

PROCLAIMER

Christ Lutheran Church

September 2025

Worship

Sunday Morning Holy Communion 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. beginning September 7

Livestream 10:30 a.m.

Christian Education for all ages 9:30 a.m. beginning September 7

Office

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 210-822-3394 office@clcah.org

From the Pastor

I confess that I miss the once glorified movie genre of romantic comedy. I have a cadre of old movies which I fondly remember watching more than once including: *French Kiss* starring Meg Ryan. In the movie, Meg Ryan's character HATES flying, but she somehow overcomes her fears to fly for the very first time in her life. She goes to France, sees the Eiffel tower, the River Seine and more. In a memorable moment, she is standing in the middle of a square in a small French town, its streets lined with cobblestones, its windows bracketed by colorful shutters, its shrubs neatly trimmed in a deep forest green. Suddenly, she shouts out into the air, "Oh, send a postcard. Wish you were here." She's not really talking to anyone in particular. Instead, she's simply overcome by the beauty that surrounds her and wishing that she could share it with those whom she loves who cannot see it.

During my internship year in Mexico in 2006, I had the privilege of having many "Send a postcard. Wish you were here moments." Walking up the metro stairs to the Zocalo that I had seen so many times in pictures, and finally truly understanding the sheer immensity of the square surrounded by regal stone buildings older than any we have in the United States; or looking at a Diego Rivera mural and being overwhelmed at the colors and the content, so full of vitality, history, truth, passion, and glory; or watching the sunset over Spanish colonial Puebla from my hotel roof with a volcano smoking in the background and the gigantic dome of the Cathedral in the foreground. So often during that year, the beauty and majesty of Mexico awed me. A piece of me fell in love with Mexico, its people and its culture.

While in Mexico, the joy that I felt at experiencing the gifts of another culture and its legacy made me want to share this same joy with others. In the words of Jesus' first disciples, "Come and See," I would say to my family and friends, "You just must see this for yourself. My words simply cannot describe it." Needless to say, I saw the Zocalo many, many times during my year there, but it never grew old. It always left me breathless, and getting to share that experience with others as they saw it themselves for the first time was something I will always treasure. "Come and See," I said to them and they did. "Come and see things that have changed my understanding of the world, things that have expanded my horizons beyond what I thought possible."

This is really what sharing the Good News is about, too. It's not something that we have to do or something that we should feel obligated to do, not some boring formula and not some perfect theological treatise, however intriguing. Rather, evangelism is something that overflows out of you, something that happens whether you want it to or not, something personal that captivates you, changing you so that you will never be the same. "Come and see," you say to those you love and those who are perfect strangers. "Come and see" this Savior who has transformed not only my life but also the whole world. "Come and see" this one who loved you and me so much that he gave his life upon the cross so that we might be

set free. "Come and see" this Savior who has made all things new. Because of what we have known firsthand in the person of Jesus Christ, "Come and See." This fall as we begin a new year of programming at Christ Lutheran, I invite you and all your family and friends to "Come and See" as we grow in faith together.

- Pastor Leslie

SMALL GROUPS MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

CLC Book Club, Tuesday, September 2, 6:45 p.m., Primrose House

You're invited to join a growing hub of CLC readers who gather monthly to discuss a variety of interesting books. We'll meet to discuss *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marian Kamali. Our October selection is *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell.

Men's Breakfast Group, Tuesday, September 9, 7:00 a.m., Bill Miller BBQ

All men of the church are invited to a short Bible study on the upcoming Sunday gospel. Breakfast tacos and fellowship at Bill Miller BBQ located at 410 and Nacogdoches Road.

Conversational Spanish, Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 p.m., Parlor

Want a space to speak Spanish and grow in your conversational skills? Join this Spanish Intermediate Conversation class for fun, language advancement, cultural activities in San Antonio, and fellowship.

Lunch Bunch, Thursday, September 18, Noon, Fellowship Hall

Lunch Bunch invites seniors to gather for lunch on the third Thursday of the month where we gather for food and fellowship.

Lydia Circle, Thursday, September 18, 1:00 p.m., Primrose House

This group of women meets once a month in the Primrose House or homes of its members. Join this friendly group for thoughtful Bible Study and enjoyable fellowship.

Lucy Circle, Sunday, September 21, 9:30 a.m., Parlor

It's September, and the Lucies are back in session! Ladies, please join us for a discussion of Laura Lentz' article, "We Can Choose: To Love or To Hate." This timely reflection focuses on the need to exercise our muscle of love, to embrace the marginalized, and to recognize we have enough love within us to share with everyone. If you'd like a copy of the article, please let me know.

CHRIST LUTHERAN DAY SCHOOL A Joyful Start at Christ Lutheran Day School

We are excited to share that Christ Lutheran Day School has had a wonderful first few weeks of school! It has been such a joy to see returning students back in the classrooms and to welcome many new families into our school community. We are especially grateful for the support of Christ Lutheran Church, which has allowed us to provide a record number of scholarships to families this year. Your generosity makes it possible for more children to experience a Christ-centered education, and we give thanks for that blessing. Our dedicated staff has worked tirelessly to prepare a warm, engaging, and joyful learning environment. The classrooms look beautiful, and the halls are filled with laughter, learning, and love. We are looking forward to a year filled with growth, discovery, and God's grace.

MISSION AND OUTREACH CORNER

Greetings from our Mission and Outreach Team Next Meeting, Monday, November 3, 6:00 p.m.

We are looking forward to how we can together serve our community and the world. The Outreach Team meets quarterly in order to identify opportunities for education, service, and advocacy. We want to provide ways that our church can be involved in reaching out to those who are vulnerable in our community. As always, if there is a project that you are passionate about please contact Lisa Diana at lisa@clcah.org. If you are interested in joining us, our next team meeting is Monday, November 3rd at 6:00 pm.

Summer Food Offering for Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)



Over the summer we collected non-perishable donations for Christian Assistance Ministry, filling our sanctuary altar with their abundance. Thanks to all those who gave generously to their neighbors in need.

Summer Bike Drive and Wrench-A-thon

This summer we collected nineteen gently used bikes for Nuevos Vecinos, as well as other organizations that needed them. Thanks to those who donated used as well as new bikes for our summer bike drive and helped provide needed repairs. These will benefit those who don't have transportation to get to the places they need to go.

Haven for Hope Kitchen, Sunday, September 14, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Haven for Hope

In September we will be offering a service opportunity to prepare and serve a meal to those who are homeless at Haven for Hope. Haven for Hope, one of our benevolence partners, works closely with San Antonio food bank to provide

meals for the clients they serve. Ages 14 and up can serve at the Haven for Hope Kitchen. If you would like to be involved in helping with this opportunity, sign up in the CrossWay and/or contact Deacon Lisa Diana at lisa@clcah.org. We will meet at the church ahead of time to carpool and then arrive at Haven for Hope from 3:00-7:00 pm on Sunday, September 14th.

God's Work. Our Hands. Service Project Sunday, October 26, 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Upcoming: God's Work. Our Hands. All Ages Service Project during Sunday School on October 26th! We will be assembling care kits to donate to Upbring, one of our Lutheran benevolence partners, to be distributed at their Health For Friends Clinic, which provides quality services for people who might not otherwise have access to health care. We will be collecting the following travel size items in September and October to assemble into kits on October 26th: shampoo, toothpaste, bar soap, hand lotion, sunscreen, pack of bandaids, and pack of tissues.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Faith University, Psalms: Songs of Faith and Life 9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

September 7, 14, 21, 28 & October 5, 19

Join Pastor Leslie this September and October as we explore the Book of Psalms, a collection of sacred songs that speaks to us today as it did to the faithful of long ago. Discover what timeless wisdom and insight the Psalms provide to encourage, nurture, and sustain us in discipleship for our day and age. We will look at Psalms of the law, individual and communal lament, thanksgiving, wisdom, and more. To enhance our understanding, we will draw upon the work of Christian singer/songwriter, Sarah McCracken, who has developed a series on the Psalms where she shares her reflections as well as her original songs, bringing the Psalms to life.

Primrose Corner, 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!

Children and Youth Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

This year, we will begin with a combined children's chapel for students ages **3 years old through 5th grade**. After a shared message with Ms. Blythe, children will go upstairs and break into age-level groups for their studies:

- 3-year-olds-Kindergarten: Exploring Bible stories through the Godly Play curriculum
- 1st–3rd grade: Beginning with Storytelling, followed by an art lesson
- 4th-5th grade: Beginning with an art lesson, followed by Storytelling
- 6th-8th grade: Confirmation classes with Ms. Blythe (upstairs)

Please plan to drop your children off downstairs in the children's chapel and pick them up at 10:15 a.m. upstairs in their age level room! If you have any questions, please contact blythe@clcah.org.

Entering Sunday School Stepping Stone

Christ Lutheran welcomes 3-year-old children to enter a new stage in their faith development by beginning Sunday School. To honor this big step in their lives, we will welcome the children and their families to come forward for a special blessing during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. At this time, each child will be given a Spark Bible to help guide them as they continue on their faith journey at church and at home.

What is FX3?

FX3 stands for *Faith, Fellowship & Friends*! This group of middle and high school youth gathers for devotion, fellowship, and plenty of fun. Join us for our **kickoff event** at church on **Sunday, September 7, at 5:00 p.m.** We'll spend time together as a group, plan future meetups and activities, and get to know one another better.

If you would like to participate in FX3 but are unable to attend on September 7, please contact Ms. Blythe to share your input on future events.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Confirmation Class: (6th through 8th Grade) First Lesson, Wednesday, September 10, 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Confirmation is where our young members learn about our Lutheran faith and understanding. We study Martin Luther's life and teachings, the history of the Reformation, the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, and Ten Commandments, the sacraments, the Holy Bible, and the work of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. After their studies, each student makes their own decision whether to confirm the faith into which they have been baptized. It's a fun and exciting time in the life of these students and a privilege and honor for us, as a community of faith, to nurture these young people as they grow in their discipleship.

On five select Wednesday evening lessons throughout the year, Confirmation students 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. The remainder of our time together happens during a small group time on Sunday mornings (9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.), where students gather with our Director of Faith Formation, Blythe Boeck, to talk more in-depth about the topics covered on Wednesday evenings and how they might apply this learning to their lives using Talksheets. If students can't make a Sunday morning class time, they may complete the Talksheets at home with their parents or schedule a special time with Ms. Blythe to make-up the work.

Our first Wednesday lesson of the year will be September 10, which will also serve as our ORIENTATION for the year. We invite all parents and students (6th-8th grade) to arrive at Fellowship Hall for orientation at 6:15 p.m. followed by our first Wednesday class, 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.

The first Sunday School Confirmation class will be September 7! More details will be provided at orientation, but parents are welcome to contact Pastor Leslie or our Director of Faith Formation, Blythe Boeck, as well. We can't wait to see you for an exciting year!

Our New Director of Faith Formation, Blythe Boeck

I am grateful for the opportunity to begin my work as Director of Faith Formation at Christ Lutheran Church. As a San Antonio native and lifelong member of this congregation, this role is both an honor and a calling. For more than seventeen years, I have served in the field of education, holding positions ranging from classroom teacher to curriculum designer in both public and private schools. Throughout this journey, my focus has remained on fostering the growth and development of children. I consider it a true privilege to walk alongside the youth of Christ Lutheran as they deepen their faith and understanding.

To better serve the children and families of our congregation, I am collecting information through an <u>online survey</u> (https://forms.gle/DrH8yhmTNEYcaQwf7). I invite you to take a few minutes to complete it and share more about your children.

For ongoing updates and opportunities to stay connected, please follow our Facebook page, **@CLC Children and Youth Ministries**, and our new Instagram page, **@CLCAH_Youth**.

- Blythe Boeck

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Meet & Greet with Ms. Blythe - Ice Cream Social Wednesday, September 3, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall



What do ice cream, sprinkles, and our new Director of Faith Formation, Blythe Boeck, all have in common? They cause us to smile and maybe even giggle a bit. Our funny and fun-loving new DOFF, Blythe, can't wait to meet you and your family OR if she has met you already, she can't wait to get to know you all better. Join us Wednesday, September 3, to say hello and share in the sweetness of an evening of ice cream and fellowship.

Rally Day & All Church Picnic Sunday, September 7, 11:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall and Courtyard



We invite you to join us for a special Rally Day Sunday on September 7, complete with Sunday school kick-off for all ages and a church picnic with delicious food for everyone, hosted by Carolyn Dufelmeier with the whole church participating as we volunteer to bring various sides (see QR code to sign-up).

The church will provide the main course of fried chicken along with the desserts. Our theme for this year is vintage church picnic so please bring your favorite potato, pasta, green, or Jell-O salad, or whatever says picnic to you.

Blythe Boeck, our new Director of Faith Formation, is planning lots of old-fashioned fun and games, such as potato sack races, other relays, and a pie eating contest for the kids.

We will also be back to our schedule of two Sunday worship services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. with all ages education classes at 9:30 a.m.

If you don't feel like bringing a side dish, you can still volunteer by assisting with set-up or 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!

Newly Elected Council Member Installation - At-Large Member, Karen Corder, Sunday, September 21, 10:30 a.m.

On Sunday, September 21, during our 10:30 a.m. worship service, we will officially install our newly elected congregation council member, Karen Corder. Please join us in giving thanks for her willingness to serve and in praying for her as she begins her term of service. The installation is a special time for us to come together and affirm our support for our leaders, as they guide us in our shared mission.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Small Group Sunday, September 14, CrossWay



On Sunday, September 14, 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 14, 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 14th 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 8.)

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 2025-2026 Small Group Ministries brochure, please talk to Pastor Leslie by Sunday, September 7.

New Member Sunday, September 28



We rejoice every time our community of faith grows its membership. We strive to welcome all and make them feel at home here in this place. On Sunday, September 28, please join us as we welcome a group of new members during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. There will be a reception in the CrossWay following the late service to meet and greet these new members of our church family. If you are interested in joining, please contact Pastor Leslie and plan to attend the orientation held that morning at 9:30 a.m. in the south end of the Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRY

Children's Choirs, Wednesdays, 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. Angelicus Choir (pre K-Kinder) and Gloria Choir (1st-5th 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 three by September 1 through kindergarten are invited to join the fun. Parents are welcome to drop off choristers 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 (1st through 5th 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.

Please join us on Wednesday, September 10, 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. A community dinner follows rehearsals in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m. Please see below for more information. We hope you will join us this fall for music, food, and fun!

Wednesday Night Choir Schedule for the Fall:

Wednesday, September 10 - December 17: No rehearsal on October 15 (Alamo Heights Howdy Night) or November 26 (Happy Thanksgiving!)

Dates to sing in worship this Fall are TBD.

Community Dinners, Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall



All ages and family make-ups are invited to join us for dinner on Wednesday evenings in the Fellowship Hall beginning September 10 with Pizza Night! Once a month we have pizza, and on the rest of the Wednesdays, families and individuals take turns bringing a main dish, a side, a dessert, etc. See the QR code if you would like to help out by bringing something or by setting up or cleaning up. We hope to see you on Wednesdays regardless.



MEMBER NEWS

Our Sympathy to:

- The family and friends of Lynn Zick, who died on July 29, 2025.
- The family and friends of Margery Erp, who died on July 29, 2025.
- The family and friends of Tilo Ziesmann, who died on July 16, 2025.

PRAISES TO:

- Everyone who donated food to the CAM Collection
- All who donated bikes that will provide much needed transportation for those in need
- Those who worked at the Wrench-A-Thon to clean and repair donated bikes
- All who brought delicious breakfast items this summer
- Those who were able to attend our special summer events
- Rhonda Barsalou for her four years of service on the Congregational Council
- Gloria Meyer for her decades of dedication to playing the piano for our Day School during Chapel

STAFF

The Rev. Leslie Price

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Howard Stendahl

Pastor

Blythe Boeck

Director of Faith Formation

Dana Ferraro

Director of Day School

Ainslee Ford

Office Manager & Accountant

Deacon Lisa Diana

Minister of Mission & Outreach

Lori Harris

Communications Coordinator

Dr. Dan Long

Director of Music Ministry

Jeff Hammack

Organist

Mary Patino

Youth Choir Director

Sharon Wiedemann

Youth Choir Accompanist

Sam Tenorio

Custodian

Jesus Garcia

A/V Tech

Carolyn Dufelmeier

Event Coordinator

Clara Tenorio

Nursery Attendant

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Michael Fischer

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Bryan Woods

Vice-President

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Paul Pfeifer

Secretary

Karen Corder

At-Large Member

James Ehler

At-Large Member

Edna Robbins

At-Large Member

The Rev. Leslie Price

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The Rev. Howard Stendahl

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