

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

July 2023



Dear Friends,

As we enter July my thoughts immediately turn to July 4th and the celebration of our nation's birthday (#247). Though we certainly have our share of issues and trials and challenges, and though many in our nation have turned away from God, yet His blessings upon us are innumerable. Sometimes we forget how truly blessed we are because we focus upon what we do have. And sometimes it helps us to travel outside of our country to be reminded of how good we have it here in America.

My daughter Trinity, and her husband Stephen, were recently reminded of this as they traveled to Jamaica for their honeymoon. Though they stayed at a nice resort, it just wasn't what you would expect to find at a nice place in America. And traveling to and from the resort from the airport they were reminded of the poverty that is a daily existence for so many people in the world.

As we celebrate our nation's birthday on July 4th, I hope you will take time to thank God for this nation, and that we have the opportunity to live in and be citizens of this nation. Regardless of our shortcomings, we are still most blessed. "America! America! God shed His grace on thee."

To God be the Glory,
Pastor John

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

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

Joe Calvo – recovering in rehab center from fall.

Pastor Jonathan Bontke, pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church - cancer

Lucille Herrera - eye surgery on Monday, June 5

Nic Haghigatian (cousin to BJ Zamora) – medical Issues

Gary Lippe – healing from lung surgery

Ann Stuenkel (sister-in-law of Bert Stuenkel) - kidney infection

Kathy Bartels (former member of Christ and family member of the Roy Pietsch and the Werchans) - blocked intestine

Kristi (Pastor's sister), and her son Josh, and their family in your prayers. Josh is 27 years old and has rather severe autism. He is currently in the psychiatric wing of his local hospital, unable to deal with some of the situations in his life.

Milton Ihlo— awaiting gall bladder surgery.

Traveling

Betty Joyce Stephens - Germany May 30 through June 12.

Stephen & Trinity Becker on their honeymoon.

Pregnancy

Christin Mercedes – health and safety during pregnancy

Stewardship Verse

⁸ "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

Malachi 3:8-10





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 started a summer sermon series called “Promises, Promises: A Reassuring Look at the Promises of God.” I think this will be a great series. If you miss any of these sermons, they are available on our website or our Facebook page.

The church council will meet in July to set the voters meeting for August.

Our fellowship after church continues to be an enjoyable time for most our members. We are very appreciative to those that have signed up in the past, but still in need of people sign up to provide refreshments for after our church service. Please consider signing for one Sunday to bring refreshments.

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

Christ Lutheran Social Media & Pastor's Sermons

-Go to the Church's web site at <http://www.christaustin.org> for Gospel content and CLC information

-Go to Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Austin-78704-121095017909219/> especially to tune into Facebook Live streaming of our Worship services

-Go to Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ChristATX78704> especially to read Bible verses that also get posted on Facebook during the week

-Go to YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@ChristAustinSermons>) for Pastor John's sermon videos (with visuals) from the past five years

Camp Lone Star BBQ & Auction

The Annual Camp Lone Star BBQ & Auction will be held this year on Sunday, July 30th – always the last Sunday in July. The day starts off at 9:45 a.m. with a special dedication and ribbon cutting for Camp’s newest ministry space, the Base Camp Dining Hall. After that, the service begins at 10:45 a.m. with music by Camp Lone Star Summer Staff. The worship message will be given by Rev. John Karle, Lead Missionary and Campus Pastor at University Lutheran Chapel in College Station. Immediately after the service, a delicious barbecue meal is served. The benefit live auction is held in the Koop Center from 1-3 p.m. Silent auction tables will offer bidding opportunities as well. Come out for this reunion of Camp Lone Star “family” and show your support! (For more information, a map to Camp, or to donate an item to the auction, call 979-968-1657.)

Bread for All

This local food pantry in 78704 has an ongoing need for grocery bags that they utilize on Monday evenings for distributing and sharing food with neighbors. Of particular need are plastic grocery bags from HEB, as well as the paper grocery bags from Randall's and Central Market. The following list are staple foods that Bread for All includes in all food bags. 1 lb. Rice (any kind); 1 lb. dry beans or lentils (any kind); canned beans, veggies, fruit; canned soup; pasta; oatmeal (small cans or packages or even single serve assortments). They can't repack bulk food items (health dept. rules) so the small packages are best. Please place grocery bags and food donations for Bread for All in the designated red barrel in the narthex.



“I will meditate”

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

FEET

I saw a foot doctor the other day. It was not unpleasant although my ego took a little beating. My feet, especially the left one, are not pretty. They were normal looking, but now, my severely damaged spinal cord’s effects on nerves and muscles, are making my legs and left foot look, well, weird. It’s no big deal as I wear heavy-duty compression stockings and shoes every day, and my feet stay hidden. Well, that day, a nice young Tech helped remove my shoes and stockings, and then lifted my legs onto an exam chair. As I sat there a bit slumped and uncomfortable, I thought, or imagined, I saw him grimace slightly when he glanced down at my swollen, cracked, and discolored feet and legs. I wanted to explain how a sick spinal cord can cause a lot of things to go wrong, but the doctor walked in. My therapist and my primary doctor had advised me to see a podiatrist for “excessive supination” which can cause a fall. Weakness and shifting along my spine cause me to walk on the outside edge of my left foot which has thrown off all my alignment. Plus, it hurts! In sin, I was feeling a bit embarrassed and sorry for myself, but a Bible verse came to mind. I couldn’t remember fully – just something in Isaiah about “beautiful feet”? So, I looked it up that night. O yes, the wonderful, comforting words in Isaiah 52:7-12+. “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news!” (vs 7). Isaiah prophesied of messengers coming to announce good news to God’s people when captive in Babylon: They will proclaim, “Your God reigns!” and everyone will shout and sing for joy. The Lord cares about His people and will redeem Israel. He will show His great might and reign over all people! With God Himself to lead and guard them, they will return home peacefully and safely to freedom, to serve the Lord! Isaiah did not write about the physical beauty of the messengers’ feet but rather the beauty of what they did. They carried the messengers who brought the good news! St. Paul liked verse 7 also. In his letter to the Romans he wrote, “How can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” (Rom. 10). He wrote of preachers, our Christian preachers, those authorized and sent to proclaim the Gospel. God speaks through them! Well, I don’t believe I’ve ever seen my Pastor’s, or any pastor’s, bare feet, but I know they are indeed “beautiful!” That’s because those feet carry them each Sunday morning from the comfort of their home to a church, as they make preparations, as they rise from prayer and step into a pulpit, all to tell me the GOOD NEWS that in Christ I am saved! And it is GOOD NEWS because, they remind me, I am a sinner deserving of eternal death, but Jesus died on a cross as punishment for my sins and rose from the grave in victory over that death that I may live with Him forever! But as I thought about this, I realized that just as it takes a healthy spinal cord to provide the necessary stimuli to move feet, it takes something more to move the feet of those who proclaim the Gospel. It takes special “stimuli,” something from the heart, a gift from God. It takes an abiding faith in, and love for, the one true Savior, Christ our Lord. And it’s not only pastors’ feet that are beautiful, but the feet of all those who share the GOOD NEWS, the LOVE of God manifest in Christ. Even my crooked, swollen feet are beautiful when they take me where God wills, to say to someone - or write - “Jesus loves you.” As our Lord helped and guided the Israelites, He will help and guide us when called to share the GOOD NEWS. With confidence in Him, may we always do so joyfully! *in Christ, Duannah*

MOM’S MOCK SLAW

1 can sauerkraut, drain (& rinse, optional)
 1 cup celery, diagonal slices
 2/3 cup green bell pepper, thin strips
 1/2 cup diced onion
 1/4 cup sugar
 1/3 cup sour cream
 1/2 tsp celery seed (optional)
 If desired, cut sauerkraut into shorter pieces.
 Mix all ingredients, cover,
 and chill at least 24 hours – stirring
 occasionally.
 Mom’s notes say: “Serve with Bar-B-Que!”

AVOCADO CLAM DIP

8 oz. French Onion Dip
 1 avocado, mashed
 1 small can minced clams
 Garlic salt, black pepper – to taste

Drain clams reserving juice.
 Mix all ingredients together.
 Thin with reserved clam juice as needed.
 Chill.



Birthdays

Patty Brodbeck	7/6
Douglas Bynum	7/10
Earnest David Sermons	7/11
Annette Batts	7/13
Susan Sermons	7/14
Madeline Robb	7/16
Micah Stennfeld	7/17
Noriko Vail	7/18
Harold Derenberger	7/26
Mary Carrion	7/29

Anniversaries

Gerald & Ellen Decker
7/5/1958

Jeremy & Dana Magruder
7/8/2006

Steve & Cynthia Bailey
7/12/1984

Donn & Phyllis Trautner
7/26/1975

Bill & Christina Martin
7/26/2014

Lectors

7/2/2023	Clayton Pillack
7/9/2023	MaryLou Moore
7/16/2023	Gary Lippe
7/23/2023	MaryLou Moore
7/30/2023	Micah Stennfeld

Flower Chart Given by...

July 2

Carrion Family

July 9

Deborah & Doug Bynum
Doug's birthday

July 16

Arliss Shefstad & Dale & Patty Brodbeck

July 23

Donn & Phyllis Trautner

July 30

Carrion Family

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.

Lutheran Hour Ministries

Have you updated your will lately? Do you have a will? Did you know that you can create a will online for as low as \$70? Have you considered a living will? How about a Christian will?

If any of the above questions interest you, please go to the Lutheran Hour Ministry webpage lhm.org/christianwill where you can find loads of information on how you can "change lives for generations to come" by creating a God-honoring will. On the website you will find information on:

- The 5 best ways to bless your family's future
- A downloadable Will Guide to help you in your planning
- Links for creating an online will
- Tips for communicating with your family about your values and creating an ethical will
- Important documents and much, much more.

One component of the webpage helps the reader consider leaving a legacy gift to your church, other benevolent agencies, and of course, you also could consider a future gift to Lutheran Hour Ministries.

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

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.

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.

75th Anniversary T-shirts—We still have some 75th anniversary t-shirts available. For more information, please see David or Kimberly Schaare, or contact via email schaarehome@gmail.com

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

Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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