

Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

September 2023



Dear Friends,

In Hebrews 13:8 we read these words: “**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**”

I find great comfort in these words amid the ever changingness of our world, as the very foundations around us begin to fall apart—politically, morally, socially, relationally, etc., there is one rock that remains immovable, when anchor that will hold fast in the storm, one pylon that will not crumble amidst the shaking of the earth, and that is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Anything else we build on and count on may let us down, fall apart, or change, but Jesus Christ and his love for us will always remain that one foundation that cannot be shaken. Continue to anchor your life to Christ Jesus, and regardless of the storms that you go through, you will stand firm and you will know the peace of God that transcends any and all storms.

Have a blessed month,
Pastor John

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

Gwendy Lewis – broken wrist

Gary Lippe – continued healing from cancer

Debbie Harrison's mom - broken ankle

Raymond Klutz (Alice Werchan's Dad) – heart issues and cancer

Leola Brodbeck (mother of Patty Brodbeck's husband, Dale) recovering from surgery to repair a tear in her aortic

Betty Renteria (friend of Gerald & Ellen Decker) – breast cancer.

Katherine Richter—thyroid surgery and thanksgiving that the nodules in her thyroid were benign

Pastor John—chronic lymphocytic leukemia

Doug Bynum—hip replacement

Iola Sturm (Aunt of Phyllis Trautner) - fell and broke her femur.

Phyllis Mitchell—bypass surgery

Sara (BJ Zamora's sister-in-law) - heart issues

Lucille Herrera - procedure on her left eye

Clayton Pillack – treatment for melanoma

Milton Ihlo - gallbladder surgery

David Schaare - prostate surgery

Pregnancy

Christin Mercedes – health and safety during pregnancy

Special Requests – Rain

Teachers and Children – start of school year

Loss of Loved One

Family of Harold Derenberger at his passing

Caitlin and Haylee Rowlette at the passing of uncle

Family of Alice Werchan at the passing of Alice's dad Raymond

**PASTOR
JOHN
STENNFELD**



WHAT'S INSIDE

2-3 Around the Church

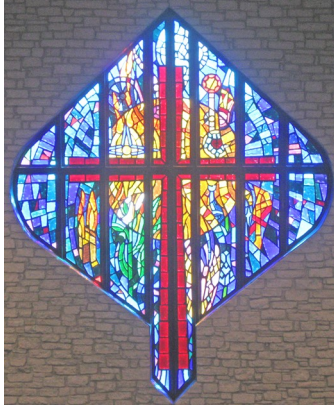
Stewardship Verse

⁹ I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, ¹⁰ for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹⁴ Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High,

Psalm 50:9-10, 14



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.

We held our August voters' meeting on Sunday 8/27/2023. We heard reports from Pastor John, Jordan, and others.

This month on Sunday, September 24, we will have our annual church picnic event. We have made this event a Thrivent Action Team event, so instead of selling tickets, we will be collecting food for the local food bank. We are also asking anyone that attends to bring a dessert to share. We need volunteers to help with food prep and set up in the back yard of Christ workshop.

Our fellowship after church continues to be an enjoyable time for our members. We are always in need of folks taking a turn to provide refreshments for our time of fellowship following our church service. Please consider signing up for one Sunday to bring refreshments. A big 'thank you' for all those who have taken a turn, or two, to provide refreshments for us.

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's 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

Thursday Morning Bible Study - We will begin on Thursday, September 7th at 10 am in Room 7 & 8. This class will meet 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. Due to a generous donation from one of our people, the workbooks for this study were/will be provided at no cost to the participants. We do ask that those participating in this study sign up by Tuesday, August 29 (by contacting Jordan at the church office via phone or email jordan@christaustin.org) so that we might order the appropriate number of additional books.

Men's Discipleship Study - Our monthly men's study for 2023-2024 will begin on Tuesday, September 5th, 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. These books will be provided at no cost to the individual participants by virtue of a generous gift given by one of our people. Those men desiring to participate should contact Jordan (by way of email jordan@christaustin.org or calling the church office) by Tuesday, August 29th, so that he knows how many books to order.

Church Picnic -

The Fellowship Committee would like to invite everyone to the church picnic on September 24th, 2023, in the backyard of Christ's Workshop. We would like to have everyone bring a dessert to share.

“I will meditate”

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

HOLY CROSS

When Grandpa Twenhafel died, our grandmother told 17-year-old me that I would be the organist for his funeral. I began playing piano when I was four, and all through high school, I had made a little money rehearsing and accompanying other students at concerts, contests, etc. I was also comfortable playing organ, but, I had never played for a church service, so I was quite nervous about the funeral. I suppose I did alright, but I don't really remember much. What mostly stands out, was the solo selected by Grandma, “The Old Rugged Cross.” It sounded great! And I was sure I played a major role in that! Truthfully, the soloist, a man from our church, did not need accompaniment, he had such a full, beautiful voice! But ever since, when I hear that wonderful song, “The Old Rugged Cross,” I am carried back to that day on the organ bench. I've worn crosses on a chain around my neck for many years. Most are sterling silver, shiny, and decoratively etched, and there's one sweet wooden cross made by a beloved church family member. Songs and thoughts of crosses fill my head right now because my sister suggested I meditate about Holy Cross Day, September 14th. Um, Holy Cross Day? Did I know about this? Well, it's in my Lutheran hymnal's list of Feasts and Festivals (*LSB* pg xi)! So, what am I to think and pray about on that day? I had some ideas but they all seemed to overlap with other church year observances, in particular, Good Friday. So, I began by reading the lectionary (*LSB* pg xxiii). From the Old Testament reading: “The Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a snake and put it on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live. So Moses made a bronze snake and put it on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived’” (Num 21:4-9). Why is this a reading for that day? Well, the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness after their exodus from Egypt. When they complained to God and Moses about what they had to eat, God sent poisonous snakes which bit and killed many of them. When they repented and asked God to take away the snakes, He provided a way for them to be saved from the lethal venom. Wow! I see a parallel, and a reason for this reading. Here, some 900 years prior to the first recorded crucifixion, God showed His chosen instrument upon which our salvation would be won! His Son, being without sin, would carry the poison of all sin and be lifted up on a CROSS to die our punishment, and to save us! This is the promise God made in the Garden of Eden, His plan to defeat Satan! And, it wasn't the pole or the bronze snake that saved the Israelites from the lethal venom. It was their faith. They had to look up to and believe in God's means of salvation! And so do we! Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). But how can a cruel, humiliating manner of death ever be “HOLY”? It is Holy because God chose it, and by what God worked through it to His glory. It is Holy by the Christ Who died there. It is Holy because when we look upon it in faith, and by grace, we see our Savior! Jesus said, “But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself” (John 12:32). In our Baptism, our sinful self died on that cross with Jesus, and we can sing with Moses, “He has become my salvation!” (Ex 15:2). And so, “I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.” A very blessed Holy Cross Day. (*& sister, thank you!*) Duannah

OREO COOKIE DELIGHT (no cooking!)

1 package (14.3 oz) regular Oreo Cookies
 6 Tbsp butter, melted
 1 block (8 oz) cream cheese, room temp.
 1 cup powdered sugar
 2 containers (8 oz) Cool Whip, thawed
 1 package (5.9 oz) instant chocolate pudding mix
 2 ¾ cup milk

Crush bag of Oreos in a food processor, or by putting cookies in a zip-top bag and beating with a rolling pin, etc. Set aside 1 cup. Mix remaining crumbs with melted butter. Press into a 9X13 pan. Beat cream cheese with mixer until smooth. Add powdered sugar and mix well. Fold in 1 container Cool Whip. Spread over the Oreo crust. Mix pudding mix and milk with a whisk, and let thicken. Spread over the cream cheese layer. Top with remaining container Cool Whip. Sprinkle on the 1 cup Oreo crumbs. Chill at least 4 hours. ENJOY!

Altar Flower Chart - The flower chart for the 2023 calendar year that is posted in the narthex has some openings through the end of December for which a 1st arrangement has not been signed up for yet. These are October 1 & 29, and November 5th. 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

Matias Reveles	9/4
Harold Hoes	9/6
Debbie Harrison	9/8
Bert Stuenkel	9/9
Gracie Cano	9/14
Joe Calvo	9/18
Sue Etter	9/23
Adam Werchan	9/23
Katherine Werchan	9/23
Seth Werchan	9/23
Yogi Strait	9/25
Jeremy Magruder	9/27
Connie Ziehr	9/27
Margaret Cano	9/28
Cindy Zieschang	9/29

Flower Chart Given by...

September 3

Freddie & Dorothy Richter
Brenda's Birthday

September 10

Taylor & Mitch Teeters
Debbie Harrison's birthday

September 17

In Honor of Jordan Reid

September 24

Dale & Patty Brodbeck
and Arliss Shefstad

Lectors

9/3/2023	Taylor Teeters
9/10/2023	Clayton Pillack
9/17/2023	Alan Werchan
9/24/2023	Micah Stennfeld

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.

Lutheran Hour Ministry—Look for additional information on September 24, as we celebrate Lutheran Hour Ministry Sunday.

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.

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 will begin in early September to register to serve in various ways with the patch, including for shifts to sell pumpkins thru 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.

Lutheran Hour Ministries - Even though our congregational membership currently has a small number of children, many members have grandchildren, great grandchildren, or children of friends and neighbors who could benefit from the use of a Lutheran Hour Ministries program entitled, ***Gospel Adventures Show***.

LHM and Group Publishing have teamed up for this new program which is a weekly audio program that takes young listeners on a Bible journey with hosts Ben and Noah to learn from some of the best-loved Bible characters. Each 30-minute episode has a theme, a Bible verse, a Bible story, an interactive activity, and a story from a child.

Please feel free to share this program which can be found wherever you listen to podcasts or at gospeladventures.org/show. It's a fun way to keep kids engaged with the Bible in a fresh new way. Contact Donn Trautner for additional details.

Nurturing Your Faith - Spoken looks at the power of the spoken word. God spoke all things into creation, and Jesus exercised authority over sin, sickness, and demons through the spoken word. There is power in the words we say—both to hurt and to heal through the Holy Spirit. Come to the Adult Discipleship Class on Sunday, Sept. 3 and Sunday, Sept. 10 to learn more.

Braille is planning to meet on the third Tuesday, September 19, 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.

Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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