

# Christ Lutheran Church

The People of Christ Sharing the Love of Christ

July 2024



Dear Friends,

As I have been working through and preparing our summer sermon series exploring some of the lesser known stories in the Old Testament, two things have become abundantly clear to me. 1) God expects us to obey Him, and 2) God defends His people. There are other lessons that I see and have been learning too, but these two seem to be reappearing in a number of the stories.

Fast forward to the New Testament, to some of Jesus' last words to his disciples as he gives them his great commission, and we hear him tell his disciples to disciple others teaching them to obey everything that he had commanded, and that he would be with them always. And the implied message of his continual presence is that they/we should never fear for He will defend us.

The God of the Old Testament is the God of the New Testament. He is the same God, and His message to us is the same — "Obey me; trust me." No matter the trial or temptation or trouble, God in His word calls us to obey Him and to trust Him. When we do that He will take care of us and defend us. He will, in the words of Proverbs 3, "make our paths straight."

Have a blessed month,  
Pastor John

**PASTOR  
JOHN  
STENNFELD**



## WHAT'S INSIDE

2-4 Around the Church

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

Sonny Mitchell – recovery from cochlear implant surgery  
Dorothy Traugott – recovery from broken hip and ribs  
Robin Altson (friend of the Werchans) - breast cancer  
Gary Lippe – recovering from emergency surgery for a detached retina in his eye

### Expecting Parents

Amanda and Onyema Ogwuegbu  
Taylor & Mitch Teeters

### Traveling

Divina and Micah Stennfeld

## Stewardship Verse

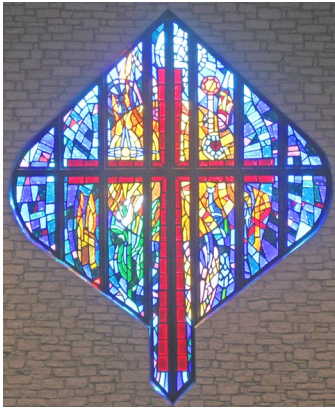
So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God.  
Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

I Corinthians 4:1-2





# 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.

If you've been to worship lately, you will have noticed our newly restored front doors. They look awesome and proudly display our LCMS logo! In addition to his Sunday morning guitar skills, Eric Harrison knows a few things about construction. On behalf of the Trustees, he used those skills to oversee the restoration work.

We recently received a significant donation to cover replacement our exterior church sign located at the corner of Monroe and Brackenridge. On behalf of the Trustees, Mitch Teeters is leading the charge on this project. He recently cleaned out the flower bed in front of the existing sign and is handling the bid process. Expect a new sign in the near future.

I reported last month that both air conditioners in the sanctuary were leaking coolant and had been treated with stop leak. As of now they continue to work. We have also had the Workshop unit repaired. Unfortunately, the conference room unit has now stopped working properly, so we continue to have it and the narthex out of service. It is troubling as both broken units are less than five years old, and we have now exhausted much of our repair budget for the year. Before we proceed with fixing these two units, our vendor has performed a survey of the fourteen units we have. The Trustees and Council will review this analysis and may have recommendations for the voters at the August voters' meeting.

Jordan is proceeding with the revamp of our website and will hopefully be ready to go soon. The Council will meet in July to discuss these and other issues and set the August meeting date and agenda.

As always, stay up on the latest activities or hear a sermon through our website ([www.christaustin.org](http://www.christaustin.org)), livestream worship on Facebook ("Christ Austin 78704"), or follow us on X (@ChristATX78704).

Alan Werchan  
President

**Church Council Meeting** – There will be a Council meeting on Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 pm in the Kitchen area of the fellowship hall.

**Seasonal Volunteer Opportunity with the Food Bank**—The Capital Area Food Bank (6500 Metropolis Drive, Austin, TX 78744) is looking for a greatly increased number of community members to volunteer in the Food Bank's Community Kitchen to help them make summer meals – up to 30 volunteers per shift! Sign up at <http://tiny.cc/summerkitchen>.

Summer volunteers in the kitchen will:

- Help assemble meals on the tray line, ensuring food safety standards are met, meal components and serving sizes are accurate and meals are properly sealed and prepared for delivery
  - Work on other kitchen tasks including cleaning and sanitizing coolers, food production tasks and daily kitchen cleaning tasks
  - Be a part of producing more than 6,000 meals and snacks a day!
- Summer meal shifts are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to noon and 1 to 3:30 pm.

**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.

**Camp Lone Star BBQ and Auction Fundraiser**—Camp Lone Star located at 2016 Camp Lone Star Road in La Grange, TX 78945 wishes to inform the Texas District congregations about their **BBQ & Auction Fundraiser**, coming up on Sunday, July 28! This special event includes pre-service music starting at 10:30 a.m., an outdoor worship service at 11 a.m., a barbecue meal at Noon, and the benefit auctions from 1-3 p.m. The swimming pool will also be open from 1-2:30 p.m. for those wanting to cool off!





## “I will meditate”

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

### “Friends”

I had a wonderful loving surprise a few weeks back. A dear friend of mine, who I had lost touch with over the years, reached out to find me. She contacted the church office and asked them to give me her phone number with a message to please call. When I got the message, I called immediately, and she and her husband and I talked and laughed for over two hours. O!!! It was such a blessing to visit with them! We knew each other at Christ Lutheran for many years, in high school where we both were in the band and “hung out” together, and we were bridesmaids in each other’s wedding, a year apart, 50 years ago. We talked of church matters and what wonderful friends fellow believers are, and at 70+ years of age, we compared our various ailments and number of surgeries. But mostly, we spoke of God’s gift of faith. It was hard to say “good-bye.” We live many miles apart and travel is difficult, and I feel we may not see each other again. I’ve known and still know many folks I think of and love as friends, but never felt comfortable enough with anyone that I could pour my heart out to, or share my innermost feelings with. I suppose in that respect, my close friends were my mom and dad, and my husband, all dead now, and of course, my dear sister. Perhaps this is true for many people. Friendships, close or not, are not forever. People move away, interests change, feelings get hurt, feelings fade, people die. That’s just life in a sinful world. However, there is one truly close friendship that I cling to and that I know is forever, and that is my friendship with my Savior, Jesus! A favorite hymn of my family’s is “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” As an organist, I enjoyed playing it for worship. It’s an easy and fun melody to play and to sing, and the words are mostly simple, relatable, and comforting. The congregation always seemed “energized” by the hymn. The text was written by Joseph Scriven who had migrated to Canada from his home in Dublin, Ireland. When he learned his mother was seriously ill and he could not be with her, he wrote her a “letter of comfort” and enclosed the text. A referenced Bible passage for the hymn is John 15:14-16. At the Last Supper, Jesus told His Disciples these words of comfort, “You are my friends if you do what I command. I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you.” And verse 17, “This is my command: love each other.” What an amazing gift! Jesus gave His life for us, and He chooses us, as believers, to be His friends! When we feel alone, Jesus is still there. In sickness and death, Jesus clings to us. He rejoices with us, feels our pain, sees our tears. He is faithful to us and takes care of us. He “keeps in touch with us” through His Word and Sacraments, and He listens for us to “keep in touch” with Him in our prayers. We can tell Him everything, and His love for us will not fade. As we live in the knowledge of this dearest of all relationships, how can we not treat each other as anything but friends, loving each other as Jesus taught by His example, and telling them of His love. I know I must try harder. My friendship with my Savior is something I treasure greatly. I feel comfortable with Him, and find that when I bring my ALL to Him, asking His forgiveness and help, His Holy Spirit strengthens me, and the Light of Jesus grows brighter, and with words of thanksgiving, I feel His peace envelop me, and I am reassured of brighter days as His chosen friend. And, of a brighter life to come, where, yes, I will see my friends again as together, we lift praises to our Lord in Heaven, forever! *In Christ, Duannah*

### Whipped Sheet Cake Ice Cream

This was the winning recipe for Best Sweet in the November 2019 Texas Coop Power magazine. Sounds so good and refreshing!

2 cups heavy whipping cream  
1/4 cup granulated sugar  
1 can sweetened condensed milk  
3/4 cup cocoa powder  
3/4 cup chopped pecans or walnuts  
2 tsp. vanilla extract

In a large bowl, use a mixer on high speed to whip cream until stiff peaks form. Add sugar a small amount at a time to aid in peak formation. In a separate bowl, mix condensed milk, cocoa powder, chopped nuts and vanilla. Fold the whipped cream into the condensed milk mixture and transfer to a freezer-safe covered container. Freeze until firm, at least 24 hours. (The author suggests adding dulce de leche, crushed candy bars, ice cream cone pieces, etc., and says, “It has a deliciously smooth taste that will please even the most die-hard ice cream lover.”)



# Christ Lutheran Church

July 2024

## Birthdays

Patty Brodbeck	7/6
Douglas Bynum	7/10
Earnest David Sermons	7/11
Annette Batts	7/13
Susan Sermons	7/14
Madeline Robb	7/16
Micah Stennfeld	7/17
Mary Carrion	7/29

**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.

## Anniversaries

Gerald & Ellen Decker	7/5/1958
Jeremy & Dana Magruder	7/8/2006
Steve & Cynthia Bailey	7/12/1984
Donn & Phyllis Trautner	7/26/1975
Bill & Christina Martin	7/26/2014

## **A BOLD INITIATIVE TO REACH A WORLD THAT NEEDS THE GOSPEL**

Building upon its 100-plus-year history to move forward into the mission field, Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) launched CONNECT as a crucial next step forward in achieving our shared vision and mission to reach the billions who still do not know Christ.

CONNECT Supports LHM's vision for the future and Christ's call to reach the world with the hope of the Gospel by: Impacting People Globally, Impacting People Through Digital Engagement, Impacting People Right Where They are.

LHM is nearly two-thirds of the way to reaching the financial goal necessary to support the ministry work of CONNECT! You can help by: Using and Sharing LHM Resources (use Project Connect booklets as a way to connect). Become a CONNECT Captain (see Donn for details). Make a gift at: <https://connectlhm.org/ways-to-give/>

For more information go to [connectlhm.org](http://connectlhm.org)

**The Lutheran Layman** This valuable resource comes quarterly to your home and includes tons of resources and information. In order to subscribe send a \$5 donation and a note indicating your desire to receive the Lutheran Layman to:  
Lutheran Hour Ministries  
660 Mason Ridge Center  
St. Louis, MO 63141

## Flower Chart Given by...

July 7

Doug & Deborah Bynum  
Doug's birthday

July 14

Vacant

July 21

Donn & Phyllis Trautner

July 28

Patty Brodbeck

## Lectors

7/7/2024	Alan Werchan
7/14/2024	Micah Stennfeld
7/21/2024	Taylor Teeters
7/28/2024	Clayton Pillack

**Women of Christ**—Women of Christ - will meet at the home of Michelle Bennight on Tuesday, July 2 at 6:30 pm.

Contact Barbara Craig at ( 512) 695-8192 for additional information.

**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.

**Quilting**—Quilters will meet the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. They will meet July 11 and 25 at 9:00 a.m.

**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 go to YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@ChristAustinSermons>) for Pastor John's weekly sermon videos (with visuals)

**Braille** will not meet in July or August.

## Christ Lutheran Web Site & Social Media

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