

INTERMISSION

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

A Message from Pastor Jim!!!

Dear Friends at Christ the Servant,

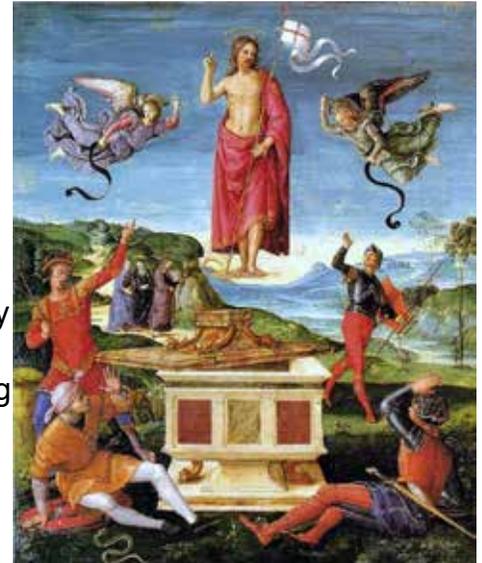
It's Easter Sunday morning and I'm at the church office, celebrating quietly and considering the implications of Jesus' Resurrection while at the same time hoping that all of you are remaining healthy and feeling good these days.

I want to use this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to each and every one of you for all of the ways, and there are certainly too many to enumerate here, that you continue to remain faithful in your outstanding support of this community of faith and its continuing witness to Jesus' Resurrection.

We owe a great debt of thanks to our Office Administrator, Betsy Riggs, and most especially to our Director of Music, John Krueger, and our Director of Youth and Family Ministry, J.T. (Jason Thomas), without whose tireless efforts we could not possibly have produced all of our video webcasts from Christ the Servant.

These are certainly strange times through which we're living. And just this morning I received a blog from Richard Rohr quoting an American Franciscan Sister, Ilia Delio, a theologian at Villanova University (Philadelphia). She writes, "*Christian faith can help us realize that death and resurrection are part of the evolutionary path toward wholeness; letting go of isolated existence for the sake of deeper union. Something dies but something new is born – which is why the chaos of our times is, in a strange way, a sign of hope; something new is being born within. Out of chaos, a star is born. Breakdown can be break **through** if we recognize a new pattern of life struggling to emerge.*"

It will surely be, at least for me, exciting to see. And by God's grace, we may even be involved in a *new pattern of life struggling to emerge* here at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church as we move into God's future, hopefully together very soon.



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• Editor's Note: At the time of publication of InterMission, the Texas governor's Executive Order is expected to remain in place until at least April 30, 2020, requiring churches to post video services online if at all possible. We will continue to film and post our services online here at CTS until such time as the governor issues new guidelines for gathering. Please check the website and your email for updates on the situation in the weeks ahead. We look forward to the day when we can gather together again as a church family!

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A LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Friends,

The Council often sends a letter of thanks to donors who give large or special gifts. In this case, the Council would like to thank the entire Congregation for your faithfulness and devotion during this extraordinary time. While the entire country is starting to endure serious economic hardship to accompany the health crisis, Christ the Servant is blessed to be in a solid financial position, as shown by the March financial dashboard below. We recognize that we may only be seeing the start of financial hardship in our community, and that difficult days may lie ahead. But we are well positioned to weather this challenge. On behalf of our staff and Council, I would like to thank each and every member of our Congregation for your role in helping Christ the Servant to “live our name with passion and purpose”.

Faithfully yours,

Chandler Wilhelm
Council President

COUNCIL NOTES

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Christ the Servant (CTS) council held its April 16th council meeting via video conference. Despite not being able to meet in person, the council was able to review a full agenda of ongoing CTS business.

There was considerable discussion of CTS' on-line worship services, particularly the number of 'views' they received during Holy Week. The traffic to the CTS website has been up significantly as it appears many congregation members, and others, have been keeping up with worship online. In light of this, several CTS council members formed a team that will evaluate how to keep improving CTS' technological capabilities to enable us to continue providing good quality on-line worship options into the future. The council wishes to thank all those responsible for putting together and posting the services on-line. In particular, the council thanks JT, who spent many hours upgrading the quality of the posted videos. Thanks again to all!

Finally, the council continued its March discussion of Coronavirus (COVID-19) on CTS' activities, particularly the question of when live worship services might resume. As of this writing, there is not yet an established date for resumption of services.

The council will continue monitoring communications and guidance from government sources, as well as any recommendations from the ELCA Gulf-Coast Synod. Information regarding changes to CTS' current policy will be communicated to the congregation as they occur.

Prayerfully submitted,
Karen Carter, Council Secretary

OEF

OEF committee had a virtual meeting on March 26th and the following grants were approved:

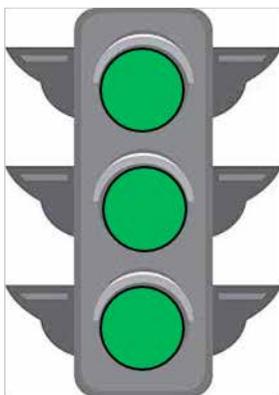
- \$5000 to Karatu Hospital for an Anesthesia Machine and Corona Virus supplies
- \$3000 Houston Community Toolbank, a non-profit lending program that provides fellow not-for-profit organizations (and disaster volunteers) with year-round access to an inventory of tools for use in volunteer projects

Also, the committee agreed unanimously via email on the following emergency grants for coronavirus relief:

- \$5,000 to Houston Food Bank (Note: \$1.00 will provide 3 meals therefore CTS has provided 45,000 meals!)
- \$15,000 to WHAM

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Bower

CTS Financial Dashboard Through February 2020



YTD Contributions
\$99,691.00
above forecast for income

YTD Expenditures
\$98,681.00
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

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the altar for the Eater service were given by the follwoing people:

Name

In memory/honor of

Bill and Nancie Blair

In memory Fathers and Bill's Mom
In honor of Nancie's mom

Richard Caldwell and
Barbara Stuckey
Richard and Denise Carlson
Michael and Linnay Cummings

In memory of our Parents and Siblings
In memory of Barbara Carlson and Archie Sadler
In memory of Michael Cummings and brother, Father Patrick
Cummings

Jodi Davis
Shirley Downing
Barbara Elstad
Monique and Gunter Faig
Rosalie Fontenot

In memory of my Mother and Father
In honor of Margie Wheeler, Toni Burns, Sunghie Ha and Betsy Riggs
In memory of my loved ones who have reached their heavenly home

Brian and Julie Heil
Mary and Gary Hiestand
Katrina and Donald Hiestand
Mike and Phylis Karas
Sue and Arnie Kaestner
Pastor Steve and Theresa Kelly
Billijo Kern
Kelly Kern
Bitsy Muse

In memory of Parents and Son-In-Law
In honor of Children and Grandchildren
In memory of Mildred and James Heil
In memory of Grandparents
In memory of Grandpooop
In memory of George Karas
With thanks to God for many blessings
In memory of our Parents
In memory of my Parents and my In-laws
In memory of my father, Ron Kern
In memory of parents, Al and Julia Wilson, brothers: Chuck, Sonny
and William, sisters: Kay and Cookie
In honor of grandchildren: Noah, Zachary and Skylar

Joan Nilsen
Russ and Gloria Reider
Ruby Sadler
Linda and John Shoemaker

In memory of Earnest Maberry
In memory of our son, Rusty
In memory of Archie Sadler
In loving memory of our parents: Alma and Harden Wittig
Dorothy and Jim Shoemaker

Paul and Linda Siegele

In memory of:
Kenneth and Margaret Siegele
Thomas and Virginia Costello

Chandler and Laura Wilhelm
Marcy Williams
Vicki Rudolph-Williams
Lori Wood

In memory of Herb Wilhelm and Roger vonHoldt
In memory of Vernon Sarginson
In memory of Paul Williams
In memory of Aunt Ella



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Last month, I ended my article with the statement that I would continue this series of articles on the worship service whatever was happening with regards to the corona virus. At the time, I didn't realize how complete the shutdown would be. However, it turned out that the section of the service being discussed, confession and forgiveness, has turned out to be crucial in the development of our online liturgies. Since we have determined that trying to consecrate the elements of communion remotely is not a good idea, and since we cannot do baptism online, it turned out that, other than the Word of God, a word of forgiveness was the best news we could deliver in these times.

So, the best course is to continue with the worship series. As I mentioned last month, we will address the oldest and newest parts of the liturgy – the Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy). Some explanation is in order. With the invocation (Apostolic Greeting), the name of the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) has been attached to the proceedings, which then opens the door for God's work to continue. It also means that we are "in" the worship service and within the skeleton of the historic Catholic Mass.

The actions of the Mass can be divided into two categories – the ordinary and the propers. The ordinary is the part of worship that happens every week, and the propers are the things that change every week. Although scripture readings happen every week, the text changes every week. As a result, they are among the propers. The Kyrie and Hymn of Praise, however, happen every week. These, then, are the first part of the ordinary.

The learning curve of filming services at CTS.

With little time to prepare, JT started filming midweek services on 3/25 with an iPhone, an iPad and a computer, all on separate tripods.



Pastor Jim has mentioned that the Kyrie is the oldest part of the liturgy. As a matter of fact, it predates Christianity. These words occur several times in the Psalms. They are also in three of the Gospels and the apocrypha. "Lord, have mercy" also would have been a common cry from the people in a royal procession, usually followed by a plea for something (like lower taxes). It isn't out of the question that cries of "Lord, have mercy" followed Jesus on his entry into Jerusalem. It was a shout of praise similar to the Hebrew "hosanna" and not a plea for forgiveness. Not surprisingly, this phrase, along with petitions, came into use very early in Christian worship, likely as soon as public worship became legal in 313. Egeria, a late fourth century pilgrim from Spain, mentions it being used in Jerusalem in 387.

The version we use on Sundays has its roots in the Byzantine Great Litany. As such, it is a series of prayers, or bids, to which the congregation responds "Lord, have mercy." Over the years, it has moved around the worship service but gradually migrated to the front. A variant, the Kyrie eleison/Christe eleison/Kyrie eleison ("Lord/Christ/Lord have mercy") came into use at the end of the seventh century in an attempt to make it more Christocentric. We used this version on Maundy Thursday. However, the original Litany is addressed to Christ anyway. Knowing that Christ has had mercy on us, to follow through to the end of the litany, we then continue with a song of thanksgiving, whether the traditional "Glory to God" or the more modern "This Is the Feast." These songs will be discussed in more detail next month.

John Krueger
Director of Music



YOUTH AND FAMILY

MAY EVENTS

Friends, thanks for your continued faithfulness as we practice physical (not really social) distancing from each other so that we can protect the most vulnerable and at-risk among us. It really is the least we can do to look out for each other during this time. Unfortunately, it means that as long as we are not meeting in person, many of the things we had planned to do together have now become impossible. Rest assured that your leaders are thinking about and praying for you, and that we are looking for opportunities to stay connected and ways to return to normal as soon as it is a good idea to do so – and that includes thinking about camps and retreats we might still be able to do once the shelter-in-place order is lifted. Meanwhile, don't miss out on some of the stuff below that we are continuing to do:

ZOOM PRAY & PLAY

Well, gang – as long as we aren't able to meet together in person, I'll be hosting a couple of weekly hangouts on Zoom! It will be a great time just to check in with your CTS peeps, hear a short encouraging message from your leaders, and enjoy some fun and games! Jr. High and High School Students are invited to hang out on Wednesday nights at 8 p.m., and Elementary students are invited to hang out on Friday afternoons at 3 p.m.! Watch your email (or your parents' emails) for the link and password for the Zoom hangout. As always, parents and youth leaders are also invited to the hangout they like best.

TAKING FAITH HOME

Look – I know we aren't meeting in person for Sunday School or Confirmation. And I know that you've run out of Lent Family Devotions. And I know you are VERY disappointed in both of those things. But I hope you didn't think that I'd let that Family-Bible-Study shaped hole in your hearts go un-filled! May it never be! Over on our website every week, I'm going to continue to post the Taking Faith Home handouts each Sunday. They are formatted the same way as our Lent Devotions with lectionary-based scripture readings for every day of the week, discussion starters, and simple, meaningful activities for families to do together. So don't put away the candle you kept on your table during Lent! Now is the time to continue (or start) your family's Faith Formation time together. What else have you go to do? Binge another Netflix show? Read another book? Put together another puzzle? COME ON! Change it up! Spend some time reading the greatest stories ever told, and come out the other side of this quarantine stronger in faith and family than ever before. Visit www.christtheservant.net/athome for all kinds of resources to use, including Taking Faith Home.

CONFIRMATION

Hey Confirmands! I know you're itching to continue our exciting monthly meetings, and so am I!! You'll be hearing from me soon about continuing to meet via Zoom or Google Hangouts or Skype or FaceTime or WHATEVER. We're going to keep the Confirmation Train a-rollin' right on through this quarantine-social-distancing-isolation thing. I'll make sure you have the materials you need, and we can try our best to have as normal a class as we can. You'll probably have to order your own pizza, though!

JT
Director of Youth and Family Ministry



Each service provides a learning opportunity. By Easter, JT had learned, on his own, how to edit video and post it effectively. A borrowed DSLR camera and separate digital recorder for sound have improved the output.



Our services are being viewed not just by our congregation, but also by CTS friends across the country. The Easter service alone was viewed 212 times!

IN REMEMBRANCE

Two of our members have gone to their eternal home in Christ: Helen Earnest on 3/14/20 and Joan Wampler on 4/11/20. No services will be held for these faithful women.

In addition, former member John Meakim went to his eternal home in Christ on Easter Sunday, 4/12/20.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen Archer and Katiana
 Karen Bauer
 Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
 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
 Donna Inouye, sister of Phylis Karas
 Margaret, grandmother of Tina Blockhus
 Ray Miller, father of Lori Wood
 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
 Connie Sully, friend of Jodi Davis
 Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
 Frank Welsh, neighbor of Mike and Phylis Karas
 Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

MAY BIRTHDAYS

3 Todd Fredin
 5 June Jacobson
 7 Russell Farmer
 8 Karen Murawski
 9 Teresa Dickman
 10 Marilee Dittrich
 11 Michael Cummings
 14 Jonathan Mfungo
 20 Susan Kramer
 21 Erik Teegerstrom
 Jodi Davis
 23 Sydney Scace
 Joanne Dumler
 24 Ann Marie Fritz
 Emily Saunders
 28 Braille Ndanshau
 29 Judie Deeds
 31 Deb Lehoski



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 June-July newsletter are due on: May 15

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

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

9 David and Carrie Stallwitz
 12 Mike and Phylis Karas
 16 Steve and Marilee Dittrich
 17 Pat and Karen Welborn
 20 John and Pam Krueger
 21 Adam and Natalie Jones
 Kevin and Lynn Petterson



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Our Women's Ministry is reaching out and if any of you need anything, please let us know so we can try to help. Sometimes it can be as simple as speaking on the phone and sharing with each other. Although we have enjoyed and experienced wonderful fellowship activities over the past few years, we don't want to be perceived as solely a "social group".

SAVE THE DATE:

Women's Ministry Annual Retreat
 October 2nd thru the 4th
 Trinity Conference Center
 Mark your Calendar and watch for the sign-up sheet
 in the summer

We deeply care for each one of you and praying for you and thinking of you! Our mission statement is as follows:

Questions? Contact:
 Marsha Bower
 Women's Ministry Team
 281-381-0515
 lb16434@aol.com

To grow in our relationship with God and each other through Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry and Evangelism

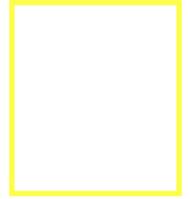


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.	Note that due to the ever-changing coronavirus restrictions, all scheduled events on the calendar are subject to possible change. Please check the CTS website (christtheservant.net) and watch your email for up-to-date information. If you do not have internet access, please feel free to call the church office (713-784-6620) or Council president Chandler Wilhelm (713-377-3740).					1	2
3 <small>Easter 4</small>	4 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	5	6 7:30 AA Journey	7	8	9	
10 <small>Easter 5</small>	11	12	13 7:30 AA Journey	14 7:00 Council	15	16	
17 <small>Easter 6</small>	18 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	19	20 7:30 AA Journey	21	22	23	
24 <small>Easter 7</small>	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26	27	28	29	30	
31 <small>Pentecost</small>			7:30 AA Journey				

INTERMISSION
MAY 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