

INTERMISSION

2400 WILCREST DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77042
713-784-6620

WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

Jr. High Retreat

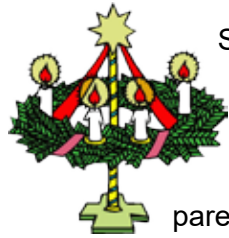
Several students have already signed up for the Converge Retreat at Camp Lutherhill. If you haven't, but you'd still like to attend, please let Michele Byrnes or JT know ASAP.

Students who have registered, please don't forget to pay your \$35. The retreat is Friday, November 10 - Sunday, November 12.



Advent Family Workshop - November 26th

Spiritual practices are more meaningful when families learn to do them together. 30 years of research tells us that the most significant spiritual influences in a child's life aren't a Pastor, Youth & Family Minister or Sunday School Teacher. It's actually mom, dad, grandma and grandpa!



Sunday, November 26th is our Advent Family Workshop. It's our official Youth & Family Ministry kickoff of the Advent Season.

We're inviting all our kids and their parents and/or grandparents to gather in the Fellowship Hall during the 9:30 a.m. hour (no kids classes will be held that day) to explore how we might make our celebration more purposeful using crafts, family devotions, and interesting weekly activities. You'll come away from the workshop with something handcrafted that your family can use during Advent, and a plan to use it together!

Mark your calendars now, and plan to stay (or arrive early) for the Sunday School hour that day.

ELCA Youth Gathering

Signups are underway for the ELCA Youth Gathering - the largest gathering of ELCA students in the world. It happens in a different city every 3 years, and in 2018 - it's HERE, in Houston! Fundraising is underway very soon, and if you haven't signed up

yet - what are you waiting for?! Some students only get one shot to attend the Gathering - don't miss this opportunity to go! For more information, contact J.T.!



Angel Breakfast

Angel Breakfast is a great event for families with children from birth - 2nd Grade! Join us on **Saturday, December 2nd, 2017** from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Have breakfast together. Take a family photo. Enjoy table games. Listen to a story. Sing a song. Decorate. Get a gift! We always have great food and great times. RSVP to jt@christtheservant.net, call 713.784.6620, or sign up in the narthex!



THANKSGIVING DINNER

On Sunday, November 19, immediately following the 11:00 service, we will celebrate Thanksgiving together with our annual Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner, catered by Demeris. A free-will offering will be taken to offset the cost of the luncheon.



COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Church Council met Thursday October 12.

Mary Puccini provided an in-depth written and oral report on the Disaster Relief Fund as of October 8, 2017. A copy of the report will be filed with the October Minutes. Complete copies of each month's Minutes for the current year along with related documents are available to view from the white binder located in the Narthex.

The Disaster Relief Committee (DRC) is doing yeoman's work for our church family. Four tiers of disaster priorities have been established. The current situation reflects the gap in available information for the various cases. Information to be determined include amounts of Federal Flood Insurance settlements, amounts of FEMA settlements, cost of house remediation and displaced living expenses and availability of Small Business Low Interest Loans. The DRC will provide monthly reports to us.

Council received and discussed comprehensive reports from Susan Collins (Treasury), Samantha Clark (Financial Secretary), John Krueger (Director of Music) and J.T. (Director of Youth and Family Ministry).

Pastor Jim commented that he was very pleased with JT's work in Youth and Family Ministry. Pastor noted that we are now getting more Tanzanian children involved. They have been coming to CTS services with their parents for a while, but are now joining in the Youth and Family events.

Pastor Jim will be giving a three part presentation based on his recent educational trip tracing Paul's travels. The dates for the presentations are November 22, 29, and December 5.

Please keep Church Council in your prayers as we endeavor to serve our Lord and His congregation.

Ken Smith
CTS Council Secretary



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The CTS Council called a special Congregational meeting on October 10 to vote on proposals to release funds from the General Fund and the Opportunity Endowment Fund for the purpose of Harvey flood relief. Both proposals were approved by the congregation. Monies from both of these sources will be used only if the Disaster Relief Steering Committee finds them necessary to help church family members who have been flooded. The Committee still has \$12,000 available that was donated to the Disaster Relief Fund, but they anticipate that needs may exceed this amount over the coming months as families meet new hurdles in the recovery process.

COLLEGE MINISTRY

Don't forget to send us your college students' physical addresses and birthdays (include year of birth) so they can get greetings from college ministry! Include grad students too if they'd be interested!

Please send to:
Linda Shoemaker (lwittig4137@comcast.net) or
Linda Siegele (lsiegele@consolidated.net)

GARAGE SALE IS COMING!

Save-the-Date for Saturday, March 24th for the CTS Garage Sale to support Homeless Ministry. We will have two areas in the parking lot designated for specific items: The Specialty Shop for nicer clothes, jewelry and accessories and a Kids Korner for children's books, games, and clothes. Please start saving your items now and look for future updates about how you can help. Any questions? Contact Mary Puccini at 281-797-9989





WORSHIP AND MUSIC

By the time you read this, the Reformation 500 festivities will be behind us, and I will be in Michigan visiting family and friends ahead of attending the Good Shepherd Institute in Fort Wayne. Of the 17 years it has been held, this is the tenth time I have attended. This year's theme, "Singing the Faith," is a large part of what I do here. Better still, I will get to see some fall colors along the way.

The Christmas season is taking shape. Last month, I had talked about doing a new cantata. However, between the storm and doing extra musical things, I don't feel I can do one well and do well by everyone else. As a result, we are going to redo "Savior of the Nations, Come" from a couple years ago. If there was one of my cantatas to repeat, this is the year to redo the Luther hymn. We will perform the work on December 3 at both services. In between, we will have light snacks and the annual congregational meeting.

Finally, a word about the Christmas season and New Year is in order. First, we will have three weeks of Advent services on December 6, 13 and 20. As usual, the services will be at noon and 7:15. This year, Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. We will have a our normal morning services at 8:00 and 11:00 without communion. Christmas Eve services with communion will be at 5:00 and 7:30. On New Years' Eve, we will have normal worship with communion.

On a personal note, my son will be getting married on December 30 at Trinity Lutheran downtown. I will miss January 7 because I will be attending the conference of the North American Academy of Liturgy, where I will present the paper on Luther's communion hymns I originally did at Societas Liturgica in Belgium. One of their presenters dropped at the last minute and my paper was picked up. The requirements for membership in that group include presenting a major paper and having been published. With this trip, I will have met those requirements. Being a part of this organization is a great honor, and comes back to the generosity of this congregation with regard to continuing education. I am, and remain, very grateful.

John Krueger
Director of Music

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of September 30, 2017

Total Income = \$ 105,225
Total Expenses = \$ 79,379
Difference = \$ 25,847

Balance for the year = \$ 5,793

However, if you remove the generous Hurricane Harvey Donations (income) and the Hurricane Harvey Distributions (expenses), the September values would look as follows:

Total Income = \$ 50,131
Total Expenses = \$ 52,377
Difference = \$ -2,246

Balance for the year = \$ -22,300

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Denise Carlson
Andy Iversen
- 3 Kylie Richard
- 4 Monte Richard
- 5 Holly Heil
Lily Sweet
- 6 Philip Sweet
- 7 Bryant King
- 8 Laura Hanson
Emma Hammett
- 10 Betty Boxx
Chuck Cook
- 11 Paul Williams
- 12 Eve Cooper
- 14 Nicas Kiondo
- 15 Margery Wheeler
- 16 Arnie Kaestner
John Puder
- 19 Doug Hanson
Michael Sweet
- 21 Tyler Herbanek
Jo Ann Olds
- 23 Paul Richard
- 28 Gary Hiestand
Gloria Reider



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Recent and upcoming events....

WOMEN'S RETREAT OF "HOPE"

After just returning from our semi-annual retreat in LaGrange, I'm happy to report it was another awesome weekend with 23 wonderful women attending!

Thanks to Renee McGah introducing us to the value of "journaling", Tina Blockhus offering some great guidelines on how to study our Bible and I so enjoyed introducing the "**kindness rock project**" so if you find an inspirational rock around CTS pick it up and keep it! It's meant for you and made with love by one of our ladies! Thanks to Anne Marie Fritz who leads our praise and music time with her guitar and lovely voice. Also, a BIG thank you to Pastor Diane who led our communion service by the lake. Thanks to Carolyn Kirk and Melissa Russell for the "bubbles" and Billijo Kern for donating the "cross" for a door prize and a collective thank you for all the ladies who attended, brought snacks, beverages and support our ministry. It's what encourages us to keep this ministry going!

As a service project, we collected a huge number of "crew socks" to be distributed for homeless ministry so thanks to our ladies for your willingness to participate. If you were unable to attend retreat, we will continue to collect socks in the large purple bin in Narthex! It's an item that the homeless request frequently! Please be sure that they are new white crew socks men's "large".

We discover so much about ourselves and more importantly about "God" as we are able to focus a bit better when we remove ourselves from all the distractions of life. The fellowship that abounds from spending time with each other is truly meaningful to all of us and we will do this again next Spring!





SAVE THE DATE!!!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY

1752 FM 1489
Brookshire, TX
Monday, December 11th, 11:30 AM

We always love having lunch and Christmas shopping at Brookwood!! Brookwood is a beautiful residential and vocational facility for adults with disabilities. Please plan on a minimum of \$20 for lunch. Brookwood does accept credit cards!

We will meet at Brookwood at 11:15 AM sharp for our 11:30 AM seating.

Watch for Sign-up Sheet in narthex coming soon!!

Blessings,
Marsha Bower



PRAYER REQUESTS

Those impacted by Hurricane Harvey

David Aguilar, friend of Bitsy Muse

Karen Bauer

Hector Esparza, husband of Debbie Esparza

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

Vivian Johnson

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

Walter Lueck, friend of Lucille Cochran

Pam 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

Julie Reider, niece of Russ Reider

Ray Reider, brother of Russ Reider

Bernice Ribe

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 Phylis Karas

Richard Thomas, brother-in-law of June Jacobson

Paul Williams

Tina Williams, friend of Sandy Wills

Mid Wills, mother of Tom Wills

Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Doug and Julie Hanson
- 7 Kevin and Jackie Scace
- 12 Gary and Mary Hiestand
- 13 Brian and Julie Heil
- 26 Paul and Vicki Williams



CHURCH STAFF

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

Michelle Sanchez

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Janet Schwahn

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone: 713.784-6620 Fax: 713.784-4742

**This newsletter and a calendar of church
activities are available on the CTS
website at:**

www.christtheservant.net

**December newsletter information
deadline is:**

November 15

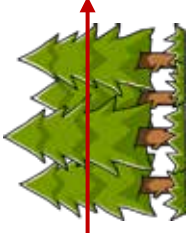

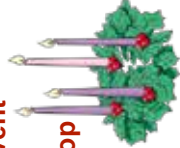


Please submit information and articles in
MSWord documents to Laura Wilhelm at
lvhwilhelm@comcast.net

Information may be edited to available space.

If you would prefer to receive your monthly newsletter
via email instead of US Postal mail, please let us know
by contacting Betsy in the church office:
ctsoffice1@comcast.net

NOVEMBER 2017

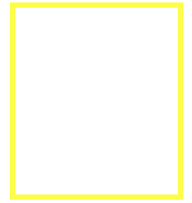


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4</p> <p>Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education- Sunday Classes for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Lutheran World Relief presentation after services, with breakfast and lunch served</p>	<p>6</p> <p>3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00-7:00 Election Day voting 7:00 Bible Study</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Men Who Love Spaghetti 7:30 AA Journey</p>	<p>9</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Council</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Junior High Retreat at Lutherhill</p> 
<p>11</p> <p>Retreat</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 Thanksgiving Luncheon</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 Advent Family Workshop</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry</p>	<p>21</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Happy Thanksgiving</p> 	<p>24</p> <p>Dec 1</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey</p>	<p>30</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Dec 2 9:00 Angel Breakfast</p> 

INTERMISSION
NOVEMBER 2017

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
2400 Wilcrest Drive
Houston, Texas 77042

Phone 713-784-6620
FAX 713-784-4742
www.christtheservant.net



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