

## Worship

Sunday Morning  
Holy Communion at  
9:30 a.m. through Labor  
Day Weekend,  
September 1

Livestream at  
9:30 a.m.  
[clcah.org](http://clcah.org)

No Education Hour  
during the summer

## Office

Monday - Thursday from  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
210-822-3394  
[office@clcah.org](mailto:office@clcah.org)



Through God's Grace  
All are welcome as we joyfully,  
Receive...to Give  
Learn...to Serve  
and Worship...to Grow.

June 2024

## Words from the Pastor

### **The Season of Pentecost and the Language of Faith**

Speech and the acquisition of language skills have always fascinated me. From my childhood years when I heard my parents speaking their native language (Norwegian) to currently hearing my grandchildren speaking not only English but Spanish and Portuguese as well, I marvel at the sound and organization of human language. Little ones seem to acquire language skills more readily, and rapidly than folks my age.

The United Nations Regional Information Center last week made available a study by Dr. Leonor Smalle, a professor and researcher at Belgium's Ghent University, providing insight regarding the acquisition of language. Her discoveries teach us about life and faith as well.

Dr. Smalle learned that very young children acquire language skills quite spontaneously, through passive listening and imitation. Developmental linguists call this "implicit" or unconscious learning. It just seems to happen, and quickly! As adults, we employ "explicit" language development or more conscious learning. It happens in a different part of the brain! We develop our "explicit" or conscious learning through adolescence, a capability required for more complex problem-solving as adults. We lose much of that "implicit" learning capability as we age.

The Pentecost story and the weeks that follow Pentecost are all about language – the language of faith. I believe there are parallels involved between language acquisition and spiritual/faith formation. Many of us can recall learning about Jesus from Sunday School teachers and family members. We listened. We learned songs. We memorized such seeds of faith. These gifts came to us, and we received them implicitly by just "being there" with our parents and teachers.

It is my view that, like language acquisition, we mature in our faith lives toward a more "explicit" or conscious spirituality. Our major life decisions, such as choice of a life's partner, vocational discernment, and ethical patterns of behavior all become explicit, conscious choices, informed from deep roots of faith in something that is beyond ourselves; something creative and eternal. For the person mature in faith, our lives develop from roots of implicit

Continued on next page...

learning deep in our history, even our collective histories, to a shared way of life in community.

Our shared ministry at Christ Lutheran Church embraces opportunities for the spiritual development and maturation of every person in our community: caring for the newest members of the human race brought forth for baptism, to our most senior members. Little ones are constantly learning from the more mature, implicit in their spiritual formation at first, then maturing themselves, as they make consequential life decisions as they grow. They are always watching, imitating, and forming.

Language remains one of the strongest vehicles in the delivery of learning, and certainly spiritual learning. I remain fascinated by the skills of language, the delight of hearing other languages spoken, remembering throughout that as Pentecost taught us, "... each one heard (the Gospel of Jesus) spoken in the native language of each." The variety of speech, the varieties of culture, and even other religious traditions can enlighten us throughout life to the infinite working of the Holy Spirit in every person.

May our congregation continue to welcome and nurture every person who comes to us, every culture they represent, every language they speak, as they are all evidence that the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, the presence of the Risen Christ, is among us in each of them.

- Pastor "H"

---

## **New Staff Position at CLC: Minister of Mission and Outreach**

More than 20 years ago Christ Lutheran Church committed to serving our San Antonio community and beyond by sending 20% of all our offerings to non-profit benevolence ministries outside our walls. We have maintained that commitment through all the challenges of recent decades, including the worldwide pandemic. Lives have been changed with those dollars as unhoused persons and families, teen mothers, immigrants, refugees, and impoverished persons in need of hospice ministries have found shelter and care.

Two generous designated gifts will help us build on our 20% benevolence tradition, completely funding the first year of a new part-time Minister for Mission and Outreach. Elward Reiss offered a gift in memory of her beloved husband Bernie Reiss, and another generous donor, who prefers to remain anonymous, covered the remainder. Their generosity provides initial support toward realizing our dream of having a staff person dedicated to connecting us more fully to those in need outside our congregation.

CLC's clergy and Congregation Council stand exuberantly and unanimously behind the creation of this new position, fully committed to funding the Minister of Mission and Outreach for the long term. Though the budgetary impact may be modest, the harvest will far outweigh the dollars spent. This ministry will connect us to recipients/benevolence partners in concrete, measurable ways, enhancing reporting and accountability in serving those most vulnerable.

As we continue our 20+ year tradition of care for those in greatest need, your pastors and Congregation Council invite all church members to attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 30 following worship, where we will discuss this new position and its impact on our life together.

- From your Pastors and Congregation Council

## **CLC Book Club**

### **Tuesday, June 4, 6:45 p.m., Primrose House**

Join fellow book lovers on Tuesday, June 4, at 6:45 p.m. in the Primrose House to discuss The Frozen River by Ariel Lawson. Edna Robbins will lead the discussion.

---

## **Read Through the Bible in a Year**

### **Tuesdays, June 4 and 18, 7:00 p.m., Zoom**

This group regularly meets every other Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. The class is led by Pastor H. Anyone can join, even if you haven't read along with us yet or may be behind. Join in for good conversation and company. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2461346872>.

---

## **Visitor Wine and Cheese**

### **Thursday, June 6, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., CrossWay**

The CLC Welcome Team invites all visitors and new members to a Wine and Cheese gathering in the CrossWay on Thursday, June 6, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We gather for lively conversation, enjoying a casual and comfortable venue for getting to know one another better. Please join us and get to know more about CLC in an evening of fellowship, fun, and food. If you need childcare, please contact Pastor Leslie.

---

## **Congregational Annual Meeting**

### **Sunday, June 30, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary**

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 30, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. In that meeting, we will hear reports on our ministries, elect Congregation Council members, and adopt the budget for next year, including funding for a new quarter-time position: Minister for Mission & Outreach. All members are encouraged to participate and to lend their voice and vote.

---

## **Praises to:**

- Lisa Diana, James Ehler, Carrie Jowers, Paul Pfeifer, David Schulte, Pastor Leslie, and Pastor H for attending Synod Assembly as voting members.
- Rev. Tom Robison for preaching and presiding while our pastors were away at Synod Assembly.

## **Gardeners Needed!**

Calling all green thumbs and those who want to learn the skills of horticulture. Summer is upon us, and our plants are already withering in the heat. Several church members and friends, Paul Pfeifer, Ainslee Ford, Clarice Ford, and Sarah Borrell, have planted new plants and flowers, now we are asking for your help to maintain them. If you are interested, please call Paul Pfeifer or the church office at 210-822-3394.

---

## **PRIDE Bigger than Texas Festival - June 29**

Christ Lutheran will participate for the second consecutive year in the PRIDE Bigger than Texas Festival, to be held Saturday, June 29, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Crockett Park. Food, entertainment, PRIDE wedding information, health fair booths, and more will be available. The PRIDE Festival is an opportunity to support your local LGBTQ+ community and allied small businesses, vendors, entertainers, and of course, CHURCHES. It's a chance for us, as a welcoming community of faith, to get the word out that when we say, "All are welcome!" we mean it. We will be distributing flyers that tell folks about our church, its ministries, and opportunities to get involved. We will also hand out ice cold bandanas to help festival attendees get a break from the heat. We need your help. Please consider signing up to staff our booth for one hour (or more). If we each take a short shift, no one will get too hot, and we will be able to spread the love of God which knows no bounds with the LGBTQ+ community of San Antonio. Here's the sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044FA8A82CA4F85-49789557-pride>

---

## **Save the Dates - Second Friday Swim Nights this Summer**

On second Fridays this summer, we will gather at the Alamo Heights Pool from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for fellowship and fun. You don't need to be a member of the pool to join us! All ages are welcome. The AH pool boasts ample space with tables and loungers, an Olympic-sized pool, and a playground. In addition, they have a poolside grill that offers a full menu of food and beverages. The second Friday dates this summer are June 14, July 12, and August 9.

---

## **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>

# Faith Formation Corner

## **Final ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting Sunday, June 2, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

Please join us for dinner to finalize all last-minute ELCA Youth Gathering information for New Orleans. We will cover the schedule, rooming, food allowances, take care of deposits, and more. One parent must attend with their youth. A light dinner will be provided.

---

## **FX3 End of the Year Outing Monday, June 3, 10:45 - 2:30 p.m.**

Join us for a fun afternoon to celebrate the end of the school year! We will meet at the Embassy Theater for a movie, and then head over to Julian's for pizza! Details will be announced as we get closer to the date.

---

## **Let's Have a Picnic! Sunday, June 9, 10:30 a.m., Playground**

Join us after the 9:30 a.m. worship service on June 9 for a picnic. We will have the playground and grassy area open for families to set up for a picnic. Refreshing popsicles will be provided. Bring a blanket, bug spray, and lunch. We hope to see you there!

---

## **ELCA Youth Gathering Brunch: Sunday, August 25, 10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall**

Save the date to come and hear the youth speak about the transformative week they had at the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans! The youth will feed us brunch and share their experiences from the Gathering. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the 9:30 a.m. worship service.

# VBS Corner

## **VBS Camp Firelight** **June 24 - 27, 9:00 a.m. - Noon**

VBS Campers will 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](http://www.clcah.org), or in the Church CrossWay. For questions and additional information, please email Ms. Carrie.

---

## **VBS Volunteer Orientation** **Monday, June 17, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an overview of VBS volunteer responsibilities. Light snacks will be provided. Please let Ms. Carrie know if you have a schedule conflict on this date. This meeting is important – we will provide all the information you need to have a great experience at VBS. Volunteers are invited to stay after the meeting to begin setting up for VBS.

---

## **VBS Set Up: June 17 - 19, 10:00 a.m. - Noon**

Please join us for any of the following dates and times to help set up VBS! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, June 17, Tuesday, June 18, and Wednesday, June 19, from 10 a.m. until noon. We have lots of stuff to prepare for our amazing VBS! Thank you to all who can help! This is a great way for youth to collect those service hours for Confirmation!

---

## **Sign Up to Bring Snacks for VBS Volunteers**

We are looking for volunteers to provide snacks for our hardworking and hungry VBS volunteers. Please use the link below to sign up to help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084CADA828A75-49688390-vbsvolunteer>

---

## **VBS Wish List**

We are busy planning VBS for 2024 here at CLC. We currently have 35 children signed up and 24 volunteers! We have an exciting week planned with food, crafts, games, science, drama, and more! To help us make VBS a success we could use a little help. We have a wish list on Amazon. Use the link below to access the list. We are also in need of camping tents. Please contact Ms. Carrie for more details.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1HFL4V2C6VIG0/ref=nav\\_wishlist\\_lists\\_2](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1HFL4V2C6VIG0/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2)



# Confirmands: Class of 2024

On Sunday, May 19, CLC welcomed three bright, fine young confirmands into our loving fold. The three – Madisyn Castaneda, Maximilian von Durckheim, and Silas Tenorio, wrote and presented their faith statements during worship. Each was thoughtful, spiritual, and candid. We share with you excerpts from each of their statements:

**Madisyn Castaneda:** Some of the people who have helped me understand and come to terms with my religion can't be with us today ... but I thank Mr. Troy (Hall) and his Sunday school classes in the mornings. Though I do sometimes turn it into more of a debate class, it always creates a safe space for me to express my opinions on religion without getting judged ... Some people in this congregation that have helped and influenced me along the way are Ms. Alfreda (Pennington), Mr. Frankie (Pennington), Ms. Wanda (Landwehr), Mr. Jerry (Landwehr), Ms. Verna (Fletcher), and Ms. Vaughnell (Gray) ... Most of all, thank you to my family and to Mama Sue and Pop for pushing me and encouraging me.

**Maximilian von Durckheim:** We had been searching for the right church for a while, but I didn't know that finding Christ Lutheran and finding Jesus would completely change my family and myself. I have only been at this church since September. The first time I attended a service, I was blown away by Pastor Leslie's sermon and how welcoming the community was. All the ushers greeted my family like we had been there many times. As we walked to my first Confirmation Conversation, everybody came up and introduced themselves. After class, I knew this was where I belonged ... I also noticed that my family and I were happier after services. I felt more spiritually connected to Jesus and prayers became more meaningful. It felt like I had found a missing piece that I had been searching for my whole life. This community felt like a second home.

**Silas Tenorio:** I have been going to church as long as I can remember, and I do believe in God. I tend to pray when I would like to talk to God for a minute or two. A person who has influenced me is my grandma. When she leaves our house or hangs up the phone, she says God bless. When we have little debates while we do the dishes, we tend to get into the topic of God. Some time ago, she was given a set time to live. It broke my heart ... My Grandma is the sweetest lady ever, and I have been praying that when I hear about her next, it's because she's getting better. God continues to answer my prayers.

## 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 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,  
*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

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
6720 Broadway  
San Antonio, Texas 78209  
[www.clcah.org](http://www.clcah.org)  
210-822-3394

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# **Congregational Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, June 30**  
Following the 9:30 a.m. service

**Ministry Reports**  
**Elect Congregation Council Members**  
**Adopt the Budget**

