

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

May 2024



Dear friends,

I wrote a sermon a number of years ago asking the infamous question about the glass of water, “is it half empty or half full.” And if you remember, I postulated that it is neither half full nor half empty, but rather that the glass is simply too big! How can we ever fill our glass if it is way too big, if our expectations are for more than we could ever fully appreciate and for far more than we will ever deserve? Thinking that we are owed a good life is not only wrong, but it sets us up for both disappointment and resentment.

But when we live life with a small glass — that is small expectations as humble sinners who know that we deserve nothing of God’s goodness — then anything God gives fills our glass to overflowing. And when we see our glass as always full, then our hearts too will always be full of gratitude to God for His grace and goodness to us. Then we also, like David, will realize that even when we walk through shadowy valleys in our lives, yet our cup always overflows. To God be the glory for His goodness to us.

Have a blessed month,

Pastor John

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



WHAT’S INSIDE

2-4 Around the Church

Continuing Prayers from April Worship Services for Our family members and friends

Fred Herber – recovery from knee replacement surgery

Susan Sermons – recovery from surgery

Clayton Pillack – continued healing after hospital stay

Evan Davis (friend of Kevin Craig) – high school student, in hospital in serious condition with hole in his heart

Expecting Parents

Amanda and Onyema Ogwuegbu

Thanksgiving – for the marriage of Sarah Zieschang and Casey Harris on this past Wednesday April 24.

Live Streaming of Worship Services & Archives of Pastor's Sermons-Please be sure to go to Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Christ-Austin-78704-121095017909219/> for Facebook Live streaming (and archives) of our Worship services
-Please be sure to go to YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@ChristAustinSermons>) for Pastor John's weekly sermon videos (with visuals)

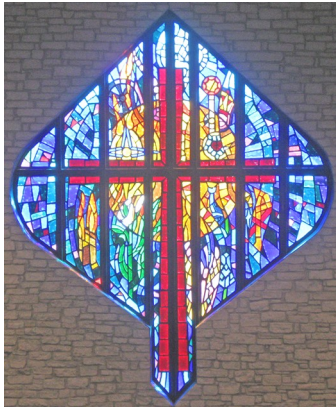
Stewardship Verse

¹⁹ Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

I Corinthians 6:19-20



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.

Immediately following our April 21st worship service, the Spring voters' meeting was held. While we heard reports and voted on several routine items, the most significant portions of the meeting were reserved for discussion.

Members gave their input on the current and future state of our Pumpkin Patch servant event. While no decision was sought or made, we had valuable input from those who want to continue it and those who do not. Difficulty securing volunteers in an aging congregation was cited as reason to discontinue, while being an opportunity to serve and fellowship was one of the reasons to continue. I appreciate the viewpoints that were presented and the spirit of Christian brotherhood/sisterhood in which they were given.

The congregation also began a discussion on a proposed change to our constitution which, if adopted, will allow any member of the congregation over age 21 to serve as president or vice-president. Our constitution requires that this change be discussed again at our August meeting, with a vote to occur at our December meeting.

As you may have read in the bulletin announcements or otherwise heard, our current cleaning service has ended their relationship with us as of April 30th as the amount we were paying was insufficient for them to provide the level of service we expected. I am pleased to report that our head trustee, Phil Etter, has signed an agreement with a new company, City Wide Facility Solutions, and service will be provided without significant interruption. Our costs will increase some, but we were likely paying below market for the service. If it is determined that a budget adjustment is needed for this and for our new insurance contract, the Council will bring that to the voters in August.

As we celebrate Pentecost this month, I pray that each of you are fired with a renewed faith, spirit and confidence in our one source of hope – the crucified, resurrected, and ascended Lord Jesus Christ.

Alan Werchan, President

Women of Christ – A monthly small group gathering for discipleship, bible study, prayer, and fellowship. All women of the church are invited to attend.

We will meet on **Tuesday, May 7th at 6:30 pm at the home of Barbara Craig.**

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
 Patty Brodbeck (512) 554-1697; pobstbrodbeck@austin.rr.com

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. Please note on the flower chart if the flowers are being dedicated.

Online Giving - The donation tool interface for Online giving, please go to <https://www.christaustin.org/vanco-online-giving/>. If you have the old link saved, you might need to delete and add a new bookmark for the new link.





"I will meditate"

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

Blessed Assurance

Miss Viola was born in 1896. To us, growing up in the 1950's and 60's, she was our friend - and much more. Mom told us Miss Viola came to work for the couple who lived next door, as a young girl with only one small suitcase. She had no family that we knew of, and was our neighbors' live in, fulltime, maid and caregiver. She was very petite, not much taller than we were. Her gray and white streaked hair was kept in tight braids all over her head, and her skin was very dark brown. She was always hard at work, and would NOT put up with any of our mischief! In many ways, she helped to shape us. She treated us as her own, reprimanding us when needed, giving us a hug with a pat on the bottom, and showing us in very real fashion that it was okay to look and be different. We all adored her, especially Mom. I can still see her and Miss Viola, standing by the oleander bushes where our backyards met, both with their hands on their hips, heads shaking back and forth as they fussed good naturedly about something, or someone, until with a quick wave, they'd laugh and hurry back to their chores. When she died at 102 years, my sister, brother, and our mom, my husband and I, the daughter and granddaughter of our long-deceased neighbors, and the mortuary's preacher, gathered under a very old oak tree in a quiet cemetery to honor Miss Viola at her burial. There really was nothing to say other than that her life had been one of quiet and loving service to those who had employed her for almost her entire life - and grown to love her. So, with smiles and a few tears, we sang, or hummed along to, a beautiful gospel song, "Blessed Assurance," written by Fanny Crosby. "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of His Spirit, washed in His blood." I love this song and it's lyrics. It's such a beautiful and strong statement of what it is to live in faith in Christ, and a reminder that I have a Holy Guarantee, God's Word that by Grace, through faith in Christ Jesus, I belong to Him! He is mine! "But because of His great love for us, God . . . made us alive with Christ" (Eph 2:4,5). "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God!" (Eph 2:8). It's done! "For I am convinced that neither death nor life . . . nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord!" (Rom 8:38,39). O, there is such true Joy, and Peace, and Hope in these Words! Miss Crosby was blind from 6 weeks old, but during her 95 years, she wrote over 8,000 gospel song lyrics. When a friend needed lyrics for a tune she had written, she played the melody for Fanny and asked, "What does this tune say?" Fanny immediately answered, "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine!" As a little girl, I knew nothing of Miss Viola's faith, although, we often heard her talking to Jesus while she was out at the clothesline with the laundry. But, I do think she would have been pleased with the gospel song selected by a stranger, and sung at her burial (although she may have felt it to be too much of a fuss over her). Years later, my sister and I opened an old suitcase. Along with several well-worn robes, were a few small angel figurines, and a small flat box containing a faded letter, a folded hanky - and a picture of a girl with the suitcase. "Perfect submission - all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest; Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long!" *In Christ, Duannah*

Nifty Nachos

Such a good and easy dish! Make it your own with additional seasonings, jalapeno slices, diced tomato, etc.

1 to 1 1/2 lbs ground meat
1 can golden mushroom soup
Velveeta cheese (jalapeno or regular)
Nacho chips

In large skillet, brown meat. Spoon off excess fat. Return to skillet, or put in crockpot. Add soup to meat and combine. Cut up cheese and stir into meat mixture. Heat until all cheese is melted. Spoon over nacho chips.

Central Texas Food Bank - On Saturday, June 1 from 9 am - 12 noon, we will be volunteering in the Product Recovery Warehouse of the Central Texas Food Bank (6500 Metropolis Drive, Austin, TX 78744) to inspect, clean, sort, box and prepare donated food and non-food items to distribute to the CTFB's Partner Agencies and the communities they serve. The minimum age to participate is 8 years old. We have 20 volunteer spots reserved for our group. Please contact Jordan for more details, and regarding how to sign up through Central Texas Food Bank to participate in this service outing.





Birthdays

Julian Campos	5/2
Yvette Emmrich	5/4
Christin Mercedes	5/4
Teresa Kirby	5/6
Mark Herber	5/6
Katherine Richter	5/7
Kasey Hentschke	5/13
Norma Nanyes	5/15
Taylor Teeters	5/15
Justin Vail	5/18
John Stennfeld	5/19
Kristen Boessling	5/22
Jimmy Westfall	5/22
Daniel Mackey	5/23
Fran Ross	5/27
Onyema Ogwuegbu	5/28

Anniversaries

Robert & Yogi Strait	5/23/2009
Donald & Teresa Kirby	5/27/1978
Joe & Maria Calvo	5/29/1960

Flower Chart Given by...

May 5

Katherine Richter

May 12

Benjamin Schaare

May 19

Vacant

May 26

Benjamin Schaare

Lectors

5/5/2024	Micah Stennfeld
5/12/2024	Taylor Teeters
5/19/2024	Clayton Pillack
5/26/2024	MaryLou Moore

Braille is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, May 21, 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.

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

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.

The Lutheran Hour Ministries Project - Connect booklet stand is now full of help for you, including some publications that have been recently added. The descriptions below will help you see a possible use for you or someone you know.

Everyone Is a Gift—This booklet reminds us that people are God's creation who possess special gifts from Him. God can transform us to see others how He sees them. When this happens, doors open, attitudes shift, conversations change, and relationships can grow because our perspective is grounded in love not divisiveness.

NEW—An Ingrate's Guide to Contentment: Five Practices for a More Content Life, No Matter Who You Are—Contentment in this world is an elusive thing. Even with our necessities met and a few perks thrown in for good measure, it can still feel like something's missing. The truth of the matter is there will always be a void if we tie our sense of inner peace to the fleeting things and nature of this world. Offering insight on some key "practices" to implement concerning contentment, the author shows how being content is very much tied to our perspective. Citing the apostle Paul's illuminating view on contentment as found in the book of Philippians, the author drills down to the Source of true peace and satisfaction in this life.

Volunteer Opportunities in the Community - BookSpring is hosting BookSpring Fest, a Read Aloud Celebration at their headquarters (1807 W Slaughter Ln, BLDG 1, Austin, TX 78748) on Saturday, May 4th from 12-6pm. BookSpring is looking for volunteers to help with the carnival games, parking, check-in, and other day-of tasks that will need to be completed. Volunteers must be 16 years of age to participate.

Camp Lone Star's annual Work Weekend is taking place in La Grange, TX from Friday, May 17 through Sunday, May 19 to prepare the Camp for summer 2024 programming. 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

BookSpring - <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1248108956024/false#/invitation>

Camp Lone Star - <https://camplonestar.org/work-weekend/>

Community First! Village

Going back to 2014 - 2016, Christ Lutheran Church volunteered at the Mobile Loaves & Fishes Community First! Village in east Austin specifically to help with projects in and around Genesis Gardens during its early years at 9301 Hog Eye Road, Suite 950, Austin, TX 78724.

Community First! Village is a master planned neighborhood that provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for men and women who are coming out of chronic homelessness. In late April, Jordan and Donn visited the community to learn more about what they are currently doing, what their plans are for the future, and how we might get them involved in this year's Travis Heights Art Trail.

From the 3-d printed homes, to the community resources, the art studio, the gardens, and the cinema - the Community First! Village - Mobile Loaves & Fishes (mlf.org) is a vital and vivacious community that is expanding to include two new properties. We are looking to re-engage with Community First! in ways we did before covid, but also in new and creative ways. Please see Jordan or Donn if you have questions or would like to be involved.

Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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