

# INTERMISSION



## IT'S TIME FOR COLLEGE NIGHT AT NINO'S

All CTS college students are invited to join Pastor Jim for dinner at:

**NINO'S**  
2817 W. Dallas St  
December 29  
7:00 p.m.

To join the fun, email Pastor Jim at [jrgiannan@gmail.com](mailto:jrgiannan@gmail.com) or call the office to tell them you're planning to come.

## ANGEL BREAKFAST STARTS THE ADVENT SEASON

The annual Angel Breakfast for children ages infant to 2nd grade will be held Saturday, December 6 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. The event includes Breakfast, Songs, Stories, Crafts and Photographs. There is no need to sign up and no charge. Just bring the children!



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present. Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way. Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace. By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation, we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace would desire to abide and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place." Edward Hays

The Advent Mid-Week Services will focus on: The Second Coming – What are we looking forward to? Based on the book: The Rapture Exposed by Barbara R. Rossing

Advent Mid-Week services will be December 3rd, 10th, and 17th beginning with a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. and the service at 7:15 p.m.

The annual Christmas Cantata – Once He Came in Blessing - will be December 14th during both services.

Christmas Eve Services will be 5:00 p.m. – family friendly service, 7:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. – Lessons & Carols

Yours in Christ,  
Tami Porras  
Worship & Music Chairperson



## YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

### Seamen's Center Shoeboxes

It's that time again! We're collecting supplies for our shoebox Christmas gifts for the Seafarers' Center in the Port of Houston. The chaplains hold worship services and visit each ship to help the seafarers any way they can while they are docked in Houston. Many of the crews are made up of men from impoverished countries who are sending their wages back home to their families. Some of them aren't actually allowed to leave the ships while they are here. Any supplies we can give them will be very much appreciated. We hope to fill around 40 shoeboxes to be delivered and handed out around Christmas. We invite you to donate if you can! Please make sure your donations will fit in a shoebox. On December 14th, our Sunday School kids will fill the shoeboxes, wrap them, and they will be delivered in the weeks before Christmas.



Here is a list of the items we'd like to collect to fill the boxes:

- bath soap
- shampoo
- shaving cream
- disposable razors
- gum
- toothpaste
- small Texas souvenirs
- new work socks
- new T-shirts
- pens
- needle and thread
- flashlight
- Kleenex packets
- playing cards
- disposable cameras
- hard candy that doesn't melt in heat
- lotion and lip balm
- warm knitted caps or beanies
- note pads/envelopes
- Texas postcards



### Angel Breakfast

Saturday, December 6th is the Angel Breakfast! Children from birth to 2nd grade are invited to join us as we turn our fellowship hall into Heaven. All of our little angels will enjoy breakfast, a telling of the Christmas story, a craft time, and help put the ornaments on our chrismon tree! It's a great way to welcome our little ones into our congregation's celebration of the season. Don't worry; we'll make sure to get pictures of all of them! Sign up on the sheet in the narthex, or email J.T. (jt@christtheservant) to let us know your child will be there!



### 2015 Youth Gathering Fundraisers

On Sundays in December, our youth will be raising money in a variety of ways to fund their trip to Detroit. On December 7th, as part of our church's Holiday Market, they will be wrapping gifts in the Fellowship Hall. Bring the gifts you've already bought and we will wrap them for you while you wait, or while you attend the 11 a.m. service! They will also have a table set up with Tupperware for sale. That's right - TUPPERWARE! It's a familiar name, and a line of great products to make your life and kitchen easier. The good news is - our students get to keep a large percentage of the sales from whatever you buy!



What's that, you say? You don't think you'll have all your shopping done by December 7th? You won't have any gifts to wrap that day? Well, I've got great news for you: our students will also be wrapping gifts on all the other Sundays in December! Every Sunday before Christmas,

bring your gifts, and pay us to wrap them instead of doing it yourself. It's just another service we offer on our quest to make it all the way to Detroit for the 2015 Youth Gathering!

### Lutherhill Sr. High Retreat

February 20-22, 2015

We are called to justly serve our neighbors, compassionately love, and to intentionally walk with our God. At the Sr. High Retreat weekend we will explore the theme, "Act, Love, Walk," through inspiring worships, small group discussions, and Lutherhill activities. Students in 9-12th grade are invited to grow in their faith during an awesome, fun-filled weekend. The weekend's activities include:

- Three sessions with our speaker for the weekend followed by small group discussion facilitated by Lutherhill staff
- A band that will lead praise and worship music throughout the weekend
- Afternoon activities such as the ropes course, arts & crafts, and archery
- A Polar Bear Swim and S'mores

As per our policy - the cost for this retreat is only \$35 for each student who wants to attend. If you are interested in a scholarship to cover the \$35, please mention it to J.T. or Pastor Jim. Sign up today on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

### College Night at Nino's

Every year - college and grad school students look forward to one night in particular. A night when all of their hopes and dreams find their culmination in one place, for one reason, through one man. That place? Nino's. That reason? Full bellies of delicious food. That man? Pastor Jim Giannantonio. College night at Nino's is a time-honored tradition at Christ The Servant. One that people prolong their college careers so they can continue to be a part of. This year, College Night is December 29, 2015. If you're a college or grad student, join Pastor Jim that night for a celebration of great food, and a break from school. Best of all, it's entirely FREE! I enrolled in some Seminary classes just so I could go. If you want to join us, let J.T. or Pastor Jim know, and we'll make sure we have a chair for you!

## POINSETTIA ORDERS



It's time to order poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex on December 7 and 14. The cost is \$8.50 per plant.

## STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT



### FEARLESS *Generosity*

THANKS to all of you who have made financial pledges for 2015 by completing Financial Commitment forms!

By pledging your financial commitment, we can continue to accomplish good things together as we share our mission – living our name with passion and purpose.

If you have not yet completed a Financial Commitment form, it's not too late! There are extras in the Narthex. Just complete and put in the offering plate.



Thank you again for your faithfulness!

## FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2014

	<u>Oct 31, 2014</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$58,819	\$524,968
Total Expenses	\$59,500	\$507,057
Surplus/Loss	(\$681)	\$17,911



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Last month we shared the first portion of a recent article containing some valuable information we'd like to share with the congregation. Here is the second section on why hymnals are important symbols for worshipping congregations:

### 15 Reasons Why We Should Still Be Using Hymnals

by Jonathan Aigner at [www.theologyinworship.com](http://www.theologyinworship.com)

6. Hymnals don't screw things up. Unless some kid has ripped the page out of your hymnal, you know the hymn you're looking for is going to be there. Technology lets us down all the time, and if it happens in the middle of a song or hymn, you're sunk.



7. Hymnals are as helpful as the singer needs them to be. It's hard to ignore a screen, no matter how well I know the song being sung. Its mere presence sends most people into a trance. There are times I must pay close attention to the hymnal. I recently sang the hymn "Ye watchers and ye holy ones" in a service. I know of the hymn, and I know LASST UNS ERFREUEN, but I didn't grow up singing it. I had to follow the entire time. I needed the hymnal. Last Saturday, I sang in the choir for a funeral. It was a beautiful service; a reflection on a life well-lived in service of the kingdom. When it came time for the final hymn, "Blessed Assurance," I rose, opened the hymnal, and held it out, but didn't look at it once. I long ago internalized every note and word of this hymn. I was free to look out into the congregation, making eye contact, sharing the ethos of the experience with others.

8. Hymnals are a theological textbook. There is no perfect hymnal, but well-crafted hymnals are reliable sources of theological information.

9. Hymnals involve tactile action. Hymnals make the people work. Picking up the hymnal, finding the right page, and holding it up to sing grounds you in time and space. Feeling the weight in your hand engages you in the activity more than staring at a screen ever could.

10. Hymnals are not particularly distracting. Screens are actually very difficult to follow. Whenever I'm forced to read a projected text, I am so easily lost in the colors, backgrounds, and movements. I find myself anticipating when the next slide will be advanced. When I'm using a hymnal, none of that comes into play. I have the words and music, and I don't even have to worry about turning the page.



### 2015 FLOWER CHART

The 2015 Flower Chart is hanging in the Narthex. Sign up for the Sundays you want. Single bouquets are \$25. To donate both arrangements, the cost is \$50.



## SAVE THE DATE! NEW DIRECTORY COMING!

Photographs for the new edition of the CTS Directory will be taken February 4-7, 2015. Keep one of those days free to get your picture taken!



## CANCARE NEEDS YOUR HELP

CanCare will be stuffing packets for the 2014 Houston Marathon/Half Marathon and 5K on Friday, January 9 and Saturday, January 10 at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church. We will be stuffing approximately 30,000 packets and would appreciate any help you can provide. Shifts are:

Friday - 9-12, 12-3, 3-6,  
Saturday - 9-12, 12-3, and 3-6.

It is not necessary for you to show up for an entire shift.

This is a fundraiser for CanCare, a network of trained volunteers including cancer survivors, family members of cancer survivors and medical professionals who provide emotional support to others facing cancer. If you would like to be part of this fun event, please contact Nan McCreary at [nanmccreary@earthlink.net](mailto:nanmccreary@earthlink.net) or 281-497-7927.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Sandra **Barr**, sister-in-law of June and Harvey **Jacobson**

Karen **Bauer**

Eric **Booth**, brother-in-law of Ron **Herbanek**

Norma **Dodenhoff**, mother of Louise **Hauser**

Michelle **Ernst**, friend of Bill and Nancie **Blair**

Gary **Ernsting**, brother of Susan **Kramer**

Tena **Goedecke**, step-mother of Kurt **Goedecke**

Curtis **Goedecke**, father of Kurt **Goedecke**

Jim **Harley**, friend of Paul **Richard**

Michael **Small**, nephew of Louise **Hauser**

**Lauren**, friend of Joanne **Dumler**

Vivian **Johnson**

Rosamond **Landry**

Julie **Martin**, sister-in-law of Larry **Henderson**

Mary **Merriwether**, family friend of Ron and Marti **Hatcher**

Jeff **Hofmeister**, relative of Susan **Kramer**

Walter **Milke**, brother of Bob **Milke**

Alicia **Porras**, mother-in-law of Tamara **Porras**

Charles **Ross**, father of Pam **Krueger**

Linda **Saunders**

Valarie **Schick**, granddaughter of Bill and Nancie **Blair**

Mary Ann **Shabunas**, mother of Mary **Hiestand**  
Doris **Stange**

Barbara **Stelly**, Michelle **Stelly's** mother

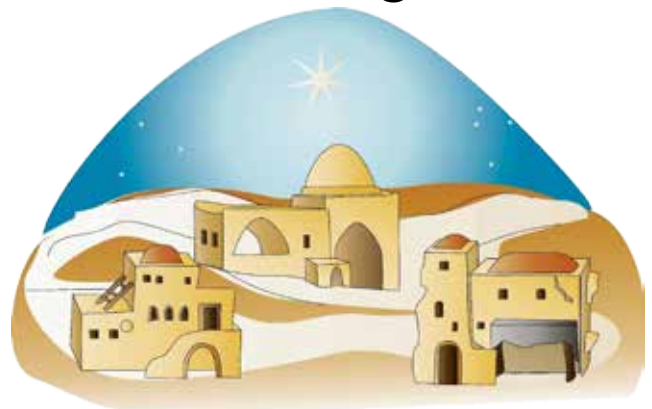
Marjorie **Swartz**, Julie **Heil's** mother

Bettie **Taylor**, friend of Bitsy **Muse**

**Zachary**, grandson of Bitsy **Muse**

Richard, Sandy and Ricky **Wilson**, relatives of Phylis **Karas**

**If you would like to add a name or take a name off the Prayer List, please call Betsy or email her at the church office 713.784-6620 or [ctsoffice1@comcast.net](mailto:ctsoffice1@comcast.net)**



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Christina Dittrich  
Austin Beaver – child
- 3 Tom Wolfe  
Shane Torkelson
- 5 Michael Booth – infant
- 6 Pat Hogan-Korge  
Helen Wolf
- 7 Randy Collins
- 9 Catherine Shoenfelt
- 11 Evan Welborn
- 14 Bob Cox
- 15 Lela Ninman
- 17 Dana Herbanek
- 18 Ethel Kijimiyo
- 19 Emaa Ezebuiro – child
- 20 Bernice Ribe
- 22 Mary Hiestand  
Barbara Key  
Karen Taylor
- 23 Carl Teegerstrom
- 24 Mike Karas  
Allen Murawski  
Salome Mvungi  
Anna Wilhelm
- 27 Rosalie Fontenet  
Jennifer Beaver
- 28 Brian Gillespey
- 29 Reginald Mbowe
- 30 Ron Herbanek
- 31 Donna Schneider



## 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  
jasonthomas0619@gmail.com

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

John Krueger  
ctschoir1@comcast.net

### NURSERY CAREGIVER

Laura Ripkowski

### SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma 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)**

**January newsletter information deadline is:**

**December 15**

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



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Lon and Fay Hileman
- 8 Andy and Christy Iversen
- 11 Robert and Pam Milke
- 15 Clement and Dorcas Ukpe
- 17 LeRoy and Karen Bauer
- 20 Joel and Anyu Ulomi
- 27 Tom and Judy Wolfe
- 29 Karl and Susan Kramer



# DECEMBER 2014

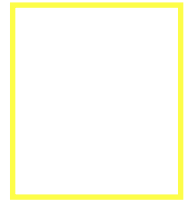


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education- Sunday Classes for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.	<b>3:30-6:30</b> Homeless Ministry	<b>2</b> 5:30 WHAM ESL	<b>3</b>  6:00 Soup Supper 7:15 Advent Service 7:30 AA Journey	<b>4</b> 5:30 WHAM ESL	<b>5</b> 11:00 WHAM ESL 6:00 Angel Break- fast set-up	<b>6</b>  9-11 a.m. Angel Breakfast
<b>7</b> Christmas Market  12:30 Annual Congregational Meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9 5:30 WHAM ESL</b> 6:00 Youth & Fellow- ship Meeting 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting 7:00 Bible Study	<b>10</b>  6:00 Soup Supper 7:15 Advent Service 7:30 AA Journey	<b>11</b> 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Council	<b>12</b> 11:00 WHAM ESL	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Sunday School Christmas Party  WHAM Toy Drop-off	<b>15</b>  WHAM Toy Distribution 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  6:00 Soup Supper 7:15 Advent Service 7:30 AA Journey	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 11:00 WHAM ESL	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> No Sunday School	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00 Bible Study No ESL	<b>24</b> Office Closed  Christmas Eve Services 5:00, 7:30, 11:00 7:30 AA Journey	<b>25</b> Office Closed 	<b>26</b> No WHAM ESL	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> No Sunday School	<b>29</b> Altar Guild Clean- up 7:00 College Night at Nino's	<b>30</b> No WHAM ESL	<b>31</b>  Happy New Year! 7:30 AA Journey	 <i>come let us adore him</i>		

INTERMISSION  
DECEMBER 2014

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

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



## 2014 COUNCIL MEMBERS

**President:** Carolyn Kirk  
**Vice President:** Karen Welborn      **At Large:** Matt Grant  
**Secretary:** John Shoemaker      **At Large:** Tina Blockhus  
**Treasurer:** Mickey Walters      **At Large:** Bill Blair  
**Financial Secretary:** Jocelyn Johnson      **At Large:** David Stallwitz

Acolytes  
Adult Christian Ed  
Altar Guild  
Care Team  
College Ministry  
Disaster Response Team  
Family Aid Ministry  
Fellowship Committee  
Greeters  
Homeless Ministry  
Ladies Dinner Group  
Lawn Care  
Lectors, CTS Players  
Liturgical Assistants

Mary Beth Teegerstrom  
Mary Beth Teegerstrom  
Lori Wood  
Arnie Kaestner  
Linda Shoemaker, Linda Siegele  
Mike Karas  
Carolyn Giannantonio  
Rosalie Fontenot  
Donna Schneider  
Shirley Downing  
Mickey Walters  
Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson  
Carolyn Kirk, Matt Grant  
Mary Beth Teegerstrom

Memorial Service Coordinator  
Men Who Love Spaghetti  
Opportunity Endowment Fund  
Personnel  
Prayer Chain  
Property  
Sound Team  
  
Stewardship  
Ushers  
  
WHAM Representatives  
Worship and Music  
Youth Fellowship

Linda Iversen  
Roger Cutler  
Carrie Stallwitz  
Karen Welborn  
Judi Leisk  
Brent Brown, Ron Herbanek  
TBA 8:00 Service  
Brent Brown-11:00 Service  
Carolyn Kirk  
8:00 Russell Farmer,  
11:00 Pat Welborn  
Doug Hanson, Phylis Karas  
Tamara Porras  
Michele Byrnes, Vicki Williams