

Worship

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

Livestream
10:30 a.m.
clcah.org

Education Hour
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.

January 2024

Hope Looks Forward – Lives Forward

During Advent I shared from the pulpit that hope, “...*the conviction of things not seen*” (Heb 11:2), is rooted in that which is to come, not in the restoration of some pristine past to which we seek to return. It is important to study our historical past, primarily to learn from our errors and seek greater justice and peace in the world. Yet the primary expression of spiritual hope as we begin the new calendar year is a forward view, looking toward that which is to come, in this world's experience and the divine mystery of the eternal.

I am cautious of movements that seek to “go back,” or to use the language of Juergen Moltmann, the “repristination” of a past that was imperfect and likely marked with injustices we seem to repeat in each generation. We can't change the past, but we CAN look forward, inspired by the Gospel, to a way of life characterized by reconciliation and justice.

Moltmann wrote in 1967 that “God continues to come to us from the future, giving us new visions and revelations of what can be. God's Kingdom is already present among us through the coming of Jesus...but its fulfillment remains in the future” (*Freed to Love and Live Again*, p. 57). I believe we can move toward a more peaceful world when each of us *lives forward*, inspired by a Gospel that chooses not to repeat our histories of retribution and “getting back” at our enemies, but identifying the injustices that lead people to rage and violence. We can “live forward” in 2024 by supporting and doing ministries in our community and beyond that bring about new beginnings, for individuals and even between nations.

Living forward means care for self and others. Moltmann taught in his writing that to live without hope is to cease to live. One needs hope to get up in the morning, to exercise and nourish oneself, physically and spiritually. I live forward for the people I love most, those of my own family and the congregation I serve.

Finally, I believe God weeps with us in our sorrows here so that in the mystery of that which is to come, we will laugh together with our Creator in the Church Triumphant. In the coming year and beyond, let us live forward in the hope that the Kingdom of God begins now, and moves toward the peace that is beyond understanding.

— Pastor H

Member News

Congratulations to:

- Michael & Katelyn Almquist on the birth of Samuel Taylor Almquist on December 15.

Sympathies to:

- John Esquivel on the death of his mother, Victoria Esquivel, on December 14.

Faith University: A History of the Middle East **Guest Scholar, Dr. Ali Atabey, Assistant Professor of History, UTSA** **Sundays, 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.** **Dates for the class: Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28**

This lecture series delves into the history of the Middle East from the early 1800s to the present day. Although it will touch upon past centuries to provide context, its primary focus is on the modern era. It explores various forms of modernity in predominantly Muslim regions, European imperial expansion, the emergence of anti-imperial movements, the impact of World War I on the Middle East, the rise of nation-states, and contemporary social, political, and economic developments. The series concludes with analyses of the present and future of the region. Dr. Atabey earned his doctoral degree at the University of Arizona with a dissertation entitled, "Crossing Borders in the Early Modern Mediterranean: Identity, Religion, and Space in Seventeenth-Century Ottoman Galata." He is currently configuring his dissertation into a book. Some of the courses he teaches at UTSA include Introduction to Islamic Civilization, The Ottoman Empire, The Modern Middle East, and Piracy and Captivity in the Early Modern Mediterranean.

"Un-hanging" of the Greens: January 7

Help! We need lots of willing folks to join in the "un-decorating" project following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on January 7. 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 share the work. It goes quickly! We promise. Thank you in advance for helping!

Martin Luther King, Jr. March **Monday, January 15**

Please consider joining CLC friends who will be celebrating MLK Day by walking alongside our brothers and sisters of many ethnicities at the 2024 MLK Day March. We will advocate, as Jesus did, that all people are uniquely created and divinely beloved by God. We will gather at St. Philip's College, 1801 Martin Luther King Drive (Lot 22, at Montana and Mittman streets), at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 15, and 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. Philip's parking lot around noon. Contact Pastor Leslie with any questions. Also, please sign up in the CrossWay, email Pastor Leslie at Leslie@clcah.org, or call the office to let us know you are coming. Signing up is important so we know who to look for on the day of the March and so we have your phone number in case we need to locate one another.

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, Ainslee, Lori, Dan, Jeff, Sam, Mary, Carolyn, Sharon, Jesus, Clara, and Justin

CLC Book Club Tuesday, January 2, 6:45 p.m.

Like to read? Like to chat about what you've read? Have we got a deal for you! You're invited to join the CLC Book Club, which meets on the first Tuesday of every month in the Primrose House at 6:45 p.m. This month, we'll be discussing Destiny of the Republic by Candice Millard.

Confirmation Ministry (6th-8th Grades) Wednesday, January 3, 6:00– 7:30 p.m.

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

The Gathering-A Group for Moms, Olmos Perk Coffee Wednesday, January 10, 9:30 a.m.

A 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 to form and grow friendships. We hope you will join us on Wednesday, January 10, at Olmos Perk Coffee. For more information contact Joan Woods or Carrie Jowers.

Read Through the Bible in a Year

"Read Through the Bible in a Year" will continue in 2024, but with a few changes to invite occasional as well as regular participation. If you are interested in this study, please notify Pastor H at hstendahl@clcah.org or call the church office at (210) 822-3394. Please indicate if there is a day of the week or schedule time you prefer.

Liturgical Planning Team, Fellowship Hall Tuesday, January 16, 6:00 p.m.

Do you ever wonder what goes into planning a worship service? Do you wish you could help select the hymns? Do you ever find yourself imagining a creative way to engage the congregation in faith exploration? The Liturgical Planning Team might be for you! This team meets two to four times throughout the year to plan the major church seasons, including Advent/Christmas and Lent/Holy Week. Together we develop the concept, themes, and ideas for implementation that bring the theology of these seasons to life. If you're interested in serving on this team, we will be meeting on Tuesday, January 16, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to plan for Lent and Holy Week. A light dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to Pastor Leslie or the office to let us know you will be there!

Third Thursday Lunch Bunch, Fellowship Hall Thursday, January 18, 12:00 p.m.

Lunch Bunch invites seniors to gather for lunch on the third Thursday of the month. We will gather on January 18 at noon in the Fellowship Hall for food and fellowship. This month, we invite attendees to bring their favorite board games, and we will play at least a few!

Visitor and New Member Wine and Cheese, CrossWay Thursday, January 18, 6:00 -7:30 p.m.

The CLC Welcome Team invites all visitors and new members to a Wine and Cheese gathering in the CrossWay on Thursday, January 18, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We will gather for lively conversation in a casual and comfortable setting to get to know one another better. There will also be special activities for the children with Ms. Carrie. Please join us and get to know more about CLC in an evening of fellowship, fun, and food.

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

To start off the New Year, we will read and discuss, "A Neurologist's Tips to Protect Your Memory," by Hope Reese. She gives us ideas on how to improve our memory as we age. There's hope, Hope tells us! We will meet in the Parlor at 9:30-ish on Sunday, January 21, and would love to see you there.

— Jan Norris

Small Group Ministry Opportunities

Children and Youth

Opportunities for children from pre-school through high school abound at Christ Lutheran. Sunday school classes offer faith development, Bible studies, and socialization. Little ones celebrate faith milestones through Faith Stepping Stones that include My Church, Learn to Worship, Bible Navigation, Being Good Stewards, and First Communion.

CLC's Angelicus and Gloria Choirs help children nurture their singing talents and develop an appreciation for hymns and liturgical music.

Confirmation for 6th to 8th grade students instills the basics of faith, connects youth to their Lutheran heritage, and continually reminds them of the love and grace of God. Junior and senior high youth develop meaningful relationships with one another through FX3 as they participate in Bible studies, dine together, play games, go on adventures to local sites, and attend church camps, retreats, and national youth gatherings. Opportunities for community service help them begin lives of service to others.

Vacation Bible School brings CLC children together with other children in the community to learn, play, pray, sing, and dance. Older children and youth are invited to serve as teachers and helpers – another way they learn to give.

And the ministry of the Christ Lutheran Day School offers an excellent starting point for children to socialize, discover, nurture their creativity, and have fun.

Men's Work Retreat at Camp Chrysalis

January 19-21

This work retreat is a service and fellowship opportunity for CLC men in the great outdoors of the Texas Hill Country. Planned work projects include roof, siding, and fixture updates to the building next to the Sports Court; and, building a new Archery/Waterfront Shed. Arrival is flexible to suit your schedule – we hope you can join us either Friday evening or Saturday morning to work on these projects. Departure is planned for Sunday morning after brunch. Evenings are dedicated to star gazing and relaxing by the campfire. Cost for food and lodging is reduced to \$95 in exchange for our work at the camp. Contact Bob Lynch or Larry Sulser for further information.

Women's Retreat, Mustang Island Retreat Center

April 5-7

This spring, the women of Christ Lutheran are once again invited to gather at the beach on Mustang Island near Port Aransas for retreat and respite. Please join us for an inspirational weekend surrounded by the beauty of Mustang Island and the company of amazing women. 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 14. You can pick up a registration packet in the CrossWay or go online to download the forms and make your payment. Many thanks to Jenn Dunn and Tessa Baden for being our leaders this year!

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 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 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>

Angelicus (Pre-K) & Gloria (K-5th) Choirs January Info & Spring Schedule!

The Gloria and Angelicus Choirs are looking forward to a fun and musical spring semester at Christ Lutheran. Parents, please note that there is no children's choir rehearsal on January 3 due to the Christmas & New Year's holiday. Both choirs will return to rehearsals on Wednesday, January 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, January 10 at 5:30 p.m. and run every Wednesday through May 8, except for the following Wednesdays:

- February 14 – Ash Wednesday
- March 13 – Spring Break
- March 27 – Holy Week

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

- February 4
- March 3
- April 14
- May 12 (Mother's Day)

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

- February 11
 - March 24
 - April 21
 - May 5
-

FX3 January Schedule (6th-12th Grade) Sunday, January 7, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

FX3 Christmas Party will take place in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, January 7 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth will exchange a White Elephant gift. We will play games, be in fellowship, and enjoy a yummy meal together. We will not meet for FX3 on Sunday, January 21.

Sunday School in January

Preschool

Sunday, January 7: Epiphany Party
Sunday, January 14: Godly Play
Sunday, January 21: Godly Play
Sunday, January 28: Pancakes and PJ's

Elementary

Sunday, January 7: Epiphany Party
Sunday, January 14: Bible Lesson
Sunday, January 21: Bible Lesson
Sunday, January 28: Pancakes and PJ's

Faith Stepping Stone: 3rd Grade Bibles Save the Date: February 4

Our 3rd graders will be receiving the Spark Reading Bible to acknowledge their new reading skills and maturity development with this Faith Stepping Stone that marks their graduation from the picture Bible. The Spark Bible is the NRSV translation which we most often use at church and is filled with age-appropriate introductions and details to help your child enter the Bible more deeply.

On Sunday, February 4, during the worship service, our 3rd graders, along with their parents, will be invited forward for a special blessing and to receive their Bible. To make sure we have enough Bibles, RSVP to carrie.jowers@gmail.com.

At least one parent is encouraged to accompany our 3rd graders for a Bible Navigation class during the Sunday School hour (9:30 a.m.) on Sunday, February 4. Our class will focus on helping children learn how their Bible is organized, how to look up passages, and how the children on their own and together with their families can use the Bible for faith formation.

Save the Dates!

February 4: Faith Stepping Stone - 3rd Grade Bibles
February 10 - February 11: High School Mission Trip Bake Sale Fundraiser
March 1 : Goodwill Youth Fundraiser @ the church
June 24-27: VBS
July 23-27: High School Mission Trip in New Orleans

Companionate Ministry

Our Christmas Bazaar featuring CLC artists and crafters who donated their works and 100% of the proceeds to benefit our friend Brenda was a huge success. Our goal was to raise \$1K to help Brenda pay off her predatory lending loan. We raised about \$1,500 and were very excited until the day after the Bazaar when the perils of poverty once again reared their ugly heads. Brenda was in a car accident. It was her fault. She does not have car insurance (because she cannot afford it), and she owes the other guy \$1,600 to repair his car. Her own car looks like someone dropped a bomb on it. Replacing it so that she can go to work presents another enormous financial woe. Her trials seem never-ending, and yet, miraculously, this congregation keeps lending loving support, lifting her up as she's about to crash.

By the way, the reason she owes a predatory title loan is that the State of Texas has taken away her food stamps and despite repeated reapplications, they keep denying her. She needed money for food and took out an outrageous title loan. For food. To feed her children. Poverty is horrid, as are the predators who take advantage of the poor.

Enormous thanks and gratitude to Beth Callaghan, Linda Cornwell, Jen Dunn, Sue Garcia, Patti Lynch, Mary Overstreet and her sister Nell, and Dorothy Woods for their generous artistic contributions, to the church staff for their assistance, and to our congregation for turning out with money in hand to buy our artists' wares and lend their support to Brenda.

We will continue to help Brenda and her children because that's what a Jesus-abiding congregation does.

Much love and many thanks to all!

— Jan Norris

CLC Benevolence Partners Corner

Habitat for Humanity

Christ Lutheran of Alamo Heights has a long history of partnership with Habitat for Humanity – helping this amazing organization build affordable homes for low-income families in our community. As a member of the South Texas Lutheran Cluster since 1999, we have joined with brothers and sisters from 11 ELCA churches to construct comfortable, modest new homes that bring pride and joy to the owner families.

The San Antonio Habitat for Humanity office was the first affiliate in the nation to be formed, and since 1976, it has helped organize and build over 900 homes in the area. They are proud to note: “We were the start of it all: we built the first Habitat home in the world!” It is an ecumenical Christian non-profit housing organization. They bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope, working with families who would not otherwise be able to afford a home. The families are engaged in the work, thus supporting the organization’s maxim, “We are not a charity or a ‘handout’ program, but rather we help families help themselves.”

If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact me at paulmathsen@yahoo.com.

(Habitat for Humanity is one of more than 25 local, Lutheran, and international charitable organizations that share 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.)

— Paul Mathsen

Staff

The Rev. Leslie Price
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Howard Stendahl
Pastor

Dana Ferrero
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 Patino
Youth Choir Director

Sharon Wiedemann
Youth Choir Accompanist

Carrie Jowers
Director of Faith Formation

Sam Tenorio and Justin Martin
Custodian

Jesus Garcia
A/V Tech

Carolyn Dufelmeier
Event Coordinator

Congregation Council

Michael Fischer,
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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



GLASS OF WINE + CHEESE + YOU

THE CLC WELCOME TEAM

Invites all visitors and new members to a Wine and Cheese gathering

January 18, 2024 | 6:00-7:30 PM | CrossWay

Please join us and get to know more about CLC
in an evening of fellowship, fun, and food.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHILDREN WITH MS. CARRIE

MEN'S WORK RETREAT

**CAMP CHRYSALIS
JANUARY 19-24**

This work retreat is a service and fellowship opportunity for CLC men in the great outdoors of the Texas Hill Country. Planned work projects include roof, siding, and fixture updates to the building next to the Sports Court; and, building a new Archery/Waterfront Shed.

Cost for food and lodging is reduced to \$95 in exchange for our work at the camp.

Contact Bob Lynch or Larry Sulser for further information.

FAITH STEPPING STONE: 3RD GRADE BIBLES



Sunday, February 4

Our 3rd graders will be receiving the Spark Bible to acknowledge their new reading skills and maturity development with this Faith Stepping Stone that marks their graduation from the picture Bible.

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210-822-3394

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Join us on Monday, January 15!

Join the group from CLC attending the Martin Luther King Day March in San Antonio! 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 15 and 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. Watch for plan updates in the January bulletins.