

# Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

June 2023



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Bible is full of promises from God. Some of them are promises spoken directly from the mouth of God to His people throughout the Old Testament, or from the mouth of Jesus to his followers in the New Testament, and some of them are promises from God recorded through the inspired writings of the Scriptures. But regardless of how these promises of God have been conveyed to us, they are trustworthy and true.

Beginning on June 18th, we will use our summer sermon series on Sunday mornings to take a look at a handful of these grace-filled promises from God. I hope and pray that this will be a powerful, practical, and provocative series for you. And as we study a variety of the promises that God has made to us, I encourage you to remember the words of St. Paul in II Corinthians 1:20: "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ."

Have a blessed month,  
Pastor John

**PASTOR  
JOHN  
STENNFELD**



## WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

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

Harriet Stennfeld – variety of tests  
Joe Calvo—healing from a fall

### Loss of Loved One

Sue Etter's mom's husband, Dino, passed away  
Sue Etter's mom's brother, Bill, passed away  
BJ Zamora's mother-in-law passed away

### Thanksgiving

Graduation of Adam, Seth & Katherine Werchan (College)  
Graduation of Lauren Chapman (Grad School)  
Graduation Connor Mitchell (High School)  
Graduation Ryder Pagnini (High School)  
Graduation Cassandra Nagy (High School)

### Traveling

Betty Joyce Stephens - Germany May 30 through June 12.

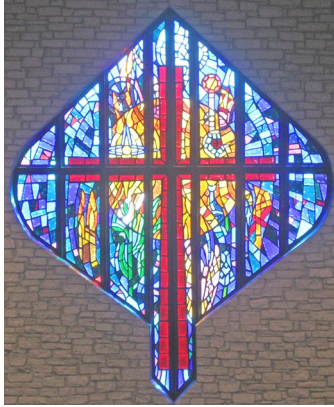
## Stewardship Verse

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24



# 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.

June, the typical start to summer vacation, but there should be no vacation from your weekly worship schedule. Remember that worship service is live streamed on Facebook, so you can always watch from wherever you are.

For those that missed April's voter meeting, one topic that was discussed was a Sanctuary refresh. No decision was made but it was meant to be an introduction to possible projects. Pastor John returned to teaching the Discipleship Class, we are studying the book of Galatians. We just started so please join us each Sunday.

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

**2023 Church Pictorial Directory** - The Christ Lutheran Church 2023 Pictorial Directory is available. Please pick up your copy (one per family) after worship on Sunday or by coming by the church office during the week. (Additional copies are \$5 each.)

### **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

### **Trinity + Stephen Shower Announcement**

Please join us for a small shower and reception honoring Trinity Stennfeld and Stephen Becker after service on Sunday, June 4th.

We will gather in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00 to 12:00. We look forward to celebrating Trinity and Stephen as they start this new chapter in their lives together! Light refreshments and snacks will be served.

Please feel free to contact either Deborah Bynum (361.548.9620) or Amanda Ogwuegbu (512.423.0191) with any questions.

Trinity and Stephen's registry list can be found here: <https://www.theknot.com/us/trinity-stennfeld-and-stephen-becker-jun-2023/registry>





## “I will meditate”

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

### LOOK TO THE HEAVENS

I love looking up into the sky. My husband and I enjoyed sunrises and sunsets, and just spending time sky-watching. We welcomed “waves” of bats at dusk acrobatically foraging for mosquitoes while we competed to spot the most satellites and identify seasonal constellations moving across the evening sky. I’ve been fascinated with celestial movement of man-made objects as well as the sun and moon and planets and stars ever since Dad set me on the hood of our Corvaire to watch a Sputnik cross the night sky! Is it any wonder I love day four of the Creation: “God made two great lights. . . He also made the stars” (Gen 1:16). Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, is our (the Northern Hemisphere’s) Summer Solstice, the point at which the sun’s arc, its “daily path”, reaches its northern limit. It seems to stand still before reversing direction, and this is where the term “solstice” derives – “sol” meaning “the sun” and “sistere” meaning “stand still.” It really has to do with earth’s tilt as it orbits the sun. Our Summer Solstice happens when the North Pole is tilted closest to the sun, our longest day of the year, what we call the first day of Summer. It’s the tilt of the earth that causes the seasons. It was all part of God’s plan of Creation in providing for and sustaining life. “And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky’ and ‘let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years’” (Gen. 1:14). It was our Lord who even created time and a way to “track” it! I am in such awe of our GREAT Creator. His works are beyond understanding! And there is a comfort in knowing we don’t have to replace, lubricate, clean, or adjust anything. By God’s Hand, it just happens, always. He promised Noah, “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease” (Gen 8:22). Uh-oh! Only as long as the earth endures? Always, but not forever? Awww, but I love the celestial objects of Creation. So, then what? I found my answer in the Book of Revelation. John described *The New Jerusalem*, saying our Heaven will, “not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp” (Rev 21:23), and, “There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light” (Rev 22:5). I do not, cannot and don’t want to know God’s blueprint for Heaven. For now, the design belongs to Him alone, and He promises to make “everything new!” (Rev 21:5). All I, or anyone really needs to know is what Creation, itself, pointed to when God placed a special star in the sky above an animal trough holding a baby, His Son, who would die on a cross and rise from the dead for all Creation. The moon and stars, the daily rising and setting of the sun, by God’s Hand, are vital to sustaining life on earth, but only Jesus, the Savior, is vital to true LIFE - on earth and in Heaven! He said, “*I, Jesus, I am . . . the bright Morning Star*” (Rev 22:16). For as long as my Creator allows, I will relish His beautiful sky and all that is in it. And, this June 21<sup>st</sup>, the Summer Solstice, I will “sistere” and remember: “Lift your eyes and look to the heavens. Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary. I, the Lord – with the first of them and with the last – I am He!” (Is. 40:26, 28 & 41:4). *Forever in Christ*,

### EGG CUSTARD PIE

Refrigerate this pie and enjoy a slice cold with a dollop of Cool Whip, or a squirt of Reddi-Wip topping, and a cherry.

1 9-inch pie crust, cold

4 large eggs, room temp.

1 ½ cup sugar

¼ cup margarine, melted

1 small can evaporated milk (5 ½ oz.)

1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350°. In a mixing bowl, beat eggs well (until frothy), and use a little to paint uncooked pie crust with a pastry brush. To beaten eggs, add sugar, margarine, milk, and vanilla. Pour into cold pie crust. Bake 55 – 60 minutes.



### Birthdays

Brad Lichtenhan	6/3
Ethan Scott Castille	6/4
Pamela Herber	6/5
Juliana Ramirez	6/5
Paul LaGrone	6/6
Dale Brodbeck	6/8
Katy Herber	6/8
Liz LaGrone	6/10
Deborah Bynum	6/12
Paul Kern	6/18
Joe Cano	6/20
Gwendy Lewis	6/20
Pamela Hamil	6/21
Lucille Herrera	6/24
Jeremy Faulkner	6/26
Clyde Crow	6/27
Fred Herber	6/30

### Anniversaries

Jimmy & Mildred Westfall	6/3/1961
Paul & Alicia Kern	6/3/2005
Jim & MaryLou Moore	6/7/1975
Andy & Shelbi Hentschke	6/13/2009
David & Kimberly Schaare	6/18/1994
Onyema & Amana Ogwuegbu	6/19/2021
Don & Gwendy Lewis	6/21
Mark & Pamela Herber	6/24/2000
Freddie & Dorothy Richter	6/25/1960
David & Pamela Hamil	6/27/1998

### Lectors

6/4/2023	Gary Lippe
6/11/2023	Alan Werchan
6/18/2023	Micah Stennfeld
6/25/2023	Taylor Teeters

### Flower Chart Given by...

June 4

Deborah & Doug Bynum

In remembrance of Deborah's Mother, Violet

June 11

Trinity Stennfeld

June 18

David & Kim Schaare  
Wedding Anniversary

June 25

Lucille Herrera

The Herber's  
In honor of Fred Herber's  
90th birthday

**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**—Located in the church narthex near the pew, you will find a larger spinner labeled **Please Take One**. There you will find **Project Connect** booklets produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries to help you in your Christian walk. Among the variety of topics you will find ones entitled “Your Place in God’s Plan”, “Victim, Validated, Victorious”, “Regrets, Reality, Restoration”, “How to Talk About Your Faith”, “How to Pray” and others dealing with topics such as parenting, grief, Alzheimers, priority-setting, forgiveness, and cancer.

These booklets are free and you are encouraged to take one for yourself, a loved one, or a friend who you think might be helped. Maybe someone you know in a nursing home or is homebound. **Project Connect** booklets are also available in pdf form or many are also available in MP3 format. Now you can listen to them and pass them along as an audio resource. All can be found at [lhm.org](http://lhm.org). (Find resources in the top menu and click on booklets.) While you are there you can also find a link to today’s devotion.

Scripture challenges us to “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have.” (1 Peter 3:15b) Many of these booklets have words you can use to help others see the hope that you have, the hope that we Christians are privileged to share with others.

In the future, more topics will be made available and we will update you when they are added. If there is a topic you don’t see, but wondered if there might be an informational booklet, please see

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

**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)

**Braille** is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, June 20 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](http://www.christaustin.org) | Facebook | Twitter | You Tube