

Worship

Sunday Morning
Holy Communion
At 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Education

Sunday Morning –
9:15 a.m. for All
Ages:

NO Classes on December

22 or December 29

Children 3 & up –

*Meet in the
Moench Chapel*

Junior High Youth:

Youth Room

High School Youth:

High School Room

Adults – *Fellowship*

Hall

Nursery

Nursery is available for
children who are infants
through 4 years of age
during Sunday morning
worship and the Sunday
School hour.

Office

Monday – Thursday from
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday from

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

210-822-3394

office@clcah.org



Through God's Grace
All are welcome as we joyfully,
Receive...to Give
Learn...to Serve
and Worship...to Grow.

December 2019

From the Pastor

Wait 'till your father comes home!

As a little boy growing up in Minnesota, hearing that phrase presented a threat to my brothers and me. Since our father traveled a great deal in his working years, our mother did a lot of single parenting of three boys who often displayed a certain zest for living that challenged her patience. When she approached the end of that patient manner, she threw down the threat – “wait ‘till your father comes home!” There would be punishment to pay.

There are still those who throw down the same threat with regard to our Creator, and the Lord's initial coming at the Incarnation (Christmas) and coming again at the end of time. I even saw a t-shirt once that communicated that message with a picture of an angry god and the caption, “Jesus is coming ... this time he's (angry).”

In my view, the Christian Gospel is the opposite of that scary threat. Instead of coming to “get us,” I believe the message of Advent, preparing for the coming Messiah, is the good news that God is coming to save us. It certainly isn't something to fear, but that for which I want to be cheerfully ready. Advent give us time to make room for the One who brings us the gift of salvation, the gift beyond measure. This is time to set aside distractions, to reconcile with loved ones or others with whom we need to draw near, to forgive, and be forgiven.

Advent is also the time we look forward to Christ's coming again, at the end of time. Careful of the message that may make this into another threat. If you hear the word “judgment” associated with the Second Coming, remember the Baptismal promise that announced your judgment long ago, when the water and the Word poured over you, your name was spoken, and God decided. “All who believe and are baptized shall be saved,” and that includes you.

Make time this Advent season to “prepare the way of the Lord.” Let go of sins of the past, for they are forgiven. Reconcile with friends and loved ones and be free of the burdens of regret. If you ever heard the threat, “Wait ‘till you father/mother comes home,” let that go, too. Advent is the time to proclaim, “Christ is coming.” It's not a threat – it's a promise!

- Pastor H

Groups

Book Club

First Tuesday
6:45 p.m. – Location TBA

Dominos Group

First Thursday
9:30 a.m. – Fellowship Hall

First Thursday Lunch

First Thursday
12:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall

Gloria Choir

Every Wednesday
5:30 p.m. – Sanctuary

Healing Prayer

1st & 3rd Tuesdays
10:00 a.m. Rode Prayer
Chapel

Joseph's Sons

First Monday
6:30 p.m. – Location TBA

Lydia Circle

Second Tuesday
6:30 p.m. – Primrose House

Men's Breakfast

Second Tuesday
7:00 a.m. – Bill Miller BBQ

Mulligans

Second Tuesday
6:30 p.m. – TBD

Quilters

Every Tuesday
9:00 a.m. – Primrose House

Sanctuary Choir

Every Wednesday
7:00 p.m. – Sanctuary

Soul Sisters

Second Thursday
7:00 p.m. – Julian's

Other groups meet during the year. For information, please contact our church office or visit our website www.clcah.org.

Faith University, Sunday Mornings, 9:15 a.m.

December 1, 8: The Christmas Story According to the Gospels

Join Pastor Leslie as together we look at the Christmas Story with a fresh approach, contrasting and comparing how each of the Gospel writers chose to present the story of God's incarnation on earth.

December 15: The Children's Christmas Pageant for all ages in the Sanctuary

December 22 & 29: On break for Christmas!

Lucy Circle

All CLC women who enjoy reading, thoughtful discussion and fellowship are invited to join the Lucy Circle on Sunday, December 8, to talk about the short story, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" by Ursula Le Guin. I can send you a Word doc with this story ... let me know. We'll meet in the CLC Parlor on Sunday, December 8, at 9:15 a.m. We're meeting on this date so we can all cheer on the kiddos for the Children's Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 15 in the Sanctuary.

- Jan Schubert Norris

Hanging of the Greens: December 1, 11:30 a.m.

Listening to Christmas music and hanging boughs of holly really get one in the spirit of things! Add to this fantastic fellowship with good and faithful friends and the joy of beautifying our worship space for the Advent and Christmas seasons and you have our annual tradition of the Hanging of the Greens at CLC. The children are invited to Fellowship Hall to make ornaments for the Christmas tree that adorns our Sanctuary – a special gift for the congregation as we admire their creative art throughout the season. Once the work is done, we gather for tamales and chili in the CrossWay, a fitting reward to end our time together.

Holden Evening Prayer – Advent Wednesdays

We gather in a smaller, more intimate setting in the glory of the Rode Chapel for one of the most beautiful evening services: *Holden Prayer*. As night falls, we proclaim in song and word the faith that has held us fast from generation to generation. Our prayers of hopefulness rise as incense to our God of love, while we remember the grace in which we are held. Join us Wednesdays December 4, 11, and 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Lessons and Carols

We hope you'll join us and bring a friend to a very special "Service of Lessons and Carols" on **Sunday, December 8 at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.** worship hour. This revered Christian tradition is a musical, meditative and inspirational preparation for Advent and the birth of our Lord. We'll be communing in spirit with Christian brothers and sisters around the world who will also celebrate the season in this beautiful manner. We are blessed to have the gifts of Director of Music Ministry, Dr. Dan Long, Organist Matthew Goodson and our CLC Sanctuary Choir to bring this tradition to life for us. It is an extraordinary experience that will give us a reflective and joyful respite from the typical holiday bustle.

Soul Sisters and Mulligans Christmas Party December 12

On Thursday, December 12, at 6:30 p.m., our young men's and women's groups will meet together to do a service project and to celebrate with Christmas cheer. We get to play the part of Santa, checking off his Christmas list, as we will take an inventory of all the toys donated through the Adopt-a-Family program on our Angel Tree. We will check to be sure all gifts are ready for pick-up and delivery. In addition, we will bask in the joy of the season, sharing food and drink, Christmas memories, and more. Please bring an appetizer or other food item to share. We will provide the beer and wine for the festivities. Childcare will be available in the nursery.

Member News

Sympathy to:

- Former member, Beth Hines, on the death of her husband, John, on November 15 in South Carolina.

Baptisms:

- Luke Harrison Boyd and Travis James Boyd, children of Michael and Amanda Boyd and grandchildren of Jim & Michelle Boyd on November 17.

River City Ringers

Are you looking for a local concert this holiday season that is super fun, extremely festive, and guaranteed to get you in the Christmas spirit? River City Ringers Handbell Ensemble is the perfect answer! Come see us at Christ Lutheran on Friday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary as we perform our 2019 concert series: "Glad Tidings We RING!" Take a break from decorating and shopping and come help us celebrate our 15th year of providing entertainment and education on the art of Handbell ringing to San Antonio!

Blue Christmas Service, Sunday, December 22, 5:30 p.m.

Traditionally the colors of Christmas, culturally speaking, are green and red. In the church, the liturgical colors for Christmas are gold and white. But for some, the "most wonderful time of the year" can feel anything but, leading to experience of a blue Christmas, as in "I feel blue this holiday season." Not everyone is up for being happy or cheery during Advent and Christmastime. There are those who grieve the death of a loved one, those who face divorce, separation, and family conflict, those who have lost their job, those who have recently received a troubling diagnosis. All of these and other troubles cause the traditional parties and joyousness associated with the season to be painful for many in our faith community. On Sunday, December 22, we will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a reflective service that meets us where we are and helps us navigate toward healing and hope.

CLC Book Club

Please join us on December 3 at 6:45 p.m. in the Primrose House for a discussion of Next Year in Havana by Chanel Cleeton. This will be our traditional Christmas meeting where we participate in a service project – bringing items to help Agape Ministry, which provides emergency assistance to needy individuals and families. Non-perishable foods, white socks for men, and personal hygiene products are always welcomed.

In January, we will read Every Man Dies Alone by Hans Fallada, translated by Michael Hofmann. I found it for under \$6 online.

- Edna Robbins

Dinner Groups

There is an ongoing waiting list/substitute list for the regular dinner groups. Also, a number of people have requested that we create a group that meets for lunch during the week. The group would likely meet at a restaurant and members would take turns choosing the location. If either of these small groups would be of interest to you, please contact Patti Lynch via e-mail at Lynch01@gvtc.com.

Wellspring Appeal Update

As you know, the beautiful restoration of our Sanctuary this year was funded through generous bequests from an earlier generation of our faith community. As the work was being completed this fall, the Congregation Council asked today's church members to consider gifts to replenish our financial reserves. We are most thankful for the generous support we have received through our Wellspring Appeal. To date we have received gifts totaling \$19,855.

The Wellspring Appeal will continue to accept gifts and pledge payments through the end of this calendar year. Checks should indicate "Wellspring Appeal." You can place your gifts in the Sunday offering plate or send them to the church office.

Some of you have indicated an interest in learning more about legacy giving through your will or estate plans. Gifts of this nature enabled our congregation's previous leadership to create our initial reserve fund. We will hold an information session about these issues during an adult Sunday School class in the new year and invite all who are interested to join us.

Thank you, again, for your prayerful gifts that will help ensure the long-term financial health of our family of faith.

Gloria Choir Children & Youth: (Kinder to 8th Grade)

December 4, 11 & 18: Regular Schedule (PLEASE NOTE DECEMBER 18 IS THE LAST REHEARSAL FOR THE FALL.)

Children will sing at the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 1. Please arrive at the choir risers by 10:00 a.m. on that Sunday.

Save the Date: Children's Choir

Saturday, December 21, the Gloria choir will sing carols on the San Antonio River (yes, we have a river barge). Mrs. Sharon will share more details soon.

Preschool & Elementary Sunday School Schedule

December 1 & December 8: Preschool (3 year olds - Kinder) meet upstairs in the Godly Play Room

December 1 & December 8: (1st to 5th Grade) Pageant Rehearsals in the Children's Chapel

Saturday, December 14: Mandatory Pageant rehearsal for 3 years old through 5th grade in the Sanctuary from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Christmas Break Sunday School Schedule for Children & Youth

There will be **no** Sunday School on Sunday, December 22 and Sunday, December 29 during the Christmas break. We will resume Sunday School for all ages on Sunday, January 5, with our Epiphany party in Fellowship Hall.

Advent Festival for All Ages

Sunday, December 8, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., we will celebrate Advent with a church wide Advent Festival! Children and adults will travel to different stations to participate in fun activities. Stations will include preparing reindeer food, nativity photo op, decorating cookies, making cards for our shut ins, creating ornaments and writing letters to Jesus. Bring your whole family for this special time of fellowship and fun!

Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 15

Come join the children in the church sanctuary on Sunday, December 15, at 9:15 a.m. for the best story ever told, "The Story of Baby Jesus." Afterwards, you can mingle with the cast for refreshments in the CrossWay. This is a wonderful event for all ages.

Important Dates for Children & Youth

- December 1: Children decorate ornaments in Fellowship Hall for the Sanctuary Christmas Tree following the 10:30 a.m. worship service
- December 1: FX3 & The Light - Christmas Shopping for CAM and dinner 5:00 -7:00 p.m.
- December 8: Advent Festival in Fellowship Hall 3:00 -5:00 p.m.
- December 15: Christmas Pageant in the Sanctuary at 9:15 a.m.
- December 15: FX3 & The Light - Christmas Party 5:00 -7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Confirmation Class Schedule

December 1: Review and Catch Up
December 8: Lord's Prayer-7th Petition
December 15: Christmas Pageant/Usher for the Pageant
December 22 & 29: Christmas Break-No Sunday School

FX3 (6th - 8th grades) & The Light (9th - 12th grades)

Our middle and high school youth are invited the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for a special time of faith and fellowship with friends. These evenings will consist of Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and dinner. We will explore scripture in an open conversation to link worship and the Word of God to our everyday lives. Our faith is always growing, so let's grow together! Don't forget to bring a friend!

December 1, we will go Christmas shopping for toys for CAM and head to Whataburger afterwards for dinner. December 15 will be our White Elephant Christmas party. There's lots of fun planned. Be sure not to miss out! Friends are always welcome.

High School Retreat: Save the Date

DATES: February 21-23, 2020 at Camp Chrysalis

“Be (Loved)”

Be yourself and know you are beloved by God. Activities, worship, small group time and free time will be an invitation to let go of doing and practice simply being. You belong with us in the presence of a loving, caring God we know in Jesus. Camp songs, camp fun, campfires, and more will round out the weekend. Youth will stay in cabins with youth from other churches and Cross Trails staff, or an adult from our church. At least one adult from the church is required to be present the entire time. Adults can stay in a cabin with other adults, or with the same gendered youth if they have a Safe Gatherings certificate or the equivalent. Cross Trails requires parents/legal guardians to submit registration for their youth. You can do so through their website.

Praises to:

- All who brought food for our Thanksgiving Food Drive for Agape.
- John Malitz and crew for hanging the Advent banners.
- All who attended the Visitor & New Member Wine & Cheese event and the Welcome Team for doing such a great job of organizing it.
- Hollye Schwartz for the All's Fair sale on November 24.
- Jayme Brown for the wonderful food served at the last several First Thursday Lunch group meetings.
- All of our ushers who have been so flexible and accommodating to all the changes that have been made to the schedule.
- Brandon Albrecht & Lisa Diana for chaperoning the Middle School Retreat.
- Blythe Boeck for helping with Christmas Pageant costumes.
- Greg Murphy for leading the music for Christmas Pageant rehearsals.

Staff

The Rev. Leslie Price
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Howard Stendahl
Pastor

Dana Ferrero
Director of Day School

Becky Richard
*Office Manager &
Accountant*

Dr. Dan Long
Director of Music Ministry

Matthew Goodson
Organist

Mary Villarreal
Youth Choir Director

Sharon Wiedemann
Youth Choir Accompanist

Carrie Jowers
Director of Faith Formation

Brandon Albrecht
*Asst. to Director of Faith
Formation*

Clara Tenorio
*Church "Keeper" &
Nursery Attendant*

Sam Tenorio
Custodian

Jesus Garcia
*Office Administrator &
Sound Tech*

Congregation Council

Robb Decker, *President*

Lori Harris, *Vice Pres.*

Sharon Wiedemann,
Treasurer

Heather Rosenquist,
Secretary

David Hough, *Trustee*

Chris Fida, *Trustee*

Carolyn Dufelmeier,
Trustee

Pastor Leslie Price

Christ Lutheran
Church
6720 Broadway
San Antonio, Texas
78209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #325
San Antonio, TX

**Lessons and Carols
December 8
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

**Advent Sundays
December 1, 15, 22
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

**Advent Wednesdays
December 4, 11, 18
*Holden Evening
Prayer*
6:30 p.m.**

**Blue Christmas
Worship
December 22
5:30 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Services
4:00 p.m. *Child-friendly*
6:00 p.m. *Traditional***

