



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

## 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

November 2024

## From the Pastor

### Politics is a Way of Helping People: A Christian Perspective for Times of Crisis

I take my title from a book written in 1974 by Karl H. Hertz, urging people of faith to engage politically and be active agents for those in need, and most of all, to vote. I hope you vote your conscience on November 5.

Many see the current political scene in our nation as a time of crisis, such as it was also for Dr. Hertz back in 1974. Too often, I believe Christian persons consider the mission of the church to be concerned only with "spiritual" matters. In my view, remaining at political distance from the world ignores the Hebrew prophets and the ministry of Jesus, which were both firmly rooted in political justice, especially for persons without power.

Jesus was a faithful, observant Jew who knew the Law and the Prophets. He knew well the history of Israel and God's liberation of the Hebrew people from enslavement in Egypt. The miracle of the Exodus stands out in the history of Israel as God's direct intervention on the part of oppressed persons. When the children of Israel in subsequent generations forgot that miracle and "worshipped other gods," they separated themselves from the "steadfast love" of the God of Israel.

God sent prophets with words of judgment and hope, reminding the faithful that God is less interested in our liturgy than in *mishpat*, the Hebrew concept of "justice." ALL the prophets focus on this message, above even matters of theology, history, or the various ways we pray and worship. Without *mishpat*, our worship life becomes a meaningless exercise.

I believe this was the central message in Jesus' preaching about the *Kingdom of God* or the *Kingdom of Heaven*. It is not a distant payoff for good behavior, but rather the coming of God's presence in the here and now. To "do justice" is above all to care for all people created in the divine image, right here on earth. Jesus did that when he healed the sick, fed those who were hungry, and even restored some to life, incarnating for us what the *Kingdom* is. Jesus did

Continued on next page...

# Member News

Congratulations to:

- Jordan Diggs and Daniel CdeBaca who married on October 12 in Abiquiu, NM.

Sympathy to:

- The family and friends of Mark Petersen, Marlo Petersen's son, who passed away on September 27.

not hesitate to confront political injustice when he saw it, which cost him his physical life.

Politics can be a path toward justice. In Biblical times, it was caring for the widow, the orphan, and the sojourner within our gates. In our time, it is the same, working for opportunity and fairness for every person, beginning not with our own interests but those in greatest need. We love the Lord with greatest devotion when we love all those for whom he died, for " . . . just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40).

So vote. Vote for those who see politics as a way of helping people.

- Pastor H

## Christian Education Corner

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

**November 3**

**All Generations Dia de los Muertos/Remembering our Beloveds**

See page 4 for more information.

**November 10**

**All Congregation Forum**

See page 5 for more information.

**November 17 – "The Politics of Jesus"**

Pastor H invites members and guests of Christ Lutheran Church to a Sunday morning Faith University reflections on the 17th of November, on the topic, "The Politics of Jesus." As we live through a controversial election season, we will examine Biblical teachings from Jesus that were considered radical during his earthly ministry . . . that would likely receive the same response today. "Treat the people's needs as holy" and "expose the workings of oppression" sound like political statements as Jesus challenged the established order of his time.

The writings of Obery Hendricks, John Howard Yoder, Warren Quance and others inform Pastor H's presentations. All are welcome!

**November 24: Bible Based**

Pastor Leslie concludes her class on scriptural interpretation and reclaiming the Word of God. We will consider and apply what we have already learned about hermeneutics and look at some of the key topics of our day from a biblical perspective, including marriage, gender, and sexuality. 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.

# Small Group Corner

## **The Gathering, Bird Bakery Thursday, November 14, 9:30 a.m.**

The Gathering is a group for moms with children from birth through college age. This group meets on the second Thursday of each month. It's a place where moms can chat about anything and everything, where they can feel comfortable to give advice when asked, to listen, laugh and just enjoy making and growing friendships. Please contact Joan Woods for more information at [Joanwoods2@yahoo.com](mailto:Joanwoods2@yahoo.com) or Carrie Jowers in the church office.

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## **Lucy Circle, CLC Parlor Sunday, November 17, 9:30 a.m.**

This month, the Lucies will meet on Sunday, November 17, in the CLC Parlor to discuss an inspirational article by Rabbi Sharon Brous titled, "Train Yourself to Always Show Up." The idea is based on an obscure 2,000-year-old text advising people to show up when in pain and when broken-hearted, to entrust your pain to the community. Please join this group of compassionate, caring, thinking women. You are invited and you are welcome. If you'd like a copy of the article, let me know.

- Jan Schubert Norris

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## **Lunch Bunch, Fellowship Hall Thursday, November 21, 12:00 p.m.**

Our social group for seniors, Lunch Bunch, will gather on November 21 at noon in the Fellowship Hall for a Friendsgiving Meal. Join in and share all for which and whom you are thankful, including good friends.

# Service Opportunities

## Habitat for Humanity Landscape Day November 16, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We are looking for 20 volunteers ages 12 and above to sign up for our Habitat for Humanity workday on Saturday, November 16th, from 8:00 - 3:00. This is the last day of our Lutheran cluster build, and Christ Lutheran will be responsible for the landscaping. Afterwards there will be a dedication ceremony for the family (all ages are invited to this). 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! Please sign up using the link below so we know you will be there. When you arrive on site there will also be a waiver for you to sign.

Thank you! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0445A5A628A6FA7-52468967-habitat>



**Habitat for Humanity**

### LANDSCAPE DAY

Saturday, November 16  
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

- ✓ Volunteers ages 12 and up  
(youth must be accompanied by an adult)
- ✓ No experience needed  
All tools provided
- ✓ We can use any time you can spare!  
Sign-ups in the CrossWay or via this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0445A5A628A6FA7-52468967-habitat>

## Family Service Angel Tree

The idea of a child, adult, or senior going without a single gift under the Christmas tree moves our hearts toward compassion. For almost three decades, Christ Lutheran has hosted an Angel Tree in collaboration with Family Service Association. Our tree features not baubles that shine with glitter and gold, but instead Family Service Association clients in need of cheer. Each angel ornament has sizes of clothing and shoes needed as well as a brief list of wishes. Starting in mid-November, we invite you to stop by the CrossWay and select an “Angel” that you might help bring hope to families struggling financially due to illness, disability, job loss, rising costs, and so many other devastating challenges that those in poverty regularly face. You have a chance to make a difference in the life of a sacred child of God this Christmas. Some requests are simple and

Continued on next page...

affordable – others may ask for items not within your budget and not all the items on the list are expected. Please know that any gifts are welcomed and deeply appreciated. Please return your gifts, wrapped, and marked with the recipient's name and family number, to the CrossWay no later than Sunday, December 8. And please sign the registration sheet so we can make sure every angel is accounted for. Thank you!

## Upcoming Events

### All Saints' Sunday & Dia de los Muertos Remembrance, November 3

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 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 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 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.

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 beloveds 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.

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### Election Day Prayer Time, November 5

During this time around the election when there is a lot of political division and unrest, we can find solace, peace, and unity through prayer. The church will be open on Election Day for all those who would like to participate in a time of private prayer between the hours of 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Feel free to sign up using the link below. Our hope is to have someone praying in the Sanctuary throughout the day. One or both pastors and our deacon will also be available throughout the day for pastoral care and support. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0445A5A628A6FA7-52379887-election>

# Congregational Forum

## Sunday, November 10, 9:30 a.m.

The Congregation Council, Property Team, and a newly formed Capital Advance Team invite you to gather in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, November 10, at 9:30 a.m. for a congregation-wide conversation about our aging Education Wing and Fellowship Hall. A quick tour of these spaces (including the upstairs of the Education Wing) reveals the obvious – that these buildings are no longer simply dated but in need of significant repair . . . lighting, HVAC, electrical, windows, cosmetic, and other structural and modernization upgrades.

Both spaces have sustained significant water damage during severe rains, and the Fellowship Hall additionally suffers from a deteriorating foundation. While we have made repairs as needed, the buildings reflect their age. Years of vibrant ministry, education, celebrations, and memories in these spaces have taken their toll. The Council, Property Team, and Campaign Advance Team, as dedicated and faithful leaders of our church, have considered several potential pathways to address these facility issues. Before making any firm decisions on which pathway to take moving forward, they would very much like an opportunity to hear from each of you.

These leaders recognize that we are a strong and thriving congregation, approaching 100 years in ministry together! Their vision is to prepare us for another 100 years of ministry in this place. They know that each member and visitor at Christ Lutheran has a unique voice and perspective to share, and they invite each of you to contribute to our vision for Christ Lutheran's future.

Please join us on November 10, when we will present a brief overview of some of our options to address these property concerns. At this meeting, we will be grateful to hear your thoughts so that we may make wise, prudent decisions as we move forward, working together as a church family.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts but are unable to be at the Forum on November 10, please reach out to a Campaign Advance Team Member, Property Team Member, or Council Member (all listed below) to share your perspective. If you need contact information for any of these individuals, please call the church office.

### **Congregation Council**

Michael Fischer, President  
Bryan Woods, Vice President  
Jeff Timm, Treasurer  
Paul Pfeifer, Secretary  
Rhonda Barsalou  
James Ehler  
Edna Robbins  
Pastor Leslie Price  
Pastor Howard Stendahl

### **Property Team**

Joe Diana, Chair  
Adam Melius  
Bryan Woods  
Carrie Jowers  
Mark Hebert  
Michael Harris  
Ainslee Ford  
Pastor Leslie Price

### **Campaign Advance Team**

Bob Corder, Co-Chair  
Karen Corder, Co-Chair  
Jan Norris  
Bryan Woods  
Paul Pfeifer  
Adam Braaten  
Robb Decker  
Pastor Howard Stendahl  
Pastor Leslie Price  
Dana Ferraro  
Emily Sanfelippo  
Lynnell Burkett

## **Pumpkin Painting Party, Fellowship Hall Friday, November 15, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

Our Families in Fellowship ministry invites you to a pumpkin painting party! Bring your pumpkin, and we will supply the decorating supplies. Yummy and delicious pumpkin desserts will be shared among the group. You don't want to miss it!

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## **New Member Sunday, November 17**

We are delighted to be increasing our community of faith by welcoming new members. We will officially recognize additions to our church family during the 10:30 a.m. service on November 17. Please join us after the late service for a reception in the CrossWay honoring these new members. This gives us an important chance to extend our welcome as we get to know each other. Call the church office if you are interested in joining ... all are welcome here!

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## **Hanging of the Greens, December 1, 11:30 a.m.**

Listening to Christmas music and hanging boughs of holly really get one in the spirit of the season! Add the fantastic fellowship with good and faithful friends and the joy of contributing to the beautification of our worship space for the Advent and Christmas seasons and you have our annual tradition of the Hanging of the Greens at CLC. The children are invited to Fellowship Hall to watch a Christmas movie while making ornaments for the Christmas tree that adorns our Sanctuary. A special gift for them and for the congregation as we admire their creative art throughout the season. Once the work is done, we gather for tamales and chili in the Fellowship Hall, thanks to Clara Tenorio's gracious hosting!

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## **Advent Beach Retreat December 6 - 8 in Port Aransas**

Join us for a weekend of fun as we prepare our hearts for Christmas morning. Come to relax, be in fellowship, learn the meaning of Advent, make Christmas cards, enjoy story time, create Advent crafts, go on a nature walk, eat s'mores, and more! Grab a registration form in the Crossway. If you have questions, reach out to Ms. Carrie in the church office. The deadline for signing up is November 15.

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# Children and Youth Corner

## **Gloria & Angelicus Choirs, Wednesdays 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.**

The Gloria and Angelicus Choirs continue to gather to sing, have fun, and learn about God's love. Both choirs sang in worship on October 20 for Deacon Lisa Diana's installation, and they did a beautiful job! 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 blessed by their sweet voices in praise.

Choir rehearsals run each Wednesday through December 11 with a Christmas Party on December 18 (please note no rehearsal on November 27 for the Thanksgiving break). Pastor Leslie and Ms. Becky will lead our 2-5-year-olds in the Children's Chapel. Ms. Mary and Ms. Sharon will lead our first 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:

November 10  
December 15

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

November 17  
December 1

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## **Sunday School - November**

Sunday, November 3: All Saints' Sunday & Dia de los Muertos in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 10: A movie will be shown in the Children's Chapel

Sunday, November 17: Friendsgiving Feast

Sunday, November 24: Regular Sunday School upstairs

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## **Confirmation Class (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade) Wednesday, November 13, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

Through our confirmation program, we seek to encourage, inspire, and nurture students as they experience God's baptismal promises, grow in their faith and understanding, and discover what it means to be God's people in the world today. We tackle the stuff that defines our Lutheran religion, such as the Bible, theology, and the Small Catechism. Most importantly, we learn about the grace and love of God.

Confirmation Class will meet on Wednesday, November 13, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. upstairs in the education wing with Pastor Leslie and Ms. Carrie. We will have pizza to make the evening easier to manage. We will finish up studying the 10 Commandments.

# FX3 November and December Schedule (6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Saturday, November 2: San Antonio Botanical Gardens, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

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

Sunday, December 1: Will not meet due to Thanksgiving Break

Sunday, December 22: FX3 Christmas Party/White Elephant at CLC, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

*Please note that there is no FX3 in January.*

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## FX3 Friendsgiving Dinner Sunday, November 17

All middle and high school students are invited to a Friendsgiving Dinner in celebration of Thanksgiving. We will have funny turkey games, dinner, and time for fellowship and devotional time. Please sign up using the link below to bring a yummy dish. The turkey will be provided by the church.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084CADA828A75-52566344-fx3friendsgiving#/>

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## College Ministry Friendsgiving Meal Sunday, November 24

Bring your favorite dish to share with your friends on Sunday, November 24. We will meet at Ms. Carrie's house from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Please contact Ms. Carrie for more information. Friends are invited!

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## Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 15

Calling all 3 year olds through high school students! This year's Christmas Pageant is titled, "The Biggest Fan of Jesus." You'll hear the story told by John the Baptist and our children and youth. Please reach out to Ms. Carrie if your child or youth would like to participate in this fun tradition.

**Required Christmas Pageant Rehearsal is Saturday, December 14 from 10 a.m. until noon.**

## Staff

The Rev. Leslie Price  
*Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Howard Stendahl  
*Pastor*

Carrie Jowers  
*Director of Faith Formation*

Dana Ferraro  
*Director of Day School*

Ainslee Ford  
*Office Manager & Accountant*

Lori Harris  
*Office Administrator & A/V Tech*

Deacon Lisa Diana  
*Minister of Mission & Outreach*

Dr. Dan Long  
*Director of Music Ministry*

Jeff Hammack  
*Organist*

Mary Patino  
*Youth Choir Director*

Sharon Wiedemann  
*Youth Choir Accompanist*

Sam Tenorio and Justin Martin  
*Custodians*

Jesus Garcia  
*A/V Tech*

Carolyn Dufelmeier  
*Event Coordinator*

## Congregation Council

Michael Fischer,  
*President*

Bryan Woods,  
*Vice-President*

Jeff Timm,  
*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

## Save the Date for These Upcoming Events:

Saturday November 2: FX3 San Antonio Botanical Gardens

Sunday, November 3: All Saints' Sunday (All Generational Sunday School)

Friday, November 15: Families in Fellowship Pumpkin Party

Sunday, November 17: FX3 Friendsgiving Dinner

Sunday, November 24: College Friendsgiving Meal

Sunday, December 6 - 8: Advent Beach Retreat

Sunday, December 1: No Sunday School (Thanksgiving Break)

Saturday, December 14: Required Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

Sunday, December 15: Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22: FX3 Christmas Party

**Sunday School Break: December 22 - December 29 for all ages**

## Praises to:

- Everyone who helped with Oktoberfest.
- All who stayed and helped pack the Plaza de Paz meal kits.
- The grounds and watering team who show up each week and water around the church property.
- The quilters who provide warmth and comfort to people in need throughout the world.

## ALL'S FAIR

Sunday  
November 24  
CrossWay



Help  
Improve  
Lives

FAIRTRADE

Handmade Items from Around the World



### What to look forward to . . .

- \* A weekend to take time to pause with your loved ones surrounded by ocean beauty
- \* Enjoy hot chocolate, Christmas crafts, and a Christmas movie
- \* Tell stories and sing Christmas songs by the campfire
- \* Good food, nice accommodations
- \* Warm, welcoming, wonderful, and faithful members

**Schedule is subject to change based on weather.**

<p>Friday, December 6 Welcome and Reflection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 3:00 -7:00 p.m. Arrive &amp; Check in</li> <li>* 7:30 p.m. Gather together at the Conference Center</li> <li>* 8:30 p.m. Story Time with Ms. Carrie</li> </ul>	<p>Saturday, December 7 A Day of Preparation &amp; Connection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 8:30 a.m. Morning Devotion and Breakfast</li> <li>* 9:30 a.m. Head to Birding Center and a Nature Walk</li> <li>* 12:00 p.m. Lunch</li> <li>* 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Crafts &amp; a Lesson on what is Advent</li> <li>* 6:00 p.m. Dinner</li> <li>* 7:00 p.m. Hot Cocoa &amp; a Christmas movie</li> </ul>	<p>Sunday, December 8 Wrapping Up with Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 8:30 a.m. Breakfast &amp; Devotion</li> <li>* 9:30 a.m. Closing Worship Service</li> <li>* 10:30 a.m. Pack Up/Departure</li> </ul>
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Cost includes all three meals on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, housing, and craft supplies. Each room has its own private bathroom and many feature balconies with a view of the ocean. Registration forms are in the CrossWay or contact the church office.

Family of 1	\$305	Family of 4	\$660
Family of 2	\$410	Family of 5	\$785
Family of 3	\$530	Family of 6	\$910

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## NOVEMBER AT CLC

3 - *All Saints' Sunday/Dia de Los Muertos*

10 - *Congregational Forum*

15 - *Decorate a Pumpkin Night*

16 - *Habitat for Humanity Landscape Day*

17 - *New Member Sunday*

24 - *Fair Trade Sunday*

27-28 - *Church Offices closed*