

INTERMISSION

COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Thank you to those congregation members who were able to participate in the second, and final congregational meeting on Sunday, January 15th. For those unable to attend, please note the following two unanimous approvals: 1) election of Julie Heil to an open at-large position on the council and 2) approval of the 2023 budget of \$497,658. This represents a \$60,065 reduction versus 2022's budget and is a consequence of finishing 2022 with an operating deficit of ~\$41,000. Additionally, 48 pledges totaling \$300,808 were made during our stewardship drive. However, it is important to note that pledges have historically represented only about 60 - 65% of total contributions for any given year.

There were many great suggestions offered at our congregational meeting, with emphasis on restoring CTS' ability to engage in important outreach (WHAM, God's Work Our Hands, etc.) and ministries (Youth and Family most importantly). The council will discuss these matters and reach out to the congregation to determine how we rebuild our momentum.

Dr. Chris Teel joined the council meeting and will officially join CTS on Monday, January 16th. His first day at a worship service will be Sunday, January 22nd. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to Chris and give him a warm CTS welcome.

The council approved the opening of a new savings account with Ally bank to place our backup mortgage funds into a higher-earning account. These funds are held in reserve to pay the mortgage in the event CTS is unable to do so. The council wishes to thank Jim Dumler for reaching out to make this suggestion and helping us with the account opening. The council also approved the purchase and installation of screens for the external gutters at CTS. The total cost will be no more than \$1,500, as the installation will be done at no cost by Brent Brown, Dale Dickman, and Russell Farmer. The council wishes to thank Brent and Dale for bringing this suggestion to the council's attention and to all three for offering their time and talents.

The ELCA Gulf Coast Synod is holding several seminars to discuss becoming a 'Reconciling in Christ' (RIC) synod. One seminar will be held on February 18th at Zion Lutheran Church at 3606 Beauchamp (the Heights

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

February 21, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Shrove Tuesday is the traditional feast day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

The English tradition of eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday came about as a way to use as much milk, fats, and eggs as possible before Lent began.



Come and celebrate the festivities, and enjoy some buttermilk pancakes, ham, and of course a piece of king cake!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

February 22

12:00 p.m. Service

7:15 Service

Both services will have imposition of ashes and communion.



LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

12:00 p.m. service, followed by lunch

Pastor Jim and Pastor Steve Kelly will be presenting meditations on the five parts of Luther's Small Catechism (A.D. 1529).

neighborhood). If you are interested in attending to discover more about what it means to be an RIC congregation, please contact Betsy Riggs who can get you registered.

If you have any thoughts or questions for the CTS Council, please feel free to contact me or any other member of the council.

Prayerfully submitted,
Karen Carter, CTS Council President

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

We Love Bingo!

February 15th

1:30 PM - Just Desserts!

Please come and spend time with these precious folks from Brookdale! You won't regret it and they appreciate the fellowship!



Women's Ministry Annual Retreat

"WonderFull World"

April 14th thru 16th

Trinity Pines Conference Center, Trinity, TX

\$135 for entire weekend (lodging and meals)

This year, for the first time, we will be traveling to the beautiful Trinity Pines Conference Center on Lake Livingston. This a beautiful area that will provide the perfect environment for fellowship and reconnecting with God, each other and ourselves.

If you never attended one of our retreats, you will discover a weekend full of fun, learning, prayer, and activities to enrich and inspire. This a place where you can be yourself in a relaxed atmosphere away from all the noise and stress of our busy lives.

We have limited availability so if you are interested and committed, please sign up (sheet in Narthex) and a non refundable deposit will be collected in March to reserve your spot!!

We do hope you consider this special opportunity!

Questions please contact Marsha Bower
281-381-0515



Trinity Pines
Conference Center
on Lake Livingston.



CARE TEAM

The members of the Care Team will be commissioned during the 11 am Service on Sunday, February 5. What does this mean? The church is passing on to the members of this team a responsibility to act. The Care Team Mission Statement is **"Christ the Servant Care Team is united in prayer and dedicated to continuing education in order to serve our congregation and the community as pastoral caregivers who take the time to listen, pray and give comfort"**.

There are currently 9 lay members serving on the Care Team: Beverly Arnold, Marsha Bower, Tina Blockhus, Ann Marie Fritz, Sue Kaestner, Arnie Kaestner, Pam Mobley, Ken Smith and Karen Welborn. Pastor Jim joins the group meetings to provide insight into where our care should be directed and how we can better serve the congregation.

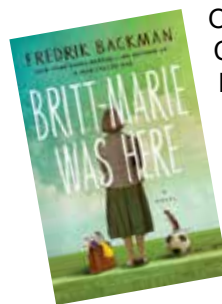
Our meetings feature training through a mixture of presentation, discussion and skill practice. This training helps equip us to provide spiritual and emotional care to others, provides us with new insight into the thoughts, feelings and actions of those hurting and helps provide us with new relational and caring skills that we can utilize in all aspects of our life. Contact is made with individuals who are experiencing a health issue or the loss of a loved one through phone calls made or cards sent on a regular basis. We will be meeting bi-monthly in 2023.

If you are interested in more information about the Care Team or have any questions, please visit contact any of the members on the Team. Karen Welborn is the liaison for the team.

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | Year End <u>12-31-2022</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total Contributions | \$457,136.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$498,656.00 |
| Excess | -\$41,520 |

CTS BOOK CLUB



On February 25, 2023, The CTS Book Club will discuss *Britt-Marie Was Here*, by Fredrik Backman. Britt-Marie hates messes and is socially awkward. She moves to a town of "miscreants" and "layabouts" where she ultimately coaches the town's "supremely untalented children's soccer team to victory."

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Looking for your offering envelopes? Delivery has been delayed due to supply issues. Please feel free to use the offering envelopes in the pews or your own envelope with your name on it if needed.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR JIM

Editor's note: As we at CTS ponder our way forward, it is interesting to note the similarities of society in our time to the conditions facing the early church in the Roman Empire.

The Early Church in Rome

(What follows comes directly from the book, *Daily Life in Ancient Rome* by Jerome Carcopino [1941].)

The Church, [the body of Christ in ancient Rome], is still almost invisible, but she is there; she is at work; and if her beneficent doings are not seen in the full light of day, we must nevertheless take heed of the salutary influence she was widely and unobtrusively exerting. In secret she worked out a remedy for the gravest of the ills that were undermining the civilization of Rome. In the name of a new ideal, she requickered ancient lost or half-forgotten virtues: **the dignity and courage of the individual, the cohesion of the family, the value of moral truths in the conduct of adults, and in the education of the young; and, above all, she imbued all relations between people with a humanity which the stern societies of ancient days had never known before.** In this

Rome whose outward grandeur ill-concealed the internal disintegration which was in the long run to undermine Rome's power and dissipate her wealth, what most strikes the historian of the time of the Antonine Dynasty (A.D. 138-193) is the swarming of her crowds at the feet of the imperial majesty, her fever for riches, the mantle of luxury which cloaks her wretchedness, the prodigality of those spectacles which pander to her sloth and stir up her lowest instincts, and the frenzy of carnal indulgence in which others stupefy themselves.

But we must not let either the dazzling splendor or the somber shadow **hide that little flame** – pale the flickering though it be – which trembled in the souls of the elect, like a faint dawn.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 9 DJ Blockhus
- 10 LeRoy Bauer
- 12 Susan Sutton
- 13 Case Iversen
- 16 Paula Ruskan
- 19 Christopher Magwe
- 21 Jerry Myers
- 22 Vicki Rudolph Williams



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bob and Judi Leisk
- 22 John and Rebecca Mfungo



LADIES DINNER GROUP

Please join us!
 Wednesday, February 8
 6:00 pm
 Feng Ling
 11010 Westheimer



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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen and LeRoy Bauer
 Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
 Judie Deeds
 Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
 Christy Iversen
 Billijo Kern
 Judi Leisk
 Potla Premarchand
 Cathy Roberson and Debby Weaver, daughters of Jodi Davis
 Ruby Sadler
 Sue Selby, friend of the Murawskis
 Frank Welsh, friend of Mike and Phylis Karas
 Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

The Rev. James Giannantonio
jrgiannan@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Betsy Riggs
ctsoffice1@comcast.net

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Dr. Christopher Teel

NURSERY CAREGIVER

Sandra Ani

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE

713-784-6620

CHURCH OFFICE FAX

713-784-4742

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma E. Cruz

This newsletter is available on the CTS website at:
www.christtheservant.net

**March newsletter submissions deadline is:
 February 15**

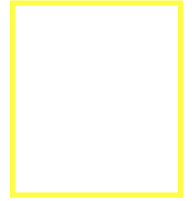
Please submit information and articles in **MSWord documents**, and Pictures should be sent as **.jpg files** to Laura Wilhelm at:
lvhwilhelm@comcast.net

Information may be edited to available space.

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FEBRUARY 2023

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
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Houston, Texas 77042

Phone 713-784-6620
FAX 713-784-4742
www.christtheservant.net



2022 COUNCIL

President: Karen Carter

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------|------------------|
| President Elect : | Barry Rava | At Large: | Russell Farmer |
| Secretary: | Rosalie Fontenot | At Large: | Barbara Kaminska |
| Treasurer: | Mickey Walters | At Large: | Julie Heil |
| At Large: | Neema Makia | | |

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, GROUP LEADERS, CONTACT PEOPLE

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Acolytes | Inga Carlson, Michele Byrnes | Memorial Service Coordinator | Linda Iversen |
| Adult Christian Ed | DJ Blockhus, Richard Carlson | Men Who Love Spaghetti | Roger Cutler |
| Altar Guild | Lori Wood | Nursery Attendant | Sandra Ani |
| CanCare Representative | Susan Kramer | Opportunity Endowment Fund | TBA |
| 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 | Denise Carlson | 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 | | |