



CHRIST THE REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

2550 East 71st Street
Tulsa, OK 74136

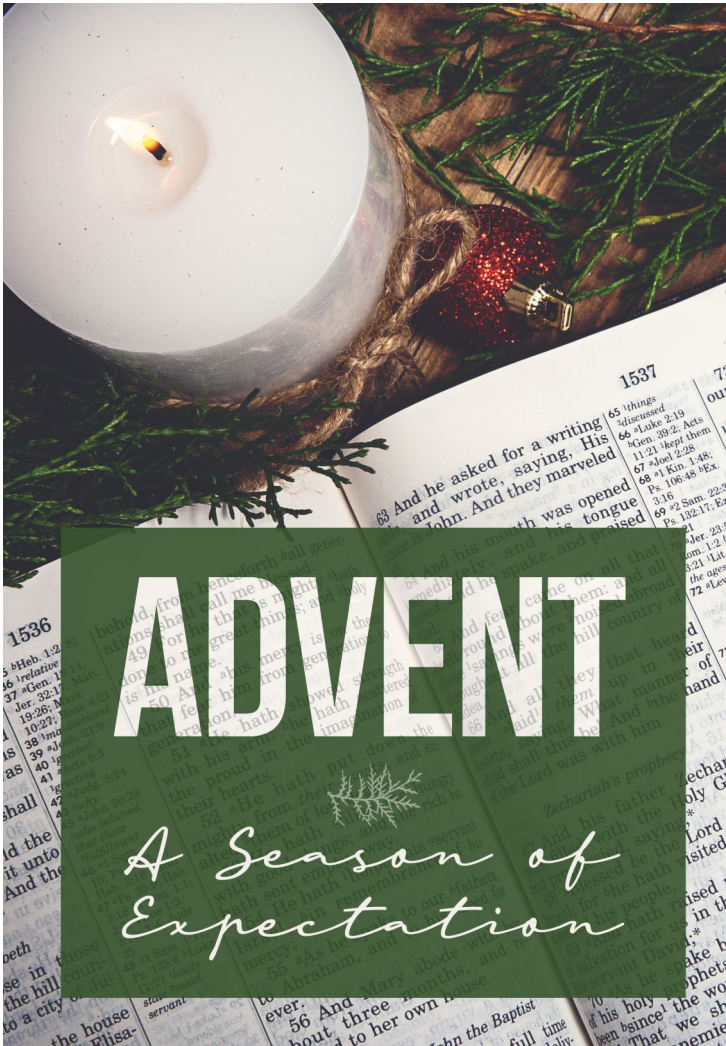
Sunday Worship:
8:15 & 10:45 AM
Sunday School/Bible Classes
9:30 AM
PHONE: 918/492-6451
Web: www.ctrtulsa.org
Email:
christredeemer@ctrtulsa.org

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A measure of love

Jesus says one golden rule sums up the law.

Directions: Match the word parts from the ruler to the incomplete words in the first three Bible verses. Then add the bolded letters (in order) to Matthew 7:12 to complete that verse.

Do not seek re_____ or bear a grudge against anyone among your _____ople, but love your neig_____ as yourself.

LEVITICUS 19:18, NIV

Learn to do right; seek jus____. Defend the _____pressed. Take up the cause of the _____less; plead the _____e of the widow.

ISAIAH 1:17, NIV

He has shown you, O mortal, what is go____. ... To act **justly** and to love me_____ and to walk _____ly with your God.

MICAH 6:8, NIV

So in _____ything, do to ot _____ what you would _____ve them d_____to you, for this s_____ms up the _____w and the Proph_____s.

MATTHEW 7:12, NIV

father____
pe____
_____venge
_____od
_____rcy
op____
_____hbor
humb____
cas____
_____tice

Answer: revenge, people, neighbor, justice, oppressed, fatherless, case, good, mercy, humbly, everything, others, have, do, sums, Law, Prophets



A Letter From The Pastor

BY PASTOR BURMEISTER

Fellow Redeemed,

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love.

Joy to the World has to be one of my favorite Hymns for Christmas. It embodies all that is good and even some of the struggle associated with the first advent of our Lord. In the first stanza we repeat, "let heaven and nature sing". Think about the reality of those words. Christmas is not just a "religious" holiday. Christmas is an even that takes place in heaven, on earth, by believers, and by all of nature. Nature sings the glories of God and the birth of His Son, for us. In stanza two we sing that fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy. The joy is the birth of Jesus. He has come to save us from sin, death, and the power of the devil. This is Good News that brings great joy. The third stanza teaches us that Jesus is born to defeat the curse, and that he comes to make blessings flow "far as the curse is found". This leads a us straight into the final stanza, where we come to the truth of Hid righteousness and the wonders of His love. There it is. God's righteousness is Jesus Christ, and His birth to us is a wonder to behold, the wonder of His love. May the Love of God and the birth of His Son Jesus cause in us joy.

Joy to the World!

Rev. Scott Burmeister
Pastor

Suzanne Watt
Dir. of Christian Education

Nikki Boyd
Dir. of Christian Education

Deva Beebe
Business Administrator

Jacob Drengler
Music Director

Craig Amendt
Assistant Music Director

Floyd Lemons
Property Manager

Faye Jost
Receptionist



Winter Collection for Tulsa Saints Foundation Homeless Outreach

Help care for the homeless during cold days and nights. Tulsa Saints Foundation ministers with food and essentials to the homeless on Friday evenings near the downtown bus station. Along with prayers and conversation, they serve a meal, give out clothing, hygiene items, and things like blankets and sleeping bags. During November and December donations of new or gently used coats, hoodies, sleeping bags, blankets, and other winter gear would be greatly appreciated. You can leave them in the shopping cart near the south entrance labeled "Tulsa Saints". Contact Michael Bryan, tulasaintsfoundation@gmail.com or Patti Ross, pattirossvp@gmail.com with questions or if you need us to pick up from your homes.

Senior Stars at South Tulsa Community House

Outreach Ministry is collecting monetary donations for senior clients at South Tulsa Community House (STCH) for Christmas. Seniors will receive \$35 gift cards through STCH. Last year's cards were very much appreciated by these seniors who live near poverty level day to day. There is a gold star box located at the Information desk or you can put a check in the offering, labeled for Senior Stars or leave something in the Outreach drawer. Thank you so much.

MOST Ministries Eyeglass Collection

We are getting ready to send a box of eyeglasses to MOST Ministries after Christmas. Ask your friends and family to save their old eyeglasses, prescription, readers, and sunglasses to send with mission teams all over the world.

Outreach Thank You's

CTR has received many thank you letters from the organizations we support. South Tulsa Community House; Hesham Shehab, Salam Arabic Fellowship; Lutheran Braille Workers; LCMS Mission Central for missionary support; Harvest House. Your gifts are appreciated and put to good use in caring for God's people and spreading the Gospel message! Thank you!



- Michael & Shirley Bird - Dec 2 - 43 yrs
- James & Ann Holt - Dec 3 - 16 yrs
- Kelley & Tony Goodrum - Dec 7 - 30 yrs
- Jessica & Jonathon Huff - Dec 11 - 17 yrs
- Susan & Steven Low - Dec 16 - 34 yrs
- Brad & Jennifer Teegarden - Dec 17 - 5 yrs
- Steve & Johnna Short - Dec 18 - 39 yrs
- Scott & Tessa Chesher - Dec 19 - 23 yrs
- Sid & Beverly McVey - Dec 22 - 52 yrs
- Dennis & Kathy Stephen - Dec 27 - 46 yrs
- John & Mary Gant - Dec 29 - 37 yrs
- Mark & Jane Holt - Dec 29 - 31 yrs
- Chris & Amber Carson - Dec 30 - 26 yrs
- Chris & Brenda Flasch - Dec 30 - 32 yrs
- James & Letaza Dutton - Dec 31 - 27 yrs
- Paul & Alyssa Whaley - Dec 31 - 12 yrs



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Is 2:1-5 Ps 123 1 Cor. 12:12-31	2 Is 2:6-22 Ps 124 1 Cor. 13:1-13	3 Is 3:1-7 Ps 125 1 Cor. 14:1-25	4 Is 3:18-4:6 Ps 126 1 Cor. 14:26-40
5 Is 5:1-12 Ps 127 1 Cor. 15:1-34	6 Is 5:13-30 Ps 128 1 Cor. 15:35-49	7 Is 6:1-13 Ps 129 1 Cor. 15:50-16:4	8 Is 7:1-25 Ps 130 1 Cor. 16:5-24	9 Is 8:1-22 Ps 131 2 Cor. 1:1-11	10 Is 9:1-7 Ps 132 2 Cor. 1:12-22	11 Is 9:8-10:4 Ps 133 2 Cor. 1:23-2:11
12 Is 10:5-19 Ps 134 2 Cor. 2:12-17	13 Is 10:20-11:9 Ps 135:1-12 2 Cor. 3:1-18	14 Is 11:10-12:6 Ps 135:13-21 2 Cor. 4:1-18	15 Is 13:1-22 Ps 136 2 Cor. 5:1-15	16 Is 14:1-11 Ps 137 2 Cor. 5:16-6:13	17 Is 14:12-23 Ps 138 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1	18 Is 14:24-15:9 Ps 139 2 Cor. 7:2-16
19 Is 16:1-14 Ps 140 2 Cor. 8:1-15	20 Is 17:1-14 Ps 141 2 Cor. 8:16-9:5	21 Is 18:1-7 Ps 142 2 Cor. 9:6-15	22 Is 19:1-15 Ps 143 2 Cor. 10:1-6	23 Is 19:16-20 Ps 144 2 Cor. 10:7-18	24 Is 7:10-14; Ps 110:1-4 1 John 4:7-16 Matt. 1:18-25	25 Is 52:7-10; Ps 2 Heb. 1:1-6 John 1:1-18
26 Is 21:1-17 Ps 145 2 Cor. 11:1-15	27 Is 22:1-14 Ps 146 2 Cor. 11:16-33	28 Is 22:15-25 Ps 147 2 Cor. 12:1-10	29 Is 23:1-18 Ps 148 2 Cor. 12:11-21	30 Is 24:1-23 Ps 149 2 Cor. 13:1-14	31 Is 25:1-12 Ps 150 John 1:1-28	

Concordia Life Plan Community is an assisted & independent senior living community in Oklahoma City that is affiliated with the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. The Concordia Community Foundation (CCF) oversees funding opportunities for programs, services, Ministries and facilities to promote community spirit among the residents of Concordia, as well as touch lives beyond its doors.

The residents have expressed a need for larger social and worship space and the CCF noted that expansion of the chapel at Concordia was an important part of meeting this need. The residents view the chapel as the spiritual and social center of Concordia, the heart of their community, where everything happens: Sunday worship services, weekly chapel services, Bible studies, board meetings, birthday and anniversary celebrations special events, marketing events, choir practice, many fellowship activities and games.

The CCF has established a 4-year campaign campaign to raise \$3.5 million to expand the chapel area (from seating 40 to up to 100 people) and extra meeting space for community events. It was also decided to name the new chapel after a much loved Oklahoma pastor who was also a resident of Concordia, Reverend Harold Kamman. Pastor Kamman and his wife, Thelma, spent much of their 65 years of ministry serving Oklahoma congregations, editing the Lutheran Witness, serving with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL), promoting the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, and compiling the history of the Oklahoma District.

The Oklahoma District is asking for help with this funding. If you are so moved, please consider directing financial gifts and memorial monies toward the Kamman Chapel Expansion. God has richly blessed us all and this would be a special way to demonstrate that we have been blessed to be a blessing, especially in the care of our elderly saints!

If you desire more information, please check Concordia's website (www.concordiaseniorliving.com). Specific questions about the Foundation or the Kamman Chapel Expansion can be directed to Paige Haag at (405) 216-2927 or phagg@concordiaseniorliving.com. If you would like to make a contribution, you may make a check payable to Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church with a designation for the Kamman Chapel Expansion and place it in the offering or send it to the church. Any amounts we collect will then be sent to the Concordia Community Foundation.

1 John 3:17-18
But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

Tulsa Saints Foundation

11.15.2021
Michael W Bryan -Director
CTR Newsletter

Blessings to all of the Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church. The fall has arrived and the fluctuating temperatures foreshadow the cold weather that is to arrive in the coming weeks. As many of us prepare our homes for winter, the homeless also begin to prepare for winter on the streets of Tulsa.

The homeless have many challenges that flair up as the temperatures plunge. As they try to accumulate more items to help survive the winter on the streets, the increase in materials requires them to either carry all the items or find a safe place to leave the gear while they try and make their social welfare appointments, seek food, and move about for other general needs. This is taxing and many times the person leaves their items only to come back and find many things stolen by others or destroyed by the local authorities.

The Tulsa Saints and other organizations try to help sustain those who have nowhere else to turn. Many of the homeless have lost their connection with family, friends, and for various reasons, the ability to use the social services the city and state provide. As we enter the winter the need for sleeping bags, blankets, coats, and other cold weather items becomes crucial for a person's day to day existence.

Mathew 25: ³⁵For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; ³⁶naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me. ³⁷Then the righteous will answer Him, / 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? ³⁸And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? ³⁹When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'

Prayers are requested for the homeless in Tulsa. David, Chuck, Cory, John, Tanya, Etta, Alan, Ronald, Michael, Roland, and Benjamin. These are but a few names of those who come through our line each week, some for years now.



This month, I'd like special prayers for David. David has been homeless in Tulsa for 3 years now. David is well known by many of the people who do Tulsa Saints and has visited CTR several times in the past. David believes in Jesus and tries to do the right thing every day. He has his challenges but we never give up hope the Father will someday soon change David's circumstance. Please join us in pray this month for David.

God Bless and the Love of Messiah Jesus Christ be with you always.

As always, if you wish to come out and help we meet at Fridavs 5:15 on 4th Street between Denver and Chevenne in front of the



Congregational
President's Update

As we approach the end of the year, it is amazing to me how fast the year has flown by. So much has happened in 2021 and I am really looking forward to 2022.

First of all, I want to thank Debby Brauer and all of the Stewardship Ministry for conducting a great stewardship campaign for 2022. I also want to thank all of the members of the congregation for their pledges and continued support of our ministries. Based on the tremendous support for 2022, I can see that our membership is really looking forward to 2022 as well. Your generosity will allow us to continue and to expand our work in the Tulsa community and our world.

Activities both on Sunday and during the week are slowly starting to pick back up in both attendance and programming. CTR-U, Sunday School, worship services, the Music Ministry – It's fantastic to see these programs thrive!

I know that we are all eager to get our building project completed. As much as we have been impressed and enjoy our new space on the east side of the building, I am confident that everyone will be equally (or even more) happy with what we will end up on the west side as well. The new classroom space will be great and the improvements to the sanctuary will enhance things even more. Thanks to all of the paid construction workers and all of our volunteers for their faithfulness in bringing this to completion!

May each of you have a blessed Advent and Christmas season, remembering the greatest gift that we have received – the baby born at Bethlehem who loved each of us enough to go to the cross and pay the price for our salvation and ensure our eternal life with Him.

John Meinders



Gifts for the Staff

Please consider thanking our CTR staff and showing your 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 12.**



CTR BOARD
MEMBERS



- President: John Meinders
- President-Elect: David Ross
- Past President: Brad Young
- Secretary: Suzanne Beauchamp
- Treasurer: Janet Jamison
- Director-at-Large: Cheryl Davison
- Director-at-Large: Kyle Stein
- Director-at-Large: Alex Goossen
- Director-at-Large: Melissa James
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- Communications: OPEN
- Education: Scott Chesher
- Elders: Jim Holt
- Evangelism: Steve Short
- Family & Children: Katie Michaels-Johnson
- Finance: Brenda Flasch
- Outreach: Patti Ross
- Parish Life: Danita Cockrell
- Property: Dale Davison & Marty Weber
- Stewardship: Debby Brauer
- Strategic Planning: Tim Kuehnert
- Worship: Terry Cast
- Youth: Jaime Bowlin
- Endowment Fund: Ed Fager



MUSIC MINISTRY

CHOIR & HANDBELLS FOR YOUTH & ADULTS
BY JACOB DREGLER

For this month's article, I decided to take a break from my ongoing series on the book of Psalms. Instead, as we enter the season of Advent, I would like to consider the subject of carols. We sing carols each year throughout the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Many carols are part of a tradition of communal memory that extends well beyond the walls of the Church. However, perhaps the very familiarity of these carols that we hear on the radio ad nauseam all December has caused us to forget what—and Whom—we are singing about. It is my hope that this article will provide some context for the songs that we sing together during these holy seasons.

In his book First Person Singular, church musician, composer, and professor Carl Schalk (1929-2021) relates a story about a request he received from a journalist in Birmingham, Alabama. The journalist was writing an article about the "dark side" of Christmas carols. She asked Professor Schalk to comment on the frequent references in many popular carols to the suffering and crucifixion of Christ. One of the most well-known examples of this is found in the second stanza of the carol "What Child Is This" (LSB 370):

Nails, spear shall pierce Him through
The cross be borne for me, for you.

This stark, brutal imagery is quite jarring when juxtaposed with the gentle, sweet language of the first stanza:

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Carols such as "What Child Is This" remind us that the Christmas story is only one part of a much longer, more complex narrative. The Incarnation story that we relate during the Advent and Christmas seasons leads inexorably to the cross and the tomb. We do well to remember that the Christ Child's cradle which we so often sing about in the carols of Advent and Christmas exists always in the shadow of the cross. As Professor Schalk notes, "The Incarnation and Christ's suffering and death are of one piece, part of the same story! You can't have one without the other. The tradition of carols both remembers and reminds us of this simple fact: Christ came to die."

This reality extends beyond the seasons of Advent and Christmas and into the visit of the Magi at the Epiphany. Schalk shares a stanza of a haunting carol by Bruce Blunt which

captures this truth in a most evocative fashion:

When He is King they will clothe Him in grave sheets, myrrh for embalming, and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary, sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

A particularly exquisite example of the way in which the language of carols seeks to connect the cradle and the cross may be seen in the lovely Basque carol "Sing Lullaby." The hushed strains of a new mother lulling her infant Son to sleep are contrasted with forward-looking references to the redemptive work of Christ's Passion and Resurrection:

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Angels are watching, stars are shining over the place where he is lying. Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon will come sorrow with the morning, soon will come bitter grief and weeping: Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-doing, sing lullaby! Hush, do not wake the Infant King.
Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, then in the grave at last reposing: Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby! Is the babe a-waking? Sing lullaby! Hush, do not stir the Infant King.
Dreaming of Easter, glad some morning, conquering Death, its bondage breaking: Sing lullaby!

This carol connects Christ's cradle not just to the cross, but to the empty tomb. The Christmas story doesn't end with Jesus' death any more than it ends with His birth. The One who came down to earth as a child at Christmas is not left to repose in a borrowed grave. We know this, for we confess it every Sunday, but it bears repeating: our Lord lives, having broken the power of sin and death.

As we journey through these holy, hopeful, joy-filled seasons together, I would like to leave you with this marvelous Benediction from Ray Pritchard's Why He Came:

"May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. May the Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen."

STEWARDSHIP & GIVING

For the Month of October	2020	2021
October Giving.....	\$81,801	\$97,821
Monthly Budget	\$65,431	\$60,983
Year to Date Giving	\$676,330	\$745,635
Year to Date Budget	\$703,380	\$683,736
YTD Expenses.....	\$729,346	\$616,958
Building Fund Contribution:		
October Receipts: \$10,867.50		
Balance: \$2,494,565.38		



Online Giving



You can visit www.ctrtulsa.org/on-line-giving to sign up through Vanco for one time or ongoing offering or donations. This allows you to set up weekly, bi-weekly or monthly offering. Setting up an account is easy, all you need is an email address to get started. You choose your own login information. When you create an account, you can also securely and conveniently store debit/credit card or bank account information, manage donations and review your giving history.

Mobile Giving



For our smartphone users, you can contribute through Vanco Mobile, our mobile giving app. It's a convenient solution whenever you have a smart phone. You can give anytime, anywhere, any day. Go to the App Store or Google Play and search for "Vanco Mobile" to quickly find the app and download it for free. You can easily make donations anytime, or create an account to schedule recurring weekly or monthly offerings. When you create an account, you can also securely and conveniently store debit/credit card or bank account information, manage donations and review your giving history. You choose how you prefer to login- Touch ID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

Drop Off In-Person



Visit our church office during the week or use the offering basket during worship services.

Dear CTR Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
The CTR Stewardship Committee would like to sincerely thank you for making our Stewardship Campaign...For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also...such a huge success. We are truly a blessed church family.

Due to your pledge, we can now have a clearer picture of our financial house for the coming year and will be able to plan for future ministries and services that the Lord has in store for us to accomplish.

Your faithful and generous giving over the past years has enabled our church to do God's work at home, in our community, and in the world beyond our city. And now that God has blessed us with this new and improved building, we look so forward to seeing how the fruits of all your labor will glorify our Lord in this wonderful setting and lead our neighbors as well as ourselves into a living relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ.

Once again, thank you so very much for your 2022 pledge. May God bless you and yours in the coming year.

Your CTR Stewardship Committee
Debby Brauer, Carol Fruehling, Kayla Kuehnert, Kathi Lohse, Connie Thomas, Deva Beebe and Suzanne Watt (Staff Liasons), and Kyle Stein (Board Liason)

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



EDUCATION MINISTRY

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS
CONTACT DCE SUZANNE WATT FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER TO TEACH

PRE3-5TH GRADE KIDS



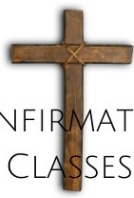
These classes are now meeting in the East Addition. Opening is each week at 9:30 AM in "The Fishbowl" room. Here students will enjoy music and a video to introduce the Bible Buddy of the month and memory verse. Students will then break into classes divided by age. This fall our teachers are:

PreK/K & 1st & 2nd grade :
Katie Michaels-Johnson

Club 345: Carri Cline &
Melissa James

Opening Leader: DCE Nikki
Boyd

6TH-8TH GRADE YOUTH



CONFIRMATION CLASSES

These classes are now meeting in the East Addition. Class begins each week at 9:30 AM in the Jr High Room toward the end of the East Hallway. This fall we will be studying How the Church Grew, a course on early church history, followed by World Religions. each of these 2 classes will fulfill and elective. These classes will be led by DCE Suzanne.

On Wednesdays during CTR-U we will be having classes on Prayer, followed by The 10 Commandments and then the Apostles Creed. These classes will be led by Pastor B.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH



These classes are now meeting in the East Addition. Class begins each week at 9:30 AM in the High School Room. Classes led by David Ross & Tim Kuehnert.

Topics will include:
Mirror- Your unique identity as God's children, and a unique calling to live differently, mirroring Christ and his love to the world.
Blurry- Every believer experiences doubt. When we're wrestling with uncertainty, we can turn to God for help because God's grace is bigger than our doubts.
And more!

ADULT CLASS



Adult Sunday School is led by Pastor B in Fellowship Hall East.

Life By His Word is led by Steve Short and will be in Adult Education Room 1 in the East Addition.

Wired Word is led by a team of teachers and will be in Adult Education Room 2 in the East Addition.

Seminary News

BY DEON HULL



Advent and Christmas Greetings from Seminary!

It is hard to believe that it is here already. The year is going by so fast. It seems like just yesterday I was in Summer Hebrew! Since I have been studying the language for at least 6 months I should have it mastered by now, but I don't. That is obviously ridiculous. Hebrew and Greek are complex languages that I will probably study for the rest of my life and never master. Come to think of it, I doubt I ever become an expert in English either. Oh well!

As the semester wore on, I really couldn't wait for it to end. Second year is so much more challenging than first year. I felt like I didn't have a moment to spare. If I wasn't working on homework, I knew I should be. On the other hand, I didn't want to see the semester to come to an end because the end was loaded with projects, papers, and tests. The end was painful. Not only was there a lot of work to do, but there were things that I wanted to do that I didn't get the chance to.

I know that all of this seems like I am having a pity party. In reality, I am not. It isn't that the semester wasn't difficult, but I wanted to give you a new perspective on Advent, the oft overshadowed holiday season. During the Advent season we celebrate Jesus' promise to return to earth

on the last day. He will come back to wrap up God's plan of salvation and redemption for His creation and His people.

I used to count down the days until Christmas with an Advent calendar. What if you had the real Advent calendar, the calendar counting down to the last day, when Jesus was returning. Was your first thought the things that you wish you had done that you never got to do? Maybe your mind went to things that you might miss once all this is over. It is easy to think that we would be missing out on something if Jesus came back today. We would miss out on some things. COVID would be gone, wars would cease, death would come to an end. No more funerals and sadness. That would be truly great news to my friends that I visit in the nursing home each week.

The truth is that His return is a promise, not a threat for us. What comes after this is much more glorious than we can imagine. Come Lord Jesus! Is my prayer this Advent season.

May you all have a Blessed Advent season and a Merry Christmas!

Deon and Debra Hull
14 Founders Way
St. Louis, MO 63105

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Greetings in the Lord from Prague! We pray that all is well with you and that God's peace be with you.

In the US, people are getting ready for that great American holiday, Thanksgiving, with all its foods and traditions. Here, there is no such holiday. Still, some of our American members are planning a get-together to thank the Lord for all His blessings upon us.

One of the blessings God has sent to us is you. Your support of us - your prayers and your gifts - is beyond our capacity to thank you. Each time you pray for us and give to us is a moment when you stand with us in this work, and we are so grateful! Living in Prague is a nice thing. But the calling to share the Gospel is an uphill climb. As we draw near to Advent, and Czechs speak of Advent and holiday things, here they are empty shells, far removed from what they truly are. Please, pray that the witness to the Czechs would bear fruit unto eternal life.

God bless and keep you!
Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster
Your Missionaries to the Czech Republic



SIGN UP FOR THE E-BLAST

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.

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Youtube:
Search "Scott Burmeister" and click on the CTR logo

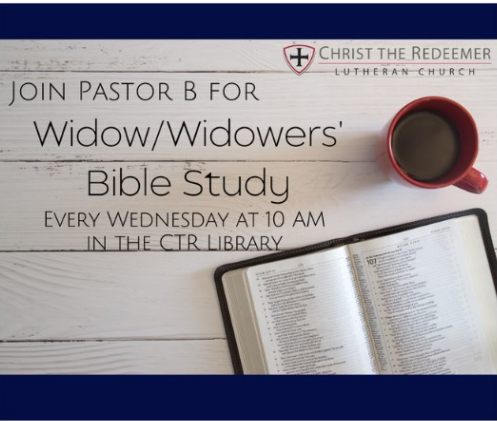


Twitter:
@PastorBe_CTR



Thanks to all the members of CTR who helped us celebrate Phyllis McKay's 95th birthday. Phyllis loved all the cards, letters, gifts, and visits from her friends at CTR. She is so blessed to have such wonderful friends from church. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Phyllis McKay, Cheryl and Dale Davison,
Jamie Brewster



YOUTH MINISTRY

Jr High 6th-8th Grade High School 9th-12th Grade

CONTACT DCE SUZANNE WATT TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVENTS



Who? 8th-12th grade youth and friends

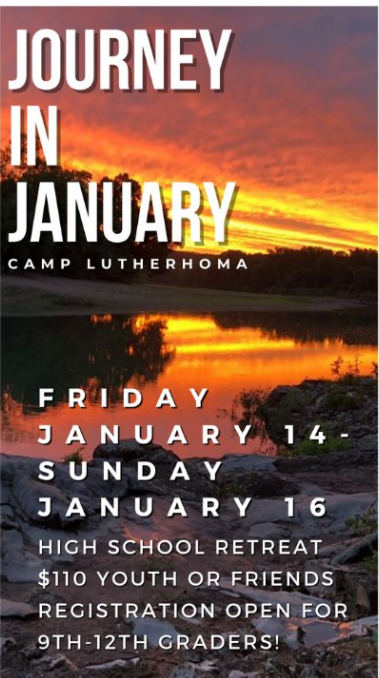
What? The festivities begin at 10pm with cocoa and a walk to see Rhema's Christmas lights, followed by pizza, White Elephant gift exchange (silly and random), Christmas games and loads of fun.

When? Dec 19, 10pm—Dec 20, 6am

Where? Immanuel Broken Arrow
Cost? Bring snacks to share (Girls bring a sweet treat, Boys bring a salty snack) and an item or two for our December service project: Birthday Boxes for the food pantry. We are collecting cake mixes, frosting, birthday candles, birthday party favors, etc.

Please RSVP by December 12!!

**Each youth MUST have permission/medical forms onsite!



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 1 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 14th. We will return on the 16th at approximately 1:00 PM.



Camp Lutherhoma - February 4-6, 2022

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 16, then add-ons can be done as space allows. After the 16th you will not be guaranteed a t-shirt. You should be at the church no later than 6:15 pm on the 4th. Please eat dinner prior or bring a sack meal with you! More details on programming and Sunday return time to come.



Our Christmas party will be December 2 at 6:30. All ladies are invited. There's a sign-up sheet at the receptionist desk. Our regular monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 12:30. Our next business meeting is January 18, 2022, 12:30. Look for us in the Wired Word classroom. Please use the ECC entrance or the east entrance.

LWML is collecting stamps. The collection box is on the counter at the receptionist desk. These stamps help to support missions in the Oklahoma District. Here's the link for instructions. https://www.oklwml.org/311923_2

Remember to feed your Mite Box. Put your pennies in the box at the end of each day. Say "thank you" with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted. Empty all your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box on Mite Sunday. Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel. The first Sunday of the month is Mite Box Sunday. If you can't make it to church, you can mail a check to church for LWML with Mites in the memo line. The MITE box is on the counter at the receptionist desk.

The 2021-2023 Biennium Mission Goal is \$2,150,000. As of September 2021, \$644,168.26 had been received.

#LWMLWitnessWednesday The mite challenge calendar is a resource designed to focus daily on LWML Gospel Outreach. It includes a suggested mite donation, but that is mainly to remind the user that even little amounts can make a big impact when coupled with prayer, mission service, a Bible verse, a song, or recognition and praise for what God is providing in your life.

LWML is the place where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

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. There are also Bible Studies, devotions, and Lutheran Women's Quarterly. LWML also has a Facebook page that you can follow for Mustard Seed devotions, resources, news and events.

Make sure you also view the LWML page on the CTR web site. It has meeting dates and what we are collecting each month. Link to CTR is <https://www.ctrtulsa.org/lwml/>

Prayer as you plan and prepare Heavenly Father, as we prepare for the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ, help us to remember others. Give us the focus to slow down and reach out to those in our community. Guide us to opportunities to share Your love through gifts and actions. Provide us with the courage and wisdom to share the Gospel with those who need to hear it. Use our voices to proclaim Your redeeming love, our feet to go on Your errands, and our hands to serve others because of You. Amen.

Thank you for your support.

Yours in Service –
Daphnee Brian, President



REQUILTS

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

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!

LWML Christmas Party
December 2, 6:30. All ladies are invited. Bring an appetizer or dessert for sharing. Also a wrapped Christmas ornament for a fun exchange. Our ingathering offering is Tulsa Saints - they need hooded sweatshirts (Dark color and large sizes for layering), socks, gloves, knit caps, rain ponchos, plastic tarps and sleeping bags. Also cash for buying food.

Contact Daphnee for more details -
daphbrian223@gmail.com

Midweek Advent Worship

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM beginning December 1

Children's Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 PM
Featuring Music & Readings by CTR children and youth

Merry Christmas

Parish Life Christmas Party
Sunday, December 12
5-7 PM
\$20 per person


Join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5 PM, 7 PM & 9 PM
Friday, December 24



SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

FUN AT THE ZOO



"Look I'm a giraffe"



ADVENT IN A BOX

A Gift For Your Family

To prepare for Christmas, we will be using a spiritual formation tool called Advent in a Box! It is our hope that using the activities included in the box will help your family prepare for Christmas by having faith conversations at home during the week.



Advent in a Box

Everything you need to complete the activities is in your box! There are "finish at your own pace" activities for the 4 weeks of Advent including hands on experiments, interactive prayers and a few family building challenges. Each box also contains the contents to create a family Advent Spiral!



Think Big!



Advent in a Box is a awesome way to be invitational to people you know who might be uncomfortable coming to church. Take an extra box or two and give them out as gifts. Grandparents can pass one along to their grandchildren; preschools could share with their families - Advent in a Box gives you the opportunity to send a light into your community in the shape of a box!

FamilyMinistryTools.org

CLUB 345

CHRISTMAS PARTY

DECEMBER 19, 3-6 PM

Mark your calendar

Club 345 Christmas Party-
Invite friends as we have some fun and fellowship and celebrate the Birth of Jesus.

We will have pizza and games.
Bring a snack to share.

Instead of exchanging gifts, we would like to encourage everyone to bring a gift for the Tulsa Saints: hats, gloves, scarves, or warm socks.

CONTACT DCE NIKKI
FOR MORE INFORMATION.
NBOYD@CTRTULSA.ORG
918-859-8575

Young Adult Bible Study

Join us Wednesday evenings after Advent Worship as we enjoy some fellowship and study the Bible. Our study currently is based on The Chosen.

Anyone can download The Chosen app to watch the videos for free or find them on Youtube.

Camp Lutherhoma -
February 4-6, 2022

Open to youth and their friends in 3-5th grade. Registration is \$75 each for retreat cabins. This includes bedding and towels. Due by January 16, then add-ons can be done as space allows.

After the 16th you will not be guaranteed a t-shirt. You should be at the church no later than 6:15 pm on the 4th. Please eat dinner prior or bring a sack meal with you! Watch for registration details!

Cornerstone 7

CTR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT



Sunday School



PK- 5th grade students learning in the Fishbowl. The kids have enjoyed having Opening in a large, fun space each week. After their lesson sometimes Club 345 comes back to enjoy the games and a treat.



The PreK-2nd grade class has been GROWING. They've enjoyed some fun lessons and crafts the past few weeks.



Our Capital Campaign to fund the expansion of our education, worship, fellowship and administration space will come to an end December 31, 2021. This completes the third and final year of our Pledge commitments. All donations made to fulfill the Pledges or otherwise designated for the Capital Campaign have been added to the Building Fund. Donations may continue to be made to the Building Fund to reduce the amount of the mortgage that CTR will assume when construction is completed. Thank you and God's Blessing to all whose donations made the facility expansion possible.

The Building Finance Committee



KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL IN DECEMBER, WE WILL BE PREPARING FOR THE BIRTH OF CHRIST. THE THEME IS "WE CELEBRATE JESUS." OUR BIBLE BUDDY IS OLIVIA THE BARN OWL.

Learn this month's MEMORY VERSE!
"For this is how God loved the world: (make a heart shape with hands)
He gave his one and only Son."
(extend arm and hold up pointer finger) (John 3:16)



Look in your mail just before the start of each month for a special packet from CTR. In it you'll find a poster to hang of the month's Bible Buddy, a sticker and information on each week's lesson that your mom and dad can review.

BE A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER!

With more families and children returning to in-person attendance we would love to have some new Sunday School teachers! If you are interested in finding out more about being a Sunday School teacher, please contact DCE Suzanne or DCE Nikki.

