

INTERMISSION

2400 WILCREST DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77042
713-784-6620

WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET



A Night in Italy

Join us for a spaghetti and meatballs dinner
Prepared by Paul Siegele's crew of CTS Chefs

Friday, October 14, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Sign-up by Sunday, October 9
in the Narthex.

A free will offering will
go to the CTS General Fund

Music provided by Don Hermanson



GET READY TO LIGHT UP

RALLY DAY

September 11, 2022
after the second service.

We will light up the bbq pit after church for some good old hamburgers and hot dogs to kick off the new Sunday School year!

There will also be splash pads and games, so bring your swimsuit and a towel for some old-fashioned picnic fun!
Hope to see you all there!

Questions: Contact Michele Byrnes
713-823-1324
Michele.byrnes29@gmail.com

LADIES DINNER GROUP

Please join us!
Wednesday, September 14
6:00 pm
George's Pastaria
1722 Dairy Ashford



A sign-up sheet is in the narthex
or contact Mickey Walters at waltersmic@aol.com

CONFIRMATION

What is “Confirmation” in the context of the Faith Community?

And why bother? Well, in the earliest generations of Christian faith those who were **preparing for baptism** went through a period of instruction and preparation in order to become active participants in these faith communities. Upon completion of the instructional period, at the Easter Vigil worship service, these candidates were then baptized and were welcomed to the Holy Communion with the rest of the faith community.

The actual rite of confirmation was the result of the influence of **Pope Innocent the First**, Bishop of Rome from 401 until his death in 417. In the 5th century the rite of confirmation was performed by the bishop. Confirmation became understood, at the Council of Lyon in 1274, as a **sacrament that gave God’s grace to a person**, thereby officially separating the rites of Baptism and confirmation.

For Martin Luther, confirmation could not be considered a sacrament because our Lord did not command it. However, he favored fervently this **period of instruction** and wrote the Small Catechism in 1529. It’s reported that he said, “I will teach the boy who plows the field to know more Bible than the Pope (**Pope Leo X**) in Rome.” Whether he actually said that or not is really not the point.

Since the period of the Reformation, faith communities throughout the world have been providing for their young people this period of instruction wherein each young candidate decides for himself/herself if they are willing to affirm the promises their parents and sponsors made at their baptism. We call this liturgy, the “Affirmation of Baptism.”

Here at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church this one-year period of instruction will be taught by **Pastor Jim** on one Saturday each month at **10:00 AM.**, followed by **lunch together at Antonio’s Flying Pizza**, beginning in October for our young people who are **entering 7th grade** (more or less). The pastor will make use of the Bible, *Luther’s Small Catechism* (1529), and perhaps an occasional movie and/or class trip that might enhance the specific material being taught.

If interested, and this **WILL BE** interesting, please call Betsy Riggs at the church office (**713-784-6620**) to register ASAP. We very much look forward to hearing from you!

CARE TEAM

The CTS Care Team will meet Wednesday, Sept 7, at 1:30 p.m.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY

BINGO!!!

September 21st
12:00 noon

Lunch served with tons of laughter and fellowship!



CTS members WE need you to participate in this great outreach. Our guests each month are Brookdale assisted living residents who LOVE to come to CTS. It’s an outing they look forward to teach month!

It’s free, it’s fun and we need your support! Check it out!

SAVE THE DATE!

Womens Ministry Annual Holiday Luncheon
Brookwood Community Cafe

December 8th

11:45 AM sharp

Beautiful lunch with shopping after at Brookwood gift shop!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

We will be making Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief to 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. to 52 x 27 in.)
- **TWO OR THREE** wrapped, bath-size bars of soap (8-9 oz.) in original wrapping
- **ONE** adult size toothbrush in original package
- **ONE** sturdy comb, remove packaging
- **ONE** metal nail clipper, remove packaging

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.

Information on the kits can be found here: <https://lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits/instructions>. Questions can be directed to Paul Siegele at: paulsiegele59@gmail.com

Drop off the assembled kits to the church any time before **October 30**. Completed kits will then be packaged and delivered to the LWR Ingathering on November 5.

The kits will be dedicated to the **Glory of God on October 30** at CTS.

COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Council was held on Thursday, August 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Carolyn Giannantonio and Rosalie Fontenot provided a "Committee Spotlight" on Homeless Ministry. They reported on the updates as to how Homeless Ministry is being conducted post-pandemic. Sandwiches and snacks are made on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month. Delivery is to 3 places: Texas Bunk House, DeGeorge and San Jacinto Apartments twice a month. Pat Welborn hands out snacks to various places around Houston. They work in teams of 3 or 4, and deliver during the day. Another change is we are no longer ordering from Houston Food Bank as we can only order in large quantities, and they don't have the things we need. Instead, we are ordering packaged snack items from Costco and buying fresh bread, bologna, cheese and PB&J. Carolyn explained the necessary certificates from the city that are required for us to stay compliant.

Treasurer Mickey Walters reported that there were no large expenses for the month. A payment of \$6000 was sent to Ukraine and a final amount will be sent soon, closing out the account. The total raised was \$41,807.17. Council discussed the budget and additional items that will need to be added in light of position changes on the staff.

JT's last day with CTS was August 15th. He has been working with Phylis Karas and Lori Wood for 2 weeks with regard to preparing for the Sunday live streams until a new hire can be found. To date, no applicants for the position have come forward.

Michele Burns will be leading Rally Day on Sunday, September 11 to include lunch and games. Pastor will be leading the confirmation class going forward. One student is eligible to be in confirmation for Fall 2022.

Paul Siegele, Marsha Bower and Pastor Jim met to discuss the Spaghetti Dinner which will take place on Friday, October 14th @ 6:30 p.m. This year the dinner will be for fellowship - bringing CTS people together. A freewill offering will be collected to offset expenses. Don Hermanson will be the entertainment. Council is looking at having a catered Holiday Luncheon on Saturday, November 26th at Noon with decorating of the sanctuary for Advent and singing of carols. More details to follow.

Feedback from the informal Council/congregation meetings was reported. This will help the Council when making decisions for the 2023 budget. Council greatly appreciates the congregation's response. The plan is to have more of these informal conversations going forward.

Upcoming vacancies on Council, OEF and Nominating Committee were discussed. The current Nominating Committee will be informed of the vacancies so they can have ample time to find viable candidates.

Mickey reported that it has been 3 years since an Audit has been conducted. She informed Council that this will need to be done.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Riggs

SAFETY FIRST

Recently, CTS members gathered in the senior high Sunday School room to take a CPR course from Bryant King. While there, they were reminded that there is an AED device on the counter between the small kitchen and the conference room. This defibrillator is also certified to use on patients who have a pacemaker and comes with a face shield to protect the person giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.



Bryant checked the two first aid kits that belong to the church and found several out-dated items which have been replaced with new materials. One first aid kit is on the windowsill of the large kitchen, and the other is on the credenza in the conference room. Please



walk by these spots and become familiar with the location of the first aid kits. As you do this, also note the location of the fire extinguishers located on the wall of each kitchen.

Hopefully we will not need to use any of this equipment, but it's important that everyone is aware of the location of the AED, first aid kits, and fire extinguishers.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen and LeRoy Bauer
 Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
 Judie Deeds
 Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
 Christy Iversen
 Billijo Kern
 Cathy Roberson and Debby Weaver, daughters of
 Jodi Davis
 Ruby Sadler
 Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
 Frank Welsh, friend of Mike and Phylis Karas
 Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

JT SAYS GOODBYE

Dear friends,

I have truly enjoyed and been blessed by our time together these past 8 years. During that time, my life changed in many ways.

- I began wearing colored and decorative socks – spurred mostly by your gifts of socks that I love and would never have bought for myself.
- I drove 3 different cars.
- Abby and I added a son to our family! Baby Jesse started kindergarten just a few days ago.
- I lost the only 2 dogs I have ever been a father to.
- I experienced the only 2 hospitalizations of my entire life. One of them while Pastor Jim was out of town, and the other during Holy Week!
- I started Seminary for the 3rd time, and with your help I finally made it across the finish line!
- I've grown as a preacher and a teacher. I told my friends and some of the people in my approval panels that the praise from this congregation about my sermons has been so effusive that I've learned not to trust it. I think I'm pretty good, but nobody can be as good as you've told me I am. Thank you anyway.

Not all change is growth, but I have also grown more than perhaps in any other 8-year period of my adult life. I was certainly lucky to have a mentor like Pastor Jim. His knowledge, experience, patience, and humor made him the perfect partner and supervisor. I've learned so many valuable things from him. Like how important it is to really love and care for and know the people you serve – as much as they will let you. How to lean into your strengths, and how to let go and allow others to run with things they have gifts and passions for. I've also learned a kind of intentionality about everything we as pastors do- like the prayers you see us pray at the altar when we enter a service, and the prayers you see us pray before we stand to preach.

From this congregation, I've also learned the value of mission. As somebody who grew up absolutely drowning in missions and missionaries and evangelism- It wasn't until I was at CTS that I really saw and understood what it means for a congregation to be focused on a specific mission, and how essential that outward devotion is to their flourishing and faithfulness.

As an intern, I've learned how to hear and accept critique without getting angry or defensive. That has been really hard, and will continue to be. But I'm absolutely certain it's something that will help me a great deal as a pastor.

Finally – I've learned that faithfulness is the ultimate metric. Whatever else we measure our success or effectiveness by – faithfulness is what really matters. Faithfulness to the gospel. Faithfulness to our mission. Faithfulness to each other.

Many of my classmates and colleagues talk about a home congregation. On a bunch of the ELCA paperwork they ask you to fill out, they ask about your home congregation. Not having grown up in a particular Lutheran church, I've never been sure what most people put there. But I am now. Even though my life among the Lutherans didn't begin here... I will always consider Christ The Servant my home congregation.

Thank you for loving my family and me so well.

Grace + Peace,

J.T. (Jason C. Thomas)



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Andrew and Aniva Hahn
Kevin and Inga Carlson
- 2 Ron and Marti Hatcher
- 4 Mike and Lily Sweet
Everett and Pam Mobley
- 15 Terry and Debbie Timmerman
- 25 Russell and Kathy Riggs



CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

The Rev. James Giannantonio
jrjgiannan@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Betsy Riggs
ctsoffice1@comcast.net

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

John J (JJ) Mitchell

NURSERY CAREGIVER

Sandra Ani

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE

713-784-6620

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma E. Cruz

CHURCH OFFICE FAX

713-784-4742

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Cayleigh Jones
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
- 13 Sue Kaestner
- 14 Brynn Matherne
- 16 Mickey Walters
Nato Mpinga
- 18 Kevin Scace
- 19 Issiah Mgendi
- 22 Barbara Stuckey
- 27 Inga Carlson



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.



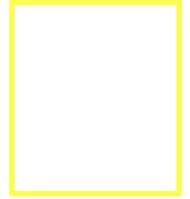
Photos from farewell luncheon held for JT on August 14. No one went away hungry!



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SEPTEMBER 2022

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2022 COUNCIL

President: Dale Dickman

President Elect :	Karen Carter	At Large:	Tina Blockhus
Secretary:	Zach Edwards	At Large:	Karen Welborn
Treasurer:	Mickey Walters	At Large:	Sophia Manning
At Large:	Neema Makia		

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	Adam Jones
Care Team	Karen Welborn	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		