



EVERY MEMBER A



MINISTER

TOGETHER IN MISSION
DOING GOD'S WORK WITH
OUR HANDS



"We all have gifts. I encourage each one of you to identify your own gifts. Then, find ways at Christ Lutheran where you can share your gifts. My hope and prayer is that you would feel blessed, as I know you will be a blessing."

Marie B.



People of Christ,

Each year as we come to our annual meeting and discern who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do as Christ's church here in Georgetown, TX we can't help but look toward what lies ahead for us as a community of faith, and who we're becoming as God's people. This look ahead invites us to look back, too, at who we've been and who we've become along the way.

One of our themes throughout this year as we launched our ministry teams and invited new people into the life of our church and the mission we share is "Every Member A Minister."

We know that in our baptism, God calls all of us to be ministers of the gospel - to share in word and deed the night and day difference Christ has made in our lives.

As a congregation, there are things we want, and things we need, in order to accomplish our day-to-day work. But as a community of faith committed to bringing about the Kingdom of God, our biggest commitment is to have all of us engaged in ministry that illuminates the world in the name of Jesus Christ. After all, Jesus is the Light of the World and says that we are, too.

Ministering to our neighbors and to one another and sharing the gospel requires commitment - of our time, our energy, and our financial resources. We've created this booklet to share more about that last one, especially. We want you to know how we currently put your financial resources to work as we use them for ministry that shares God's abundant, life-changing love through Christ.

This booklet includes both who we are today, and who we could become as we live into God's future for us and move Forward Together in living our mission to be God's instruments of love ministering to those in need - with every member a minister. Each of you is an integral part of our foundation, and we want to help you to understand how your commitments are making a difference now, and to imagine how they might help us grow in Christ as we live into God's call to proclaim the good news of the one in whom we live and move and breathe - Jesus.

What a privilege it is to be your pastor, and to minister alongside you. I don't take that privilege for granted. Join us, then, in discerning how you and your family can continue and deepen your commitment toward sharing the light of the Gospel message.

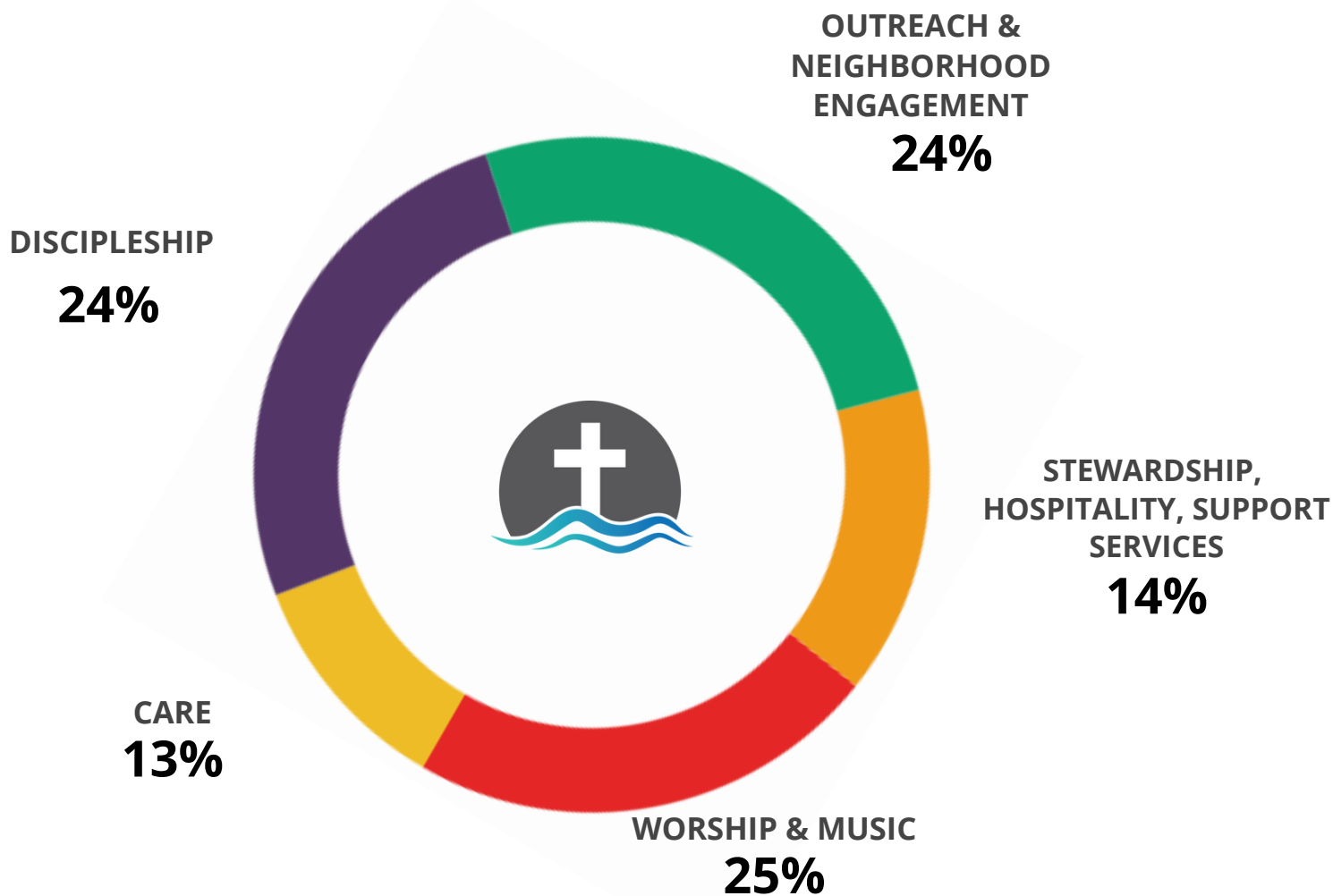
Sincerely,

Pastor Drew Ingram
pastordrew@clcgtn.org





A PICTURE OF CHRIST BY THE NUMBERS



OUR STORY IN NUMBERS

The graph above illustrates how our financial resources are currently allocated, according to categories that reflect our commitments as a community of faith. (Staff and building expenses are included not as separate categories, but rather divided into how that time and those resources are used toward these same commitments.)

No graph, however, tells the whole story, or includes all the numbers. Christ Lutheran is a congregation rooted in the grace of God and tradition, but not stuck in the past. We expressed our desire to strengthen our connections to our neighbors and to grow our ministry with families and are already working towards those goals. We're a congregation with membership and participation from children and youth, younger and middle-aged adults, and older adults. We have a reputation in Georgetown for saying "yes" far more often than we say no when it comes to involvement in issues of concern for our community and being ready to respond to our neighbors in need.



OUR CURRENT MINISTRY INVESTMENT

We do a lot here at Christ Lutheran Church. When we stop and think about the ins and outs of all the ministry we make happen, and all the work that goes on here, we find we do even more than we imagine.

Many of the things we do don't cost a dime, because so many of you donate your time and energy. You cook meals for the larger community and for grieving families after funerals and you straighten the pews for worship and you gather for property work days and sing in the choir and chaperone youth events, baking bread for Communion, and when it comes right down to it, this place would be sunk if it weren't for the abundant generosity so many of you demonstrate with your time, talent and energy.

That said, many of the things we're about in this place require financial resources, and we're grateful that God makes it possible for us to be generous in this way, too. What follows is only the tiniest sampling of what it currently costs to keep this place humming, day in and day out, following the same categories as the graph on the previous page.



DISCIPLESHIP



GIFT CLASS AND CONFIRMATION CURRICULUM

Helping our kids learn the stories of our faith

\$1600/year



GUEST PREACHERS AND PRESENTERS

Honoraria for those who broaden our perspectives

\$250 each



SUPPORTING OUR YOUTH FOR CAMP AND RETREATS

Education fact-based & faith-based

\$200/camper



FOOD FOR COMMUNITY MEALS

A warm meal for hungry neighbors at Trunk or Treat, Carnival, etc

\$220



ANNUAL SUPPORT OF THE CARING PLACE

Over & above our fundraising efforts

\$2,000/year



BACKPACKS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Making sure families are ready to head back to school

\$500/year



RESOURCES FOR GRIEVING FAMILIES

Mourning with those who mourn and offering hope.

\$300/year



AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR BATTERY

Being prepared for emergency care

\$200/year



SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR

Coffee, cookies, and paper products

\$180/month



STRIPPING & REFINISHING TILE FLOORS

Bright and safe floors for members, visitors, students, all.

\$11,000/year



BUILDING CLEANING SERVICES

Clean floors, shiny bathrooms, empty garbage cans

\$500/week



VISITOR FOLLOWUP & NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Welcoming people with open arms into the mission we share

\$50/month



PRINTED MATERIALS FOR WORSHIP

Bulletins, announcements, and Taking Faith Home

\$91/week



CHANGING LIGHTBULBS IN SANCTUARY

The cost of bulbs plus lift rental

\$550/event



PIANO TUNING

Keeping us all on pitch!

\$735/year

FORWARD TOGETHER

EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER.
EVERY NEIGHBOR BELOVED.

WHAT'S POSSIBLE

The Kingdom of God will always remain just outside our reach, and yet as disciples of Jesus, we will continue to pursue it here on earth for as long as we possibly can. This doesn't necessarily mean adding more programs, though perhaps it will. Rather, it means we'll continue to ask who's missing, and how we might be growing deep in faith and wide in welcome. We'll continue to ask how we might care better for the environment, as stewards entrusted by God with this work. We'll continue to support one another as ministers sharing God's love, whether it be our staff, families hoping to send their kids to camp, or for people across Williamson County who don't know when their next meal will be. We'll continue to pursue forms of worship that reflect who we are as a faith community, committed to sharing the light of the Gospel message.

Together we are becoming a congregation where every member is a minister. As we share our resources for the sake of the gospel, we will continue to grow in faith and love and capacity to share the Gospel.

These are just some of our dreams. We've voiced and heard them through these years of transition, and with deeper commitments, **there's no reason they can't come true.**



DISCIPLESHIP



SUMMER SEMINARS

Bring in a professor or other expert speaker to lead a class during the summertime.

\$600/4-week session



CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT

A time away for sabbath rest, worship, and growing together

\$3,000

"With your increased financial gifts, our church will be more healthy and hopefully keep growing like it is now."

Elmer F.

"This place and its people are a reliable source of energy for me on a weekly basis. Thank you all for being part of my journey through all these years."

Michelle C.



ENGLISH & SPANISH CLASSES FOR NEIGHBORS & MEMBERS

Growing our capacity to communicate & connect.

\$3,000/course



DIGITAL MINISTRY INTERNSHIP

Expanding our capacity to share God's love and grace online.

\$200/month



GRIEFSHARE SUPPORT GROUPS

Training facilitators, providing refreshments

\$1100/year



TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS

Checks, training, insurance, and a quality communications system to help members get to church

\$60/month



HIRING STAFF FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Because we want to keep growing in faith and growing young.

\$6,000/month



ADDING ENVIRONMENTALLY-RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTS FOR COFFEE HOUR

Compostable paper products, fair-trade coffee

\$60/month



CHILDREN'S MUSIC PROGRAMS

An experienced Director & Accompanist

\$800/year



ADDING ANOTHER WEEKLY WORSHIP GATHERING

Another opportunity to gather for worship each week.

\$750/month

OUTREACH & NEIGHBORHOOD ENGAGEMENT

CARE

STEWARDSHIP & HOSPITALITY

WORSHIP & MUSIC



OUR COMMITMENT RUNS DEEP

“How much should I give?” This is not an unusual question, but there’s no one answer across the board. We hope you can be generous with your financial resources in a way that gives you joy in recognizing your part of bringing about the Reign of God. Below are examples of how some families think about their giving, in the hopes that one or more might resonate with you:



I give at least as much to the church as I spend on my gym membership each month, to recognize that my spiritual health is equally important to my physical health.



My spouse and I budget our weekly gift to the church to match what we spend on groceries.



I choose a monthly bill every year and commit to giving the church the same amount. Each year I choose one that’s a little higher than the one I matched the year before.



My partner and I keep track of how much we spend on coffee and eating at restaurants each week, and we try to put at least that much into the offering plate.



My family gives as much to the church as we spend on extra-curricular activities for our kids, and they know it. (We want them to understand that we value church as much as we value sports, music, art, etc.) Every time they want to do something new, we sit down and figure out if we can swing it, knowing that if it costs more, it will increase our giving to the church, too.



I used to give to the church whatever was left at the end of the month, but now it’s the first thing I budget. Basically, I’ve decided that it matters, so I’ve made it a priority in my giving and spending.

Together, each of us ministering with the gifts we have received from the one Spirit, we can shine light in the world in so many more ways than we ever could alone. To that end, we invite you to join in making a commitment using the attached pledge card, as we continue to work toward being instruments of God’s love and grace in the world today and for generations to come.

In order to be as wise and accurate as possible in forecasting our budget, our strong preference is to receive financial offerings by way of regular (weekly/bi-weekly/monthly), automated giving. We will also continue to provide giving opportunities through worship offering by cash and check, special appeals as needed, text message donations, and giving directly through your financial institution.

Making these deeper commitments on or before October 20 will allow us to achieve our challenge budget for 2025, and will help us in balancing our budget for the remainder of 2024.

Learn more & access all the methods of giving to CLC:

www.clcgn.org/give



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