



The Christ Courier

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The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Episcopal School

December, 2025

Preparing for Christmas . . .

by Catherine Oliver, Head of School



As we move closer to the celebration of Christ's birth, we are in the church's liturgical season of Advent. The word **Advent** means "coming" or "visit". During Advent, we anticipate and prepare for the coming of Christ and focus on our own longing for something greater and our need for forgiveness, salvation, and a new beginning. Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas, beginning this year on Sunday, November 30th and ending on Christmas Eve. Like Lent, Advent is a preparatory season. The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of baby Jesus and the anticipation of His coming again.

I hope this season of Advent and Christmas holds its true meaning and purpose for you and your family. On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of Christ Episcopal School, I wish you and yours a blessed, safe, and joyous Advent and Christmas seasons.



HOPE FOOD DRIVE

Mr. Hanes' 5th grade class headed up an all school food drive for the Nacogdoches **H.O.P.E. Food Pantry**. Each class collected food items to donate to local people and families in need. They competed to see which class would collect the most. The winner will get to have a class pizza party after the Thanksgiving break. The winning class who donated the most food items was **5th grade!**

Helping other people eat in Nacogdoches county this holiday season sure feels good! Congratulations, **5th graders**, and a huge thank you and to **everyone** who participated in this school wide service learning project.. Helping others is what we are all about.

Saints love God and love one another!



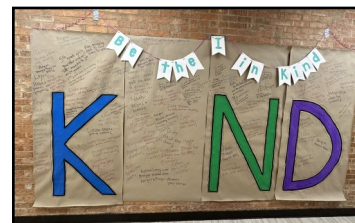
The First Thanksgiving



Mrs. Unger's kindergarten class said a prayer of thanks before enjoying their Thanksgiving feast together as **Pilgrims** and **Native Americans**. This month, they have read a variety of books, watched videos, and created crafts related to the first Thanksgiving. They also learned a few things about turkeys and talked about the importance of being thankful. We are definitely thankful for our **friends**.

School Christmas Declamation

All students in PreK-3 to Grade 5 participate in the Christmas Declamation Service on Tuesday, December 9th at 5:30 pm. The service is being held at Christ Episcopal Church. Students wear church or Christmas dress clothes. Arrive between 5:10 pm and 5:20 pm. Please mark your calendars NOW.



Thank you for participating in the **Raise Craze CES Parent Association fall fundraiser!**

The school raised \$7,134, minus \$639 of expenses, totaling **\$6,495!** Our students participated in over **300 acts of kindness!** Because of this, they have earned an ice cream party to celebrate being kind. Our **CES Saints** love to spread kindness and will continue to do so! We had so many acts of kindness happening at school, at home, and in the community. An example that stood out and spread to the community was when **one of our third graders** decided to clean up the trash in his neighborhood that had gotten out of hand. **He**, along with **ten volunteers**, including councilman **Chad Huckaby**, cleaned up bags and bags worth of waste that was scattered on the sides of the road. What a way to share kindness and make a difference!

Mission Statement

Christ Episcopal School is a diverse community of learners who participate in an enriched academic program in a nurturing Christian environment which fosters a dedication to service to others and a love of lifetime learning.

Thankful for Service-Learning!



Mrs. Jones' 1st Graders joyously collected items for boys and girls around the world by participating in **Operation Christmas Child**, a project of Samaritan's Purse. Their class collected **21 boxes** to share with others! Knowing that children in need will be receiving Christmas presents over the holidays made the 1st graders truly happy. Participating in service learning projects make our students more aware and understanding of real world situations and how we/they can help. All of our grade levels have service learning projects going on throughout the year. As a result of service learning, students learn more about the community, and themselves, while fulfilling needs throughout our community and in some cases, other communities as well.

Enchanted Garden! CES 2026 Auction



Volunteer Opportunities

2026 Auction Co-Chairs, **Jena Rhodes** and **Terri Eastepp** need your help to make the auction a memorable event. There are several ways you can help make it a big success. It will take place on **Saturday, April 25, 2026**, at the Hotel Fredonia @ 6:00 pm. Join us for an enjoyable night of food, fun, & fundraising.

Here are some suggestions as to how you can help:

1. Volunteer to help set up the Auction at the Hotel Fredonia. Call the school office @ 564-0621 to volunteer.
2. On your own, or with another parent in your grade level, offer to host a special party for a specific age group as an auction item.
3. You may have a piece of art/print or special edition book, toy, lamp, jewelry, etc. to donate for the live or silent auction or a drop box item.
4. If you have a contact with a business or individual who would donate an item or money for the Auction, please email us at cesauction2026@gmail.com or contact **Jena Rhodes** at 936-275-6309 or **Terri Eastepp** at 936-414-7811.
5. Help fill your child's class theme basket with items to be auctioned off that evening.
6. Gather up four couples from your grade level and purchase a Sponsorship table @ \$750 or \$1,000—special "goodies" are included with the purchase of a Sponsorship table.

Reminders:

1. **All tickets** this year are \$50 each.
2. **Free** baby-sitting is available the night of the Auction in the preschool building from 5:30 -11:30 pm for CES students & their siblings - 3 yrs. old (must be toilet trained) and up to age 12. Pizza, popcorn, games, and movies will be available.

Innovating with Integrity! Learning with Purpose!



- ANNUAL GIVING FUND -



The goal of this year's Annual Giving Fund is \$15,000. Every gift, regardless of size, contributes to the growth and development of our students' educational experiences. We strive for 100% participation from the CES community: parents, grandparents, trustees, faculty and staff. Make a difference! Consider your gift to the Annual Fund today.



Facebook: @ChristEpiscopalSchoolTX
Instagram: @ces_nacogdoches

Please visit our social media pages to find wonderful pictures and news of what is happening at our fabulous school!
Share with your family members and friends!

If you have not visited the school's website in a while,
www.ces-nacogdoches.org, please do!

DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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|---------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, December 3 | - Faculty Meeting, 3:30 pm |
| Tuesday, December 9 | - Christmas Declamation
Christ Episcopal Church
5:30 pm (students arrive at 5:20 pm) |
| Tuesday, December 16 | - School Board Meeting, 6 pm |
| Wednesday, December 17 | - Last Wednesday Chapel to
bring canned goods for
H.O.P.E. until 2026 |
| Thursday, December 18 | - "Jolabokaflokkur" book/pajama day |
| Friday, December 19 | - Christmas Around the World
School Hall
- All School Dismissal 11:30 am
- <u>No Extended Day</u> |
| Tuesday, January 6, 2026 | - Return to school |