

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.

November 2023

Religion and Politics – We “Don’t Go There”

As I write this reflection, the world is in a state of deep geo-political conflict. In the view of many, religion is fueling the current crisis in the Middle East.

In my military career, the worst inhumanity I ever witnessed was perpetrated in the name of God. During the Balkan Wars of the 1990s, I saw first-hand how Orthodox Christians under Slobodan Milosevic entirely destroyed the city of Lipic in the former Yugoslavia, tortured and executed Roman Catholic clergy and religious of the community, then dug up the Catholic cemeteries, exposing remains of those buried there. I saw other towns and villages completely destroyed, all in an effort to “cleanse” the culture of those who were of a different faith, all in the name of God.

The risks of conflating political and religious passions are such that we MUST reflect on them and address them intentionally. Our own nation is becoming divided by this conflation. Sometimes I wonder if we ever made peace following the Civil War. Old fears and prejudices are enjoying a renaissance of acceptability, not, I contend, because we are talking about it, but because we fear to do so. Our views have become fixed in many cases.

Hear instead two things:

First, our own sacred writings contain the solutions, which begin with *justice for the disadvantaged*, regardless of our religious beliefs. It's where we begin in the life of faith.

We know what the Lord requires of us, “to let justice roll down like waters...” and “to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly...” (cf Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8). The Quran is also clear: (Surah An-Nisah 135) “O believers! Stand firm for justice as witnesses for Allah even if it is against yourselves, your parents, or close relatives.”

The Lord is not impressed with our religious rites and liturgies without care for those who are vulnerable. Jesus said, “Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’” (Mt 9:13)

Second, we must *hear the truth* before we can have reconciliation, even if it is painful. Listen to those in pain, regardless of their religion or party. The great Nelson Mandela taught us all

Continued on next page...

from the Truth and Reconciliation format in the Republic of South Africa following the abolition of apartheid, that first we confess, then we can reconcile. Jesus said, "...first go and be reconciled with your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift." (Mt 5:24)

So, I challenge us to "go there." Talk about religion and politics. Always begin with listening to the pain of those who are powerless, for in so doing you will begin to help them heal. Let us look next within ourselves to identify our pains and confront our past where we may have erred.

Then, let us offer our gift.

Then, let us "Come to the Lord's Table."

Pastor H

Primrose Corner, Primrose House

This casual opportunity for Sunday morning adult education meets in the Primrose House. We start with a cup of coffee, checking in with one another a bit. This gathering offers the opportunity to relax and join in conversation around various topics of faith and life as we consider the preaching of God's Word that we heard on the previous Sunday. This class is faithfully led by Adam Melius and Jeff Jowers, and we are grateful for them.

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 are: Nov. 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3, 10, and 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.

All Saints Sunday & Dia de los Muertos Remembrance, Sunday, November 5

The traditions of All Saints and *Dia de los Muertos* are beloved at Christ Lutheran. They allow us to gather and remember, grieve, celebrate, and find solace and hope. During worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 5, you will find our All Saints Altar at the front of the church, surrounding the font, reminding us of our baptismal promises that no matter what, even in death, we are forever held in love by God. You are invited to bring pictures and mementos of loved ones to place on the altar throughout the morning. There you will also see candles on the table that will be lighted during worship in remembrance of the saints who have gone before us. A special bell will toll in memory of all those members and friends of our community of faith who have died since our last All Saints remembrance, as we lift their names in prayer. If you would like to submit a name of someone you love who has died in the past year, please contact the church office.

Between worship services, during our education hour, we will continue our remembering by sharing stories of the saints and creating projects in their memory. Again, please bring pictures and mementos of your beloved to share and to place on our *Dia de los Muertos* Altar. We will close our time together with a brief service of remembrance.

For a little background on this colorful, meaningful celebration:

El Día de los Muertos is a unique cultural tradition that remembers those loved ones who have gone before us. It is an annual three-day Mexican festival where family and friends remember departed loved ones. It is a vibrant celebration of life that gives artistic expression to mourning through music, color, dance, food, art, flowers, and more. The dead are celebrated literally as though still alive and *ofrendas* or "offerings" are made in memory of them and their favorite sports, foods, drinks, and pastimes. *Calaveras literarias* are poems written for the dead, to celebrate their life and remember them. Mexico's *Día de los Muertos* inspires us to enrich our own tradition of remembering the saints who have gone before us.

Thanks from the CLC Quilters

Many thanks to our CLCAH congregation for your wonderful support of our ministry. We have been blessed by donations of beautiful fabrics so that we may create quilts for Lutheran World Relief. But as we all know, it takes more than fabric to make a quilt. We also need lots of batting, thread, pins, replacement blades for fabric cutters, large pieces of fabric for the quilt backs, and sewing machines that sometimes need repair and service. These things are paid for from our Quilt Fund. Because of your response to the Show/Auction and through your donations, we are able to keep our ministry alive and well.

And Thanks TO the CLC Quilters!

We, the CLCAH congregation, are humbled by the preceding note of thanks. It is we who need to thank our talented, dedicated, and generous quilters! They speak of the things needed to transform ordinary materials into beautiful, warm quilts...but we know the main ingredient is love. These kind and thoughtful ladies sew love into every stitch, they spend hours together and hours at home making these colorful masterpieces that will go to sisters and brothers around the world who are suffering – from war, poverty, natural disasters, and other casualties of life. For many years, quilts from the hands of these CLCAH servants have brought joy, hope, warmth, comfort, and love to the hearts, minds, and bodies of their recipients.

On Sunday, October 22, we blessed beautiful, handmade quilts that graced the pews throughout our sanctuary. It is always an artistic and heartwarming sight to behold. We are so grateful for the women who continue this important ministry.

The Gathering: A Group for Moms Wednesday, November 8

Wednesday, November 8 at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor. This is a group for moms of infants through college age. The Gathering is a place where moms of children of all ages can come to chat about anything and everything. It's a group to give advice when asked, to listen, laugh and just to spend relaxing time making and growing friendships. For more information contact Joan Woods or Carrie Jowers.

Healing Prayer, Tuesday, November 14

Our next Healing Prayer Service will meet on Tuesday, November 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Rode Chapel. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month to check in with one another, receive Holy Communion, and of course, to pray for each other. This ministry, led by Pastor H and Elward Reiss, strengthens us for our journey of faith and life. In whatever way you may need healing: emotional, psychological, physical, or spiritual, you are welcome to join us and bask in God's promises of comfort and companionship.

Soul Sisters, Tuesday, November 14

Soul Sisters is a welcoming group of women who identify as sisters on this faith journey together. We might be single or married, have children or not. We are a group for the young at heart, and we seek to have meaningful conversations about our lives of faith amidst the real struggles and challenges that come our way. We are a casual group, and we practice trust and unconditional love. We hope you'll join us. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Julian's in Sunset Ridge.

Lunch Bunch, Thursday, November 16

Our social group for seniors, Lunch Bunch, will gather on November 16 at noon in the Fellowship Hall for a Friendsgiving Meal. Many thanks to Carolyn Dufelmeier for cooking and hosting this meal for us each month.

Lucy Circle, Sunday, November 19

The Lucies will meet in the CLC Parlor on Sunday, November 19 to discuss, "My Life as an Heiress" by Nora Ephron. In typical Ephron fashion, it's a funny, sweet article. We hope you'll join us. Please let me know if you'd like me to send you the attachment.

Jan Norris

Habitat for Humanity Landscape Day

Sunday, November 11, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

CLC has helped sponsor and build a home every year since 1999 – 24 years! We work with other Lutheran churches in San Antonio in what is known as the Lutheran Habitat Cluster, each church taking one Saturday to provide volunteers in building a house. We are looking for 15 volunteers, ages 5 and up, to help with landscaping on November 11. All children and youth must be accompanied by an adult. No experience is needed, and all tools are provided. You don't have to stay the whole day—we can use any time you can spare! Sign-ups to help with the build are in the CrossWay or online via Sign-Up Genius. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c49a8ab29a5f94-stjohn#/>

Liturgy of the Windows, Sunday, November 26

On December 3, 1950, our sanctuary was dedicated for the purpose of worship and praise in the name of God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This year we celebrate 73 years of people gathering in Christ's name to pray, hear the Word, share in Holy Communion, witness baptisms, and lift their voices in praise. A large part of what makes our worship space so inviting is its beautiful stained-glass windows, each fashioned in tribute to a great hymn of our Christian tradition. On Sunday, November 26, at both the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services, join us as we sing these hymns, reflect on the windows, hear readings from scripture that draw out their beauty, and offer our thanks to God.

Liturgy of the Windows



Sunday | November 26 | During Both Services

Gloria & Angelicus Choirs

The Gloria and Angelicus Choirs continue to gather to sing, have fun, and learn about God's love. Angelicus Choir sang in worship on October 29 for Reformation Sunday, and they did a beautiful job! Parents, thank you so much for your support and please mark your calendars with the important dates listed below. Your children's lives will be enriched with music and fellowship, and our worship will be enriched by their sweet voices in praise. Choir rehearsals run each Wednesday through December 13 (please note no rehearsal on November 22 for Thanksgiving break). Pastor Leslie and Ms. Becky will lead our 2–4-year-olds in the Children's Chapel. Ms. Mary and Ms. Sharon will lead our kindergarten through 5th grade students in the Sanctuary. We hope no one will miss this musical fun!

Angelicus & Gloria Choirs Singing in 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship:

- November 19
- December 10

Sunday School - November

Sunday, November 5: All Saints Sunday in the Fellowship Hall with your family

Sunday, November 12: Regular Sunday School from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, November 19: Regular Sunday School from 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, November 26: No Sunday School for Thanksgiving Break

Family Night Bingo Fundraiser: Friday, November 3

Join us for Family Bingo Night on Friday, November 3! All ages are welcome to play. Cost of Bingo is \$5 per child and \$10 per adult. All proceeds will support the high school students attending the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer. The evening kicks off with pizza at 6:30 p.m. and Bingo begins at 7:00 p.m. Dinner, drinks, and prizes included! You won't want to miss this fun event for a good cause!

FX3 November Schedule (6th through 12th Grades)

Sunday, November 19: Friendsgiving Party, 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2: Set Up Christmas Store at CAM, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 17: FX3 Christmas Party @ PINSTACK, 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

Please note that FX3 will not meet in January.

College Ministry Beach Trip: Friday, November 17-19

College-age students will get together for a weekend in Port A. The cost for the weekend is \$150 per student. We will depart San Antonio around 6:00 p.m. on Friday and return Sunday afternoon. Please contact Ms. Carrie for more information.

Advent Festival for All Ages Sunday, December 10

Sunday, December 10, after the 10:30 a.m. worship service we will celebrate the season of Advent from 11:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Children and adults will travel to different stations to participate in fun activities. Among the activities, you can prepare reindeer food, get your photo taken in a nativity scene, decorate cookies, make cards, create ornaments, write letters to Jesus, and participate in a special story time and singalong. Bring your whole family for fellowship and fun.

Christmas Pageant: Sunday, December 17

Join us in the Church Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 17, as our preschool and elementary classes tell the joyful story of Christmas to the congregation. The children will contribute their musical talents during this special production. You won't want to miss it!

Pageant Rehearsals will begin Sunday, December 3 and continue in December during the Sunday school hour. Our final rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 16, at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Save these Dates!

Friday, November 17-19: College Ministry Beach Trip
Sunday, November 20: FX3 Friendsgiving Party (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.)
Friday, December 1: Family Night Christmas Party (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)
Saturday, December 2: FX3 Volunteer @ CAM (9:00 - 12:00 p.m.)
Sunday, December 10: Advent Festival (11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
Sunday, December 17: Christmas Pageant 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Sunday, December 17: FX3 Christmas Party PINSTACK (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.)

Thanksgiving Dinners in a Bag

In partnership with CAM (Christian Assistance Ministry), we are planning to help families in need in our community this Thanksgiving. We will collect nonperishable foods through the first part of November, due back to church by November 12 so that we can deliver them to CAM for distribution prior to the holiday. You can pick up a bag in the CrossWay beginning Sunday, October 29, or stop by during office hours. If you prefer, you may fill your own bag or box and return it to church with the items noted in the graphic.



Thanksgiving Dinners in a Bag

DUE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Here is the list of ingredients needed in each bag:

4 cans green beans	2 boxes stuffing
4 cans sweet potatoes	4 cans cream of mushroom soup
4 cans corn	1 large or 2 small French (or other brand) fried onions
2 cans cranberries (not fresh)	1 bag mini marshmallows
2 boxes instant mashed potatoes	

Please note

**No items should be fresh,
as they won't keep.**

Thank you.

Hanging of the Greens, Sunday, December 3, 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Listening to Christmas music and hanging boughs of holly will really get us in the spirit of things! Add some fantastic fellowship with good and faithful friends and the joy of contributing to the beautification of our worship space for Advent and Christmas seasons, and you have our annual tradition of the Hanging of the Greens at CLC. Once the work is done, we gather for tamales and chili in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate together the gift of our coming Savior.

This year, Ms. Carrie and Pastor Leslie will host the children in the Fellowship Hall for a Christmas movie as well as ornament making so the adults can work on the decorating. Please join us. The more the merrier! Many thanks to Clara Tenorio for her delicious cooking, which contributes to the festive joy of this annual event.



Small Group Ministry Opportunities

Join Our CLCAH Music Ministry

The Music Ministry at CLCAH is an integral part of our spiritual life, and we are always looking for people to participate with us. If you've been singing the hymns during worship services, you are a candidate for the choir!

Joining the Sanctuary (adult) Choir is easy. Join us in the sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings for rehearsal and stay to sing with us during the worship service. Occasionally, we rehearse one or two Wednesdays a month at 7:00 p.m., also in the Sanctuary.

Another way to participate in the music program is in our handbell choir that rings one Sunday a month. They rehearse and play on special Sundays TBA.

Our Music Ministry also sponsors free concerts for the congregation and public. For instance, the River City Ringers of San Antonio, a handbell choir, will present a Christmas concert in our sanctuary on Friday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

On selected Sundays the Music Ministry also makes presentations during Faith University (Adult Sunday School) at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Church music topics vary from works composed centuries ago to sacred and Gospel music of the 20th and 21st century.

Dr. Dan Long, CLC Directory of Music Ministry

Companionate Ministry: A Festive Christmas Bazaar!

In our continuing effort to support Brenda and her children, we are hosting a Christmas Bazaar on Sunday, December 10. Before and after both services, you can shop our handmade arts, clothing, and crafts fair and buy unique Christmas gifts for the folks on your shopping list. This fundraiser is spearheaded by Beth Callaghan, a professional seamstress who creates original fashions by upcycling and repurposing clothing and fabrics in bold and fun statements for wearing or home décor. You won't want to miss this rare shopping opportunity. We're also soliciting donations of original crafts and art from among our own talented CLC members to sell at the bazaar, with all proceeds going to support Brenda and her children. Are you interested? Contact Jan Norris if you'd like to contribute your handmade clothing, sewing project, watercolors, knits, pottery, jewelry, etc. We've also had a couple of offers to bake cookies to sell to hungry shoppers. Does anyone else like to bake for a good cause?

So far, we have original works by Beth Callaghan, Mary Overstreet, Jennifer Dunn, Dorothy Woods, Sue Garcia, Jan Norris, and Jason Pittman (a local potter who has been supportive of Brenda and our Afghan family). Who wants to donate your works to this fun event?

Our congregation has been so supportive of Brenda and her family – giving, giving, giving. Now you'll have a chance to support her while taking home something beautiful. Everybody wins. It'll be fun! And ... this bazaar celebrates the creativity of our CLC artisans.

Jan Norris

CLC Benevolence Partners Corner **The Porch: An Ecumenical Ministry at St. Philip's College**

The ministry of The Porch, which Christ Lutheran Church supports through your benevolence dollars, is unique in San Antonio. It is an ecumenical Christian ministry located on the campus of St. Philip's College, one of the campuses of the Alamo Colleges District, and located in the heart of the East Side.

The ministry was created a half-century ago by a partnership of six major denominations – Catholic, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, and Presbyterian. Working together, representatives of these groups purchased property and acquired a building on what was at that time the edge of the campus. Since then, the campus has expanded around the center.

For the last two decades, Christ Lutheran and First Presbyterian Church have been major funders of this ministry, along with other churches and individuals that provide support as well.

Currently, the ministry is partnering with Young Life, a non-denominational Christian organization whose staff works with young people through college age. Two staff members work with college students at St. Philip's as well as outstanding high school students who begin their college work early at the Academy at St. Philip's on campus. The student center is open five days a week for students to spend time and interact with the ministry leadership. The ministry also has a weekly Bible study, weekly club meetings, and leadership training. In addition, they host dinners every Tuesday evening. Students are invited for weekend and summer retreats.

This ecumenical approach is an effective and cost-efficient way to provide a Christian presence on this community college campus.

(The Porch at St. Philip's College 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, and we thank you for your generosity.)

Lynnell Burkett

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The Rev. Leslie Price
Senior Pastor
The Rev. Howard Stendahl
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Dana Ferraro
Director of Day School
Becky Richard
Office Manager & Accountant
Dr. Dan Long
Director of Music Ministry
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Youth Choir Director
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Youth Choir Accompanist
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A/V Tech
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At-Large Member
James Ehler
At-Large Member
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At-Large Member
Pastor Leslie Price
Pastor Howard Stendahl

Christ Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NOVEMBER AT CLC

- 5 - Dia de los Muertos
- 5 - All Saints Sunday
- 11 - Habitat for Humanity Landscape Day
- 12 - Thanksgiving Dinners in a Bag
- 12, 19 & 26 - Faith University
A History of the Middle East
- 22-23 - Church Offices closed for Thanksgiving
- 26 - Liturgy of the Windows