will be repeat information, but I wanted to make sure this news was sent out to everyone in our church family.

I would have rather told you this in person, but I am still coming to terms with it myself, and I am still having a hard time talking about it. For the last couple of years my blood work at my yearly physicals has shown me to be somewhat anemic. This year things progressed. After a number of tests, my doctor called me at 8:24pm on June 27 and told me that I have chronic lymphocytic leukemia. As I have come to understand it, it is not a curable disease, but it is a treatable disease. I saw my oncologist on Tuesday of this past week, and he was hopeful. I am in the early stages of the disease it appears, and it is generally a slow progressing disease, so I will not be doing any treatments quite yet. Unlike other cancers in which early detection helps with early treatment, this one is not usually treated until more symptoms start appearing. By God's grace I am not at that stage yet.

I had a family meeting with my girls a couple of weeks ago to let them know. That was a very hard night with many tears. Though I am very saddened by the thoughts of my life not being near as long as I had hoped and planned and saved for, I am hopeful that God will still grant me many more years of quality life with my family and still in ministry also. I do not have any plans of retiring early as of this moment, but that could certainly change if my health status changes.

I find myself in a very strange place spiritually, wanting to thank God for every moment and every day that I have, and yet not wanting to think about this disease and what it will probably eventually do to me. When I think about it, I get anxious, and that anxiousness I can physically feel in my chest. So, I don't want to dwell upon it... but I also don't want to take even one moment for granted, for I know that every moment of feeling good is a gift from God.

Apparently, this is a common disease among older adults, especially older white males, but I am on the younger side of those who get it. The doctor said that this is a cancer that much research is being done on, and one which they are continuing to find new ways to treat, and thus the longer I can stave off the growth of the disease the better. But of course, there is nothing I can do to do that. All of that is completely in God's hands. And so, I pray, and I trust, and I hope, and I do my best to walk by faith and not by sight. I firmly believe that God can still divide waters and slay giants, and thus I am praying that He will slay this giant that stands before me and provide a way through this disease for me to still give me many more years of life and service in this world. As I said in my message on Sunday, God's grace is sufficient for us. Believing that, I know His grace will get me, and my family, and our church family through this regardless of how it all turns out.

I am sorry to drop this bomb on all of you. I know you all have your own struggles and challenges before you. I do ask that you keep me in your prayers. I believe that God answers prayers, and I also believe that God keeps His promises, and He has promised that when we call upon Him in our day of trouble that He will answer. I don't know what that answer will be for me, but I do know that whatever it is it will be aimed at working good for me even amid this difficult situation and that His grace will somehow be sufficient for me.

Thanks for listening, and thank you in advance for your prayers.
God be with you all and keep you in His care.

Yours in Christ,
pastor john

“I will meditate”

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

MORNING BY MORNING

My husband, Bill, and I would have celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this August 11th, if he had not died. O! We would have fun! Knowing him, we’d climb into our truck with a few changes of clothes and a map, and head wherever we wanted – ROAD TRIP! – our favorite thing to do. One time, we headed north from Austin with a couple of “emergency” changes of clothes – “just for the day.” In Nebraska, I asked Bill how much farther we were going, and he grinned. I grabbed our phone and cancelled several upcoming appointments. When we reached a Canadian port of entry in North Dakota, we finally decided to turn and head home. Fun! There were worries on our hundreds of road trips: automotive problems with tires, transmission, broken windshield, etc., often with financial shortages; road work and detours; bad weather; illness, migraines, an infected tooth; and even law enforcement stops for broken taillights, and suspicious activity! We got through it all but not always when, where, or how we wanted. But things always “worked out.” Thinking back over the 44 years we were married and the six years since Bill’s death, life moved along a lot like our road trips. There were dreams, plans, a direction to head, goals to achieve - and fun! And detours, troubles, pain and illness, loss and fear - and tears. But as I went through it all, there was always this truth: God provides. I guess many would say, “That’s just life! Sometimes you’re lucky, sometimes you’re not.” But for me, I know with more and more certainty, in ALL things, God provides. I see His love in the sunrise and changing seasons, in clean water from a faucet and cool air from a vent, and in an HEB delivery driver. Even when things seem all wrong and hopeless, God is with me, caring for me out of great compassion. I was hospitalized, unable to move my limbs, and I regained much with advanced therapy. I was unconscious with a massive infection, and I survived by a surgeon’s steady hands. I was told my husband had been found dead, and I’ve lived a good life even without him, through the overwhelming love of family. From the routine to the extraordinary, God’s mercies, the goodness and blessings that flow out of His love, never stop! The prophet Jeremiah experienced the horrible suffering and death of his people, the Jews, at the hands of invading Babylonians, and he wrote these words of encouragement: “But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope; the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, therefore I will hope in Him.” (Lam 3:21-24). Like Jeremiah and the Jews, we are sinners, undeserving of God’s favors, and, we share the same hope, the Messiah! We see God’s unceasing mercy in the forgiveness of our sins, bought by the suffering and death of His only Son, Jesus. By faith, we now live in peace with God, and in the resurrection of Christ, we will live with Him forever. So great is our God and His Love! And, His love is unwavering. He remains faithful, and nothing can separate us, God’s children, from Him, not even death! God provides, but in sin and weakness, I do often struggle to find displays of His providing care anywhere. That’s when I try to remember to be still, and to pray. As I pray, Christ’s Spirit strengthens my faith, reminding me of God’s compassion - and I am renewed. In the beautiful words of the hymn, *Great is Thy Faithfulness (LSB 809)*, the author writes, “*Morning by morning new mercies I see. Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*” There is a truth, a promise I know with all certainty and hope: God, in His great and never-ending love, provides. In Christ, He always has, He always will. Thanks be to God! *Duannah*

NATE’S SLAW DOGS

In an open hot dog bun, spread your favorite condiment: mustard, ketchup, mayo, Ranch or French dressing, etc.

Add a generous layer of thinly shredded cabbage. Top with thinly sliced or diced, bell pepper and onion, and add some sweet pickle. Heat up a wiener, your way, and place on top of slaw. Top with melted cheese. YUM!

Flower Chart Given by...

August 6

Alexanders
Colby & Karina Wedding

August 13

Michael & Cindy Zieschang

August 20

Vacant

August 27

David & Kim Schaare

Altar Flower Chart - The flower chart for the 2023 calendar year that is posted in the narthex has some openings through the end of December for which a 1st arrangement has not been signed up for yet. These are August 20, September 10 & 17, October 1 & 29, and November 5th. 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 Church

August 2023

Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Zoe Allen | 8/3 |
| Caitlin Rowlette | 8/7 |
| Bob Wiley | 8/11 |
| Sherri Shadrock | 8/13 |
| Lindsey Sermons | 8/15 |
| Mark Ziehr | 8/16 |
| Tyler Hentschke | 8/18 |
| Micka Ziehr | 8/18 |
| Belinda Reveles | 8/19 |
| Clayton Pillack | 8/23 |
| Dana Magruder | 8/24 |
| Kevin Craig | 8/28 |
| LeMorris Galbreath | 8/29 |
| Mehkiya Batts | 8/31 |

Anniversaries

Bob & Jean Wiley
8/11/1979

Rev. John & Pachalin Stennfeld
8/13/1989

Michael & Cindy Zieschang
8/15/1987

Harold & Shirley Hoes
8/18/1962

Albert & Jane Carrion
8/20/1988

Richard & Connie Ziehr
8/25/1957

Mike & Christin Mercedes
8/31/2019

Lectors

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 8/6/2023 | Taylor Teeters |
| 8/13/2023 | Clayton Pillack |
| 8/20/2023 | Alan Werchan |
| 8/27/2023 | Gary Lippe |

Braille is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, August 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.

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

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.

Volunteer with Marbridge Ranch - We will be volunteering at Marbridge (2310 Bliss Spillar Road, Manchaca, TX 78652) on Saturday, August 19th from 9:30 - 11:00 am. Marbridge (www.marbridge.org) is a non-profit residential community that offers transitional and lifetime care to adults with a wide range of cognitive disabilities and—through compassion and faith—provides them opportunities to learn, experience and achieve a whole new life. We will spend time engaging with the residents through arts and crafts projects. Please contact Jordan at the Church (or via email: jordan@christaustin.org) for details, and to sign up by Sunday, August 13 to volunteer.

Lutheran Hour Ministries—Do you use your cell phone to listen to encouraging programs? A new app has been developed by Lutheran Hour Ministries on which you can listen to this week's broadcast, search for past sermons by topic or by year. The app also provides a transcript of the sermon, allows the user to share it with a friend, and give the user the opportunity to take notes which can be saved for future referenced. See the illustration below for details. The Lutheran Hour is one of the longest running radio programs in history, and each Sunday a new sermon is sent out through radio stations all over the world. In Austin tune in at 7:04 am on 590 AM or 99.7 FM; at 12:30 pm on 90.9 FM or 88.5 FM; or at 6:00 pm on 1120 AM. The sermon is also available through a number of other sources which are listed below.

Finally, last month we shared information regarding help available in created a personal will. Another source is freewill.com. This free option walks you through creating a will and gives you the opportunity to make donations to any charitable organization you choose. After creating the will, you just need to have it notarized. There is also the option on the site to create a Durable Financial Power of Attorney and a Living Will. (Thanks to Sue Etter for the source)

If you have any questions, please see Donn Trautner, our LHM representative.

Thursday Morning Bible Study - We will begin on Thursday, September 7th at 10 am in Room 7 & 8. This class will meet each Thursday morning from 10-11 am from September 7th - November 2nd. The class will continue to study Hebrews chapter 11 (and 12:1-13) under the theme of CPH's "The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament" book. Due to a generous donation from one of our people, the workbooks for this study were/will be provided at no cost to the participants. We do ask that those participating in this study sign up by Tuesday, August 29 (by contacting Jordan at the church office via phone or email jordan@christaustin.org) so that we might order the appropriate number of additional books.

Men's Discipleship Study - Our monthly men's study for 2023-2024 will begin on Tuesday, September 5th, at 7:30pm in Christ's Workshop. We will meet each month on the 1st Tuesday of the month through May 2nd. This year we will be guided in our time together by the book from Concordia Publishing House entitled: "Grace Under Pressure: Responding Faithfully to Stress" by Rev. Chris Kennedy. These books will be provided at no cost to the individual participants by virtue of a generous gift given by one of our people. Those men desiring to participate should contact Jordan (by way of email jordan@christaustin.org or calling the church office) by Tuesday, August 29th, so that he knows how many books to order.

Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

www.christaustin.org | Facebook | Twitter | You Tube