

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!

- 2018 Floral Chart p. 3
- Youth Happenings p. 6
- Women of Faith p. 4
- Work Day Scheduled p. 3

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 19TH

At 9:45 AM, Sunday, November 19th, all voting members of Christ the King are encouraged to attend a congregational meeting in the sanctuary. The meeting will include the election of three Council members (two-year terms), one member of Endowment (four-year term), and an entire 2018 Nominating Committee, plus the approval of the 2018 budget. Voting members must be confirmed and must have communed at CtK and made a contribution of record to CtK - given at least \$1 in an offering envelope with your name - in 2016 or 2017.

A packet of candidate biographies will be available for review by November 4th. Thanks to this year's Nominating Committee for gathering a slate of candidates: Kristin Bedford, Bob Bortak, Shirley Duffy, Mike Mitch, Mike Pereksta, and Marty Spitz.

ALL SAINTS OBSERVANCE NOVEMBER 4TH & 5TH

In commemoration of All Saints Day, all three services the weekend of November 4th & 5th will include time for worshipers to name loved ones who have joined the Church Triumphant in the past year and to light a candle in their memory.

WEAR CTK APPAREL CHRIST THE KING WEEKEND

On November 25th & 26th, everyone is encouraged to wear CtK apparel to worship to Shine the Light of Jesus on Christ the King Weekend. This is the final Sunday in the church year and will also be a Name Tag Weekend.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP & MEAL FOR COMMUNITY

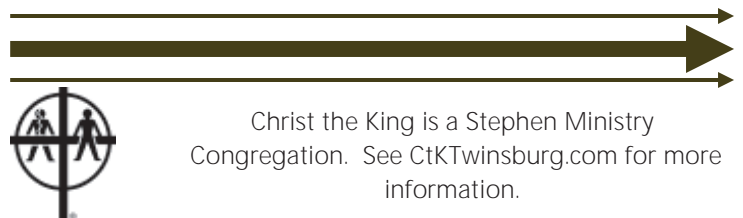


The Twinsburg Ministerial Association is sponsoring a Thanksgiving meal and worship service at Good Shepherd Christian Church at 9571 Shepard Road in Macedonia. The meal will be at 4 PM Sunday, November 19th with worship following at 5:30 PM.

CTK IS NOW AMAZON SMILE CHARITY!

Amazon Smile is a program through which CtK can receive a donation for most purchases made through Amazon. To participate, go to www.smile.amazon.com and select Christ the King Lutheran Church, Twinsburg OH. To find CtK in the charity list, search for our EIN: 34-1420917. After registering, you must place orders through smile.amazon.com instead of Amazon.com to qualify for donations to CtK. CtK will receive payment quarterly if at least \$5 has accrued from designated purchases.

Thanks to Rae Kendrick for suggesting that we pursue this fundraiser and to Dave Denes for his countless hours navigating multiple tedious webpages to complete this process.



SEE "THE JAZZ AGE" AT CLEVELAND ART MUSEUM

On Saturday, November 11th, Life After Fifty Fellowship - LAFF - (& Friends) will go to the Cleveland Museum of Art for the exhibit "The Jazz Age" including art and design of the 1920s and 1930s. This is the first major exhibition of this American style. Everyone is invited to attend!

Carpools will leave CtK at 11:00 AM, so please be at CtK by 10:45. We will have a buffet luncheon at the museum's café prior to viewing the exhibit.

Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$13 for seniors and must be ordered in advance because viewings are timed. We hope to get tickets for 1:30 PM. Audio equipment is also available. Friday, November 3rd, is the deadline to sign up on the kiosk and to give Sue Simmons your ticket money. Details are posted on the LAFF kiosk. Contact Sue with questions at 330-405-4441.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY RETURNS IN 2017!

Adopt-a-Family will be the cooperative November collection sponsored by Sunday school and the Outreach Ministry. CtK will be given a Summit County family to "adopt." The family may be living in a shelter, may have recently left a shelter, or may be living on their own, having left an abusive situation. They will not receive gifts from any other agency. Preferred gifts for each family member will be put on the Adopt-A-Family tree sometime in November. CtK members are encouraged to purchase Christmas gifts for the family members. The deadline for dropping off the gifts will be publicized when it is known. Please contact Joanne Ciarniello for more information.

OFFICE HOURS AROUND THANKSGIVING

The CtK office will close at noon November 22nd and will be closed November 23rd & 24th for Thanksgiving. Because of holiday guests, Wendy's office hours from November 22nd through December 5th will be flexible. Please call ahead if you need to see her.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...

ALL CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTMAS CAROLING

December 3-Time to be announced

Christ the King will join our homebound family with song and joy. Everyone is welcome to come along.

We'll enjoy hot chocolate and cookies when we return.

Min. of Discipleship & Youth



BLOOD DRIVE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 2 - 7 PM

It's time for a Red Cross blood drive at CtK from 2 to 7 PM on Tuesday, November 7th. Volunteers may sign up to help at the registration desk or in the canteen for one-hour shifts or longer. Training is available onsite.

Blood donors may go to redcrossblood.org/rapidpass on the day of the drive to save time at registration.

**Classes for All Ages**

0 OR 103 Years Old?

9:45 on Sunday Mornings

Staffed nursery available for those under 3 years old.

*3 years-Kindergarten - Room 102 - Amy Williams

*1, 2, 3 Grades - Room 105

Denise Tiarney & Denise Hall

*4, 5, 6 Grades - Room 101 - Katie Bach

*7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 Grades - Youth Room

Dave Schiopota

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

Understanding the Bible - *Simply Good News: Why the Gospel is News and What Makes it Good* by N.T.

Wright - Room 103 - Pam Garrud/TBD

Adult Forum on Current Topics - Fellowship Hall

John Humrichouser

Min. of Discipleship & Youth

DIRECTORY

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

ASKED TO SHARE

Hurricane season has been devastating to some areas of the country. The ELCA asked for monetary donations and our local Bishop asked for specific items for Puerto Rico.

You were asked to share and you responded.

In October you were asked to share by making a promise to Christ the King with your treasures.

Every Commitment Card submitted is a faith statement that you love God and will continue to support the ministries here at CtK.

Thank you for sharing when asked. All your promises add up to do miraculous things in the name of God.

Sandy Molnar, Financial Secretary

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS DIRECTED TO CTK

Christ the King received a gift of \$138 in October from Thrivent Financial.



The following members of Thrivent requested we receive this gift. Thank you for your support.

- Lisa Doty
- Jay Moellering

Eligible Thrivent members may direct Thrivent to send a portion of its charitable outreach funds by going to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. See your Thrivent representative for more information.



Flower Chart

2018 FLOWER CHART POSTED

The Flower Chart for 2018 chancel flower donations has been posted. Sign up to donate flowers for a **specific weekend**. Diane Procop, CtK's flower coordinator since 2003, will contact you to get details the Monday before your selected weekend.

If you order flowers from Floral Innovations, arrangements begin at \$30; special requests can cost more. Diane will pick up and deliver the flowers ordered from Floral Innovations. If you provide your own arrangement or plant, please deliver it before 5:15 PM on Saturday.

Thanks to Diane for her faithful service and to Thrivent Financial representative Bob Mandau for again donating this annual chart.

(At press time, December 2-3, 2017 was still open.)

WITH OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of *Cindy J. Gorfido*, who passed away September 28, 2017. Cindy was a member of CtK from 1990 to 2001 and from 2007 to the present. She is survived by her sons Chris (Diana) & Chad Gorfido, her longtime boyfriend Mike Adams, her mother, and three siblings. Pastor **Matthew conducted Cindy's funeral October 3. Memorials in Cindy's name may be made to Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center 16497 Snyder Road Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023.**



WORK DAY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 18TH

On Saturday, November 18th, a work day will be held from 9 AM until noon. The focus of this session will be to clean the education wing thoroughly since it was not finished at the September work day. Watch for a sign-up sheet or contact Property Ministry chair Tom Pituch to find out how you can help.

SEPTEMBER FINANCE REPORT	
<i>Complete financial information is posted on the kiosk outside the office.</i>	
Operating Income	\$18,556
Other designated income	\$3,746
Total Income	\$22,302
Operating Expenses	\$19,089
Other payments	\$8,760
Total Expenses	\$27,849
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$5,547)
Monthly Budget	\$20,489

DISPOSAL OF TVS NEEDED

Several TVs in the hallway in the education wing **need to be disposed of**. CtK's garbage hauler will charge to take them. If you can dispose of televisions in your garbage for free, or if you know some place to donate them, please take a set or two.

FOCUS ON OUTREACH, STEPHEN MINISTRY

November's Ministries of Focus are Outreach & Stephen Ministry. Watch for more information from these groups.



From the CTK Minister of Discipleship and Youth

WOMEN OF FAITH....

We have been hearing much in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Northeastern Ohio Synod (NEOS) about diversity in the church. Diversity is defined as a variety of something. In the broader church this can mean a variety of churches-those who speak Finnish or Hispanic or Korean or Chinese or German or English. Within each congregation it can mean many different types of people from many races and national origins. Diversity can mean many things depending the context.



We might think this is a relatively new idea, but we would be wrong. In my research for this article I came across something I did not know about diversity in the ELCA. I found an obituary for The Rev. Earlean Miller. Pastor Miller died November 10, 2014 at the age of 78. Nothing unusual here.

What caught my eye was "Pastor Miller was ordained in 1979 and was one of the first women to be ordained in the Lutheran denomination." (Obit. 2014) Further, she was the first African-American woman to be ordained into the Lutheran Church of America, one of the three largest Lutheran denominations that would later become the ELCA.

Pastor Miller served Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Greensboro, North Carolina from 1979 until 1984. She then moved to Minneapolis where she served from 1984 until 1986 at Calvary Lutheran Church. Between 1986 and 1989 Pastor Miller served St. Paul Lutheran Church in Chicago, and then Hope Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio until her retirement in 2000.

She was on the roster of Southern Ohio Synod until her death in 2014.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Jabre". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, connected style.

Deacon Patricia Jabre

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.

FIFTH ANNUAL BLESSING OF PETS HELD

On Sunday afternoon, October 1st, Pastor Matthew conducted Ctk's fifth annual Blessing of the Pets service in the back parking lot. He read some scripture and led prayers before blessing the entire assembly and then blessing individual animals.



Due to beautiful weather, a less-than-stellar Browns season, and publicity on our sign and in the Twinsburg *Bulletin*, Nardonina *News Leader*, Aurora *Advocate*, & Twinsburg *Tribune*, we had our largest turnout yet. Thirty-eight people, one cat, and 24 dogs participated. Of those attending, 19 of the people and 13 of the dogs had never participated. Eleven of the people are not members of Christ the King, and they brought eight of the dogs. Go to the 2017 Photo Albums page at ctktwinsburg.com to see pictures from the event.



GARAGE SALE WARRIORS UPDATE-

The Garage Sale Warriors program had another successful year due to the donations of the Ctk congregation and a generous grant from the Lestor Endowment Fund. Useful items were donated or purchased and transported to three agencies this year: Lutheran Men's Homeless Shelter in downtown Cleveland, Lutheran program Next Step serving at-risk teens, and Lutheran based Hands, Hearts, and Homes (H3O), which serves Cleveland and suburban clients.

The St Pauly shed has also become a valuable resource for men's clothing and shoes for the Homeless Shelter and linens for Next Step and H3O clients. If you have useful household items to donate, please contact me, Karen Reid, or leave them in the designated Giving Center bin in the narthex.

COLLECTIONS AT CTK

For August, Ctk received \$16 for paper, cardboard, & magazines put in the recycling bin. For September, the amount was \$14.10.

Clothing put in the St Pauly shed in September brought in \$154. Year-to-date, Ctk has received \$983, and the total received has been \$3858.

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service may provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will **once again feel the sun's warmth. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.** *Reprinted from Sundays and Seasons.*

Pastor Matthew will preside at Ctk's second Blue Christmas Evening Prayer worship service on Wednesday, December 20th, at 7 pm. The service will include the opportunity for anointing with oil, the laying on of hands, and candle lighting in memory of loved ones.



MARTIN LUTHER'S CORNER

In 1546 Emperor Charles V, the Catholic Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, tried to stamp out Lutheranism by waging war against Lutheran territories and cities. He did not succeed and was forced to sign *The Peace of Augsburg* in 1555. *The Peace of Augsburg* marked an important turning point in the history of Lutheranism. After a generation of struggle against Roman Catholic and imperial authorities, Lutherans gained legal recognition through the establishment of the principle *cuius regio, eius religio*, which meant that the ruler of a principality determined its religion. From then on, the Lutheran churches in these principalities were free to develop unhindered by political and military threats.

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



The National Youth Gathering Team, currently at six students and two adults, will hold these events:

- November 22, Wednesday 10am -?? Lessons 1-4. Lunch will be provided.
- February 10, Saturday 8pm-8am Sunday Rock-A-Thon
- February 21 & 28—Lent Suppers & Worship
- Chili Cook-off in 2018. Practice your chili recipes!

Look for more information about these projects, and help us get the word out. We need your prayers & participation, your help in making these programs successful, and your financial assistance. Talk to CtK's NYG team members who are registered to go to Houston next June for details: Gabrielle Doty, Adam & Elijah Groenke, Justin Hartland, Claire & Lydia Schiopota, Pastor Matthew, and Deacon Patti.

Min. of Discipleship and Youth

YOUR NATIONAL YOUTH
GATHERING TEAM IS
COLLECTING OLD TOWELS



COME EARLY SPRING WHEN YOUR CAR IS
CAKED WITH SALT,

**WATCH FOR THE NYG TEAM'S
ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CAR WASH!**



We will need lots of towels to get your car clean and dry. Please put them in the Giving Center bin.

Minister of Discipleship & Youth

CONFIRMATION CORNER...

November 12 class, 5pm, CtK,
Pastor Matthew *The Prophets*

December 10 class, 5pm, CtK,

Deacon Patti *Saul, David, Solomon; Jesus' Lineage.*

Sunday, January 14, 2pm—Monday, January 15, CtK, Confirmation Lock-in. We will be studying the Ministry of Christ. Supper will be provided. At 7pm all 7th - 12th grade youth are invited to come and enjoy the lock-in. Monday morning we will be prepping our February Youth Sunday worship.

Min. of Discipleship & Youth



The Sunday Church School (those 3-103) will
present a Christmas fantasy
*SLEEPOVER AT THE STABLE**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 9:45am

If you and your children want to be part of this production, come to Sunday Church School to find out more.

Min. of Discipleship & Youth

*by Douglas J Eboch, Meriwether Publishing Ltd., Contemporary Drama Service



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL SCHEDULE
November 12, 9:45 AM - All - practice songs, read through script

December 3, 9:45 AM - All - read through script, finish work on sets

December 9, 12 - 1 PM - All speakers

1 PM - Pizza lunch for all participants

1:30 - 3 PM Dress rehearsal FOR ALL!

Watch the *Weekend Messenger* for additional practice dates & times. Please talk to Katie Bach for more information.

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Preschool – Kindergarten – Ben Stayanchi

1st – 3rd Grade – Truman Goss, Jillian Harnak, Nathaniel Stayanchi, Alex Sudnik

4th – 6th Grade – Spencer Bach, Carlee Bedford, Jeremiah Groenke

7th – 12th Grade – Evan Harnak, Claire Schiopota, Lydia Schiopota

Adults – Katie Bach, Joanne Ciarniello, Rich Ciarniello, Wendy Gibbons, Julie Groenke, Pastor Matthew Groenke, David Schiopota, Denise Tearnery, Amy Williams

YOUTH CORNER

January 14-15, 2018 – Lock-in. Watch for information.

February 4, 2018—Tentative Youth Sunday.

Min. of Discipleship & Youth



November 2017

For the most up-to-date event schedule for Christ the King, go to www.cktwinsburg.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 OF JESUS AT WORSHIP AT CTK IN NOVEMBER 2017					
	Worship time	November 4 th & 5 th	November 11 th & 12 th	November 18 th & 19 th	Christ the King Weekend Wear CTK apparel! November 25 th & 26 th
Acolytes	5:30pm	Lydia Schiopota	Spencer Bach	Lydia Schiopota	Julia Noble
	8:30am	Carlee Bedford	Gabrielle Doty	Lauren Williams	Adam Groenke
	11:00am	Marisa Dobbins	Truman Goss	Elijah Groenke	Nathan Stayanchi
Worship Assistants, Lectors (L), Communion Assistants (C)	5:30pm	Katie Bach	Patti Jabre	Dave Denes	Patti Jabre
	8:30am	John McBride (L), Pam Garrud (C)	Mike Pereksta (L), Sally Morris (C)	Shirley Duffy (L, C)	Sally Morris (L, C)
	11:00am	Julie Groenke (L), Kristin Wedemeyer Goss (C)	Karen Reid (L), Denise Tieamey (C)	Kristin Wedemeyer Goss (L), Karen Reid (C)	Diane Procop (L), Jane Zaramba (C)
Lay Prayer Leaders	8:30am	Shirley Duffy	Pam Garrud	Wendy Jones	Crystal Stokes
	11:00am	Diane Procop	Karen Reid	Kristin Wedemeyer Goss	Jenn Lue
Ushers	5:30pm	Dave Denes	Ron Miller	Charlotte & Ron Miller	Lynne Bailey
	8:30am	Bob & Sonja Roe	Kristin Bedford, John McBride	Joanne & Rich Ciarniello	Jean & Mike Goss
	11:00am	Chris Driver, Ginger Pituch	Linda Bendler, Kate Hartland	Volunteers needed	Chuck Goodnight, Volunteer needed
Greeters	8:30am	John McBride & D. Urban	Sue Brunst	John McBride & D. Urban	Joanne & Rich Ciarniello
	11:00am	Denise Hall	Chanon Bortak	Kristin Wedemeyer Goss	Chris Spitz
Sound Booth	5:30pm	Claire Schiopota	Charlotte Miller	Claire Schiopota	Need volunteer
	8:30am	Kristin Bedford	Amy Bates, Marge Bowman	Gabrielle Doty	Lisa Doty
Altar Care	11:00am	Sue Simmons	Karen Scarpelli	Jane Zaramba	Kate Hartland
	By 9:30	kate Hartland	Kristin Bedford	Mary Ellen Robinette	Wendy Gibbons
Coffee Clean-up	12:15pm	Office Staff	Ginger & Tom Pituch	Sandy Molnar	Office Staff
December Messenger Assembly Team: Mike & Rita Mitch, Ginger Pituch, & D Urban - Tuesday, November 21 st , 2017 in Room 103					December Messenger Deadline: Please get articles to office@ctktwinsburg.com by Thursday, November 16 th
Thanks to Leatrice Alexander, Lynne Bailey, Ginger Pituch, & Mary Smith for assembling the November Messenger!					



PLAIN TALK FROM YOUR COUNCIL REPS

The congregation of CTK has an important meeting this month- the fall congregational meeting at which we vote for council reps and determine the church's 2018 budget. In past years, when setting **the budget, we included what we called the "faith factor"**- an amount in addition to money the congregation pledged and gave unpledged on a regular basis. We have come to find out, after all **these years, that a huge portion of our "faith factor"** was provided by our own in-house saint, Jeanette Cooper. Now that Jeanette has passed away, her generosity continues to bless our congregation. In her will, she left us over 1.5 million dollars. But she was worried we would completely rely on her gift and not give our own gifts to further the mission of the church. We are happy to report that we have not seen her worry come true. However, like many churches in America, we have seen declining membership. How do we deal with this?

Our goal is to bring more people into the family of God. That is unlikely to happen at CTK without the involvement of our members and support of services and programs offered to members. Does it make sense to you to cut staff, services, and programs when we are trying to attract and retain members?

Well, God bless Jeanette Cooper. Although she spent hours with our church treasurer discussing how she would prefer the proceeds to be spent, in her wisdom, she chose NOT to include any such restrictions in her will. You may request a copy of the will and see for yourself.

So when you vote for the 2018 budget, remember that we have the ability to lean on the crutch which God through Jeanette has handed us, NOT to give up walking altogether, but to help us continue to move forward and build the family of God, at CTK. Please pray about this.

Karen Reid

David Denes

John Humrichouser

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 19TH

At 9:45 AM, Sunday, November 19th, all voting members of Christ the King are encouraged to attend the congregational meeting in the sanctuary. See page 1 for meeting details.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING, ANYONE?

Contact the office if you would like to charge of decorating Ctk for Advent & Christmas or are willing to help with the task. Advent begins the weekend of December 2nd & 3rd, and the Christmas program is Sunday, December 10th.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES SCHEDULED

Wednesday, December 20: Blue Christmas: 7:00pm
 Sunday, December 24: 9:30am, no Sunday School
 Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve candlelight worship: 7pm & 9pm,
 Monday, December 25 Christmas Day: 10am
 Sunday, December 31: 9:30am, no Sunday School
 Saturday worship remains at 5:30 December 23 & 30.

Special music will be welcome at these services. Please see Music Director Kevin Basom if you have seasonal music to present. Volunteers will be needed to assist with these services, too. Watch the *Weekend Messenger* and bulletin boards to participate.

Shining the Light of Jesus...

- ◆ Thanks to Rob Doty for installing the flat-screen TVs & DVD players in the classrooms and to John Gibbons for helping with Wi-Fi access.
- ◆ Thanks for flashlights, batteries, lanterns, tarps, canned foods, water, and cash for people in Puerto Rico.
- ◆ Thanks to Kristin Wedemeyer Goss and Koren & Truman for delivering food & supplies to the NEOS office to be shipped to Hurricane Maria victims in Puerto Rico .
- ◆ Thanks to Janet Schiopota for the new container for the Salvation Army Bed & Bread collection & a fundraising "thermometer."
- ◆ Thanks to Lisa Doty for her ongoing gardening to beautify the grounds of Ctk & to Chuck Goodnight for his weekly lawn mowing at Ctk.
- ◆ Thanks to the September 30th work day helpers: Joanne & Rich Ciarniello, Lisa & Rob Doty, Wendy Gibbons, Pastor Matthew Groenke, John Humrichouser, Patti Jabre, Sandy Molnar, Ginger & Tom Pituch, Karen Reid, Jane Zarembo.
- ◆ Thanks to Joanne & Rich Ciarniello for delivering a box and two Giving Center bins filled with food and toiletries to The Emergency Assistance Center serving Northern Summit County.
- ◆ Thanks to Rob Doty & Tom Pituch for installing the Ctk overlay on the basketball backboard.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCTOBER 8, 2017

Complete Council minutes are posted on the Council kiosk.

Pastor Matthew's Report

He is concerned about the decline in worship attendance and asked council to pray about it.

He administers Helping Hands fund for members in need.

He has received gift cards for stranded travelers.

Ministry Reports:

Endowment Committee

Dave Denes will inquire about a fall grant meeting since there appear to be funds not granted this year.

Finance Report

Council reviewed the proposed 2018 budget. Several changes were made, and the amended budget will be returned to Finance.

Council reviewed year-to-date contributions by fifty-two unnamed giving units:

Pledged to date:.....\$119,039

Given to date:.....\$137,423

Contributions exceeding pledged amount\$18,384

Building the Church

Electronic outdoor sign

To date, donations toward the purchase of the sign are approximately 80% of the congregation's portion. Having exceeded the agreed-upon congregation contribution of two-thirds, John Humrichouser ordered the sign in September.

Direct mail postcards

Depending on funds remaining from April grant, direct mail postcards will still be mailed; special postcards will be mailed with Christmas worship services and times.

Newspaper ads

Newspaper ads are not running weekly. Depending on grant funds remaining, Christmas worship ads will be run in the *Twinsburg Bulletin*

Old Business

Endowment ministry Bylaws update

Dave D. provided a draft Endowment Ministry Bylaws. He will provide council with a comparison of the draft with bylaws approved by the congregation in April 2015 and will work on revisions to that draft.

Eagle Scout Project

David Stauffer's fire pit project has been approved by Twinsburg Fire Marshal, and a property location selected. He will hold fundraisers and then begin work.

New Business

Book Exchange

Shirley Duffey and Mary Ellen Robinette suggested having a book exchange to leave books after you have read them and/or pick up a book you haven't read.

The project was approved,

Respectfully submitted: David F. Denes, Council Secretary

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FOR SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

Complete Council minutes are posted on the Council kiosk.

Deacon Patti's Report

As a fundraiser for the 2018 National Youth Gathering, Council approved the NYG youth to hold 'short notice' carwashes on Sundays in 2018.

Ongoing Ctk Events
MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

All men 18 and older are invited to meet for food and fellowship at 8 AM the first Saturday of the month, November 4th, at a restaurant to be named since Bob Evans has closed. See Tom Pituch for details.

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Ctk Tuesday Women's Bible Study meets weekly at 10 AM in Room 105. Wendy Gibbons leads the hour-long sessions, which include Bible study, fellowship, discussion, and prayer. All women are invited to attend weekly or to drop in when their schedules permit. The group takes a collection to support the Cleveland YWCA's Nurturing Independence and Aspiration initiative to assist youth aging out of foster care.

The study through November, from *Gather* magazine, is *The Apostles' Creed* by Julia Seymour. She writes, "...creeds are more than just words. They are vessels for carrying one another through doubt, joy and sorrow." November's topic is "We Believe in the Holy Spirit."

Bibles and copies of the study are available at class. To subscribe to *Gather* call 844-409-0576; a year's subscription (10 issues) is \$20. See Wendy with questions.

FAITH WEDNESDAYS

Pastor Matthew leads a weekly Faith Wednesday class at noon in the fellowship hall. There is time to eat your brown bag lunch in the class. He is teaching the group about Old Testament prophets, having already discussed Elisha, Elijah, Habakkuk, Nahum, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah.

(Continued from page 10)

Council approved a list of 2017 – 2018 servant projects, including yet-to-be-determined projects:

- November/December Adopt-a-Family
- January 2018Haven of Rest
- FebruaryTEAC - collection of holiday food, Easter basket fillers
- March – May.....TBD

Five TVs / DVDs purchased with a Lestor Endowment grant have been mounted in three classrooms and room 105, mobile unit is for teen room, fellowship hall.

Pastor Matthew's Report

He is concerned about declining worship attendance, especially Sunday 8:30am service. Attendance everywhere is dropping off. NEOS Bishop Abraham Allende has officiated at closure services for eleven congregations.

There is some very good news: the Northeastern Ohio Synod benevolence has increased by 25% .

The Twinsburg Ministerial Association will reestablish a travelers' aid fund.

Worship and Music Report

Recommended that Christian music CDs be played for 15 minutes before each service; possibly show Christian videos during communion.

Finance Report

Some members are concerned about the practice of listing unpaid bills. This will be stopped in all church communications; weekly and monthly giving totals will remain.

A new Endowment Ministry bylaw written by its members will be reviewed by Council before being approved by the congregation.

Building the Church

Electronic outdoor sign

To date, donations are approximately 80% of the congregation's portion. A motion was approved to order the sign.

Direct mail postcards

Postcards continue to be mailed and will be mailed targeting special worship and events.

Newspaper ads

Ads continue to run in the *Twinsburg Bulletin*, *Nordonia News Leader*, and *Aurora Advocate*. Future ads will target special worship and events.

Sunday worship

In light of declining attendance at 8:30am service, Rob asked council to consider having a single, year-round Sunday worship service at 9:30am (SCS at 10:30am). A decision will be made prior to January 2018.

Old Business

Employee Handbook

Dave Schiopota provided council with the final draft of the handbook which council approved.

Eagle Scout Project

David Stauffer, member of Twinsburg First Congregational UCC, will commence planning and construction of a fire pit at CtK. Lisa Doty will assist on design and location near the tree line at the back of the property. Pastor Matthew will receive authorization from the Twinsburg Fire Marshal.

Signage for the basketball backboard

John to coordinate with Tom Pituch to have the full-sized overlay placed on the backboard.

New Business

Building use request

Bill and Roberta Davis requested use of the Fellowship Hall for the Senior Outreach Fellowship Team's annual Christmas party, Wednesday, December 20, 9:00am to 3:00pm. The date and time conflict with Pastor Matthew's Wednesday Bible study; however, the study group can meet in room 105 on that day. The facility use was approved.

Girl Scout Gold Award

Gabrielle Doty is working for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Her service project will be the augmentation of the CtK banner collection. She proposed her plan at a Chancel Care meeting in August; ministry leaders will work with her. Gabrielle's Gold Award project proposal was approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted: David F. Denes, Council Secretary



Zoe Kirchens	11/1
Cael Wells	11/2
Carla Erbe	11/3
Clayton Ream	11/5
Kristin Bedford	11/6
Carrie Beveridge	11/7
Julie Groenke	11/8
Pastor Matthew Groenke	11/9
Leah Nedelman	11/9
Laurel Michalek	11/11
Chris Driver	11/12
Chris Heatherman	11/14
Stephanie Hartland	11/15
Mike Mitch	11/16
Eleanor Serrin	11/19
Mike Lue	11/23
Matthew Oravetz	11/25
Mia Serrin	11/28
Steve Mitch	11/30



Mike & Janet Nezbeda	11/1
Doug & Laura Corbin	11/12
Ron & Charlotte Miller	11/23



FALL BACK NOVEMBER 5TH

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 5th, at 2 AM. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed November 4th!

OCT. 32 AND BEYOND

This is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. For the past year it has been “All Reformation All the Time!” Everything Martin Luther. The really observant have branched out to Philipp Melancthon and Johannes Bugenhagen. True believers will dress their children up as Martin and Katie for Halloween, or if they tend toward the fear factor, Johann Tetzel.

Bring in the extra brass. Fire up the choir. Sing the fight song (“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”). Dress in red. Binge-watch every Luther film and documentary. (I particularly liked Joseph Fiennes as the young, hot Luther.) This is our year!

Oct. 32.

Now what?

When I am out and about the church, I like to ask people what it means to be Lutheran—what is distinctive about the Lutheran movement. Grace is almost always mentioned, along with justification. Some will say we are *ecclesia semper reformanda*—the church always being reformed. Others point to our work for disaster relief, ELCA World Hunger, advocacy and other work for justice. Most of this is part of the Lutheran experience, but not unique to us. What then, did Luther uncover and what relevance does it have now?

Interestingly, Luther did not give his greatest emphasis to reform or to reforming the church. *Semper reformanda*—always reforming—was actually coined in 1947 by Karl Barth, a Reformed theologian. Liberation in Christ through faith was the freedom that transformed Luther. This freedom is what he wrote about most frequently and most passionately. The Freedom of a Christian, a short and accessible treatise, is probably most familiar. I commend it to you. In this brief work and in others, Luther makes the case that liberation in Christ is both a freedom **from** and a freedom **for**.

Freedom **from** is liberation from all spiritual bondage. We are set free from being trapped in ourselves, consumed by ourselves, from the belief or terror that we can and must save ourselves, that our **self** is the center of the universe. Life in Christ is not an inward-dwelling experience. We are free to get over ourselves. Freedom **from** is liberation from the law’s accusation and judgment. We are liberated from terror and despair, which are soul-crushing. We are liberated from the incessant and impossible task of measuring up. Freedom **from** liberates us from estrangement from God and God’s creatures. Caught in sin and standing before a God who demands righteousness, when we believe we are responsible for our salvation, breeds resentment toward God and the objectification of others.

Freedom **for** means that in Christ we are set free for loving and serving others. Freedom is a relationship, not a new set of activities or the demands of a new law.

Freedom **for** means that in Christ we are set free for loving and serving others. Freedom is a relationship, not a new set of activities or the demands of a new law.

Luther put it this way: “Faith, however, is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God. It kills the old Adam and makes us altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers; and it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O, it is a living, busy, active mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly. ... And this is the work which the Holy Spirit performs in faith. Because of it, without compulsion, a person is ready to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, out of love and praise to God who has shown them this grace” (*Luther’s Works*, 35:370-1).

No longer is God transactional and others a means to an end. This freedom is scandalous because it is based on unconditional grace. It is a gift. Think about it—do we feel the burden being lifted? Think about it—do we feel the complete love of God? Think about it—do we now see others through God’s eyes, free and beloved children?

On Reformation Sunday we will hear Jesus’ promise: “You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:32).

On Oct. 32 and beyond let us live in that freedom.

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

TAX PLANNING TIPS CONCERNING *REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS*

For those of you that are subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your retirement accounts (IRAs etc.), there is a special tax rule that allows you to “reduce” the taxable RMD by having a portion of your RMD sent directly to a qualified charity, such as Christ the King. RMDs are required once the account owner reaches age 70 and ½ years old.

The special rule is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). You must be at least 70 and ½ to use this special rule. How it works ... you contact the trustee where your IRA or other tax favored account is and ask them to send the portion of the RMD you specify directly to the charity you want the funds to go to. Using an example of a \$10,000 RMD, normally you will have to take a distribution of this \$10,000 and that amount is included on your tax return and may be subject to ordinary income tax. If you instead direct a portion of the RMD, say \$2,500, to Christ the King for example, your RMD is still \$10,000, but you will only include \$7,500 on your tax return. You can do this in any frequency, such as monthly, annually etc. This is a good way to get back a tax deduction you may have “lost” if you no longer itemize your deductions on your tax return.

If you have any questions, you can contact Mike Pereksta, CTK Treasurer, or your financial advisor.

Submitted by CTK Treasurer Mike Pereksta



FREED IN CHRIST TO SERVE THE NEIGHBOR: 500 YEARS OF LUTHERANS IN ACTION

By Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

On Jan. 21, 2017, Rafael Malpica Padilla, executive director of ELCA Global Mission, donned his clerical collar and set out to join the Women’s March in downtown Chicago. On the way he encountered some women holding protest signs—including one that read: “Keep your rosaries out of my ovaries.”

“I asked the women if they were going to the march,” Malpica Padilla recalled, “and reluctantly they engaged me.” Eyeing his collar skeptically, they answered: Yes, they were marching. When he told them he was marching too, they replied with surprise and curiosity: “What kind of priest are you?”

The question “*What kind of priest are you?*” is about theological identity; it applies not only to priests, but to the priesthood of all believers—the church.

What kind of people of faith are we? For Lutherans, shaped by Martin Luther’s insight that all of life is part of our calling from God, the question of theological identity is not only about the interior faith of our hearts and minds, nor is it only a description of how we live within church walls. It’s also about the life of faith we live out in the world. This has always been the essence of Lutheran Christianity, Malpica Padilla argued, pointing to the “simple question” Luther posed in a 1519 sermon: “How do we stand before God, and how do we stand before neighbor?”

“At the heart of our Lutheran identity is a relationship with God—justification by faith,” Malpica Padilla said. Justification is a free gift of God’s grace apart from human works. But if justification is nothing less than the total restoration of our personal relationship with God, it is also something more: a transformation of our relationships with others.

For Lutherans, justification is “not only freedom *from*” sin and brokenness, it is “also freedom *for*” a purpose, he added.

Where Luther wrote that sin is being curved in on the self, “justification means striving toward the other,” Malpica Padilla said. “It is lifting your chin up so you can see the other—and not just the other who looks like you, but especially the other who is different from you.”

Love of God and neighbor, for Luther and for Lutherans today, is a theological identity that guides our whole lives. As Lutherans in the ELCA and around the world reflect on the past 500 years, it’s worth considering how the Reformation roots of social action continue to guide Lutheran identity and calling—exploring how we stand not only before God, but also before our neighbors. What kind of Christians are we today? And what kind of church will we become?



Acrylic on canvas artwork by Jen Norton illustrating the corporal and spiritual works of mercy leading up to the kingdom of heaven.

(Continued from page 13)

Reformation roots:

A holy calling and a Common Chest

In the 2016 collection *The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming the Social-Economic Dimension of the Reformation*, Cynthia Moe-Lobeda wrote that Luther never wavered from his belief that “works do not cause salvation.” Still, “Luther also insisted that works are a vital part of life for people who are justified by Christ,” particularly “works that embody ‘love to our neighbor,’ ” she said.

Moe-Lobeda found that “for Luther, that norm of neighbor-love pertains to every aspect of life for the Christian.”

Ryan Cumming, program director for hunger education with ELCA World Hunger, notes that Luther’s opposition to indulgences stemmed in part from the fact that their sale created “opulence built on the backs of people who could barely afford to feed themselves.” This led Luther to write in his 95 theses that giving to the poor was “a better work” than purchasing indulgences, and that to buy an indulgence rather than help a neighbor in need was to purchase “the indignation of God.”

In the Large Catechism, Luther argued that the commandment against murder applies both to the taking of life and the failure to preserve it: “If you see anyone who is suffering from hunger and do not feed her, you have let her starve.”

Reflecting on the commandment against stealing, Luther also boldly critiqued the “free public market” of his day: “The poor are defrauded every day, and new burdens and higher prices are imposed.” Luther urged Christians instead “to promote and further our neighbors’ interests, and when they suffer any want, we are to help, share, and lend to both friends and foes.”

As a way for the government to respond to the needs of the vulnerable, Luther and others in Wittenberg established a “Common Chest” in 1522. The chest offered financial support for orphans and poor children, dowry support for poor women, interest-free loans, refinancing for high-interest loans, education or vocational training for poor children, and vocational retraining for adults. Health care was added later, as the Common Chest funded the services of a town physician and paid the cost of hospital care and other treatments.

The Wittenberg Common Chest order spread to other cities and towns and became a model for how church and state could work together for the sake of all neighbors.

Hand in hand:

ELCA action, accompaniment and advocacy

The Reformation legacy of social action, rooted in a theological identity of freedom in Christ to serve the neighbor, can also be glimpsed in the history of Lutherans in North America, who built not only churches but also schools, hospitals and other social agencies.

The ELCA’s first social statement was “The Church in Society: a Lutheran Perspective,” adopted in 1991. It reads in part: “In faithfulness to its calling, this church is committed to defend human dignity, to stand with poor and powerless people, to advocate justice, to work for peace, and to care for the earth in the processes and structures of contemporary society.”

“This is Lutheran theology,” Malpica Padilla said. “We are free to see and engage the other, and mission cannot happen unless we see the face of God in the other.”

This theological orientation provides the foundation for accompaniment and advocacy, two related approaches to ELCA social action. “The other is not the object of my action. It is not ministry *to*, but ministry *with* and *among* the neighbor,” he said. “When we engage in social activity, it’s not ‘for them,’ but because, in working together, we are dismantling systems that prevent humanity from living in the full abundance promised by Jesus: life in relationship with God and with one another.”

Malpica Padilla knows that many Christians, especially in a divided and partisan culture, are reluctant to think of faith as “political.” This, he urged, should not prevent us from recognizing that “it is the work of Christians to advocate for the poor and marginalized.”

Citing Luke’s Gospel, which consistently frames Jesus’ mission as a reversal of an unjust social order, he added, “I cannot allow political ideology to claim for itself what belongs to the gospel. I am a committed follower of Jesus Christ; I do [what I do] because of the gospel.”

Faith in action:

World Hunger

Cumming describes his work with ELCA World Hunger as grounded in the love of neighbor. “Hunger is a system of broken relationships,” he said. “We know there is enough to feed people, but some are excluded and don’t have access to create and purchase food.” When we “seek out the image of God in our neighbors [and] see one another as revelations of God among us,” he said, we realize that “need doesn’t just exist ‘over there,’ in that other person, but in relationships with others.”

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

World Hunger funds an average of 250 grants each year to 60 countries through companion synods and partners. International grants support projects like eco-friendly farming, responses to malaria and HIV and AIDS, support for those affected by domestic violence or incarceration, and advocacy for human rights, including gender equity.

Cumming also views this work as rooted in a Lutheran understanding of vocation. “God has graced each person with gifts to share in the community, but if we can’t [due to need], the community suffers, and we suffer.”

Like Luther’s Common Chest, World Hunger supports partners in “helping people find ways to use their own talents and skills to provide for themselves and participate in the community,” Cumming said.

Faith in action:

Global Church Sponsorship

Despite growing up as the son of two pastors and attending an ELCA college, Andrew Steele, director for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, didn’t feel a strong connection to church as a young adult—until he spent a year in South Africa through the ELCA’s Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program. “There, church was an integral part of life. ... I learned so much about spirituality and public church,” he said.

Global Church Sponsorship supports long-term missionaries; the YAGM program; ministry projects by global partners, such as new church buildings and training workshops; and an international women leaders’ initiative that provides scholarships to women for ELCA seminaries and undergraduate programs.

The ELCA’s accompaniment model for global mission took getting used to, Steele admitted: “At first, you want to build and do things; then your job is to sit there and watch the water boil, and you think, ‘What am I doing here?’ ”

Steele’s epiphany came after he joined local farmers in planting a field of corn. After a long day’s labor, Steele was proud of his efforts—until he learned that guinea fowl had eaten all the corn and the planting would have to be done again. Sharing the experience with his South African neighbors, Steele realized he “wasn’t there to plant the corn. We were there to be humans together ... to live in community.”

Faith in action:

Domestic Mission

When Stephen Bouman, director of ELCA Domestic Mission, considers a Lutheran approach to social action, he looks to “the powerful public nature of the sacraments.”

“Luther always called us to the world,” he said. “When we baptize a child, it’s baptismal ministry to follow her into the world ... we struggle for the world of that child.” Likewise, sharing communion also means considering those who need to eat, “extending the eucharist into the world,” he added.

Since 2009, Domestic Mission has been committed to making sure that at least 50 percent of new-start congregations serve immigrants, places of deep poverty or communities of color. In 2016 that number hit 57 percent. “We are slowly becoming a church that is changing [to reflect] what America is becoming,” Bouman said.

This strategy, far from a church dictated by culture, represents for Bouman a reclaiming of the roots of the Reformation—and Christianity itself.

2017:

The church at a crossroads

Five hundred years after the Reformation, the ELCA faces “a Lutheran crossroads” that will determine the future of the church, Malpica Padilla said. But for many Christians in a North American context, he said, Jesus is regarded less as the source of our love for neighbor and more as a “personal spiritual trainer—that’s how we have reduced Jesus, so that the trainer works on us one hour a week.”

The disconnect between self and neighbor, church and world, faith and action, means “we have domesticated Luther, [making him] hostage to cultural and institutional life,” he warned. “[Yet] our Lutheran identity pushes us into the world.”

If Lutherans reclaim the love of neighbor that was so central to the teachings of Jesus and Luther, Malpica Padilla believes “the core identity of our theology” will show our neighbors, including the “spiritual but not religious,” that “Lutheran identity means something.”

On his way to the march that January day, when he was asked “What kind of priest *are* you?” Malpica Padilla responded by telling the women that he was a Lutheran pastor. As he shared with them the theological identity that prompted him to march, the women inquired: “Where is your church? We’d like to go.”

Faith in action, Malpica Padilla concluded, is not only identity and calling—it is also evangelism.

Reprinted from *Living Lutheran* with permission.

Meghan Johnson Aelabouni is an ELCA pastor studying full-time for her doctorate. She and her family live in Fort Collins, Colo.



NOVEMBER MESSENGER 2017

www.CtKTwinsburg.com

*Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 19th, 9:45
AM in sanctuary*



Meeting Agenda

- ◆ *Elect Three 2-Year-Term Council Members*
- ◆ *Elect One 4-Year-Term Endowment Committee Member*
- ◆ *Elect 2018 Nominating Committee for 1-Year Term*
 - ◆ *Approve 2018 Budget*

Packet of candidates' biographies will be available for review by November 4th.

*Christ the King Weekend
November 25th & 26th*



Wear your CtK apparel & name tag to worship!

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

Saturday Come-As-You-Are Worship 5:30 PM

Sunday Worship and Schedule:

Contemporary Worship 8:30 AM

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Traditional Worship 11:00 AM

Holy Communion at all Saturday & Sunday services

Cover this box with the mailing label!

Dated Material - NOVEMBER 2017
Please Rush!



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