

INTERMISSION

GARAGE SALE NEWS!

The CTS Garage sale will be on March 30th, 2019. That is only one month away, and I hope you are excited as we are for this event. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities available to assist with the garage sale this year. If you are passionate by getting your hands dirty, please come and help set up! If you would rather find other ways to help, there are more tasks that need to be done. One way to hone your folding skills is to help with folding clothes. A task that will be a challenge but ultimately the biggest necessity is customer service, also known as outreach.



The people who will be coming to the garage sale will be from all walks of life. Some people will be looking at these items as something that will benefit their families while others might be looking for a good deal on a new chair or an electronic item. This will be an excellent way to show the love and support that the members here at CTS can provide to the community. Treating every person with respect and a willingness to help will go a long way. Hopefully the garage sale will help bring in revenue to help the ministries that rely on us to assist the people who are in need.

Anyone who wants to come and volunteer their time, please do! This will be an amazing way to help people, ministries, and finally the community.

Richard Clark

LADIES DINNER GROUP

Please join us
Wednesday, February 13, 6:00 pm
Beck's Prime
11000 Westheimer Road

GREETER REPORT FOR 2018

Welcome to Worship!

Many, many thanks to the 75 individuals/family groups (some of you multiple times) who participated as Greeters for some 120+ Sunday/Special Services at CTS in 2018.

Greeters are now being scheduled for 2019. I encourage you to be a part of this important ministry at Christ the Servant. An opportunity to answer the call to service is available to anyone who is willing to give 15 minutes of his/her time to greet members and visitors who choose to worship at CTS. A warm smile and a handshake are the only requirements. A reminder letter will be sent to you along with a nametag for you to wear. Many positions are filled by my phone calls to you. If you would like to be a Greeter and have not been contacted by me, please feel free to call me and together we will find an opening in your busy schedule so you can participate as a Greeter. Or, alternatively, leave word with Betsy in the Church Office.

Donna L. Schneider
Greeter Chairperson
713-465-8108 (home)

"ALL THEY NEED IS !"

Women's Ministry Event
February 13th 10:30 AM
Brookdale Memorial Oaks
1414 Sandy Springs

All that is required is for your presence to spread a bit of joy and love to residents!

Please join us!!
Questions???
Marsha Bower
281-381-0515

HOMELESS MINISTRY

Thank you for all your wonderful support and donations in 2018.

You made it possible for 5,235 people in 2018 to have lunches, consisting of 7,047 lunches and 16,354 sandwiches. In addition, 3,366 men and 261 women received toiletries.

It takes a lot of people to make the above happen. Many members of the congregation help and also provide training and guidance to two high school groups-Stratford High School's National Honor Society Members and volunteers from Elsie High School. We have people from the neighborhood who come and help in addition.

The food you provide to keep the pantry supplied is of great value and difficult to obtain from the Houston Food Bank, i.e., mustard (needed now), peanut butter, jelly and also the sandwich bags, brown paper bags, and quart size bags we use for the lunch food.



During the year committees and groups of CTS members provided special gifts that were given to the Homeless, i.e. socks and deodorant. They are very much appreciated by the homeless. Mike and Phylis Karas put together the Christmas bags, consisting of toiletries, socks as a gift as well as extra items such as combs and brushes. The extra items bring a lot of thanks from the people on the street. It is difficult for them to just have the bare essentials.

This ministry began in 1987, which makes 31 years from when Pastor Jim founded the homeless ministry. In the beginning he fed 40 hungry people, now we have over 300 each time we go. We continue providing them with a good lunch: 2 meat sandwiches, bottle of water, and 2-3 nutritious snacks. We always plan on having extra sandwiches for the delivery crew to take-usually 50 extra.

It takes 216 pounds of meat each time to make the sandwiches, 310 bottles of water, 120 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, 310 of each type of snack each time. The main ingredient is bread or no sandwiches are made. We obtain 100 loaves of bread each time from Kroger on Westheimer and Elm and the people who pick up the bread each time are the front runners who make the homeless ministry lunch happen. Judi Leisk has been coordinating this for a great many years. Judi and Betsy Riggs work together on the bread calendar.



We appreciate all your time, talents and donations in keeping the homeless ministry running. We usually spend \$8,000-\$10,000 a year. As of December 2 the expenses were \$9,168.66.

The 2019 calendar of our activities is listed below. Remember our Annual Garage Sale on March 30- your help is much needed to make it successful and all of the funds are used for the homeless.

Shirley Downing

CTS Homeless Ministry Calendar for 2019

Month	Date	Day	Time	Activities	Seasonal Activities
January	7 & 21	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	
February	4 & 18	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	
March	4 & 18	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	
March	24-29	Sun - Fri	5 PM to 8 PM	Pricing/Sorting	
March	30	Saturday	7 AM to 3 PM	Garage Sale	
April	1 & 15	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	<i>Easter packages</i>
May	6 & 20	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	
June	3 & 17	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	
July	1 & 15	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	
August	5 & 19	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	
September	3	TUESDAY	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	
September	16	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	
October	7 & 21	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	
November	4 & 18	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	<i>Thanksgiving packages</i>
December	2 & 16	Monday	3:30 PM to 7PM	Sack lunch party	<i>Christmas packages</i>

TREASURER'S REPORT

2018 YEAR-END REPORT (All expenses)

Income: \$ 740,076
Expenses: \$ 751,985
Difference: \$ -11,909

2018 YEAR-END REPORT (Operating expenses)

Without Harvey, Organ Purchase, Homeless Ministry, Memorials and OEF income or expenses
Income: \$ 721,738
Expenses: \$ 676,561
Difference: \$ 45,177

Bank Accounts Balances on January 16th:

Wells Fargo

Savings1 Account Balance: \$ 3,234
Savings2 Account Balance: \$ 52,482
Checking Account Balance: \$ 215,977

ELCA Building Fund A (Reserve fund) –

12/19/2018 \$ 72,673.30

Thrivent Mortgage Status of December 30th

Mortgage was refinanced on December 22, 2012.

Interest Rate: **5.375%** on a 15 year loan

Mortgage end date: December 22, 2027. 9 years left on the loan

Balance of Mortgage owed as of January 16, 2019: **\$470,528.54**

Monthly Payment is **\$ 7,170.00**, or **\$ 86,040.00** per year



COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Church Council met the evening of January 17, 2019. President Cliff Mabry opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with a devotion focused on Christian Meditation. Copies of all reports are in the Minutes Binder in the Narthex.

Treasurer Susan Collins reported that income for December 2018 was \$133,308 while expenses were \$38,188. For the year 2018 through December 31 income was \$740,076 and expenses were \$751,985 for a difference of <\$11,909>. If income and expenses are stated without amounts from Harvey, the Organ Purchase, Homeless Ministry, and Memorials, the income is \$721,738 and expenses are \$676,561 for a positive difference of \$45,177. Note that Homeless Ministry is self-sustaining.

Emma Chanimbaga is our new Financial Secretary. Emma stepped right in and worked with Betsy to quickly get up to speed on the position. Welcome Emma, and thank you!

Director of Music John Krueger was elected to membership in the prestigious North American Academy of Liturgy on January 5, 2019. This recognition is made possible by the academic papers John has authored over the past decade, and the continuing education funds provided by the Congregation of Christ the Servant. Congratulations John!

Director of Youth and Family Ministry J.T. reports that a family of three approached him about congregational membership for the two parents and baptism for their child. Another member has asked to schedule baptism for two children.

Pastor Jim reports that our Christmas Eve services went very well and that he is now working on the upcoming Lenten services. The phone number for Police Non-Emergency Calls is now posted throughout our buildings.

Ken Smith, Council Secretary





WORSHIP AND MUSIC

At the end of my last article, I mentioned having been accepted for membership in the North American Academy of Liturgy. Since then, I went to Denver for their annual meeting and was formally elected and installed as a member. On several levels, I am just amazed. The membership of this organization, which is international despite its title, is well represented in not only my own but also this congregation's library. By and large, these are the people I have read and studied over the last couple of decades. I consider it a great honor to even have a seat at the table.

This immediately begs the question of how I got seated at the table. Part of it has been my ongoing study of liturgy at Notre Dame and elsewhere. Another part is the two articles I have gotten published (and I am preparing a third). Both of these have been made possible by the generosity of this congregation in its continuing education fund. It continues to bear (I hope) good fruit. A byproduct of this is the worship practice of this congregation. We certainly don't anything overly fancy, but we "do what we do" very well. Thanks to the efforts of the late Mary Beth Teegerstrom, we have an Advent candle lighting rite that is unique and faithful to the Advent readings each year. In addition, our chanting of the psalms, although not completely unique, is very exceptional. This good singing washes into the rest of the liturgy and the hymns.

A very fun thing happened at the end of the January 13 late service. At the end of the last hymn ("Wade in the Water"), a smattering of tentative applause broke out. I was pretty sure it wasn't for me: I was at the piano doing my thing and singing along, but there wasn't anything earth shattering in the piano part or the singing. Part of its tentative nature, I'm sure, was the people suddenly realizing that they were clapping for themselves and each other.

As far as I can tell, the applause was the beginnings of a "happy clap" (If you're happy and you know it...). Let's be very real – "Wade in the Water" is a fun song to sing. That said, I'm very sure that the congregation wasn't applauding the last line – "God's a gonna trouble the water." More importantly, being happy (and sometimes even clapping) is a completely appropriate response to hearing God's Word, participating in the sacraments, and receiving the forgiveness of sins. If it happens to come at the

end of singing a fun song to close the service, that's okay too.

Another bit of singing that will start soon is a short hymn sing after the late service on the second (and maybe the fourth) Sunday of the month. This idea started sort of "on its own" a couple of months ago when a few of us sat down and went through a few of the Tanzanian hymns. Having been asked about it a couple of times since, perhaps it's worth a try. Moreover, it doesn't have to just be the Tanzanian hymns: there is absolutely no reason to not include some of the American songs as well. There is also absolutely no reason to not do one after the early service as well. The first outing will be February 10 after the late service, either in the fellowship hall or the choir room. We will be easy to find.

John Krueger, Director of Music



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

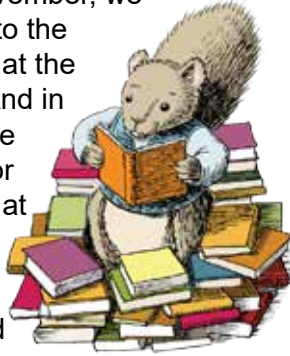
- 1 Peter Lares
- 3 Carla Abonce
- 9 DJ Blockhus
- 10 LeRoy Bauer
James Thomas
- 12 Susan Sutton
- 13 Case Iversen
- 16 Paula Ruskan
- 18 Jonathan Collins
Elizabeth Collins
- 19 Christopher Magre
- 21 Jerry Myers
- 22 Vicki Rudolph Williams
Kristian Teegerstrom
- 28 Tom Brinkman



LITERACY MINISTRY NEWS

We were so excited to plan for our "first ever" book fair in September as part of our God's Work Our Hands service day. We were disappointed when it was rained out - but were determined to get the books you generously donated to children who could really use them.

Over the last few months, we have been busy distributing those books! In November, we were able to give many books to the people served by Family Hope at the monthly food fair in Fulshear. And in December, we were able to give over 100 books to our next-door neighbors at Crest Apartments at their Christmas party.



The remaining books will be distributed at the February food fair in Fulshear. Giving books to these struggling families is a great way to continue our partnership with Family Hope.

There has been some interest in continuing Literacy at Christ the Servant as a more permanent ministry, where we could reach out to our community to make a difference.

If you are interested in becoming part of a core team to explore the opportunities of a Literacy Ministry, please contact:

Carolyn Kirk at carolynkrk@gmail.com.

STEWARDSHIP



Thank You for Your Pledges!

Many thanks to all of you who have completed financial pledge commitment cards. This is a helpful barometer for our financial team in future planning. If you have not turned one in, it is not too late to do so! You can leave your card in the offering plate.

Thank you again for your generosity.



TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY – ISAIAH

The Isaiah Bible Study continues on Feb 5th & Feb 19th. We'll be studying Third Isaiah (Chapters 56-66) which addresses a theological crisis in the formative years of Judaism after the return to Jerusalem from Babylonian exile. Third Isaiah was probably written sometime between the rebuilding of the temple in the years 520 to 516 B.C.E and the restoration of the torah community around 444 B.C.E. Recent scholarly opinion suggests Third Isaiah was written closer to the beginning of this period around 520 B.C.E.

I'm sure many of you are familiar with these verses from Third Isaiah:

- 65:17 For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
- 18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight
- 19a I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;

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.

If you have questions, contact Richard Carlson.

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bob and Judi Leisk
- 2 Fred and Pat Korge
- 14 Larry Henderson/Michelle Sanchez
- 27 Archie and Ruby Sadler



PRAYER REQUESTS

Those who continue to be impacted by
Hurricane Harvey
Sharon Amundson, sister of Paul Siegele
Ursala Aston, aunt of Kurt Goedecke
Karen Bauer
Sharon 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
Mateo Puccini, nephew of Mary Puccini
Ray Reider, brother of Russ Reider
Wuanita Schaper, mother of Carol Klem
Janet Schwahn
Mary Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand
Catherine Shoenfelt
Edna Simmons, sister of Emma Hammett
Tina Blockhus and family
Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
Richard Thomas, brother-in-law of June
Jacobson
Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

The Rev. James Giannantonio
jrgiannan@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Betsy Riggs
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DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Jason "JT" Thomas
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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

John Krueger
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NURSERY CAREGIVER

Sandra Ani, Michelle Sanchez

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma E. Cruz

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE

713.784-6620

CHURCH OFFICE FAX

713.784-4742





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

www.christtheservant.net

**March newsletter information
deadline is:
February 15**

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

FEBRUARY 2019

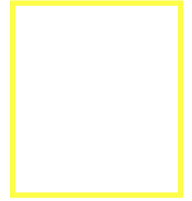
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education- Sunday Classes for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.					1	2
3	4 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	5 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Bible Study	6 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	7 5:30 WHAM ESL	8	9
4 Epiphany 10 Hymn sing after late service	11 5:30 WHAM ESL	12 5:30 WHAM ESL	13 10:30 Women's Ministry at Brookdale 5:30 WHAM ESL 6:00 Ladies Dinner at Beck's Prime 7:30 AA Journey	14  5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Council	15	16
5 Epiphany 17	18 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	19	20	21	22	23
6 Epiphany 24	25 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	26 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Bible Study	27 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	28 5:30 WHAM ESL	28	9:30 Altar Guild  Looking ahead- Ash Wednesday Is March 6
7 Epiphany		5:30 WHAM ESL	5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	5:30 WHAM ESL		

Calendar Note: The calendar now shows the color and season of the church year on each Sunday of the month.

INTERMISSION
FEBRUARY 2019

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

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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, Michelle Sanchez
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	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	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		