

INTERMISSION



CHRISTMAS SEASON EVENTS

Midweek Services:

December 5, 12, and 19
at noon and 7:15 p.m.

Annual Christmas Cantata:

December 16 at both services

Christmas Eve Services:

5:00 and 7:30

Annual Meeting: December 2, 9:30 a.m.

POINSETTIA ORDERS



It's time to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex until December 16. The cost is \$8.50 per plant.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

MID-WEEK ADVENT CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Dec 5th at Noon

"Ballet Grace", a faith-based classically trained ballet group, will perform.

ALL are invited to attend catered luncheon following the service

BRING AN ORNAMENT TO SWAP!

SIGN UP IN NARTHEX

DEADLINE: Wed, Nov. 28th!

Questions?:
Contact Marsha Bower
281-381- 0515
lb16434@aol.com



IT'S TIME FOR COLLEGE NIGHT AT NINO'S

All CTS college and graduate students are invited to join Pastor Jim for dinner at:

NINO'S
2817 W. Dallas St
Thursday, December 27
7:00 p.m.

To join the fun, email Pastor Jim at jrgiannan@gmail.com or call the office to tell them you're planning to come.

COUNCIL COMMENTARY

The CTS Church Council met November 8, 2018. Chandler Wilhelm opened the meeting with a Devotional that provides reflections on Finding God's Purpose in Adversity. It includes commentary based on scripture from James, and includes thoughts expressed by Mark Twain and Charles C. Black (Chaplain of the United States Senate).

Mary Puccini, Garage Sale Co-Leader included a report to Council on exciting efforts of the Garage Sale Committee. The sale, benefiting the Homeless Ministry, will take place on Saturday, March 30, 2019.

Director of Music John Kruger provided a written report which is incorporated into the Minutes Book in the Narthex. Please note that the Midweek Advent Services commence December 5, looking at three "songs" from Luke.

Financial Secretary Samantha Clark provided the Monthly Report.

Youth and Family Director J.T. advised that "Music Time with John" is now part of the Sunday School Experience each week. J.T. also announced that packing of Seafarers Boxes will take place Sunday December 9.

Pastor Jim let us know that he had an excellent continuing education experience studying spirituality in ancient civilizations in Peru. Pastor Jim has been working with John Kruger and Lori Wood on the upcoming Advent Services.

Susan Collins chaired the Budget Meeting portion of the evening's business. A copy of the working draft (before changes) is included in the Minutes Binder.

Please plan to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting, December 2, commencing at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of the Meeting is to review the activities of the past year and to review and approve the 2019 Budget.

The minutes binder, including devotional, financial report and budget draft is in the Narthex.

Please continue to keep Church Council in your prayers.

Ken Smith,
Council Secretary



STEWARDSHIP: LIVE COURAGEOUSLY

What does it mean to live courageously?

When we are living courageously, stewardship calls us to do good, be generous, and be ready to share so that we might "take hold of the life that is really life" (1 Timothy 6:18-19).

But living as Timothy suggests in the middle of our world today takes great courage.

If we limit our theology of stewardship merely to how we invest our money and possessions, then we have missed the message. God has chosen to work through us to transform this world.

Stewardship is not merely a church word associated with fundraising, pledging and annual budgets.

Stewardship leads us to cling to God's promise for the future, forcing us to live differently.

When living courageously, we can risk the safety and comfort of the status quo for the chance to live into the role that God calls us to play – to do good, be generous and be ready to share.

Live courageously!

2019 FLOWER CHART

The 2019 Flower Chart is hanging in the Narthex. Sign up for the Sundays you want. Single bouquets are \$27. To donate both arrangements, the cost is \$54.



FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2018

	<u>October 31, 2018</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$41,130	\$550,878
Total Expenses	\$51,901	\$643,394
Loss	(\$10,771)	(\$92,516)

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

Advent Family Devotionals

This year, CTS partnered with Illustrated Children's Ministry to provide weekly family activities to make the season of Advent more meaningful. We also hope it's a tool you can use to spend more time together and intentionally starting spiritual conversations with each other. If you haven't gotten a copy of the Advent materials yet, you can pick up a folder on the table just outside the far right entrance to the Sanctuary. Don't forget to also pick up a jar, which will help you during week 4!

Advent Kids Corner

Do you attend the 11:00 a.m. service? Do you have squirmy, distracted children sitting next to you? I DO! Well, during the season of Advent (December 2, 9, 16, and 23), CTS Youth and Family Ministry will be hosting the Advent Kids Corner. We are taking over the back left-side corner underneath the stained glass where we will have a different Advent-themed banner each week for the kids to color. Crayons, markers, colored-pencils and adult supervision will be provided. After the Children's Message, send your kids to the corner and enjoy the service. They will still be in the room, and still be able to hear and see everything that happens so they can continue to learn what it means to be part of our community, and of course you can retrieve them any time.

KIDS WHO LOVE PIZZA!

A rare ALL-AGES KWLP is coming up on December 2, 2018 when we go see *Wreck-it Ralph 2: Ralph Breaks The Internet!* I love the first *Wreck It Ralph* movie so much, and I can't wait to see the next one. Sunday, December 2nd after church we will grab some Fuzzy's Pizza on Westheimer and plan to make the next available showing at Cinemark Memorial City. Showtime is TBA as soon as they are released, and you should get your tickets as soon as you can after that.



It's a KWLP Double Feature Month

because *Aquaman* comes out on Friday, December 21! This movie is going to be so bad that it's good, and because of it, we're going to try something we NEVER do for Kids Who Love Pizza. We are going to see it on OPENING NIGHT! For this one we're going out to Katy for our west-side folks and we will get our pizza at Old Chicago Pizza and Taproom before heading over to Cinemark Katy for the show. Showtime for this movie is TBA, as well, but I imagine

tickets will sell out quickly for opening night, so be on your toes!

Seafarer Boxes

On December 9th, our children's Sunday School classes will be filling and wrapping shoeboxes full of gifts and supplies to be donated to the Seafarers Center at the Port of Houston. The congregation has been generous in their giving to this event so far, but if you'd still like to donate some supplies, here is a list of **new, unused** things that we'd like to include in the boxes:

Band Aids (fabric)	Soap
Baseball Caps	Shampoo
2019 Calendar	Toothbrush
Comb	Toothpaste
Dental Floss	Gum & Hard Candy
Disposable Razors	Key Chains
Flashlight w/Batteries	Pocket Size Notebooks
Kleenex	Mechanical Pencils
Lip Balm	Pens
Lotion	Playing Cards
Nail Clippers	Popcorn
Gold Bond Cream	Socks
Gold Bond Powder	Sudoku
Hot Chocolate	Texas Souvenirs
Needle & Thread	T-Shirts
Q-Tips	USB Flash Drives
Shaving Cream	Word Searches

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SERVICE PROJECT



Our service project is to provide PJ's for the precious seniors at Brookdale!

We ask our congregation to consider this opportunity to donate toward this effort. Make checks out to CTS. Donation box is in the Narthex!

On December 13th a group of us will host a holiday party at Brookdale along with a "zany" fashion show to bring some joy to these residents.

Please support us and thank you in advance!
Questions? Call Marsha Bower 281-381-0515
lb16434@aol.com

HELP NEEDED

Can Care Marathon Packet Stuffing

Volunteers are needed for stuffing marathon packets for CanCare. The packets will be stuffed here at the church from 9 am – 6 pm on January 11-12.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Christina Dittrich
Austin Beaver
- 5 Aaron Clark
- 6 Pat Hogan-Korge
Helen Wolf
- 7 Randy Collins
- 9 Catherine Shoefeldt
- 13 Christopher Lonvick
- 17 Dana Herbanek
- 18 Ethel Kijimiyo
- 20 Bernice Ribe
- 22 Mary Hiestand
- 23 Carl Teegerstrom
- 24 Mike Karas
Demi Edwards
- 25 Samantha Clark
- 27 Rosalie Fontenot
Jennifer Beaver
- 30 Ron Herbanek
- 31 Donna Schneider



TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY – ISAIAH

The Isaiah Bible Study continues on Dec 11th. We've finally reached Second Isaiah (Chapters 40-55) written around 540 B.C.E while Israel was in exile in Babylon. Interspersed in Second Isaiah are four passages which refer to a special character identified as "the servant of the Lord": Isaiah 42:1-9, 49:1-7, 50:4-9 and 52:13-53:12. This servant appears to be Israel but also has a mission to Israel. Of course, we are apt to interpret this servant as a prelude to Jesus. Here is an excerpt from the last "servant" poem in Isaiah 52:13-53:12. What do you think?

- 52:13 See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.
- 52:14 Just as there were many who were astonished
at him— marred was his appearance,
beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
- 15 so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of
him;
for that which had not been told them they
shall see, and that which they had not heard
they shall contemplate.
- 53:10 Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with
pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong
his days; through him the will of the Lord
shall prosper.
- 11 Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his
knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make
many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
- 12 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the
great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the
transgressors.

You are most welcome to join our Tuesday night group. We meet from 7:00 pm to around 8:15 pm in the CTS conference room.



CTS LIBRARY

We have many wonderful books in our CTS Library: Christian fiction, biographies, biblical, to name a few. You may find something that interests you. Come browse and check it out!

Recent additions are:

- 270.2 *Jesus Wars* by Philip Jenkins: How 4 patriarchs, 3 queens & 2 emperors decided what Christians would believe for the next 1,500 years.
- 280 *Christianity After Religion*: The end of church and the birth of a new spiritual awakening.
- 270 *Discovering God*: The origins of the great religions and the evolution of belief.

GARAGE SALE NEWS!

The CTS Garage Sale for 2019 will be on Saturday, March 30th. The GS Committee has already met to decide how we can improve the sale and our profits to benefit Homeless Ministry. It was news to me that it takes \$8,000-\$10,000 a year to cover food and women's toiletries and special holiday packages for the hundreds of people served. The Garage Sale takes in between two to four thousand dollars a year. The rest of the money comes from donations from our members. So, I'd like to thank all those who have helped the Homeless Ministry by donating your time, your goods and your money over the years.

Looking forward, the committee would like to concentrate our efforts on advertising and volunteer help. It amazes all of us that our congregation can fill up the Fellowship Hall with donated goods year after year. We have enough items for sale; we need more buyers. We all agreed that turnout was "light" this year. So, this coming year our co-chair, Richard Clark, will be heading up outreach through social media. We also will be using signs, big and little, to attract the attention of the drivers on and around Wilcrest.

In the next update, I'll make a shameless plea for volunteer help.

Have a Merry Christmas and remember the CTS Garage Sale as you reorganize after the holidays.

Mary Puccini, Garage Sale Co-chair



WOMEN'S RETREAT

Retreat was a great success with tons of fellowship, a dynamic program presented by Jan Bethancourt (an artist and author), a bonfire and sing-a-long in the gorgeous natural tree chapel, communion service in the woods, welcoming together a beautiful sunrise and on and on! These retreats have become such an important part of what we do and we look forward planning these great opportunities to learn about God and his relationship with us! We invite ALL women of CTS to consider attending future retreats. Your attendance would be a blessing for you and the Women's Ministry Team!

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Lon and Fay Hileman
- 5 Victor Rweyemamu and Omega Kihupi
- 8 Andy and Christy Iversen
- 17 LeRoy and Karen Bauer
- 29 Karl and Susan Kramer



PRAYER REQUESTS

Those who continue to be impacted by Hurricane Harvey

Sharon Amundson, sister of Paul Siegele
John Barr, brother of June Jacobson
Karen Bauer
Susan Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
Dennis and Leonard Craig, brothers-in-law of Marilee Dittrich
Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
Doug Gibson, friend of Phyllis and Monte Richard
Phoebe Gilcrest, friend of Cheryl Skillman
Vanita Homer
Vivian Johnson
George Knabb, brother of Jodie Davis
Ron Murawski, father of Tim Murawski
Mateo Puccini, nephew of Mary Puccini
Ray Reider, brother of Russ Reider
Wuanita Schaper, mother of Carol Klem
Janet Schwahn
Mary Ann Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand
Catherine Shoenfelt
Edna Simmons, sister of Emma Hammett
Cheryl Spear, mother of Tina Blockhus
Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
Richard Thomas, brother-in-law of June Jacobson
Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

This year, we have a few extra days between Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent. Of course, I feel like I have extra time, which of course I don't. Fortunately, Easter is very late next year, so I actually will have extra planning time after the first of the year. What left me thinking I had all kinds of time was that Thanksgiving fell very early this year, which resulted in this being a rare year that the last Sunday of the church year falls after Thanksgiving.

Our first midweek Advent services will be December 5. Our theme this year is looking at some of the songs in Luke. To be exact, there are four in the Christmas season: the song of Mary, also known as the Magnificat; the song of Zechariah (after the birth of John the Baptist), also known as the Benedicite; the song of the Angels, also known as the Gloria in excelsis; and finally, the song of Simeon (upon seeing the baby Jesus), also known as the nunc dimittis. The first three will be the core material for the Wednesday services, and we will sing the fourth on December 30.

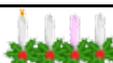
We will be slightly out of order, but that apparent disorder will put the Magnificat in its proper place in relation to the Sunday readings. The first will be "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (Luke 2:14, ELW #270) on December 5. The other candidate is "All Glory Be to God on High" (ELW #410), which will also appear in the service. This will be combined with the women's luncheon at noon, along with some surprise guests. On December 12, the featured song will be "Blessed Be the God of Israel" (Luke 1:68-79, ELW #250), and the last, on December 19, will be "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" (Luke 1:46-55, ELW #251).

December 16 marks the premiere of my cantata "Bwana Anakuja" (Jesus, He Is Coming) at both services. The first service will be a slightly downscale version, and I will add the Sunday school at the late service. I don't quite have the forces to do a singing Christmas tree or a large scale choral work, but we do have the troops to perform very nice things during Advent and Lent.

Our Christmas Eve services will be at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. As usual, we will be doing lessons and carols; during the busyness of Christmas, it is a good time to hear the familiar story, sing the familiar songs, and remember the reason for the season.

John Krueger
Director of Music



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education- Sunday Classes for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.						1  9:30 Altar Guild Deck the Halls
2 9:30 Annual Congregational Meeting Kids Who Love Pizza 	3 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	4 5:30 WHAM ESL	5  12:00 Advent Service 12:30 Advent Lunch 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:15 Advent Service 7:30 AA Journey	6 5:30 WHAM ESL	7	8  
9 WHAM Toy... Distribution  Sunday School packs Seafarers Boxes	10	11 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Bible Study	12  12:00 Advent Service 12:30 Advent Lunch 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:15 Advent Service 7:30 AA Journey	13 Women's Ministry at Brookdale 7:00 Council	14	15  
16	17 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	18	19  12:00 Advent Service 12:30 Advent Lunch 7:15 Advent Service 7:30 AA Journey	20	21 Kids Who Love Pizza 	22  
23	24 Christmas Eve Services: 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm	25 Office Closed 	26 7:30 AA Journey	27 7:00 College Night at Nino's	28	29  
30	31 					

CHURCH STAFF

This newsletter and a calendar of church activities are available on the CTS website at: www.christtheservant.net

January newsletter information deadline is:
December 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

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
 John Krueger
ctschoir1@comcast.net

NURSERY CAREGIVER
 Sandra Ani, Michelle Sanchez

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN
 Sulma E. Cruz

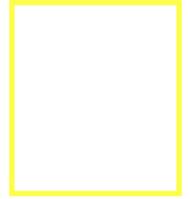
CHURCH OFFICE PHONE
 713-784-6620

CHURCH OFFICE FAX
 713-784-4742

INTERMISSION
DECEMBER 2018

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

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



2018 COUNCIL MEMBERS

	President: Kyle Cooper	
President Elect:	Cliff Mabry	At Large: Joanne Dumler-
Secretary:	Ken Smith	At Large: Linda Siegele
Treasurer:	Susan Collins	At Large: Chandler Wilhelm
Financial Secretary:	Samantha Clark	At Large: Bryant King

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, Michelle Sanchez
Brookdale Ministry	Ken Smith, Carolyn Kirk	Opportunity Endowment Fund	TBA
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer	Personnel	Ken Smith
Care Team	Arnie Kaestner	Prayer Chain	Marti Hatcher
College Ministry	Linda Shoemaker, Linda Siegele	Property	Brent Brown, Ron Herbanek
Disaster Response Team	Ron Herbanek	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	Ken Smith
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson		Marsha Bower
Lectors	Carolyn Kirk		Lori Wood
Liturgical Assistants	Carolyn Kirk		