

# INTERMISSION

## GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

The CTS Fellowship Hall came alive with a coterie of Happy Helpers at the God's Work Our Hands service project held October 5. CTS Members and Friends counted, sorted, cut, peeled, and filled 300 craft bags with objets d'art for use in the Periwinkle Foundation's Arts for Healing, Empowerment and Self-Expression programs benefiting patients in Texas Children's Hospitals. In addition, other Happy Helpers wrote 68 greeting cards which are being taking to the VA Hospital for distribution to patients. I can share that when I went to bed that night, I did so with snug soul memories of the day's events.

Ken Smith



## COUNCIL COMMENTARY

The Christ the Servant (CTS) Council's most recent monthly meeting was held on Thursday, October 14, 2021. What follows are the highlights from our discussions. For more detailed information, please refer to the minutes contained in the binder kept on a table in the CTS narthex.

In general housekeeping, the meeting minutes from the September CTS council meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved by the council. Similarly, the Treasurer's Report was reviewed and unanimously accepted into the record. Additional reports were presented by the Financial Secretary, the Director of Music, and the Pastoral Intern.

The council discussed the success of CTS' recent spaghetti dinner held on Friday October 8th. As a result of the participants' generous donations, \$9,799 was collected. The proceeds will be donated to West Houston Assistance Ministries' (WHAM) programs designed to assist those in need with rent payments, utilities bills, transportation costs, and other forms of aid.

Updated information regarding the application of funds collected earlier in the year as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring program was provided. Total collected funds of \$1,101 were given to the Texas-Louisiana Disaster Relief Fund.

The CTS Care team recently engaged in an outreach effort to check in with CTS members who have not returned to worship at CTS. Many of the contacted members indicated they still have concerns vis-a-vis Covid-19 and are not comfortable returning to worship at this time. Streaming services will continue for these members, and any others with similar concerns, for the foreseeable future.

JT provided the council with a summary of CTS' online viewing activity since the beginning of 2021. CTS' online subscribers now total 129. The average number of viewers watching streaming services in September was 80 viewers/Sunday (total from both services). This is down from a peak of 146 average viewers/Sunday in January of this year. It was assumed that this decline in online viewing is directly attributable to congregation members returning to in-person worship.

CTS' insurance provider recently completed a safety review of the CTS facilities. The most pressing issue identified in this review was the condition of the CTS playground equipment, which was deemed to be beyond repair. Accordingly, the CTS Council voted unanimously to dismantle the playground equipment within the timeframe requested by the insurer. The council will consider whether and how to replace the playground equipment at a later date.

Finally, there are several openings for next year's CTS Council. The CTS Nominating Committee is diligently working to identify candidates to serve in those positions.

Prayerfully submitted,

Karen Carter, CTS Council Secretary

## POINSETTIA ORDERS

The poinsettia sign-up will be in the narthex November 7. The last day to order will be December 12.



## LADIES DINNER GROUP

Please join us!  
Wednesday, November 10  
6:00 pm  
Feng Ling  
11010A Westheimer



A sign-up sheet is in the narthex  
or contact Mickey Walters at [waltersmic@aol.com](mailto:waltersmic@aol.com)

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Denise Carlson  
Andy Iversen
- 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 Todd and Elizabeth Harbour
- 12 Gary and Mary Hiestand
- 13 Brian and Julie Heil



## SUNDAY ADULT FORUM

The Adult Forum class continues its study of Luke using Frederick Danker's "Jesus and the New Age" and Justo Gonzalez's "Luke" as resource materials. So far we have covered Chapter 1 and half of Chapter 2. In an attempt to pique your interest in possibly joining us one Sunday morning, the following are selected highlights from Danker's commentary:

### The Historian's Preface

**Luke 1:1-2** The preface is a model of precisely crafted prose that would make a favorable impression on Greco-Romans across a broad cultural front. It is formulated very much like a public decree in the traditional Greek style.

### Announcement of the Conception of John

**Luke 1:5** Since Jesus is, from Luke's perspective, greater than Rome's greatest emperors, it is important that a lesser figure serve as an advance party. At the same time, Luke is able to help Christian communities sort out the relative functions of John and Jesus. John is not a competitor but an instrument of God's climactic purpose, which finds its highest expression in Jesus, whose name is above all other names.

**Luke 1:11-13** Zechariah receives a heavenly message while burning incense alone in the temple. Outside Jewish and Christian communities there were traditions of heavenly visitations. The significance of Luke's account would be readily understood on cultural fronts where heavenly visitations were an accepted feature in reports about exceptional personalities.

### Announcement of the Conception of Jesus

**Luke 1:26-27** These verses set the stage for the dramatic dialogue that follows. The first hint of a contrast between Jerusalem and Galilee is given at v. 26. Events begin and end at Jerusalem, but Galilee is the major scene of Jesus' ministry and the place where witnesses will be gathered.

**Luke 1:31** "Jesus" is another form of the name of Joshua, which means "God saves". The name Joshua was a common name, but as given to Jesus the common becomes uncommon, and that portion of Luke's public which was familiar with the exploits of Joshua would add a dimension of understanding to Luke's account.

**Luke 1:37-38** Since Elizabeth appears to image Sarah, the evangelist includes a paraphrase of Gen. 18:14: *For with God nothing will be impossible.* In contrast to Zechariah, Mary believes the word of the angel: *Let it be to me according to your word.* Mary is a model of what Israel ought to be, and her self-description is a mark of identity for the new community.

The Sunday Adult Forum 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.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen Bauer  
Nancy Chapman  
Susan Collins' parents  
Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen  
Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose  
Kurt Goedecke  
Donald K. Hiestand, father of Gary Hiestand  
Kristin Krueger  
Ron Murawski, father of Tim Murawski  
Cathy Roberson & Debby Weaver, daughters of Jodie Davis  
Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil  
Frank Welsh, friend of Mike and Phylis Karas  
Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### BINGO!!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH, 2 PM  
Join us and the residents of Brookdale for always a fun afternoon!  
Prizes, refreshments!



### BROOKWOOD COMMUNITY

Lunch and Shopping  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 6th at 11:30 AM  
1752 FM 1489  
Brookshire TX 77423



Through the Grace of God, The Brookwood Community provides an educational environment that creates meaningful work, builds a sense of belonging, and awakens genuine purpose in the lives of adults with disabilities. Brookwood always is a wonderful place for a delicious lunch, a lovely gift shop displaying gorgeous Christmas decorations and their nursery offering beautiful poinsettias for sale. We hope you will consider this fellowship opportunity during this special time of the year!

We will meet at Brookwood Cafe at 11:15 sharp for our 11:30 reservation.  
Please Sign up EARLY in Narthex (deadline for sign-up 11/28)

### CTS WOMEN'S MINISTRY HOLIDAY PARTY AT CTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM  
Partnering with Brookdale Assisted Living  
Lunch, Baked Goodies, Christmas Sing-a-Long, Crafts  
Join us for a great fellowship opportunity to enjoy the Christmas season and each other!!  
Sign-up in Narthex

Any questions regarding these events, please contact:  
Marsha Bower  
lb16434@aol.com  
281-381-0515

# A Night in Italy

Paul Siegele and his team of helpers made meatballs and prepared the food a day ahead. Alongside them, the homeless ministry prepared sandwiches for the sack lunches to distribute downtown.



## 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



## CALENDAR ITEMS

- November 2 - 7 a.m.-7 p.m. Election
- November 7 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!
- November 11 - 7 p.m. Council
- November 25 and 26 - Office closed for Thanksgiving
- November 28 - First Sunday in Advent

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 **lvwilhelm@comcast.net**  
Information may be edited to available space.

Thank you to all who attended the event, which raised \$9,799 in donations to go to Westheimer Assistance Ministries' programs providing various forms of aid to those in need.



Thank you also to the many people who worked on the event cooking, setting up tables, publicizing, serving and cleaning up afterwards.



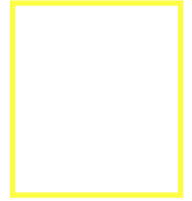
A quartet of current and former CTS organists joined us for dinner. Left to right below are Rob Carty, Marshall Maxwell, JJ Mitchell and Don Hermanson. JJ entertained everyone on the piano during dinner.



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NOVEMBER 2021

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

Phone 713-784-6620  
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	At Large:	Karen Welborn
Treasurer:	Susan Collins	At Large:	Tina Blockhus
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
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters		11:00 Pat Welborn
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson	WHAM Representatives	Ken Smith
Lectors	Chandler Wilhelm	Women's Ministry	Marsha Bower
Liturgical Assistants	Chandler Wilhelm	Worship and Music	Lori Wood