

INTERMISSION

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WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET

SUMMER CAMP

We had a great summer at camp! We sent 7 kids to Camp Lutherhill the week of June 25-30. And we will send 4 more the week of August 6-11! Most of them have never been to camp before! We're looking forward to starting a great camp tradition here at CTS, and these kids want to express how much they loved camp, and appreciate our church making it possible for them!

"Thank you congregation for making it possible to go to camp. Everything was so fun. My favorite thing was the pond. I'm very thankful for your gesture." - Ashley, age 13

"I would like to thank you for the wonderful week, and night swimming." - Raul, age 11

"Thank you for giving me the opportunity to go to camp. I really enjoyed everything there and I'm happy that I got to go." - Matilda, age 12

"Thank you congregation for giving me the chance to go to Lutherhill for the week. I had such a good time meeting new people and starting new friendships. There is no way I would miss camp anymore for as long as I'm allowed to go. It was such a great week of being around such nice/great people and I wouldn't change it for the world." - Carla, age 14

"Thank you for sponsoring me and the others to go to camp. My favorite part was the High Ropes Course." - Austin, age 12

"Thank you for helping me get to camp. My favorite thing was the counselors!" - Xander, age 10



If you hurry, you might still be able to participate in a few nights of VBS! Our friends from Camp Lutherhill are here for the week of July 30-August 3 to lead us in telling stories, singing songs, making stuff, eating food, praying together and playing together. Families are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m. for dinner - VBS starts at 5:30. Our final night (Thursday, August 3) is SPLASH NIGHT! Come prepared to get wet on inflatable water slides and playing hilarious water games. Thursday also features the return of Pastor Jim's Magical Milkshakes!! It's a week of fun for kids finishing Kindergarten-5th Grade and a nice break for parents. Best of all, it's absolutely FREE!

SUMMER SOCIAL GATHERING

August 20
9:15 to 10:30 AM

Do you want to get to know the people who sit at the other end of the pew? Or people who attend the other service? Join us between services for some summer social gatherings! These will be potlucks, and a sign-up sheet will be provided in the narthex. We hope you will take the time to participate in these events. Get to know the CTS family from both services!



YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

Kids Who Love Pizza - Screen on the Green!

For our next KWLP, we're switching things up a bit! Instead of going out for pizza and a movie, we're staying in!



On **September 15th**, bring a blanket or comfortable chair to the lawn behind the church. We'll have a make-your-own-pizza buffet with crusts and toppings so you can be sure to have it the way you like it. Then, we'll watch a movie on the lawn on our giant inflatable screen. Which movie? YOU DECIDE! Go to our website at www.christtheservant.net/youth--family and fill out the survey form to choose which of 4 movies you'd like to watch. Then grab your friends and come out from 7-11 p.m. for pizza, popcorn, drinks, candy and a movie! Best of all - this one won't cost you a thing! It's a great way to kick off our Rally Day weekend! RSVP on the sign-up table in the narthex, or email J.T.

Rally Day

September 17th is Rally Day! We will kick off the new school/Sunday School year with a splash with a huge party between services. From 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. you can enjoy breakfast, meet your new Sunday School teacher, get those annoying Medical Release Forms filled out for the year, and wet your pants on inflatable water slides! It's the last Sunday before Sunday School classes start and we are not going to waste it!

ELCA Youth Gathering

If you're a student who will be in the 8th-12th grade this coming year, mark your calendars NOW for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering - **June 27th-July 1st, 2018**. We're joining the 30,000 ELCA teenagers who will be descending upon our city for Community Life, Interactive Learning, Mass Gathering, Service Learning and Synod Day! This event only happens once every 3 years, and it rarely happens in your own city, so we are going ALL OUT to make sure we have an amazing experience at the Gathering next summer. That means staying together in a hotel in the city, worshiping every evening with 30,000 friends at NRG stadium and getting started on fundraising ASAP. Anybody interested in finding out more about the Gathering schedule, costs, travel, lodging, and expectations is invited to a meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, September 10th in the Jr/Sr High Sunday School room.

BEADS FOR LIFE

Thanks to the CTS members who purchased Bead for Life jewelry at our two sales, along with the girls at Evynn's school who purchased items at the school sale, WHAM will be receiving a donation of \$285.50!

Carrie Stallwitz

OPPORTUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE

The Opportunity Endowment Fund has fulfilled our grant goal for 2017. The Fund charter allows up to 25% of the total value of the fund on December 31st of each year to be made available for distribution during the following year. In 2017, we were allowed \$40,530.00. The following projects have been granted and God's work is in progress:

- Habitat for Huggins, Fulshear, TX- house rebuild: \$5000
- Neighbors in Action, Port Houston, TX – Weekly Bible study for teens: \$5000
- Acts of Wisdom, Ethiopia- flooring for schools in 2 towns: \$10,500
- Tenderfeet Foundation, Kenya- shoes for 130 students: \$3,300
- Karatu Lutheran Hospital, Tanzania- hospital supplies: \$3,600
- Family Hope, Fulshear, TX- shoes for 60 children at Huggins Elementary: \$900
- JT Operation Ordination- tuition and fees support: \$470, with fall expenses to come

The world of charitable recipients has started to take notice of us and we are receiving more applications each year. In order to give all grant applicants an equal chance at receiving funds we found it necessary to set an application deadline of June 30. If you have any projects in mind for the OEF, please take note of this new deadline.

If you wish to learn more, or have questions about current grants, please speak to one of the members of the Opportunity Endowment Fund Committee:

Laura Wilhelm	Mike Iversen
Nancie Blair	Mike Sweet
Pastor Jim Giannantonio	Susan Collins

THANKS

I want to express my appreciation to my CTS Family for the prayers, concerns and notes of encouragement after my April fall. Thank You. All meant so much to me and I could just "feel" the love you all had for a family member. Special thanks to Pastor Jim for his numerous visits and phone calls regarding my well-being. I am healing, though very slowly and look forward to "ditching" the walker soon. Your continuing prayers will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Donna Schneider

Editor's note: This note was inadvertently left out of the June/July newsletter. My apologies to all concerned! lvhw

COUNCIL NOTES

Treasurer Susan Collins advised that total expenses for June decreased by \$26,296 over May. Total expenses for June are \$53,339 compared to \$72,954 for May. Susan also advised that our current organ has been fully depreciated. It was purchased in 1998 for a cost of \$35,884. Maintenance expenses for the organ, since 2011, total \$6,251, with the largest expense being \$2,250.

Inga Carlson updated Council on her research into Maternity and Paternity Benefits customarily provided in Lutheran Churches. She reviewed benefit policies in the Texas – Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (GCS) and in the Minneapolis Synod. It was decided to follow the GCS policy, which allows for six weeks for maternity and two weeks for paternity benefits. It was also decided to include language allowing for changes “at the discretion of Council” to allow for circumstances for employee and church that might change over time. Inga’s work for our church also includes updating the CTS Employee Handbook and these are scheduled to be reviewed by Council in September.

Director of Music John Krueger advised that the Choir Dinner will be held August 27, and his trip to Belgium will be August 5 – 15. A Congregational Meeting and Breakfast will be held July 23 to present and discuss the replacement organ opportunity that has arisen.

Youth and Family Director J.T. reported on what a wonderful experience was held by all at Lutherhill. Four campers enjoyed the time so much that they are going

back in August for another week of camp. J.T. also reported that Carolyn Kirk is working on God’s Work – Our Hands activities for the upcoming service day of September 10; that Rally Day will be September 17; and that Demi Edwards, a KIPP Schools music teacher, will be serving as a Sunday School teacher this coming year.

Pastor Jim advised that he has been making many visits to home/rehab/hospital bound members throughout the six county Greater Houston Area. Pastor Jim is working on a study of Paul’s last Journey to Rome which he will present to CTS, and provided a few teasers: how do we know that Paul was beheaded, and how do we know that Peter was in Rome? Commencing September 21, Pastor Jim will be traveling to Malta to begin a journey following in the steps of Paul.

Regarding the upcoming 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, John Krueger pointed out that there will be a Synod lecture at the University of St. Thomas on September 23, and at the University of Houston on September 29. There will be a Joint Service on October 25 at the Co-Cathedral in downtown Houston. Christ the King Lutheran is presenting a Hymnfest on October 15. John, Pastor Jim, J.T. and Rosalie will get together to discuss potential plans for CTS activities.

Please pray for your Church Council as they work to advance the mission of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church.

BROOKDALE MINISTRY

Over recent months, the residents at Brookdale have enjoyed assembling the snack packs we provide for the homeless. This is a wonderful opportunity for the residents to do a service project and “give back” to the community.



A big thank you to Ken Smith and his team of volunteers for leading this ministry!

If you are looking for a way to get involved, consider becoming a part of the team as we explore other service opportunities. For information, contact Ken Smith or Carolyn Kirk.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's ministry retreat

Back by popular demand!

Yes, we will be doing it again on October 13th thru the 15th!

- Camp Lone Star, La Grange, TX
- Cost will be \$144 (If we have more than 20 the registration drops to \$130 so ladies let's invite others especially those who have not experienced this worthwhile happening!)
- A few scholarships will be available so early requests recommended!
- Deadline for sign up: September 15th

What goes on at these retreats that have made them so popular?? Here are a few of our favorite things: Prayer, fellowship, fun, music, hiking, communion lakeside, reflection, renewal, discovery, dancing!

Ask anyone who has attended and they will tell you what an uplifting positive weekend these retreats have become. Here are 4 Reasons why the Women's Ministry team thinks we need retreats and why we place a high priority on planning them:

1. It's hard to hear God's voice above the noise of everyday life.
2. Because we need each other
3. Because meeting together spurs us on to "love and good works"
4. Standing side by side with our sisters in Christ, and worshipping, praying, and learning about our precious Savior makes us stronger.

Sign-up sheet is in Narthex. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions! And please prayerfully consider attending, as this is a wonderful opportunity to come together as sisters in Christ.

Blessings,
Marsha Bower
lb16434@aol.com
281-381-0515

Women's ministry service project

We are happy to report that our service project on July 17th assembling personal care packages was a success and a big thank you to those of you who donated socks, deodorant and ponchos and also for our volunteers who helped package these items. This is a great way for Women's Ministry to participate in the Homeless Ministry and will become an ongoing project. Stay tuned for more details!!

THE CASE FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

According to the United Nations, approximately 1.2 billion people live in extreme poverty, subsisting on less than \$1.25 per day. More than half – around 680 million – live in countries that are either politically fragile, environmentally vulnerable, or both. As conflicts continue in Syria, Yemen, Iraq and South Sudan, those living in forced displacement reached a record high of 65 million. At the same time, natural disasters affected an estimated 90 million people last year.



Lutheran World Relief is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping communities living in extreme poverty and responding to global emergencies caused by natural disaster and conflict. LWR's work focuses on poor rural farmers because the success of their crops not only feeds their families, but is the basis of their livelihood. For them, income from farming is all they have to pay for shelter, clothes, education and health. LWR works in partnership with local communities to build their capabilities and collaborate on long-term solutions. In times of emergency, LWR is also a trusted partner to distribute aid and ensure people are prepared to withstand the next unexpected challenge. This work includes providing temporary shelter and cash-for-work programs, as well as long term food security.

Coffee and cocoa farming is particularly suited to sustainable development, as more than 80% of those crops are grown by small-scale farmers and they are good cash crops. They utilize the same agronomic techniques and have similar international markets. LWR is currently working with more than 45,000 coffee and cocoa farmers. In Haiti, LWR is working with a local partner to build a network of coffee cooperatives that support 6,500 coffee farmers. The goal is to help farmers diversify their crops, plant disease resistant varieties, and gain market access through the cooperative. In Uganda, LWR is working with a local partner, CEDO, to increase bean yields and move farmers from substance living to producing crops for sale and profit. And in Colombia, LWR is partnering with the ELCA and Starbucks to ensure waste water from coffee production does not contaminate the fresh water supply. Through these and other efforts, LWR has raised about 1 million people out of desperate poverty.

LWR is in the process of raising funds to break the cycle of poverty for a million more people, and respond to more of the world's worst humanitarian crises. The goal is an additional \$20M in resources by the year 2020. If you are interested in helping with this vital global mission, please visit their website at lwr.org.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The big news in the area of music is that the congregation voted to purchase a pipe organ from St. Thomas Episcopal Church in College Station. Over the next few weeks, a VERY large box will go in next to the choir risers and eventually be brought up to speed. Our current console will be moved and (hopefully) the old organ will be dismantled and sold. The target date for the new organ to be up and running is Labor Day weekend.

Perhaps the biggest difference will be that the new organ will be slightly louder, and that I may not be able to change the sound on every hymn stanza. Since a pipe organ “moves air,” it will breathe in much the same way we do when singing. It will also be a permanent replacement: since it is mechanical instead of electronic, it will never wear out or become obsolete. However, it is still portable enough to not be built into the front wall of the church – hence, it is not a permanent fixture. It will meet our needs for many years to come.

After a summer “hiatus,” the choirs will be back in action on Sunday, August 20 for rehearsals and singing the following Sunday (August 27). We will have two special events this fall: one is our annual Advent cantata, currently scheduled for Sunday, December 3 at both services, and the other will be Reformation Day services marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on October 31 at noon and 7:15 p.m.

We are currently in the middle of our “summer” (hymn based) liturgy. We will change over to our fall liturgy on September 10.

Finally, I have two personal notes. First, I will be out August 6 and 13 for a once in a lifetime opportunity: my wife and I will be traveling to Leuven, Belgium, so I can present a paper on Luther’s communion hymns at Congress XXVI of Societas Liturgica. I presented a paper to this group two years ago; because of that and my musical work, I was elected to membership in that organization. This year, I submitted an abstract for the paper, which was immediately approved, and I have received a scholarship covering my expenses as a “young” liturgical scholar. This is a direct result of my studies at the University of Notre Dame, which would not have happened without continuing education money from this congregation. I greatly appreciate the help, and feel that it is bearing fruit.

The second note concerns the radio show “Martin Luther With Eyes of Faith.” I have been hosting this program since February thanks to the generosity of several individuals and the help of the church council. The program is scheduled to run until November 12, and my next “guest” will be Carl Schalk, who is probably the greatest living Lutheran composer and author. We will discuss some of Luther’s writings about music, and some of Schalk’s writings about Luther and Lutheran worship.

HOMELESS MINISTRY

Thank you for your wonderful contributions of mustard, jelly and peanut butter. They have helped to replenish our pantry. We are still in need of sandwich bags, either fold-over or zip and quart-size zip bags. We also could use grocery-size brown paper bags. Keep saving your regular plastic grocery bags. Thank you.

The women’s ministry provided the homeless with much needed summer items this July - 100 packages. They were excited and pleased to receive them.

We are seeing fewer homeless people this summer downtown. We are still investigating a new place downtown where a group of homeless people stay under a bridge. It takes a lot of searching and calling to obtain a place close by where the owners will allow us on their property to park and distribute the lunches.

The Houston Food Bank has been a big help to us keeping the pantry stocked with the basics for the lunches. In our last order we received 200 cases of water free, and prior to that we received 100 cases of cups of applesauce free. In our next order, we are receiving 100 cases of raisins free and 94, 12-pound packages of meat free. We usually purchase protein bars from the food bank. Lunches currently consist of 16 oz bottle of water, 2 sandwiches, 2 boxes of raisins, cup of applesauce with spoon, and 2 protein bars.



We appreciate all of you for giving of your time and shopping for the homeless. You are the reason the ministry is so successful.

Shirley Downing

HOUSTON LUTHERAN CHORALE

The Houston Lutheran Chorale is seeking new singers to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ in music and song.

Who: All who love to sing – no auditions are required

When: Rehearsals begin August 20. 2 PM to 5 PM two Sunday afternoons each month. Concerts are scheduled for December 1 at Memorial – Katy, December 2 at St Timothy – Houston & December 3 – Memorial – Downtown. A very special Reformation performance will be part of a combined Reformation celebration on October 28.

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church, 800 Houston Avenue, Houston 77007

For More Information: call 832-489-6773 or for a proposed rehearsal schedule visit our web site at www.hlc-tx.org.



PRAYER REQUESTS

David Aguilar, friend of Bitsy Muse

Todd Ballengee, friend of Sandy Wills

Karen Bauer

Bruce Byrd, friend of Michele Byrnes

Haily Callihan, granddaughter of Karen and LeRoy Bauer

Hector Esparza, husband of Debbie Esparza

Jean Finney, friend of Karen Murawski

Austin Froebel, grandson of Ruth and Robert Froebel

Doug Gibson, friend of Phyllis and Monte Richard

Phoebe Gilcrest, friend of Cheryl Skillman

Caroline Goodfellow, friend of the Siegeles

Nancy Hallock, friend of Judie Deeds

Rev. Arlyn Hausmann, brother of Vanita Homer

Vanita Homer

Tom and Fawn Hood, friends of Tim and Karen Murawski

Vivian Johnson

Kathy Keith, daughter of Connie Lape, and friend of Joan Herbanek

Walter and Mary Ann Lueck, friends of Lucille Cochran

Ruth Maloney, mother of Bill Blair

Bob Milke

Vicki Molina, friend of Nancie Blair

Dean Mullin, friend of June and Harvey Jacobson

Ron Murawski, father of Tim Murawski

Lourdes and Pepe, friends of Tom and Sandy Wills

Marie Newman, friend of Tom and Sandy Wills

Greg Plotner, friend of Sandy and Tom Wills

Ray Reider, brother of Russ Reider

Cathy Roberson, daughter of Jodie Davis

Rob Roberson, son-in-law of Jodie Davis

Wuanita Schaper, mother of Carol Klem

Mary Ann Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand

Annette Shetter, friend of Sandy and Tom Wills

Catherine Shoenfelt

Gail Smith, step-sister of Ron Hatcher

George Southgate, friend of Sandy and Tom Wills

Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil

Nic and Julianna Terrell, friends of Phyllis Karas

Richard Thomas, brother-in-law of June Jacobson

Vada Wheatley, friend of Betty Boxx

Corrine Wilkins, mother of Marilee Dittrich

Tina Williams, friend of Sandy Wills

Mid Wills, mother of Tom Wills

Jodie Wright, mother of Chandler Wilhelm

Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Debbie Esparza
Gerald (Gerry) Ludwig
- 3 Karl Kramer
Neema Makia
Bill Skillman
- 4 Ben Moore
Ema Makia
- 5 Ronald Hatcher
- 7 Linda Iversen
- 8 Ruth Froebel
- 9 Julie Hanson
Kevin Petterson
- 10 Pamela Mobley
- 13 John Krueger
Russell Riggs
- 14 Michael (Blake)Iversen II
Patti Sterle
- 18 Glenda Ludwig
- 19 Christy Iversen
- 26 Judi Leisk
Donna Winczewski
- 27 Kandy Myers
- 31 Michelle Ezebuio
Michael Phillips
Louise Kiondo



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Randy and Susan Collins
- 8 Jerry and Kandy Myers
- 9 Braille and Edna Ndanshau
- 20 Chuck and Anne Marie Cook
- 21 Paul and Linda Siegele
- 24 Sue and Arnie Kaestner
Matt and Donna Grant
- 25 William and Margery Wheeler
- 26 Robert and Ruth Froebel
Harvey and June Jacobson
- 27 Nicas and Louise Kiondo
- 29 Ade and Ethel Kujimiyo





AUGUST 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 ← Vacation Bible School 5:30-8:30 p.m. →	2 7:30 AA Journey	3	4	5
6 2:30 Confirmation	7 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	8	9 7:30 AA Journey	10 7:00 Council	11	12
13	14	15	16 7:30 AA Journey	17	18	19
20 9:15 Summer Social Gathering	21 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	22	23 7:30 AA Journey	24	25	26
27 2:30 Confirmation	28	29	30 7:30 AA Journey	31	<p>Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.</p>	

CHURCH STAFF

WHAM GALA

Please mark your Calendars! WHAM will be celebrating 35 years of serving the needs of the West Houston Community on September 27, 2017 – at Lakeside Country Club from 6:00-8:00 pm.

This Gala is an important way to support the work of WHAM, it supplements the monthly contribution of CTS, and other sources. Sue and I and Jairo and Ruby Quintero enjoyed last year's event. It would be great if we had a table of eight this year! So, please consider joining us!

Further information, contact Mercedes at 713-977-5460 Arnie and Sue Kaestner

PASTOR

The Rev. James Giannantonio
jrgiannan@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Betsy Riggs
ctsoffice1@comcast.net

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Jason "JT" Thomas
jasonthomas0619@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

John Krueger
ctschoir1@comcast.net

NURSERY CAREGIVER

Amanda Howell
Michelle Sanchez

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma Cruz

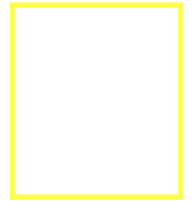
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AUGUST 2017

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2017 COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: David Stallwitz

President Elect:	Kyle Cooper	At Large:	Rosalie Fontenot
Secretary:	Ken Smith	At Large:	Linda Siegele
Treasurer:	Susan Collins	At Large:	Brent Brown
Financial Secretary:	Samantha Clark	At Large:	Bryant King

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, GROUP LEADERS, CONTACT PEOPLE

Acolytes	Inga Carlson	Memorial Service Coordinator	Linda Iversen
Adult Christian Ed	TBA	Men Who Love Spaghetti	Roger Cutler
Altar Guild	Lori Wood	Nursery Attendant	Amanda Howell
Brookdale Ministry	Ken Smith, Carolyn Kirk		Assistant: Michelle Sanchez
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer	Opportunity Endowment Fund	Laura Wilhelm
Care Team	Arnie Kaestner	Personnel	Inga Carlson
College Ministry	Linda Shoemaker, Linda Siegele	Prayer Chain	Marti Hatcher
Disaster Response Team	TBA	Property	Brent Brown, Ron Herbanek
Family Aid Ministry	Carolyn Giannantonio	Sound Team	TBA 8:00 Service
Fellowship Committee	Rosalie Fontenot		Brent Brown-11:00 Service
Greeters	Donna Schneider	Stewardship	Carolyn Kirk
Homeless Ministry	Shirley Downing	Ushers	8:00 Russell Farmer
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters		11:00 Pat Welborn
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson	WHAM Representatives	Arnie Kaestner, Marilee Dittrich
Lectors, CTS Players	Carolyn Kirk, Matt Grant	Women's Ministry	Marsha Bower
Liturgical Assistants	Carolyn Kirk	Worship and Music	Lori Wood
		Youth Fellowship	Michele Byrnes