

Christ
Lutheran
Church

Proclaimer

Worship

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

Education

Sunday Morning -
9:15 a.m. for All

Ages:

Children 3 & up -
*Meet upstairs in their
classrooms*

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.

January 2020

From the Pastor

Traditionally, January is a time when we make resolutions. We resolve to improve certain habits or to reach certain goals. Part of making these resolutions involves assessing where we have room to grow. For example, many of us, after the holidays, realize that we have no more room to grow in our waistlines! So, we resolve to go on a diet or to exercise more. Others of us take a lesson from the frantic pace of the holidays and resolve to slow down and make more room in our schedules for family and dear friends.

It's important for us as a community of faith to think on where we might have room to grow. In 2019, our congregation grieved the loss of several key members. As we have mourned, we have learned that perhaps our ministries to those who are experiencing the death of a loved one could be improved. Leaders and staff at our church have spoken of how to enhance our All Saints and Dia de los Muertos ministries to make them even more effective next year. This past December, we added a Blue Christmas service to the schedule to reach out to those experiencing a harder time during the holidays. We have also pledged to start a new ministry team this year, specifically aimed at walking alongside those in our community of faith who are grieving.

At Christ Lutheran, we strive to be a welcoming place for all people. Surprisingly, sometimes the folks who need the most welcome are right there in the pew next to us! All too often society pressures us to hide our grief (and other emotions for that matter), even in an understanding space like church. When we take the time to check in with our neighbors and really hear their stories, we can find they may be feeling out of place. Let's resolve as a community of faith to touch base with one another more. Let's resolve to make sure we are extending hospitality to all, even those who are feeling downtrodden. Let's resolve to continue to grow together in faith, hope, and love.

- Pastor Leslie

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. – TBD

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

Faith University – 9:15 a.m. Sunday Mornings in Fellowship Hall

January 5: All-Ages Epiphany Party! Come learn about Feast of Epiphany traditions from around the world!

January 12, 19, 26: Short Stories by Jesus. Drawing upon the work of New Testament scholar Amy-Jill Levine, Pastor Leslie will offer a Faith University series on parables. Together we will reconsider several familiar parables found in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Levine writes, “Parables bring to the surface unasked questions, and they reveal the answers we have always known, but refuse to acknowledge.” We will look at parables in their original, first-century context so we can appreciate them more fully. We will debunk some of the traditional interpretations that often limit our understanding, and we will open new pathways to engaging and finding fresh perspectives on these well-known passages.

Lucy Circle

Launching a new year of reading, sharing, and fellowship, the Lucy Circle will meet in the Parlor on Sunday, January 19 at 9:15 a.m. to discuss the article, “The Trick to Life is to Keep Moving” by New York Times writer/editor Devi Lockwood. All women and visitors are invited to join us. If you’re interested, let me know and I will send you the article as a Word doc.

- Jan Schubert Norris

“Unhanging” the Greens

Help! We need lots of willing folks to join in the “un-decorating” project following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on **January 5**. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season, but now those decorations need to come down, get packed up, and be put away until next year. Please stick around after worship to ease the burden for all participants. This can be a quick process if we have lots of help. Thanks!

Martin Luther King March

Use MLK Day as a day off from work ... and a day to join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters of many ethnicities as we advocate, as Jesus did, that all people are equal in the eyes of God. Tentative plans are to gather at St. Philip's College, 1801 Martin Luther King Drive (Lot 22, which is at Montana and Mittman streets), at 9:15 a.m. on January 20 to travel by VIA bus to the start of the march, which begins at 10:00 a.m. We will catch the VIA bus at the end of the march at Pittman Sullivan Park to arrive back at St. Phillip's parking lot around noon. Please wear your "God's Work. Our Hands" t-shirts. Watch for plan updates in the January bulletins. Contact Pastor Leslie for more information. Sign up in the CrossWay or call the office. Signing up is very important so we know who to look for on the day of the march!

Men's Work Retreat at Lutheran Camp Chrysalis

All Christ Lutheran men (and friends) are invited to a work retreat at Lutheran Camp Chrysalis on the weekend of February 14 – 16. Our primary project scheduled for Saturday the 15th is to assist the camp staff with construction of porch decking, steps, and a wheelchair-accessible ramp for a donated building recently remodeled into staff housing. Join us either Friday evening or Saturday morning for work on the project. Departure is planned for Sunday morning after breakfast. Evenings are dedicated to stargazing and relaxing by the campfire. Reservations are required so the camp can provide sufficient meals and lodging. Contact Bob Lynch, (830) 438-3389, or Larry Sulser, (210) 822-6797, for further information and reservations.

Thank You from the Staff

The staff thanks you, the congregation, for your generous Christmas gifts. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are overwhelming. We very much appreciate your ongoing gifts of support and love. You make Christ Lutheran a great place to serve!

- Pastor Leslie, Pastor H, Carrie, Becky, Jesus, Clara, Sam, Dan, Matthew, Brandon, Mary and Sharon

Member News

Sympathy to:

- Carolyn Petersen on the death of her mother, Frances Hartmann, on November 15.
- Peggy Enax on the death of her brother, Mike Enax, on December 26.

Baptisms:

- Cyrus Stephen Hughes, son of Carl Hughes and Cayenne Claassen-Luttner, on December 29.
- Greta May Carr, daughter of Wesley & Sarah Carr, on December 29.

Women's Retreat – March 20-22

This spring, the women of Christ Lutheran are once again invited to gather at the beach in Port Aransas. This year's retreat will be led by Jennifer Dunn, Sarah Borrell, and Pastor Leslie. They have a variety of activities and learning experiences planned for us. Many thanks to them for sharing their gifts with us. We will stay at the Mustang Island Retreat Center, a ministry of the Episcopal Church. The cost for the weekend is \$300 for double occupancy rooms and all meals are covered. Registration opens on Sunday, January 26. You can pick up a registration packet in the CrossWay beginning then or go online to download the forms and make your payment.

This Summer CLC is heading to Family Camp at the BEACH!

On **July 30-August 2** spend a long weekend on the beach with Family Camp at the Mustang Island Episcopal Retreat Center! We use the term "family" loosely as singles and couples without children are also invited! It's about gathering with our church "family." Everyone stays in a beautifully furnished room with a private deck and bathroom and a view of the Gulf of Mexico. The women have stayed here for several years now for the women's retreat, and they can attest that the accommodations and the food are fabulous! The program begins on a Thursday afternoon/evening and continues through Sunday lunch. Enjoy swimming, singing, surfing, arts & crafts, delicious meals, beach games, fishing, resting under a beach umbrella, a campfire, worship with great music, biblically based teaching, and more. Online registration is now open. Folks are encouraged to make their reservations soon as space fills up quickly. Pastor Leslie's family and Carrie's family will attend July 30-August 2, but you can sign up for any date you desire. Here's the pricing: 1 - \$395, 2 - \$535, 3 - \$700, 4 - \$860, additional child \$180, additional adult \$270, and children under 2 are free. Here's the website to register: <https://www.dwtx.org/departments/camps/mustang-island/family-camp/>

Free Books!

We all like free stuff, right? And many of us love to read. So what's better than a bookshelf full of free books? You are invited to check out the bookshelf inside the doors of the Fellowship Hall from the Primrose parking lot. You can pick up a book or drop off a few from your own collection to share with others. Anything goes: literature, children's books, fantasy, non-fiction, spiritual, self-help. Happy reading!

Praises to:

- Jan Norris for organizing the Angel Tree gift-giving for needy Family Service clients and the Mulligans and Soul Sisters for organizing all the colorful packages for delivery.
- Everyone who so lovingly plucked an Angel off the tree in the CrossWay and generously bought and wrapped gifts to brighten the holidays of people we'll never meet, but who can get in the spirit of Christmas knowing someone cares. You are Lutheran Santas!
- Kids and parents who sang Christmas carols on the San Antonio River Barge event.
- Sunday School kids who participated in the annual Christmas Pageant. What an awesome job! Thanks to Ms. Carrie, Greg, and Sharon for making it happen, and to parents for their help.
- All who helped "Hang the Greens" on December 1 and turned our Sanctuary into a Christmas wonderland.
- All who attended the Wednesday Advent Holden Evening Prayer services.
- All the youth who helped buy Christmas gifts for CAM. Thanks for giving your time to those less fortunate!
- Dan Long, Matthew Goodson, Cyndi Erp-Long, and the Sanctuary choir for the beautiful, inspiring Lessons and Carols service.
- Mary Villarreal and Sharon Wiedemann for leading our Gloria choir, and to all the children who lend their voices to enhance our worship experience.
- Joseph's Sons & Men's Breakfast Group for putting together the new Moench Garden furniture.

CLC Book Club

Please join us on January 7 at the Primrose House when we will discuss Every Man Dies Alone by Hans Fallada. This true story was written in 24 days following the end of WWII, after Fallada was released from a Nazi mental asylum. He did not live to see his book published. Alco will lead the discussion.

For February, we will discuss Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen by Sarah Bird. Celia will lead the discussion on this remarkable book set during the Civil War.

In March, The Great Unexpected by Dan Mooney is a charming tale of a curmudgeon and his eccentric new roommate who plan an epic escape. Robert C. will lead the discussion.

- Edna Robbins

Preschool & Elementary Sunday School Schedule

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, January 12 at 9:15 a.m. upstairs in the classrooms, and will continue with the Whirl Curriculum for the spring. We are grateful to volunteers who help us on Sunday mornings, and we invite you to join us in providing Christian education to our congregation's children. They are our heart and our future. Please chat with Carrie Jowers in the church office, and she can explain the various roles you might consider.

Third Grade Bibles

Our 3rd graders will be receiving their Spark Bibles on Sunday, January 12, at the 10:30 a.m. worship service in acknowledgement of their reading skills and maturity development – thus, this graduation from the picture Bible. The Spark Bible is the NRSV translation, which is the same translation we most often use at church. The Spark Bible is also full of age-appropriate introductions and details to help your child enter the Bible more deeply.

During the worship service, parents, along with their child, will be invited forward for a special blessing and to receive their Bible. To make sure we have enough Bibles, RSVP at carrie.jowers@gmail.com on whether you will be able to attend.

Third graders and at least one parent are encouraged to attend a Bible Navigation class during the Sunday School hour (9:15 a.m.) on Sunday, January 12. Our class will be focused on helping children learn how their Bible is organized, how to look up passages, and how both the children on their own and families together can use the Bible for faith formation.

Confirmation Large Group

Confirmation Large Group will take place on Wednesday, January 8, in Fellowship Hall. We will have our Pizza Feast at 5:30 p.m. Pastor Leslie will teach from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Please bring your Bible and Confirmation Binder to class.

Confirmation Class Schedule

- January 5: All-generations Epiphany Lesson in Fellowship Hall
 January 12: Apostle's Creed-Introduction
 January 19: Catch Up & Review
 January 26: Apostle's Creed-1st Article

The Light (High School Sunday School)

High School students are invited to join Brandon Albrecht in the High School room for breakfast and fellowship at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

FX3 (6th-8th) & the Light (9th-12th)

Our middle and high school youth are generally invited on 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!

Schedule for the spring:

- January 5: No FX3 or The Light
 January 19: Service Project in Fellowship Hall
 February 2: No FX3 or The Light (Super Bowl Sunday)
 February 16: No FX3 (President's Day weekend)
 March 1: Bowling Outing
 March 15: Dinner & Fellowship
 April 5: Dinner & Fellowship
 April 19: Dinner & Fellowship
 May 3: Pool Party (Final FX3 of the year)

Gloria Choir Spring Schedule (Children & Youth Kinder-8th Grades)

On Wednesday, January 8, rehearsals resume for our Gloria Choir at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us for an exciting spring semester with Ms. Mary and Ms. Sharon.

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 your 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 directly to the camp. Here’s the link to register: www.crosstrails.campbrainregistration.com.

Save the Date for these Summer Activities:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| June 1-June 5: | Middle & High School Mission Week |
| June 14-June 19: | Camp Chrysalis (finishing 1 st through 8 th grade) |
| July 13-July 17: | VBS (4-years old to 5 th grade) |
| July 30-August 2: | Family Camp on Mustang Island |

Companionate Ministry Team

Brenda Update

Larry Sulser and his family adopted Brenda's family for Christmas to honor Linda. It was a beautiful homage to Linda who was known for her generous spirit. And here's another sweet element to that story: While the Sulser family was out shopping for Brenda, Bobby, and their family, Bobby was spreading Christmas joy to a family that is, in his words, "not as blessed as ours." Bobby plays the part of Santa for needy kids who come to the Low Riders group that he belongs to. He told Beth Callaghan that he and his group gathered toys for a single mom and her children who were living in a car. "We have so much more than they do," he said.

So even as Brenda was about to lose her job as a caregiver in a private home because her client was moving to a nursing home, she and Bobby were reaching out to someone else in need. They understand the Reason for the Season.

Then, good news on the job front! Brenda got a job with St. Michael's Home Care.

We're gathering a fund to help Brenda and Bobby restore the dying transmission in their old CLC-donated van (\$1400 is needed). If you'd like to make a contribution, please write a check to Christ Lutheran and note in the memo line, "Brenda's Transmission." Thanks to those who've already donated!

Moma Update

The Texas Bar is a tough exam, especially if you spent your life in Cameroon and now you're faced with a difficult exam in American English. Moma is preparing to re-take the exam. His job in immigration law was contingent on his passing the Bar, so he is again looking for work while he devotes himself to intensive study. His life has been eased by two gifts. First, Paul Pfeifer taught him to drive. Then, after he passed his driving test, Rhonda Barsalou donated her late mother's car to Moma. Wow ... are these good people or what? Thanks to Paul and Rhonda, and prayers for Moma as he pursues his dream.

- Jan Schubert Norris

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 Fidaó, *Trustee*

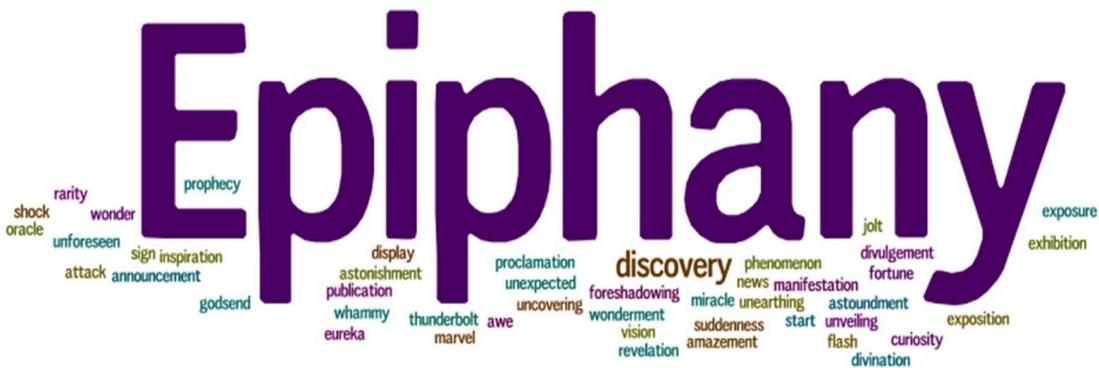
Carolyn Dufelmeier,
Trustee

Pastor Leslie Price
Pastor Howard Stendahl

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Sunday, January 5
at 9:15 a.m.

We invite everyone to Fellowship Hall for an Epiphany Party! We will learn about Epiphany traditions from around the world. All ages are also invited to this party!