

Worship

Sunday Morning
Holy Communion at
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Livestream at
10:30 a.m.

Christian Education for
all ages begins at
9:30 a.m.

Office

Monday - Thursday from
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 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.

April 2024

From the Stewardship Team: I Love This Church...

"Church is my absolute favorite place in the whole world."

Those words came from one of our congregation's youngest members, but they resonate with people of all ages across our congregation. That's why for this year's stewardship campaign, we've chosen the theme, "I Love This Church."

Our church is a place where we come together for community and connection, nourishment, and respite. As we plan for Stewardship Sunday (April 28) and as you prayerfully consider your pledge, **take a moment to think about what you love most about our Christ Lutheran community and the resources it needs to ensure those efforts continue to be successful** – from Sunday services to children's programming to music to benevolence.

During this month of focus on stewardship, we'll have several resources available so you can express your love for our church and embrace a vision for a strong future at Christ Lutheran.

- **Reflect:** April Sunday services will include a Temple Talk series. Church members will share what makes Christ Lutheran membership and giving meaningful to them. We invite you to use those conversations as an opportunity for reflection on your own experiences.
- **Learn:** On Sunday, April 21, we'll host a **meeting during Adult Education**, where we'll dive into a full report on our church. We'll cover what we love about our community, review where we've been and our past successes, and discuss the vision we have for deepening our connections and service in the future.
- **Share:** We want to hear what matters to you and why you continue to make Christ Lutheran your chosen church home. Look for our bulletin board in the CrossWay, where you can post the reasons you love our community along with opportunities to share your "I Love This Church" moment on our social media accounts.
- **Commit:** In mid-April, you'll receive a mailing containing a letter and pledge card, inviting you to consider your commitment to Christ Lutheran in terms of time, talent, and treasure and asking you to return your pledge card during worship on Sunday, April 28.

Focusing on our community brings this verse to mind: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." (1 Cor. 12:27). When we say, "I Love This Church," it's more than the building or the programs we offer. It's a message of love for each of the people who give, share, and support our Christ Lutheran community.

- 2024 Stewardship Team

Faith University, Sunday Mornings, 9:30 a.m.

April 7 & 14 – Join us as Chaplain Rev. Darwin Huartson teaches a two-part class on grief.

- **April 7 – “Navigating Choppy Waters”**

Dr. Alan Wolfelt, a grief therapist and author writes, “To mourn your loss is required if you befriend the love you have been granted. To honor your grief is not destructive or harmful, it is life sustaining.” Grief is normal, natural, and a necessary response to loss. It is a time of adjustment and healing. We can experience healing and wholeness when we allow ourselves to process our losses and make our grief count. Our experiences with Covid certainly remind us that our losses are finite and non-finite. Many of us learned that we are resilient people who can adapt and adjust to life’s circumstances. Come and join Chaplain Darwin to discuss how not only to survive grief but how to adapt and evolve new blessings from it as well.

- **April 14 – “Connecting with Those Facing a Difficult Time”**

When we hear about someone who is grieving or experiencing emotional pain, it is not uncommon for us to wonder, “What should I say or do?” Many times, our first desire is to try and “fix” the situation. Rarely can a response by itself make something better, but empathy helps us connect and assures others that they are cared for. Join Chaplain Darwin to explore how our own awareness of our loss and grief can inform us on how we respond to others. Utilizing our own life experiences, we will make a list of “*what has been helpful*” and “*what is not so helpful*” in responding to others.

April 21 – “I Love This Church”

Pastor Leslie and our Stewardship Team will delve into a full report on our church. We’ll cover what we love about our community, review where we’ve been and our past successes, and discuss the vision we have for deepening our connections and service in the future.

April 28 – Christian Nationalism

Beginning Sunday, April 28, Pastor H will welcome interested participants to a discussion of the rising trend of Christian Nationalism. This alliance of strong political nationalism and certain Christian faith communities challenges traditional views of separation of church and state. Implications of this rising trend are significant in this increasingly polarized period of American and Western European history. All are welcome to this conversation on three Sundays: April 28, May 12 and 19 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

CLC Small Group Ministries Retreats and Mini-Retreats

‘Tis the season for retreats to begin at CLC! This month, the annual Women’s Retreat is taking place April 5-7 at the Mustang Island Retreat Center. Another annual getaway includes a Men’s Retreat to Camp Chrysalis for fellowship, fun, and a service project. The Journeymen head out to a different destination each year for fellowship, recreation, and a healthy reset. Family Beach Camp at Mustang Island August 1-4 is for EVERYONE. Junior and Senior High retreats at Camp Chrysalis help our younger members grow in faith, learning, and relationships. There’s truly something for all ages at CLC!

Confirmation Ministry (6th-8th Grades)

Wednesday, April 3, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Our next Wednesday evening REQUIRED Confirmation Class is April 3 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There will be pizza at the start if you want an easy dinner while we learn and grow in our faith together. We will continue our journey through the Bible this year, working through the New Testament. Check your Confirmation Guidebook for a listing of encouraged Sunday morning group times in Confirmation Conversations with our Confirmation Mentors!

New Member Sunday - April 21

We strive to be a welcoming community of faith, and we celebrate with joy when folks decide to call our church home. In our liturgy that welcomes new members, we invite them to help us grow in faith just as we hope to help them grow in faith. On April 21, during the 10:30 a.m. service, we will receive new members into our fellowship. A brief orientation to the church will take place at 9:15 a.m. that morning in the Fellowship Hall for our new members. After the 10:30 a.m. service, we invite everyone to the CrossWay for a reception that will afford us the opportunity to get to know one another better.

Fiesta at CLC, Sunday, April 21

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Courtyard and Fellowship Hall

Fine Mexican fare, fellowship, and fun! Ms. Carrie will provide kid-focused activities including playground time and a piñata, and our youth will be hosting a silent auction to support their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. Jayme Brown, Kenny Lantz, and Kirk Richard will direct the cooking and grilling for the event, and the Boeck/Stobb family will once again be pouring festive beverages. Many thanks to these leaders. If you would like to help them out, please get in touch with Jayme or Bobby. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the CrossWay and online via Sign-up Genius closer to the event.

Service Opportunities for Families:

Daily Bread Ministries, Monday, April 29, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Families with children in grades kinder and up can participate in preparing "Snack Pak 4 Kids" at Daily Bread Ministries. We will meet at the church for pizza in the Fellowship Hall starting at 5:00 p.m. and then caravan over to Daily Bread Ministries a little after 5:30 p.m. Families will be working an assembly line preparing snack packs for schoolchildren living in food scarcity in our communities to take home over the weekend. This is a fun, easy way for children to begin serving others in our community. Spaces are limited, so RSVP with Ms. Carrie to sign up.

Synod Assembly, May 3 - 5, Called and Sent

Synod Assembly will be held May 3 - 5 this year in Corpus Christi. The theme of the Assembly is *Called and Sent*, speaking to our discipleship as followers of Jesus. The assembly offering this year will be for Lutheran Disaster Response. This ministry plays a key role in our being sent into the world and responding to all kinds of needs. In addition to monetary offerings, assembly participants will be making various kinds of disaster preparedness and response kits. Voting members, both clergy and lay, will gather from across our synod to represent their congregations in making decisions about the issues facing the larger church, including electing a bishop to serve our synod. We are very grateful to James Ehler, Paul Pfeifer, and Carrie Jowers for agreeing to serve as our lay voting members. Thanks to Parker Jowers as well, who will serve as our youth lay voting member. Of course, Pastor Leslie and Pastor H will be there as well. If you would like to learn more about what issues will be discussed and voted on at the Synod Assembly, please visit the Synod's website at www.swtsynod.org.

CLC is heading to Family Camp at the BEACH in August!

On August 1-4, we invite you to spend a long weekend on the beach for Family Camp at the Mustang Island Episcopal Retreat Center. We use the term "family" loosely as singles and couples without children also are 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 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. Pricing: 1 person - \$460, 2 people - \$620, 3 people - \$800, 4 people - \$990. Children under 2 are free. To register: <https://www.dwtx.org/events/mustang-island-family-camp-session-10-2024>

CLC Book Club, Tuesday, April 2, Parlor

Readers alert! You are invited. Yeah, you! To attend the CLC Book Club meeting this month on Tuesday, April 2 at 6:45 p.m. in the Parlor. We will discuss Chasing Me to My Grave by Winfred Rembert. Willie Hagen will lead the discussion.

Read Through the Bible in a Year Tuesdays, April 9 and 23, 7:00 p.m., Zoom

During the month of April the Read Through the Bible in a Year program will study Deuteronomy and Joshua in the Hebrew scriptures and the Gospel according to Luke in the New Testament. We will also be reading from the Psalms and Proverbs. The group will gather via Zoom on the 9th and 23rd of April at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to participate, whether you are current in your readings or just want to visit.

Healing Prayer

Tuesday, April 9, 10:00 a.m., Rode Chapel

Christ Lutheran Church invites persons who desire prayer for any type of healing to attend a special service of Healing Prayer held the second Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. in the Rode Chapel at CLC. Pastor H leads a service of biblical reflection and prayer, anointing of the sick, and Holy Communion for all who attend.

The Gathering - A Group for Moms

Wednesday, April 10, 9:30 a.m., Olmos Perk Coffee

You are invited to join this group for moms with children from infants to college age. The Gathering invites moms to chat about anything and everything. It's a group to give advice when asked, to listen, laugh, and grow! We will meet on Wednesday, April 10, at Olmos Perk Coffee Shop located in Olmos Park at 5223 McCullough! For more information contact Joan Woods or Carrie Jowers.

Third Thursday Lunch Bunch, Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 18, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch invites seniors to gather for lunch on the third Thursday of each month. We will meet on April 18 at noon in the Fellowship Hall for food and fellowship. Many thanks to Carolyn Dufelmeier for continuing to host these lovely get-togethers.

Lucy Circle, Sunday, April 21, 9:30 a.m., Parlor

Please join the Lucy Circle on Sunday, April 21, at 9:30 a.m. for a discussion on the "Unknown Costs" of addiction. Forty-three million Americans need substance addiction treatment, but only a tiny fraction receives it. The article by Wilson M. Sims elaborates. Edna Robbins will lead the discussion. If you'd like a copy of the article, please let me know.

- Jan Norris

Thank you from Carolyn Dufelmeier

Carolyn would like to thank everyone for all the help with Easter breakfast. From the cooking to the cleaning up, thank you so much for everything! Also, thank you to Clara Tenorio for bringing breakfast tacos.

First Communion

Class - Sunday, April 14, 11:40 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Worship - Sunday, May 12, 10:30 a.m.

Typically, 5th graders receive First Communion instruction and then First Communion itself at Christ Lutheran. But we are also open to your child's spiritual timeline and readiness to partake in the sacrament. If you are interested in having your child attend First Communion classes, please reach out to Pastor Leslie or Ms. Carrie.

First Communion instruction will take place on Sunday, April 12, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Pastor Leslie and Carrie Jowers lead our First Communion class.

The schedule is:

11:40 a.m. - Lunch

12:00 p.m. - The History of Holy Communion

12:30 p.m. - Make Bread for First Communion Sunday which will be held on April 30

1:00 p.m. - The Sacrament of Holy Communion

1:30 p.m. - Paint chalices (cups) and patens (plates) to use for First Communion

Class should conclude around 2:30 p.m. One parent should attend with their child. The children will celebrate their First Communion at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 12. During the worship service, the youth and their families will be called forward for a special prayer and blessing to recognize this milestone in their faith lives.

Angelicus (Pre - K) & Gloria (K - 5th) Choirs

It's hard to believe that it's already April. We are thrilled to report that we have 19 singers regularly involved in our children's music programs! The church is full of sound on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. as our youngest members grow in faith through song. Here is the schedule for the rest of the season. Look for a party in May!

Rehearsals run every Wednesday evening (5:30 to 6:15 p.m.) through May 8.

Angelicus Choir will sing in Worship at the 10:30 a.m. service on:

- April 14
- May 12 (Mother's Day)

Gloria Choir will sing in Worship at the 10:30 a.m. service on:

- April 21
- May 5

Silent Auction Fundraiser Sunday, April 21 at Fiesta Celebration

The high school students going to New Orleans this summer for the ELCA Gathering will be hosting a Silent Auction at the CLC Fiesta from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 21. Make sure to stop by and bid on all the fun items that will be available. All items must be paid for at the end of bidding. Students attending this year's Gathering are Ana Becvar, Sophia Diana, Brylee Farmer, Bennett Hall, Sophia Jowers, Luke Loyd, Max O'Donnell, Ryan Schwarze, Stella Schwarze, Nate Tenorio, and Seth Tenorio.

Sunday School in April

Preschool (Godly Play)

Sunday, April 7: Jonah and the Whale
Sunday, April 14: Daniel
Sunday, April 21: Stewardship Lesson
Sunday, April 28: Exodus

Elementary (The Spark)

Sundays, April 7, 14, and 28: Studying the Gospel of John
Sunday, April 21: Stewardship Lesson

FX3 - 6th through 12th Grade

Students in 6th through 12th grades are invited to participate in Faith, Fellowship, and a whole lotta fun on the dates listed below. We will play games, participate in a devotional, and enjoy some yummy food! Please save these dates.

Sunday, April 14: Fellowship Hall 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 28: Fellowship Hall 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

VBS at CLC, June 24-27, Registration is Open

VBS Campers join camp counselor Sammy as he faces his fears as a first-time camp counselor. Each day, VBS Campers will witness Sammy take on new challenges. With the help of Lu the Lightning Bug and the Camp Counselor Guidebook, Counselor Sammy and our VBS Campers will explore timeless Bible stories to face their fears and learn to lean on God for help.

Registration forms can be found online at www.clcah.org, or in the Church Crossway. For questions and additional information, please email Ms. Carrie at carrie.jowers@gmail.com.

Save the Dates!

Mother's Day Brunch: May 12 (during the Sunday School hour)

Confirmation Sunday: May 19 (during both services, reception after the 10:30 a.m. service)

Youth Volunteer Service Day at CAM: June 12 (9:00 a.m. until noon)

VBS: June 24 - 27

High School Mission Trip: July 16 - 20

Family Beach Camp: August 1 - 4

Staff

The Rev. Leslie Price
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Howard Stendahl
Pastor

Dana Ferraro
Director of Day School

Ainslee Ford
Office Manager & Accountant
Lori Harris

Office Administrator & A/V Tech
Dr. Dan Long

Director of Music Ministry

Jeff Hammack
Organist

Mary Villarreal
Youth Choir Director

Sharon Wiedemann
Youth Choir Accompanist

Carrie Jowers
Director of Faith Formation

Sam Tenorio and Justin Martin
Custodian

Lori Harris
Office Administrator & A/V Tech

Jesus Garcia
A/V Tech

Carolyn Dufelmeier
Event Coordinator

Congregation Council

Michael Fischer,
President

Bryan Woods,
Vice-President

Adam Braaten,
Treasurer

Paul Pfeifer,
Secretary

Rhonda Barsalou,
At-Large Member

James Ehler

At-Large Member
Edna Robbins

At-Large Member

Pastor Leslie Price
Pastor Howard Stendahl

CLC Benevolence Partner Corner

Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)

I moved to San Antonio in 2014 mainly because my sister lived here. She helped me find a place to live and acquainted me with the area. She suggested that I join Christ Lutheran Church of Alamo Heights and that she and I should volunteer at CAM. She told me that in 1977, nine downtown churches (now about 80) founded Christian Assistance Ministry as a non-profit in response to the Biblical imperative “to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and care for the needy.” We began our service at the main campus in a retired school building at Grace Lutheran Church downtown, on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. I was impressed with the efficient system CAM has established and how many ways they have found to help folks with critical needs. It was a privilege for me to serve as a volunteer for CAM. I saw how efficient this organization is for those in need. They have only 23 paid employees and over 200 loyal and hardworking volunteers. I am now one of several representatives at the CAM Council of Churches for Christ Lutheran and receive CAM’s Annual Report supplying data for the benefit of the member churches. That is my source for the following CAM data for 2023:

- *18,595 households received groceries one time per month (enough for 3-4 days)
- *19,511 folks got clothing for each household member – up to two outfits each month
- *10,000 were served through information and referral (phone calls seeking help/advice)
- *6,736 were helped with utilities, ID recovery, prescriptions, bus tickets/bus passes (for work or medical appointments), or specialized help for the homeless – at a total cost of \$302,022
- *2,234 typically homeless picked up their mail at CAM
- *1,627 children were provided with Christmas gifts (2 brand new gifts, 2 books, stocking stuffers, and stuffed animals for ages 9-18 months)
- *624 schoolchildren were provided with school supplies, backpacks, uniforms, underwear, socks, and a voucher for a pair of new shoes

In 2023 CAM provided specifically for the homeless:

- *69,900 total sack lunches distributed six days each week
- *3,833 showers plus new socks and underwear
- *6,325 engagements with people experiencing homelessness and 800 housing or shelter placements and/or police assists
- *280 homeless received special financial help to return home and/or were provided hotel stays, cell phones, shoes, medication, etc.

(Christian Assistance Ministry is one of more than 25 local, Lutheran, and international charitable organizations that shares 20% of Christ Lutheran’s weekly worship offerings. Your gifts are changing lives. Please watch this space in future Proclaimers for information on other CLC Benevolence Partners.)

- Willie Hagen

New Member

SUNDAY

APRIL 21

Please join us as we welcome a group of new members during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Come meet and greet these new members of our church family during a reception in the CrossWay following the worship service.



Join Christ Lutheran for our Camp Firelight VBS!

June 24 - 27, 9:00 a.m. to noon

\$40 per camper

[Click here for the registration form.](#)

[Click "Give Online" to make your payment.](#)

Christ Lutheran Church
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