

INTERMISSION

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

LIGHTNING STRIKES CTS



On Friday, July 17 at around 10:45 a.m., the CTS church building was struck by lightning, resulting in damage to several of our computer and electrical systems. The staff immediately took action to assess the damage. The systems damaged include the sanctuary air conditioning, the building fire alarm, the internet, the sound system motherboard, two computers, and a portion of the sanctuary lighting. Inspections revealed no damage to the roof or other major parts of the building structure. Some systems were able to be repaired in time to hold our regular 8:00 and 11:00 services on Sunday, July 19, and to provide a makeshift livestream broadcast to our members who worship from home. At this time repairs to the remaining systems are still in progress, and it is uncertain when we will be 100% back to our prior status. The incident is not expected to have a material adverse impact on CTS finances, as part of the damage was covered by product warranties, some repairs were provided at no cost, and the remaining costs can be covered by our cash reserve. The Council would like to thank our staff (Pastor Jim, Betsy, JT, and John) and some of our members, particularly Brent Brown, for their prompt and energetic effort to assess the damage and initiate repairs.

Please join a ZOOM meeting on Sunday, August 19th @ Noon
to discuss the work done by



to:

- alleviate poverty
- provide disaster relief
- enable sustainable development around the world

Hear the inspirational story of Paulina Aci, a Sudanese refugee living in Uganda. LWR is currently providing seeds and farming tools to the refugees as well as equipment and training to fight COVID 19.

Zoom meeting ID - enter to join the discussion:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4827845580>

Questions:

Paul Siegele – paulsiegele59@gmail.com

or

Tina Hamilton – Chamilton@lwr.org



COUNCIL NOTES

The Christ the Servant (CTS) council met in early July. The June 2020 council meeting minutes and the July 2020 Treasurer's report were reviewed and approved unanimously by the council. Other reports from the Financial Secretary, Director of Music, Director of Youth and Family, and Pastor Jim were also discussed by the council members.

The audit of CTS' 2019 books and records was completed by Denise Carlson and Mickey Walters. Their findings were presented to the council and discussed during the council meeting, and a few adjustments to accounts have been made. However, overall, the books and records of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church appeared to be materially accurate in all respects. The audit report has been signed by Denise and Mickey as evidence that the audit and all recommended adjustments were executed. The council wishes to thank Mickey and Denise for their considerable work in completing the audit, particularly given the constraints of current circumstances.

CTS leadership continues to discuss ways in which we might resume our ministry work safely in light of the current Covid-19 concerns. As many may already be aware, the CTS Homeless Ministry will resume its activities with the distribution of non-perishable food items. Additionally, discussions continue with West Houston Assistance Ministries (WHAM) regarding a Thanksgiving lunch to be given by CTS for the poor and working poor in our area. The proposed date for the lunch is Saturday, November 21st, and free tickets will be issued by WHAM for this event. Please note that this activity will only be held if it can be done safely and within government mandates at that time.

The council also discussed a provision that would enable CTS Staff to work from home, as their health or other concerns require. Council members discussed how this flexibility might impact CTS' ministries, as well as how those impacts could be mitigated. The council decided to grant the flexibility to work from home to all CTS staff for the next thirty (30) days, and also put in place alternative processes to support ongoing ministry work. This decision will be reviewed at the August council meeting to determine if it needs to be extended.

Both in-person and on-line services continue as of this writing. Total viewership of on-line services since March 29th was 2,432 views or about 162 views per Sunday. Tracking of this activity has revealed that the services are being viewed by both congregation

members, as well as individuals outside of the CTS community. Individuals are also viewing the services throughout the week, and not necessarily always during the livestream broadcasts.

Finally, CTS once again has a fully-functioning kitchen in the Fellowship Hall. Through several months of careful shopping and negotiating, Betsy Riggs was able to obtain the equipment and installation at very reasonable prices. Thanks Betsy!

Prayerfully submitted,
Karen Carter, Council Secretary



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

BAD NEWS

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID virus, we have made the very difficult decision of cancelling our annual retreat weekend in October.

GOOD NEWS

Instead of a weekend retreat, we are tentatively (if all goes well!) planning a one day conference at CTS on October 3rd. The theme will be "GOD'S WONDER FULL WORLD!" This way we are able to social distance and yet really enjoy some much needed fellowship with each other.

Please stay tuned for more information that will be forthcoming!

If you need anything or if Women's Ministry can do anything for you in the meantime, please contact me. As the saying goes "We are in this together"!

Blessings,
Marsha Bower
lb16434@aol.com
281-381-0515

YOUTH AND FAMILY

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation class has started meeting virtually while in-person programming is on hiatus. We had a wonderful July meeting via Zoom talking about the 10 Commandments! Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, August 11 from 7-9 p.m. The next episode in our study of God's ongoing story is Judges and Kings!

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Since we value our kids at Christ the Servant, it's imperative that we keep our adult volunteers current with the latest training in child safety and abuse prevention. We must also due our due diligence through background checks. As of July 2020, SafeGatherings.com will handle both of those needs more conveniently than ever before. They offer comprehensive background checks and online child safety training that adult volunteers can do at their convenience and at their own pace. You can even do some of it, then leave and come back later to where you left off.

During this period when our church isn't meeting in person and very few activities for children and youth are allowed, we have a great opportunity to strengthen our ranks of qualified adult volunteers, teachers, mentors, drivers, and nursery workers. If we invest in this now, we will be even stronger when the time comes for us to meet together again.

If you serve, have served, or might someday wish to serve the children and youth of CTS in any capacity, it is required that you complete the online training course. For more information about how you can access the training and background check material, contact jt@christtheservant.net.

CLASS OF 2020

Congrats to Michaela Schrader! In what was most certainly a strange and disappointing ending for the graduating class of 2020 – we failed to acknowledge the milestone that this daughter of CTS achieved! Mikki graduated from Sharpstown High School this year, and has plans to attend Prairie View A&M University with her eye on a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. God knows we need qualified nurses now more than ever! Congratulations Mikki – you

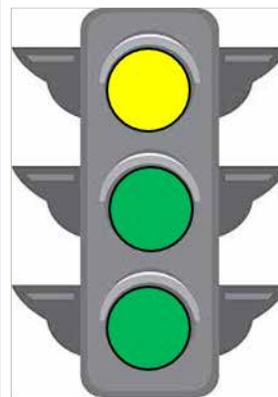
have been a blessing to us these past several years and we wish you the best in your next stage of life and education!

Congratulations are also in order for Edna Lwekamwa and her husband Braille Ndanshau for launching another one from the nest! Way to go, gang!

JT Thomas
Director of Youth and Family Ministries



CTS Financial Dashboard Through JUNE 2020



YTD Contributions

\$ 302,884

below forecast for income

YTD Expenditures

\$ 306,398

below budgeted expenses

Cash Reserve

6.0 months coverage of average monthly expenses

Excludes programs outside of General Fund (OEF, Homeless Ministry, Memorials, A/V Equipment)

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

HOMELESS MINISTRY

On the evening of Wednesday July 1, 2020 CTS launched a trial measure designed to return CTS' Homeless Ministry to life. The plan aims to use as few people as possible in as safe a manner as is achievable. Homeless Ministry wanted, and needed, to reach out to the men and women it has served in the past; to let them know we haven't gone away.

Pat Welborn, Sophia Manning, and Ken Smith packed plastic Snack Bags that evening in the Fellowship Hall. The Snack Bags were then placed in large vinyl totes, six snack bags per tote. 18 vinyl totes were filled, making 108 Snack Bags to be delivered. This note is an overview of that effort.

As early as the last Homeless Ministry delivery, March 16, 2020, thoughts turned to how to continue the Ministry during the growing Pandemic. The last stop of our itinerary that evening was the Mid-Town Lodge, a residential labor hall.

In the past the vinyl carrying totes containing lunches were brought into that labor hall's common room by CTS volunteers and lodge residents. The lunches would be placed on long rectangular tables, with CTS volunteers ready to hand them out as residents walked past. Other CTS volunteers stood near the tables ready to offer wrapped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and hygiene kits.



On March 16 however, the lunches, P&J sandwiches, and hygiene kits were brought inside and placed en masse on the tables. CTS folks quickly greeted the residents from a distance (waving is actually quite nice), gathered up the vinyl tote bags and left. That delivery formed the model for the Snack Bags delivery that took place July 2 when Pastor Jim delivered 60 Snack Bags to the Mid-Town Lodge and Ken took 48 Snack Bags to the DeGeorge Hotel, a residence for homeless veterans.

In addition to using as few people as possible to pack, this version of Homeless Ministry limits delivery to one person per vehicle per location. Arrive. Greet and Deliver appropriately with blessings. Leave. The driver is to try and avoid entering premises, with residents coming outside with a cart on which to unload the vinyl bags, or sending out a few people to carry the vinyl totes inside, unload the Snack Bags and bring the now empty totes back out to the driver.

Both Pastor Jim and Ken realized, were stunned even, by how delighted and grateful, the recipients were for even these basic snacks. Many of them remembered us and CTS. Thanks Be to God!

The Snack Bags each contained two bottles of water, two applesauce cups, a spoon, a snack size packet of Goldfish crackers, a lunch size packet of Famous Amos Chocolate Chip Cookies, two lunch size boxes of raisins, and a Rice Crispy Marshmallow treat.

Please keep the Homeless Ministry in your prayers. The sun will dawn one day when the full CTS sandwich making lunch program is again in full swing.

Ken Smith

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Gerald (Gerry) Ludwig
- 3 Karl Kramer
Neema Makia
Bill Skillman
- 4 Ema Makia
- 5 Ronald Hatcher
- 7 Linda Iversen
- 8 Ruth Froebel
- 9 Kevin Petterson
- 10 Pamela Mobley
- 13 John Krueger
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



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
- 26 Robert and Ruth Froebel
Harvey and June Jacobson
- 27 Nicas and Louise Kiondo
- 29 Ade and Ethel Kujimiyo



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Karen Bauer
- Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
- Emmy, granddaughter of Jodi Davis' niece
- Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
- Doug Gibson, friend of Phyllis and Monte Richard
- Matthew Guella, nephew of Mike Karas
- Donna Inouye, sister of Phylis Karas
- Karl Kramer
- Margaret, grandmother of Tina Blockhus
- Cathy & Rob Roberson, daughter and son-in-law of Jodie Davis
- Valerie Schick, granddaughter of Nancie Blair
- Mary Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand
- Robert Spear, father of Tina Blockhus
- Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
- Frank Welsh, friend of Mike and Phylis Karas
- Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

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
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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

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

Submissions for September newsletter are due on: August 15

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

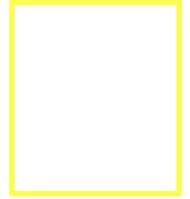
Information may be edited to available space.



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AUGUST 2019

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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		