

CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Proclaimer

Worship

Sunday Morning
Holy Eucharist
at 9:30 a.m.
preceded by
fellowship and light
breakfast treats in the
CrossWay at 9:00 a.m.



Through God's grace, we joyfully
receive to give, learn to serve, and
worship to grow!

August 2010

Education

On the second and fourth
Sunday of each month
throughout the summer,
you are invited to "Talk
Back to the Pastor." See
page 2 for all the details.

On those Sundays,
children are invited to a
special activity with
Dianna in the
Fellowship Hall.

Nursery

A Nursery is available for
children who are infants
through 4 years of age
during Sunday morning
worship and the Sunday
School Hour.

Office

Monday-Thursday from
9 a.m.—4:30p.m.
Friday from
9a.m.—12p.m.

This Summer We GROW!

It's hard to believe that it's already August. Where has the summer gone? Although the time may have flown, we haven't spent it unwisely. I have heard many of you speak about weekend trips away, family vacations, journeys to lake homes and more. We have used the summer to rest-up and become whole again, time away from the hum-drum of everyday life, time to focus on what's really important: family, friends and remembering all our blessings.

Although it's already August, we haven't spent our time unwisely at church either. We have had excellent worship attendance throughout these summer months. We have heard two compelling concerts presented to us by our professional and lay music staff. We have had Children's Time every week, teaching our youngest members that we value their contribution to our faith community. We sent off a team of youth and adult leaders to learn more about God and God's creation. Through the "Meet Your New Pastor" meetings, I have already gotten to meet and speak with around 75 of you, and we still have three meetings to go! In "Talk Back to the Pastor," I have heard your interpretations of our lessons for each Sunday and engaged with you in meaningful conversation about my own thoughts. In June, we heard our choir sing beautiful and inspiring messages each week and in July, we have been awed by solo voices lifted up in praise to God. Our men's groups, women's groups and Book Club have all been meeting regularly. It's no wonder time has flown with all that is going on around here!

Most importantly, we have spent each week engaged with both Scripture and our Vision Statement, learning fully what it means that: *Through God's grace, we joyfully receive to give, learn to serve, and worship to grow!* At the beginning of the summer, I challenged each of you to memorize this statement. How far have you gotten with that task?

In June, we focused on all we have received from God and ways we can give back in thankfulness. In July, we focused on how we learn from God, through parable, promise, and story in order to go out and be better servants to others. Now, in August, we turn our focus to the third prong of our Vision Statement, focusing on how we worship God and God alone in order that we might grow. Even though it's already August, we still have a lot to accomplish before the summer ends.

(Continued on Page 2)

Groups

Bell Choir

Every Wednesday beginning
August 25th
6:00 p.m. - Room 203

Sanctuary Choir

Every Wednesday beginning
August 18th.
7:15 p.m. - Sanctuary

Book Club

First Tuesday
6:45 p.m. - Location TBA

Dominos Group

First Thursday
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship Hall

First Thursday Lunch

First Thursday
12:00 p.m. - Fellowship Hall

Healing Prayer

Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.
Rode Prayer Chapel

Hope Circle

On Vacation in August

Joseph's Sons

First Monday
6:30 p.m. - Grady's BBQ
6510 San Pedro

Ladies Bible Study

Will begin in the Fall.

Lydia Circle

On Vacation in August

Men's Breakfast

Second Tuesday
7:00 a.m. - Bill Miller BBQ

Quilters

Every Tuesday
9:00 a.m. - Primrose House

Other Groups meet through the year. For information about any of the above groups, please contact our church office.

This Summer We GROW! (Continued from Page 1)

August 1—We *worship* God instead of vanity in order to *grow!*
(Focus Scripture=Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23)

August 8—We *worship* God instead of money in order to *grow!*
(Focus Scripture=Luke 12:32-40)

August 15—We *worship* God instead of idols in order to *grow!*
(Focus Scripture=Jeremiah 23:23-29)

August 22—We *worship* God instead of the Law in order to *grow!*
(Focus Scripture=Luke 13:10-17)

August 29—We *worship* God instead of status in order to *grow!*
(Focus Scripture=Luke 14:1, 7-14)

Let's make the most of each day of summer that we have left by seeking to live out our Vision Statement in all that we do. I challenge you to come and GROW with us!

- Pastor Leslie

Talk Back to the Pastor

On the 2nd and 4th Sundays throughout the summer, you've been invited to "Talk Back to the Pastor." Two sessions remain. On August 8 & 22, you still have a chance to let Pastor Leslie hear what YOU have to say about the sermon. So often, the practice of preaching goes only one way. We want to change that. We want to make the sermons something with which you can interact: say what you liked, what you didn't, ask your questions, offer your answers, tell how you might have interpreted the Biblical passages differently. All youth and adults, grades 6 and up, are invited to the Fellowship Hall from 10:45-11:30 a.m. for a lively conversation about the sermon. Children's activities will be provided by Dianna. Please join us! Pastor Leslie wants to hear what YOU have to say.

Meet Your New Pastor

Pastor Leslie wants an opportunity to get to know each of you in a smaller setting, and she wants to give you the opportunity to get to know her better as well. Therefore, throughout the summer, she has held a series of Meet Your New Pastor Meetings, held in the Parlor on weeknights, starting at 7 p.m. She encourages everyone to sign-up. If you would be willing to help host, please note that on the sign-up sheets in the Crossway. You can also sign-up by emailing her directly at leslie@clcah.org. The remaining dates are Wednesday, August 11 and Monday, August 16. If you are in a small group that meets at the church, i.e., a Bible study or breakfast or dinner group, consider having Pastor Leslie join one of your meetings so she can see our various ministries at work and get to know you better.

From the Council President...

Little did we realize in the fall of 2007 that we were beginning not just one transition, but a chain of transitions: from Pastor Rode to Pastor Coffey/Pastor Robison, from Pastor Coffey/Pastor Robison to Pastor Robison, and finally from Pastor Robison to Pastor Kida.

When the transitions began, we talked about how our success in dealing with the challenges would depend on how well we as members of Christ Lutheran stepped up to help out. And what a remarkable response we got from that challenge! There is no question that each transition went smoothly as a direct result of the time and effort all of you invested in making sure that our church continued to function effectively. Members stepped up to help out in the office, help out in fellowship events, help out with the Sunday School programs, help out with visitation and help out with building and property. We started a Welcome Committee that through the leadership of Erik Larsen succeeded in doing what we thought would be impossible ... growing our community of faith during the transition period. On a personal level, I can't express how thankful I am to all of you for your dedication and love for this church and its mission. That is what makes it possible for us to look back with so much satisfaction.

We also took the time during transition to develop a Vision Statement for Christ Lutheran Church to serve as a guide as we grow our ministries in the years ahead: 'Through God's grace, we joyfully give to receive, learn to serve and worship to grow. We should all be proud that Pastor Leslie has grasped our Vision Statement close to her heart and used it as the focus of her sermons this summer. And what inspirational sermons they have been!

Following Pastor's Leslie's powerful lead, I think we owe it to each other to not only continue this level of volunteerism embodied in our Vision Statement, but to raise it to another level. The successful ministries at Christ Lutheran Church are built from the membership up, not from the staff and Parish Council down. We each see areas of need in our surrounding community, among the members within our congregation and in the world-at-large. We are each blessed with different sets of skills that can be directed to specific areas of these needs. And the Parish Council, staff and administration of this church are a resource for you to use to enlarge or create ministries and programs that are important to you and carry out our Vision at Christ Lutheran Church. Don't wait on us to provide the opportunity to you ... we need your wisdom and help!

This fall, I encourage all of you to put thought into how you can help Christ Lutheran make a difference in our community. Then meet with Pastor Leslie and the Parish Council to share your dreams and get the support you need. As we hear every Sunday, this is the work the Lord intends for us. And as we have proven from our success in multiple transitions, we are up to the task!

Call if you have news,

Bob Oliver,
Parish Council President

Member News

Deaths

- *Our sympathy goes to Patricia Hoenshell and family on the death of Gary on June 24th. Memorials will go to Lutheran World Relief.*
- *Our sympathy goes to Richard Zick and family on the death of Lorette on July 16th.*

Births

- *Jacob Paul Crowley, grandson of Paul and Mary Overstreet, born June 23, 2010, to Abe and Jen Crowley, in Pittsburgh, PA.*

Children & Youth Assisting in August 1 Worship!

Please don't miss Sunday, August 1, when our younger members give glory to God and a huge thanks to the congregation for their support!

The Senior High youth are thankful for the love and support our congregation provided in sending them to the Ozarks this year and in "thanks," they are planning a yummy breakfast for the congregation on August 1. While you enjoy your sweet treats, you can see pictures of their trip displayed in the CrossWay and ask questions of the youth. They have plenty of stories so be sure to ask!

Children who participated in VBS and Day Camp have learned many new and wonderful songs and they want to share with the congregation. So, during worship on August 1, our Sanctuary will be filled with sweet singing and bell ringing from our youngest members and their friends.

Day School Ministry

We miss the pitter-patter of little feet and giggling voices through the week, but they will be back soon! Summer is quickly drawing to a close and our wonderful Day School Teachers and staff will be returning in August. Rooms will be cleaned out, pictures hung, lessons planned and the halls filled with art. Teachers return the week of August 16-20 to prepare their rooms; orientation for families is August 23-25; and finally, children return to school on September 1. Please keep all these teachers, staff and the families of our Day School in your prayers.

Ladies, Let's Journey!

As women, we are unique creations designed extraordinarily by God. Yet many of us underestimate ourselves, the impact of our purpose, and the merit of our passion!

You are invited to take a journey unlike any other! We are joining together the weekend of September 17-19 in the beautiful Hill Country at Lutheran Camp Chrysalis. The focus: to discover our full worth in Christ.

Spend 44 hours relaxing with other women – no cooking, dishwashing, car pools, husbands, children or grandchildren. We will worship together, explore ourselves and nature, party, eat, relax, study and enjoy fellowship. Everything is optional. This is a time for you.

The cost for the entire weekend is \$130 per person and includes lodging, meals, prayer book and all supplies. You can pick up a registration form in the church office. For more information, please contact Dianna Hopkins at church.

Time to Rally - September 12

Rally Day is the start of a new year of teaching and learning in our congregation. It signifies the end of summer vacation and the return to Sunday school, and it is an essential part of the life of our faith community. Rally Day provides a unique opportunity to acknowledge the partnership of parents and teachers and other congregational members in affirming a lifestyle that is Christ's style. It is a time for the entire congregation to rally behind God's intention that all Christians – children, youth and adults – grow and learn; a day for our congregation to celebrate their ministry of Christian education!

During worship, all children will receive a blessing by Pastor Leslie and stay for Children's Time by Dianna Hopkins.

Lutheran Camp Chrysalis is providing a "day of camp" with fun activities for all ages throughout the building! Camp staff will be here to lead storytelling, games and so much more for our children & youth beginning at 9:15 a.m.

And after the 10:30 a.m. service, don't miss out on our annual picnic in the Courtyard and Fellowship Hall. This year we are serving up yummy fried chicken and watermelon for lunch and we will host a dessert contest while the games continue for the kids! The congregation is asked to bring favorite picnic side dishes to share, to participate in the dessert contest, and to bring a friend on this vibrant Sunday to see all that Christ Lutheran has to offer.

Overall, Sunday, September 12 will truly be a rally of our members, volunteers, friends, community and visitors! Mark your calendar now and join the celebration.

First Bible

The first Bible a child receives is a significant gift. When they are old enough to read, we gift the children in the congregation with their own Bible, and instructions on how to dive into it!

Children who are in the 2nd grade (or have not received their first Bible) and at least one parent are invited to join Dianna Hopkins on Sunday, August 29 for a blessing during worship and a class following worship. During the class time, we teach children more about the Bible, including how to use it. Resources for parents and the child are provided, and we give plenty of ideas about reading the Bible together at home.

To participate, please contact Dianna at church before August 22 so materials can be ordered.

Entering Confirmation Meeting!

All families with children entering grades 6-8 are asked to join Pastor Leslie and Dianna for a confirmation meeting on Sunday, August 15, after worship. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall and explain the new programming that will begin this year. Please note that confirmation is returning to a three-year tract. It is important that all children and their parents in grades 6, 7 & 8 attend this meeting!

Praises To

- Nathaniel Hernandez on his graduation from medical school.
- All the eager and hard-working volunteers who assisted with VBS and Day Camp.
- All the great cooks, bakers, and chefs and generous souls who have provided breakfast for us all summer long!
- All the precious (and brave) children who come forward for a blessing and lesson each Sunday... a treasured time for the congregation to see and enjoy these delightful little ones.
- Pastor Darwin Huartson for his willingness, words, and presence and generosity at stepping into the pulpit to relieve Pastor Leslie.
- Choir members who have lent their beautiful voices to the worship services as soloists and cantors throughout the summer choir hiatus.
- All who have attended this summer's Meet the Pastor sessions to get acquainted with Pastor Leslie!

Welcome!

We are delighted at Christ Lutheran when visitors join us for worship and even more delighted when they join our Christian family through membership. We welcomed these new members on Sunday, July 25 and hope you'll all get to know them in the coming months:

John, Verla & Brandon Crocker
Catherine Dolly
Joshua, Crystal, Jeremy, Brianna, Kaitlyn & Alexander Munch
Kathi Stodghill
Steve & Hollye Schwartz

Coming Soon: A New Way to Help CLC!

In past years, CLC groups such as the CLCW and the youth have received funding for some of their activities through Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Christ Lutheran has had \$1600 available to us annually for such activities, funding that is based on the size of the congregation. Each year we have used these funds to the fullest. However, this program has been replaced with a new program that now relies on certain Thrivent Financial members in our congregation to make those decisions.

As you may know, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is launching a new charitable grant program and benefit of membership this summer called Thrivent Choice. Choice Dollars will be designated to some Thrivent Financial members when that portion of the program launches. (Thrivent Financial member eligibility will be based on fraternal benefit society product ownership and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Helping direct Choice Dollars will be subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice program.)

As always, your church is grateful for your consideration when you make charitable giving plans. If you are a Thrivent Financial member who learns you will be eligible to direct Choice Dollars (watch your mail for details from Thrivent Financial), we ask you to consider **YOUR OWN CONGREGATION** as you help direct Thrivent Financial's charitable funds. **This will be the only way that Christ Lutheran organizations will receive Thrivent Financial dollars for their programs.**

The bottom line is that Thrivent funding for programming here at Christ Lutheran will now depend on the number of Thrivent members in the congregation, the products they own, and their willingness to direct the charitable funds back to Christ Lutheran. So thanks in advance for your help!

- Dale Anderson, A Thrivent Advocate

Friends and Visitors Coffee

We invite new friends and visitors to join us for a coffee the third Sunday of each month. We gather to get to know each other and share refreshments. We also take a tour of the facility. This gathering is informal and friendly. Families, singles, and couples are all welcome.

Schedule: August 15 at 9 a.m. in the Parlor
September 19 at 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor

2010 Habitat for Humanity Build

Christ Lutheran will be participating with the Lutheran Cluster to build a Habitat for Humanity home this fall. The build is scheduled to begin September 10 and will be in the same southwest San Antonio area where our other Habitat homes are located.

A listing of work dates, building activities and maps of the area will be available in the Crossway in early August so CLC members can review the schedule and sign up for build dates. The workdays are Fridays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. Tools will be provided.

We are requesting volunteers to not only help with the building of the home but also with providing food for the hungry workers. Your prayers for a safe build are always encouraged.

For information on the 2010 Habitat For Humanity home, please contact Herb Mueller at 210-828-1298.

Dinner for Eight: Food, Fun & Fellowship

Dinner for Eight is one of Christ Lutheran's longstanding small group ministries. It offers a casual, friendly way to get acquainted with other adult members and enjoy fellowship and a meal in each other's homes. Alice Anderson is our resident matchmaker – connecting couples and singles in compatible groups for once-a-month evenings of dining and conversation. If you'd like to join a Dinner for Eight group, please call Alice at 210-653-9782 and she'll do the rest. Many lovely friendships have been forged over these dinners ... and we hope you'll take advantage of the opportunity to expand your church family circle.

Christ Lutheran Book Club

Summer heat has not deterred the congregation's readers. In fact, it may have made them stronger! This merry band of readers/thinkers/talkers/fellowshippers is growing and they invite you to join them. They met in June to discuss The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein and had a lively discussion of Sarah's Key by Tatiana de Rosnay in July. They next meet on August 3 at Roberta Lechnitz' home, 6:30 p.m., to celebrate the 50th anniversary of To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. Roberta will lead the discussion. For September, you might want to start reading The Big Short – Inside the Domsday Machine by Michael Lewis. Questions? Call Linda Mercer at 210-828-2015.

Blessing of the Backpacks

Let's start off the school year right! Come to worship on August 22 and bring your backpack, briefcase, satchel, diaper bag or whatever you carry every day to have it blessed. The work we do in our daily lives is as important as our worship on Sunday mornings. By blessing the tools we use to serve God in our daily life, we are placing a value on that work done for God's glory.

Gathering School Supplies for Needy Children

Throughout August and until Rally Day, we will be collecting items for school kits which will be donated to Lutheran World Relief, the Laredo Mission on the border, and Agape ministry to reach out to needy children in our own backyard and around the world.

Lutheran World Relief works with partners in 35 countries to help people grow food, improve health, strengthen communities, end conflict, build livelihoods and recover from disasters. School kits often provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war. They make it possible for a child to continue his or her education, even while living in a refugee camp. A school kit may also improve the life of an adult who is learning to read for the first time.

Here are the items needed for each school kit:

- Notebooks of wide-or college- ruled paper totaling 150-200 sheets (can be 3 spirals with 70 sheets each)
- Blunt scissors
- 30 centimeter ruler
- Pencil sharpener
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Block eraser (approx. 2 1/2" long)
- Box of 16-24 crayons
- Construction paper in assorted colors
- Cloth bag, approx 12"X14" with handles or drawstring

Bring your donations to the front of our worship space and place them around the altar or you may turn them in to the church office. If you would rather donate money, we will use it to purchase additional bags. Checks can be made out to Christ Lutheran Church, and please note in the memo line "LWR School Supplies."

Thank you for your support! For more information, please contact Lucy Mathesen at 210-824-1899.

Welcome New Members!!

Dan, Maribeth, Grant, Taylor & Kylie Hill

Dan Hill is a born salesman. Affable, personable and funny, his response to the question, “When did you and Maribeth join Christ Lutheran?” tells you he’s a guy you’d like to hang out with ... and maybe buy two or three of whatever he’s selling.

“I don’t remember the exact date,” he said, “but it was last fall when the Cowboys played Green Bay and Maribeth got to go to the game while I stayed home and watched the kids.”

Dan’s martyrdom is pure bluster, delivered with a twinkle in his eyes. He says they lived in Green Bay, WI for eight years prior to returning to San Antonio and admits he was glad his wife got to go to the game. “Maribeth made lots of good friends there and developed deep roots in the community so it was nice for her to go,” he said. “Plus, she’s a big football fan.”

Prior to Green Bay, they lived in Connecticut and Denver. Their return to San Antonio was intentional, he says. It’s his hometown and the city where they met before marrying 20 years ago. Dan is thrilled to be back and to be operating his own business as an executive recruiter. Maribeth, an elementary schoolteacher, is taking a hiatus from teaching to be a super stay-at-home mom for their three children – Grant, 16; Taylor, 13; and Kylie, 9.

Maribeth hopes to get her children involved in youth activities at the church. The family is excited about Christ Lutheran’s potential for the future and they are enjoying getting to know Pastor Leslie. “We really like her,” Dan says. In their short time with us, they have joined a Dinner for Eight group and Kylie has proven to be a faithful acolyte ... and a very cute one. The youth groups are delighted to welcome Grant and Taylor.

Dan and Maribeth value family and spend as much time as they can with extended family. His mother lives in San Antonio with her 97-year-old mother, and Maribeth has family in McAllen. They are building a home in Terrell Hills and he is serving as general contractor – a nearly full-time pursuit. (Perhaps we should recruit Dan for our next Habitat for Humanity homebuilding project!)

While Dan is a lifelong Lutheran, Maribeth, a former Catholic, has adopted Lutheranism through marriage. Both are Aggies, the kids are athletes and musicians and the entire family is warmly welcomed into our midst. We celebrate the addition of the Hills to our church family and look forward to getting to know them and to holding Grant, Taylor and Kylie in prayer as they continue their journey of faith with us.

We might have to work on their pro football allegiance though.

- Jan Norris

Staff

The Rev. Leslie Kida
Pastor

The Rev. Arthur Rode
Pastor Emeritus

Marilyn Hamilton
Director of Day School

Dianna Hopkins
Director of Faith Formation

Becky Richard
Office Manager

Linda Sulser
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Dan Long
Choir Director

Peter Gross
Organist

Christina Flatau
Nursery Attendant

Karly Hartman
Nursery Attendant

Rosario Alferez
Church “Keeper”

Izzy Sanchez
Custodian

Parish Council

Bob Oliver, *President*

Marty Loeber, *Vice Pres.*

Terry Bowen, *Treasurer*

Debbie Vasquez, *Secretary*

Robb Decker, *Trustee*

Lisa Chegin, *Trustee*

Kim Fischer, *Trustee*

Pastor Leslie Kida

Christ Lutheran Church
6720 Broadway
San Antonio, Texas 78209
www.clcah.org

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Christ Lutheran Church
(210) 822-3394
office@clcah.org
www.clcah.org
6720 Broadway
San Antonio, TX 78209



One Summer Service

From now through Labor Day,
we will follow our summer schedule.
We will be gathering in the CrossWay
at 9:00 a.m. for a light breakfast.
Our summer worship begins at 9:30 a.m.