

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

November 2023



Dear Friends,

Jesus is coming, and he is coming soon! We say that periodically, but I'm not sure we really believe it. I mean, if we really believed it, wouldn't we do things differently, with more urgency and intention, then we currently do? Wouldn't our churches be more full and our couches more empty? Jesus warns in the readings for our last few Sundays of the church year to keep watch and to be ready for his return, to be wise with our belongings and to make the most of our talents, and most of all, to do good and to be a blessing to others.

When people here in Texas hear a severe ice storm is coming, they flood the stores to prepare for the worst, they stock up on water and food and other supplies. They live with the urgency and the intention of people who are preparing for a storm. But when we talk about the return of Jesus, and that he is coming soon, everyone carries on with their normal lives as they did in the days of Noah, when only eight people were prepared for the great flood, and thus only eight people were saved.

The signs are all around us — wars and rumors of war, famines, earthquakes, and the deceptive voices of false prophets. We are in the last days. Jesus is coming soon. May we so prepare for his coming by living with the intention and the urgency that his return calls for, being the blessing to others that he has redeemed us to be. E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come.

Have a blessed month,
Pastor John

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

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

Gwendy Lewis – broken wrist
Gary Lippe – continued healing from cancer and hospitalized for pneumonia
Phyllis Mitchell - recovery from heart bypass surgery
Clayton Pillack – treatment for melanoma
Jena Carpenter – dementia and in hospice
Debbie Harrison's father- hospitalized from a fall

Pregnancy - Christin Mercedes – health and safety during pregnancy

Loss of Loved One - Donald and Gwendy Lewis, and Donn's twin sister, Debbie, at the passing of Debbie's husband, Wayne Corley.
Rodney Schneider family, Phyllis Trautner's cousin, as they mourn the death of his wife, Brenda.

Special Requests –

Rain
Friends of Jordan Reid who are homeless that they might find a safe place to live.

Traveling

Sarah Zieschang and her boyfriend Casey driving down from Alaska

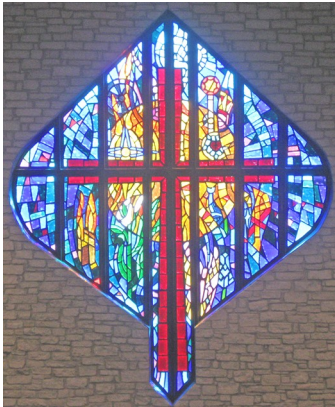
Stewardship Verse

"Who has ever given to God, that God should repay Him?" For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.

Romans 11:35-36



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.

A big thank you to those that helped with the SoCo Pumpkin Patch for our neighbors and friends. As a reminder the proceeds from the patch will go to Water to Thrive.

In November, the council will meet to develop the proposed budget for 2024. We will also be looking at who will be on the church council. If asked to serve, please prayerfully consider doing so. It takes the combined efforts of all of us to keep Christ Lutheran moving forward, loving, and serving. Approval of the budget and election of officers will take place at a yet-to-be-determined December voters' assembly.

Our fellowship after church continues to be an enjoyable time for our members. We are in need of people to provide refreshments for after our church service. Please consider signing for one Sunday to bring refreshments. A big thank you to those that have signed up 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 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 Scharre
President

Thursday Morning Bible Study - We will conclude the fall Bible study on Thursday, November 2, from 10-11 am.

Men's Discipleship Study - Our monthly men's study for 2023-2024 will meet on Tuesday, November 7, at 7:30pm in Christ's Workshop. We will meet each month on the 1st Tuesday of the month through May 2nd. This year we will be guided in our time together by the book from Concordia Publishing House entitled: "Grace Under Pressure: Responding Faithfully to Stress" by Rev. Chris Kennedy.

Poinsettias The poinsettias are \$12.00/plant this year. Please fill out the cut away portion at the bottom the announcement sheet starting November 12 or use the envelopes in the narthex and return in the offering plates or by mail to the church office ASAP. We only have 30 poinsettias 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.

Angel Tree Project (tentative plan) We are blessed to partner with Upbring once again this Christmas season on the Angel Tree Project. This is a tradition at Christ where we have the opportunity to buy and bring in wish list gifts for the children living in foster homes served by Upbring. We'll have the angel tree displayed with ornaments starting Sunday, November 13th, and we'll be collecting the presents thru the morning of December 3rd.

Lutheran Hour Ministries - If you attended worship on Sunday, October 29, you heard and read a bit more Lutheran Hour Ministries and ways of supporting LHM's mission of "Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church."

LHM provides a huge number of resources through "Project Connect." These informative booklets address a wide variety of topics, offering information that connect God's Word to real-life issues. The large spinner in our narthex already contains a number of booklets, but we want to provide you with resources you can use, or share.

Please assist us in this process by completing the checklist that will be included in the Sunday bulletin on November 5.

You are also strongly encouraged to support LHM with your prayers and financial help. Go to lhm.org for more information or talk to Donn Trautner.





“I will meditate”

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

“The Procession of My God, My King!”

After church one Sunday, we drove through the neighborhood, one my sister, brother, and I had grown up in. As we went past Fulmore Junior High School (since renamed Lively Middle School), we reminisced about our happy days there as band members, especially when our band took part in the Band Day Parade up Congress Avenue. In the 1960’s, Austin invited marching bands from all over Texas to participate in this event. It was so much fun! Colorful uniforms, sounds of instruments tuning, kids and band directors hollering to be heard, whistles, laughter, and idling diesel school buses – it all created a loud and joyous atmosphere south of the river where the bands mustered – and there were many bands! Oh, we marched with knees lifted high and instruments loudly played in celebration of marching bands. With military-style precision, we marched across the Colorado River bridge and up the 10 crowded blocks to the Capitol Complex, playing well-rehearsed Sousa marches over and over. Then, with legs now too tired to lift knees, we went around the corner and another two blocks to the Governor’s Mansion where we were dismissed to go hunt for parents. No worries, it was ALL FUN! O! I do love a parade! Each Thanksgiving Day, I get up early to watch at least some of the Macy’s Thanksgiving Parade on television. And, I do try to catch a glimpse of Santa on his parade float! I think King David also enjoyed a good parade. Read his description of a parade in Psalm 68:24-27: “Your procession has come into view, O God, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary. In front are the singers, after them the musicians; with them are the maidens playing tambourines. Praise God in the great congregation, praise the Lord in the assembly of Israel! There is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them, there the great throng of Judah’s princes, and here the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali.” David writes as if he’s watching it go by! He’s absolutely filled with joyful excitement! Martin Luther wrote about Psalm 68, it “is a beautiful and powerful prophesy of Christ”; that “David sings his song of joy over the holy kingdom of grace and life,” and “is so completely and joyfully stirred in spirit” (*Reading the Psalms with Luther*). Psalm 68 is a bit hard for me to understand, but my study Bible says it “seems to be an ‘order of service’ for a procession at the Jerusalem temple.” So, the Israelites annual pilgrimages to the temple to worship, included a parade! The Psalm speaks of Israel’s salvation as the Lord led them out of Egypt, provided for them as they wandered in the wilderness, and brought them to the Promised Land. We read of God’s greatness, His strength and power; of a Lord who came among us, the Savior of all who believe, who ascended and gave us the gifts of His Holy Spirit. Then David says: “Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burden. Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death!” (vs 19-20). You can hear David’s true joy! Reading Psalm 68 into the present, into my life, I know with David that our Savior is all-sufficient, all that I need! Jesus, King David’s Savior, is my Savior, the same yesterday, today and forever! He bore the burden of my sin to the cross and is the source of my forgiveness. He is active in my life – EVERY moment of EVERY day in EVERY way! And, He is my Hope of Heaven! With great joy, David wrote of a parade he had witnessed, a parade of the only true and almighty God and King! A parade in celebration of God – His great Love, and our salvation! David wrote, “You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary. Praise be to God! (vs 35). I pray we may always turn to our Lord in His precious Word and Sacraments with the exuberant joy of David, and worship and praise Him only, our God and our Savior!

With Great JOY! Duannah

Cinnamon Honey Butter

Spread on rolls, toast, or muffins – this sweet butter is amazingly good! Also delicious on pumpkin bread, banana bread, pancakes, and waffles!

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
3 Tbsp. honey
1/3 cup powdered sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/8 tsp. vanilla

Beat butter until creamy. Beat in honey.
Add powdered sugar, cinnamon & vanilla.
Mix until blended. Keep tightly covered in fridge for up to 1 month.



Birthdays

Dorothy Traugott	11/01
Jerry Decker	11/02
Bryan Richter	11/04
Yolanda Faulkner	11/06
Joe Campos	11/07
Andy Hentschke	11/09
Mildred Westfall	11/12
Pete Fay	11/15
Elizabeth Chapman	11/18
Felix Alexander	11/20
Alice Werchan	11/20
Ronnie Richter	11/25

Anniversaries

Gary & Vicki Lippe
11/25/1994

Flower Chart Given by...

November 5

Westfall
Mildred's Birthday

November 12

Ihlo Family
In Memory of Linda Ihlo

November 19

Brenda, Dorothy & Mark
All we have to be thankful for

November 26

All Thanksgiving to Dearest Father
From Gwendolyn & Donald Lewis

Lectors

11/5/2023	Taylor Teeters
11/12/2023	Alan Werchan
11/19/2023	Gary Lippe
11/26/2023	MaryLou Moore

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.

Travis Heights Art Trail - Christ Lutheran will once again serve as an artist location stop along the Travis Heights Art Trail (www.travisheightsarttrail.org) on Saturday and Sunday, November 4 & 5 from 11 am to 5 pm. We will host several non-profit agencies who will showcase how they leverage art to make a difference locally in the greater Austin area and beyond. Some of the agencies will display newly created art for sale during the Trail. Our involvement in the Art Trail gives us another opportunity to be active in our neighborhood and local community.

People of Christ, you are encouraged to assist with the trail and to participate by stopping at the Fellowship Hall and by visiting Travis Heights artists who will be featuring artwork at sites located in between Riverside and Live Oak and I35 and Congress Ave. This year we will host the following non-profits: Art From the Streets, Austin Adventurers Academy of Lifelong Learning, Down Home Ranch, Marbridge, and Partnerships for Children. For further information contact Donn Trautner or Jordan.

Homeless lunches -- As we have been having more requests for lunches, we need to restock our supply. Please bring protein in flip top cans, breakfast bars, and cookies in packages. Thank you.

Wedding Anniversaries - We are beginning to compile photos of wedding day photos of married couples for our slide show announcements recognizing anniversaries. To submit a photo from the day of your wedding ceremony, please either bring a hard copy of the photo to Jordan at the Church for scanning, or submit the photo to him via email at jordan@christaustin.org - at least a week in advance.

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 will also be a Sign Up Genius link coming soon (available via the Church's 'Caring Fellowship' web page at www.christaustin.org/caring-fellowship and linked to our Sunday announcement sheet) where you will be able to go online and sign up to help out in this capacity. 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, November 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.

Quilting will meet the second and fourth Thursdays at 11:00 after the Bible Study.

Altar Flower Chart - If you sign up for a particular date, please remember to send/turn in your payment for your flowers (in advance of that Sunday), and to include whether you are picking them or donating them. The cost is \$45 per flower arrangement.

Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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