

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

October 2023



Dear Friends,

On October 29th, the last Sunday of the month, we will recognize and remember the Reformation. While it was never the intent of Dr. Luther to leave the Roman Church, it was his intent to reform the Roman Church and its teachings. And the primary doctrine that needed to be reformed was the Roman Church's teaching on the all-sufficiency of God's grace.

Is God's grace sufficient or not? Is Jesus' sacrifice for our sin sufficient or not? Is faith a sufficient means by which to claim the merits of Christ? The Roman Church in Luther's day said "No" but Luther maintained that the Scriptures unequivocally said "Yes," God's grace and Christ's work and faith are all sufficient to give us forgiveness and the gift of everlasting life. To God be the glory for the gift of His grace, and for returning us to an awareness of his grace through the ministry of Martin Luther.

Have a grace-filled 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
Phyllis Mitchell - recovery from heart bypass surgery
Clayton Pillack – treatment for melanoma
Milton Ihlo - recovery from gallbladder surgery
David Schaare - recovery from prostate surgery
Lucille Herrera - recovery from eye procedure
Jena Carpenter—dementia in hospice

Pregnancy

Christin Mercedes – health and safety during pregnancy

Special Requests – Rain

Traveling

Sarah Zieschang and her boyfriend Casey driving down from Alaska

Lost & Searching – Jordan Reid

Stewardship Verse

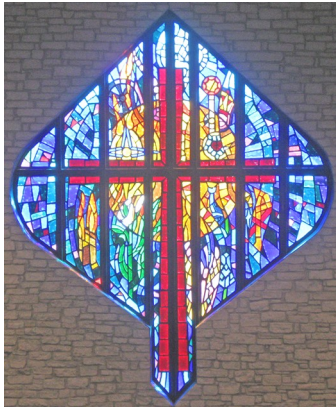
²⁴ "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Matthew 6:24





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.

I want to thank everyone for attending and helping with our church picnic, It, was great to see everyone that attended and enjoyed the fellowship.

As we enter October, I want to remind everyone that we will be hosting the Pumpkin Patch. Please consider volunteering to either help with the unloading or covering a shift to sell. This is a great opportunity to be an outreach to the community.

The month of October is also Pastor Appreciation month. I encourage the congregation to reach out to Pastor during the month of October to show him appreciation for all the hard work and effort that he has put in this year. Some suggestions are an email, phone call, a handwritten note or simply give a heartfelt thank you. Of course, one of the most important ways to show your care is by assuring that you attend the services and discipleship classes regularly.

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 - This class meets in Room 7&8 each Thursday morning from 10-11 am from September 7th - November 2nd. The class will continue to study Hebrews chapter 11 (and 12:1-13) under the theme of CPH's "The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament" book.

Men's Discipleship Study - Our monthly men's study for 2023-2024 will meet on Tuesday, October 5, 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.

Lutheran Witness Magazine - It is that time of year again, time to place our order for the 2024 Lutheran Witness magazines. The cost for the subscription to this monthly magazine is \$22.50 for the 2024 calendar year. If you would like to receive a subscription for the coming year please submit a check to the church office by **October 10th**, made payable to "Christ Lutheran Church", with the words "Lutheran Witness" in the note section of the check. If you have any questions, please contact the church office for further information.

Pumpkin Patch - We will host an unloading fellowship event on Sunday, October 15. At 6:00 p.m., we will form a pumpkin brigade to unload around 500 bulk pumpkins. Sign-ups are beginning to serve in various ways with the patch, including shifts to help unload the pumpkins, and to help sell pumpkins through October 31st. All church proceeds from this year's pumpkin patch will benefit the wonderful non-profit organization, Water to Thrive, which builds wells and helps to bring clean water to those living in rural parts of Africa. Please contact Jordan, or Deborah Bynum, regarding this year's pumpkin patch.

The Sign-Up Genius link for the pumpkin patch is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4FA5A82DAAF4C43-2023>. This link will also be accessible via the Church's home web page <http://www.christaustin.org>.

Help Arrange Pallets for Pumpkin Patch - On Sunday, October 8th at 10:45 am in the backyard of the Christ's Workshop following Worship.





"I will meditate"

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

"Raise Your Hand!"

The other day I was listening with half an ear to an old "Gunsmoke" rerun on TV. Chester said to Marshall Dillon about a stranger in town, "He's rich in money but poor in spirit," to which the Marshall replied, "Sounds as if you went to church." "Yes, I went last Sunday," Chester replied. The Marshall thought a minute and said with a chuckle, "Yeah, it rained last Sunday." Sadly, I can relate to too often having nothing "better" to do. Even worse, I've had a few "Peter moments" - times when I've denied being a disciple of Jesus - not by saying I don't know or believe in Jesus, but rather by what I did NOT say, or do. One such instance occurred when the IRS sent me to Chicago for a two-week course designed to teach me more about my own and others' personalities, and how we relate to each other. Attendees were from U.S. Treasury Departments throughout the country and were not to know each other. Over the weekend, we were not to leave or have outside visitors, but rather to participate in prearranged activities with our "classmates." We selected our activities Friday afternoon. Then the class host announced she would find places of worship and provide transportation for anyone who would like to go to church, and to please *raise your hand*. I wanted to go, but try as I may, I could not gather the courage to raise my hand, and after all, no one else had their hand up. I only slowly raised my hand when I thankfully saw three others raising theirs. Like Peter, I knew Jesus was looking at me (Luke 22:61), and I'm still embarrassed before my forgiving Savior when I recall my hesitation that day! I was taught early in life about being a child of God when in Lutheran kindergarten we sang, "This little Gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!" In my favorite verse, we sang, "Hide it under a bushel?" and then shouted, "NO! I'm going to let it shine!" Jesus said, "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me . . . will have the light of life*" (John 8:12). In our Baptism, Jesus' Holy Spirit came to us and remains with us, daily renewing us in the knowledge of this most holy light, Jesus, God's Son who died on a cross in forgiveness of our sins and rose from the dead as the promise of life everlasting. It is His Spirit that brings us to faith, to know and believe in Jesus, the Christ. And Jesus said, "*You are the light of the world . . . put it on a stand, . . . let your light shine before men!*" (Matt 5:14-16). Paul said, "You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. *Live as children of light!*" (Eph 5:8). And Luther said, "Shining is the real job of believing . . . the exercise, expression and confession of faith." Well, it's difficult to express my faith when I hesitate and sit on my hands! And then there were these two, what I remember as, "nudges from God." Our host that Friday afternoon in Chicago, said to let her know after class the church denomination we chose, or we could attend church with her and her family at their church - a *Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in Downers Grove, IL!* We all decided to go with her. The next day, a nice woman from Utah with whom I had struck up a friendship, and of Mormon faith, asked me if maybe she could join us and would she be welcome at MY church?! With a hug and a smile, my answer was "Yes!" That Sunday, I joyfully sang the familiar liturgy and hymns, I bowed my head and prayed the Lord's Prayer next to four women of mixed faith - and I left the rest to the Holy Spirit. After all, you just never know what God may work when you are not afraid to raise your hand for Him, to do your job as a Child of Light! *Prayerfully, Bold in Christ! Duannah.*

One-Pot Kraut Meal

So good paired with a favorite pickle and some dark bread (with mustard)!

- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 2 slices bacon, diced
- Polish sausage (half of a link cut into ½ inch thick slices)
- Low Sodium Spam (half a can diced into ½ inch cubes)
- ½ medium onion (cut into ¼ inch slices)
- ½ cup diced celery
- ½ cup diced bell pepper
- Sauerkraut (14.5 oz can, drained and rinsed well)
- ½ tsp chicken bouillon powder
- ½ tsp black pepper
- 2 medium red potatoes (large dice)

In a deep skillet, cook bacon in butter until almost crisp. Add sausage and Spam, and cook until lightly brown. Add onion, celery, and bell pepper, and cook until limp. Stir in sauerkraut. Cook, covered over medium heat 10-15 minutes. Add a little water if necessary. Stir in bouillon, black pepper, and any other seasonings you like. Add potatoes, cover, and cook until potatoes are done. (Or use drained, canned potatoes.)

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). The cost is \$45 per flower arrangement.





Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Ellen Decker | 10/1 |
| Mitchell Teeters | 10/1 |
| Louise Stuenkel | 10/2 |
| Chandler Mitchell | 10/5 |
| Shelbi Hentschke | 10/9 |
| Richard Ziehr | 10/12 |

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.

October Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Randy & LeMorris Galbreath | 10/1/1976 |
| Bryan & Ronnie Richter | 10/03/2003 |
| Jared and Lisa Castille | 10/06/2017 |
| Eric & Debra Harrison | 10/10/1992 |
| Phil & Sue Etter | 10/14/1989 |
| Kevin & Barbara Craig | 10/21/1989 |

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.

Lutheran Hour Ministries - If you attended worship on Sunday, September 24, you heard and read a bit about Lutheran Hour Ministries. Did you realize that LHM is a product of the Lutheran Laymen League which was founded in 1917? Every member of the LCMS can become a member of the League and join nearly 100,000 others in supporting LHM's mission of "Bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church."

Flower Chart Given by...

October 1

Gwen & Donald Lewis

October 8

Dorothy Traugott

October 15

Duannah Ashmore

October 22

In Honor of Kevin & Barbara Craig's Anniversary

October 29

Brenda Richter

Most folks know of LHM because of the weekly broadcast of the Lutheran Hour which was first aired on radio on October 2, 1930 and today is still broadcast over more than 1800 stations in North America as well as on several places on the Internet.

LHM reaches over 163 million folks each year around the world, in almost all countries. For example, this year marks the 75th. anniversary of ministry in Brazil and the 70th. in India. For more information about the LHM impact around the world go to the LHM annual report at lhm.org/report

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.

Braille is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, October 17, 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.

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. Fellowship committee will provide coffee and juice and paper products. Please consider hosting one of our Sunday Fellowships.

Lectors

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|------------|-----------------|
| 10/1/2023 | Taylor Teeters |
| 10/8/2023 | Micah Stennfeld |
| 10/15/2023 | Alan Werchan |
| 10/22/2023 | Gary Lippe |
| 10/29/2023 | Clayton Pillack |

Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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