

# Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

March 2024



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

One of my favorite statements in the Bible is a statement made by Paul in Romans 4 concerning Abraham. Paul wrote in verse 18: “Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him.” Paul went on to write of Abraham: <sup>19</sup> “Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup> Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.”

Abraham had no good earthly reason to believe that he and Sarah could still have a child, and yet he believed it would happen anyway simply because God said so. And thus while there was no practical reason to still hope that he and Sarah would become parents, he hoped anyway. Against all hope he continued to hope.

That is the nature of faith. It is to see as completed action that which has not even begun to take place because God has promised it. As I wrote in my song Faith, recorded by Fred Frieling “Faith sees with eyes the things that can’t be seen. It knows as truth what yet has never been. It trusts as day when all it sees is night, and hopes in God to make what’s wrong be right.”

May we, like Abraham, have such faith to hope in God even when all our earthly reasons for hoping are gone. For nothing is impossible with God — the cross and the empty grave are proof of that. To God be the glory.

Have a hope filled month,  
Pastor John

**PASTOR  
JOHN  
STENNFELD**



## Continuing Prayers from February Worship Services for Our family members and friends

Duannah Ashmore - Rehab

Paul Albrecht (brother of Katherine Richter) – heart problems

### Loss

Jordan Boessling and his family at the loss of his grandmother

### Expecting Parents

Amanda and Onyema Ogwuegbu

## WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

## Stewardship Verse

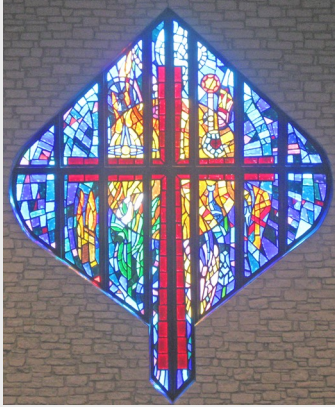
The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction;  
the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

*Galatians 6:8*





# 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.

The month of March represents the continuation of Lent and our time of renewal and reflection. This will culminate with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and lead up to a joyous Easter celebration on March 31<sup>st</sup> of the resurrection of Jesus and our eternal victory. I encourage you to attend whenever possible. A soup lunch is available following each of the Wednesday Lenten services and Maundy Thursday.

At its February meeting, the Church Council voted to direct Lenten offerings for our midweek services to Water to Thrive ([www.watertothrive.org](http://www.watertothrive.org)). As a congregation, we will use this as a starting point for a \$5,000 sponsorship of a well. Once the well is completed, we will be told where the well is located in Africa, how many people are served and will be able to have our name put on a plaque at the well. We have a goal of raising the required amount over the next six months. Please consider a donation toward this wonderful, life-sustaining project.

The Council began discussions on the future of the Pumpkin Patch. The patch has been a wonderful opportunity to serve the community and support the growers and Water to Thrive. That said, securing sufficient volunteers from the congregation has become increasingly difficult. We as a congregation will need to weigh the pros and cons of committing resources to continue this specific ministry.

For the next voters' assembly, the Council will propose an amendment to our constitution that will remove the male-only restriction on the president and vice-president officer positions. Council also directed Jordan to begin a refresh of the congregation's website. We hope to incorporate some of the excellent content of the old site into the new one while improving visual appeal and furthering our goal of discipling the lost. Finally, the Council approved the addition of Stephen Becker to the Board of Trustees.

Lastly, I was blessed to participate in two recent volunteer opportunities including the Central Texas Food Bank and Down Home Ranch. I encourage each of you to watch the calendar and bulletin for continuing opportunities to live out our mission of providing loving service.

**Lenten Soup Schedule**—Salad, Cookies, Tea/Water will be provided with each lunch.

- March 6—Mildred: Corn Chowder
- March 13—Katherine: Potato Soup
- March 20—Pach: Asian Soup
- March 28—Donn: Sloppy Joes

Please consider donating desserts for the Lenten Soup lunches. Please put them in the church's kitchen with the label 'For Lenten Soup lunch. Thank you.'

**The Fellowship Committee** - would like to ask the congregation to donate something for Fellowship time after Easter Service on March 31st, 2024. Thank you."

**Adult Discipleship Class for Lent** "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 in Lent 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*

**Women of Christ** – Please plan to join us for a monthly small group gathering for discipleship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All women of the church are invited to attend. We will be using the book "Grace Under Pressure: Responding Faithfully to Stress" by Rev. Christopher Kennedy; the same book the Men's Discipleship group is using. These books will be provided at no cost to participants thanks to a generous gift.

Due to scheduling conflict for several participants on the first Tuesday of March, we will instead meet on **Wednesday, March 6th at 6:30 pm at the home of Deborah Bynum.**

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Barbara Craig or Patty Brodbeck and we will add you to our Women of Christ communication list.

Barbara Craig (512) 695-8192; [bcraig9@austin.rr.com](mailto:bcraig9@austin.rr.com)

Patty Brodbeck (512) 554-1697; [pbrodbeck@austin.rr.com](mailto:pbrodbeck@austin.rr.com)

### Note from Camp Lone Star in La Grange, TX

The ministry of Camp Lone Star has always been supported in incredible ways by sacrificial, servant-hearted people who desire to see the grace of God shared through ongoing ministry at Camp. Through prayer, financial support, and time given, the opportunities to bear witness to who God is and what He has done is due in large part to our wonderful Camp Lone Star family!

**You are invited to join us for our next chance to give back to Camp Lone Star at our annual Work Weekend, May 17-19.** This is a great opportunity to help us prepare Camp Lone Star for the arrival of over 2,000 children and adults for our summer camp programs. *Your entire family is encouraged to join in service, fellowship, fun, and recreation all weekend long.*

The weekend kicks off Friday evening and lasts through worship on Sunday morning. 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. Can't make it Friday night? Join us for any part of the weekend, as you're able!

This weekend is **FREE** for everyone but lodging is limited, so register today! Housing is awarded in order of registrations received. If you desire to share a cabin with another family, please let us know in the *Cabin Mate Request line of the registration form.*

We can't wait to serve alongside you!

**Homeless needs**—We are in need of the small bottles of shampoo.

**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 have sold 18 of 36 Easter lilies, 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.

**Braille** is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, March 20, 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.

**Thursday Morning Bible Study** - We will meet March 7 from 10-11 am in Room 7 & 8.

**Men's Discipleship Study** - Our monthly men's study for 2023-2024 will meet on Tuesday, March 5 at 7:30pm in Christ's Workshop.

**Easter Egg Hunt** - On Easter Sunday, March 31 at 11:00 a.m. there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for families with children 4th grade and under at the playscape/backyard of Christ's Workshop. Contact Jordan at (512) 442-5844 or [jordan@christaustin.org](mailto:jordan@christaustin.org) by Wednesday, March 27 for details and to sign up your children/grandchildren to participate. All participants must pre-register.

**Souper Bowl of Caring** - From our recent food drive in January and February, we collected and donated 175.6 pounds of food for Bread for All.



# Christ Lutheran Church

March 2024

## 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

## Flower Chart Given by...

March 3

Vacant

March 10

Duannah Ashmore

March 17

Alan & Alice Werchan

March 24

Vacant

March 31

Willie Vrabel  
Brenda, Mark Vrabel

## Lectors

3/3/2024	MaryLou Moore
3/10/2024	Gary Lippe
3/17/2024	Alan Werchan
3/24/2024	Micah Stennfeld
3/31/2024	Taylor Teeters

**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.

**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.

**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**—Over the last few months we have tried to bring you information on Lutheran Hour Ministries “Project Connect.” In the narthex you will find a spinner with booklet pertinent to the Christian walk. These booklets can serve you as you grow in your faith and can serve others you know who need a stronger connection to our Lord.

At this time of year, many folks make New Year’s resolutions. How about a resolution to share the Good News more each day as God gives opportunity. You know, you don’t always have to use your words to share the Good News, sometimes you can use the words of someone else. And that is what the Project Connect books help you to do.—Maybe there is a neighbor who has expressed an issue she/he is facing—Maybe on your visit to a nursing home you can provide something that will help a special person in need. - Maybe a coworker has expressed a dilemma with which they are dealing.

In each case you may find a Project Connect book to share. Let us know if you need a booklet dealing with a specific issue and we will try to provide that resource. You can find more info at LHM about Project connect and how you can help LHM with your prayers and financial help. Go to [lhm.org](http://lhm.org) for more information or talk to Donn Trautner.

**LHM Lenten Devotions:** - What better time than Lent to resurrect an episode from **This is the Life** and turn it into an Easter radio special! With *Tears of Hope*, Lutheran Hour Ministries has adapted “He Lives” and infused it with new energy. It speaks to real life and the uncertainties we all face. *Tears of Hope* will be available on the LHM website, podcast, and app, beginning March 25. Also check out [LHM.org](http://LHM.org) for all sorts of other great resources including daily devotions especially those geared to the Lenten season. See Donn Trautner for further details.

## Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

[www.christaustin.org](http://www.christaustin.org) | Facebook | Twitter | You Tube