

INTERMISSION

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

Looking ahead...

LENT AND EASTER EVENTS

Please note that there are some changes from the schedule of the past few years.

Lenten Services

March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1
12:00 Service
12:30 pm Lunch

Palm Sunday

April 5
8:00 Service
11:00 Service

Maundy Thursday

April 9
12:00 pm Service
7:15 pm Service

Good Friday

April 10
12:00 WHAM Service, site TBA
7:15 pm Service

Easter Vigil

April 11
7:15 Service

Easter Sunday

April 12
8:00 Service
9:30 Breakfast
10:00 Egg Hunt
11:00 Service



EASTER FLOWERS

Sign up for Easter lilies and hydrangeas!

Cost:
\$8.50 for lilies
\$16.50 for hydrangeas

Place your order March 1-29
on the sign-up sheet in the
Narthex



Help Wanted...

Treats (wrapped candy, rub-on tattoos, stickers, etc.) are needed to fill Easter eggs for the Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. Drop your contributions in the box in the Narthex.



KAIROS PRISON COOKIE MINISTRY

It's time again to bake cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry on March 10, from 9-12:00 and 1:00-4:00. It is a great organization to support. Along with the work, we have a lot of fun as we bake the cookies. Sign-up sheets will be placed in the narthex.



PLEASE JOIN US

Ladies Dinner

Wednesday, March 11
6:00 p.m.
Cafe Caspian

Men Who Love Spaghetti

Wednesday, March 18
7:00 p.m.
Piccolo's



All are welcome! Come share an evening of fellowship with your friends from CTS!

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Many thanks to the generous members of our congregation for their donations to the Souper Bowl Of Caring on February 2nd! Together, you donated \$726 dollars toward hunger ministries in our area. After a spirited debate about needs, priorities and doing the most good - our confirmation class elected to donate \$400 to WHAM, \$200 to CTS Homeless Ministry, and the rest to the Houston Food Bank.

YFT (Youth and Family Team)

The YFT – formerly the FAT team – had a wonderful and productive meeting on February 16th. The team is working hard to prioritize and innovate when it comes to Youth and Family Ministry. If you have feedback on how things are going, would like to encourage us about something you noticed, or offer some constructive suggestions, please feel free to mention it to J.T., Jennifer Beaver, Michele Byrnes, Joanne Dumler, Demi Edwards, Zach Edwards, Neema Makia, or Reece Stallwitz. The Team will meet next on Sunday, March 8th at 12:30 p.m.

KIDS WHO LOVE PIZZA

Friday, March 6th is an all-ages KWLP as we celebrate the release of ONWARD, the newest film in the Disney/Pixar Universe. We will gather first at 6 p.m. at MOD Pizza on Westheimer just east of the church. Afterward, we will catch the 7:35 p.m. showing of ONWARD at Cinemark Memorial City. You are responsible for the cost of pizza, and buying your tickets in advance of the show, to make sure you can get in. As of this writing, only 1 seat had been sold for that show. Please visit our website at www.christtheservant.net/ctskids to find a link to RSVP so that we know how many people to plan for.



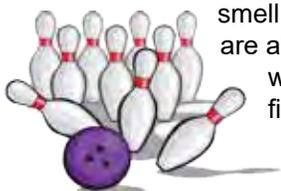
GIRLS-ONLY EVENT – BOWLING!

Attention all girls 5 years of age and older! Please report to Times Square Katy (402 Grand Parkway S. Suite 110, Katy, TX) on **Saturday, March 21st at 2:45 p.m.**

Bowling is great because it's a "sport", but it's also very social! It's a sport that lets you hang out, eat snacks, and take a turn every 5 minutes or so! There's almost nothing better for releasing a little aggression or frustration than throwing something heavy at a pile of things that will explode! Plus - cool shoes!

Cost is \$25 and includes 2 hours of unlimited bowling plus your shoe rental! Please wear socks!

No boys are allowed – so it's ok if you smell bad and wear dirty clothes. Moms are also welcome! Visit our website at www.christtheservant.net/ctskids to find a link to RSVP so that we know how many lanes and shoes we will need to reserve.



NOTE: If you sign-up, you are responsible for the \$25 fee, even if you don't make it to the event.

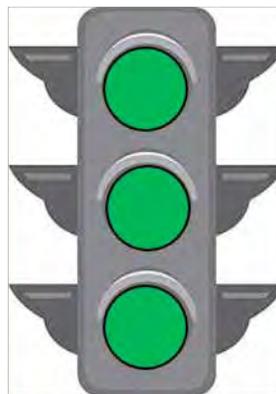
CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Throughout the year we are doing fundraising events to support Youth & Family Ministry and the families that participate in it. Our next event (weather permitting) is a Car Wash on Sunday Morning, March 29th. Kids in grades K-12, wear your scrubby clothes and come help us polish and shine the cars of those attending the services at CTS that day. It's been more than 5 years since the last one of these, so those cars ought to be nice and grimy!

Congregation: Saturday March 28th is a great day to take your vehicle on a jaunt through the mud, or down a dusty dirt road somewhere on the outskirts of town. Bring your filthy ride to us and let the gentle, loving, soapy hands of Youth & Family Ministry bring it back to life again! The result will inspire you to open your pocketbook!



CTS Financial Dashboard Through January 2020



YTD Contributions

\$55,776

above forecast for income

YTD Expenditures

\$51,693

On budgeted expenses

Cash Reserve

7.0 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



COUNCIL NOTES

The Christ the Servant (CTS) Council met February 13th for its second council meeting of calendar 2020. The council reviewed and unanimously approved the minutes from the January 2020 congregational meeting, those from the January council meeting, and the CTS Treasurer's report.

Additional reports were submitted by the Financial Secretary, Director of Music, Director of Youth and Family, and Pastor Jim. All were briefly reviewed by the council members.

The council reviewed and discussed the CTS constitution's reference to audits of the CTS financial statements. After a constructive discussion of the constitutional requirement and review of the ELCA synod's audit recommendations, the council unanimously approved a motion to appoint an audit committee. This committee will be comprised of 2 – 3 CTS members with the relevant knowledge and experience to provide informed guidance to the council. The committee will be tasked with presenting a proposal to the CTS Council regarding the best method of auditing CTS' 2019 financial records.

The council also reviewed and unanimously approved an amended expense reimbursement policy for ministry leaders. This was an amendment to an existing CTS policy related to the reimbursement of expenses incurred by both CTS Staff and lay ministry leaders in executing CTS business. The amendment's intent was to clarify the policy on a few points to create better transparency for the CTS Treasurer.

Finally, the CTS Council wishes to thank Brent Brown for his considerable work in replacing the fire panel in the main building. Brent committed many volunteer hours to ensuring the unit was properly installed and the area around it returned to its original condition. Thanks Brent!

As always, we ask for your prayerful support to help guide us throughout 2020.

Karen Carter, Council Secretary

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

To begin, I'm afraid a *mea culpa* is in order. I mistakenly listed the evening services as beginning at 7:00 p.m. In fact, they begin at 7:15. There was no miscommunication; I made this mistake all by myself, and I'm not sure why I did it since the evening services have been at 7:15 the whole time I have worked here. However, it makes a perfect, if unintentional, segue into the body of the article. As part of an ongoing walk through the worship service, the next section of the service to be covered is confession and forgiveness.

Luther wavered as to whether to consider confession a sacrament before finally deciding it wasn't based on St. Augustine's definition: a physical "thing" (water, bread, wine) combined with the Word of God. As a result, the only two rites to make the cut are baptism and Holy Communion. Luther, by the way, was an Augustinian monk. It was also at this point that Luther felt that he was wholly unworthy of God's grace – that he could never do enough to actually be forgiven, or to live a blameless enough life to merit such grace on his own. His frequent confession of minor or even imagined offenses finally led his confessor (usually Johann Staupitz) to finally tell him to go do some actual sinning before returning to the confessional booth.

For Luther, the problem was in the step between confession and forgiveness – the Catholic sacrament of penance. Whether as simple as a couple of "Our Fathers" or "Hail Marys," or as complicated as financial reparations, one had to do something to obtain forgiveness. Hence, Luther never felt he could do enough to get right with God. Thankfully, Luther discovered that forgiveness was a gift of God. By extension, this is the first of God's gifts to us in the liturgy. Our confession is of a general nature – that we have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. What happens next is very little short of miraculous. When the liturgical assistant leads the confession, he or she reminds us that our sins are already forgiven – that we just need to claim it. It gets even better when the pastor leads the confession: "as a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his (Christ's) authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins."

The word "entire" is strong language – there are no exceptions. There are no more "mortal" sins, and certainly no unforgivable political sins. The only sins for which we cannot claim the forgiveness won by Jesus on the cross are the ones we don't acknowledge to the best of our ability. I will revisit the other rites of confession in the hymnal next month. For our purposes in worship, this assurance of forgiveness wipes the slate clean as we enter the service of Word and sacrament. That entry will be described next month as well.

John Krueger, Director of Music

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Telling the Truth by Frederick Buechner
9:30 – 10:30 in the Conference Room

Frederick Buechner (pronounced *BEEK-ner*) is an ordained Presbyterian minister, writer, novelist, preacher and theologian who Pastor Jim quotes several times each year in his sermons. The Adult Sunday School group will be exploring his book "Telling the Truth" on Sunday mornings in March from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in the CTS conference room. Here is a chance to get to better know one of Pastor Jim's favorite authors.

In the book, Buechner looks at the Gospel as first tragedy, then comedy and finally fairy tale. In the tragedy segment, Buechner makes numerous references to William Shakespeare's famous tragedy *King Lear*. So it looks like we'll be reading some Shakespeare each class session in addition to looking at Buechner's unique viewpoint (comedy is a term you and I wouldn't normally use when talking about the Gospels).

You are most welcome to join us ... even if for just one Sunday to check it out.

Richard Carlson

THANK YOU

I transferred to Christ the Servant from another nearby church around 7 years ago. I came alone and was very timid entering a new place (I sat out in the car for a while getting the courage to come in). But once I entered, I was welcomed and put at ease. Everyone was friendly and made me feel part of the group.

I began getting involved in as many groups as I could to get to know people. The groups then became my family.

I love the Sunday services. They provide a time for reflection, learning, and beautiful music. It is a time not to be entertained, but a time to participate.

I love the people and enjoy the time we spend with each other as we worship, and as we reach out to others in need. I am grateful to those who step forward and teach, as we learn and grow in our knowledge and faith.

I am grateful we have such a wonderful staff to lead us: Pastor Jim, John & JT, along with Betsy who does a wonderful job in keeping it all running smoothly.

We learn (Sunday school, Bible classes), we work (Kairos prison ministry, feeding the hungry), we worship (not only on Sundays, but special Lent & Advent services), and we laugh (a lot!).

Thanks be to God,

Rosalie Fontenot

HOMELESS MINISTRY

This past year has seen a change in the number of people we have making lunches. We have a few students who come from Stratford High to help, but the largest group providing the most help is YOU. The number of members of the church who are now helping has increased and it has made it possible for us to have all the lunches and sandwiches completed in a couple of hours. We also get help from members who pick up bread for us, but we are in need of more volunteers for this job.

We made 17,034 sandwiches and 7,058 lunches last year and fed 5,264 people with an average of 12 women seen each week.

For one of our delivery locations we make 120 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. The people take them to work the next day at the labor hall. We use quart size bags to place 2 sandwiches in each quart bag. At another location, where we have seen over 100 people each time, space has now been cut in half due to the property owner demolishing half of the site into new townhouses. We have been reviewing other possible sites, making sure they have an area where we can distribute the lunches. We then meet with the management to obtain a letter of permission to be on their property to do so.

We appreciate the congregation's contributions of mustard, jelly, peanut butter and sandwich and quart size bags. Our stock of these items had gotten very low and you have now replenished them. Thank you.

Pat Welborn located a Pepperidge Farms Supply place. We have been receiving bags of different flavor bagels, goldfish crackers and cookies plus some of their specialty bread for each of our lunch making days. These are broken down into sandwich and quart size bags to place in each lunch. In addition, we include applesauce cups and small boxes of raisins from the Houston Food Bank in each lunch along with a bottle of water and 2 hefty sized meat sandwiches.

Thank you for the lunch meat so we could continue to make sandwiches while the freezer was being repaired. We are now replenishing the meat packages from the Houston Food Bank.

Thank you for the blessings you have bestowed to the Homeless Ministry of your time, contributions and your talents. We will continue providing to the homeless until the day when no one is homeless.

Annual Homeless Ministry Fundraiser

Please support the Homeless Ministry by attending our annual fundraiser. This year we are not having the garage sale. Instead, we are having an Italian Spaghetti Dinner served and cooked by the men of the congregation on Friday, March 6, at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This will be our only fundraiser for 2020. A free-will contribution is requested for the dinner.

Shirley Downing

INCOME TAX PREPARATION

AARP is working with the IRS again to prepare FREE tax returns from February 1 until April 15 at the following locations.

St. Basil the Great Greek Orthodox Church
1100 Eldridge Pkwy - Wed 12-4 & Sat 10-2

Hillendahl Library
2436 Gessner - Wed 11-3 & Thurs 12:30 – 4:30

Living Word Church
16607 Clay Rd. - Tue 11-3 & Fri 11-3

Tracy Gee Community Center
3599 Westcenter Dr. - Mon 12-4 & Tue 12-4

Maud Marks Library
1815 Westgreen Blvd. - Mon 10-2 & Fri 10-2

Mendenhall Community Center
1414 Wirt Rd. – Wed 10-3 & Fri 10-3

Also locations at: Jungman, Katy & Cinco Ranch Libraries

Participants should bring last year's return, and must have a Photo ID & Social Security Card or a Year-End Statement. For deposits of refunds you will need a blank check. Affordable Care participants bring your 1095A form.

Take advantage of this FREE service. There are 34 sites in the Metro area, so check your local library for others.

Questions: Phone Dave Deeds – 281-558-3818

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Join us at our next event!

Trip to Museum of Fine Arts Houston
Norman Rockwell Freedom Exhibit

Tuesday, March 10th - Meet at MFAH 10:15 sharp!

All are welcome!

\$14.00 Senior

\$18.00 Adult

Lunch will follow at the
MFAH Cafe

Carpooling available!

A Sign-Up Sheet is in

Narhex

Questions call Marsha

281-381-0515



Photo from the Women's Ministry Christmas gathering.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kevin Carlson
- 3 Waveney Blucher
Marti Hatcher
- 4 Carolyn Giannantonio
- 5 Susan Collins
- 7 Ade Kujimiyo
Dana Lares
Caroline Kiondo
- 10 Pam Beaver
Clement Kiondo
- 14 Carol Klem
- 15 Nancie Blair
Karen Welborn
- 18 Rose Kiondo
- 21 Phylis Karas
- 24 Laramie Winczewski
- 26 Katrina Hiestand
- 28 Adam Jones
- 29 Fred Korge
- 30 Carolyn Brath
Emma Chanimbaga
Mike Iversen
Pete Stultz



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

Submissions for April newsletter are due on: March 15

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

Information may be edited to available space.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Karen Archer and Katiana
- Karen Bauer
- Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
- Dennis and Leonard Craig, brothers-in-law of Marilee Dittrich
- Kathy Craig, sister of Marilee Dittrich
- Barry Feldt, father of Jennifer Beaver
- Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
- Fred, brother-in-law of Nancie Blair
- Doug Gibson, friend of Phyllis and Monte Richard
- Gary Ginapp and Family
- Lynda Hammagren
- Margaret, grandmother of Tina Blockhus
- Ray Miller, father of Lori Wood
- Ron Murawski, father of Tim Murawski
- Jairo Quintero
- Gloria Reider
- Cathy Roberson, daughter of Jodie Davis
- Valerie Schick, granddaughter of Nancie Blair
- Mary Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand
- Sherry and Griffin, friends of Inga Carlson
- Robert Spear, father of Tina Blockhus
- Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
- Andy Wilkins, brother of Marilee Dittrich
- Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Roger and Debby Cutler
- 19 Nayibe and Eric Peterson
- 20 Billie and Nancie Blair
- 21 Brent and Connie Brown
- 23 Pete and Sharon Stultz



INTERMISSION
MARCH 2020

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

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



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



MARCH 2020



Sunday

Monday

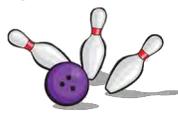
Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>Lent 1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study at Cummings'</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00-7:00 Election Day</p> <p>9:00 GED</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 GED</p> <p>12:00 Lenten Service</p> <p>12:30 Lunch</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p> <p>7:30 AA Journey</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 GED</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:00 Spaghetti Dinner</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 MOD Pizza and Kids Who Love Pizza movie</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>12:15 Care Team</p> <p>12:30 Youth & Family Team</p> <p>Lent 2</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study at Cummings'</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9-12:00 & 1-4:00 Kairos Cookie Baking</p> <p>9:00 GED</p> <p>10:15 Women's Ministry at MFAH</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 GED</p> <p>12:00 Lenten Service</p> <p>12:30 Lunch</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p> <p>6:00 Ladies Dinner</p> <p>7:30 AA Journey</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 GED</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p> <p>7:00 Council</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Lent 3</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study at Cummings'</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 GED</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 GED</p> <p>12:00 Lenten Service</p> <p>12:30 Lunch</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p> <p>7:00 Men Who Love Spaghetti</p> <p>7:30 AA Journey</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 GED</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>2:45 Times Square Katy- Youth Girls event</p> 
<p>22</p> <p>Lent 4</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study at Cummings'</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:00 Lenten Service</p> <p>12:30 Lunch</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p> <p>7:30 AA Journey</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Youth Fundraiser Car Wash</p>  <p>Lent 5</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study at Cummings'</p>	<p>31</p> <p>5:30 WHAM ESL</p>				<p>Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Sunday School for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.</p>