

INTERMISSION

HOMELESS MINISTRY UPDATE

Until March 16 of this year, our Homeless Ministry produced and delivered lunches and hygiene kits to the homeless in our three downtown locations twice a month. Due to the Corona Virus shutdown, we had to temporarily suspend the program, but for the past few months we have been operating on a smaller scale to deliver food to the homeless. Small crews are packing non-perishable lunches of water, snacks, and toiletries that individuals are then driving downtown to two of our three locations.

A thorough cleaning and inventory of the pantry produced better storage of the items we already have. Finally, we are evaluating the entire process in hopes of revamping it to make it even more efficient so that we can quickly start up fully when the Covid shut-down ends. The following people have been busy working in this ministry: Shirley Downing, Betsy Riggs, Pat Welborn, Ken Smith, Paul Siegele, Rosalie Fontenot, Steve Dittrich, Sophia Manning, Mike and Phyllis Karas, and Pastor Jim and Carolyn. Our custodians, Jairo and Ruby Quintero, have really pitched in to do much of the literal heavy lifting and cleaning in the program, and we are so grateful to them. Together, Christ the Servant is continuing our mission to feed the homeless.

PASTOR JIM CELEBRATES 35 YEARS AT CTS



Monte Richard and Barry Rava giving congregational gifts to Pastor Jim Sunday, August 16, to celebrate 35 years of leading the congregation.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID virus, we have made the very difficult decision of cancelling our one day conference at CTS on October 3rd.

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

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

COUNCIL NOTES

The August Christ the Servant (CTS) council meeting had a full agenda, including a considerable amount of new business. The council unanimously approved the July 2020 council meeting minutes and the August 2020 Treasurer's report. Reports from the Financial Secretary, Director of Music, Director of Youth and Family, and Pastor Jim were also reviewed by council members.

As part of its regular business, CTS reviews worship attendance, both in person and on-line worship. In light of the significant attendance at CTS on-line services, both during the Sunday livestreams and over the course of the following week, the CTS council decided to formally begin tracking and recording on-line attendance. It is expected this will give a more robust picture of true attendance of CTS worship services.

Many of you may already be aware that the CTS building had been recently impacted by a lightning strike and some vandalism to one of its windows. As a result of these events, repairs need to be made to the referenced window, the air-conditioning system, the fire alarm, and much of the electronic equipment used to create on-line services. In addition to approving these necessary repairs, the council voted to purchase a lightning rod to be installed atop the sanctuary. The council wishes to thank Barry Rava and Russ Farmer for doing a fantastic job in securing the window until proper repairs could be made. And to round out the events of the past few weeks, the ice machine in the Fellowship Hall finally ceased to operate. Accordingly, the council also approved the purchase and installation of a new machine.



The council discussed the "God's Work, Our Hands" initiative, which is scheduled for September 13th. In light of current circumstances regarding Covid-19, the council decided that the best way to engage in this event would be through an activity that could be done remotely. As such, the CTS congregation will have an opportunity to participate in a letter-writing effort in support of CTS' ongoing Homeless Ministry. More specific information as to how the congregation can participate should be forthcoming shortly.

Please note that CTS will once again be used as a polling station for the November elections to be held on November 3rd. All areas used for election activity will be thoroughly sanitized both before the polls open and after they close by official election staff.

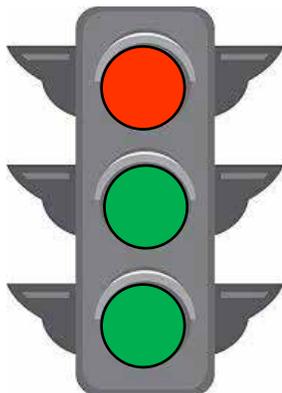
And finally, the council reviewed and unanimously approved a proposal to refinance CTS' existing mortgage obligation. The refinancing would give CTS additional financial flexibility through a material reduction in its monthly mortgage payment, even after consideration of all loan closing costs and fees. It was decided that a 7-year loan would be pursued in order to keep the final payment date the same as it is with the current loan. Given CTS' strong credit profile, it is expected that the refinancing should be completed within the month.

Prayerfully submitted,
Karen Carter, Council Secretary



A large rock was thrown through a window in the gathering area at CTS early in the morning of August 9.

CTS Financial Dashboard Through JULY 2020



YTD Contributions

\$ 335,273
below forecast for income

YTD Expenditures

\$ 351,098
below budgeted expenses

Cash Reserve

*6.2 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

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please note that articles sent to the editor for publication in Intermission should be sent in the following forms:

Please write out your article in Microsoft Word with the text complete as you want it to be read. Information may need to be edited to fit the available space, but the editor does not wish to write the article for you. The article should be in your own words. Attach the Word document in an email to lvhwilhelm@comcast.net.

Articles also may be written in an email, but realize the formatting will change when it is copied into the publishing program we use.

If you send photos (which we love!) please send them at the original size (not reduced) as attachments to an email, not embedded within the email document. Also send any graphics as attachments at full size.

Unless there is absolutely no other option, **do not** send newsletter submissions as pdf files. It is impossible at the moment for the editor to extract the text to edit it for publication, and the editor would have to completely retype what you send. That is definitely outside her skill set and requires a great deal of time.

Thank you for your consideration,
Laura Wilhelm
Intermission Editor

WHAM NEWS



WHAM Chief Executive Officer Rev. Mark Brown and Board President Mike Stovall attended a virtual Houston City Council meeting on August 18 to receive a proclamation on behalf of WHAM from Mayor Sylvester Turner. The mayor and City Council representatives have noticed WHAM's hard work and commended them for the positive impact they have on the community. Mayor Turner proclaimed August 18 as West Houston Assistance Ministries Day.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

This month, we will begin to look at the “front half” of the worship service, called the “Liturgy of the Word.” Parts of this section of the service actually predate the Christian church, and some of it finally fell into place in 1992. As might be expected in a Lutheran church, there is a lot of singing. This section of the worship service is also bracketed in prayer. The star of the show, however, is the Word of God. One of the marks of the church dating from ancient times is the presence of the Word, both spoken and preached, and one of the best ways for a pastor to stay employed is when the preaching matches the Word. The fact that Pastor Jim will be celebrated 35 years in August is a testament to the fact that he continues to do his homework. His Sunday sermons come as a result of many years of study; better still, his sermons are not “reruns.” One cannot help but see different nuances in the readings over the course of the years. By extension, the hymns selected are not automatic reruns every three years. This process will be discussed in more detail later.

Last month, my article ended with a brief discussion of the “Prayer of the Day,” formerly known as the Collect. The next thing to happen in worship is the readings. We use four readings on a typical Sunday morning: a reading from the Old Testament, a psalm (or a portion thereof), an epistle reading (or a reading from Revelation), and a reading from one of the gospels.

An organized set of readings predates the Christian church. There is some evidence that psalms (and perhaps more than the 150 in the Bible) were assigned for various days and events. When Jesus preached at the synagogue in Nazareth, he was handed “the scroll,” which was Isaiah 61, to discuss. It is thought that this was the appointed reading for the day. Justin Martyr writes about hearing and discussing writings from “the prophets and apostles for as long as time allows” in his First Apology, dating from about 155 AD.

The Bible as we know it began to take shape in the late fourth century. A surviving letter of Athanasius from 367 is the first known listing

of the books of the Bible in their current order. This was followed by the beginnings of a one year lectionary during the reign of Pope Gregory the Great a century later. This lectionary in some shape or form is still in use today. Most commemorations and some festivals have a single set of readings, and the Lutheran Church – Missouri synod still has it as an available option. The “old red hymnal” has the one year lectionary, and it was published in 1960. In liturgical usage, only the epistle and gospel readings were heard on Sundays; some of the psalms were used in the Vespers and Matins, and as Introits during the main Sunday services. During Vatican II in the early 1960’s, the council decided (at Pope John XXIII’s suggestion) that more of the Bible should be read during worship. This led to the development of a rotating lectionary. Eventually, a three year cycle of readings based on the three “synoptic” Gospels (one view; Matthew, Mark, and Luke are all thought to be based on Mark, the earliest Gospel), with John filling in the blanks. Over the course of 25 years, this became the Revised Common Lectionary in 1992, and some form of it is used throughout the Christian church today. In the next article, I will discuss how these readings fit together, and also the sung responses around them.

John Krueger, Director of Music

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 2 | Ron and Marti Hatcher |  |
| 4 | Mike and Lily Sweet
Everett and Pam Mobley | |
| 15 | Terry and Debbie Timmerman | |
| 25 | Monte and Phyllis Richard | |
| | Russell and Kathy Riggs | |

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

FAITH FORMATION

40 years of research tells us that the greatest spiritual influencer in a child's life isn't a preacher, or Sunday School teacher, or Youth Minister. Actually – it's Mom, Dad, Grandma, and Grandpa. This has always been true – and now that we aren't meeting together for Sunday School, it is truer than ever. This fall, our Sunday School program will continue to send out the Taking Faith Home devotionals for families to do each week. I hope you've had a chance to use these in some way during the quarantine. Beginning on September 13th we will also send out 2 videos each week to accompany those – one for elementary age students, and one for Jr. and Sr. High students – a way to bring those stories to life in some small way. Those will be available to watch at your family's convenience, and you should be able to access them from the weekly Sunday Morning email that goes out about our live-streams. The link will also be available on our website. In addition, on the first Sunday of each month, we will have a live, interactive Zoom call for any students or families that want to participate. It's a way for us to check-in with each other and see each other's faces in real time!

I understand that parents are under a tremendous amount of stress right now. I also know that after a long week of online learning, one more Zoom meeting or parent-guided activity isn't going to make life easier. Not for parents. Not for kids. I feel this deeply in my own home. Please take this at a pace that is appropriate for you. These things we offer are not intended to burn you out, or make you feel guilty for what you can or can't do. They are intended as gifts for you. But as we continue to try to navigate through these disconnected times, please don't fail to feed your soul, and the souls of your children. It just might be the thing that gets us through this. As always – if you or your child needs to talk to someone, I am available for a call, Zoom, or socially distanced in-person chat on the porch or driveway. Don't hesitate to call.

BE A GIFT TO YOUR COMMUNITY!

Our kids and families are stressed, y'all! A few weeks ago Inga Carlson had a great idea. She wanted to do something for her girls, their friends and the kids in her neighborhood. An outdoor movie in the cul-de-sac that the kids could watch together (appropriately distanced), and just have some fun. Our church has an inflatable screen, a projector, and a giant speaker that I took to her to make it happen! She supplied the

movies. Although it didn't draw a huge crowd, it was a fun time and a bit of relief for those who were there.

As school is starting, and the stress is ramping up again – maybe you'd like to give a similar gift to the folks in your community. If you'd like to host one of these outdoor movies, let us know. I'll be happy to bring the screen, projector and speaker to your house. You provide the movie, the power, and the lawn for your friends and neighbors (6 feet apart, everybody). It one way Christ the Servant can serve our community even when we aren't together.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation rolls on! Last month we studied the Judges and Kings (proof that the Bible should probably be rated R, or at least PG-13). On September 8th, we are planning to gather again to discuss the next episode in God's ongoing story – Exile. Confirmation students: make plans to join us via Zoom, and don't forget your sermon notes and service hours (if you can do them). I'll send the Zoom link and your workbook pages the weekend before class. See you then!

SAFE GATHERINGS

If you are an adult volunteer (or would like to be) in Sunday School, Nursery, VBS, or any congregational ministry where you have contact with children under 18 years old, we'd love for you to complete the training and background checks we require through SafeGatherings.com. Simply visit their site, click the "Get Started" button, fill in your information, and attend the online class at your own pace and at no cost to you. Folks who attended the Child Safety Training/Safe Haven class back in 2019 don't need to do it again so soon, but if you're a new volunteer, we are excited for you to get the proper training and credentials and work alongside us!

JT Thomas
Director of Youth and Family Ministries

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

**October newsletter information deadline is:
September 15**

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Premachand Potla
- 3 Shane Matherne
- 4 Brian Heil
Kathy Riggs
- 5 Debby Cutler
Terry Timmerman
- 7 Pamela Harper
- 9 Laura Wilhelm
- 10 Ruby Sadler
- 11 Victor Rweyemamu
- 12 Toni Burns
Michaela Schrader
- 13 Susan Givens
Sue Kaestner
- 14 Brynn Matherne
- 15 Alene Olson
- 16 Robert Froebel
Mickey Walters
Nato Mpinga
- 18 Kevin Scace
- 19 Issiah Mgendi
- 22 Hans Kiondo
Barbara Stuckey
- 26 Lucille Cochran
- 27 Inga Carlson



CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

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NURSERY CAREGIVER

Sandra Ani

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma E. Cruz

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713-784-6620

CHURCH OFFICE FAX

713-784-4742

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Karen Bauer
- Candace, Jason and Faith, friends of Nancie Blair
- 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
- Dale Olson
- 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

Bible Sudoku

1. Firstly you will need to write in your 'starter' numbers. This is done by using the clues below, and the A-I and 1-9 co-ordinates on the top and side of the grid. F5 has been done for you already.
2. Once the starter numbers are in place, complete the Sudoku puzzle as usual.

Easy

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5						2			
6									
7									
8									
9									

For D1, G2, B3, I4, H7, F9:

Josiah was ___ years old when he became king. (2 Kings 22:1)

For F5, A7:

The 10 commandments were written on ___ tables of stone. (Deuteronomy 9:11)

For H2, D5, B6, E8:

Og, king of Bashan, had a bed which was ___ cubits [~4½ metres] long. (Deuteronomy 3:11)

For A4, I8:

The number of times Paul was whipped with 39 lashes. (2 Corinthians 11:24)

For E2, C4, G5, D6, F8:

The age of Joash when he began to reign over the kingdom of Judah. (2 Chronicles 24:1)

For A2, I3, F4, C5, G6, D7, B8:

The number of days it took God to create heaven, earth and all in them. (Exodus 20:11)

For C2, H4, G8:

The number of languages spoken before the building of the tower of Babel. (Genesis 11:1)

For B2, F3, A6, C8:

Lazarus was dead for ___ days before Jesus raised him from the dead. (John 11:17)

For G1, D2, I6, H8, C9

Noah had ___ sons (Genesis 6:10)

Intermediate

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									

For D5, I6, F8, A9

Jesus fed 5000 men, as well as women and children, with ___ loaves and 2 fish. (Matthew 14:19)

For A6, B8:

There is only ___ God. (1 Timothy 2:5)

For A4, F6, H8:

The number of people saved in the ark when the world was flooded. (Genesis 7:13)

For I1, C2, H4, F5, B6, G8:

The number of days that Jonah was inside the big fish. (Jonah 1:17)

For C1, H2, I4:

The day on which God rested (Genesis 2:2)

For A1, D2, H3, F4, B7, G9:

Jesus was crucified between ___ robbers. (Mark 15:27)

For G2:

Jesus healed 10 lepers, but ___ didn't come back to say 'thank-you'. (Luke 17:11-19)

For B2, D6, C8, I9:

Paul was on a boat heading for Rome when there was a great storm. The sailors let down ___ anchors to try to stop the boat from running onto rocks. (Acts 27:29)

INTERMISSION
SEPTEMBER 2020

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
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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