

Christ  
Lutheran  
Church

# Proclaimer

## Worship

Sunday Morning  
Holy Communion  
at 9:30 a.m. through  
Labor Day weekend,  
September 1  
Starting September 8,  
Holy Communion at  
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Livestream  
9:30 a.m. through  
September 1

10:30 a.m. beginning  
September 8

Christian Education for  
all ages begins  
September 8 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.

September 2024

## This Fall (and always) . . . Christ Lutheran Chooses Kindness

We are excited to rally this fall at Christ Lutheran as we lift up kindness in our community of faith and far beyond. Looking ahead toward a contentious election season, your Liturgical Planning Team (our worship planners!) met and considered how we might best approach difficult conversations and anxiety-producing situations. Their answer was to call us back to kindness and remind us of our common conviction to follow the biblical mandate to “love one another as Jesus first loved us.” Throughout the fall we will consider the core values that help us live out Jesus’ call upon each of us to love one another as we have been loved by him. We will explore humility, compassion, hope, gratitude, respect, generosity, faith, listening, grace, and love. Our children will become kindness ambassadors, receiving badges each week in Sunday School that reflect these core values. And in worship, we will have an opportunity to contribute to our “well of kindness,” a little well that will sit at the front of our worship space. Each week during worship we will be able to write down ways we have practiced these values and times when we have been on the receiving end of someone else practicing these values. These moments of kindness that renew, transform, and inspire are not always grand gestures, but more often small acts that add up to a wave of change and a movement toward building community across division. On October 27, our Sunday morning classes (of all ages) will take a break and come together in a joint service project to pack meal kits for Plaza de Paz Respite Center as we demonstrate compassion and generosity. Read more on page 10. Join in this fall as we seek to navigate through a difficult and contentious time with kindness as our guide.

- Pastor Leslie

## **Faith University – Bible Based – September 8, 15, 22 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

I have noticed a troubling trend within the world of Christianity . . . some Christian communities say they believe 100% in the Bible as the Word of God while deriding other Christian communities as rejecting God's sacred and holy word based upon their differing interpretation. They are positive that their understanding of scripture is the right one, and they are strong in this conviction. So strong, that those Christian communities accused of not believing in the Bible . . . have seemingly started to agree with this derision and acquiesce to their assessments, suggesting that they hold the Bible in less standing or see it as other than the holy Word of God.

I will never forget when Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, our presiding Bishop for the entire ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), wrote the following in response to the Supreme Court's decision in 2015 announcing the right of same-gender couples to have equal access to marriage. She wrote, "For many members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, this decision is a welcome sign of hope and a time for celebration. Other members of this church do not agree with the court's decision and remain deeply concerned because of their understanding of Scripture." While I want to be careful not to critique our Bishop too strongly for her words offered in a difficult and divisive moment, I did find myself wishing that the Bishop had written that the many members she described as celebrating were doing so because of *their* deeply held understandings of sacred scripture as well.

The truth is that many of us who believe that marriage is sacred regardless of the gender of the couple do so precisely because we hold fast to the Bible as the sacred and revealed Word of God. We do not choose to support same gender marriage *in spite of* the Bible. We choose to support same gender marriage *because of* the Bible. For three Sundays in September, join me as we look at scripture and what it says about our life together. We will consider biblical hermeneutics and look at some of the key issues of our day from a biblical perspective, including marriage, gender roles, divorce, immigration, and abortion. We will acknowledge differing points of view and interpretation, gaining broader respect for ourselves and others within these conversations. In the process, we will discover what it means to be Bible based.

-Pastor Leslie Price

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## **Faith University Welcomes Special Guest, Dr. Debbie Cottrell, TLU President September 29 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

Calling all Bulldogs! We will welcome Dr. Debbie Cottrell, President of Texas Lutheran University since 2019, to both worship services and our adult education hour, Faith University, on Sunday, September 29. In a Temple Talk during each worship service, Dr. Cottrell will share current updates on Texas Lutheran and her gratitude for the partnership between TLU and Christ Lutheran in promoting Lutheran values and Lutheran higher education. During Faith University, all adults and high school-aged youth are invited to hear more from Dr. Cottrell about what uniquely equips TLU to educate the young people of today and how TLU's larger vision fits within a broader perspective on faith-based higher education in our country. We are honored by Dr. Cottrell's visit and look forward to showing our Bulldog pride on September 29.

## **Primrose Corner - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

### **Primrose House**

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!

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## **CLC Book Club, Tuesday, September 3, 6:45 p.m.**

### **Primrose House**

All readers are welcome to join this group that meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:45 p.m. in the Primrose House. On September 3, we will discuss The Women by Kristin Hanna. Lorraine Potter will lead the conversation. On October 1, Greg Meyer will lead a discussion of The False White Gospel by Jim Wallis.

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## **The Gathering - A Mom's Group, Thursday, September 5, 9:30 a.m., Olmos Perk Coffee**

The Gathering is a place where moms can come to chat about anything and everything. It's a group to give advice when asked, to listen, laugh, and just to spend time relaxing, making and growing Friendships. Please join us for the first meeting on Thursday, September 5 at 9:30 a.m at Olmos Perk Coffee located at 5223 McCullough. Contact Joan Woods or Carrie Jowers for more information.

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## **Lucy Circle, Sunday, September 15, Parlor**

All CLC women who seek to grow in consciousness, compassion, life skills, faith, learning, and fellowship are invited to join this group that meets on third Sundays in the CLC Parlor during the Sunday school hour. Our first Lucy meeting this fall will be Sunday, September 15, 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. (Note: this reading was postponed from last spring's lineup.)

- Jan Norris

# You Are Invited to a Congregational Meeting to Call Deacon Lisa Diana, Minister of Mission and Outreach

After more than two decades of dedicating 20% of our congregation's Sunday offerings to local, Lutheran, and international non-profit ministries, Christ Lutheran is enhancing its benevolence mission to more deeply engage with the communities we serve by adding a new part-time staff member devoted to mission and outreach.

The Church Staff and Council unanimously and enthusiastically recommend a member of our own congregation to lead this initiative as Minister of Mission and Outreach. Deacon Lisa Diana has been a CLC member since 2010, along with her husband Joe and their children, Matthew and Sophia. Lisa was ordained an ELCA Deacon in June, 2022. Her educational credentials include a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology-Texas State University, Master of Science in Human Development and Family Studies-Texas Tech University, and Master of Arts in Christian Ministry-Luther Seminary.

Lisa has a servant's heart. Her first call as a deacon was with Plaza de Paz Respite Center for Migrants in San Antonio, one of Christ Lutheran's benevolence partners. Her involvement with immigration and support to asylum seekers has been a continuing thread throughout her volunteer work. She also is a member of WELCA's (Women of the ELCA) Project Radical Hospitality and serves on the Southwestern Texas Synod Council. She has been involved in outreach ministry at CLC, has taught Godly Play to our Sunday school children, serves as an assisting minister, and studies with the CLC Spanish class to better serve Spanish-speaking refugees.

Through all the challenges of recent decades, including the worldwide pandemic, Christ Lutheran has been unwavering in its commitment to lend financial support, along with prayers and volunteer action, to our benevolence partners. In fiscal year 2023-2024, we awarded \$129,595.71 to 24 organizations that are doing the Lord's work – transforming the lives of unhoused persons and families, teen mothers, immigrants, refugees, the poor, the hungry, seniors, impoverished individuals needing hospice care, and more.

Many of the organizations we support, and their compassionate, humanitarian missions, are dear to the hearts of our congregation. Lisa's work will strengthen our relationships with these benevolence partners to include advocacy and service projects involving our children, youth, and families. Lisa will link with organizations, people, and resources within and outside our congregation to seek avenues for engaging Christ Lutheran with new and existing mission partners in tangible ways so that we may better serve those who are most vulnerable.

Covering the first year's salary for this important position was made possible thanks to the generosity of our late friend Elward Reiss who made a gift in memory of her beloved husband Bernie Reiss, along with a gift from an anonymous donor. In subsequent years, the Council believes that the budgetary impact will be modest compared to the benefits to our congregation and the greater community.

Please join us on Sunday, September 1, following the 9:30 a.m. worship service, to lend your voice and vote to this process that will broaden our congregation's commitment to serving those outside our church family. This ministry will enrich our worship, our lives, and our fellowship as we embark on this unifying work together.

# Rally Day & All Church Picnic - September 8

We invite you to join us for a special Rally Day Sunday on September 8, complete with Sunday School kick-off for all ages and a church picnic with delicious food for everyone, hosted by Jayme Brown with Kirk Richard as lead grill master. ***We will be back to our schedule of two Sunday services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.*** We'll have activities for the children at the picnic around noon that promise lots of good old-fashioned fun, including a balloon artist and face painter! Please consider bringing a dessert to share at the festivities or volunteering to help in the kitchen or with clean up! We are always appreciative of the help, and we have formed a fun community of volunteers that takes joy in hosting these events and in growing in service together. If you haven't picked a large event to volunteer for yet, perhaps this is the one! Sign-up in the CrossWay if you can volunteer. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044FA8A82CA4F85-50932936-church#/>

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## Small Group Sunday, September 15

On Sunday, September 15, we will celebrate the small groups within our faith community – groups that seek to care, pray, engage, and serve for the sake of growing together spiritually to become a dwelling place for God.

Our NEW small group ministry brochure will be unveiled on Sunday, September 15, and all members of Christ Lutheran will be encouraged to consider where they might want to be involved. Our small groups range in focus to include Bible studies, service, worship, fellowship, and various special interests. The brochure also highlights the many wonderful music ministries in which members are invited to participate. Small Group Leaders will greet you in the CrossWay on the 15<sup>th</sup> to tell you more about their group and to answer any questions you may have. (Note to our Small Group Leaders: please reserve your table space by Monday, September 9.)

We currently have almost 50 groups, but we always love to add new ones. Please chat with Pastor Leslie if you're interested in starting up a new group. To get in the 2024-2025 Small Group Ministries brochure, please talk to Pastor Leslie by Sunday, September 8.

# Sunday School - September 2024

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. upstairs in the designated classrooms beginning Sunday, September 8 for Rally Day! Here's what's happening:

Preschool (3 years old – Kindergarten): We will jump into the wonder of learning the Bible stories through the Godly Play curriculum. Patti Lynch and Deacon Lisa Diana will be the lead Sunday school teachers for this class.

1st - 3rd & 4th - 7th Grades: Students will be using the Bible in a Year 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, will be teaching these classes.

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## Confirmation Class: (6th through 8th Grade)

We welcome all 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders to be part of this most important step in their faith formation: Confirmation.

On six *required* Wednesday evening lessons (6:00 to 7:30 p.m.) throughout the year, we will spend time together hearing interactive presentations taught by Pastor Leslie that cover the big stuff we need to know about faith, God, family, friends, and life. We tackle the Creeds, the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther's life and theology, our current practice of the faith, other religions, and more.

Wednesday, September 11: Our first Wednesday lesson of the year will be September 11, which also will serve as our ORIENTATION for the year. We invite all parents and students (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade) to arrive at the Fellowship Hall for orientation at 6:00 p.m., followed by our first Wednesday class (meeting upstairs in the Youth Room), which will run until 7:30 p.m. Pizza will be provided for all during each Wednesday evening lesson to help busy parents and families with prioritizing this important commitment.

Confirmation Class Schedule (other than orientation, all classes meet from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. upstairs in the Youth Room): September 11, October 16, November 13, January 8, February 12, April 9. We will add one special event throughout the year. Given the few classes required for confirmation education, we hope that families will make sure their Confirmand attends each class. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Leslie. We look forward to seeing all 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders and their parents on Wednesday, September 11.

# Children's Choirs – Wednesdays 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Angelicus Choir (pre-K - Kinder) and Gloria Choir (1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

We are excited for another year of small voices lifting up praise to God in big ways! Pastor Leslie and Becky Richard will lead our pre-K through kindergarten children in Angelicus Choir. All children who are age two by September 1 through kindergarten (ages four or five) are invited to join the fun. We ask that when two-year-old kiddos participate, they are actively accompanied by a parent throughout the rehearsal. Parents are welcome to drop off choristers who are three years old through kindergarten age, or to stay and enjoy the rehearsal time with their child. Mary Villarreal, a music educator with many years of experience teaching, will be leading the Gloria Choir (1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) again this year along with Sharon Wiedemann as the choir's faithful accompanist.

Both choirs offer the opportunity to learn diverse and engaging music. Choir rehearsals are fun and educational. The children will assist in worship once a month. Key dates are below.

Please join us on Wednesday, September 11, from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. for our first rehearsal. Gloria Choir meets in the Sanctuary, and Angelicus Choir meets in the Children's Chapel.

Parents often gather in the CrossWay for a fun time of fellowship and conversation during their children's rehearsal. This year we are adding something new! Pizza and salad will be served on **second Wednesdays** in the Fellowship Hall from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m. to extend this fellowship opportunity as we continue to grow in our faith together. Our first pizza night of the year coincides with our first choir rehearsal night. See you September 11 for music, food, and fun!

## Wednesday Night Choir Schedule for the Fall:

Wednesday, September 11 - December 18: No rehearsal on October 9 (Alamo Heights Howdy Night) or November 27 (Happy Thanksgiving!)

Dates to sing in worship this Fall are TBD.

## **FX3 is Back! (6th - 12th Grade)**

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 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to join us and bring a friend or two.

Sunday, September 15: Pizza Night and Games

Sunday, October 6: Pizza at Julian's and Ice Cream at Baskin Robbins

Sunday, October 20: Oktoberfest

Sunday, October 27: Host a trunk at Trunk or Treat

Sunday, November 3: FX3 Pizza Night and Games

Sunday, November 17: Friendsgiving Party at CLC, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 1: Hanging of the Greens after Worship

Sunday, December 22: Christmas Party; Place TBD, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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## **Family in Fellowship, Friday, September 20, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

Join us for family night at CLC! Bring pillows, blankets, Snuggies and whatever you want to get comfy for the movies. You can even come in your pajamas! Everyone is welcome for this event. There will be a yummy caramel apple bar too! Please contact Rhonda Barsalou, Natalie Tate or Carrie Jowers for more details.

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## **College Night Out: Sunday, September 22, 6:30 p.m., Tycoon Flats**

Grab a friend or two and join us for dinner at Tycoon Flats located on N. Saint Mary's Street. All college age students are invited to come to dinner to be in fellowship and share your college experiences. This ministry will meet monthly for dinner as well as offer special outings throughout the year. Contact Ms. Carrie for more information.

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## **Save the date for the following events this fall:**

Sunday, October 6: Come out for lunch at Biff Buzby's Backyard after worship!

Sunday, October 27: Trunk or Treat, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we trick or treat at CLC in the Primrose 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 the festivities!

Friday, November 15: Bring Your Own Pumpkin! Bring a pumpkin, and we'll have pumpkin decorating supplies - paint, stickers, etc. We'll also share some pumpkin desserts!

Sunday, December 15: Cookie exchange!



# The Power of Your Offerings: You are Helping Children, the Homeless, Seniors, and Migrants

CLC's Benevolence Team and four of our benevolence partners were thrilled to learn that our congregation's generosity in Sunday worship offerings generated an additional \$12,547.89 for Christ Lutheran's benevolence work in fiscal year 2023-2024. The team has voted to allocate an additional \$3K each to the following four nonprofit organizations that are vetted and established CLC benevolence partners. The remaining \$547.89 will go into the Pastor's Discretionary Benevolence Fund for emergency aid.

Recipients of the additional \$3K each include Christian Assistance Ministry, Christian Senior Services-Meals on Wheels, Friends of Ngong Road, and Plaza de Paz.

**Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)** will apply these funds to a \$100K August matching grant from the Wade Richmond Foundation to further CAM's dedication to serving at-risk children, families, veterans, seniors, and individuals with much-needed resources to folks who are in crisis. Services may include basics such as groceries, utility assistance, prescription assistance, bus passes, IDs, birth certificates, clothes, shoes, and more.

**Christian Senior Services-Meals on Wheels**, a longtime benevolence partner, delivers nutritious meals to homebound seniors, helping them stay healthy and remain independent in their homes. The need is great, as evidenced by the delivery of more than 24 million hot meals since opening in 1977. Each weekday, volunteers and staff visit more than 4,500 clients' homes in Bexar and surrounding counties to deliver nourishing food, goodwill . . . and friendship (a gift as welcomed as the meals).

**Friends of Ngong Road** in Nairobi, Kenya, lends educational support and hope to thousands of children whose already-impoverished lives have been upended by AIDS in their families. Some 50% are orphans and another 50% live with a surviving parent. Friends of Ngong Road help children receive an education, find jobs, support themselves, and assist their families in overcoming poverty. The children served by this charitable organization live primarily in Dagoretti where the median household income is under two dollars per day. This gift will give students regular access to using computers and offer multiple training programs that equip young people with the skills, knowledge and mindset to thrive in any future career.

**Plaza de Paz** respite center, a collaborative effort between the Southwestern Texas Synod of the ELCA and the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, provides welcoming services for families and individuals seeking asylum. Services include meals, assistance with travel arrangements, personal hygiene care, emergency housing, and transportation within Bexar County to the airport or bus station.

When you, our dear and generous Christ Lutheran friends, share your resources through weekly worship gifts, you are transforming lives, bringing hope to the hopeless, and reminding recipients of your gifts that we are all one in Christ. We are so grateful, and these strangers whom we may never meet are uplifted by your kindness. More than 25 local, Lutheran, and international charitable organizations share 20% of Christ Lutheran's weekly worship offerings. The total distributed to our benevolence partners in 2023-2024: **\$129,595.71!** Isn't that a beautiful thing?

# Meal Kits for Plaza de Paz

The Plaza de Paz Respite Center for migrants is in desperate need of shelf-stable, individually wrapped meal kits. These kits are useful as a backup when fresh food resources are unavailable. Even better, they are easy to pack for travel. The Center needs around 300 kits a month, so Christ Lutheran is undertaking the challenge to provide a month's worth of kits this fall. In September and October, we will be collecting items for the kits. You can stop by the CrossWay and visit our donation display starting Sunday, September 8. There you will find notes you can take, detailing a group of items we will need for the kit. Don't forget to sign the registration sheet so we can track who is giving what and make certain all items are covered. On Sunday, October 27, during education hour, we will have an all-congregation service project to pack these kits in Fellowship Hall. This will be a fun and faith-filled intergenerational service opportunity, where we can be witnesses of compassion and grace. Please join us!

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## **CLC Benevolence Partner Corner:** **New Life Children's Center**

New Life Children's Center is a residential treatment center for girls ages 11-17 who have experienced severe trauma in their lives. New Life is a mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Through multiple services that include counseling, education, and job training, New Life offers an avenue for girls to move into a future with hope, knowing they are loved and valued. This is a challenging mission that is accomplished in a variety of ways through the work of dedicated volunteers and staff.

The Director of Volunteers recently gave me an extensive tour of the campus and described the different offerings including education in the state-licensed school and job training, as well as essential counseling and spiritual guidance. On the campus of New Life Children's Center there are classrooms, a dormitory, and a cafeteria with outdoor seating available when the weather cooperates, and many other facilities. Every volunteer has gone through an extensive vetting process to ensure the safety of the girls.

The New Life campus has riverfront access to the Guadalupe River. The girls provide care for animals, including therapy horses, and they tend a bountiful garden. A beautiful, light-filled Lutheran chapel sits near the river. The chapel ministry provides an essential spiritual experience.

Christ Lutheran donated \$4,000 to New Life Children's Center in fiscal year 2023-24.

*(New Life Children's Center 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

# ALL CHURCH PICNIC

9/8  
SUNDAY



11:45  
A.M.

Delicious food for everyone as well as face painting and balloon animals for the children. Click here to sign-up

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044FA8A82CA4F85-50932936-church>

If you would consider bringing a dessert, or if you can help with prep or clean-up on the day, we would be grateful.



## SMALL GROUP *Sunday*

We celebrate the small groups within our faith community – groups that seek to care, pray, engage, and serve for the sake of growing together spiritually to become a dwelling place for God.

Small Group Leaders will greet you in the CrossWay to tell you more about their group and to answer any questions you may have.

Sunday | September 15 | CrossWay

Christ Lutheran Church  
6720 Broadway  
San Antonio, Texas 78209  
www.clcah.org  
210-822-3394

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



CHRIST  
LUTHERAN  
CHOOSES

*Kindness*

FALL SCHEDULE BEGINS  
SEPTEMBER 8TH

WORSHIP 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FOR ALL AGES

9:30 A.M.

PICNIC AT 11:45 A.M.