

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.

October 2023

"Hospitality of the Soul" -- Fresh thoughts from an old thinker

Saint Augustine lived from 354-430 of the Common Era. He was a Bishop in Africa (modern day Algeria) and probably the best known scholar/thinker of the Christian community of his time. Scholars of church history have identified him as "Doctor Pacis" or the Theologian of Peace for his passion for justice, which he believed leads to peace in the world.

Augustine wrote many books and remains widely read among theologians and philosophers even in 2023. He often preached about "hospitality of the soul" as a characteristic of faith, whereby one receives another person personally and honors them, as they are created in the divine image and stand as another person for whom Christ died. Every friendship, every human encounter becomes an opportunity to receive and respect another person, regardless of whether you agree with them.

"Come to the Lord's Table" is the theme of worship this season as we return to our full programmatic schedule. Every gathering in Word and Sacrament, every small group, every study occasion can reflect the invitation our Creator extends to us to be nurtured in community, whether formally in the sanctuary of Christ Lutheran Church or merely in the company of one another.

I recall the teachings of Saint Augustine under this seasonal theme, as it was in reading Augustine that I also came to appreciate his belief in the value of political systems and government as communal opportunities for hospitality and care, even of our souls. Augustine believed that we have political leaders to safeguard the "good ends of earthly life, which are peace and justice" (*Augustine of Hippo as Politician*, Catholic University Press, Louvain, 2019). He taught that in this earthly life, peace and justice are reflections of heavenly peace and justice, the very foundation of earthly order and stability.

With every act of hospitality – when we greet and welcome one another on Sunday morning, when we gather with friends for dinner or reading or study, or when we invite little ones to the altar for Children's Time on Sunday mornings with Ms. Carrie, we are building on the

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Member News

Baptisms:

- Cameron Simmering, daughter of Sarah and Todd Simmering and granddaughter of Becky and Kirk Richard on July 2
- Lucas Bandino, son of Rachel Bandino on August 13

Sympathy to:

- The family and friends of Kim Jackson who passed away on July 25
- The family and friends of Tom Stindt who passed away on July 30
- The family and friends of Steven Douglas who passed on August 25
- The family and friends of Roman Spears who passed away on August 26

foundation of order and stability that makes for a more peaceful world. Little children who are loved in a safe environment are more likely to grow up believing the world can be just that. Adults who come to the Lord's table and find safe company in a diverse worshiping community spread that hospitality in lives given to more than just work and days off. All human relationships rooted in a foresight for peace and justice bring about, even in small ways, reflections of the heavenly peace and justice to come.

Perhaps you have thought of hospitality as just a kind handshake or embrace, and such kind gestures certainly are that. Augustine would have us look deeper into hospitality as an extension of God's receiving us, just as we are, thereby glimpsing what Matthew's Gospel calls the kingdom of heaven.

Come to the Lord's Table! With this hospitality, we can build a more peaceful and just world, together.

—Pastor H

Faith University, Fellowship Hall, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

In October, we continue with our class focusing on our fall worship theme, *Come to the Table*. Having looked at hospitality in the Hebrew and New Testament scriptures in September, this month, we discover ways we are living out that hospitality today through our mission and outreach and through our theological witness in worship and sacramental practice. We will hear from several special guests throughout the month including Dr. Eric Rose, Deacon Lisa Diana, and Rev. Katy Miles-Wallace. Here's a quick glance at what's coming: October 1 – Dr. Eric Rose on hospitality in scripture, theology and witness with an update on our outreach to an Afghan refugee family; October 8 & 15 – Pastor Leslie leads us as we discover how we practice hospitality in worship, sacrament, mission, and vision; October 22 – Deacon Lisa Diana shares how she lives out the biblical witness to welcome the “stranger” daily through her work at Plaza de Paz Respite Center for asylum seekers; and on October 29 – Reformation Sunday, Rev. Katy Miles-Wallace will take us on a journey to discover how the very beginnings of our denomination and its theological underpinnings call us to be a radically inclusive church, open to God at work in myriad and surprising ways. You're invited as we *Come to the Table*.

Primrose Corner, Primrose House, Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Our 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.

CLC Book Club: Tuesday, October 3 and November 7

Please join this friendly group of readers who meet the first Tuesday of every month in the Primrose House at 6:45 p.m. On October 3, we'll be discussing Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelly Van Pelt. On November 7, Horse by Geraldine Brooks. If you have questions, please contact Edna Robbins.

The Gathering: Wednesday, October 4

The Gathering is a place where moms of children of all ages can chat about anything and everything. It's a group to give advice when asked, to listen, laugh and enjoy building and growing friendships. We hope you will join us for our first meeting on Wednesday, October 4, at 9:15 a.m. in the CLC Parlor. For more information, please contact Joan Woods or Carrie Jowers.

Lucy Circle: Sunday, October 15

This month, the Lucies will gather in the CLC Parlor on Sunday, October 15 at 9:30 a.m. to discuss an article by Stephanie Sarazin titled, "10 Lessons I've Learned from My Special Needs Brother that Can Help All of Us Live More Fully." Her ideas and words offer inspirational insights and will promote thoughtful conversation. All CLC women are invited to join us for this monthly discussion group that helps us grow in compassion, awareness, kindness, and other Christ-like behaviors.

Lunch Bunch: Thursday, October 19

Our social group for seniors, Lunch Bunch, will gather on October 19 at noon in the Fellowship Hall for Halloween fun, conversation, fellowship, and of course, a meal. Many thanks to Carolyn Dufelmeier for cooking and hosting this meal for us each month. We look forward to a spooky, fun time this October.

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. 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 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 strewn across 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 that 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.

In 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.

Habitat for Humanity Landscape Day

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. 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 will be in the CrossWay or available via Constant Contact and Sign-Up Genius. Or you may call the church office.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c49a8ab29a5f94-stjohn#/>

Look at the Opportunities for Women!

In the September Proclaimer, Joe Diana gave us a synopsis of the many opportunities Christ Lutheran offers for men to build their faith and expand their circle of CLC friends.

CLC also offers lots of wonderful opportunities for women to gather in fellowship, conversation, and learning. Please consider joining one or more of these groups. You'll be glad you did...and the groups will be richer for your presence. All these groups will happily welcome you.

To see the full range of CLC options for men, women and children that include study, teaching, fellowship, family fun, prayer and care, worship support, outreach, retreats, musical groups and more, stop by the CLC Office and pick up a copy of the 2023-2024 Growing Small Groups booklet. You can also go to our website and find it there.

Lydia Circle meets at 1:00 p.m. on third Thursdays at the Primrose House or in a member's home for a thoughtful Bible study and enjoyable fellowship. *Contact: Hollye Schwartz*

Soul Sisters meets on second Tuesdays at Julian's in Sunset Ridge. This group identifies as sisters on their faith journey together. They might be single or married, have children or not. They are a group for the young-at-heart and seek to have meaningful conversations about their lives of faith amid the real struggles and challenges of life. Their meetings are casual, and they practice trust and unconditional love. *Contact: Caitlyn Zwang*

Lucy Circle meets on third Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the CLC Parlor to discuss assigned essay readings on a variety of compelling, thought-provoking, and inspirational topics. They are welcoming and enjoy warm fellowship and excellent conversation. *Contact: Jan Norris & Edna Robbins*

Wonder Women meets on third Sundays following the 10:30 a.m. worship service. They enjoy lunch and fellowship at The Quarry Golf Course Restaurant. *Contact: Willie Hagan*

The Gathering meets on first Wednesdays in the CLC Parlor. Moms of children of all ages chat about anything and everything over coffee. They support one another, share stories, and build friendships. *Contact: Joan Woods or Carrie Jowers*

Gloria & Angelicus Choirs

The Gloria and Angelicus Choirs are off to a great start! We are so excited to have the joyful voices of our children gracing the halls of our church once again after our summer break. Gloria Choir sang in worship on September 24, and it was indeed glorious! Parents, thanks 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 will run each Wednesday through December 13 (please note no rehearsal on October 4 for Howdy Night and 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 kinder through 5th grade students in the Sanctuary. We hope no one will miss this musical fun!

Angelicus Choir Singing in 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship:

October 29

November 19

December 10

Gloria Choir Singing in 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship:

November 19

December 10

Confirmation Update (6th-8th grades)

We had a wonderful Confirmation Orientation on September 6 and were delighted to welcome 11 students to our program this year, in which we are focusing on the Bible. Confirmation Conversations have started meeting on Sunday mornings with two dedicated adult mentors: Troy Hall and Jennifer von Durckheim. When students can't make it to Confirmation Conversations, they are invited to do their conversation sheets at home with their parents. Our next Confirmation Class with Pastor Leslie will be on October 11 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Confirmands, don't forget to fill out worship notes when you are in worship! Pastor Leslie and Ms. Carrie love hearing your thoughts on the service.

Sunday School for Children During October

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. upstairs in the designated classrooms.

Preschool (3 years old to kinder): We will jump into the wonder of learning the Bible stories through the Godly Play curriculum. Patti Lynch and Lisa Diana are the lead Sunday school teachers for this class. 1st through 5th Grade: Students are using the Bible Story Basics curriculum this year. This curriculum is Bible driven and will provide the basic tools for reading and learning the Bible. Ms. Carrie, along with other parents, are teaching this class for the year.

On Sunday, October 29, all the children (3 years old to 5th grade) will be invited to join Ms. Carrie on the playground for a special story, fun games, and a yummy snack.

FX3 Is Back! (6th through 12th grades)

What is FX3? FX3 stands for Faith, Fellowship & Friends! This group meets twice a month for devotion time, fellowship, and a whole lot of fun! Please mark your calendars with the following dates. All students in 6th through 12th grade are encouraged to come and bring a friend or two.

Sunday, October 1: Dinner and Game Night @ CLC, 5:00—7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 15: No FX3 (we will host a trunk on the 22nd)

Sunday, October 22: Trunk or Treat @ CLC, 5:00—7:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 29: Oktoberfest @ CLC, 5:00—7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 5: Hondo Corn Maze, 4:30—10:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 19: Friendsgiving Party @ CLC, 5:00—7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 3: Help with Advent Festival, 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

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

Family Night: Friday, October 13, Halloween Bash 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Join us for family fun and yummy treats. Ms. Carrie will be hosting a Halloween Bash for families (all ages are welcome). We will celebrate the season with s'mores, food, games, and crafts. RSVP to Ms. Carrie at carrie.jowers@gmail.com. The address will be sent out via Constant Contact as we get closer to the event.



College Ministry

All college age students are invited to come be in fellowship and share your college experiences. This ministry will meet monthly for dinner and/or special outings throughout the year. Contact Ms. Carrie for more information.

Friday, October 20: Dinner, Movie & Lock In
Sunday, October 22: Trunk or Treat (Host a Trunk)
November 17-20: Beach Trip to Port A

Trunk or Treat: Sunday, October 22

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Come join us as we trick or treat at CLC in the large church parking lot. We will have games, prizes, "trunks" decorated with fun themes, and most of all a safe and fun environment for your children to trick or treat. Kona Ice will be here too! We hope you can join us!



Trunk or Treat Volunteers Needed!

We need trunks for Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 22, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. We are asking for volunteers to host a trunk at our annual Trunk or Treat. We ask that each trunk host a game and give out candy to the children. If you can help, please contact Ms. Carrie at carrie.jowers@gmail.com.

Staff

The Rev. Leslie Price
Senior Pastor

The Rev. Howard Stendahl
Pastor

Dana Ferraro

Director of Day School

Becky Richard

Office Manager & Accountant

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

Custodians

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 Partners Corner **Northeast Senior Assistance (NESA)**

We support many non-profit organizations with 20% of our weekly offerings at Christ Lutheran Church in partnership with various benevolence causes. Recently we visited one of our benevolence partners, Northeast Senior Assistance, to see how they are benefiting the community.

Northeast Senior Assistance serves seniors ages 60+ primarily with transportation needs. They started serving the community in 1984. Their primary mission is to drive seniors to and from medical appointments, stay with them throughout, and then drive them home. Data provided from OneStar Foundation indicates that over 30,000 residents in northeast San Antonio are living below the poverty line. It is essential to provide seniors with transportation to stay healthy and connected to the community.

NESA drivers are very committed to this mission. Frequently they will include visits to the grocery store, minor home repairs and more. Drivers commit to anywhere from once a month to several times a week. Services through this organization are provided at no cost to the senior. NESA is a Christian organization, and their mission is centered in the love we have for one another. Christ Lutheran Church has been a supporter of NESA for many years with our funding and with volunteers.

NESA invites volunteers to join its mission. Their office is located at 2903 Nacogdoches Road on the MacArthur Park Lutheran Church campus. For more information, see their website: neseniorassistance.org, or call 210-967-6372.

(NESA 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.)

—Leslie Jefferis



Fair Trade Sale

Sunday, October 29, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m., CrossWay

Holly Schwartz, owner of All's Fair, a fair-trade boutique in San Antonio, will be in the CrossWay with handmade items from around the world.

Fair Trade is an organized social movement that helps artisans and producers in developing countries make better trading conditions and promote sustainability. Fair trade ensure that workers get fair compensation for their products.

Shop for exotic teas and coffees, handmade gift items, chocolate, and Christmas gifts.



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