

# INTERMISSION

Looking ahead...

## LENT AND EASTER EVENTS

Please note that Covid restrictions have changed much of our normal Lent and Easter events.

### Lenten Services

March 3, 10, 17, 24  
Online services only at Noon

### Palm Sunday

March 28  
8:00 Service  
11:00 Service

### Maundy Thursday

April 1  
12:00 pm Service  
7:15 pm Service

### Good Friday

April 2  
12:00 pm service  
7:15 pm Service

### Easter Sunday

April 4  
8:00 Service  
11:00 Service

## EASTER FLOWERS

There will be no sign-up for Easter flowers this year, as our supplier lost all of his stock in the winter freeze.



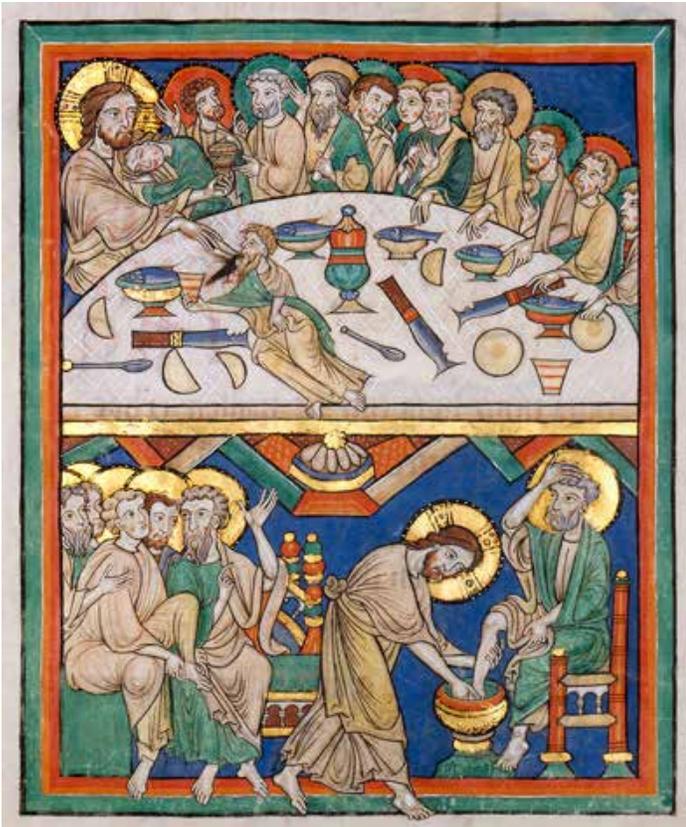
## 2020 FLOWER CHART

There are still many openings for flowers in 2021! March in particular is nearly all open. The 2021 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. Sundays still available for the next few months are:

March 7  
March 14  
March 28  
April 11  
May 23  
May 30



The rest of the year also has many openings. If you cannot fill out the sign-up chart in person, feel free to call Betsy in the office and tell her which day or days you would like.



## COUNCIL COMMENTARY

The Christ the Servant (CTS) council met on Thursday, February 11, 2021.

CTS' most current church maintenance requirement is for tree trimming on the church grounds. An initial price quote from a landscaper was reviewed by the council, but the council decided to obtain additional quotes.

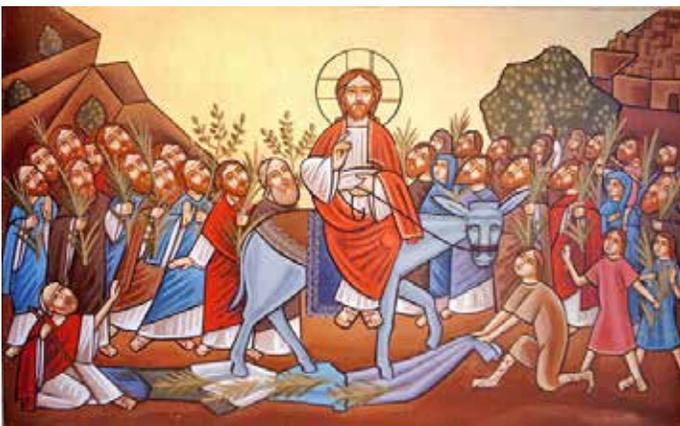
Pastor Jim conveyed the appreciation received from Lutheran World Relief for the \$5,000 donation. It was used to purchase appliances for a significant number of families devastated by the recent event in Lebanon.

In new business, the council discussed the possibility of CTS applying for a small loan from the Payroll Protection Program run by the Small Business Administration (part of the U.S. Federal government). Please note that although the loans are technically forgivable by the U.S. government, it is not guaranteed. For this reason, any additional assumption of debt would be subject to approval by the CTS congregation. Other new business included the review of a proposed addendum to the existing CTS Employee Handbook. The addendum would provide guidelines regarding bereavement compensation for employees in the event this should be needed in the future.

The search for a Director of Music/Organist has begun with a job description to be issued shortly. The council wishes to thank those CTS congregation members who have graciously offered to assist with this process to be led by Zach Edwards.

Finally, the council is currently seeking two additional members to join our ranks. While the current council size is sufficient to meet compliance with CTS constitutional requirements, a somewhat larger representation from the congregation would be better in all respects.

Prayerfully submitted,  
Karen Carter, CTS Council Secretary



## YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

### SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

WOW! I guess I shouldn't be surprised. You are always faithful and generous when you know your gifts will make a real difference. As a congregation, you gave a total of \$981.05 (\$620 from Sunday morning, and \$361.05 in online donations – ANOTHER shocker!). Your gifts will be distributed among local hunger ministries at a time when need is great and resources are scarce after the freeze. Thank you again for always being willing to come through, and for being an example to our students of the kind of generosity they should emulate.

### HOLY WEEK 2021

We are nearing the one year mark since we had to go all (or mostly) virtual with programs and services at CTS. I know your bandwidth as students and parents is getting slimmer and slimmer all the time. As a student AND a parent, I know mine is. This year's Lent Devotions from Taking Faith Home will continue to be posted every week on Sunday Morning. I hope your family can find some time to sit down together and make use of those. In that regard – Lent will be low-key this year. But when it comes to Holy Week – I have an interesting idea for a project we can all engage in. It's an art-project that requires everyone who participates to do a small part in order to make something larger and meaningful. I don't want to reveal too much just yet – but if you're willing to put in a small amount of creative work right from your home prior to Palm Sunday (March 28), I think we can call this Lenten season a success! All ages are welcome to participate. If you're interested, email [jt@christtheservant.net](mailto:jt@christtheservant.net) with your name, and the number of people in your family who would be willing to join in this year's Holy Week art project. I need to plan ahead to make sure we have the right amount of resources.

### CALLING ALL SERVANTS

Anybody out there willing to live our name with passion and purpose? This season has presented unique challenges for service – both inside the congregation and out. But it has also blessed us with new ways to use our gifts that maybe we couldn't find a use for before. Obviously I'm talking about our Audio/Video/Livestreaming ministry. I'm putting out a call for folks who might be willing to learn how to run the sound and video during our service (8 a.m. and/or 11 a.m.) on Sundays. It's a really obvious way that we bless our community with the gospel, not just here in Houston, but all over the place! I know a job like this may seem intimidating, but it really is not – and nobody will be turned loose on a service by themselves before they are ready. And if we have enough volunteers, there's a chance you might be in a rotation that has you working one service a month! So email [jt@christtheservant.net](mailto:jt@christtheservant.net) at I'll add you to the list for a short training. Thanks!

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We've held 7 Sunday School classes on Jesus's parables since the beginning of January. I thought it might be fun to share some ideas/impressions from selected parables we've studied so far.

### **The Father's Good Gifts - Matthew 7:9-11 and Luke 11:11-13**

Parable probably came from a common text, called Q, which has not yet been found. In Matthew's version, there are two illustrations – bread/stone and fish/serpent ... in Luke the illustrations are fish/serpent and egg/scorpion. The parable's message that God seeks the good of his children and a person who trusts in God will receive all that God is willing to give.

### **Children in the Marketplace – Matthew 11:16-19 and Luke 7:31-35**

The game the children are playing was common in Jesus's day but unknown to us today ... so interpreting this parable is somewhat difficult. The group of children playing the flute are compared to Jesus and the other group of children singing a dirge (a song of grief) are compared

### **Youth & Family (con't)**

#### **SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

One of our brilliant and conscientious members mentioned to me that there might be some confusion about what we mean when we ask people to SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube channel (where we host all of our live-streams and videos). Subscribing to a YouTube channel is absolutely free, and is helpful to us all in a couple of ways. First – when you subscribe, you don't have to go searching for our channel on YouTube every time you want to watch something. YouTube puts all your subscribed channels right there in a sidebar on the left-hand side of the screen. Second – if you subscribe, you don't have to worry about missing a broadcast because YouTube can email you as soon as one goes live. With one click, you can be watching and worshipping! Finally – the more subscribers we have, the more features and abilities Christ the Servant will have to make better videos and offer better opportunities for engagement with our community. At this writing, we have managed to build up to 108 subscribers since we launched our channel back in March of 2020. Our next goal – 1000 subscribers! Help us get there! Just log into your YouTube account (yes, you need to be registered with an account), type "Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Houston TX" in the search bar, and when you see our account with the photo of the cross in our sanctuary – click the subscribe button next to it. Thanks so much!

to John the Baptist. But the most people in Jesus's day rejected both John in his austerity and Jesus who was a friend of tax collectors and sinners. And I guess you could say many people reject the message of Jesus in our world today.

### **The Barren Fig Tree – Luke 13:6-9**

A fig tree has not produced for three years and the owner of the vineyard orders the tree to be cut down. The caretaker asks for another year in order to add fertilizer so that the fig tree will produce fruit next year. The parable's message is that the people of Israel need to repent, but time is running short. There is a period of grace as God is merciful as well as just. This need for repentance and renewal should be part of the life of all Christian disciples.

### **The Lamp – Matthew 5:15 & Luke 8:16-18**

Of course, none of us would light a lamp then hide it under the bed. A lamp belongs on a lampstand so it can light up the house. The lamp represents the Good News and using the Gospel of John as a guide, Jesus himself is the lamp.

### **The Growing Seed – Mark 4:26-29**

In this parable, God scatters the seed which grows in the world we live in. That seed is God's kingdom which has been in the world from the beginning of time. The seed grows until it produces a full head of grain and when ripe the harvest comes.

### **The Weeds – Matthew 13:24-30**

This is a difficult parable to swallow. The weeds are allowed to grow among the wheat. Only at harvest time are the weeds to be collected and bound into bundles to be burned. The good wheat is naturally gathered into God's barn. Does this mean we are to take no action to thwart evil in this world? Of course not ... but this parable does stress that God is in charge and will ultimately "get his own way" to use Robert Farrar Capon's words.

Adult Sunday School is held from 9:30 to 10:30 am Sunday mornings in the Conference Room. You may participate in person (just show up) or online via Zoom from your home computer. I still have 4 webcams if you need one so you can participate online.

Email me at richardcarlson70@att.net if you would like to receive the weekly handouts via email for our ongoing study of Jesus's parables. We will cover some of the more familiar parables beginning in March. I am sure this will include The Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37, The Rich Fool – Luke 12:16-21 and The Prodigal Son – Luke 15:11-32

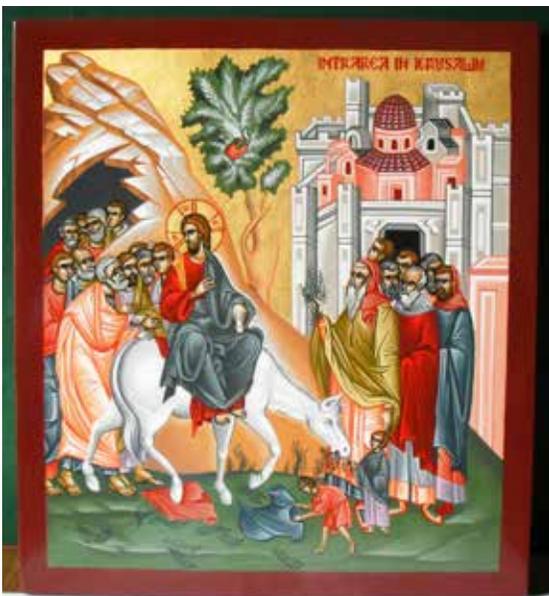
## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Kevin Carlson
- 3 Waveney Blucher  
Marti Hatcher
- 4 Carolyn Giannantonio
- 5 Susan Collins
- 7 Ade Kujimiyo  
Dana Lares  
Caroline Kiondo
- 8 Kami Vincent
- 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
- 30 Carolyn Brath  
Emma Chanimbaga  
Mike Iversen  
Pete Stultz



## 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



## 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

### 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)**

**April newsletter information deadline is:**

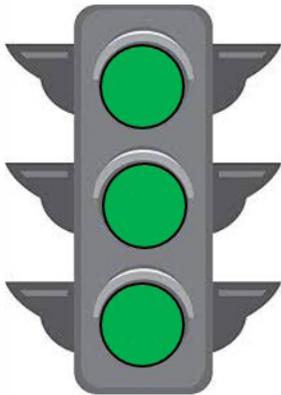
**March 15**

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.

## CTS Financial Dashboard Through JANUARY 2021



### YTD Contributions

\$ 69,213  
*above forecast for income*

### YTD Expenditures

\$ 42,645  
*3% below budgeted expenses*

### Cash Reserve

*6.8 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*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

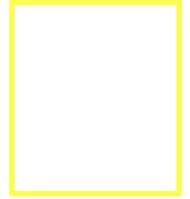
Karen Bauer  
Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen  
Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose  
Mary Hiestand  
Mike Karas  
Kim, niece of the Murawskis  
Roger Lemburg  
Gerry Ludwig  
Ron, father of Tim Murawski  
Cathy & Rob Roberson, daughter and  
son-in-law of Jodie Davis  
Mary Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand  
Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil  
Spring Walker and family  
Frank Welsh, friend of Mike and Phylis Karas  
Yessica, friend of Nancie and Bill Blair  
Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse



INTERMISSION  
MARCH 2021

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Houston, Texas 77042

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FAX 713-784-4742  
www.christtheservant.net



## 2021 COUNCIL

President: Barry Rava

President Elect:	Dale Dickman	At Large:	Zach Edwards
Secretary:	Karen Carter	At Large:	Neema Makia
Financial Secretary:	Emma Chanimbaga		
Treasurer:	Susan Collins		
Treasurer Elect:	Vicki Rudolph-Williams		

## 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	Kurt Goedecke
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	TBA	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		