



# Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church

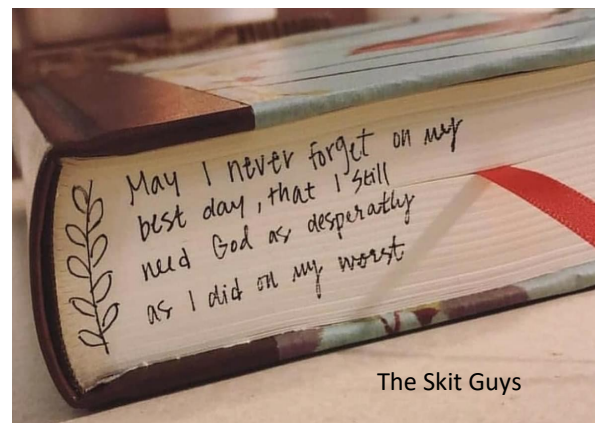
2550 East 71st Street  
Tulsa, OK 74136

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Help us eliminate expensive postal fees by notifying us of your change of address.*

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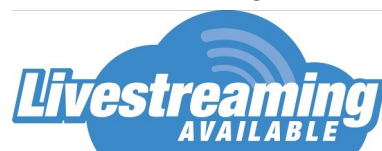
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The Skit Guys



**Worship Online**  
through the CTR Facebook page  
and website  
[www.facebook.com/  
ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch)  
[www.ctrtulsa.org/media](http://www.ctrtulsa.org/media)



**Online Giving Options**  
[www.ctrtulsa.org/on-line-giving](http://www.ctrtulsa.org/on-line-giving)  
GivePlus Church mobile app



Please submit  
your tithes &  
offerings  
**ONLINE**



# The Cornerstone



**February 2021**

***"Leading People Into a Living Relationship With Jesus Christ"***

**Rev. Scott Burmeister**  
Pastor

**Suzanne Watt**  
Dir. of Christian Education

**Connie Phillips**  
Office Administrator

**Deva Beebe**  
Business Administrator

**Jacob Drengler**  
Music Director

**Craig Amendt**  
Assistant Music 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)**



*A reflection on four significant days of  
Holy Week*

FEBRUARY 24  
MARCH 3  
MARCH 10  
MARCH 17  
MARCH 24

*View the worship  
service online each  
week through our  
website and  
You Tube*

[HTTPS://WWW.CTRTULSA.ORG/SPECIAL-WORSHIP-SERVICES-2021/](https://www.ctrtulsa.org/special-worship-services-2021/)



**AshWednesday**  
FEBRUARY 17

*Imposition of Ashes in person at CTR  
9-11 AM & 12-2 PM  
Online only worship service through website  
& You Tube*



**MaundyThursday**  
APRIL 1

*Worship Service with Holy Communion  
7:00 PM in person at CTR & live-streamed*



**GoodFriday**  
APRIL 2

*Tenebrae Service  
7:00 PM in person at CTR & live-streamed*



We would like to show our LOVE to  
Pastor, Suzanne, and Jacob for their  
extra effort during the pandemic! Their  
creativity and efforts have been so val-  
uable for the congregation during this  
time. A basket will be available starting  
February 1 for cards and notes.

Thank you!



Pastor's COLUMN

Fellow Redeemed,

Does it seem like the world is moving faster? I am not suggesting that time is somehow passing at a faster pace, but that the ability for us humans to change narratives has become very quick. Here is an example of what I mean. When I speak of the 60s, 70s or 80s, you know that I am talking about a decade that had its own feel and style. They were quite distinct from each other. It seems when we hit 2000, all of that changed. The amount of technological growth just between 2000 and 2010, was immense. The iPod was introduced on October 23, 2001, and boggled the imagination, that you could store 1000 songs on a single device. Blu-Ray Discs were founded and being developed in 2002 and were finally released in 2006. YouTube got its start in 2006, when eBay bought out PayPal, and that original team of entrepreneurs built startups like Tesla, LinkedIn, and yes, YouTube. Twitter launched in 2006 and has redefined how people communicate. The Amazon kindle was released in 2007 with its original e-book reader, and the publishing industry would never be the same. Skype was founded in 2003, and its video through wi-fi calling paved the way for companies like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc. Wikipedia launched in 2001 and played a major role in defining user-generated content. What an amazing world of change that we live in, and things are not going to slow down. Artificial Intelligence and complex algorithms are now able to disperse massive amounts of information on a global scale and can “know” by following your eye movement, what things interest you the most, and can make recommendations based on that data. We live in amazing times.

In the midst of a rapidly changing world, I want to share this Word from God. Hebrews 13:7-9, “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.” What a blessing to know that Jesus Christ has not changed and will not change. We can rest in Him, securely knowing that our sins are forgiven in Him. God’s Word does not change. That is a comfort for us in a world that is changing on a daily basis. Let us hold fast, in faith, to Jesus. Amen.

JESUS CHRIST  
IS THE SAME YESTERDAY  
AND TODAY AND FOREVER.

HEBREWS 13:8



BOARD MEMBERS

- President:

President-Elect:

Past President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Director-at-Large:

Director-at-Large:

Director-at-Large:

Personnel Committee:

Communications:

ECC:

Education:

Elders:

Evangelism:

Family & Children:

Finance:

Outreach:

Parish Life:

Property:

Stewardship:

Strategic Planning:

Worship:

Youth:

Endowment Fund:
- Brad Young

John Meinders

Tom Kirby

Connie Thomas

Jennie Gard

Cheryl Davison

Kyle Stein

John Campbell

Sam Woodard

Ed Fager

James Morgan

Chris Carson

Scott Chesher

Jim Holt

Steve Short

Katie Michaels-Johnson

Brenda Flasch

Patti Ross

Danita Cockrell

Floyd Lemons

Nancy Kirby

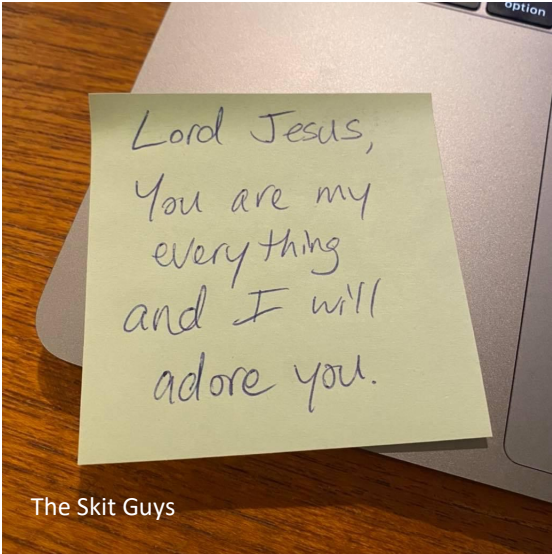
Tim Kuehnert

Cherry Volberding

Amber Carson

Rob Koch

**THE OKLAHOMA DISTRICT LCMS** will soon be publishing an e-newsletter appropriate for congregation members and others with interest in Lutherans and their congregations, missions, activities, and work in Oklahoma. “Oklahoma Lutherans: District Updates” will be published periodically and include information such as stories about events and activities across the state, links to the latest Lutheran Witness Oklahoma News on the district website, announcements, and more. To sign up to receive the newsletter, visit [www.oklahomalutherans.org](http://www.oklahomalutherans.org) and enter your name and email address in the box found on the lower right of the home page.



The Skit Guys

February

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1 Sam. 9:1-17 Ps. 30 Acts 27:39-44	1 Sam. 9:18-10:8 Ps 31 Acts 28:1-10	1 Sam. 10:9-27 Ps 32 Acts 28:11-16	1 Sam. 10 Ps 33 Acts 28:17-31	1 Sam. 11 Ps 34 Eph. 1:1-14	1 Sam. 12 Ps 35 Eph. 1:15-2:10
	7	8	9	10	11	12
1 Sam. 13 Ps 36 Eph. 2:11-22	1 Sam. 14:1-23 Ps 37 Eph. 3:1-13	1 Sam. 14:24-52 Ps 38 Eph. 3:14-21	1 Sam. 15 Ps 39 Eph. 4:1-16	1 Sam. 16 Ps 40 Eph. 4:17-32	1 Sam. 17:1-18 Ps 41 Eph. 5:1-21	1 Sam. 17:19-37 Ps 42 Eph. 5:22-6:4
	14	15	16	17	18	19
Deut. 34:1-12 Ps 99 Heb 3:1-6 Luke 9:28-36	1 Sam. 17:38-58 Ps 43 Eph. 6:5-23	1 Sam 18:1-16 Ps 44 Phil. 1:1-11	Joel 2:12-19 2 Cor. 5:20-6:10 Matt 6:1-21	1 Sam. 18:17-19:7 Ps 45 Phil. 1:12-30	1 Sam. 19:8-24 Ps 46 Phil. 2:1-11	1 Sam. 20:1-29 Ps 47 Phil. 2:12-30
	21	22	23	24	25	26
1 Sam. 20:30-21:9 Ps 48 Phil. 3:1-11	1 Sam. 21:10-22:5 Ps 49 Phil. 3:12-4:1	1 Sam. 22:6-23:5 Ps 50 Phil. 4:2-23	1 Sam. 23:6-29 Ps 51 Col. 1:1-14	1 Sam. 24 Ps 52 Col. 1:15-23	1 Sam. 25:1-22 Ps 53 Col. 1:24-2:5	1 Sam. 25:23-44 Ps 54 Col. 2:6-15
	28					
1 Sam. 26 Ps 55 Col. 2:16-23						

Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.

- Max Lucado



COLLEGE ADDRESSES

Please contact the church office with updated addresses for all college students.

Eyeglass Collection

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





*Let everything you do be done in love.*  
1 Corinthians 16:14

Sharon collected lots of shoes the last few months! Thank you to everyone that contributed to our cause.

Because of COVID-19 and the construction going on at church, we have not been able to meet as a Christ-filled women's group like we would like. We are meeting as we feel safe, even though we are a small group, we get together as we can. At our February 14th meeting, Sharon will help us make mission bracelets. We will meet on March 21, the second day of spring!

We will continue to meet the third Sunday of the month in the fellowship hall at 1:00. I'm going to try to have some sort of craft or other activity for us to make at each meeting. Some ladies have been wanting do another craft class so I'm trying to incorporate this into our meetings as an optional activity. Please let me know if you have any activities you would like to try.

Don't forget about your Mite Box. The first Sunday of the month is still Mite Box Sunday.

Mission Goal for 2019–2021 Biennium: \$2,100,000.00  
Amount Received: \$ 1,754,544.77  
Total Mites Still Needed: \$ 345,455.23  
before March 31, 2021

Even through the Pandemic of COVID-19, the mission work of the LWML continues. Please continue to support the many missions of LWML with your prayers and offerings. LWML.ORG has lots of ways to support and learn more about mission grants. For the Oklahoma district go to [www.lwml.org/oklahoma-district](http://www.lwml.org/oklahoma-district).

Thank you for your support and please be flexible as we figure ways for our group to meet together to fulfill our outreach and missions.

Yours in Service – Daphnee Brian, President



Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission

## President's Update

Hello again fellow members!

How can it be that another month has come and gone? Great things continue happening at CTR.

The construction project has picked up even more speed. Every time I go through the new addition I see new things in place that were not there the day before. All of the steel framework is completed which has allowed framing to begin on the exterior and interior walls of both the first and second floors to be well underway and a large part of the roof structure and decking to be installed. I never fail to be excited when I walk thru the new building. **Check out the new video on CTR's Facebook page that we did today. You'll get to see a close-up update of all the new construction.**

It is such a blessing that our congregation is doing something constructive (pun intended) when we are surrounded by such negative news. There is so much more work for us to do with sharing the Gospel with many of those hurting around us and this facility is one of the tools to allow us to do that.

In case you missed it in my letter last month, it is anticipated that the phase 1 construction on the east side of our building will be completed by the end of May allowing CTR to move the office and classrooms into the new space (including the elevator).

Then in June, the west wing of our building should be getting demoed so the remodel can begin including the west

courtyard being enclosed and incorporated into our current fellowship hall and connected to the new kitchen. We are still anticipating that this final phase should be completed sometime in October. *Subject to change by any weather delays of course.*

The Family Ministry Exploratory Committee chaired by John Meinders has recommended to the Board of Directors that a call committee be formed to consider whether a second DCE should be added or not. More information will be presented at the January 24<sup>th</sup> voters meeting. This will be a shortened meeting with only essential matters to be presented in person due to COVID precautions.

The 2021 budget was reviewed and finalized by the BOD Monday night and will be presented at the voters meeting.

One final note, we learned this week that we will be saying goodbye to Connie Phillips and her husband Ron very soon as they have received word that it is time for them to move to Iowa to take the next step in their lives. We have been so fortunate to have them here and that Connie was able to step back in the office to help us transition to Deva. They will be missed greatly but Connie is leaving things in good hands with Deva. God continues to guide us through these challenging times.

God Bless,  
Respectfully,  
Brad Young, President



### Why We Lament

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shut-downs, joking, "I didn't mean to give up *this* much for Lent!" Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for *Time*, explains that asking "why?" but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel's unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend's tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish.

"Part of the Christian vocation," Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. "As the Spirit laments within us," he says, "so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope."

## DISCOVER IMMANUEL

Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy - 400 North Aspen Avenue, Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy is, unashamedly, a Christian school. As an institution in close-working relationship with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LC-MS), we believe, teach and confess the unchanging truth of Holy Scripture as described in the Lutheran Confessions and the belief and practice of the LC-MS.



**The Discover Immanuel program** is an introductory tuition program designed exclusively for new middle school and high school students. The program is designed to ease families into a tuition-based education.

#### Core Elements of the Program:

- Program for Middle School and High School only (6th-12th grade)
- The program is open to families seeking a Christ-Centered education.
- Enrollment will be done via an initial wait list and open up following registration of the traditional tuition-based students.
- It is expected of the "Discover Immanuel" program that parents will participate in fundraisers and volunteer opportunities.

**The program details: 1<sup>st</sup> year—pay 25% of total tuition. - 2<sup>nd</sup> year—pay 50% of total tuition.**

**Example: High School Tuition x % = Total owed by family**

**\$8000.00 x .25 = \$2,000 owed for tuition. - \$8,000.00 x .50 = \$4,000 owed for tuition.**

#### Additional fees new families will be responsible for:

- Application fee (\$150.00 per application)
- Consumables fee of \$275
- Additional costs not covered under tuition (i.e. field trips, yearbooks, sports fees, class t-shirts..)

**Call for a Private Tour! - Steve Zehnder ([szehnder@icaba.org](mailto:szehnder@icaba.org)) 918-251-5422**

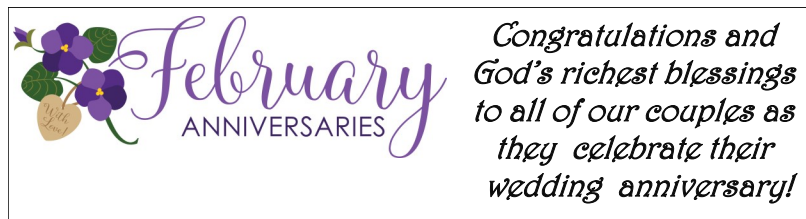
### The Power of Love



By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way." He also calls love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can't seem to penetrate."

St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives. "Love all [people], even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."





Kelly & Dawnelle Lawson	February 4	10 yrs
Dean & Shelley Butler	February 5	15 yrs
Robert & Lanece Young	February 29	57 yrs

The OWLS will not meet until we are comfortable with the safety issues for everyone involved. We look forward to our fellowship luncheons in the near future.



**MILITARY COUPONS**

Until further notice, the collection of coupons for military families overseas is going to be put on hold. I wish to thank CTR members for their generous support of this program over the past several years.

– Deb Drain

**Stay Connected**

WITH CHRIST THE REDEEMER

You can now sign up online to receive the CTR E-blast! This gives you access to the weekly news and events email as well as special announcements. Sign up today at <http://www.ctrtulsa.org/email-signup/> to receive it if you have not done so already.

**Keep up with coming events, announcements, and updates:**

**Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/ChristTheRedeemerLutheranChurch)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/ctrtulsa/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ctrtulsa/)

**Instagram:**  
[www.instagram.com/ctrtulsa/](http://www.instagram.com/ctrtulsa/)

**Twitter:** @PastorBe\_CTR

## Outreach News



**Missionaries** Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster who work in Prague, the Czech Republic, were able to return to the U.S. in November where he baptized their two new grandchildren. They then returned to Prague. They ask that we pray for them, especially for continuing computer issues that prevent them from staying in touch during the pandemic restrictions. So far they have remained virus-free.

Anton Lutz, our missionary in Papua, New Guinea, has some incredible stories that DCE Suzanne posts on FB. Please pray for the battle against sorcery that engulfs the region he is in and his safety.

Rev. Hesham Shehab and Salam Christian Fellowship in Lombard, Illinois, is an outreach to the Muslim community and Middle East immigrants. You can read about them on their website: [salamchristianfellowship.org](http://salamchristianfellowship.org). Please pray for the difficult ministry and Rev. Shehab.

Thanks to CTR members' generosity **Thanksgiving gift cards** were sent to some members of our congregation. Working with the elders, "Remembrance Bags" were delivered to our shut-ins. Thank you for contributing and caring for your brothers and sisters at CTR.

Your donations for **South Tulsa Community House (STCH)** have been much appreciated. Here is a client story shared by their staff.

"Due to COVID, we had a school teacher reach out to us for help. Her husband had lost his job and unemployment still hadn't started. They were trying to live on her income with two young children. I could hear the humility in her voice as she went through our intake process. We were able to comfort her letting her know that we are here for her as long as she needs us. Thanks to all the donations Christ the Redeemer has been bringing us, we

were able to give her laundry and cleaning supplies, diapers, plus wonderful snacks for her young children to enjoy. This was enough for this family to figure out their new normal and take the stress off her shoulders so she could care for all her students who are depending on her, as well."

Here's a new **"Top 10" needs list from STCH**. You may put donations in the shopping basket in the south hallway or donate money marked for STCH. We pick up on Wednesday and deliver on Thursdays. Thank you!

- 32 oz laundry detergent (for seniors in February)
- 11 oz coffee or bricks (for veterans)
- Family Size bar soaps
- Family size hair shampoo/conditioner
- 2 pack razors
- Adult diapers size medium and large
- Baby wipes
- Hamburger helper
- Brownie mixes
- Disinfectant cleaners such as 409 or Clorox

**Sunday School offerings** during the fourth quarter of 2020 plus matching funds from Outreach budget allowed a check for \$557.50 being sent to Camp Lutheroma.



**Thrivent members!** One of our members used her \$250 Thrivent grant to purchase needed items for STCH. Have you designated your \$250 towards something yet?

Please see the Congregational Reports-Outreach Ministry for other Outreach Ministry-supported ministries.



## 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





The word alleluia, derived from the Hebrew word *halleluyah*, literally means “Praise the Lord.” During the penitential season of Lent, the Church has traditionally refrained from singing or speaking alleluia within the context of the liturgy.

On Transfiguration Sunday, the final Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, there has long been a tradition within the western church of saying “farewell” to alleluia, often through a brief ceremony or the singing of a hymn which prominently features the word alleluia. Alleluia is then joyously restored when Christians gather to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection at Easter.

The custom of omitting alleluia during Lent goes back to at least the fifth century, while the practice of more formally bidding it farewell originated in the Middle Ages. The hymn *Alleluia, Song of Gladness (LSB 417)*, is a translation of an ancient Latin hymn (likely composed between the years 800 to 1100) which, in the second stanza, compares the season of Lent, devoid of alleluia, to the exile of the Israelites during the Babylonian captivity. While this hymn had fallen out of use by the time of the Reformation, it was rediscovered and translated by John Chandler during the nineteenth century, later becoming widely used across a variety of Christian denominations as a farewell to alleluia in anticipation of the season of Lent. The translation found in *Lutheran Service Book* is a revision of a later translation by the eminent English hymnwriter John Mason Neale.

Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die;  
Alleluia is the anthem ever raised by choirs on high;  
In the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.

Alleluia, thou resoundest, true Jerusalem and free;  
Alleluia, joyful mother, all thy children sing with thee,  
But by Babylon's sad waters mourning exiles now are we.

Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;  
Alleluia, our transgressions make us for a while forgo;  
For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.

Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee, grant us, blessed Trinity,  
At the last to keep Thine Easter with Thy faithful saints on high;  
There to Thee forever singing Alleluia joyfully.

In his text *Mediaeval Hymns and Sequences* Neale quotes at length from the farewell to alleluia found in the Mozarabic Rite:

Alleluia in heaven and in earth;  
it is perpetuated in heaven, it is sung in earth.  
There it resounds everlastingly; here sweetly.  
There happily; here concordantly.  
There ineffably; here earnestly.  
There without syllables; here in musical numbers.  
There from the angels; here from the people.

Which, at the birth of Christ the Lord,  
not only in heaven, but the earth,  
did the angels sing; while they proclaimed,  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to men of good will.

Thou shalt go, O Alleluia,  
Thou shalt have a prosperous journey, O Alleluia.  
And again with joy thou shalt return to us, O Alleluia.  
For in their hands they shall bear thee up;  
lest thou hurt thy foot against a stone.  
And again with joy thou shalt return to us, O Alleluia.



In the singing of *Alleluia, Song of Gladness* we are reminded that on this side of eternity things are not yet as they should be. “Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below.” Perhaps the events of this past year have brought that truth home in a particularly acute way. As we journey through this Lenten season, it is perhaps not such a bad thing to remember that we live in a fallen and broken world; a world that desperately needs to be made whole. Yet, this hymn also reminds us that we are Easter people even in the midst of Lenten wilderness. “Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee, grant us, blessed Trinity, at the last to keep Thine Easter with Thy faithful saints on high.” So, as we refrain from alleluia for a time, we wait in joyful anticipation of the Resurrection dawn when we will join again in the song of the saints at the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end. Here we join in that song for only a little while, there we will join in that song eternally.

As the season of Lent begins, we are reminded that we are dust and that we shall return to dust. While we know this to be true, we face this knowledge with sure and certain confidence born of the marvelous hope that is ours through the redemptive death and resurrection of Christ.

We go down to the dust;  
yet even at the grave we make our song:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
(The Book of Common Prayer, p. 483)

Thanks be to God!



**Jacob Drengler**  
Music Director

# Sunday School Classes For Children and Youth



Beginning in January, some of your favorite VBS Bible Buddies and music are BACK as part of the “Simply Loved” Sunday school series. Join us each Sunday for music, videos, skits, games, activities and more as we learn about Joseph, the Exodus and Moses and talk about Jesus! All kids in preschool 3 through 5th grade are invited to attend!

## Unit 1: Joseph's Story

1/3 Lesson 1: Joseph Annoys His Brothers

1/10 Lesson 2: Joseph Goes to Jail

1/17 Lesson 3: God Helps Joseph Interpret Dreams

1/24 Lesson 4: Joseph Forgives His Brothers

## Unit 2: The Exodus

1/31 Lesson 5: Moses is Rescued by Pharaoh's Daughter

2/7 Lesson 6: Moses Talks to God at a Burning Bush

2/14 Special Valentine's Day Lesson

2/21 Lesson 7: God Spares the Israelites at Passover

2/28 Lesson 8: The Israelites Cross the Red Sea

## Unit 3: Never Fear, Jesus Is Here!

3/7 Lesson 9: Jesus Is Born

3/14 Lesson 10: Jesus Calms a Storm

3/21 Lesson 11: Jesus Forgives the Thief on the Cross

3/28 Lesson 12: Jesus Comes Back to Life

## Jr High/Confirmation (6th-8th Grade)

Confirmation students have two choices for classes this fall:

- Sunday School from 9:30-10:30 am for 6th grade - 8th grade
- At home with monthly Check-In Nights from 3:00-5:00 PM for 6th grade and up

The Sunday school class, a 30-Lesson Bible Overview is also open to non-confirmation students. If necessary, we will continue to Zoom Sunday school classes for the participation of those staying at home. Classes are led by DCE Suzanne in the CTR Library.



## High School Youth (9th-12th Grade)

Led by David Ross and Tim Kuehnert in the church office. This class looks at a wide variety of topics including Church History, Denominational Differences and Contemporary Culture and our Beliefs.





For the Month of December	2019	2020
December Giving.....	\$80,378	\$68,286
Monthly Budget .....	\$79,750	\$65,431
Year to Date Giving .....	\$837,386	\$810,873
Year to Date Budget .....	\$829,399	\$850,599
YTD Expenses.....	\$781,801	\$822,075
<b>Building Fund Contribution:</b>		
December Receipts-\$210,349.32		
Balance: \$2,231,913.39		



**In-Person Service  
Announcement**

We have resumed in-person worship at 8:15 and 10:45. We WILL livestream the 8:15 service. Youth and Pastor’s adult Sunday school class have resumed as well.

Masks will be required at CTR. This will facilitate a two fold purpose; first so that we can serve one another by keeping the spread of germs to a minimum, and second so that we can sing all of the hymns and liturgy. Wear your masks while you sing and praise God as He serves us through Worship with His Word and Sacraments. Masks are available in the narthex. Communion will be distributed in a walk through manner, maintaining social distancing.

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Greetings from St. Louis Seminary!

Well, spring is right around the corner. I don’t care what the calendar or the groundhog says. February is the shortest month of the year and, generally speaking, the month with the worst weather in my recollection. This applies only to years that I lived in the North. Our 15 years in Florida don’t count because February is quite a pleasant month down there. That is why so many people escape to Florida from the North during February, which makes life there challenging in other ways. I know that some will disagree with my assessment and that is fair. Some people love the cold and snow. Good for them, they can have it. Of course, it is a bold move for a seminarian to voice such an opinion in that the seminary will be determining where I will live for my one-year vicarage and my first position as a pastor. I fear being stuck above the arctic circle (the Oklahoma/Kansas border), but I know I need not fear being sent to Wyoming.

One of the indicators that spring is in the air is that spring semester has started. I have two classes that meet the entire semester. Those are **Homiletics** (how to preach) and **Creeds & Confessions**. I have four classes that are half a semester. The first half of the semester I have **Pauline Epistles** (Letters of Paul) and **The Pastor and Church in Mission**. The second half of the semester I have **Synoptic Gospels** (Matthew, Mark, Luke) and **Jesus and the Forces of Death in the Gospels**.

Another sign that spring is around the corner is that Lent begins in February. It is interesting that Valentine’s Day is so close to the start of Lent this year. We share our hearts

and celebrate our affections for people on the 14<sup>th</sup> and, on the 17<sup>th</sup> we begin to celebrate God’s love for us. Two Bible passages come to mind when I think about the love that we will celebrate this February.

The first is Psalm 51: 10-12, which I am sure you will recognize as part of the liturgy in Divine Service, Setting Three. “Create in me a clean heart, Oh God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.” We need to be forgiven by God, but we don’t keep that forgiveness to ourselves as we see in Eph. 4:32. “Be ye kind, one unto another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.”

Although I celebrate the return of spring during February, I know that weather is localized. What we can all celebrate in a unique way in February, no matter who we are or where we are, is that Jesus died to bring forgiveness of sins to each of us, restoring our relationship with God. We can also celebrate that we have the ability to proclaim that forgiveness to others and practice that forgiveness in our daily lives. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Speaking of flowing blessings, Deb and I would like to express our gratitude to you for your continued support while here at seminary. We enjoyed getting Christmas cards. Depending on schedules and COVID restrictions, we hope to get back to Tulsa perhaps the end of March or early summer.

In Christ,  
Deon and Debra Hull  
14 Founders Way, Unit B  
St. Louis, MO 63105

**Christmas Pictures**

*Gazing at family photos  
From my Christmas days gone by.  
Some of these pictures made me smile,  
While other ones made me cry.*

*There are pictures of my children  
Unwrapping their Christmas toys.  
Which Hubby and I were hoping  
Would bring them some Christmas joy.*

*Some tears slipped down upon my cheeks  
From photos of Mom and Dad.  
God welcomed them both to Heaven.  
Missing them had made me sad.*

*I viewed pictures of grandchildren  
God graciously blessed me with.  
Oh, what countless happy moments  
These dear precious children give!*

*Fun pictures of KitKat, our cat,  
Playing with Flippity fish.  
Cute pictures of Buddy, our dog,  
With treats fulfilling his wish.*

*Some snapshots from Christmas parties  
Brought back memories of friends.  
So many happy moments that  
We all wished would never end.*

*Pictures of my family ‘round  
The table with Christmas feast  
Reminded me of my blessings,  
From my eldest to my least!*

*A picture of the manger scene  
We set up beneath our tree,  
Of all of the Christmas photos  
Held the dearest thought for me.*

*For it made me stop and wonder  
Why god sent His only Son  
To such a humble place of birth?  
I admit that I was stunned!*

*We anticipate what treasures  
Are hidden in Christmas foil.  
Yet, who would think that swaddling  
clothes  
Held someone very “Royal”!*

*Christ left His heavenly kingdom  
Where the streets are paved with gold  
To be the “Savior” of the world  
In a place so bleak and cold.*

*His family had no riches.  
He was humble from His birth.  
His life’s goal was saving sinners  
While He lived upon this earth.*

*Were we sinners really “worth” it,  
To be honored with this King!  
Willing to die upon a cross...  
Oh, what an amazing thing!*

*From reading in God’s Holy Word  
There’s a clear revelation.  
God had made man in His image  
As part of His creation.*

*God so **loved the world** that He gave  
His only begotten “Son”.  
No matter what our skin tone is,  
Christ came for **everyone**!*

*God gave us “grace” that first Christmas  
Undeserved... unearned... and free!  
By believing and receiving  
His “Gift” is for you and me.*

*God leads us from 2020  
Leaving these unrests behind:  
“COVID-19” and “election”.  
Pray the new year be more kind!*

*Dear God bless the world with a cure  
To destroy COVID-19  
Give our scientist the knowledge  
Leading to the right vaccine.*

*Political differences  
May cause us to disagree.  
Yet, we’re one nation “under God”  
In a land where we are free!*

*Jesus is our faithful leader  
Toward a world of peacefulness.  
Exchange hatred and division  
For love and togetherness.*

*Our Savior is a bright beacon  
Shining light in a dark world.  
He’s our rock, a firm place to stand  
When problems around us whirl.*

*Though Jesus lay in a manger  
That very first Christmas day,  
Christ also lay within a tomb  
Yet, He rose on the third day!*

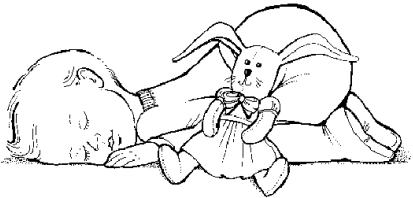
*Christ is the resurrected Lord!  
He wants the whole world to know  
We don’t need to fear death’s shadow.  
Christ conquered death’s final blow!*

*Are we sinners really “worth” it,  
To be honored with this King!  
You bet we are, for God loves us!  
**Oh, what an amazing thing!***

--Ruth Ann Atkins

**February Diaper Drive**

LMWL will be collecting diapers up to size 2 for MEND – Medical Clinic and Pregnancy Crisis Center through the month of February. Diapers can be dropped off at the LWML display in the narthex.






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!




**CTR BLOOD DRIVE** will be held at the church on February 21 from 9-12:30. Sign up at the display in the narthex and give the gift of life!



Christ distributes courage through community; he dissipates doubts through fellowship. He never deposits all knowledge in one person but distributes pieces of the jigsaw puzzle to many. When you interlock your understanding with mine, and we share our discoveries, when we mix, mingle, confess and pray, Christ speaks.

—Max Lucado, *Fearless*

Exactly one year ago this month, I was sitting at my desk writing to you, the congregation, thanking you for the honor of working as your church secretary for the past 11 years since I was about to retire. Who would have thought that, after just four months of retirement, I would be asked to return and fill in during COVID and the construction project! Pastor has thanked me for "rescuing" the congregation and staff during a difficult time but actually I think we rescued each other! Ron will agree that I wasn't quite ready for retirement especially with the isolation that COVID brought to us all.

It is now, with great joy, that I retire a second and final time because, after waiting for over three years, we finally have the opportunity to move to the retirement community in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where we will be near our son and his family and all the friends we have in Iowa. We will be moving on February 17.

So, once again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to "rescue" you. It was a special time to be able to work alongside my friends again and do what I've always loved doing.

If you're ever in Iowa, please stop by and see us!!

-- Connie Phillips

### Immanuel Fine Arts Academy

Did you know that Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy now has an after school fine arts program for all ages?

**Immanuel Fine Arts Academy (IFAA)** offers a variety quality fine arts classes and private lessons in a Christian environment all at a great price. Students of **all ages** are welcome and needn't be enrolled at ILCA. Check out our current class offerings at <https://ilcanews.org> under the Fine Arts tab. Questions? Contact Rebecca Winston at [rwinston@icaba.org](mailto:rwinston@icaba.org).

- Piano
- Musical Theater
- Guitar
- Band Instruments
- Preschool Tumbling
- Summer Camps



IFAA



DCE Suzanne Watt

## CHRIST THE REDEEMER YOUTH MINISTRY

**Jr. High (6-8th graders)**  
**Sr. High (9-12th graders)**

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



"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

**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**

## JR HIGH WINTER RETREAT

CAMP LUTHERHOMA

February 5-7, 2021  
Open to youth and their friends  
in 6th-8th grade  
Registration is \$75 each for retreat cabins  
Due by January 15th

Forms can be found by visiting the Youth page of the CTR website. We will also need a new 2021 CTR Medical and Permission Form for each attendee filled out in early January to reflect changes in medical insurance as well as update medications and permissions.



Camp Lutherhoma is hosting Spring Force Camp the weekend of March 19-21 for 8-12 year old campers.



April 9-11, 2021— CTR High School Retreat @ Camp Lutherhoma



The CTR high school students had an awesome time at Camp Lutherhoma's annual Journey in January retreat. Four of our students served on the planning committee and one college student volunteered as a staff helper.



Connect with friends and fun camp counselors!

Grow in your relationship with Jesus!

Experience fund camp games and activities, like rumble ball, archery, hikes, and more!

\$80 per camper & parents are free!

Register through CTR by completing a form and return it to DCE Suzanne.





Several of our CTR youth gave up a day of their Christmas break to help sort, pack and move items from the ECC at Good Shepherd back over to CTR. We thank them for their service and time.



**A Blessed Christmastide  
And a Happy New Year!**

Thanks to the COVID virus things are closed up here. No stores that do not sell essential items are allowed to open. Restaurants and bars – two favorites of Czechs – have been shut. The annual Christmas markets were cancelled this year. Public gatherings have been limited and church services cannot exceed 10% of the seating capacity. It is obvious that the Czech Republic has been shut down.

But what concerns all of us who serve in the Czech Republic are the hearts that are closed up to the Gospel of Christ Jesus. This beautiful city of Prague is filled with church buildings. But they are empty, if not totally closed, remnants of a long-forgotten faith. Now, the people here say that there is no God or, if He does exist, they question what part He plays in their life. We understand (but not approve) from where they are coming. Religious wars and forced faiths are a part of the past here. And the many years of communism has not helped either.

We are honored to be here, working alongside other LCMS missionaries, all of whom have a heart for sharing the Gospel. And you are a big part of that! Through your prayers and gifts, we are enabled to live here and to reach out to the English-speaking community, which is significant, here in Prague. And what a congregation we have! We have Czechs, Americans, Malagasies, Pakistanis, Indians, and Brazilians. But what we all hold in common is the faith of Christ Jesus, and a confession of our Lutheran faith.

We want to thank you for your prayers and donations. And we pray that the Lord of heaven and earth will make it possible for you to continue your support. If nothing else, please pray for the opening of hearts and for us to be led to ways best to call to the people of Prague and invite them to know Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Please, know that we are here praying for your witness there, too. We ask God to fill you with such strength in the Gospel so that Americans of every color and nationality may be called to Christ Jesus. We stand with you just as you have stood with us. May our gracious Lord continue to fill you with joy during this Christmas season and may He rain His blessings upon you in the new year!

Your missionaries  
in the Czech Republic,  
Rev. Dale and Suzanne  
Kaster



Interior framing is continuing and should be completing in late January.

Plumbing rough at walls is underway.

Electricians are beginning electrical rough at walls and ceiling.

HVAC contractor is continuing to rough in.

Fire suppression contractor is on site and has begun hanging pipe.

Paint is 90% complete with first coat in the existing building.

Excavation of the north patio and grading of the east parking area is in process.

Check out the construction site online tour on our Facebook page and on the CTR website for an inside look at what is going on!



**Reminder**

Now that construction has begun, church activities are confined to Sundays only with limited room access. If you or your group wish to use the church facilities, please fill out the forms that are located in the narthex or contact Floyd Lemons. Floyd will confirm the date and location and get back to you with that confirmation. Please note that the West side of the building will only be in use through spring and then all activities will transition to the new East side wing as renovations move to the Fellowship Hall and existing offices. As those dates become available we will let everyone know.

