

# INTERMISSION

## COUNCIL NOTES

At the Council meeting on October 8, the mortgage refinancing mentioned in last month's newsletter was approved by the council and executed. Total savings to CTS from the refinancing will be circa \$24,000 per year, which includes the fees associated with the refinancing. The final mortgage payment is scheduled for February 2027.

For those congregation members wishing to make offerings electronically, please note that there is now a link on the CTS website to enable this form of giving. The link is titled, "Give" and can be found at the top of the CTS home page. There are options to make contributions to the general ministry fund, or to specific ministries like OEF or WHAM. The service being utilized for electronic payments is Vanco, which has over thirty years' experience serving faith-based organizations.

In light of ongoing concerns regarding Covid-19, the Thanksgiving luncheon to serve needy families in west Houston has been postponed until sometime in 2021. The decision was made in conjunction with the staff of WHAM, with whom CTS is partnering for this event. Additionally, the annual Thanksgiving luncheon for the CTS congregation will not be held this year due to the same concerns.

In-person participation at Sunday services continues to slowly increase with average weekly attendance of 52 worshippers during the month of September. On-line weekly worship attendance for the same period was about 177 worshippers. Both numbers combine attendance at both services. Despite the increase in in-person attendance, CTS remains well within government-mandated guidelines and requirements.

Prayerfully submitted,  
Karen Carter, Council Secretary



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

### Save the dates!

This year's Congregational Meeting will be split into two gatherings. The first informational half of the meeting will be held on December 13 in person and via Zoom, so all members wishing to attend can do so safely. All information regarding the 2021 budget and any other items for discussion will be disseminated in written form to the CTS congregation prior to the meeting. The second half of the meeting will be held Sunday, January 17 after complete financial totals have been gathered for 2020. Voting on new Council members and the budget will take place at that time. There will be a Zoom option for voting. Links for both halves of the meeting will be sent by email and published in the December newsletter and on CTS website. Please look for further communication regarding these meetings.

## THANKSGIVING DINNERS



There will be no Annual Thanksgiving dinner for the congregation this year due to Covid concerns. Also WHAM will not be holding their annual Thanksgiving dinner for clients this year.

## THANKS

**Donna Schneider** will be stepping down as chair of Greeters. The congregation thanks her for her 10+ years of service chairing this important ministry.

**Betsy Riggs** would like to thank all who sent lovely cards and called her after the recent passing of her mother. Their concern and kind words were a comfort during a difficult time.

## YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

### CONFIRMATION

Confirmation this year has been quite an adventure, albeit a bit of an abridged one. Because COVID curtailed some of our plans to meet, we have given our students a little extra time to fulfill their requirements, and to plan for the celebration that will wrap up the course for two of them. I'm proud to announce that Evynn Stallwitz and Xander Feldt will be have their faith and their works confirmed on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at the 11 a.m. service. These students have worked hard and participated in 2 years-worth of classes and discussions about storytelling, scripture, history, and faith. Their final Faith Statement papers will be posted on the Youth & Family Ministry page of our website ([christtheservant.net/ctskids](http://christtheservant.net/ctskids)) for you to peruse without having to be present in our church building.

A new year of Confirmation begins the following Sunday (November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020). Confirmation is a 2-year process with each year-long program alternating between a Lutheran Year (small catechism) and a Bible story-ing year. This coming year is a Lutheran Year. All books and materials are provided. Masks are required and physical distance will be maintained. Students will bring their own lunch (or eat before they come) and will stick around after class to sanitize all surfaces. If you have a student who is in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade or higher who has not begun the confirmation process, we would love for them to join us. Please email [jt@christtheservant.net](mailto:jt@christtheservant.net) or call the church office to have them added to the list!

### SHOEBOXES FOR SEAFARERS

One of the many casualties of COVID-19 has been our plan to assemble Christmas shoeboxes for the Houston International Seafarers Center on a quarterly basis. This has been an annual tradition for many years, and virus or no virus, I would hate to see us abandon it altogether. So, I'm announcing an alternative that doesn't require us to gather together in a small room.

If you and your family are interested in assembling a shoebox (or shoeboxes) for donation to the Seafarers Center, you may do so at home using any or all of the NEW, UNUSED items in good condition from the list below. Simply fill a box as full as possible of these items as you can, seal it up, gift wrap it, and drop it off at the church **before December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. To make things easier, I'll supply the shoeboxes and some of the supplies from the items that were donated earlier this year. While supplies last, I'll put those items out on Sunday Mornings between now

and December 13<sup>th</sup> and you can take some to put in your family's box(es).

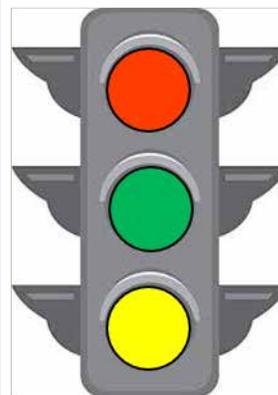
#### Supply List

2021 Calendar	Shaving Cream
Address Book	Soap
Band Aids (fabric)	Shampoo
Baseball Caps	Toothbrush
Comb	Toothpaste
Deodorant	Gum & Hard Candy
Dental Floss	Key Chains
Disposable Razors	Pocket Size Notebooks
Flashlight w/Batteries	Mechanical Pencils
Kleenex	Pens
Lip Balm	Playing Cards
Lotion	Popcorn
Nail Clippers	Socks
Gold Bond Cream	Sudoku
Gold Bond Powder	Texas Souvenirs
Hot Chocolate	T-Shirts
Needle & Thread	USB Flash Drives
Q-Tips	Word Searches

#### ***A note from the Seafarers Center:***

The sailors are requesting full-size toiletries instead of travel-size, because of the lack of opportunities to go ashore and buy supplies due to COVID.

### CTS Financial Dashboard Through SEPTEMBER 2020



#### ***YTD Contributions***

**\$ 405,348**

*below forecast for income*

#### ***YTD Expenditures***

**\$ 451,026**

*below budgeted expenses*

#### ***Cash Reserve***

**5.5 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***

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Over the next several weeks, we at Christ the Servant will be given 2 opportunities to help **Lutheran World Relief** (LWR) help those who are experiencing extreme hardship.

Thank you for your consideration to support one or both of these vital and worthwhile projects.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> OPPORTUNITY

With the recent chemical explosion in Beirut, on August 4, 2020, there is overwhelming need. Your generous **FINANCIAL GIFTS** will provide **immediate** emergency relief and will go **directly** to those that have been affected. Your gifts will go to the hardest hit neighborhoods, providing critical emergency items that families and small businesses need to survive the disaster's aftermath. 300,000 have been displaced from their homes.

Make checks payable to **CTS** and write "**Beirut**" in the memo line. Mail or drop off the checks before **November 15<sup>th</sup>**.

### 2<sup>ND</sup> OPPORTUNITY

Purchase items for a **PERSONAL CARE KIT** which will be given to those who need it most anywhere in the world – those coping with poverty, disaster, conflict, and more.



Items should be **NEW** and kits should only include:

- **ONE** light-weight, bath-sized, dark colored towel (20 x 40 in. or 52 x 27 in.)
- **TWO OR THREE** wrapped, bath-size bars of soap (8-9 oz.)
- **ONE** adult size toothbrush in original package
- **ONE** comb
- **ONE** metal nail clipper

### **HOW TO PACK YOUR KITS AT HOME:**

- Fold the towel in half width-wise.
- Place the rest of the items in the towel.
- Fold and roll so nothing falls out.
- Secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands.

Drop off the assembled kits to the church any time before **November 15<sup>th</sup>**. Completed kits will then be packaged and sent to LWR for distribution.

The kits will be dedicated to the **Glory of God** on **November 15<sup>th</sup>** at CTS.

**Please turn in 2021 Pledge Cards by November 8.**

## POINSETTIA ORDERS

It's time to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex through December 6, though if you prefer you may call Betsy in the church office to place your order. The cost is \$8.50 per plant.



## IN MEMORIAM

Jo Ann Olds, wife of Bill, passed away on October 12th. A memorial for service for Jo Ann was held October 17th at CTS.

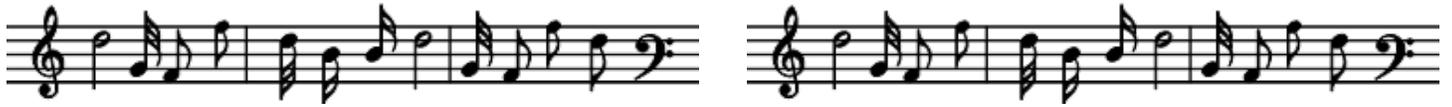
Lowell Cable, father of Rebecca Cable Mfungo, passed away on September 4. A memorial service for him was held at CTS on October 25th.

Please keep both of these families in your hearts and prayers.

## 2020 FLOWER CHART

The 2020 Flower Chart is hanging in the Narthex. Sign up for the Sundays you want. Single bouquets are \$27. To donate both arrangements, the cost is \$54.





## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The last article ended at the sharing of the peace. In ancient times, this was also known as the kiss of peace and actually predates the Christian church. One of the great ironies of the bible is that the kiss of peace was used to betray Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Thankfully, kissing each other outside of a family unit, especially during a pandemic, is no longer part of the sharing of the peace (shalom).

This is followed by another local practice, the parish announcements. The term for these local practices (the meditation after the sermon is another one) is “adiaphora,” which translates as “neither banned nor required.” Even though Luther himself wrote two liturgical settings, he was not against local practices as long as they didn’t run counter to Word and Sacrament. Even with a newsletter and website, these announcements are the primary way to get information to the congregation. These are followed by the offering, another ancient practice of the church. It is obliquely mentioned in the Acts and in the Epistles. It is different than the sacrificial offerings in the temple. A century later, the offering is mentioned by Justin Martyr and connected to collecting food and money for the poor and sick. In some denominations today, it is accompanied by bringing the communion host to the altar. Entire books have been written about the theology of this practice; I am going to avoid all of that by saying it is not the current practice of our congregation.

After a brief prayer asking for blessings on the gifts, the service of the Sacrament formally begins with the Great Thanksgiving. The text comes from ancient times and begins with “the Lord be with you,” a direct reflection of the beginning of the service of the Word. This goes by several names, among them the Preface, Sursum Corda, or Eucharist (from the Greek for “Thanksgiving”). They are either sung or spoken; our local practice is a combination of both. This is followed by the Proper Preface. Our current

language begins with “it is right, our duty and our joy” (previous language was “good, right, and salutary”) “that we should at all times and all places give thanks and praise,” followed by specific mentions of scripture, people in church history, or seasons of the church year. In all cases, it ends with the words “joining with angels and archangels, and all those in heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn.”

That hymn is known as the Sanctus (Holy). Its basis is the song of the angels in Isaiah 6, and also likely predates the Christian church. Its parallel in the Service of the Word, of course is the Gloria – the song of the angels in Luke 2. Luther’s hymn version of the Sanctus, “Isaiah in a Vision Did of Old” (ELW #868) is one of his most beautiful pieces of music. It is sometimes known as the Sanctus and Benedictus, since the last phrase begins with the words “Blessed is he.”

Those who follow the communion liturgy in the hymnal as opposed to the worship books will notice a glaring omission in our liturgy – the Eucharistic Prayer. Although it is used in both the Catholic and Eastern churches, it has been optional in Lutheran usage over the centuries because Lutheran theologians up through the late twentieth century found it to be dangerously close to praying to a communion host which had not yet been consecrated. Its use was revived as an optional rubric (instruction) in the Service Book and Hymnal (SBH – the “old red hymnal”), and the version in that hymnal, written by Luther Reed, is considered to be the closest to ancient usage. There are thirteen versions in our current hymnal covering a wide array of subjects, and all are optional. Our practice is still referenced as an option – the shaded area at p.108 in Setting One. We will begin with that shaded area in the next article.

John Krueger, Director of Music



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Denise Carlson  
Andy Iversen
- 4 Monte Richard
- 5 Holly Heil  
Barry Rava  
Lily Sweet
- 7 Bryant King
- 8 Emma Hammett
- 10 Betty Boxx  
Chuck Cook
- 13 Marsha Bower
- 14 Nicas Kiondo  
Anna Carlson
- 15 Margery Wheeler  
Natalie Jones
- 16 Arnie Kaestner  
John Puder
- 19 Michael Sweet
- 28 Gary Hiestand  
Gloria Reider



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Kevin and Jackie Scace
- 10 Toss and Elizabeth Harbour
- 12 Gary and Mary Hiestand
- 13 Brian and Julie Heil



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen Bauer  
 Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen  
 Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose  
 Matthew Guella, nephew of Mike Karas  
 Donna Inouye, sister of Phylis Karas  
 Roger Lemburg  
 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](mailto: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

### 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](http://www.christtheservant.net)

**December newsletter information deadline is:**

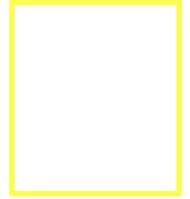
**November 15**

Please submit information and articles in **MSWord documents** to Laura Wilhelm at [lvhwilhelm@comcast.net](mailto:lvhwilhelm@comcast.net)  
 Information may be edited to available space.

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NOVEMBER 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		Brent Brown-11:00 Service
Greeters	Donna Schneider	Stewardship	Chandler Wilhelm
Homeless Ministry	Carolyn Giannantonio, Rosalie Fontenot	Ushers	8:00 Russell Farmer
			11:00 Pat Welborn
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters	WHAM Representatives	Ken Smith
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson	Women's Ministry	Marsha Bower
Lectors	Chandler Wilhelm	Worship and Music	Lori Wood
Liturgical Assistants	Chandler Wilhelm		