

# Christ the Redeemer

## Lutheran Church

2550 East 71st Street  
Tulsa, OK 74136

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### Having a Life Filled With Prayer

#### See to Please

Shift your prayer life from "Please, God" to Please God." Take the comma out of those two words when you pray, and transition your praying from asking God for things to asking God for the pleasure of God's pleasure. --Homiletics

#### A Powerful Weapon

Satan dreads nothing but prayer. His one concern is to keep the saints from praying.

He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayer-less work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray. --Samuel Chadwick

#### A Word From Matthew Henry

Seventeenth-century Bible scholar Matthew Henry had great insight into God's will when he proclaimed, "When God intends great mercies for His people, He first of all sets them a'praying."

Did you ever consider that when you feel the urge to engage in deep meaningful prayer, it might be God's preparation for "great mercies"?

#### Hard Faith

According to author Stephen King, "What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work."

Similarly, what separates the doubt-filled Christian from the Christian in good spiritual health is hard faith, working and praying diligently - and often - to build one's faith.

#### Faith and Health

Dr. Herbert Benson of Harvard Medical School made a study of the effect praying can have upon those who pray. He discovered those who pray 10 to 20 minutes daily can lower their blood pressure, heart rate, breathing and metabolic rates. Prayer can work wonders. --Proclaim, Nov. 1, 1998

#### Prayer Helps

A man was seen praying in a church and was approached by a fairly officious person in clerical garb. Said this person: "May I help you?" The response came clearly, "No thank you. I am being helped!" -- Anonymous



December 2019



# The Cornerstone

A publication of Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church

Rev. Scott Burmeister  
Pastor

Suzanne Watt  
Dir. of Christian Education

Nikki Witt  
ECC Director

Connie Phillips  
Office Administrator

Mary Jane Landin  
Business Administrator

Angel Harris  
Communications Adm.

Jacob Drengler  
Music Director

Craig Amendt  
Choir Director

Floyd Lemons  
Property Manager

Sunday Worship:  
8:15 & 10:45 AM.  
Sunday School/Bible  
Classes  
9:30 AM

PHONE: 918/492-6451  
Web: [www.ctrtulsa.org](http://www.ctrtulsa.org)  
Email:  
[christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org](mailto:christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org)

Early Childhood Center  
Phone: 918-492-1416

CTR Christmas Party - December 8 - 5:00-8:00  
Glenpool Convention Center  
Entertainment by Sapulpa High School Jazz Band



CTR Women's Christmas Dinner - Dec. 12 - 6:00  
All girls, teens and ladies are invited.  
The ingathering offering  
will be collected for  
Family and Children Services.



## Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

### WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES

#### Mid-Day Advent Worship

11:30 AM December 4, December 11, & December 18  
Followed by a Soup & Salad Lunch

#### Evening Advent Worship

6:00 PM Dinner & 6:30 PM Worship  
December 4- Hanging of the Greens  
December 11- Children & Youth Led Service  
December 18- Service of Lessons & Carols

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

#### Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM, 7:00 PM, 9:00 PM  
Nursery care available at 5:00 & 7:00 PM

#### Christmas Day Service

10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

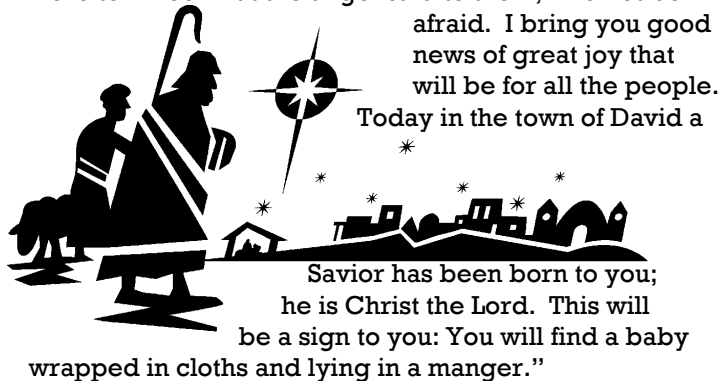


Fellow Redeemed,

The promise of God is irrevocable. Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son if given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

This month we celebrate the fulfillment of God's promise, the birth of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Luke brings the fulfillment into a pointed place in history, "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world." Was it an accident, or was it just by chance, that Augustus issued the decree? Or, was it God's will that he should do so? Remember, the promise of God is irrevocable. So, Caesar, whether he knew it or not, was in fact acting as God's agent to bring about the fulfillment of God's will.

Luke goes on to include a proclamation to shepherds living out in the fields. "And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be



What a joy that must have been, to be a shepherd and have God's messenger tell you this amazingly great news. Don't miss the message of the angels. The message of the birth of God's Son is one that continues to be shared even today. The shepherds' response was to go

and see this thing that has happened. That is the invitation to the world today. Come and witness the birth of Jesus this Christmas. It is time for us, as faithful Christians, to invite our friends, our neighbors, our coworkers and our families to see this wonderful thing that has happened. There was a time when unchurched people expected their church friends to invite them to services on Christmas. I wonder how many people miss that invitation now. How much joy might a friend or neighbor feel, when you invite them to church this Christmas?

God's Son is born to us. He is the Christ the Son of the living God, and through Him we have the redemption of our souls, the forgiveness of our sins. Do not let this blessed season pass you by without recognizing that the Christmas season is the season of God's will for us. That's right, it is God's will that the message of the birth of His Son continue to be proclaimed to all. May God bless His message through your witness, invitation and your sharing of God's love this Christmas tide.



**Wednesday Advent Services - December 4, 11 & 18**

- Mid-Day Worship - 11:30 followed by lunch
- Evening Advent Worship - 6:30 with a meal at 6:00
- December 4 - Hanging of the Greens
- December 11 - Children & Youth led Service
- December 18 - Service of Lessons & Carols

**Christmas Services**

- Christmas Eve - 5:00/7:00/9:00
- Christmas Day - 10:00 with Holy Communion

**Bulletin Bloopers...**

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.



**Wild Hope**

What keeps the wild hope of Christmas alive year after year in a world notorious for dashing all hopes is the haunting dream that the child who was born that day may yet be born again in us.

--Frederick Buechner



**LWML Mission Grant #3**

*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy (1 Peter 2: 9-10).*

For nearly 50 years, LAMP Ministry Inc. has ministered in northern Canada, where many villages are reachable only by aircraft or seasonal roads. Currently, nearly one million indigenous people live in these isolated areas with about half under the age of 14. The most alarming statistic is that over 15 percent of these children and youth will take their own lives out of despair and hopelessness.

Faced with the worldly influences and challenges of the internet and social media, and with limited opportunities for education and employment, the children and youth often feel despondent and discouraged. Sunday school, Christian youth programs, and regular worship services are rarely available.

Parents and grandparents of this younger generation were raised in residential schools away from home and the traditional family structure is non-existent. The younger generation lacks a sound model for parenting and family life.

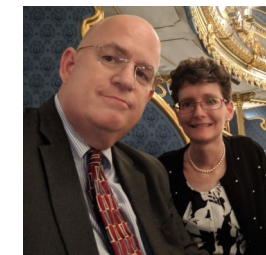
On the Indian reserves, employment is limited, housing is limited, violence and drug abuse is higher than in most of the world, and life expectancy is between 45-55 years. LAMP goes into these communities offering the love of Jesus through parenting workshops, bereavement care training, VBS, Bible studies, and their testimonies of the hope found through faith in Jesus. The goal is to provide these communities with Christian education and witness to the Gospel.

To fulfill their mission of sharing the Gospel in the next few years, LAMP will need to expand their staff of full-time missionaries to four or five and recruit and train 100 to 200 more volunteer missionaries committed to serve at least five years.

This grant will provide funds to help LAMP reach the goal of hiring more missionary pilots and training more volunteers so that more communities can be reached with the love of Jesus and can be visited more than once a year. As the Gospel, our true source of comfort and hope, is proclaimed, local leaders are encouraged and built up to serve their own people. With the help of the Holy Spirit, the youth, knowing they are loved and cared for by the missionaries, will choose hope in Christ over suicide.

**Mission News Update**

**Dale's Ear Surgery - - Thanks Be to God!**



We were concerned a little. After all, we were going to a hospital outside of Prague proper. English language skills here drop off quickly once you leave Prague proper. And that was definitely the case in Benešov! While the doctors all spoke English, there was barely any more of it from nurses, assistants, food servers, and even roommates. It put what little Czech we have learned to the test. But it went amazingly well! In fact, we thank and praise God that He sent us kind and patient people who were a blessing.

The surgery that Dale underwent—a replacement of some of the little bones in the inner ear—can only be described as a success. There was a glitch. The bones were far more brittle than they expected, and they had to replace more in one place and less in another; but the surgery that went longer than expected has already provided amazing results.

They say it can take up to several months before hearing comes along as far as it is going to come. So, we will be patient and continue to pray to the Lord for Dale's ear to be restored. But, even now we can rejoice that a sense of spatial hearing has already returned and that he can now tell when someone on his right (the direction of the bad ear) is speaking to him. We will go with this step by step.

**A Visit with Our Supporters**

Prague is a favorite tourist destination; and, because of that, we often get emails from Lutherans who are planning to visit the city concerning our worship. But, recently, we were able to meet not just LCMS members but people who pray for and support us, Darrell and Lynda Bauman, from Iowa. We were able to share a Czech luncheon with them and to share with them about the town, our work, and how we are doing here. We encourage anyone who is visiting Prague to let us know. We would love to share with you what the Lord is doing here.

**Sunday School and Adult Bible Class**

On Sundays, we are holding a Sunday school for all ages. Currently, we have six youth who span from 4 to 14 years of age. Deacon Damašek is teaching on the account of the creation in Genesis. We have also included some hymn singing to teach the faith. Check out our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/kastersinprague](http://www.facebook.com/kastersinprague)) to see a video of it. As for our adult class, we are teaching St. Paul's letter to the Colossians. It is such a beautiful book on the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Look Ahead**

Over the next month and a half, we will be very busy here. We have our American Thanksgiving luncheon. We will have Advent midweek worship (Thursdays as they work best for our members!) and of course the Christmas services that every church has. We are also planning a Christmas party for our Sunday School children—pizza and *Red Boots for Christmas!* Dale also continues to help with the Czech service, leading the pastoral parts in a very difficult language to pronounce. The local church body, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic (ECAVvČR), will also hold their annual meeting, a day and a half event, at the end of this month.

Please, pray for the ECAVvČR as it prepares to meet. And, please, pray for all our team here in the Czech Republic. Know that we pray for your parishes in the States!

We commend you and your witness to Christ!  
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster, *Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic*

# Confession

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## Article XIV: Of Ecclesiastical Order

Of Ecclesiastical Order they teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church or administer the Sacraments unless he be regularly called.

## Article XV: Of Ecclesiastical Usages

1] Of Usages in the Church they teach that those ought to be observed which may be observed without sin, and which are profitable unto tranquility and good order in the Church, as particular holy days, festivals, and the like.  
 2] Nevertheless, concerning such things men are admonished that consciences are not to be burdened, as though such observance was necessary to salvation.  
 3] They are admonished also that human traditions institute to propitiate God, to merit grace, and to make satisfaction for sins, are opposed to the Gospel and the doctrine of faith. Wherefore vows and traditions concerning meats and 4] days, etc., instituted to merit grace and to make satisfaction for sins, are useless and contrary to the Gospel.



## Lullaby for the Christ-child

First published in 1539 in Germany, the Christmas hymn "From Heaven Above" recounts the angels' message to the shepherds and then the spiritual journey of the baptized Christian to Jesus' manger-bed.

Try singing verses 8, 9 and 13 (translated by Catherine Winkworth) as a tender lullaby of praise, a song of love and a prayer to the newborn Savior. If the original tune is unfamiliar, use "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" or "Just As I Am."

Welcome to earth, thou noble Guest,  
 Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
 Thou com'st to share my misery;  
 What thanks shall I return to thee?

Ah, Lord, who hast created all,  
 How weak art thou, how poor and small,  
 That thou dost choose thine infant bed  
 Where humble cattle lately fed!

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
 Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
 Within my heart, that it may be  
 A quiet chamber kept for thee.

## Sunday School Offering for this Quarter

Sunday school offerings this quarter are designated for Tulsa's Domestic Violence Intervention Service (DVIS). The month of October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As we join Jesus in His mission in our neighborhood, we will encounter people in our families, schools, volunteer agencies, and public forums who are struggling with issues such as domestic violence, stalking, teen dating violence, and things we may not know much about. DVIS has much information, education, and help for us and for those we want to help. Learn as much as you can by going to their website: [www.dvis.org](http://www.dvis.org).



### About DVIS:

Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS), a Tulsa Area United Way partner agency, is the only nonprofit agency in Tulsa, and the surrounding communities providing comprehensive intervention and prevention services to men, women and children affected by domestic violence. The DVIS mission is to rebuild lives affected by domestic violence and sexual assault through advocacy, shelter, counseling, and education. DVIS offers a 24-hour information and crisis line [918.7HELP.ME \(918.743.5763\)](tel:918.7HELP.ME), hospital support to victims of sexual assault, counseling, transitional living, emergency shelter services, legal services, and numerous outreach and community education initiatives.

Please note: Because of the confidential nature of our organization, the location of DVIS' shelter and transitional living apartments are confidential.

### Areas of Expertise

- Domestic violence (Services for victims, offenders, effects of domestic violence on children)
- Sexual assault (Services for victims) - Teen dating violence
- Adult victims of sex trafficking - Stalking (Services for victims)
- Protective orders - Safety planning -
- Advocacy for rape exams - Legal services
- Safe use of technology (texting, computer use, online dating)
- Court advocacy - Healthy relationships
- Education for pre-teens, teens and adults
- Creek County services (counseling for victims, perpetrators, children and court advocacy)





**DO SOMETHING GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MOST Ministries** collects eyeglasses and distributes them to people all over the world. A collection box is located at the collection center. For more information go to [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org).

**PAPER & OTHER RECYCLING:** You can recycle all your mail/newspapers, etc. as well as cardboard, metal cans and plastic containers (no glass items) in the collection bin in the southeast corner of the parking lot.

What brings warmth and shelter to families by becoming a bed, room divider, backpack, and at times even a home???

# QUILTS

**HOW CAN YOU HELP??**

We need help in purchasing the fabric to make the quilt tops. Each quilt costs approximately \$25 to make. Donations marked "LWML quilts" can be dropped in the mite box or put in the offering plate.

Prayers for our quilt program are needed plus prayers for the recipients of our quilts. These quilts are sent all over the United States as well as the world!

**Cut Squares**

**Sew Squares**

The quilters meet very Tuesday at 10:00 in the fellowship hall.

Join us !! We would appreciate your help!

**Tie Quilts**

**Assemble Tops**

## Faithful Measures

	2018	2019
Total Worship Attendance .....	983	873
Weekly Average.....	246	218
SS/Bible Class Attendance .....	332	369
Weekly Average .....	83	92
October Giving .....	\$60,943	\$71,814
Monthly Budget .....	\$65,226	\$63,800
Year to Date Giving .....	\$695,761	\$696,747
Year to Date Budget .....	\$701,183	\$685,849
YTD Expenses.....	\$853,304	\$633,515

**Building Fund Contribution:**  
 October receipts: \$19,108.00  
 Balance: \$1,161,480.45



OWLS program was presented in October by Alan Jarvis, a Docent and member of the Gilies at Gilcrease Museum.

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**SOUTH TULSA COMMUNITY HOUSE** can use empty egg cartons, prescription bottles and plastic and/or paper bags. These can be placed in the grocery cart at the south entrance with any food donations as well.


## A New Year of Volunteering!

When making your New Year's resolutions, don't forget to consider reaching out into the community in volunteer work! For most people volunteering is about giving ... but for Christians, it's a way of living!

Volunteering opportunities exist at South Tulsa Community House and also at Harvest House. If you are interested and have some time to give, please contact Outreach Ministry Chairman, Patti Ross (918-691-5328) and she can get the contact information you need! Or, if you are interested in working with the Outreach Ministry committee please call!

### Altar Flowers

The sign up chart is available at the information center. Write your name on the date and share the special reason for the flowers. Simply drop your \$50 check (put **ALTAR FLOWERS** on the memo line) in the offering plate the week before or that Sunday! You may take the arrangement home following the late service.



- 1: by James and Ann Holt in celebration of their anniversary
- 1:
- 8:
- 8:
- 15: by Steve and Johnna Short in celebration of their anniversary
- 15:
- 22:
- 22:
- 29:
- 29: by Marty Weber in celebration of Rosalie's birthday



*Congratulations and God's richest blessings to all of our couples as they celebrate their wedding anniversary!*

Michael & Shirley Bird	Dec. 2	41 yrs
James & Ann Holt	Dec. 3	14 yrs
Kelley & Tony Goodrum	Dec. 7	28 yrs
Susan & Steven Low	Dec. 16	32 yrs
Brad & Jennifer Teegarden	Dec. 17	3 yrs
Steve & Johnna Short	Dec. 18	37 yrs
Mike & Annie Wiederstein	Dec. 18	45 yrs
Scott & Tessa Chesher	Dec. 19	21 yrs
Sid & Beverly McVey	Dec. 22	50 yrs
Dennis & Kathy Stephen	Dec. 27	44 yrs
John & Mary Gant	Dec. 29	35 yrs
Mark & Jane Holt	Dec. 29	29 yrs
Chris & Amber Carson	Dec. 30	24 yrs
Chris & Brenda Flaseh	Dec. 30	30 yrs
James & Letizia Dutton	Dec. 31	25 yrs
Paul & Alyssa Whaley	Dec. 31	10 yrs

**BUNKO** will meet on December 10 at 7:00 at the home of Patti Ross. There is a sign-up sheet.



**CTR FRIENDS** will meet for lunch on December 15 at Brothers Houligan (Yale & 51st).

**OWLS** will not meet in December but will resume their monthly program in January.

**THE MESSIAH** will be performed at Grace Lutheran Church on December 7 at 5:00 and 7:00 and on December 8 at 3:00 and 5:00. All are invited to attend.



**CTR CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be held at the Glenpool Convention Center on December 8 from 5-8:00. The entertainment will be provided by the Sapulpa High School Jazz Band. Tickets are \$15 per person (\$5 for children 10 years and under - childcare provided at the church). Cut-off date for ticket sales is December 1.



**CTR WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS DINNER:** All girls, teens and ladies of CTR are invited to attend the annual Christmas dinner on Thursday, December 12, at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. Tickets for this catered meal are \$15 and will be available in the narthex. Make checks payable to CTR LWML and add Christmas dinner to the memo line. The ingathering offering will be collected for Family and Children Services (see items needed at the LWML table in the narthex.)

**CONNECT NIGHT CHRISTMAS PARTY:** Saturday, December 14, from 6:00-8:30 PM join us for a Christmas Party at the home of David & Sarah Ross for food, music & fun. Open to singles & couples! Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share & the beverage of their choice. Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend & indicate if you need childcare by Wednesday, December 11. Childcare will be provided free of charge at the church from 5:45-8:45 PM & pizza will be delivered for the kids.



**Chronological Bible Reading Plan**

**Week 5**  
 Monday: Exodus 8:1-10:29  
 Tuesday: Exodus 11:1-13:22  
 Wednesday: Exodus 14:1-15:27  
 Thursday: Exodus 16:1-18:27  
 Friday: Exodus 19:1-22:31  
 Saturday: Exodus 23:1-27:21

**Week 6**  
 Monday: Exodus 28:1-31:18  
 Tuesday: Exodus 32:1-33:23  
 Wednesday: Exodus 34:1-36:38  
 Thursday: Exodus 37:1-40:38  
 Friday: Leviticus 1:1-3:17  
 Saturday: Leviticus 4:1-9:24

**Week 7**  
 Monday: Leviticus 10:1-15:33  
 Tuesday: Leviticus 16:1-19:37  
 Wednesday: Leviticus 20:1-25:55  
 Thursday: Leviticus 26:1-Numbers 3:51  
 Friday: Numbers 4:1-8:26  
 Saturday: Numbers 9:1-12:16

**Week 8**  
 Monday: Numbers 13:1-18:32  
 Tuesday: Numbers 19:1-21:35  
 Wednesday: Numbers 22:1-27:23  
 Thursday: Numbers 28:1-31:54  
 Friday: Numbers 32:1-36:13  
 Saturday: Deuteronomy 1:1-2:37

**Week 9**  
 Monday: Deuteronomy 3:1-4:49  
 Tuesday: Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25  
 Wednesday: Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20  
 Thursday: Deuteronomy 9:1-12:32  
 Friday: Deuteronomy 13:1-15:23  
 Saturday: Deuteronomy 16:1-19:21

**Week 10**  
 Monday: Deuteronomy 20:1-23:25  
 Tuesday: Deuteronomy 24:1-26:19  
 Wednesday: Deuteronomy 27:1-28:68  
 Thursday: Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20  
 Friday: Deuteronomy 31:1-34:12  
 Saturday: Joshua 1:1-3:17

**Week 11**  
 Monday: Joshua 4:1-7:26  
 Tuesday: Joshua 8:1-10:43  
 Wednesday: Joshua 11:1-15:63  
 Thursday: Joshua 16:1-19:51  
 Friday: Joshua 20:1-22:34  
 Saturday: Joshua 23:1-24:33



**CTR-U Monthly Schedule**

There is no CTR-U Classes on December 25 of January 1.

**5:00-6:00 PM** - Youth Band Practice- Jacob Drengler

- 5:30-6:30 PM**
- ◆ Faith Friends - Pastor - in the sanctuary
  - ◆ Confirmation Class - fellowship hall
  - ◆ Women's Book Club- Classroom near the youth room
  - ◆ Men's Small Group - Pastor's Office

- 6:00-6:30 PM**
- ◆ December 4 - LWML Meal
  - ◆ December 11 - Youth Meal
  - ◆ December 18 - Elders Meal

- 6:30 - Advent Services**
- ◆ December 4 - Hanging of the Greens
  - ◆ December 11 - Children & Youth led Service
  - ◆ December 18 - Lessons & Carols

- 7:30 PM**
- ◆ Choir Practice

**CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES**

Please add these individuals to your church directory or change the information that is currently printed.



Linda Herron  
 9521B Riverside #128  
 Tulsa, OK 74137  
 798-3427 - [Linda.herron57@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.herron57@gmail.com)

Erni Listyana  
 8336 S Lewis Ave #619  
 Tulsa, OK 74137  
 791-318-9581 - [ernilistyana@gmail.com](mailto:ernilistyana@gmail.com)

Matthew and Samantha Schultz  
 2421 S Willow Ave  
 Broken Arrow, OK 74012  
 414-587-2205 - [Seschultz19@gmail.com](mailto:Seschultz19@gmail.com)

Wayne Orr  
 1329 E 38<sup>th</sup> Place Unit B  
 Tulsa, OK 74105  
 794-6723 - [Catd6d@msn.com](mailto:Catd6d@msn.com)

Lonnie & Janet Jamison  
 10213 S Evanston Place  
 Tulsa, OK 74137

**CTR-U CRAFT CLASS**

We will not have a craft class in December but will resume on January 8! We will be making snowmen out of wine bottles. There will be several types of materials to choose from to create your masterpiece!



See you then...

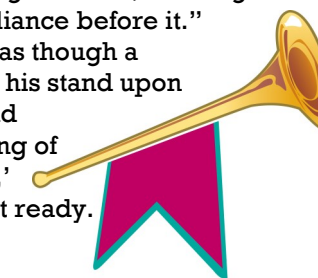


"Music acts like a magic key, to which the most tightly closed heart opens."

--Maria Augusta von Trapp

**Coming Attraction**

Advent, which marks the beginning of the church year, is "the first gleam of Christmas," writes W.E. Sangster. "It heralds the entrance of the Divine into human history; it is heaven descending to earth; it is a great event casting its brilliance before it." Sangster adds: "It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced the coming of the King. 'Get ready,' he seems to say. 'Get ready. He is coming.'"



"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

--C.S. Lewis

CTR Members Heading to Pasadena!

Bill and Patti Ross, Jackson Ross, and Max Baumann will be leaving for Pasadena to work as "Petal Pushers" on the 2020 Rose Parade floats. Last year, Teresa and David Nightingale joined Patti and Bill. "We decided we needed to recruit some younger folks to do the work on the scaffolds! We are aging out of that!"

The Lutheran Hour float shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through participation in the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade each year. Over 4,500 volunteers work to decorate floats as "Petal Pushers," who are coordinated by the Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) Float Committee. When each Petal Pusher walks through the door to the float building, there is an excellent opportunity for them to provide a Christian witness. When the finished float rolls down Colorado Blvd. on New Year's Day our Christian message is seen by over one million people on the parade route and another 200 million plus TV viewers worldwide.

The theme of the 2020 Tournament of Roses Parade is "The Power of Hope!" and the LHM Float is "Anchored in Jesus". This will be the 70<sup>th</sup> year of having the LHM float in the parade—the only Christian float entry. And yes, Jesus will be back on the float!

There are some local connections to the LHM float. In 2017, in my role as Lutheran Women's Missionary League President, I had a once-in-a-lifetime experience of riding on the float. I was surprised and pleased by the war reception we received along the parade route from the audience being an unapologetically Christian float! We decorated for three days that year, made some great friends, and were amazed at the craftsmanship, design and mechanics of float building. The floats have to be covered 100% in organic materials. Seaweed, eucalyptus leaves, lima beans, corn husks, crushed rice, black pepper—all kinds of things besides just flowers which are added the last day.

Another "local" link to Oklahoma is the young pastor, Rev. Matt Nolte, a pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Agoura Hills, California, who has represented "Jesus" on several LHM floats. Matt grew up in Enid and was a counselor at Camp Lutheroma! Last year's float didn't have an adult Jesus on it (it had a manger scene) and parade goers were disappointed! This year he will again be on it. When I rode the float, the response to him was amazing before, during, and after the parade. People wanted to talk with him and he often had a group surrounding him. I couldn't help but think of the longing people have for their Savior even if it's only a regular person in a bad, black wig!



I'm hoping Jackson and Max will feel the excitement of seeing how all this comes together. Be sure to watch the parade on New Year's Day. If you want to come along next year, let me know! I'm hoping all my family members will get a chance in the coming years to experience this. Please keep the float committee, riders, and workers in your prayers that they present a witness to the sure hope we have in Jesus Christ.

Patti Ross



**South Tulsa Community House Awareness Sundays**

On the fourth Sunday of each month, we will observe a special awareness of the needs of South Tulsa Community House by placing the grocery cart at the north entrance for your donations. Regular weekly donations will still be continued throughout each month at the collection center near the south entrance.

Donations needed include food, toiletry, and household items as well as empty prescription bottles. Let's keep filling the grocery cart, sharing God's blessings with those who are less fortunate.

**The Promise of the Future**

A nursing home resident who longed for fresh Georgia peaches discovered a pit overlooked in his serving of canned fruit. In an old coffee can, he planted the stone, which sprouted! The man gave the small tree to friends to plant. Years later, the peaches were so abundant the neighbors had to give some away.

Lila Docken Bauman recounts this story for the *Christian Century*, saying the man who took that gamble "did not live to see it grow into the tree that ultimately produced this harvest. But when he looked at that pit years ago he saw the promise of fresh fruit... 'Who despises the day of small things?' asks the prophet Zechariah. It's in those small things that the promise of the future rests."

Just so, some 2,000 years ago, in a small baby born in a tiny town - both seemingly inconsequential - rested "the promise of the future" - the salvation of the whole world.



**Join CTR on Facebook & Twitter!**

Keep up with coming events, announcements, and updates about recent events including pictures. The public events page is at: <http://www.facebook.com/ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch>

The private group is at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctrtulsa/>  
For the Twitter account use: @PastorBe\_CTR

To join the private group, click Join Group in the top right hand corner of the page or contact James Morgan via e-mail: [communications@ctrtulsa.org](mailto:communications@ctrtulsa.org)

*Stay in Touch*



**Lutheran Women in Mission**

**LWML NEWS**

**Thursday - December 12** — Annual Women's Christmas Party, 6:00 pm in fellowship hall.

Women of all ages and stages of life are welcome to participate in the LWML. If the times of the current activities don't work with your schedule please contact me — we can work together to get some new activities started!

Serving the Lord with Gladness!  
Kathy Stephen, CTR LWML President  
281-782-7783 - [Stpn44@aol.com](mailto:Stpn44@aol.com)

**LWML GIVING OPPORTUNITIES**

Raise money while you shop and browse the web! To support Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Oklahoma District, shop at Amazon Smile. The products and shopping experience are the same as shopping on Amazon.com. Just choose Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Oklahoma District as your charity! To support Lutheran Women's Missionary League, use GoodSearch, GoodShop, and the Gumdrop feature!

**FYI:** Your mites and offerings support our local LWML projects/programs, Oklahoma District LWML Grants (\$105,000 for 2018-2020) and National LWML Grants (2,100,000)  
**LWR final count** for 2019 from CTR: Quilts-314; Health Kits-85; School Kits-378; Sewing Kits-67; Soap-54lbs for a total of 2,513.

**Mission Trip Opportunity**

LWML Oklahoma District is sponsoring a Mission trip to Belize on March 5-12, 2020. It will be an eyeglass clinic and giving out eyeglasses. The team will be serving a new LCMS church in Orange Wells, Belize. The cost is approximately \$2500. We have a grant that pays \$1000 for applicants that qualify to help cover expenses. It is always exciting to put eyeglasses on people who would never be able to afford eyeglasses and now they can read street signs, newspapers and their Bibles. Also, we have the opportunity to witness about our Savior Jesus Christ. If you are interested in going on this mission trip or have questions, please contact Sharon Schmidt 405-605-9518.

345  
**Christmas Party**  
345 Christmas Party  
December 15  
3:00-5:00 at Church

Come and join us for games, snacks and white elephant gift exchange (\$10 or under new or slightly used).

**2019 Giving Tree...**

Outreach Ministry has selected two recipients for our Christmas "Giving Tree." They are Mend Medical Clinic and Pregnancy Resource Center ([www.mendpregnancy.org](http://www.mendpregnancy.org)) and Walker Hall Transitional Living Center, a housing program of the Mental Health Association of Oklahoma ([www.mhaok.org](http://www.mhaok.org)).

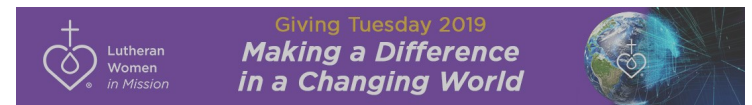
Walker Hall provides living accommodations for young adults impacted by mental illness ages 18-25 who are experiencing homelessness. The facility has 24-hour staffing and promotes the life-skill development needed to help tenants successfully move into permanent housing within two years.

"Mend" supports women, men, and families in a confidential, non-judgmental and loving approach as they make decisions involving pregnancy and the care and support of young children.

The "Giving Tree" will be in the church narthex beginning Wednesday, November 27. Pick a star or a heart from the tree, purchase the item(s) and return to the church no later than Sunday, December 23. Please do not wrap the gifts.

Cash donations are also accepted. Please place those in the box that is under the tree. If you are writing a check, please make it out to CTR and be sure to write "Giving Tree" in the memo line.

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Stephen (281-782-7783) or Diane Fager (918-528-6349)



**Giving Tuesday - December 3**

Giving Tuesday is a day of giving, fueled by people sharing about non-profits on social media, on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. This Giving Tuesday, you can double your impact when you donate to the LWML Mission Goal, thanks to two donors who will match up to \$20,000!

**How Can You Help?**  
**PRAY** for the missions being supported!  
**TELL A FRIEND** about this matching opportunity!  
**SHARE** special Facebook posts from LWML on Giving Tuesday.  
**DONATE** online Tuesday, December 3, to double your impact.



**Christ the Redeemer Jr High and High school youth are again selling greenery from Lynch Creek Farm as a fundraiser for the summer trips we have planned in 2020, 2021 & 2022.**

**Support us by shopping using this link:**

<http://www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/213204>

**You are welcome to share this with family and friends!**



# Seminary News

To friends dearly loved by the Brakhages and by our Lord Jesus Christ:

Writing this letter almost seems silly. It's barely November. By the time this message gets to you, our family will have experienced a major milestone. We await the birth of Baby Boy #2, who is expected to arrive around Thanksgiving. I wish we could share details like name, weight, length, etc., but it's too soon to know. We'll have to catch everyone up in 2020.

Thank you for always keeping our family in your prayers. It is an incredible blessing to know that you lift us up to our heavenly Father, especially with our family on the doorstep of some major life change. Doubling the number of sons needing to be fed, changed, bathed and entertained is just the beginning. We're also about to launch into a season of interviews and matchmaking as the Seminary looks to pair us up with a ministry context where we all can grow and thrive.

With our attention gobbled up by "big deal" things like babies and final placement, some of the smaller things often slip through the cracks. I want to share some of those, because they are a better reflection of what's going on in our day-to-day lives than just spending another letter talking about due dates and Call Day.

Suzy is working. At least, as I'm writing this letter. She continues to see students for speech therapy both at home and at school. One of the students she sees at the Seminary will soon 'graduate' from Suzy's care as he and his family move to New York, where his dad will begin serving as a pastor. The rest of Suzy's students will have to get by with a sub while she takes maternity leave after the baby.

Suzy is very, very pregnant. At least, as I'm writing this letter. But that hasn't stopped her from either organizing or participating in two of the biggest student events of the fall here at the Seminary. She led the Bible study component at a weekend retreat for the women of the Seminary. Then later that week, she tag-teamed with the student body president to throw a grown-ups only Halloween party. And in between, she has somehow found time to organize a bunch of newborn clothes, do a bunch of research on child safety seats, and accomplish all of our Christmas shopping. She's amazing, and that's revealed most often in how she flawlessly handles the "little things."

Meanwhile, I have been pouring most of my attention into being a student. I added a class after Fall Break so it has been a busy half-semester. I have been trying to work ahead in my classes to buy myself some breathing room once the baby arrives. Sometimes, that works. Sometimes it doesn't. I currently have two classes that each ask for you to do an insane amount of reading before each lecture. Somewhere in the ballpark 70-130 pages a night. Mostly in English.

In November, I had my theological interview with the faculty of the Seminary. All concluding students have to sit down with the professors. The faculty ask questions about what you believe and how it's going to impact how you'll serve as a pastor. If you ever experienced confirmation questioning, it's kinda like that. (Maybe that's where all these pastors got the idea from!) Of the three faculty members doing the questioning, I've only ever had

one of them. I am glad at least one familiar face is participating.

In between homework, our family has had the chance to enjoy the excitement of basketball season. The Seminary's basketball team is fun to watch, and the home games are played in the field house just a short walk from our apartment. The Concordia Seminary Preachers (yes, our mascot is a Preacher) tipped-off on the same night as the major college basketball season. And the Preachers came out with a win in their opening game. Which meant, the Seminary's team had a better record than Suzy's beloved Jayhawks (though KU was playing Duke, and the Seminary was playing a local chiropractic college.) Graham loves to cheer for the Preachers and point out the "daddies" out on the court. I am joining him in the bleachers, sparing him the embarrassment of watching me play.

Something we are looking forward to this month is the arrival of Advent at our church home here in St. Louis. I was giving the privilege of outlining the theme for our midweek Advent worship services and designing the services. After sketching things out, I worked with my supervising pastor and our congregation's music director to get things finalized.

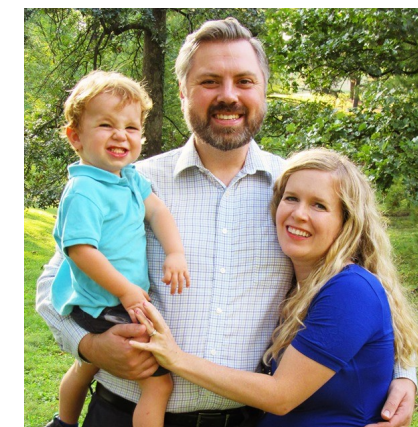
Our theme is *Christmastime in the City*, and we are looking at the significance of the places in Jesus' story and how they shape our appreciation of Advent. God in His wisdom picked Nazareth as the place He'd send Gabriel to visit a young maiden, Bethlehem as the place where He'd invite shepherds to meet a King, and Jerusalem as the place where the eyes of a faithful churchman would light up at seeing newborn Jesus. He comes to specific people in specific places with a specific purpose. And best of all, He comes to you and me! The final week of the series is focused on St. Louis, because just as Jesus comes to the cities of Scripture, He comes wherever those Scriptures are opened and read.

One of the things our St. Louis church does to help give people that "sense of place" is through their annual live nativity. It's an event that welcomes 1000-2000 guests to our small, city campus each Advent. No matter the weather, 100+ volunteers dress in costumes and bring people to Bethlehem to see the Savior born for them. (We have definitely had people offer to let new Baby Brakhage play the role of Jesus.)

Where will you meet the Savior born for you this Advent? In worship, at one of CTR's beautiful special services? In Scripture? In Bible class? In your daily devotions? Maybe He'll come when and where you least expect it. Just like He did the first time. Just like He will again.

In love with Advent,

[joshua411@gmail.com](mailto:joshua411@gmail.com)  
(918) 706-1632 (Joshua's mobile)  
(785) 393-3117 (Suzy's mobile)  
12 Founders Way, Unit B  
St. Louis, MO 63105



# ECC



Nikki Witt, Director

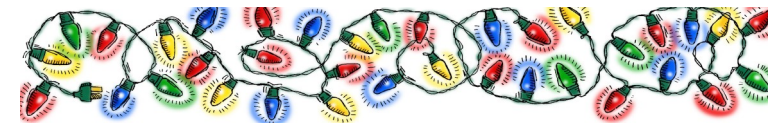


Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church - Cornerstone, December 2019



## Christmas Light Trolley Ride Sunday, December 15 6:00-7:30 PM

Ride the Old Urban Trolley for a tour of Christmas lights through South Tulsa and Jenks. Trolley ride is limited to 26 people unless children are small enough to ride on laps. Tour begins and concludes at CTR. Sign up at the table in the Narthex. Sponsored by Family & Children's Ministry



The following thank you was sent by a family who attended our fall festival:

Dear Pastor, Fall Festival Committee Organizers,

*This is just a note to thank you for a lovely time at your most recent fall festival.*

*The outside and inside activities were designed and planned so well and flowed from one activity to another. It was nice to be able to sit down inside and enjoy a delicious meal catered-in along with a couple of games of Bingo! How fun!*

*My two-year-old granddaughter had a delightful time on and in the bounce houses. Beautiful face painting and even had a unique balloon unicorn. My teenager enjoyed the video truck.*

*Just know we really enjoyed the love and hospitality shown to us at your fall fest.*

Sincerely, Karen Masden

PS (The fudge oatmeal bars we won were delicious!)



### children's program



The ECC will be closed December 23 through January 3 for Christmas break.

Everyone is invited to attend our Christmas Program on December 20 at 9:30.



**Amazon Smile!**

Help support ECC by shopping on Amazon Smile. Simply select Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church and .5% of your purchase will be given back to the ECC.



Halloween is such a fun time of year for the little ones!

### DON'T TRASH THOSE COUPONS!



Military personnel and their families stationed at major overseas bases in Europe and Asia can use those manufacturer's coupons up to six months after they have expired. A box marked "Coupons for the Troops" is located at the south entrance.

### STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT FUND

Pursuing a career in service to the Lord through the church is a fulfilling opportunity, but it is not an inexpensive choice. Those who pursue professional church work many times incur educational debt, just like anyone else may do. Repayment of educational debt is often made more difficult by the more modest salaries of church workers, compared to other professions.

In order to encourage and retain our professional church workers here at Christ the Redeemer, several years ago the congregation established a fund to assist our Pastors, DCEs and other synodically-trained church workers in repaying their student loans. This fund relies on the donations of our members here at CTR. The fund is currently in need of additional funds. Please prayerfully consider a designated donation to this cause. You may place your gift in the weekly offering with a designation of "Student Loan Fund" or you may give your gift directly to one of the Elders and we will ensure that it is deposited in the correct fund.

Thank you for your past generosity and for ongoing support.

- Jim Holt, Elder Chair

### Perfect As Is

Who can add to Christmas?  
The perfect motive is that God so loved the world.

The perfect gift is that he gave his only Son.  
The only requirement is to believe in him.  
The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

--Corrie ten Boom



### "Be born in us today"

In 1865, Phillips Brooks, an Episcopal preacher from Boston, went on a Holy Land pilgrimage. Riding horseback from Jerusalem to Bethlehem for Christmas Eve worship at the Church of the Nativity was so moving that he wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem." The hymn's final stanza addresses the town's most famous newborn:

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!*





# CHRIST THE REDEEMER YOUTH MINISTRY

**Jr. High (6-8th graders)**

**Sr. High (9-12th graders)**

<http://www.ctrtulsa.org/youth-5-12-grade/>

DCE Suzanne Watt



*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8*

## DECEMBER

**DECEMBER 15, 2019**  
**JR HIGH CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
3:00-5:00 PM

Event for 6th-8th Grade Students  
at the Carson's home in Tulsa.  
Games, snacks and fun!  
Bring a "white elephant" gift (\$10 or under new or slightly used) for exchange

**DECEMBER 20-21, 2019**  
**HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LOCK-IN AT IMMANUEL**  
9:00 PM- 7:00 AM

Event for 9th-12th Grade Students  
Games, pizza, Rhema lights and more!  
Bring a snack to share & a "white elephant" gift (\$10 or under new or slightly used) for exchange.



**SAVE THE DATE**

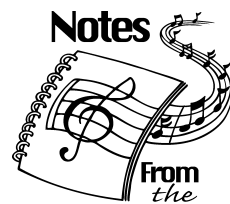
JOURNEY IN JANUARY  
HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT  
JANUARY 17-19, 2020

**JOURNEY IN JANUARY HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT:** at Camp Lutherhoma is January 17-19, 2020. Open to youth and their friends age 14-18 in high school. Registration cost is \$110 each for retreat cabins (those serving on the committee pay \$100). Retreat cabins include bedding and towels. Due by December 31, then add-ons can be done as space allows. After January 8 the price is \$170 a person if there is space. Cost includes transportation, meals and housing for the weekend as well as all programming and a t-shirt.

You should be at church no later than 6:30 PM on the 17th. Please eat dinner prior or bring a sack meal with you! We will return on the 19th at approximately 1:30 PM. To register, please fill out the registration form and return it with the fee or pay the fee via the online link on the youth webpage. Please also ensure you have updated your medical forms for 2020.

**OK'D IN CHRIST:** will be March 6-8 in Norman, OK 9th-12th grade youth and their friends will be invited to attend. Registration information to come soon!

**JR HIGH RETREAT:** at Camp Lutherhoma is February 7-9, 2020. Open to youth and their friends in 6th-8th grade. Registration is \$75 each for retreat cabins. This includes bedding and towels. Due by January 17, then add-ons can be done as space allows. After the 17th you will not be guaranteed a t-shirt. You should be at the church no later than 6:15 pm on the 7th. Please eat dinner prior or bring a sack meal with you!



## Notes From the Music Director

This month's article concludes a series that has dealt with the nature of the Church's song, both from a specifically Lutheran perspective and from a broader, more global perspective. The songs which we sing and hear each time we gather for worship fill many roles within the liturgy and our worship life together. Three of the primary functions of the Church's song, according to Lutheran pastor, professor, and church musician Rev. Dr. Paul Westermeyer, are praise, prayer, and proclamation. Last month's article dealt with the function of music as proclamation. This month we consider the role of music as prayer. In *The Church Musician* Rev. Dr. Westermeyer writes:

"The song of the Church is also a song of prayer. The roots of temple and synagogue worship are a sung tradition, as are Christian liturgies of both the East and the West. Gregorian chant, which accompanied much of the Western liturgical tradition, is seen by some as prayer itself." (Paul Westermeyer, *The Church Musician*, Augsburg Fortress, 1997, 32)

Westermeyer also notes the importance of music as prayer within the Lutheran tradition, writing:



Jacob Drengler  
Music Director

"Luther and the Lutheran church retained the singing of collects and indeed, the whole liturgy, and a large body of Protestant hymns are in fact prayers. Though the emphasis may differ, almost all traditions treat music as prayer in some way. That should not surprise us any more than using music as praise should surprise us. Human beings both laugh and weep. Laughter is the incipient form of sung praise, as weeping is the incipient form of sung prayer. The two often run into one another and cross." (Paul Westermeyer, *The Church Musician*, Augsburg Fortress, 1997, 33)

It seems especially appropriate to consider music as prayer as we enter into the season of Advent, that period of the liturgical year when we prepare our hearts to once again celebrate the birth of the One who came to us as an infant in Bethlehem. Many of the hymns of the Advent season may be sung and understood as prayers.

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!  
(O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, LSB 357, Stanza 1)*

*O Savior, rend the heavens wide;  
come down, come down with mighty stride;  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;  
unbar the way to heaven's crown.  
(O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide, LSB 355, Stanza 1)*

*Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see; anxiously we wait for Thee.  
(Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come, LSB 350, Stanza 1)*

During this season of prayer and preparation, as we wait in joyful expectation of the One who was, and is, and will come again, may you all find hope, peace, joy, and love in the message of the good news of Jesus Christ. May the songs that we sing together always point to the One to whom they are addressed.

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!  
(Songs and Prayers from Taizé, GIA Publications, 1991, 12)*

Jacob Drengler, Music Director



### Thanks from Harvest House



October 20, 2019 Phil and Marlene Cunningham, Directors of Harvest House, attended early service and spoke at Sunday School here at CTR. They sent the following:

*"We loved attending your service and Sunday School class last Sunday. It was great to meet your pastor and so many wonderful folk who are part of your congregation. Thank you for taking the time and effort to organize the clothing drive and our visit.*

*We appreciate all the awesome children's books and the surprise money donated to HH. I was very kind and generous!*

*I appreciate you all, our brothers and sisters in Christ who have such servant hearts! Thank you again, and may our Lord bless you 100 fold and more."*

### STAFF GIFTS

Please consider thanking our CTR staff and showing our appreciation with a year-end Christmas bonus. You can write "staff gifts" on the memo line of your check when making contributions.



Contributions should be received no later than December 13.