

COUNCIL COMMENTARY

About 50 people attended the annual meeting of the congregation on December 4. One of the most important functions of that meeting is the election of key leaders who will participate in CTS business and financial decisions throughout the coming year. Below is the impressive slate of nominees who were elected at the meeting.

Nominees for these positions of leadership are carefully chosen by a nominating committee which is also elected each year. This year's nominating committee had quite a challenge identifying available individuals to fill eleven positions opening in 2017. Each one of these individuals had to be sought out, interviewed and briefed extensively before being presented for election. A BIG THANK YOU is in order for this year's nominating committee -- Carolyn Kirk, Ben Moore and David Stallwitz.

I am grateful to each of these newly elected individuals for the energy and wisdom they will bring to the infrastructure of our church business and facility. Please offer them your congratulations, your support of their efforts and your prayers for God's guidance as they fulfill their responsibilities. And the winners are.....

2017 Elected Representatives

Church Council

President	David Stallwitz
President-elect	Kyle Cooper (2 yrs)
Secretary	Ken Smith
Treasurer	Susan Collins (2 yrs)
Financial Secretary	Samantha Clark
At Large	Linda Siegele
At Large	Bryant King

Returning Members of Council

Pastor Jim

At Large – Rosalie Fontenot

At Large – Brent Brown

Opportunity Endowment Committee

Member- Mike Sweet (3 yrs)

Returning Members of the Committee

Laura Wilhelm, Chairperson (3 of 3)

Nancie Blair (2 of 3)

Mike Iversen (2 of 3)

Pastor Jim

Congregation Treasurer (Susan Collins)

2017 Nominating Committee

DJ Blockhus

Arnie Kaestner

Linda Iversen

A Fond Farewell

The 2016 Church Council was an assemblage of talented and dedicated "servants" who worked together extremely well as they gathered 'round the conference table on the second Thursday each month. Being involved with the church "from the inside out" tends to forge a special type of bond among Council members – and it's good. As Council President for the past two years, I am thankful for the time and thoughtful exchanges I was able to share with Kevin Scace, John Shoemaker, Brent Brown, Rosalie Fontenot, Bruce Palfreyman, Inga Carlson, Mickey Walters and Ron Herbanek, as well as Pastor Jim, JT, John and Betsy.

In the future if you are ever approached by a nominating committee member, and are asked to serve in a leader capacity, please take advantage of the opportunity to give of yourself in this special way! Respectfully,

Kathy Riggs

Council President 2015-16

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 2016

- Average attendance is up 9 people per Sunday over 2015
- Giving averaged \$13,300/week
- Only \$11,800 is needed each week to meet expenses

Income	\$662,928
Expenses	<u>\$623,369</u>

Surplus	\$ 39,559
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STAFF NOTE

For those of you who partake of coffee and cookies in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning -- you'll soon notice a new face there. Please stop by the kitchen and say hello to Janet! Janet joined us recently as a temporary replacement for our porter, Sulma Cruz. Sulma, who has been with us for 11 years, will be absent for a while in order to take care of personal business. We look forward to welcoming Sulma back on April 2.

GREETER REPORT FOR 2016

Welcome to Worship!

Many Many Thanks to the 99 individuals/family groups (some of you multiple times) who participated as Greeters for some 120 Sunday/Special Services at CTS in 2016.

Greeters are now being scheduled for 2017. I encourage you to be a part of this important ministry at Christ the Servant. An opportunity to answer the call to service is available to anyone who is willing to give 15 minutes of his/her time to greet members and visitors who choose to worship at CTS. A warm smile and a handshake are the only requirements. A reminder letter will be sent to you along with a nametag for you to wear. Many positions are filled by my phone calls to you. If you would like to be a Greeter and have not been contacted by me, please feel free to call me and together we will find an opening in your busy schedule so you can participate as a Greeter. Or, alternatively, leave word with Betsy in the Church Office.

Donna L. Schneider
Greeter Chairperson
713-465-8108 (home)

Epiphany - January 6



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Now that the Christmas season is winding down, we get a chance to catch our collective breath for a few weeks. Since Easter is late this year (April 16), we will have an extended “green” season early this year. The color green early in the year signifies the Epiphany season – the work of Christ on earth. Later, it signifies the season of Pentecost – the work of the church on earth. In both cases, the focus is on “doing,” at which Christ the Servant is exceptional. The music program at Christ the Servant will stay busy as well. As the calendar rolls into 2017, we are now in the 500th anniversary year of the Reformation. For our part, we will be doing three Reformation Evening Prayer services. The first is on January 15 – a 4:00 p.m. service at Memorial Drive Lutheran. This service bears the title “Holiday Music,” and will look at Luther’s music for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The choirs will return to Christ the Servant on March 19 for a look at “Luther’s Catechism in Song.” Luther wrote hymns about each part of the catechism, and the ELCA has asked its congregations to look at the catechism during Lent (as we will), and doing so by way of Luther’s music is a natural thing to do. The third program is tentatively scheduled for May 21 at MDLC.

I will be attending two conferences in January – one in Ft. Wayne and the Tri-synodical conference in Austin. I have also submitted an abstract for a paper on Luther’s communion hymns to Societas Liturgica. If accepted, it will be presented at the University of Leuven (Belgium) in August. This will be plenty to keep us busy during a season of rest.

John Krueger

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Trey Iversen
- 3 Gabriel Lares
- 6 John Mfungo
- 7 Renee Guillroy
- 9 Joan Herbanek
Bruce Palfreyman
Clara Shoemaker
- 16 Tina Blockhus
Mike Saunders
Joan Nilsen
- 21 Anyu Ulomi
- 22 Lon Hileman
Heiwet Keflom
- 23 Marcy Williams
- 24 Phyllis Richard
- 31 Sandy Wills
Dylan Ulomi



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- 7 Chandler and Laura Wilhelm
- 9 Richard and Denise Carlson
- 16 Richard Caldwell and Barbara Stuckey

The HighPatheticals
The Reunion Tour Continues
Friday, January 13
7:00 pm

Christ the King Lutheran Church
2353 Rice Blvd Houston TX 77005
ctkelc.org

And for your further satisfaction:
Beer, Food, Tees, Swag, Who knows what else?!

The HighPatheticals! The Best Kick-Ass Lutheran Rock n Roll Band since Luther Nailed It!




PRAYER REQUESTS

David **Aguilar**, friend of Bitsy **Muse**
Kevin and Nicki **Bailey**, friends of Ken **Smith**
Todd **Ballengee**, friend of Sandy **Wills**
Karen **Bauer**
Eric **Booth**, brother-in-law of Ron **Herbanek**
Jolie **Brown**, stepmother of Elizabeth **Brown**
Tommy **Bunn**, friend of Mike **Davenport**
Haily **Callihan**, grandchild of Karen and LeRoy
Bauer
Noah **Conde**, grandson of Jairo and Ruby
Quintero
Hector **Esparza**, husband of Debbie **Esparza**
Family of Joan **Gardell**
Phoebe **Gilchrist**, friend of Cheryl **Skillman**
Dale and Nellie **Hagen**, parents of Inga **Carlson**
Michael **Harbin**, grandson of Helen **Earnest**
Rev. Arlyn **Hausmann**, brother of Vanita **Homer**
Vanita **Homer**
Tom and Fawn **Hood**, friends of Tim and Karen
Murawski
Vivian **Johnson**
Kathy **Keith**, daughter of Connie **Lape** and friend
of Joan **Herbanek**
Stephanie **Lambert**, friend of Betty **Boxx**
Jerry **Lang**, brother of Nancie **Blair**
Jason **Leif**, friend of the **Stallwitz Family**
Branden **Magruder**, nephew of Tina **Blockhus**
Vicki **Molina**, friend of Nancie **Blair**
Lourdes and **Pepe**, friends of Tom and Sandy
Wills
Marie **Newman**, friend of Tom and Sandy **Wills**
Barbara **Paape**, friend of Ken **Smith**
Cathy **Roberson**, daughter of Jodie **Davis**
Mary Ann **Shabunas**, mother of Mary **Hiestand**
Catherine **Shoenfelt**
Marjorie **Swartz**, mother of Julie **Heil**
Mary Beth **Teegerstrom**
Tina **Williams**, friend of Sandy **Wills**
Zachary, grandson of Bitsy **Muse**

If you would prefer to receive your monthly newsletter via email instead of US Postal mail, please let us know by contacting Betsy in the church office:
ctsoffice1@comcast.net

CHURCH STAFF

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NURSERY CAREGIVER

Amanda Howell
Michelle Sanchez

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma Cruz

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE

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CHURCH OFFICE FAX

713.784-4742

This newsletter and a calendar of church activities are available on the CTS website at:

www.christtheservant.net

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

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

JANUARY 2017

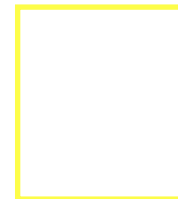


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Office Closed	3 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	4 7:30 AA Journey	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i> 9:00 am to 9:00 pm CanCare Packet Stuffing for Marathon	7 9:00 am to 6:00 pm CanCare Packet Stuffing for Marathon 9:30 Altar Guild
8 12:30 Care Team	9	10	11 7:30 AA Journey	12 7:00 Council	13	14
15 12:30 Care Team Meeting	16 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	17 5:30 WHAM ESL	18 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	19 5:30 WHAM ESL	20	21
22	23	24 5:30 WHAM ESL	25 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	26 5:30 WHAM ESL	27 5:30 WHAM ESL	28
29	30 5:30 WHAM ESL	31				<p>Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education- Sunday Classes for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.</p>

INTERMISSION
JANUARY 2017

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

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



2017 COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: David Stallwitz

President Elect:	Kyle Cooper	At Large:	Rosalie Fontenot
Secretary:	Ken Smith	At Large:	Linda Siegele
Treasurer:	Susan Collins	At Large:	Brent Brown
Financial Secretary:	Samantha Clark	At Large:	Bryant King

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, GROUP LEADERS, CONTACT PEOPLE

Acolytes	Inga Carlson	Memorial Service Coordinator	Linda Iversen
Adult Christian Ed	Mary Beth Teegerstrom	Men Who Love Spaghetti	Roger Cutler
Altar Guild	Lori Wood	Nursery Attendant	Amanda Howell
Brookdale Ministry	Ken Smith, Carolyn Kirk		Assistant: Michelle Sanchez
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer	Opportunity Endowment Fund	Laura Wilhelm
Care Team	Arnie Kaestner	Personnel	Inga Carlson
College Ministry	Linda Shoemaker, Linda Siegele	Prayer Chain	Marti Hatcher
Disaster Response Team	TBA	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	Donna Schneider	Stewardship	Carolyn Kirk
Homeless Ministry	Shirley Downing	Ushers	8:00 Russell Farmer
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters		11:00 Pat Welborn
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson	WHAM Representatives	Arnie Kaestner, Marilee Dittrich
Lectors, CTS Players	Carolyn Kirk, Matt Grant	Worship and Music	Lori Wood
Liturgical Assistants	Mary Beth Teegerstrom/Carolyn Kirk	Youth Fellowship	Michele Byrnes