

INTERMISSION

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

WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET

COUNCIL NOTES

The Christ the Servant (CTS) council held in person meetings in both May and June. What follows are the highlights of those discussions.

The council reviewed and unanimously approved the March and April 2020 council meeting minutes and the respective Treasurer's Reports for each month. Additional reports were submitted by the Financial Secretary, Director of Music, Director of Youth and Family, and Pastor Jim during both meetings. All were briefly reviewed by the council members.

As many of you are aware, in person worship services have resumed at CTS, though with restrictions to comply with government requirements. The council discussed several points of constructive feedback received over the past two weeks from the CTS congregation about the service protocols. As a result, a few changes will be made to those protocols to mitigate as much Covid-19-related risk as possible during worship services.

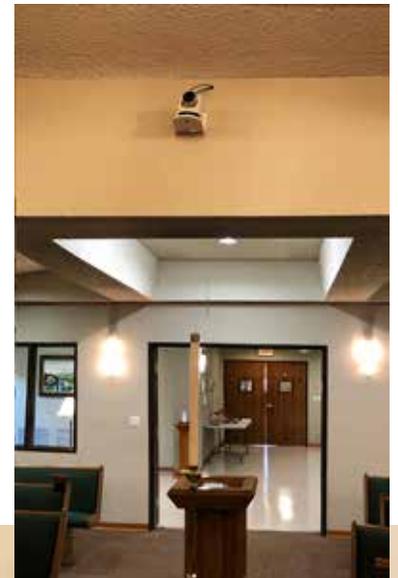
On-line worship services have continued throughout this time and will continue into the future. New audio-visual equipment has been procured to enable the 'live streaming' of future worship services, which began on June 21. This will hopefully enable congregation members to feel more like a part of the worship service, even if health considerations or other concerns keep them at home. The podcast version of the service will also continue being available for the present time.

The council wishes to again thank the many individuals whose contributions to these online services and podcasts have been considerable. Specifically, the council wishes to thank Pastor Jim, JT, and John Krueger, for their *many* hours of work researching equipment needs, learning how to operate new equipment, and putting together/editing the on-line services. Additionally, the council wants to specially thank Brent Brown for lending his time and talent to CTS to run the wiring necessary to support the new audio-visual equipment.

In other church business, the audit of CTS' financial accounts began in June and is ongoing as of this writing. It is anticipated that the audit will be completed by the end of the summer. Additionally, work to replace the microwave and broken oven in the Fellowship Hall kitchen resumed in June and is ongoing at this juncture.

Finally, Pastor Jim and the CTS council wished to extend its appreciation for the ongoing support, both financial and otherwise, from the CTS congregation during this period. Thanks to your generosity, CTS' financial condition remains healthy. Thanks to everyone!

Prayerfully submitted,
Karen Carter
Council Secretary



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

In the last article concerning the liturgy, I described the Kyrie (“Lord, have mercy”) as being the oldest part of the liturgy. It is immediately followed by the Gloria, short for Gloria Dei, or “Glory to God.” However, we use it only part of the time; it has been partly replaced by “This Is the Feast” in recent times. This month’s article, then, concerns a very old portion of the worship and its newest portion.

The “Gloria” is another element of what is called the “ordinary” of the Mass – it doesn’t change from week to week. In our practice at Christ the Servant, we use the “Gloria” on non-communion Sundays and “Worthy Is Christ” (“This Is the Feast”) on communion Sundays. Even with this variant, its use remains constant – except during Lent, when “Alleluias” are omitted from the service. As a result, we also change the musical setting of the Kyrie to “Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved” (hymn 602) because the Kyrie and Gloria are composed as one unit.

Where the Kyrie predates the Christian church, the Gloria may have appeared in 136, and is mentioned by Athanasius in the fourth century. It is a conflation of the angels’ song in Luke 2:14 (referenced again at Luke 19:38) with the Palm Sunday narrative from all four gospels. In addition, it becomes worship through a stacking of superlatives – “we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory” along with names for Jesus, such as “Lord Jesus Christ,” “only son of the Father,” and “Lord God, Lamb of God.” In a relatively short piece of music (about two minutes) there are a lot of strong words.

On the other hand, the “Worthy Is Christ” is much newer. We use two versions: the first, by Richard Hillert, first appeared in 1975 as part of the “Contemporary Worship” series of booklets published in advance of the Lutheran Book of Worship (the old green hymnal). This version is Setting Three in our current hymnal. Shockingly enough, it was also used at the dedication of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in downtown Houston. The other version we use (Setting Four) was written by Ronald Nelson for the LBW. The words are a reworking of the canticle “Dignus et Agnus” by John Arthur and first appeared in Contemporary Worship 2 (1970). This canticle, in turn, is a setting of three texts from Revelation (Revelation 5:12-13, 15:3-4, and 19:5-9).

To be completely honest, our usage of the Hymn of Praise is based on a common misinterpretation of

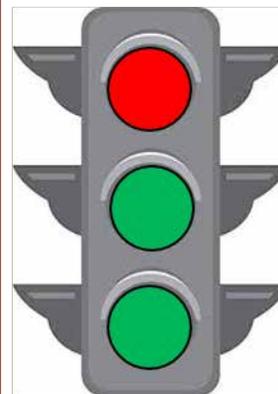
the opening line: the “feast of victory” is the entire worship service and not just Holy Communion. That is why it was used on Easter Sunday even though there could be no communion on a podcast. Every Sunday is a “feast of victory,” or a little Easter. However, our practice of not having communion at every service helps us to have a more or less even split of two gorgeous hymns of praise.

This section of the service, known as the Opening Rite or Gathering Rite, concludes with the Prayer of the Day, which reflects either the scripture readings or the Sunday of the church year. In earlier times, it was known as the Collect since it was felt to also collect the prayers of the people. The next section of the service is known as the “Service of the Word,” which will be the subject of the next article.

John Krueger, Director of Music



CTS Financial Dashboard Through MAY 2020



YTD Contributions

\$ 238,672

below forecast for income

YTD Expenditures

\$ 252,136

below budgeted expenses

Cash Reserve

*6.1 months coverage of
average monthly expenses*

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

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

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Michael and Linnay Cummings
- 8 Barry and Gabby Rava
- 9 Ron and Dana Herbanek
- 11 Demi and Zach Edwards
- 13 Peter and Dana Lares
- 19 Rev Stephen and Theresa Kelly
- 30 Jim and Joanne Dumler



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Michelle Stelly
Anansia Ndanshau
Ruby Quintero
- 4 Debbie Timmerman
- 8 Jim Dumler
- 9 Brent Brown
Rich Ruskan
- 12 Avery Scace
Kristin Siegele
Raul Olvera
- 13 Ashley Kawila
- 14 Carolyn Kirk
- 18 Frank Lehoski
- 19 Xander Feldt
- 24 Julie Heil
- 27 David Deeds
- 29 Michele Byrnes
- 30 John Frank
- 31 Harvey Jacobson



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue our Adult Sunday School online via our regular Zoom meetings with the completion of a study of Dante's Divine Comedy led by Colleen Blockhus on July 5

Together, we'll look at the three parts of the Divine Comedy in three weeks. Each week will begin with a basic plot summary, so don't worry if you're unfamiliar with Dante. Then we'll dive deeper into topics such as the definition of beauty, the importance of logos/language, the purpose of punishment, and the significance of non-Christian education to our faith. Everyone is welcome to come discuss the beautiful writings of Dante, one of the most influential Christian writers in history!

Class will take place from 9:45 to 10:30 in order to allow everyone to participate from home and attend services in person. We plan to resume in person classes during the rest of July at CTS, pending final confirmation from Church Council.

The link for the meeting will be the same one we have been using:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/477436060>

If anyone has any questions, feel free to call or email D.J. Blockhus at:

281-685-2853

blockhus@earthlink.net

PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen Bauer
 Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
 Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
 Doug Gibson, Friend of Monte & Phyllis Richard
 Matthew Guella, nephew of Mike Karas
 Donna Inouye, sister of Phylis Karas
 Karl Kramer
 Margaret, grandmother of Tina Blockhus
 Cathy & Rob Roberson, daughter 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 & Phylis Karas
 Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

CALENDAR DATES

(Note: a large-format calendar will return when all CTS ministries are back in action)

July 4 Office Closed for 4th of July
July 6 and 20 Homeless Ministry (tentative)
July 9 Council



Note: Women's Minstry Retreat has been cancelled

While we've been away...



The Narthex and Sanctuary have been prepared for Covid-19 mitigation, with gloves, masks and hand sanitizer available. The complete service of the day, including hymns and lessons, is contained in single-use worship folders.



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

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

www.christtheservant.net

August newsletter information deadline is:

July 15

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

Information may be edited to available space.

HURRICANE WARNING

Hurricane season is upon us. As coastal residents, we are wise to be as prepared as we can be. We encourage each and every one of you to become a "72 Hour Lutheran", a person who has enough supplies in their home to meet their household's basic needs for 72 hours.

Being prepared to take care of your own family allows you to then reach out and help others.

When you get home today, take a moment to make this a priority:

- Use this checklist for supplies
- Determine escape routes
- Make an evacuation plan for all pets
- Share one out of state emergency contact with all of your family and friends
- Call your church and be sure your information is correct
- Know the vulnerability of your home and the safest areas within it



Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

12941 North Freeway, Suite 210, Houston, TX 77060
GulfCoastSynod.org

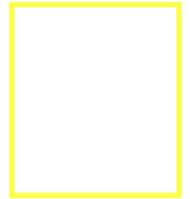
"72 Hour Lutheran" Checklist

- Proper identification
- Immunization records
- Flashlight/Batteries
- Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- Fully charged cell phone
- A traditional (not cordless) telephone set
- Cash (with small bills)
- Extra keys
- Tools – keep a set with you during the storm
- Vehicle fuel tank (kept filled)
- Pet care items, including drinking water
- Stock up on non - perishable supplies
- One gallon of water per person per day
- Snack foods
- Cooking tools
- Non - electric can opener
- Fuel, oil for generators, chainsaws, etc.
- Paper plates and plastic utensils
- First - aid kit
- Medicines, Prescriptions
- Toiletries, hygiene items, moist wipes
- Weather & news apps downloaded to devices
- Tarps
- Bug repellent
- Duct tape

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JULY 2020

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2020 COUNCIL

President: Chandler Wilhelm

President Elect:	Barry Rava	At Large:	Zach Edwards
Secretary:	Karen Carter	At Large:	Dale Dickman
Treasurer:	Susan Collins	At Large:	Neema Makia
Financial Secretary:	Emma Chanimbaga	At Large:	Joanne Dumler

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	DJ Blockhus
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	Stewardship	Brent Brown-11:00 Service
Greeters	Donna Schneider	Ushers	Cliff Mabry
Homeless Ministry	Shirley Downing	WHAM Representatives	8:00 Russell Farmer
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters	Women's Ministry	11:00 Pat Welborn
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson	Worship and Music	Ken Smith
Lectors	Cliff Mabry		Marsha Bower
Liturgical Assistants	Cliff Mabry		Lori Wood