

INTERMISSION

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

WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

BINGO FOR EVERYONE CONTINUES!!

Ice Cream Treats!
Friday September 27th!!
2:00 PM
CTS Fellowship Hall

Women's Ministry is continuing this event to encourage fellowship and fun among our members! There will be refreshments and great prizes! Come and join us for a fun afternoon. If we find this well attended and supported, we may just do it on a monthly basis!



A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.



GEORGE BUSH LIBRARY

Texas A&M University (gig 'em!)
Saturday, October 5th

Meet at CTS 8 AM sharp!
Come with us to visit this beautiful library
Lunch following in College Station
Bring \$30 admission/lunch
Returning to CTS approximately 4 PM

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Save the date!

WOMEN'S RETREAT

October 25, 26 27
Seaside Escape
Camp Lone Star,
LaGrange, Texas



\$155 per person includes
lodging and meals. Space
is limited so register early!

Scholarships are available; contact Marsha Bower.

Registration and an informational meeting will be held
Monday, October 14 at 7:00 in the fellowship hall.
Please try to attend this meeting as it will enhance
your retreat weekend!

Join us for a most dynamic and inspirational
weekend as we bask in God's love!

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Questions about any Women's Ministry event?
Call Marsha Bower - 281-381-0515 or email at
lb16434@aol.com

COLLEGE MINISTRY

CTS College Ministry needs updated information on your college students if you would like them to be a part of this ministry. The ministry sends birthday cards and care packages to the students. If you would like your student to participate in this program, I will need their name, college name, address and their birthday. If you had a recent graduate who will be continuing with grad school and wish to continue the packages, please send me their new information.

Tinablockhus@icloud.com
Tina Blockhus

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS 2 Options to Serve!

Our Annual ELCA Work/Service Day is September 8th. On Sunday, September 8th, we'll supply a quick pizza lunch for volunteers who are able to stick around for a couple of different projects – including one that even our youngest members can participate in! Teddy Stuffers USA is sending a host and all the materials we need for a teddy stuffing party. We'll have 30 stuffed animals; dogs, unicorns, elephants and yes, several bears to assemble with love and care. The bears will be donated to Krause Children's Center, a residential facility for at-risk girls ages 12-17. Because we need to coordinate the meal, and because we only have 30 bears to stuff, please sign up on the sheet located in the narthex or email J.T. if you plan to participate.



A second God's Work Our Hands project will be led by Ken Smith. He will have blank cards available to write notes to veterans hospitalized at the Houston VA Hospital. Ken will be taking the cards to the hospital the next week and anyone interested in joining him is welcome to come!

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

Just because school has started and summer is over doesn't mean that the fun has to end. Discovery Green is hosting a Screen on the Green event showing *Incredibles 2* on Saturday September 14th. We can bring a picnic dinner, and catch a free movie under the downtown skyline! The movie starts at 8 p.m., but if we arrive early we can enjoy some contests and activities! All ages are welcome! If your family is interested in attending with mine, see the sign-up sheet in the narthex or visit the Youth & Family Ministry page on our website for a link to sign up! There's no cost, we just need to coordinate! Sign-ups will close on Wednesday, September 13th.



SOMETHING NEW FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Rally Day is Sunday, September 15th – but instead of our usual antics, we are diving right into our new year of Sunday School with a little bit of a new format! We're starting 10 weeks on *The Gospel According to Pixar*, where we examine the most popular and faith-filled films in the animation studio's repertoire. Films like *Up*, *The Incredibles*, *Ratatouille*, *A Bug's Life* and the *Toy Story* series. It's a class for ALL AGES, from Kindergarten through Retirement! We'll gather around round tables in the Fellowship hall, watch clips from a new film every week, and ask age-appropriate questions about the themes we see portrayed. We'll also look into the Bible to see where those themes intersect with our faith! The first week, we'll serve movie theater snacks and drinks to truly capture the film experience! We'll continue the series every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. all the way up until Advent.



This isn't the only class beginning that day – separate adult classes will also begin! DJ Blockhus will lead a study on Romans using Luther's first commentary. We will study Romans in the context of the Reformation on one hand, but more importantly, contrast what we believe as Lutherans today.

This is a great opportunity to engage with the people and practices of Christ the Servant in a way you might never have before. Discussions happen in Sunday School that could never happen during worship! Come join us for a class, and make your Sunday morning more full and meaningful.

CONFIRMATION

Can you believe there are only 2 more Confirmation sessions left before the big day!? September 15th and October 13th will finish up this year's class and get our students ready to affirm their baptisms on Reformation Sunday (October 27th). They'll be studying Communion and Confession,



YOUTH AND FAMILY CON'T.

working on their Faith Statement Essays, and finishing their sermon notes and volunteer hours – all so they can be ready to celebrate this milestone with our church. I hope you'll plan to be there for this momentous event in the life of our church, and continue to pray for and support our students as they grow in faith.

Confirmation Mentors, please mark your calendars for these last two meetings. Your presence is so valuable, and the students and I appreciate you helping us work out what mentoring looks like at CTS!

ALTERNATE REALITY ESCAPE ROOM

It's been a little while, but we're heading back to the escape room! Saturday, September 27th, we'll venture over to Alternate Reality Escape Rooms in Katy to try our hand at one of the rooms there. This is a great event to do with families! Parents, don't be shy about signing up for this one with your kids! Students 16+ years old only need a signed waiver to attend without parents, but students younger than that need a parent present in the room. Alternate Reality has multiple rooms for about 8 people each starting at about 7 p.m. If we have more than that, we can book several different rooms. The cost per person is \$35. If you want, you can come at 6 p.m. and join me next door for dinner at Tom + Chee – Houston's best grilled cheese and tomato soup emporium! Sign up on the sheet in the narthex, or visit the Youth & Family Ministry page on our website for a link to do it online.

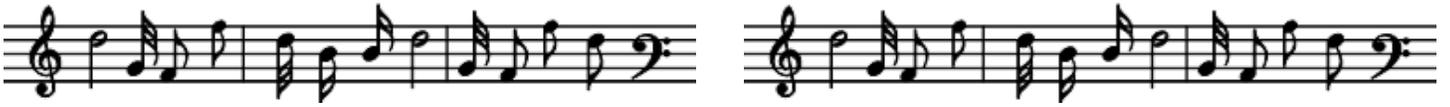
COUNCIL COMMENTARY

- Treasurer Susan Collins recapped a Wells Fargo mix-up regarding four church issued checks. So this doesn't happen again, the church now uses an online payment system for ongoing bills.
- Director of Music John Krueger reported that the Choirs will resume practice on August 18 and there will be a switch from Setting 10 to Setting 3 on September 8.

COUNCIL COMMENTARY CON'T.

- Director of Youth and Family Ministry J.T. described a new format for Sunday School that will be implemented this fall. There will be an hour of cross-generational, Kindergarten through Retirement, learning and discussion opportunities.
- Pastor Jim expressed his deep thanks and appreciation for the Congregational Surprise Party he was gifted in July. He also expressed his thanks for all the Kairos Cookie Bakers, and to Rosalie Fontenot and Mickie Walters, who also delivered the tasty treats He also advised that he will be including a Prayer for Healing of our Nation at a future service. Jim and Carolyn will be travelling to Berlin, Germany on August 25. Pastor Kelly will preach on September 7. Sichere Reisen Pastor Jim and Carolyn!
- Linda Siegle is finalizing plans for the upcoming Congregational Pictorial Directory. Plans call for the photographers to be at CTS three days, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Second Week of October. This will allow time for photos to be shipped to buyers in time for the Christmas season.
- Pastor Jim briefed Council about his idea to have a fundraising Spaghetti Supper in lieu of an Annual Garage Sale. After reviewing annual receipts for each year save one since March, 2001, he would like to see if the same amount of money could be earned for the Homeless Ministry in a different way.
- Council discussed the upcoming Stewardship Campaign, how to urge the importance of completing pledge cards, and simplifying the process.

Copies of all reports are available in the Council binder in the Narthex.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

As I write this article, I am safely back on this side of the Atlantic after an incredible trip to England and Scotland. The second part of the trip (Scotland) was more of a once in a lifetime vacation, although I was able to attend an evening communion service at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Inverness. This service showed me a couple of things: first, I need a lot of practice before I can successfully navigate the Gaelic language. Second, I was able to follow the service and would have been able to do so without an English translation in the service folder.

Other than the fact that I play the liturgy every week and have studied it at some length, I don't consider myself special in terms of being able to find my way around an order of worship in a different language. To be fair, the sermon was in English; this, by the way, was the main change in Luther's "Formula Missae" of 1523. However, the church was able to follow the Mass for about 1500 years in spite of the fact that very few people could read, write, or speak Latin. Moreover, I don't think anyone was remanded to hell for not being able to understand the Mass. Interestingly, there is a bit of a "counter-reformation" in the church demanding a return to Latin, and it has at least some support from the Vatican.

This raises the question of how anyone can get anything out of worship in a different language. It is also a subject that has been approaching me (if not hitting me in the head) during the last year. I have been hearing and reading quite a lot about the notion of "embodied liturgy." It started with a lecture and a paper last January by Todd Johnson of Fuller Theological Seminary at the North American Academy of Liturgy. He approached the subject from the intersection of philosophy and behavioral psychology, and the point was that our worship habits almost go on autopilot over a period of time, and that this isn't a bad thing. At about the same time, I was

introduced to a lengthy book called "Embodied Liturgy" by Frank Senn, an ELCA pastor and Notre Dame graduate (PhD in Liturgical Studies). He looked at how this thing called worship "gets into our bones" and thus walks out of church with us without our entirely realizing it.

My own observation of "embodiment" is on a very practical level: the thing of beauty that happens when a room full of people are singing and breathing at the same time. This finally brings me to the keynote address at Societas Liturgica by Joris Geldhof, immediate past president of the group. He explored the topic through the use of three words – penetration, permeation, and fermentation. The liturgy "invades our space" on Sundays (penetration); over the course of time, it permeates our worship and prayer life (at least on Sundays). Finally, the things we hear, say, sing, and pray "ferments" and shapes how we go about our lives – the benediction and sending are the two most obvious examples. I will return to this topic next month, since what we say and sing in response to what we hear (word) and receive (sacrament and forgiveness) is of primary importance to our lives as Christians.

John Krueger
Director of Music



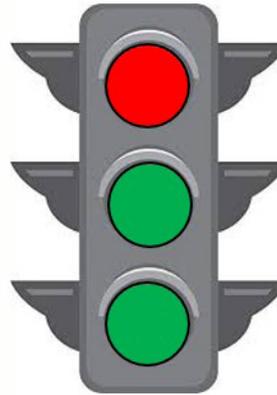
PRAYER REQUESTS

Sharon Amundson, sister of Paul Siegele
 Ursala Aston, aunt of Kurt Goedecke
 Robert Barr, brother of June Jacobson
 David Bassett, friend of Mike Iversen
 Lois and John Bates, friends of Sophia Manning
 Karen Bauer
 Cathy and Roy Chesser, friends of Pam Mobley
 Carol Clinger, sister of Paul Siegele
 The Cook Family, friends of the Stallwitz Family
 Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
 Dennis and Leonard Craig, brothers-in-law of Marilee Dittrich
 Kathy Craig, sister of Marilee Dittrich
 Mardella Davis
 Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
 Doug Gibson, friend of Phyllis and Monte Richard
 Phoebe Gilcrest, friend of Cheryl Skillman
 Ruth Klinger
 Roger and Mary Lemburg, relatives of Marti Hatcher
 Margaret, grandmother of Tina Blockhus
 Ron Murawski, father of Tim Muawski
 Bill Phelps, friend of Mike Iversen
 Ray Reider, brother of Russ Reider
 Cathy Roberson, daughter of Jodie Davis
 Wuanita Schaper, mother of Carol Klem
 Valerie Schick, granddaughter of Nancie Blair
 Mary Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand
 Robert Spear
 Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
 Richard Thomas, brother-in-law of June Jacobson
 Andy Wilkins, brother of Marilee Dittrich
 Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

Note:

The parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin appear in the Lectionary for September.

CTS Financial Dashboard Through July 2019



YTD Contributions

\$343,686
below forecast

YTD Expenditures

\$381,175
below budget

Cash Reserve

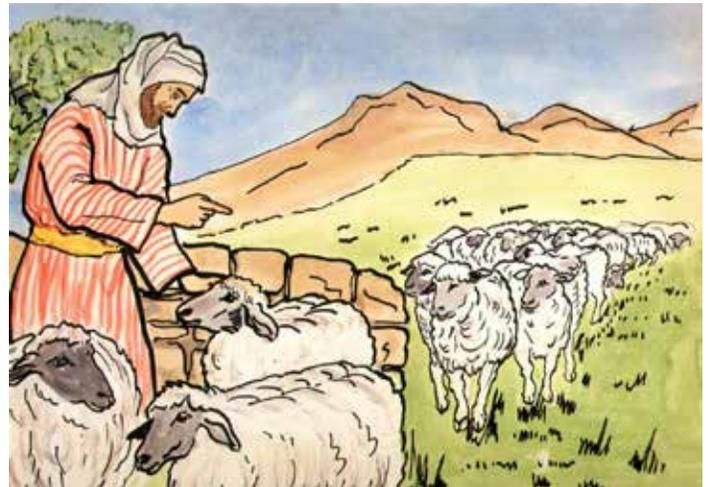
6.4 months coverage of
average monthly expenses

Excludes programs outside of General Fund (OEF, Homeless Ministry, Memorials, AED, Microphones)

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



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Premachand Potla
- 3 Shane Matherne
- 4 Brian Heil
Kathy Riggs
- 5 Debby Cutler
- 6 Terry Timmerman
Molly Womack
- 7 Pamela Harper
- 9 Laura Wilhelm
- 10 Ruby Sadler
- 11 Victor Rweyemamu
- 12 Toni Burns
Michaela Schrader
- 13 Susan Givens
Sue Kaestner
- 14 Brynn Matherne
- 15 Alene Olson
- 16 Robert Froebel
Mickey Walters
Nato Mpinga
- 18 Kevin Scace
- 19 Issiah Mgendi
- 21 Larry Henderson
- 22 Hans Kiondo
Barbara Stuckey
- 26 Lucille Cochran
- 27 Inga Carlson



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

John Krueger
ctschoir1@comcast.net

NURSERY CAREGIVER

Sandra Ani

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma E. Cruz

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE

713.784-6620

CHURCH OFFICE FAX

713.784-4742

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ron and Marti Hatcher
- 4 Mike and Lily Sweet
Everett and Pam Mobley
- 15 Terry and Debbie Timmerman
- 25 Monte and Phyllis Richard
Russell and Kathy Riggs



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

www.christtheservant.net

October newsletter information deadline is: September 15

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

SEPTEMBER 2019



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

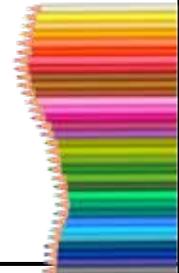
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

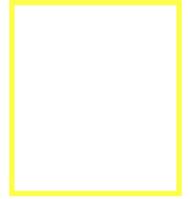


1 Pentecost 12	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry 5:30 WHAM ESL	4 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	5 5:30 WHAM ESL	6	7
8 God's Work Our Hands Pentecost 13	9	10 5:30 WHAM ESL	11 5:30 WHAM ESL 6:00 Ladies Dinner 7:00 Men Who Love Spaghetti 7:30 AA Journey	12 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Council	13	14 Screen on the Green 
15 First Day of Sunday School Confirmation Pentecost 14	16 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	17 5:30 WHAM ESL	18 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	19 5:30 WHAM ESL	20	21
22 Pentecost 15	23	24 5:30 WHAM ESL	25 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	26 5:30 WHAM ESL	27 2:00 Women's Ministry Bingo 6:00 Alternate Reality Escape Room	28
29 Pentecost 16	30	5:30 WHAM ESL	5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	5:30 WHAM ESL	 Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education- Sunday Classes for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.	

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SEPTEMBER 2019

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

Phone 713-784-6620
FAX 713-784-4742
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2019 COUNCIL

President: Cliff Mabry

President Elect:	Chandler Wilhelm	At Large:	Joanne Dumler
Secretary:	Ken Smith	At Large:	Linda Siegele
Treasurer:	Susan Collins	At Large:	Bryant King
Financial Secretary:	Emma Chanimbaga		

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
Brookdale Ministry	Ken Smith, Carolyn Kirk	Opportunity Endowment Fund	TBA
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer	Personnel	Ken Smith, Shirley Downing
Care Team	Arnie Kaestner	Prayer Chain	Marti Hatcher
College Ministry	Tina Blockhus	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	TBA
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	Cliff Mabry		Lori Wood
Liturgical Assistants	Cliff Mabry		