

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!

- LAFF to Theater p. 5
- Pastor's Page p. 3
- Youth Rockathon p. 2
- 2018 Ministry Liaisons p. 9

LENT BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

Lent is the season of repentance and reflection leading up to Easter that begins on Ash Wednesday, which is February 14th this year. We will join Christians around the world by having a cross of ashes drawn on our foreheads to symbolize our human mortality and frailty. Pastor Matthew will lead the 7 PM Ash Wednesday worship service which includes the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. *You may stop by the church from 10 AM through 4 PM that day to receive ashes from the pastoral staff if you are unable to attend evening worship.*

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP, CANTATA PRACTICE

On Wednesdays from February 21st through March 21st, CtK will hold a brief Lenten worship service at 7 PM. The theme of the services is what God wants us to give up, and services will include *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy. A single usher is needed for each service; sign up on the bulletin board to help.

Easter cantata rehearsal for all interested singers will follow each Midweek Lenten Worship service beginning on Ash Wednesday. Talk to Kevin Basom for more information about the cantata.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION SET

The CtK Annual meeting will be at 9:45 AM Sunday, February 25th, in the sanctuary. Ministry leaders are asked to submit their 2017 ministry reports to Wendy in the office by Sunday, February 4th. A volunteer is needed to assemble the report booklets the week of February 12th so they will be available for review by the weekend of February 17th & 18th.

YOUTH SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 4 - 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Please join our youth as they conduct both worship services. There is no better way to support our youth than to be there for them! There will be a bake sale after each service to support the NYG team!

Min. of Discipleship & Youth



SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPERS DURING LENT

Join us at 6 PM on Wednesdays from February 14th through March 21st for soup & sandwiches. If you will be dining, please consider signing up to bring a soup, sandwiches, or beverages to some meals.



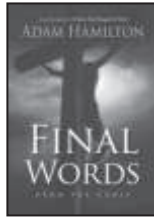
CtK youth will set up, serve, and clean up each meal. On Ash Wednesday, February 14th, the Confirmation Youth are the kitchen helpers; on subsequent weeks, the youth who are going to the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston will work in the kitchen. The February 14th free will offering will defray the cost of Confirmation Camp, and the other weeks' offerings will help fund the NYG team's Houston trip.



Christ the King is a Stephen Ministry Congregation. See CtKTwinsburg.com for more information.

FAITH WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

From February 14th to March 21st, Pastor Matthew will lead a noon Faith Wednesday Lenten study of Adam Hamilton's *Final Words from the Cross*, a follow-up to *24 Hours That Changed the World*. "Each chapter begins with the biblical account followed by a first-person story as might have been told from the viewpoint of one of the characters at the cross."



There is a DVD introduction to each lesson. If you asked CtK to order a book for you, place \$9 in your giving envelope and designate *Faith Wednesday*.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE: What is it? The mission of the Congregational Care Ministry is to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the members of Christ the King.

This group of fine ladies is usually behind the scenes providing for the needs of our members. During 2017 they have sent out a total of over 350 wedding anniversary, get-well, sympathy, congratulatory, and baptismal anniversary cards.

They arrange for meals to those who need a little extra help during their recovery process or emotional time. They provide flowers for new members, confirmands, and CtK members' funerals. Arrange and set up various receptions during the year such as confirmation, high school graduation and we hope in the future to return to a First Communion reception. Also grocery, cleaning and paper products shopping as needed.

On the spiritual side one of our members handles the Prayer Chain. This group also looks at worship attendance and reaches out to members that are not as active as they once were. We hope to do more of this in 2018.

Committee members give quite a bit of "in-kind" donations for our budget is small but our hearts are big. If you would like to join this special group please contact either Wendy in the office or myself.

I want to especially thank our outgoing Chairwoman Chris Spitz for her untiring devotion to this committee for the past 11 years. Special recognition is given to the following committee members for their continued service, past and present, in taking care of this congregation: Lynne Bailey, Denise Cuper, Wendy Gibbons, Ginger Pituch and Louise Susnik.

Sincerely, MJ Neel, Chairwoman

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING TEAM WILL
BE ROCKING THEMSELVES TO HOUSTON



8PM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10 to
8AM SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Support the "Houston Rockers" - Gabrielle Doty, Adam Groenke, Elijah Groenke, Justin Hartland, Lydia Schiopota, Claire Schiopota - as they rock in rocking chairs for 12 hours!

Suggested support levels:

LEVEL	HOURLY RATE	TOTAL
Full-tilt	\$5.00	\$60.00
Glider	\$2.50	\$30.00
Rocker	\$1.00	\$12.00
Free Rockin' You name it!		\$---

Make all checks payable to CtK & give to Deacon Patti or Wendy in the office with completed form from glass table in narthex. Min. Discipleship & Youth

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Lenten devotionals for children, teens, adults, & families are on the display rack near the door to the mailbox hallway. Choose a publication to suit your devotional needs. Lent begins February 14th.

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*
wjgibbons@CtKTwinsburg.com x102

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

FEBRUARY 2018

*Thank
You*



On behalf of my family, I would like to thank the people of Christ the King for the generous Christmas bonus. Also, the countless prayers that have been offered to God on behalf of my father are examples of this faith community taking to heart the call to bear **each other's burdens. My heart is full of gratitude and thankfulness** as such compassion and grace have been shown by so many. One of the gifts that we can give each other in the body of Christ is to hold each other

in prayer, and God rejoices when the call to prayer is answered because our relationship with God is strengthened, which leads to acts of love for the world.

Yes, the season of Lent is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday is on February 14th this year, so mark your calendars for the Lenten Wednesday schedule of 6:00 PM soup & sandwich suppers, and 7:00 PM worship with Holden Evening Prayer. This year, my Lenten Wednesday homily series will focus on things that God in Christ calls us to give up such as: expectations, superiority, enemies, our lives, and popularity. I look forward to our time together in worship, and food and fellowship.



In closing, I would like to share one of Martin Luther's prayers. ***"Dear Father in heaven, for the sake of your dear Son Jesus Christ grant us your Holy Spirit, that we may be true learners of Christ, and therefore acquire a heart with a never-ceasing fountain of love. Amen."***

Living in God's amazing grace,

Pastor Matthew Groenke

From the CTK Minister of Discipleship and Youth

WOMEN OF FAITH....

Before she was called as a missionary, service was a part of her life. At a young age she helped her mother raise younger siblings after her father died, and she launched Bible studies for small groups among factory workers in the town. One day she clearly heard God say "Go Ye," and Amy Carmichael became a missionary for the rest of her life.



On March 3, 1893 she left for Japan and would spend the remaining 58 years of her life as a missionary. First in Japan, then Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), and finally she sailed to India in 1895, never to return home to England.

She was challenged, even frustrated, by the work. The Indian caste system was impenetrable, the language daunting, and the nominal Christianity from the great conversion of the early 18th century exasperating. She was relentless traveling to small villages and preaching the Gospel. She was disdainful of many missionaries that couched Christianity in tantalizing activities.

A life changing event happened in 1901 when she met Preena, a seven-year-old abandoned to the local temple as a devotion to the gods. Temple girls, known as devadasis, lived a life of prostitution within the temple. Within three months Amy became known as ammal, meaning mother to four more orphans. By 1916 her dilapidated bungalow grew into the Dohnavur Fellowship with 12 nurseries, dozens of infants, toddlers, and young children. In 1918 the Fellowship rescued its first boy and by 1926 between 79-80 boys had been rescued.

Unlike other missionaries, Amy insisted in blending in by wearing saris and doing work other missionaries considered beneath them. She insisted on prayer to find the funds to run the orphanage and not fundraising, trusting that God would know what was needed. She encouraged other young missionaries to join her in the work and always told the straight truth about missionary life and its hardships.



She wrote an unembellished book called *Things as They Are* and was asked to revise it, citing it as too negative and discouraging. She would not change it, and when it was published the public was disappointed as they wanted to read success stories of hope not the hard truth.

On October 24, 1931 she fell and was severely injured, and Amy was confined to her bed for the remaining 20 years of her life. But God was not done with her yet! Forced to change from an active to an inactive life, she wrote. Always eager to avoid the limelight she was forced now to tell her story. *Gold Cord* is an account of the establishment of the Dohnavur Fellowship. She went on to write 13 more books from her bed, for a total of 35 books over her lifetime. Her avoidance of the limelight also resulted in only a few rare photos of her as well.

The Dohnavur Fellowship thrives today and is a living testament to Amy Carmichael's unwavering commitment to God and his people. Amy saw Jesus when she looked onto the face of each and every person she encountered.

Patricia Jabre

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. Beginning in 2017, which was the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, I have hoped to bring to light the context and life of women without whom the church would be a different entity.

GIFT OF LOVE

At Valentine's Day we remember that someone near and dear to our heart with a special card and token of our love.



You have already received a gift. A very special gift. God's love and His son Jesus. No special gift-wrapped package was necessary.

Knowing who you love and that you are loved in return evokes many responses. One of them is to do whatever we can to show love in return with our actions.



You being present at worship, fulfilling your promise of support, and being involved in church ministries convey to God that you love Him.

It is a sweet surrender to love and know that we are blessed by God.

Sandy Molnar, Financial Secretary

FEBRUARY SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL AND OUTREACH MINISTRY COLLECTION
The Emergency Assistance Center (TEAC) -
Holiday Items:

Food that helps make an Easter dinner –boxed mashed or Au Gratin potatoes, green beans, brownie mix.

Place in TEAC bin in the Giving Center in the lobby.

If you want to donate a turkey or ham please place money (they cost \$12.50) in an envelope and give to Wendy or Patti. Make checks out to The Emergency Assistance Center.

TEAC is always in need of hygiene items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, etc.

Min of Discipleship & Youth and Outreach Ministry



Save the Date...
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
 June 10 -15, 2018
 Watch for more information.

Min. of Discipleship and Youth

For by GRACE you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

EPHESIANS 2:8

LAFF TO DINNER & THEATER IN FEBRUARY

On Saturday evening, February 24th, LAFF (Life After Fifty Fellowship) will attend the Hudson Players' performance of *Nunsense*. An optional



dinner beforehand will be at Hudson's Restaurant on the Green in Hudson. The play begins at 8 PM. Tickets for seniors 65 and over are \$14, under 65 are \$16, and all seats are reserved. Groups of 10 or more reduces these prices by \$2.

Carpools to dinner will leave CtK at 6 PM for a 6:15 PM reservation at Hudson's, which is very close to the theater. Please sign up by Wednesday, February 21st, so we can give an accurate count to the restaurant and theater. Restaurant location: 80 North Main Street. The theater's address is 41 South Oviatt Street, Hudson. Look for maps on the LAFF kiosk. Joanne Ciarniello receives both questions and ticket money.

WELCOME BACK TO CTK'S NEWEST MEMBER!



Welcome back to Sharon Straka, CtK's newest member. Sharon was a member of CtK from October 2005 through May 2010, when she transferred to Rejoice Lutheran in Hudson. During the past seven years Sharon has remained active in CtK's Outreach ministry, and she worshiped at CtK on occasion during that time. In December

Sharon transferred her membership back to CtK. You will typically see Sharon at 8:30 or Saturday worship plus at the Blessing of the Pets service with her dogs!

DECEMBER 2017 FINANCE REPORT	
Complete financial information is posted on the kiosk outside the office.	
Operating Income	\$23,602
Other designated income	\$990
Total Income	\$24,592
Operating Expenses	\$20,379
Other payments	\$1,312
Total Expenses	\$21,691
Net Surplus	\$2,901
Monthly Budget	\$21,932



The National Youth Gathering Team of six students and two adults will hold these events:

- February 10, Saturday 8pm-8am Sunday, February 11, Rock-A-Thon; next installment of lessons
- February 21 & 28, March 7, 14, & 21 — serve Lent Suppers, Worship
- March 18, all afternoon with lunch & supper provided - work on remainder of lessons
- April 21, 5 - 8 PM - Jesus & Jammies congregational event with movie and food!

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 in June for details: Gabrielle Doty, Adam & Elijah Groenke, Justin Hartland, Claire & Lydia Schiopota, Pastor Matthew, and Deacon Patti.

Min. of Discipleship and Youth



YOUTH CORNER

FEBRUARY 4-Youth Sunday

Both Services

Min. of Discipleship & Youth

UPDATE ON RECENT CTK CONFIRMAND

On Sunday, January 14th, CtK member Eric Spaeth affirmed his baptism at late worship. His family hosted a reception for him after worship.



Eric is scheduled to leave January 23rd for US Army Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The training will last about ten weeks, after which Eric will go to Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas for Advance individual Training (AIT) for about five months. AIT is where he will be trained for his Military Occupational Specialty of Signals Intelligence Analyst. Following AIT, Eric will begin a new chapter in his life with a four-year contract with the Army.

Eric's parents, Anita & Dale, will provide his BCT address to CtK to post, and Eric would welcome letters from members while he is in training.

Blessings to Eric on his confirmation and as he begins this new adventure!

YOUR NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING TEAM ANNOUNCES FLASH CAR WASH!



COME EARLY SPRING WHEN YOUR CAR IS CAKED WITH SALT,

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

Minister of Discipleship & Youth

CONFIRMATION CORNER...

February 11 class, 5pm, Church of the Covenant, Pastor Brad, *The Psalms*



Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday Set up, serve, & clean up Lenten Soup & Sandwich Supper.

March 11 class, 5pm

April 15 class, 5pm

May 20 Confirmation Service, 4 pm with NEOS Bishop Allende in attendance.

Min. of Discipleship & Youth



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 - *Dave Denes*

Adult Forum on Current Topics - Fellowship Hall

John Humrichouser

Min. of Discipleship & Youth

February 2018

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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8:30 AM Contemporary Worship 9:45 AM Sunday Church School 11:00 AM Traditional Worship <i>2017 Annual Reports due to office</i> Holy Communion at both services Youth lead both services Youth Sunday Bake Sale after worship	9:00 AM Offering Counters 10:00 AM Congregational Care 11:00 AM Staff Meeting	9:30 AM LAFF planning 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - room 105 7:00 PM Finance - rm 103 <i>Pastoral Staff offsite all day</i>	12:00 PM Faith Wednesday 7:00 PM Outreach	9:00 AM Cleve. East - New Covenant, E. Cleveland 5:45 PM Twinsburg Garden Club - F Hall 7:00 PM Senior Choir		5:30 PM Worship w/ comm. 8:00 PM NYG Rockathon begins Congregational Care Focus 8:00 PM - 8:00																																																																																				
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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 IN FEBRUARY 2018

	Worship time	February 3 rd & 4 th Youth Sunday	February 10 th & 11 th Transfiguration	February 17 th & 18 th	February 24 th & 25 th
Acolytes	5:30PM	Lydia Schiopota	Spencer Bach	Lydia Schiopota	Madisyn Wise
	8:30AM	Gabrielle Doty	Adam Groenke	Lauren Williams	Carlee Bedford
	11AM	Grace Lue	Jillian Harnak	Truman Goss	Nathan Stayanchi
Worship Assistants, Lectors (L), Communion Assistants (C)	5:30PM	Dave Denes	Katie Bach	Patti Jabre	Dave Denes
	8:30AM	Youth!	Sally Morris (L, C)	Lisa Doty (L), Wendy Gibbons (C)	Mike Coss (L), Crystal Stokes (C)
Lay Prayer Leaders	11AM	Youth!	Jenn Lue (L), Karen Reid (C)	Denise Tearney (L), John Humrichouser (C)	Sue Simmons (L), Jane Zaremba (C)
	8:30AM	Youth!	Mike Coss	Lisa Doty	Shirley Duffy
Ushers	11AM	Youth!	Karen Reid	Diane Procop	Patti Jabre
	5:30PM	Volunteer needed	Ron Miller	Dave Denes	Lynne Bailey
Greeters	8:30AM	Youth!	Kristin Bedford, John McBride	Joanne & Rich Ciarniello	Mike Coss, Volunteer needed
	11AM	Youth!	Kate Hartland, Volunteer needed	Linda Bendler, Denise Hall	Chuck Goodnight, Chris Spitz
Sound Booth	8:30AM	Youth!	Sue Brunst	Jean & Mike Coss	Joanne & Rich Ciarniello
	11AM	Youth!	Ginger Pituch	Chanon Bortak	Denise Tearney
Altar Care	5:30PM	Claire Schiopota	Charlotte Miller	Claire Schiopota	Wendy Gibbons
	8:30AM	Youth!	Amy Bates, Marge Bowman	Gabrielle Doty	Lisa Doty
Punch Maker	11AM	Youth!	Jenn Lue	Jane Zaremba	Kate Hartland
	9:30AM	Kate Hartland	Bedford Family	Mary Ellen Robinette	Wendy Gibbons
Coffee Clean-up	12:15PM	Office Staff	Ginger & Tom Pituch	Sandy Molnar	Office Staff
March Messenger Assembly Team: Shirley Duffy, Mike & Rita Miltch, Ginger Pituch Tuesday, February 20 th , 2018 Thanks to Lynne Bailey, Mary Smith, D. Urban, & Jane Zaremba for assembling the February Messenger!					
March Messenger Deadline: Please get articles to office@ctktwinsburg.com by Thursday, February 15 th					



2018 MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES FROM COUNCIL

Chosen at January 8, 2018 Council meeting:

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Council Member</u>
Christian Education	Mark Tearney
Congregational Care	Karen Reid
Endowment Fund	David Schiopota
Evangelism	David Schiopota
Finance	Tom Pituch
Mutual Ministries	Rob Doty
Nursery	Corey Thompson
Outreach	Corey Thompson
Property	Tom Pituch
Stephen Ministry	Rob Doty
Stewardship	Karen Reid
Worship Team	Mark Tearney

DECEMBER 17, 2017 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Complete Council meeting minutes are posted on the Council kiosk.

Deacon Patti Jabre asked council for permission to let the confirmation class serve the Soup-n-Sandwich supper before the Ash Wednesday service; with the free-will offering to be designated for 2018 confirmation camp. She also asked for permission to let the youth serve the Soup-n-Sandwich supper before the remaining Lenten Wednesday worship services; with those free-will offerings to be designated for the 2018 National Youth Gathering. Both requests were approved.

November 19th Congregational Meeting: It was valuable that members voiced their issues and support for the budget as well as comments about worship times and styles. Council reviewed the 2018 annual budget, approved at this meeting. Although the 'faith factor' is larger than last year, council members put their trust in the Lord to provide, and reaffirmed their confidence in the budget and the mission and ministry of the congregation.

2018 Sunday Worship Services: council reviewed comments from the November Congregational Meeting about having two Sunday worship services. Pastor Matthew expressed concerns: 1) members are accustomed to certain worship times – some could be dissuaded from worshipping, 2) to be an open and welcoming congregation, we need to offer more, not fewer, opportunities for worship. Rob also pointed to the trend of increasing attendance at 8:30am worship; and, Deacon Patti voiced her concern that having only one service could result in dwindling Sunday School attendance. Therefore, council affirmed its commitment to 8:30am and 11:00am Sunday worship services.

Endowment Ministry Bylaws: After discussing funds in the Cooper bequest: Book, Building, House Purchase, and Outreach, the secretary will follow up with a draft of Endowment Bylaws to incorporate proposed changes.

Respectfully submitted: David F. Denes, Council Secretary

Ongoing Ctk Events

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

All men 18 and older are invited to meet for food and fellowship at Fresh Start Diner at 9810 Ravenna Road on Twinsburg Square at 8 AM the first Saturday of the month, February 3rd. 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 of Bible study, discussion, fellowship, & prayer. The study through April, from *Gather* magazine, is *Multiple Meanings: Learning from other interpretations* by Mark Allen Powell. February's topic is "Prepare the Way of the Lord." This study explores what Biblical stories mean to people around the world and has resulted in thoughtful discussion among the Tuesday women.

All women are invited to attend weekly or to drop in when their schedules permit. The group collects an offering to support the Cleveland YWCA's Nurturing Independence and Aspiration (NIA) initiative to assist youth aging out of foster care.

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 noon Wednesday study in the fellowship hall most weeks. There is time to eat your brown bag lunch in the class. Beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14th, the group will study *Final Words from the Cross* by Adam Hamilton. See page 2 for details. Everyone is welcome to attend when it's convenient. The class will not meet March 28th, which is during Holy Week.



Nathan Stayanchi	2/3
Kim McCrory	2/8
Carol Sykora	2/10
Maxine Farleman	2/12
Chris Smith	2/12
Heather Spaeth	2/13
Carl Anderson	2/14
Patti Jabre	2/14
Barbara Keyser	2/14
Bill Zaremba	2/14
Katie Bach	2/17
Olivia Doty	2/18
Diana Cerny	2/20
Mike Nezbeda	2/20
Charlie Stayanchi	2/20
Rae Kendrick	2/21
Rachael Stahlman	2/22
Mitch Harrison	2/23
Danielle Smith	2/29



Ray & Rae Kendrick	2/3
Carla & Gary Erbe	2/9
Larry & Lynn Jaskiel	2/25



Ash Wednesday, February 14th

10AM - 4PM Ashes Available
 12PM Faith Wednesday Study
 6PM Soup & Sandwich Supper
 7PM Ash Wednesday Worship
 8PM Easter Cantata Rehearsal

February 21st through March 21st

12PM Faith Wednesday Study
 6PM Soup & Sandwich Supper
 7PM Midweek Lenten Worship
 7:30PM Easter Cantata Rehearsal

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ARE PUT AWAY FOR ANOTHER YEAR

The Christmas decorations have been taken down and stored away for another year.

I would like to thank the Tuesday Women's Bible Study Group for taking the ornaments and lights off the Christmas tree in the Narthex. Pastor Matthew helped me take the tree apart and put it in storage bag. Tom Pituch took down the wreath which surrounded the star in the sanctuary. Rob Doty again took care of the outside nativity scene.

On Saturday, January 13th Mike Mondry, Marty Mondry, Josh Herberth, & Jennie Wheat hauled all the containers and wooden manger out to the shed with the green wagon so only 2 trips were needed. They also changed out the Christmas banner for our regular banner in the Narthex.

A special thank you and gratitude to my neighbors Mike, Marty, Josh & Jennie for helping get the Christmas decorations put away. They are not members of our church but volunteered to get the job done.

Thanks to Linda Mondry for letting her sons know of this service project at Christ the King.

Sandy Molnar, 2017 Christmas Decorating Chair



JANUARY 8, 2018 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Complete council minutes are posted on the Council kiosk.

Approval of the meeting agenda: Added Eric Spaeth Affirmation of Baptism, Red Cross blood donation dates, Approve Financial Secretary and Treasurer Elected Council Secretary, Tom Pituch "Building the Church" status

New electronic sign: Delivery delayed due to forest fires in California, new installation date later in January, weather permitting

Direct mail postcards update: John Humrichouser will continue to manage, an outside agency tracks new people moving into the area and sends welcome to CTK cards

Newspaper advertising will be discontinued, no improvement

Choose Council Liaisons

Finance Ministry Report

Choose two Members to audit the 2017 CTK finances

New Business

Approved CTK Treasurer, Mike Pereksta and Financial Secretary, Sandy Molnar

Approved Eric Spaeth Affirmation of Baptism on January 14. Sponsors Karen Reid and Corey Thompson

Approved Red Cross Blood Drive dates: May 8, July 17, September 11, November 6

Submitted by Tom Pituch, Council Secretary



I would like to thank the entire congregation for their generous Christmas gift. Your support in all things Christian Education and Youth, as well as for me personally, is greatly appreciated.

A Happy and Blessed New Year

Patti Jabre, Deacon

IN APPRECIATION FOR BLOOD DRIVE HELPERS

Thanks to our registration and canteen volunteers for the January 9th Red Cross blood drive at CtK: Leatrice Alexander, Marge Bowman, Joanne Ciarniello, Shirley Duffy, Ginger Pituch, Sue Simmons. The goal was 13 donors, but 19 gave blood. CtK's next blood drive is Tuesday, May 8th, from 2 to 7 PM. (The Red Cross cancelled a blood drive in March.)

THANKS FOR CHRISTMAS HELPERS

Thanks to Claire Schiopota, Evan Harnak, and Sally Morris for sharing their musical gifts at Christmas Eve worship.

Thanks to all our Christmas Eve & Christmas Day worship helpers: Amy Bates, Linda Bendler, Marge Bowman, Joanne & Rich Ciarniello, Adam Groenke, Evan Harnak, Jay & Kate Hartland, Wendy Jones, Sandy Molnar, Sally Morris, MJ Neel, Mike Pereksta, Karen Scarpelli, and Lydia Schiopota.

Thanks to our poinsettia donors: Leatrice Alexander, Paul Bucholtz, the Doty family, Shirley Duffy, Bill & Joan Marcy, Linda Mondry, Mary Ellen Robinette, Karen Scarpelli, Sue Simmons, the Spaeth family, D. Urban & John McBride, Pat & Rich Wilhelms. Special thanks to Janet Nezbeda for coordinating the order and for arranging the flowers in the chancel for Christmas Eve.

Thanks to everyone who brought Christmas treats to share between services on Christmas Eve and the weekend between Christmas & New Year's.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS AVAILABLE

There are quite a few different Lenten devotionals available for children, teens, adults, and families. Look for the display rack near the door to the mailbox hallway, and choose a publication to suit your needs.

PLANNING CHRISTMAS DECORATING FOR 2018

A Decorating Coordinator is needed for Advent & Christmas 2018. Think about whether this is a passion for you; talk to the staff if you'd like to take charge!

GRATEFUL FOR HAVEN OF REST HELPERS

Thanks to Gabi Anderson, Juanita Chisholm, David & Lydia Schiopota, Sue Simmons, Jim & Louise Susnik, D. Urban for serving supper at Akron's Haven of Rest on Saturday, December 30th. They deserve special recognition for driving home in a nasty blizzard. CtK is next scheduled to serve supper at Haven of Rest on Saturday, March 31st.

THANKS FOR SHOVELING

Special thanks to Paul Bucholtz for shoveling the sidewalks before worship and to Pastor Matthew for frequently clearing and salting the walks during the week.

O NIGHT DIVINE CANTATA PRESENTED

Thanks to Music Director Kevin Basom for directing the Christmas cantata *O Night Divine* on December 17th at both worship services. Special thanks to all the participants, including those who rehearsed but were unable to sing in the actual presentation.

Sopranos

Tina Coleman
Linda Mondry
Claire Schiopota
Mary Schlosnagle
Victoria Valore
Jane Zarembo

Tenors

Bob Coleman
Adam Groenke
Pastor Matthew Groenke
Tom Pituch
David Schiopota
Sue Simmons
Pam Wolfe

Altos

Sandy Molnar
Sally Morris
Janet Schiopota

Basses

John Humrichouser
Dale Schlosnagle
Wiley Wolfe

Narrators

Kevin Basom
Wiley Wolfe

Sound Booth
John Gibbons

The path to citizenship: ELCA congregations hold classes, provide support

By Anne Basye January 5, 2018

At last, David Hurtado can vote for his local school board members, hospital commissioners and legislators.

"I have a voice," said the Manson, Wash., resident, who voted for the first time last November. A U.S. resident for nearly 35 years, he and his wife, Leticia, became citizens on Aug. 24. That evening they, along with 10 others, were naturalized during a ceremony at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center based in Chelan, Wash.

The new citizens took their oath of allegiance surrounded by mountains and a supportive crowd. Paula Swasko, former worship coordinator at Holden, sang the national anthem. Medic Dana Petersen played the bagpipes. Among the guest speakers was the Hurtados' daughter, Yessica Patino Hurtado.

"A naturalization ceremony is a major event in people's lives," Keith Brown, director of the Yakima field office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), told the several hundred witnesses present. "It has taken a lot of time and effort on their behalf to earn what many of us acquire at birth."

Lutherans lend a hand

The Hurtados studied to become citizens through Hand in Hand, a nonprofit in Wenatchee, Wash., that offers citizenship classes for legal permanent residents. The classes prepare people with green cards for the naturalization test, which covers U.S. history and governance. Applicants are interviewed (in English) about their character and background, which has been vetted carefully.

Not passing the citizenship test after two tries means forfeiting a \$725 application fee. To help applicants succeed, Hand in Hand partners with more than a dozen churches and schools to offer its USCIS-accredited programs. Churches may offer space or volunteers to teach the 10-week classes, said director Norma Gallegos, a member of the Holden Village board.

Celebration Lutheran Church in East Wenatchee, Wash., was an early participant. "A few members helped teach the classes and when they ended, we held monthly gatherings to keep members and students connected," said Dave Haven, Celebration's pastor.

Over a meal, participants and volunteers shared stories. "We used maps of the U.S. and Mexico so we could point out where we were from and talk about growing up in those places, whether it was North Dakota or Chiapas," Haven said. Another time, the group talked about the significance of their last names.

"Focusing on things we had in common was a really nice way to blend our commonalities as people of God," he said.

In Charleston, S.C., people from 18 countries are studying English as a Second Language (ESL) and prepping for naturalization at the community center adjacent to St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Refugees, asylum-seekers, local entrepreneurs, students and visiting scholars come three times a week to classes taught by community and church volunteers.

Questions from the citizenship test are regularly incorporated, said Hayden Shook, ESL program manager and instructor. "It's an important part of the acculturation process, and [it] helps show students how they will be an important part of the process once they take the oath of citizenship."

Their presence is a gift that opens minds and hearts, she said. "In this climate, how many people meet someone from Saudi Arabia?" she asked. "Or have a conversation with a refugee from Haiti?"

Sunday afternoon classes at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, Md., serve a largely Vietnamese population. Curiosity about the contents of the naturalization test and a desire to help people prepare for citizenship prompted longtime member Norman Knutsen to assist the class.

His role is coaching students through mock interviews. Playing a USCIS officer, Knutsen sits opposite a student, asking about family members, trips outside the U.S., and other topics that are part of the final interview. "Lots of times people have trouble coming up with the right words," he said. "I have to be patient and polite and not fill in the blanks for them while they practice what to say."

Raised in a house just three doors away from St. Stephen, Knutsen has enjoyed getting to know his neighbors. "You want to make people feel welcome in a new country, and they want to be part of the country. It's an honor to prepare them."

St. Stephen is hosting the classes while the nearby library branch is closed for remodeling. Lamar Bailey, pastor, hopes the congregation will stay engaged in citizenship preparation after the library reopens.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

"Part of our baptismal covenant is being a light to the world and loving our neighbor," he said. "It's messy, serendipitous and involves risk. We do that because of what Christ has done for us."

For that covenant, Hurtado is grateful. "Thanks to God, I am a citizen," he said.

Anne Basye, a freelance writer living in Mount Vernon, Wash., is the author of *Sustaining Simplicity: A Journal* (ELCA, 2007).

Reprinted from *Living Lutheran* with permission.

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BOXES OF TISSUES NEEDED!

As we continue through winter, our stash of tissues (aka Kleenexes) is rapidly dwindling. If you see a good price, please consider donating a box or two to Ctk!

OFFICE COVERAGE SOUGHT FOR EARLY JUNE

Please contact Wendy in the office if you are interested in helping with phone coverage or printing bulletins during the first two weeks of June when she will be away.

DECEMBER SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades – Makayla Dobbins, Jillian Harnak, Ben Stayanchi, Nathan Stayanchi, Alex Sudnik

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grades – Marisa Dobbins, Melissa Dobbins, Jeremiah Groenke, Grace Lue

7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades – Gabrielle Doty, Adam Groenke, Elijah Groenke, Evan Harnak

Adults – Dave Denes, Lisa Doty, Rob Doty, Chris Driver, John Gibbons, Wendy Gibbons, Julie Groenke, Pastor Matthew Groenke, Denise Hall, John Humrichouser, Sandy Molnar, Ginger Pituch, Tom Pituch, Karen Reid, David Schiopota, Dale Schlosnagle, Mary Schlosnagle, Sue Simmons, Amy Williams

THANKS TO ALL 2017 CHANCEL FLOWER DONORS:

- |                                |                         |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Leatrice Alexander             | MJ Neel                 |
| Lynne Bailey                   | Ginger & Tom Pituch     |
| Bob & Chanon Bortak            | Diane & Mike Procop     |
| Lisa & Rob Doty                | Mary Ellen Robinette    |
| John & Wendy Gibbons           | Bill & Dotti Root       |
| Julie & Pastor Matthew Groenke | Karen Scarpelli         |
| Deacon Patti Jabre             | David & Janet Schiopota |
| Wendy Jones                    | Sue Simmons             |
| Rae & Ray Kendrick             | Jim & Louise Susnik     |
| Jenn & Mike Lue                | Denise & Mark Tiearney  |
| Charlotte & Ron Miller         | James & Lisa Wells      |
| Sally Morris                   | Pat & Rich Wilhelms     |

ONGOING CTK COLLECTIONS

In December, \$20 was donated to the Salvation Army Bed & Bread through the container in the narthex.

1650 pounds of paper were put in the big green recycle bin in December, earning Ctk \$18.98.

We received \$46.16 for clothing put in the St. Pauly shed during December for a total of \$4212.16 since April 2014.


We received only 25 cents for five pounds of aluminum cans - probably a mistake by the personnel at the recycling business!



A MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM AT ST. PAULY

*Thank you for continuing to collaborate with us on the St. Pauly Textile clothing drop off shed project! In 2017 roughly 21,982 garments of clothing were donated to your shed. This was enough to clothe an estimated 2,665 people. This clothing is being used right now by people in one of more of 44 different countries (including the US) to which our clothing is likely to have been distributed this past year. Your congregation raised \$1,336.30 in 2017 through hosting this shed.*

*We ask that you continue to spread the word about the clothing shed to other community members. Thank you for all your support, and please feel free to reach out to us at any time!*



**MARTIN LUTHER'S CORNER**

One of the earliest Lutheran Churches in North America (1700) was Swedish and was called "Gloria Dei Church," located in Wicaco (South Philadelphia). In the interest of discipline, Andreas Sandel, the pastor who arrived in 1702, introduced a system of monetary penances. "Whoever came to church tipsy, was to pay 40 shillings and do public penance. Blasphemy of the divine Word or the Sacraments carried with it a fine of 5 pounds sterling and church penance; to sing at unseemly hours was punished by a fine of 6 shillings; such as refused to submit to the discipline were to be excluded from the congregation and to be refused interment at its cemetery." Gloria Dei Church still stands and is a National Historic Site.

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



# FEBRUARY MESSENGER 2018

[www.CtKTwinsburg.com](http://www.CtKTwinsburg.com)



## Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 14th

10AM - 4PM Ashes Available

12PM Faith Wednesday Study of Adam Hamilton's *Final*

*Words from the Cross* Begins

6PM Lenten Soup & Sandwich Supper

7PM Ash Wednesday Worship with Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion

8PM Easter Cantata Rehearsal

## Wednesdays, February 21st through March 21st

12PM Faith Wednesday Study of Adam Hamilton's *Final*

*Words from the Cross*

6PM Lenten Soup & Sandwich Supper

7PM Midweek Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer

7:30PM Easter Cantata Rehearsal

Congregational Meeting February 25th - 9:45 AM



2017 Annual Report booklets available for review February 17th.

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

Saturday worship each week at 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!

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