

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

March 2023



Dear Friends,

Throughout this season of Lent our midweek service and messages are aimed at showing the importance and necessity of repentance in the life of the Christian. There can be no spiritual maturation if repentance is not a regular part of the Christian's walk with God. For it is only as we humble ourselves before Him and confess our sins to Him that His grace and mercy can be seen and understood with greater clarity. And thus the goal of our Lenten sermon series is not to make you feel worse about yourself, but to make you feel even better about and closer to God.

It is interesting to note that the first thesis of Martin Luther's 95 theses was this: "When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said 'Repent,' he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance." Also of interest are the last words of Luther, written on a piece of scrap paper, which echo this understanding of repentance. Martin Luther wrote: "We are beggars. This is true." From first to last, Luther realized that there is nothing in us or about us that God should desire us, and yet in His great love He gave His son to save us. Our response can only be one of humble gratitude and honest confession. All that we are, and all that we can and will be, is a gift of His grace.

To Him be the Glory forever.

Have a blessed month,

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 February Worship Services for

Our sick family members and friends

Mary Karotkin – healing from tumor

Ellen Decker – healing from broken hip

Yvette Emmrich – healing from multiple blood clots

Alice Albrecht (Katherine Richter's sister-in-law) - pancreatic cancer

Dale Brodbeck – hospitalized for back trouble

Helen Pietsch (sister-in-law of Roy Pietsch) and her family in your prayers. Helen has gone on hospice care

Anthony Zamora (BJ Zamora's brother-in-law) - diabetes and leg infection

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

Rain – in central Texas and hill country

Prayer of thanksgiving for Katherine Richter's sister, Alice Birnbaum, who recently went through a procedure on her heart and all went safely.

Loss of Loved One

Jimmy Westfall and his family - passing of his sister-in-law.

Micka Ziehr and her family—Micka's mother, Barbara Mills, was just called to rest in the arms of Jesus.

Barbara Craig and family—passing of Barbara's father

Stewardship Verse

²¹ "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Ephesians 5:21



Letter from the President

This month is Lent which we will again observe it together through weekly Wednesday services (at Noon), followed by soup and salad luncheons. I want to personally thank those that volunteered to provide soups to make these meals possible. All services can also be watched on our Facebook page live, or watch at a later time on our Facebook page.

A big thank you to the elders who have helped and continue to help with the church service. And a special thanks to Donn Trautner for leading adult discipleship over the past couple of months.

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

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.

2023 Church Pictorial Directory- We are be 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.

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.

Thursday Morning Bible Study - We meet each Thursday morning from 10-11 am through March 9th. In the Fall, the class will continue studying Hebrews chapter 11 (and 12:1-13) under the theme of CPH's "The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament" book.

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, March 21, 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.

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



"I will meditate"

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

Just As I Am

The old Perry Mason television shows that began in 1957, are fun to watch. My brother and I enjoy trying to guess who the true guilty person is; usually an unassuming character from near the beginning of the story. As Defense Attorney Mason nears the climax to proving someone other than his client is guilty, the rightful offender will suddenly cry out from the courtroom stand or the gallery, "Alright! I did it! I had to; don't you understand?" Then they try to defend the actions, find reasons that made it right, or find some good in it. They try without success to save themselves until dropping their head, often sobbing, they realize there is nothing that can remove their guilt. They have no plea. I think they needed a "but." There is a beautiful hymn, #570 in our *Lutheran Service Book*, "Just As I Am, Without One Plea." The text was written by Charlotte Elliott. She was born in England in 1789 to a prominent family active in the church, but Charlotte felt she was not worthy of God's Grace and stayed away from matters of faith. She became a popular portrait artist, a writer of humorous verse, and led an active social life until she developed a severe illness at age 32. Her health declined rapidly, and she became an invalid. As she lost her friends and active lifestyle, she experienced intense feelings of uselessness and despair until a Swiss evangelist told her, "You must come just as you are, a sinner, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world." This forever changed her life, and fourteen years later, she wrote the words to "Just As I Am," one of the most beloved hymns of all time. The song contains many beautiful statements of faith; however, for this writing, this Lenten Meditation, I cannot get past the first fifteen words: "Just as I am without one plea but that Thy blood was shed for me." In my silent evening prayers of confession, I often grow weary trying to list all my sins, the ones I am aware of, until I finally with tears simply say, "I am a sinner. Forgive me, Lord." Charlotte was right. Like the guilty person in the *Perry Mason* shows, I am without a plea. I am guilty. Even my "good" is not good enough. But Oh! There is that preposition, that "but," that leads to, "that Thy blood was shed for me!" The blood of Christ, the Lamb of God, is my plea before God. Christ took my sins upon Himself and died on a cross for my punishment. It is complete. And as a result, through faith, I have become God's child, and I am able to approach Him in prayer as children approach their loving father. Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). As a sinner, I am unable to "come to" God, but He sees me, just as I am, takes my hand, pulls me to Him, and daily bids me to cling to Him with all my heart, to trust Him fully, to know He will not let go of me! And, He bids me answer, "I come! I come!" Charlotte wrote about 150 hymns before her death at 82. She penned, "God sees, God guides, God guards me. His grace surrounds me, and His voice continually bids me to be content and holy in His service just where I am." I am so sorry for my sinful self, I do so repent, and I know God knows me fully, but when He looks at me with His eyes of LOVE, He sees me through His Son, my Savior, Who's blood has washed me clean of all guilt. And, with hopeful Joy, I await the great promise of Easter! "*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*" Amen. Duannah

POTATOES DELMONICO

Simple and so good!

4 medium potatoes (peel & cut into
1" dice – about 4 or 5 cups)
1 cup half 'n half
1/2 tsp. salt (or to taste)
1/2 tsp. pepper (or to taste)
dried parsley, garlic powder,
minced onion (to taste)
3/4 cup freshly grated parmesan
cheese
2 tsp. paprika (or more to cover)
6 Tbsp. butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350°.

Place diced potatoes into pot of salted cold water, bring to boil, cook about 6 minutes (not quite done). Drain and return to pot. Combine half 'n half, salt, pepper, and seasonings (not the paprika), and pour over the potatoes. Stir gently so as not to break them up. Leave a few minutes to absorb a bit of the milk. Gently pour potatoes into a lightly greased 9X13 baking dish. Cover with the grated parmesan. Sprinkle paprika liberally to cover cheese. Drizzle melted butter over potatoes. Bake uncovered 30 minutes until lightly browned.



Christ Lutheran Church

March 2023

Birthdays

Gary Lippe	3/1
Jordan Boessling	3/3
Jane Carrion	3/6
Nathan Emmrich	3/12
Duannah Ashmore	3/21
Divina Stennfeld	3/22
Donald Lewis	3/23
Joyce Jakobeit	3/26
Shirley Hoes	3/27
Pachalin Stennfeld	3/30

Anniversaries

Matias & Belinda Reveles
3/2/1996

Bert & Louise Stuenkel
3/4/1972

Brian & Mary Karotkin
3/19/1990

Lectors

3/5/2023 -	MaryLou Moore
3/12/2023 -	Gary Lippe
3/19/2023 -	Alan Werchan
3/26/2023 -	Micah Stennfeld

Flower Chart Given by...

March 5

BJ Zamora

March 12

Roy Pietsch and Mary Ann Triesch

March 19

Vacant

March 26

Vacant

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.

Lenten Soup - The Fellowship Committee is looking for a few people to help out with the Lenten Soup after the Noon Service during Lent. We have about 50 people that stay and enjoy the soup provided with a small salad and dessert. List below are the soups that we will have after each Lenten service.

Wednesday, March 1st, 2023 Hamburger Soup

Wednesday, March 8th, 2023 Chicken Tortilla Soup

Wednesday, March 15th, 2023 Beef Stew

Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023 Chicken Corn Chowder

Wednesday, March 29th, 2023 Asian Soup

Desserts - The Fellowship Committee is asking for dessert donations for Lenten Soup lunch starting with Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023. Please drop them off in the kitchen and label them "For Lenten Soup Lunch" and your name. Thank you

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)

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 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.

Souper Bowl of Caring - In February, 163.4 pounds of donations (including a number of canned goods) were donated (from Souper Bowl of Caring) to Bread for All Food Pantry.

2023 Flower Chart - The flower chart for the 2023 calendar year is now posted in the narthex. Sign up early to get your preferred dates. 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.

Men's Discipleship Study - Meets on the First Tuesday of each month through May 2023. We'll continue on March 7 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.

Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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