

# INTERMISSION

## LENT BEGINS IN FEBRUARY

*Please join us!*

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, February 17, 5:30-7:30**

**Ash Wednesday Service, February 18, 7:15**

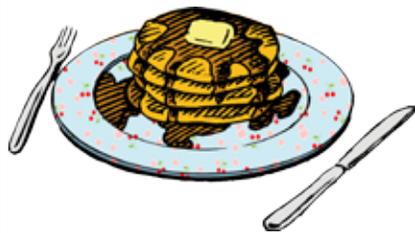
**Lenten Soup Suppers, Wednesdays beginning February 25**

**Midweek Lenten Services, Wednesdays beginning February 25, 7:15**



### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 17, 5:30-7:30PM

Pancakes are associated with this day preceding Lent because they were a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk and sugar before the fasting season of the 40



days of Lent. Join us as we celebrate this day with good food and fellowship.

Help will be needed for set-up, cooking and clean-up. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the narthex.

### Lenten Soup Suppers

#### Wednesday nights from 6-7 before the Lenten Services

Please make plans to join us for some good food and fellowship.

We need 5 people to bring soup and 5 people to bring bread.

We also need people to volunteer to help set up and to help with clean up.

Sign-up sheets will be available later in the month so you can be a part of Wednesday evenings beginning February 25.



## FINANCIAL REPORT END OF YEAR 2015

### Year to Date

Total Income	\$642,161
Total Expenses	\$589,751
Surplus	\$52,410



2015 Council. Standing from left are Mickey Walters, treasurer; Rosalie Fontenot, member-at-large; Ron Herbanek, financial secretary; Bruce Palfreyman, member-at-large; Pastor Jim; Bill Blair, member-at-large; John Shoemaker, secretary. Seated are Kathy Riggs, president and Kevin Scace, vice president. Not pictured is David Stallwitz, member-at-large.

## COUNCIL CORNER

As your newly-elected council president, I presided over this year's first council meeting on January 22. There were also other new faces in attendance and, thankfully, some returning members who helped soften the rite of initiation for us "newbies." As a team we are committed to deal with issues that rise to our agenda each second Thursday. Our role is to gather and manage the church's resources to help keep the entire operation functioning. The church "operation" consists primarily of: 1) worship and ministry within our congregation, 2) outreach of faith beyond our congregation and 3) facility, administration and salaries. The "resources" with which we are abundantly blessed consist of: a) people who are bright and earnest leaders and worshippers, b) financial strength and c) the grace of God among us.

A typical meeting of council consists of discussing routine business matters and addressing needs or initiatives. We are presented by Treasurer Mickey Walters with the church's financial status of assets, liabilities and spending. Then we review Financial Secretary Ron Herbanek's reports of income and attendance compared to budgeted projections and attendance history. We also receive reports from our Director of Music John Krueger and Director of Youth and Family Ministry J.T. Thomas. Next we hear Pastor's report on his ministering and educational activities of the past month. He shares his perspective on the congregational pulse in the context of God's teachings and the mission of CTS – Living our Name with Passion and Purpose.

January's key agenda items included:

- After all bills were paid, we ended 2014 with excess funds just over \$50,000 to add to our "cushion" in the bank.
- Council is launching an important assessment of our finances to see how much and in what way we can redirect some of this money to further support our mission. As a congregation, we are blessed to be financially healthy, and we intend to share those blessings.
- Member-At-Large Bruce Palfreyman will gather some facts on the advisability of adding WIFI to areas beyond the office and conference rooms.
- Former council member Matt Grant is having our sound system checked out for needed corrections and upgrades.
- Office Administrator Betsy Riggs is facilitating repairs to a few roof leaks.

Your 2015 church council team is committed to deal with the issues that rise to our agenda every second Thursday. I have asked the members of council to join me in raising awareness of its makeup and purpose. Be prepared that you will see and hear more about who we are and what we do.....with God's help and guidance.

Kathy Riggs, Council President 2015

## YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

### Sr. High Retreat at Camp Lutherhill February 20-22, 2015 - \$35

We are called to justly serve our neighbors, compassionately love, and to intentionally walk with our God. At the Sr. High Retreat we will explore the theme, "Act, Love, Walk," through inspiring worships, small group discussions, and Lutherhill activities. Although the retreat is specifically for High School students, Lutherhill has given permission from CTS students in 6-12th grade to attend. All 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

We will leave from Christ The Servant on Friday, February 20th at 4 p.m.

Each student must register individually on the Camp Lutherhill website. Don't pay anything there. Please pay your \$35 to the church, and we will make sure your registration is taken care of.

Visit the Retreat page on our church's website, or go directly to [www.christtheservant.net/SrHiRetreat](http://www.christtheservant.net/SrHiRetreat) for a link to the online registration.

### Advisory Teams

January saw two very productive meetings of the brand new Student and Children's Advisory Teams. At only their first meetings, those teams worked to develop a list of characteristics we hope every student that goes through the ministries of Christ The Servant will embody. They are doing great work on behalf of the congregation to shape Youth and Family Ministry into something great!

The next meetings will be the second full week of February:

- Student Advisory Team (SAT) will meet at 6pm on February 10.
- Children's Advisory Team (CAT) will meet at 6pm on February 12th.

### Fundraising

Big thanks to everybody who participated in our many various fundraisers during the holiday season. Because of you and your generosity we were able to bring in several thousand dollars, most of which will stay right here in our congregation to help our High Schoolers attend the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit. We still have a long way to go before we reach our goal, and after a short breather - we have more fundraising fun on the horizon. Keep your eyes open for new creative ways to help us out. As always, your gifts are an investment in the lives of our students, and the future of our church, and as such, are always appreciated.



Has your child been to Sunday School yet?

If they haven't, there's no better time to check it out than THIS SUNDAY. Our team of great teachers has something fun and interesting for kids of all ages. Classes are every Sunday Morning at 9:30 a.m. in the classrooms in the fellowship hall. We've been expecting you!

### STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT



#### Followers of the Way

Christians were first called "followers of the Way." That symbolizes a lifestyle – a way of being – that Jesus embraced and embodied. When you follow the Way, you follow peace and justice and healing.

Sometimes as Jesus's followers today, we want to keep Jesus in a box because it's safer that way. But practicing our faith isn't just a nice little thing to do. It isn't always easy. Jesus might be saying to us, "Give your money somewhere beyond your comfort level." Jesus may say, "I don't need your money; I need your time." Jesus may say, "You give, but you have issues with prejudice. You need to work on that."

Being followers of the Way is more than writing a check. It's also about sharing your spiritual gifts. It's about sharing your time. It's about sharing yourself. Caring, sharing and outreach...let's all be "followers of the Way."

Carolyn Kirk, Stewardship Team



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Genesis 3:19

Ash Wednesday is February 18<sup>th</sup>! It feels like we just finished Christmas and now we must turn our attention to the dark days of Lent leading up to the celebration of Easter. After such a whirlwind holiday season, it is a relief to slow down and focus our hearts and minds on the journey of the One who died for our sins. We can take time to experience the dark before the dawn and face our own humanity during Lent. Why focus on the darkness? Because it is still within us. Sin dwells in us, we carry that darkness daily. We know that, like his disciples, we probably would've fallen asleep in the garden or denied knowing him as he was sentenced to death. Lent gives us a chance to place ourselves within the passion story and experience the darkness as Jesus and his disciples did. Everyone journeys through these forty days differently and has their own way of reflecting on the meaning of Lent. Take time to reflect on your place in the passion story and keep your eyes on the cross.

Yours in Christ,  
Tami Porras  
Worship & Music Chairperson

Upcoming dates:

February 18<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday  
Lenten Mid-Week services every Wednesday in  
Lent preceded by a Soup Supper  
Lenten Mid-Week Theme – “Singing with the  
Exiles”



## HOMELESS MINISTRY

The Homeless Ministry extends our special thanks to the congregation for helping us obtain a new freezer and for help in purchasing meat for the sandwiches when the Houston Food Bank did not have any available.

The homeless like the meat sandwiches and many cannot eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. However, we make 220 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches a month for one of the labor halls. The guys like to take them to work the next day.

The Houston Food Bank now has the Tyson 12 pound packages of turkey/ham sliced luncheon meat that we normally receive and our freezer is now full. Each package only costs \$2.28 – amazing when compared to purchasing bologna in the grocery store.

We appreciate your willingness to help us keep supplied with the plastic grocery bags, jelly, mustard and sandwich bags – this saves our funds for purchasing the food items for the lunches through the Houston Food Bank, if available. Otherwise we have a couple of members who have accounts at Costco and they purchase the snack items that we pay for. We provide 2 sandwiches, 2 nutritional snacks, i.e., apple-sauce or raisins, snack bars – cereal, granola and a bottle of water. We currently are making 832 lunches a month, which equals 1884 sandwiches a month. In addition we provide toiletries twice a month: tooth-paste, toothbrush, shampoo, conditioner, soap and special bags of toiletries for the women on the street (usually 5 – 20 each time we go downtown).

2014 was a busy year for the homeless – we gave out 9,641 lunches, 23,059 sandwiches and fed approximately 5,800 people for the year. We gave out 3,586 toiletry packages (194 for women and 3,392 for men), faithfully put together by Mike and Phylis Karas

**Our annual garage sale for 2015 is Saturday, March 21.** All during the week of March 15 we will be accepting donations for the garage sale.

Thank you for giving of yourselves by coming on Mondays, making the lunches, providing supplies needed, doing shopping for us, helping to unload trucks, making toiletry packages, picking up bread and more importantly caring to help those less fortunate that have no home.

Shirley Downing

281-684-2752

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Sandra **Barr**, sister-in-law of June and Harvey **Jacobson**  
 Karen **Bauer**  
 Eric **Booth**, brother-in-law of Ron **Herbanek**  
 Reid **Burrell** and the **Burrell Family**, friends of  
 Vanita **Homer**  
 Norma **Dodenhoff**, mother of Louise **Hauser**  
 Michelle **Ernst**, friend of Bill and Nancie **Blair**  
 Gary **Ernsting**, brother of Susan **Kramer**  
 Heidi **Farmer**, sister-in-law of Russell **Farmer**  
 Tena **Goedecke**, step-mother of Kurt **Goedecke**  
 Curtis **Goedecke**, father of Kurt **Goedecke**  
 Jim **Harley**, friend of Paul **Richard**  
 Linda **Heyne**, cousin of Michelle **Stelly**  
 Roxanne **Hymel**, friend of Michele **Byrnes**  
 Michael **Small**, nephew of Louise **Hauser**  
 Vivian **Johnson**  
 Rosamond **Landry**  
 Mary **Merriwether**, family friend of Ron and  
 Marti **Hatcher**  
 Jeff **Hoffmeister**, relative of Susan **Kramer**  
 Walter **Milke**, brother of Bob **Milke**  
 Alicia **Porras**, mother-in-law of Tamara **Porras**  
**Arianna Ross**, niece of Tamara **Porras**  
 Charles **Ross**, father of Pam **Krueger**  
 Valarie **Schick**, granddaughter of Bill and Nancie  
**Blair**  
 Mary Ann **Shabunas**, mother of Mary **Hiestand**  
 Doris **Stange**  
 Barbara **Stelly**, mother of Michelle **Stelly**  
 Shelby **StPierre**, friend of Michele **Byrnes**  
 Marjorie **Swartz**, mother of Julie **Heil**  
 Bettie **Taylor**, friend of Bitsy **Muse**  
 Pat **Welborn**  
 Paul **Williams**  
**Zachary**, grandson of Bitsy **Muse**  
 Richard, Sandy and Ricky **Wilson**, relatives of  
 Phylis **Karas**

**If you would like to add a name or remove a name from the Prayer List, please call Betsy or email her at the church office: 713-784-6620 or ctsoffice1@comcast.net**

## FREE TAX PREPARATION AVAILABLE

AARP, working with the IRS again, is preparing free tax returns in February, March and up to April 15.

Help is available at many local Libraries with starting times such as:

Kendall Library :  
 609 N Eldridge  
 Wed 12-4 + Sat 10-2  
 Robinson-Westchase Library  
 223 Wilcrest  
 Tue 1-5 + Wed 1-5  
 Hillendahl Library  
 436 Gessner  
 Wed 11-3 + Thurs 1-5  
 Alief Library  
 7979 South Kirkwood  
 Wed 12-4  
 Katherine Tyra Library  
 Clay Rd.  
 Tue 1-5 + Fri 1-5

Sessions are for 4 hours from the noted starting times.

Participants MUST have a Photo ID, a Social Security Card or a Year-End Social Security Statement. For deposits of refunds you will need a blank check.

NEW this year for Affordable Care Participants: you will need your 1095A Form from your insurance company.

Please feel free to take advantage of this if you like, and let your friends & neighbors know as well. There are over 50 sites in the area, so check your local library for others.

If you have questions, please phone Dave Deeds at 281-558-3818





## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Bob and Judi Leisk
- 2 Fred and Pat Korge
- 9 Dick and Joan Gardell
- 14 Larry Henderson/Michele Sanchez
- 27 Archie and Ruby Sadler
- 28 Kelly and Lauren Ryan



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Peter Lares
- 3 Carla Abonce – child
- 4 Lucky Srinivasan
- 6 Hunter Heil
- 9 DJ Blockhus
- 10 LeRoy Bauer
- James Thomas – child
- 12 Susan Sutton
- 13 Thomas Goedecke
- Case Iversen
- 14 Austin Hanson
- Lauren Dumler
- 16 Paula Ruskan
- 18 Jonathan Collins
- Elizabeth Collins
- 20 Max Dumler
- 21 Jerry Myers
- 22 Vicki Rudolph Williams
- Kristian Teegerstrom
- 23 Jim Burkett
- 25 Bobbie Miner



## 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)**

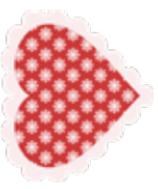
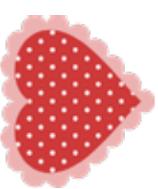
**February newsletter information deadline is:  
February 15**

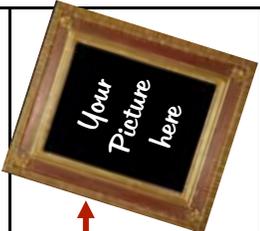
Please submit information and articles in **MSWord documents** to Laura Wilhelm at **lvwilhelm@comcast.net**

Information may be edited to available space.

# FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

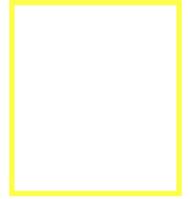
<b>Sunday</b> Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education- Sunday Classes for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.	<b>Monday</b> 	<b>Tuesday</b> 	<b>Wednesday</b> 	<b>Thursday</b> 	<b>Friday</b> 	<b>Saturday</b> 
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	<b>3</b> 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Bible Study Conference	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
			← Life Touch pictures taken →			
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:30 WHAM ESL 6:00 SAT 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:30 AA Journey	<b>12</b> 5:30 WHAM ESL 6:00 CAT 7:00 Council	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	<b>17</b> 5:30 WHAM ESL 5:30-7:30 Pancake Supper 7:00 Bible Study Conference	<b>18</b> 7:15 Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 AA Journey	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 Altar Guild  
<b>22</b> Care Team Meeting  Senior High Lutherhill Retreat	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 WHAM ESL	<b>25</b> 6:00 Soup Supper 7:15 Midweek Lenten Service 7:30 AA Journey	<b>26</b> 5:30 WHAM ESL	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>



INTERMISSION  
FEBRUARY 2015

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

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



## 2015 COUNCIL MEMBERS

**President: Kathy Riggs**  
**Vice President: Kevin Scace**      **At Large: Rosalie Fontenot**  
**Secretary: John Shoemaker**      **At Large: Bruce Palfreyman**  
**Treasurer: Mickey Walters**      **At Large: Bill Blair**  
**Financial Secretary: Ron Herbanek**      **At Large: David Stallwitz**

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS, GROUP LEADERS, CONTACT PEOPLE

Acolytes	Mary Beth Teegerstrom	Memorial Service Coordinator	Linda Iversen
Adult Christian Ed	Mary Beth Teegerstrom	Men Who Love Spaghetti	Roger Cutler
Altar Guild	Lori Wood	Opportunity Endowment Fund	Carrie Stallwitz
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer	Personnel	Karen Welborn
Care Team	Arnie Kaestner	Prayer Chain	Judi Leisk
College Ministry	Linda Shoemaker, Linda Siegele	Property	Brent Brown, Ron Herbanek
Disaster Response Team	Mike Karas	Sound Team	TBA 8:00 Service
Family Aid Ministry	Carolyn Giannantonio	Stewardship	Brent Brown-11:00 Service
Fellowship Committee	Rosalie Fontenot	Ushers	Carolyn Kirk
Greeters	Donna Schneider	WHAM Representatives	8:00 Russell Farmer
Homeless Ministry	Shirley Downing	Worship and Music	11:00 Pat Welborn
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters	Youth Fellowship	Doug Hanson, Phylis Karas
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson		Tamara Porras
Lectors, CTS Players	Carolyn Kirk, Matt Grant		Michele Byrnes, Vicki Williams
Liturgical Assistants	Mary Beth Teegerstrom		