

INTERMISSION

2400 WILCREST DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77042
713-784-6620
WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET

WORSHIP AND COVID UPDATE - JULY 2021

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic CTS staff and Council worked diligently to prepare for the return to full, in-person worship. That time has passed; hymnals and Bibles are back in the pews, the choir is singing, and communion is received around the altar rail. In the near-term, Pastor and communion assistants will continue to employ measures of caution in the distribution by wearing masks and gloves.

Council wishes to ensure the health and safety of our congregation, and to comply with all federal, state, and local guidelines and regulations. For the time being, that means taking the least restrictive route when such orders conflict with one another.

Masks are no longer required for in person worship, but are encouraged, especially if you have not been vaccinated and/or are at extra risk based on your medical condition. For our vulnerable members and those who prefer to not attend in person, we will continue live stream services and make podcasts available for viewing on the internet (<https://www.christtheservant.net/>). If you worship remotely, please remember that your offerings, via the website or mail, greatly help carry on the missions of Christ the Servant.

For those members who choose to attend in person, we urge you to practice good hygiene, wash your hands, and follow the medical guidance of the CDC or your personal physician. **If you are experiencing symptoms (cough, fever, chills, etc.) we strongly encourage you seek medical attention and stay at home until you have fully recovered.**

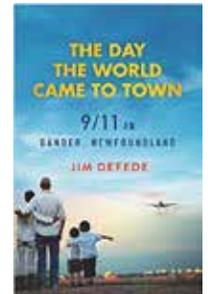
Unique Worship Measures:

- The offering plate is on a table in the center aisle to use when you enter or exit.
- Extra steps in force to clean and sanitize the facilities, including disinfecting the sanctuary, sacristy, and liturgical objects between services.
- The fellowship hall, kitchen, narthex, and conference room are now re-opened.

CTS BOOK CLUB

The CTS book club met for the first time on July 17.

We had a lively discussion of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*, and then we chose our next book: *The Day the World Came to Town*, by Jim Defede. We will discuss this book at our next meeting on August 28th at 10:00 in the conference room. If you are interested in reading and discussing books, please come! If you need further information, contact Carolyn Giannantonio at 281-531-5731.



WORSHIP AND COVID (CON'T)

- Homeless Ministry, Adult Sunday School, and other activities will re-open as per specific committee leadership.
- Around the communion rail, some spacing is good (no shoulder-to-shoulder contact).

Staff and Council will incorporate lessons learned and **adjust as the situation dictates**. Of course, council welcomes suggestions at any time from all our members!

COUNCIL NOTES

The following is a summary of discussions at the June 10th and July 7th, 2021 CTS Council meetings.

The meeting minutes from the May and June 2021 council meetings were approved unanimously. The Treasurer's report for both May month-end and June month-end were reviewed and taken into the record. Also, a new church insurance policy was successfully acquired with the assistance of Ken Smith, and there was no lapse in coverage for CTS.

Russell Farmer and Ron Herbanek presented three quotes for repair of the sanctuary roof during the June meeting. Following a brief discussion, the council voted unanimously to proceed with Braun Roofing at a cost of \$55,000. The council also decided to request financial contributions from the CTS congregation for the roof repairs. As of the July council meeting, much of the \$55,000 had been generously provided by CTS congregation members and the roof repair project is nearly complete. During the July meeting the council discussed having Braun Roofing return to repair the remaining leaks located in various places throughout the CTS structure. The council wishes to thank Russell Farmer, Ron Herbanek, and the CTS congregation for their generous donations of time, talent and financial resources.

Discussions regarding the Music Director position were held by the council during the June meeting and unanimous approval was given to begin negotiations to complete the hire of a new Music Director. It was announced at the July meeting that an offer for the Music Director position had been offered to and accepted by John Joseph Mitchell (JJ). JJ will begin his new position upon his return on August 15th. The council wishes to thank Zach Edwards for leading the hiring committee for this position.

The council discussed CTS' official position vis-a-vis Covid restrictions during the June and July meetings, and updated its Covid statement regarding protocol at CTS. The updated statement is on page one and also posted on the CTS website. Material changes to the protocol included 1) elimination of the mask requirement 2) return of all hymnals and other material to the pews and 3) return to the altar rail for communion. Please note that the protocol remains in compliance with government guidelines.

In other CTS activity, the Homeless Ministry made deliveries during June and July, while the Journey Group resumed its Wednesday meetings at CTS. The spaghetti supper, *A Night in Italy*, has been confirmed for October 8th, so please mark your calendars.

Prayerfully submitted,
Karen Carter, Council Secretary

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

A celebration of life for member Fred Korge will be held Saturday, August 14, 2:00 p.m., at George Lewis Funeral Home on Bering. There will be no service at CTS. Fred went to his eternal home in Christ on December 24, 2020.

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
- 27 Nicas and Louise Kiondo
- 29 Ade and Ethel Kujimiyo



CTS Financial Dashboard Through JUNE 2021



YTD Contributions

\$ 259,081

2% below budgeted income

YTD Expenditures

\$ 263,059

4% below budgeted expenses

Cash Reserve

6.7 months coverage of
average monthly expenses

Excludes programs outside of General Fund (OEF, Homeless Ministry, Memorials, Pastor Disc Fund)

YTD Status versus Budget or Cash Reserve Goal

- At or better than forecast or >6 month cash reserve
- <5% worse than forecast or 3-6 month cash reserve
- >5% worse than forecast or <3 month cash reserve

Contact Treasurer (Susan Collins) with questions

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

Internship

As I mentioned in our summer newsletter, I'll soon be transitioning out of my old role as Director of Youth & Family Ministries and into my new one as Pastoral Intern on Sunday, August 15th. I know it will be difficult for many of us (including me) to reconcile that change in our minds, but we can work on it together! To help mark this change, we will mark the day with a special litany for commissioning new interns. I hope you'll join me for this small recognition that I am not going anywhere- just changing chairs.

"But J.T.," you ask, "What will become of our Youth & Family Ministries?" Great news - instead of one moderately capable minister, I'm leaving you with a team of more-than-capable ones.

- I've asked the "Dream Team" of Karen Murawski, Denise Carlson, and Vicki Rudolph-Williams to consider a few things for our youngest members. They are the team that has expertly handled Angel Breakfast and the dinners at VBS since before I was even here.

- Demi Edwards is putting together a small team to coordinate Sunday School. If that's something you're passionate about, please offer her your help.

- Michele Byrnes is putting together a similar team to think about fellowship events and fun stuff that helps our kids connect with each other. If that's your jam, please offer her your help.

I can think of 2 things everyone can do to ensure these folks will be successful:

1. Volunteer your time and resources to help them.
2. Bring your kids to church. Always.

Many of these folks were doing the job before me, and I have confidence that they can handle it for the next year or so. Also - great news - the church is taking on a Pastoral Intern with 20 years of youth ministry experience who will serve as a liaison and resource for these teams (that's me!)

I'm going to continue to run the Confirmation program and have additional responsibilities for preaching, teaching adult Bible Study, making pastoral visits, and running the live streams each week, among other things. As I mentioned in last month's newsletter - I know that together we can make a better pastor out of me, a better community out of CTS, and a better world out of this one.

Rally Day!

Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 19th. Bring your kids to church for some indoor/outdoor fun together, learn about plans for Sunday School the next week, and fill out their yearly paperwork.

Seafarer Boxes

August marks the return of the blue Rubbermaid container for collecting items for the Seafarers Center! The list is still up on the bulletin board near the restrooms and I'll post some by the table. Help us fill those boxes to overflowing when we stuff and wrap them on December 12th!

Volunteers

Speaking of volunteers, we still need your help in the nursery and running the sound and live streams for our services. Without help, there may come a day when we aren't able to stream our services for people who can't attend, or when we need to close our nursery because we can't staff it safely. If you've been considering helping out, go ahead and pick a Sunday when you'll be ready to have your lesson in the tech booth, or go on our website and sign up for a shift in the nursery! It takes all of us to make church happen!

Thanks

In the past few weeks, I've come to the congregation for help sending two separate kids to Camp Lutherhill. Within hours of my appeals, those opportunities were fully-funded with more to spare! Thanks to the constant generosity of our members, a couple of kids in our congregation had the "Best. Week. Ever.", and seeds of faith were planted that we pray will grow wild in their hearts. Thank you!

JT Thomas
Youth and Family



LADIES DINNER GROUP

Please join us
Wednesday, August 11
6:00 pm
Forno's on Westheimer



A sign-up sheet is in the narthex
or contact Mickey Walters at waltersmic@aol.com

2021 TEXAS – LOUISIANA GULF COAST SYNOD ASSEMBLY: “UNIMAGINABLE”

Pastor Jim Giannantonio and council president Barry Rava on Friday and Saturday May 21-22 attended the virtual 2021 Texas – Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Assembly. There were five business sessions punctuated by small group and worship opportunities with musical accompaniment of a singer/guitar player. Keynote speakers were Deacon Peggy Han and Reverend Kim Wagner. A guide book was issued to voting members that included instructions on parliamentary procedure (Roberts Rules of Order), and proper vocabulary and guidelines for avoiding gender bias. The first order of business was to adopt the minutes of the 2019 meeting and that motion was approved.

In the Bishop’s Report it was stated that 2020 giving was “understandably lower but most congregations held strong.” Eight congregations accounted for the dip, and 2021 is off to a “strong start.”

The ELCA Federal Credit Union, open to all members, congregations and ministries of the ELCA, celebrated its fifth anniversary as a financial ministry of the ELCA. Cooperating with its financial partner, the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, the Credit Union provided more than 350 PPP loans totaling almost \$14 million to congregations and ministries across the church. The synod received a PPP loan and it has already been forgiven.

Almost all voting was nearly unanimous – out of about 150 possible votes there were only 2-5 “nays” on any given vote. The Synod budget for 2022, of \$1,368,000, was voted on and approved. Votes were held for the appointment of candidates to synod council, all were unopposed elections, all were elected. Compensation guidelines were approved. Luther Hill purchased the adjacent land to the existing property. The new board members were voted on, approved and installed.

The CAR team (Central African Republic) expressed a warm thank you to all congregations, individuals, and to the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, for our prayers and contributions for CAR. Funds received in the 2020 fiscal year amounted to just under \$42,000, far exceeding the goal. Offerings were greater than in 2019. This support aided Emmanuel Health Center at Gallo, water development, translation of Sunday School materials, scholarships for young women and for university students, the construction of permanent village schools and of church roofs, and more.

Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR) responded to disasters in 49 countries. LDR provided 132 grants totaling over

\$4.9 million, more than half of which were in response to Covid-19. These grants helped nearly 800,000 people. Domestically, LDR supported 32 synods and three Lutheran social service agencies in 40 states with grants

totaling over \$920,000. Also domestically, over \$3 million was provided in response to other disasters, long-term recovery efforts and community resilience programs.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) welcomed, through its affiliates in 23 states, 2,782 refugees. Through foster care services 440 unaccompanied minors were placed in loving homes. Safe Release and Post Release services at the Southern border were provided to 9,500 asylum seekers.

The Synod Assembly offering for Campus Ministry raised over \$8,130. You can still contribute at any time to help reach the goal of \$10,000!

The 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering “Boundless – God Beyond Measure” will be held July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis. Two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE) and the “tAble” are scheduled for July 21-24, 2022. For more information about the gathering visit the ELCA’s website: www.elca.org/gathering.

Barry Rava, Council President

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gerald (Gerry) Ludwig
- 3 Karl Kramer
Neema Makia
Bill Skillman
William Hahn
- 4 Ema Makia
- 5 Ronald Hatcher
- 7 Linda Iversen
- 8 Ruth Froebel
Aniva Hahn
- 9 Kevin Petterson
- 10 Pamela Mobley
- 13 Russell Riggs
- 14 Blake Iversen
- 17 Patti Sterle
- 18 Dale Dickman
Glenda Ludwig
- 19 Christy Iversen
- 26 Judi Leisk
Donna Winczewski
- 27 Kandy Myers
- 31 Louise Kiondo
Michael Phillips



PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen Bauer
Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
Donald K. Hiestand, father of Gary Hiestand
Kristin Krueger
Roger Lemburg and family
Ron, father of Tim Murawski
Cathy Roberson & Debby Weaver, daughters
of Jodie Davis
Mary Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand
Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
Frank Welsh, friend of Mike and Phylis Karas
Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

Jesus said to them,
"I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me
shall not hunger,
and whoever believes
in me shall never thirst."
John 6:35



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
jt@christtheservant.net

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

JJ Mitchell

NURSERY CAREGIVER

Sandra Ani

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma E. Cruz

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE

713.784-6620

CHURCH OFFICE FAX

713.784-4742

**This newsletter is available on the
CTS website at:**

www.christtheservant.net

**September newsletter information
deadline is:**

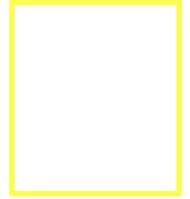
August 15

Please submit information and articles in
MSWord documents to Laura Wilhelm at
lvhwilhelm@comcast.net
Information may be edited to available space.

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AUGUST 2021

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

Phone 713-784-6620
FAX 713-784-4742
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2021 COUNCIL

President: Barry Rava

President Elect:	Dale Dickman	At Large:	Zach Edwards
Secretary:	Karen Carter	At Large:	Neema Makia
Financial Secretary:	Emma Chanimbaga	At Large:	Karen Welborn
Treasurer:	Susan Collins	At Large:	Tina Blockhus
Treasurer Elect:	Vicki Rudolph-Williams		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, GROUP LEADERS, CONTACT PEOPLE

Acolytes	Inga Carlson, Michele Byrnes	Memorial Service Coordinator	Linda Iversen
Adult Christian Ed	TBA	Men Who Love Spaghetti	Roger Cutler
Altar Guild	Lori Wood	Nursery Attendant	Sandra Ani
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer	Opportunity Endowment Fund	Kurt Goedecke
Care Team	Pat Korge and Mary Puccini	Personnel	Ken Smith, Shirley Downing
College Ministry	Tina Blockhus	Prayer Chain	Marti Hatcher
Disaster Response Team	Ron Herbanek	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	TBA	Stewardship	Chandler Wilhelm
Homeless Ministry	Carolyn Giannantonio, Rosalie Fontenot	Ushers	8:00 Russell Farmer
			11:00 Pat Welborn
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters	WHAM Representatives	Ken Smith
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson	Women's Ministry	Marsha Bower
Lectors	Chandler Wilhelm	Worship and Music	Lori Wood
Liturgical Assistants	Chandler Wilhelm		