

JUNE

THE MESSENGER

2017

The Mission of Christ the King

To Shine the light of Jesus, Reflect his unconditional love, and Mirror his kindness to all people.



www.CtKTwinsburg.com

READ ALL ABOUT IT!

- Flea Market in July p. 2
- LAFF in Summer p. 2
- Prayer Chain p. 3
- Recent Confirmands p. 6

EAT BRUNCH WITH US THIS SUMMER!

Brunches will be held following 9:30 AM Worship Services on June 11th, July 9th, and August 13th. CtK men will cook pancakes and sausages. Members are asked to bring other brunch food and drinks to share. Watch the *Weekend Messenger* for details.

These will be great opportunities to invite friends to worship and fellowship at CtK. Join us!



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday worship with Holy Communion remains at 5:30 PM every week through the summer. There is a single 9:30 AM worship service with Holy Communion on Sundays. Communion will be through intinction at all services. The nursery is staffed on Sunday mornings. Both Saturday and Sunday services will be projected onto the screen whenever there is someone available for the sound booth.

NAME TAG WEEKENDS THIS SUMMER

Everyone is encouraged to wear their name tag to worship on the second weekend of each month (the weekends when we will have brunch after Sunday worship) and on the two weekends when we will have supply pastors: June 17th & 18th and June 24th & 25th.



STILL TIME TO ENROLL!
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio (LOMO)
"WATER OF LIFE" DAY CAMP
at CtK



Monday, June 12, to Friday, June 16, 2017, 9am—4pm, for students finishing kindergarten through 6th grade
Applications are in the narthex or on the website. Cost is \$25 per student. If you are able to help, an additional \$25 donation for scholarships would be appreciated.
Youth & Adult volunteer sign-up is on bulletin board.
Minister of Discipleship & Youth

CELEBRATE PENTECOST IN RED!

Pentecost weekend is June 3rd & 4th. Remember to wear red to worship that weekend to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. The chancel will be adorned with red geraniums. Special thanks to everyone who donated flowers for Lisa Doty to plant at CtK and to Lisa & her new canine



Christ the King is a Stephen Ministry Congregation. See our website for more information.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL JUNE 15TH

Everyone is invited to a program and ice cream social at CtK on Thursday, June 15th. At 6:30 PM our LOMO counselors will lead the Day Campers in a special program of songs from the week. After the program, stay for ice cream sundaes!



LAFF TO HOLDEN ARBORETUM IN JUNE

On Saturday, June 3rd, Life After Fifty Fellowship (& Friends) will carpool to Holden Arboretum in Kirtland for a one-hour guided walking tour to view spring blossoms. Carpools will leave CtK promptly at 11 AM, so be at CtK by 10:45 AM. After our potluck picnic we will **meet our guide at the Visitor's Center at 1:30 PM.**

No trams are available that day due to a very expensive wine tasting that evening. If you are **interested in that, go to Holden Arboretum's website.** Carpools will return to CtK by mid-afternoon. Please sign up by Wednesday, May 31, so we will have a count for the guide. Questions will be answered by Shirley Duffy.

More LAFF summer events for EVERYONE:

- June 6th - LAFF planning, 9:30 AM at CtK
- July 8th - **lunch at Heinen's, downtown Cleveland** plus tour of the submarine USS Cod
- August 12th - Akron Rubber Ducks game



FLEA MARKET & CRAFT FAIR AT CTK JULY 22!!!

On Saturday, July 22, the National Youth Gathering youth are sponsoring a flea market and craft fair on the grounds of CtK. You are invited to set up a 10X10 booth on the grass (no electric available) to sell household items and craft projects. Please no guns, alcohol, drugs or porn! Suggested donation for the booth space is \$20, which will be used by the youth for their trip to the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston. The youth will also be selling refreshments during the market.

Hours for the market are 9 AM until 4 PM, rain or shine, and all unsold items must be removed from the premises by 5 PM. You can set up your selling space beginning at 8 AM.

To register for a selling space, print the form on the CTK website or obtain a form from Patti Jabre or the bulletin board. Return form to Patti with \$20 donation.

BONUS! Want to support the youth but don't have time to sell your rummage items? If you would like to donate items (but no clothing), there will be a booth at the market from which all sales proceeds will be donated to the NYG youth. Items (BUT NO CLOTHING!) may be dropped off at the church on Friday, July 21, from 4 PM to 7 PM or before noon July 22 during the sale. Donations for the sale can NOT be dropped off at any other time. Unsold items will go to the Goodwill store after 4 PM on July 22.

PLEASE SUPPORT CTK'S ELCA

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING TEAM!!!

Questions? See Patti Jabre, Karen Reid, or Katie Bach.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are Monday - Wednesday, 9 AM - 3:30 PM, and Friday, 9 AM - noon, through Labor Day. Thursday hours are flexible, so please call before dropping by.

**NEEDED: For Day Camp**

- VOLUNTEERS: Adults & teens - sign up on the bulletin board to help one day or all five!
 - 20 oz plastic bottle with cap
 - Empty soup size tin can with no lid



Place WASHED & DRIED items in the marked Giving Center bin.

Minister of Discipleship & Youth

D I R E C T O R Y

Christ the King Lutheran Church
10285 Ravenna Road
Twinsburg, OH 44087
Phone: 330-425-7377
www.CtKTwinsburg.com



Reverend Matthew Groenke, *Senior Pastor*
pmatthew@CtKTwinsburg.com x109

Deacon Patricia Jabre, *Minister of Discipleship & Youth*
pjabre@CtKTwinsburg.com x106

Kevin Basom, *Director of Music*

Linda Mondry, *Saturday Worship Musician*

Wendy Gibbons, *Office Administrator*
wgibbons@CtKTwinsburg.com x102



INVITATION TO JOIN THE CTK PRAYER CHAIN

What is a prayer chain? A prayer chain is a group of individuals who pray for others (intercessory prayer). To belong to this group requires that you are sincere in praying for others, often people that you don't know.

Do you ever stop to pray when you need help in your own life? Do you feel confident that you could pray for blessings to others? Matthew 22:39 says to love your neighbor as yourself. James 5:16 tells us to pray for each other. What a great way to share God's love! Please think and pray about it!

The Christ the King Prayer Chain consists of active church members who agree to check their email every day and to pray for each request in a timely fashion. When you open the email you are asked to immediately pray for that person. And then please keep them in your daily prayers.

Each prayer chain request is to be considered CONFIDENTIAL. This means the person and situation being prayed for are not to be discussed with anyone else. People prayed for on the prayer chain are only listed in the *Weekend Messenger* if specifically requested. Only then are the requests no longer confidential. Pastor Matthew is always included in all prayer requests.

Currently I am the coordinator of the prayer chain and will initiate the prayers. Usually people call or email me or the church office via Wendy.

Any questions? Please contact me at 330-562-4530 or gingerpituch@gmail.com

*Love and Prayers,
Ginger Pituch*

TEEN OR ADULT SOUND BOOTH HELPERS NEEDED

Because both Saturday and Sunday worship services are projected onto the screen in the summer, more volunteers are needed for the sound booth. Volunteers will be trained, but it is helpful if they are comfortable working with a computer. Please see Wendy Gibbons ASAP if you or your teen would like to be trained to help at either Saturday or Sunday worship.



Printed bulletins will be used for any services lacking sound booth personnel.

PLEASE GET HELP WHEN MOVING TABLES

If you have to move tables at CtK, especially the round ones, please find a helper. If the tables are dragged across the floor they can be seriously damaged. Two of the five tables have been repaired due to this and may not withstand another such incident. Thank you!

SPRING ENDOWMENT REQUESTS GRANTED



The Endowment Committee and Council approved these requests for funds from the Lestor Endowment:

Description	Granted
Newspaper advertising - 6 months	\$2,341
Post card mailing campaign	\$593
Beds for Kids	\$1,000
Our Community Hunger Center	\$1,000
Funds for purchase of Cantata music	\$1,000
Garage Sale Warriors	\$600
Haven of Rest	\$1,500
Church softball fees	\$100
Fund youth to Houston 2018	\$4,000
Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser	\$4,000
Purchase contemporary music	\$1,000
Sound system repairs	\$2,500
Purchase Stephen Ministry training material	\$300
Materials to repair CtK roof leaks	\$2,200

MARTIN LUTHER'S CORNER



Which Pope is the correct one? Approximately 100 years before Martin Luther was born the church was in the middle of the "Great Schism", a period of time where two and sometimes three different persons claimed to be the true Pope of the Western Church. The

Schism was caused by rival claims to the papacy and theological differences within the church. Some of Europe supported one pope and other parts supported another pope. One Pope was located in Rome, the other in Avignon France, and a third one in Anagni, Italy. Some sections of Europe didn't know which Pope was in charge. Each "Pope" excommunicated the other one. By the time Luther was born, the Great Schism was over and the Pope recognized by all of Western Europe was in Rome. But the legacy of a divided church contributed to the Reformation ideas that came after the Schism.

This monthly blurb about Martin Luther is compiled by John Humrichouser for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

From the CTK Minister of Discipleship and Youth

WOMEN OF FAITH...

In 1515 as Martin Luther was struggling with the doctrine of Justification of Faith, a baby was born in Spain that would, in time, become Saint Teresa of Avila. Teresa would ultimately be the founder of 16 convents in Spain of the Discalced (Barefoot) Carmelite order.



She was one of 12 children in the wealthy de Cepeda family. She spent her early life wearing fine clothes and **jewels. Her father provided his daughters with the same fine education given his sons. After her mother's death** Teresa, now a teen, was sent to an Augustinian convent that ran a finishing school for wealthy families.

She struggled with the piety of the order and the temporal world her wealth afforded. During a long illness **she convalesced at her uncle's home, and through many theological conversations was convinced she was damned.** To avoid damnation, she subsequently joined the convent at Avila where she spent 26 years. Here **she struggled with the temptation of worldly distractions, and the order's focus on God and the church,** recording her struggles that were later included in her *Vita*, her spiritual autobiography.

Around the age of 40 Teresa began a new way of praying, which prompted a feeling of communion with God **through visions later known as her raptures. (One is portrayed in Gian Lorenzo Bernini's *The Ecstasy of St. Teresa* located in Rome.)** Hot on the heels of the Reformation, Roman Catholic officials viewed her raptures as the work of the devil. She faced resistance from the church and the Spanish Inquisition until her death.

She felt God called her to develop a new convent, San Jose. The order was strict with coarse wool habits and bare feet; simple foods grown in the garden; silence and prayer; and Teresa was happy.

She went on to create 15 other convents. "the process was never anything but a beleaguering up hill battle requiring political, business and negotiation finesse," for which she was prepared by her education. The Inquisition came knocking as church officials insisted she was possessed by the devil. Only after petitioning King Philip was the investigation dropped.

In between her administrations of the convents she was a prolific writer. In addition to her *Vita*, she wrote *Foundations*, a book about the establishment of the convents and *The Interior Castle*, her best known book, a labor of love.

Essays and biographies about Teresa attest to her rich and fruitful legacy as a heroine of the Christian faith. She is still lauded as a relentless reformer, saint, writer, theologian, and mystic. Her struggles with worldly temptations and Godly pursuits resonate with many people today, and her books are still read for inspiration. **She was a woman who finally heard God's voice and heeded his commands. "God, in turn, transformed Teresa of Avila from a woman distracted by the world to a woman who changed it."**

She died in 1582 and was canonized in 1622. She was one of the first women awarded the Doctor of the Church in 1970 and is revered as the Doctor of Prayer.

Ratti Jalire

(quotes from *50 Women Every Christian Should Know*)

Women are often mentioned in the Bible as conduits of faith. Both Jesus and Paul recognized them as leaders in the faith community. Sadly, the politics of Medieval Europe obscured contributions of women in many aspects of the culture, including those of faith. During 2017, which is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, I hope to bring to light the context and life of women without whom the church would be a different entity.

CTK ON THE MOVE

To reach out into the community.

- ◆ Fund raiser with matching funds for new electronic sign
- ◆ Advertising in local paper
- ◆ Mailings to families moving to the Twinsburg area, inviting them to worship at CtK
- ◆ Day Camp in June for younger children in the community (not just CtK)
- ◆ Spaghetti dinner fund raiser for Zoe Kirchens
- ◆ Outdoor Flea Market fund raiser at CtK to benefit NYG Youth



There is a lot going on at Christ the King. The activities involve generosity of time, talents, and treasures of CtK members and the outside community.

We are sending out a beacon of light showing that we are sharing our gifts within the community and that we welcome all to worship with us on Saturday or Sunday.

Sandy Molnar, Financial Secretary

ELECTRONIC SIGN FUND UPDATE

At press time we had received \$1020 of the \$10,000 needed to purchase an electronic outdoor sign. Please remember that any donations to the sign fund should be in addition to your regular or pledged giving.



APRIL 2017 FINANCE REPORT	
<i>Complete financial information is posted on the kiosk outside the office.</i>	
Operating Income	\$19,701
Other designated income	\$748
Total Income	\$20,449
Operating Expenses	\$23,004
Other payments	\$2,609
Total Expenses	\$25,613
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$(5,164)
Monthly Budget	\$22,805

NEOS ASSEMBLY JUNE 9TH & 10TH

Pastor Matthew and Patti Jabre are attending the Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly in Akron Friday, June 9th, through Saturday, June 10th. CtK members **Shirley Duffy and Tom Pituch are the congregation's lay delegates.**

In support of a service project at the assembly we are collecting one-gallon Ziploc bags, all sizes of diapers, and squares of new fleece, 1- to 1 1/2-yards square. *Please place your donations in the Giving Center by June 4th.*

BOOK COLLECTION A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

Thanks to the generosity of CtK's members and friends, we raised over \$875 to donate 176 new books to Twinsburg School's Paws on Child Hunger Program that provides weekend food for food insecure students in conjunction with The Emergency Assistance Center (TEAC). Specific books were requested by kindergarten through sixth grade classroom teachers to be included in the final bag of food that students receive at the end of the school year.

Pastor Matthew and Deacon Patti delivered the books to Wilcox Elementary on Thursday, May 18th (shown above with the Wilcox, Bissell, and Dodge principals and Joyce Hunt of TEAC). Thanks to everyone who contributed to this project to encourage local students to read!

APRIL SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

PreK - Kindergarten - Violet Thompson
Adults - Denise Hall, Denise Tearney

MAY SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

PreK - Kindergarten - Noah Lue, Benjamin Stayanchi
1st - 3rd Grades - Spencer Bach, Truman Goss, Jeremiah Groenke, Grace Lue
4th - 6th Grades - Koren Goss
7th - 12th Grades - Adam Groenke, Claire Schiopota, Lydia Schiopota
Adults - Katie Bach, Wendy Gibbons, Julie Groenke, John Humrichouser, Karen Reid, David Schiopota, Denise Tearney

SUMMER SOFTBALL NEWS

At press time there was no information available about the annual CtK co-ed softball team. Typically the games are on Sundays in June and July in the late afternoon or early evening. Watch the *Weekend Messenger* and the bulletin board for information about signing up to play.





The National Youth Gathering Team, currently at seven members, met in February and will be holding the following events:

- May 27-Servant project - pack health kits for homeless shelter. Meet about 6:30; something was said about pizza .
- May 27 - Next meeting - following servant project - bring calendar and info for projects
- June 12-16 - LOMO Day Camp. All teens are welcome to help. Sign up on bulletin board.
- July 4 - Aurora Shores - the Schiopota family is running a face painting booth - Parade at 10am; booths will open at the Marina around noon.
- July 15 - Financial Assistance will open up at national headquarters. See me.
- July 15 - Fill A Bag, Feed a Family - a project of Twinsburg Ministerial - Meet at Ss. Cosmas & Damian multi-purpose room at 9:30 AM.
- July 22 - Flea Market - Will need help on Friday, July 21, and all day Saturday. WE NEED EVERYONE TO BE INVOLVED. The vendors will arrive at 8am to set up and will have taken down their stalls by 5:30 worship.
- August 13 - Sports Day - CTK will have a brunch following worship, with the sports program after.
- August 27 - Photo Scavenger hunt.
- September 9 - 5K Run.
- September 10 - **God's Work, Our Hands** - Servant Project.
- September 15 - NYG registration begins

Look for more information about these projects and help us get the word out. We need your prayers & participation, help in setting up these programs and your financial assistance. Min. of Discipleship and Youth

COLLEGE GRADUATE NEWS

Laura Gibbons was awarded her Bachelor of Music Therapy from Eastern Michigan University in April. Laura graduated magna cum laude with a double major of Music Therapy and German Language & Literature. She is seeking employment in Germany, **where she's lived for 18 months, as a clinical music therapist helping people with psychological issues.**



CONFIRMATION HELD MAY 14TH

Eighth graders Evan Harnak and Justin Hartland affirmed their faith at a special 4 PM confirmation service at CtK on Sunday, May 14th. NEOS Bishop Abraham



Allende preached at the service. Confirmation is the **culmination of two years' study in a multi-congregation** program. Three other local ELCA congregations are in the program, but none have eighth graders this year.



FIRST BIBLES PRESENTED

As part of CtK's Faith Stepping Stones program, Spencer Bach and Jeremiah Groenke received their first Bibles during worship May 6th & 7th.

ACOLYTES NEEDED FOR SUMMER WORSHIP

Because so many families will be vacationing this summer, Miss Patti is looking for volunteers to acolyte for all services in July and August. Sign up on the bulletin board for any summer services when you (or your child) is available to acolyte. Remember that there are two services every weekend through September 3rd: one at 5:30 PM on Saturdays and the other at 9:30 AM on Sundays.



CONFIRMATION CORNER...

Have a great summer. See you at church and all the special summer events. Prayers please for those attending F3 (Faith, Fun, Formation) camp at Camp Mowana June 25th to 30th: Lydia Schiopota, Allison Bach, Justin Hartland, and Deacon Patti.



Minister of Discipleship & Youth

2017 Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio camp registration is open.



For more information or registration check them out online at www/lomocamps.org.

For more information & discounts please talk to Miss Patti. New youth campers can get \$100 off a full week of overnight camp!

Minister of Discipleship & Youth

June 2017

For the most up-to-date event schedule for Christ the King, go to www.ctktwinsburg.com/?page_id=72

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																										
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Go to ctktwinsburg.com, About Us, Newsletters to see current Weekend Messenger with assistants.
Please contact Wendy in the office to volunteer for any openings shown below.

SHINING THE LIGHT AT SATURDAY & SUNDAY WORSHIP - JUNE 2017					
	Worship time	JUNE 3 rd & 4 th	JUNE 10 th & 11 th	JUNE 17 th & 18 th	JUNE 24 th & 25 th
Acolytes	5:30 pm	Dotti Root	Dotti Root	Lydia Schiopota	Dotti Root
	9:30 am	Gabrielle Doty	Carlee Bedford	Evan Harnak	Madisyn Wise
Sat. Worship Assistants, Lectors (L), Communion Assistants (C)	5:30 pm	Patti Jabre	Dave Denes	Dave Denes	Katie Bach
	9:30 am	Sally Morris (L, C)	Kristin Wedemeyer Goss (L), Karen Reid (C)	Lisa Doty (L), Crystal Stokes (C)	Need volunteer (L), Jane Zaremba (C)
Lay Prayer Leaders	9:30 am	Jenn Lue	Shirley Duffy	Diane Procop	Wendy Jones
Ushers	5:30 pm	Ron Miller	Volunteer needed	Lynne Bailey	Bill & Dotti Root
	9:30 am	Chris Driver, Ginger Pituch	Jean & Mike Coss	Joanne & Rich Ciarniello	Wendy Jones, D. Urban
Greeters	9:30 am	D. Urban & John McBride	Chanon Bortak	Doty Family	Denise Hall
Sound Booth	5:30 pm	Charlotte Miller	Wendy Gibbons	Claire Schiopota	Wendy Gibbons
	9:30 am	Karen Reid	Denise Hall (tentative)	Wendy Gibbons	Olivia Doty (tentative)
Altar Care	9:30 am	Kristin Bedford, Sue Simmons	Amy Bates, Marge Bowman, Dave Denes	Gabrielle Doty, Jane Zaremba	Lisa Doty, Lyn Abbott
Punch Maker	9:15 am	Hartland family	Kristin Bedford	Mary Ellen Robinette	Need volunteer
Coffee Clean-up	After 10:45am	Office Staff	Ginger & Tom Pituch	Sandy Molnar	Lyn & Randy Abbott
July Messenger Assembly Team:		Mike & Rita Mitch, Sue Simmons, Jane Zaremba			July Messenger Deadline:
		- 1 PM, Tuesday, June 20, 2017 in Room 103			Thursday, June 15, 2017
Thanks to Leatrice Alexander, Lynne Bailey, & Shirley Duffy for assembling the June Messenger!					



MAY 1, 2017 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS *Complete Council minutes are posted on the Council kiosk.*

Meeting Agenda

Agenda was approved with four additional items of new business:

Patti

Even with the chronic budgetary shortfall, thankful that our congregation continues to meet our benevolence. Budget reduction will be discussed at this year's Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly.

Thankful for Karen Scarpelli joining Mutual Ministry.

Finance Report

The April operating budget shortfall was \$4,700. Rob will send a letter to members encouraging all to meet or, if possible, exceed our pledges. Finance will also send a letter to members.

Dave Schiopota will follow up with finance to email members with current bills with the hope some member(s) will be willing to pay them.

Upcoming Events

June 9 & 10: Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly; Tom Pituch and Shirley Duffy are CtK's lay delegates.

June 16 – July 1: Pastor Matthew will be on vacation; seeking supply pastors to preside at services during his absence.

September 10 - Rally Day / God's Work, Our Hands; beginning of Stewardship Campaign

September 30 & October 1: Commitment Weekend

October 29, 2017: Reformation 500

Building the church

First batch of direct mail postcards was sent, and newspaper ads are running

Old Business

Employee Handbook

A motion passed to approve the personnel handbook with recommended changes. Many thanks to Dave Schiopota for editing the handbook and to Pastor Matthew and Karen Reid for reviewing it.

New Business

Constitution

In researching information for a report, the secretary encountered a typographic error in the Bylaws: in C13.06.01, The paragraph should read:

The aforesaid duties must be carried out in a manner consistent with growing the endowment while maintaining a consistent level of disbursement. The total of all annual grants must total no less than four percent (4%) and no more than **eight percent (8%)** of the market value of all funds at the time of disbursement. No endowment funds may be used for purposes apart from those described herein, except in cases of emergency as determined by a two-thirds vote of the Congregation.

The secretary regrets the error and is correcting the text.

Building Use Request

New Adventures Early Learning requested the use of the building for their graduation on June 2, 2017, from 4:30pm to 8:00pm; approximately 100 to attend. A motion passed to approve this request.

Eagle Scout Project

David Stauffer, member of Twinsburg First Congregational UCC, is working toward his Boy Scout Eagle Scout award. A community-service project he wants to undertake is to build fire pit at CtK – he would provide materials and labor. A motion passed to permit him donate this fire pit to our congregation (pending design, location, etc.)

Liability Exposure from the Basketball Court

Council raised the issue whether there are liability issues from having the basketball court open to the public. Mike Pereksta is researching CtK's insurance coverage. Council decided that a sign was needed warning 'use at your own risk' with a message about CtK.

Letter to Epiphany members

Epiphany Lutheran Northfield (LCMS) is closing. Corey Thompson recommended we send a letter the members to acknowledge their loss and invite them to worship with us. A motion was approved to compose a letter and find addresses of members.

General Discussions

Corey recommended having brunch after Sunday summer worship on the second Sunday of June, July, and August.

Another lively discussion about our congregation's finances ensued. Pastor Matthew clearly stated that, although the Finance Committee must make strong recommendations about the uses of congregational funds, council is constitutionally -mandated to have ultimate fiduciary responsibility for their uses and disbursements.

Respectfully submitted: David F. Denes, Council Secretary



APRIL 23, 2017 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS *Complete meeting minutes are on the Council kiosk.***Announcement of Quorum**

Forty-two voting members of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church were present, constituting a quorum.

Review of CtK Core Values

Congregation President Rob Doty reviewed our Core values of Daily Prayer, Regular Worship, Read & Study Scripture, Serve at CtK and to the Community Beyond Our Doors, Encourage Spiritual Growth in Others, Give of Time, Talents, & Financial Resources.

Thanks to our generous members

Rob thanked all who give of their time and talent to the further of the mission of CtK:

Oct. '16 through March '17 Avg Monthly Giving

Amount	Units / % of Total
\$300 – \$1,100	18 units: 58.3%
\$200 – \$299	13 units: 17.3%
\$50 – \$199	29 units: 19.4%
\$10 – \$49	28 units: 4.5%
\$9 or less	23 units: 0.04%

Jan. '17 through March '17 Avg Monthly Giving

Amount	Units / % of Total
\$300 – \$1,100	16 units: 57.5%
\$200 – \$299	13 units: 19.0%
\$50 – \$199	26 units: 17.8%
\$10 – \$49	24 units: 3.5%
\$9 or less	9 units: 0.02%

Review of Giving vs. Budget

Rob shared his concern about the upward trend in shortfall. During the past 39 months CtK has only had five months where contributions exceed expenses, while seven months had shortfalls exceeding \$5,000. Four of the last twelve months had a shortfall at or above \$7,000. He pointed out that churches in many denominations are facing a similar trend.

Ways to Address Shortfall

Rob discussed the two ways to address the shortfall:

Meet our estimates of giving ('pledges'). Rob thanked those who've exceeded their pledges.

Increase membership. More members mean a larger group of committed Christians who worship with and who also help with expenses. In this regard, he spoke about:

The best way for others to come to worship with us is through personal invitation.

Advertising: John Humrichouser spoke about new advertising in the *Twinsburg Bulletin*, *Nordonia News Leader*, and *Aurora Advocate* for six months and postcards mailed to new area residents for six months. Both campaigns are funded by Endowment Fund grants.

Electronic Outdoor Sign

John Humrichouser talked about the proposal for purchasing a new, electronic outdoor sign to replace the current one. He and John Gibbons, who reviewed the electronic specifications, recommend one from Akers Signs in Canton that has 12-mm LED spacing. A key consideration for John G. was upgradability. The company representative spoke about the company and the product. To demonstrate the product quality, he brought a trailer with one of their signs – even in the very bright sunshine, the sign was crystal clear.

The company rep said the small business association such a sign to be the best advertising investment, and one church's testimonial also said it was a draw.

Akers would handle all permitting for approval, construction and installation. Akers's lead-time on manufacturing is 4- to 6-weeks.

From the Jeanette Cooper estate bequest, Mike Pereksta said the sign could be funded as outreach on a 2-to-1 basis: \$20,000 from the bequest; \$10,000 from the members.

Members asked whether it would be possible for the grant to cover the entire amount, \$30,000; or \$25,000 grant / \$5,000 members' contributions. Mike said that would not be in keeping with Jeanette's wishes.

Mike Pereksta clarified the purpose of the endowment fund to be Seeding, Emergency, Matching, and Outreach. The Lestor Fund, the original endowment fund, and the recently-added Cooper estate bequest are both regulated per our By-laws.

John H. reiterated our inability to pay all bills on time: we need to do something or CtK will have to cut staff, resulting in fewer programs and less membership. If the direct mail and local paper advertising campaigns attract any visitors or new members, they will be continued.

Call for a Vote

Rob clearly underscored that members' contributions for the purchase of the sign need to be in addition to contributions for the general fund. A motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase and installation of the sign at approximately \$29,000 - \$30,100. A vote was taken by a show of hands: 39 yeas; 3 nays. The motion to approve the purchase and installation of the electronic sign was approved.

Respectfully submitted: David F. Denes, Council Secretary

shining the Light of Jesus...

Thanks to Betsy Thompson for baking hot cross buns to share on Easter morning.

Thanks to John Humrichouser for letting in a group of people to use building for a meeting.

Thanks to Lynn Sares for getting our Google Adwords for nonprofits set up! (Now when someone does a Google search on Lutheran churches in the area, a text ad for CtK will show up.)

Thanks to Linda Bendler, Lisa Doty, MJ Neel, & Cheryl Stumpf for helping prepare & mail a summer postcard.

Thanks to Sue Simmons for cleaning the spots from the carpet near the altar.

Thanks to helpers for May 14th Confirmation reception, including: Set up, serve, & clean up – Lynne Bailey, MJ Neel, Chris Spitz, Louise Susnik; Food – Lynne Bailey, Lisa Doty, Wendy Gibbons, Kate Hartland, MJ Neel, Bob Poshedley, Chris Spitz; Cake – Louise Susnik; **Confirmands' flowers** - Lynne Bailey .

Thanks to Tom Pituch for repairing the shower in the newer women's restroom.

Thanks to Tom Pituch for installing motion-detecting switches in the men's restrooms. (The women's restrooms have had them for several years. Note that the lights in each of the four restrooms will now turn of after 15 minutes of inactivity.)

Thanks to Tom Pituch for fixing the round table that came apart when being moved. See page 3 for related article.

Thanks to helpers for the May 21st Graduation reception, including: Set up, serve, & clean up - Wendy Gibbons, Chris Spitz; Food - Lisa Doty, Wendy Gibbons, MJ Neel, Ginger Pituch, Chris Spitz, Louise Susnik.

Thanks to Shirley & Art Duffy, John McBride, D. Urban, Karen Scarpelli, Lydia Schiopota, who helped with supper on April 29th at Haven of Rest in Akron. The next date that CtK is serving is Saturday, July 29th, and five to seven volunteers will be needed. If you are interested, please watch for a sign-up sheet or talk to Sue Simmons.

Thanks to our May 9th Red Cross blood drive registration desk and canteen volunteers Marge Bowman, Shirley Duffy, Wendy Gibbons, Luella Goodnight, Ginger Pituch, and D. Urban. The next blood drive at CtK is Tuesday, July 18th, from 2 to 7 PM. Watch for your chance to volunteer!

COLLECTIONS AT CTK

Clothing donated to the St. Pauly shed in April raised \$123.39 for Christ the King.

Paper and cardboard placed in the big green recycling bin in March earned CtK \$23.38.

Ongoing CtK Events

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

All men 18 and older are invited to meet for food and fellowship at Bob Evans on Route 82 at 8 AM the first Saturday of the month, June 3rd. See Tom Pituch for details.

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

During the summer, the CtK **Tuesday Women's Bible Study** meets once a month. Wendy Gibbons leads the sessions of Bible study, fellowship, discussion, and prayer. All women are invited to drop in when their schedules permit. The group collects an offering to support the Cleveland **YWCA's Nurturing Independence** and Aspiration initiative to assist youth aging out of foster care.

The summer study from *Gather* magazine is *All Anew* by Kelly Fryer, echoing the theme of the 2017 Women of the ELCA **Triennial Gathering. June's session, "Say goodbye to 'nice,'"** will be June 6th at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a potluck lunch.

Bibles and copies of the study are available. To subscribe to *Gather* call 844-409-0576; a **year's subscription (10 issues) is \$15.** See Wendy for details.

FAITH WEDNESDAYS

Pastor Matthew leads a Wednesday study at noon in the fellowship hall. There is time to eat your brown bag lunch in the class. Everyone is welcome to **come when it's convenient.** Because of June 12th - 16th **Day Camp and Pastor Matthew's** June 16th - July 1st vacation, the class will complete the book of Romans on June 7th then take a break until July 5th.

I wonder ...

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address: bishop@elca.org.

Recently, I heard the Bach cantata *O heiliges Geist und Wasserbad*. The cantata's text is based on John 3:1-15, which was the Gospel lesson at the service where the cantata was first performed. The image that stuck with me and about which I have been doing a lot of thinking was the story of the fiery serpents sent among the people of Israel in the wilderness.

Both the Gospel lesson for the day and the Bach cantata allude to this. You might remember this tense episode during the Exodus. The people of God had been liberated from crushing oppression in Egypt—the plagues, Passover, walking dry-shod through the sea, manna from heaven and water from the rock! We can only imagine the excitement of those heady days when God set Israel free.

But now the journey had become long and they had to detour around Edom. The people became impatient and angry. They began to murmur. They had murmured before against Moses and Aaron, but now their murmuring was directed at God. It turned out to be the same old laundry list of complaints: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food" (Numbers 21:5).

Now remember, this "miserable food" was manna from heaven. God promised to provide enough for each person each day. They were to collect no more and no less than a day's supply. Some collected more, not trusting that God would be faithful. Some collected less. These were the Lutheran Israelites, who did not believe that God's all sufficient love was for them too.

Enter the snakes. "Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died" (Numbers 21:6). A calamity had befallen the people. In their panic and in their pain they pleaded for deliverance. God rescued Israel, not so much from poisonous serpents but from Israel's own faithless and poisonous complaints that had appeared long before the snakes did. In that faithlessness, Israel had set itself against God.

Israel's rescue was a restored relationship with their true God, not simply escaping the snakes. God rescued Israel both from themselves and from God's judgment. The symbol of their salvation was a fiery serpent—a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole. The very image of suffering and death was also the image of life and salvation.

This is what Jesus was talking about in his encounter with Nicodemus. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15). This is what Bach's cantata sings about: "You know, my God, how painfully I feel the old serpent's sting; sin's poison destroys my body and soul. Help me, so that in faith I choose you, blood-red image of a serpent, that was raised on the cross." The cross in John's Gospel, like the pole with the bronze serpent, signifies both the poison of death and the life-giving power of God.

I have read Numbers several times and there is no indication that the serpents ever left. The plague of serpents remained an ongoing threat and the raised bronze serpent remained an ongoing reminder of the need to turn to the healing power of God.

And here's what really has me thinking—the word for fiery serpent is "seraphim." Seraphim. The same angels who, with the cherubim, attend God. Could the fiery serpents be snake-angels that like border collies nip at us when we go our own way? Could the sting of their bite remind us to look to the cross, the death of our death? Could the snake-angels be fiery guardian angels who bring us back to the truth that, left to our own devices, we are helpless and sometimes dangerous and apart from God, that we can do nothing?

Just wondering.

Reprinted from *Living Lutheran*.



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Chris & Mike Heatherman	6/6
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Don & Tama Drenski	6/18
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Bob & Sonja Roe	6/24
Wiley & Pam Wolfe	6/24

Made new in Christ: Freed for ethical action

By Kristin Johnston Largen

Deeper understandings - May 2017

When was the last time you found yourself in an ethical dilemma? Maybe it was while you were doing your taxes or in a situation at school or at work. Perhaps it was at a hospital or doctor's office, dealing with a medical crisis. Maybe it was in an offhand conversation with a friend, where suddenly you found yourself wondering about the right thing to say. Sometimes we know what the right thing is and just don't want to do it. At other times we don't even know what's "right." There might be two rights, but which one is "right-er"? Or maybe there are only two wrongs, but which option is less-wrong?

Our life in community—human life in general—is messy and complicated. We deeply desire clear rules and uniform behavior, but instead we get exceptions, aberrations and irregularities.

Most of us want to be "ethical" people—we want to be good and do right. Lutherans know that trying to live by unbreakable moral rules rarely works out, simply because we are broken people in a broken world, and no amount of moral effort can put us back together again—only Christ can do that. Nevertheless, we are called to life in the world, so indecision and moral paralysis simply aren't long-term options. In the face of moral quandaries and ethical predicaments, we are called to do something, say something—but what?

Christians bound by two-sided freedom

Lutherans do have a clear theological principle on which we can ground ethical speech and actions, a principle that comes from Martin Luther—freedom. And it's two-sided: freedom from fear and anxiety, and a freedom for bold, risk-taking action.

One of Luther's most famous treatises is *On the Freedom of a Christian*, written in 1520. Reformation historian Timothy Wengert calls it "a nonpolemical tract describing the heart of his beliefs" (*The Annotated Luther*; Fortress Press, 2015). In this treatise, Luther asserts: "The Christian individual is a completely free lord of all, subject to none. The Christian individual is a completely dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Far from being contradictory, these two assertions sum up the entire life of a Christian and indicate exactly how we are to live our life. The first is the "freedom from"—let's call this the grounding freedom of a Christian's life. The second is the "freedom for"—let's call this the driving freedom of a Christian's life.

"The Christian individual is a completely free lord of all, subject to none. The Christian individual is a completely dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

Grounding freedom, essential for the "inner person," emphasizes that we Christians are entirely free from the wrenching, paralyzing anxiety that we must first please God so that God might love, forgive and save us. On the contrary, realized Luther, in Christ we already have been justified, reconciled with God, and therefore can do nothing to earn righteousness and salvation. All that is needful already has been done for us, and therefore neither our salvation nor anyone else's is at stake in any ethical decision we make.

The end of Romans 8 says nothing "in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"—not even a bad ethical decision! Therefore, the first ethical principle for Lutherans is that our decisions are neither governed nor motivated by a desire to prove to God or anyone else that we are "good enough" for salvation. Our ethical choices aren't the proof of our salvation or our good standing as Christians.

The other side of Luther's twofold coin of Christian liberty is the "freedom for"—the very reason God has set us free. Luther was clear that the grounding inner freedom is meant to be lived out and expressed in the "outer person." Grounded in Christ's freedom, we are driven to express faith through love for the neighbor.

Our overriding concern in making ethical decisions then is: What best serves the flourishing of our neighbor? In Luther's words again: "For this reason, in all of one's works a person should ... be shaped by and contemplate this thought alone: to serve and benefit others in everything that may be done, having nothing else in view except the need and advantage of the neighbor."

The joy of freedom: Being Christs to each other

Grounded in God's love and driven to serve the neighbor, we can live joyfully even when faced with vexing ethical decisions and dilemmas. Luther expresses one of his most well-known ideas—the exhortation to be as Christ toward one another: "I will give myself as a kind of Christ to my neighbor, just as Christ offered himself to me. I will do nothing in this life except what I see will be necessary, advantageous, and salutary for my neighbor, because through faith I am overflowing with all good things in Christ."

"I will give myself as a kind of Christ to my neighbor, just as Christ offered himself to me. I will do nothing in this life except what I see will be necessary, advantageous, and salutary for my neighbor, because through faith I am overflowing with all good things in Christ."

We see a mandate that is both unequivocally clear and still allows maximum flexibility. Depending on the need and the situation of the neighbor at any given time, our discernment and actions might vary—but the core principle of neighbor-love remains the same.

Of course, this does not solve all our problems. People don't always agree on who their neighbor is in a specific situation, nor does everyone understand the flourishing of the neighbor in the same way. Both as individuals and as a community, our brokenness will not be fully healed until the eschaton (the final event in the divine plan). Yet, freedom in Christ is a start—and a good place to start at that. Luther reminds us that because we already have been saved, justified and redeemed, we can act with daring and boldness for the sake of neighbor, even if such action makes us look foolish or brings criticism.

What do we care if we are sometimes misunderstood? We know our calling—to live joyfully in Christ for one another!

The author gives a "shout out" to Fortress Press, which is providing every seminarian and faculty member at ELCA seminaries a free copy of Luther's treatise, excerpted from volume one of its new six-volume series, *The Annotated Luther*.

Kristin Johnston Largen is professor of systematic theology and dean of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (Pa.), soon to join with the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia to become the United Lutheran Seminary.



JUNE MESSENGER 2017

www.CtKTwinsburg.com

STILL TIME TO ENROLL!

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio
(LOMO)

"WATER OF LIFE" DAY CAMP

at CtK



Monday, June 12, to Friday, June 16, 2017,
9am—4pm, for students finishing kindergarten
through 6th grade

Applications are in the narthex or on the CtK
website. Cost is only \$25 per student. If you
are able to help, an additional \$25 donation for
scholarships would be appreciated.

Youth & Adult volunteer sign-up is on bulletin
board. Minister of Discipleship & Youth

Come & Get it!



*Sunday, June 11th, after 9:30 AM worship
Pancakes & sausages will be provided
Please bring other foods to share
Mark your calendars for July 9th & August 13th*

Christ the King welcomes you to our
worship, fellowship, and service!

Saturday worship each week at 5:30 PM

Sunday Worship and Schedule:

Blended Worship9:30 AM

Holy Communion at all Saturday & Sunday services

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