

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!

- Endowment Requests Due p. 2
- God's work. Our hands. p. 2
- LAFF Events p. 5
- Pastor's Page p. 3

SUNDAY WORSHIP REMAINS AT 9:30 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE AT 10:45 AM

JOIN US ON RALLY DAY!

All are welcome to join the fun of Rally Day at **10:45 AM Sunday, September 9th**, in Room 105. Look up Ephesians 2:8-9, and be ready for an exciting game for all ages with a magnificent prize for the best team. The nursery will be staffed for children under 3 years old.



There will be a craft and some snacks. **Hope to see ALL of you there!** *Min. of Discipleship & Youth*

WEAR CTK APPAREL SEPTEMBER 8 & 9!



Wear Your CTK Apparel!

Everyone is encouraged to wear Ctk apparel, including gold "God's work. Our hands." or Thrivent t-shirts, to worship on Rally Day weekend - September 8th & 9th. The name tag board will be in the narthex to remind us that we are called to Shine the Light of Jesus.

SENIOR CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME

All high school age and older singers are invited to join the Senior Choir on Thursday evenings at 7:00, beginning September 6th. The group shines the light of Jesus with special music during the offering at 9:30 AM most Sundays. Please see Music Director Kevin Basom with your questions.



RALLY SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

**Youth-Led Worship Service
9:30am - NEW WORSHIP TIME
Come learn about the National Youth
Gathering team experiences in
Houston at ELCA NYG!!!!**

See page 4 for details.

**Opening of Sunday Church School
10:45am - Room 105 - NEW TIME
Do you know what Ephesians 2:8-9 is
all about?? Come find out!!!!**

See details at right.

**God's Work. Our Hands
12:00pm - Room 105
Light lunch & Project**

See page 2 for details.

**SOAP makes lots of
bubbles.
It also Saves Our
Adolescents from
Prostitution.**



Min. of Discipleship Youth



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

SEPTEMBER 9TH GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. (GWOH) PROJECT & LIGHT LUNCH

Come to Room 105 at 12:00 PM on Rally Day, September 9th, for the 2018 "God's work.



Our hands." project of putting stickers on 1000 bars of soap for the S.O.A.P. (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution) Project. Prior to the project, participants are invited to share a light lunch of pizza, chips, & pop in Room 105. A free will offering will cover the cost of food.

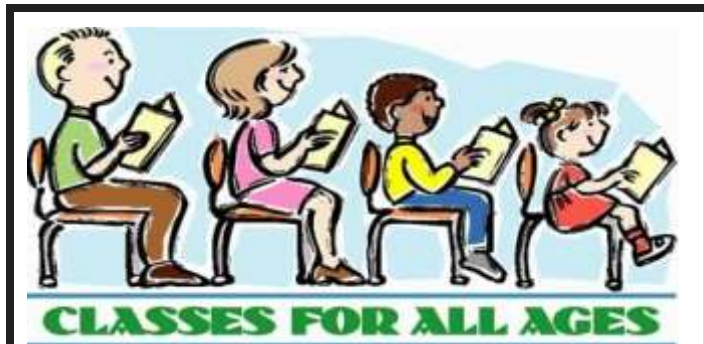
Please sign up on the bulletin board or tell the office by Labor Day weekend (September 1st & 2nd) if you can help so we know how much pizza to order.

Endowment Fund



ENDOWMENT GRANT REQUESTS DUE SEPTEMBER 30TH

Fall endowment grant requests are due in the submission envelope in the Endowment mailbox by Sunday, September 30th. Endowment request forms can be found in the Endowment mailbox. Areas for which requests may be submitted are Seeding, Evangelism, Matching, Outreach, and Emergency. Remember to fully complete both sides of the form to be considered for funds from the Lester Endowment Fund. Please direct questions to a member of the Endowment Committee: chair Mike Pereksta, Kristin Bedford, MJ Neel, Mike Procop, or Council representative Rob Doty.



0 OR 103 Years Old?

10:45 AM Sunday Mornings

Staffed nursery available for children under 3.

- * **Age 3-Kindergarten** - Room 102 - Amy Williams
- * **1, 2, 3 Grades** - Room 105 - Denise Hall
- * **4, 5, 6 Grades** - Room 101 - Katie Bach
- * **7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 Grades** - Youth Room
David Schiopota

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

Understanding the Bible Book Study - Room 103
Karen Reid

Adult Forum - Fellowship Hall
John Humrichouser

Min. of Discipleship & Youth

SEPTEMBER 11TH BLOOD DRIVE

The next Red Cross blood drive at CtK will be Tuesday, September 11th, from 2 to 7 PM. Volunteers are needed to help at the Registration Desk or in the Canteen and may sign up on the bulletin board. Training is provided if needed. See Ginger Pituch or Wendy Gibbons for information.



Donors are asked to mark their calendars to give blood that day since supplies are typically low at the end of summer. If donors register online at redcross.org/rapidpass on the day of the drive, they will save time at registration.

BONUS PAPER PICK-UP! IN SEPTEMBER!



From Tuesday, September 4th to Sunday, September 16th, River Valley Paper will give CtK a \$5 bonus per pound of paper products put in our green paper recycling bin in the parking lot. Time for you to clean out those old catalogs again!

NEED READING MATERIAL? HAVE TOO MUCH?

Don't forget the "Take a Book. Leave a Book." shelf near the Giving Center. You can leave books there that you no longer want, and you can take books you'd like to read. Unless CtK's name is in them, you can keep the books, too!



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 x109

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

SEPTEMBER 2018

The next fruit of the Holy Spirit that I am going to discuss is generosity. The stewardship ministry team at Christ the King has decided to use this word generosity going forward as the name of our ministry. This is to emphasize the work of the Holy Spirit and this specific fruit of the Spirit as Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:25 when he says that **"If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit."**

The word generosity is found in a few places in scripture:

Romans 12:8 – "The exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness."

2 Corinthians 8:2 – "For during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part."

2 Corinthians 9:11 – "You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us."

2 Corinthians 9:13 – "Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others,"

The word generous is found more frequently in scripture as here are a few examples:

Exodus 35:5 – "Take from among you an offering to the LORD; let whoever is of a generous heart bring the LORD's offering: gold, silver, and bronze;"

Psalms 51:12 – "Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a generous spirit."

Psalms 112:5 – "It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice."

Proverbs 11:25 – "A generous person will be enriched, and one who gives water will get water."

Proverbs 19:6 – "Many seek the favor of the generous, and everyone is a friend to a giver of gifts."

Proverbs 22:9 – "Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor."

Matthew 20:15 – "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

Acts 2:46 – "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts."

Acts 10:2 – "He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God."

Romans 10:12 – "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him."

Living in God's amazing grace,

Pastor Matthew Groenke



2018 NYG TEAM LEADS WORSHIP SEPTEMBER 9

The CtK National Youth Gathering Team will lead worship on Rally Sunday, September 9th, at 9:30 AM. See how the Cross of Christ and the Gathering has changed our youth. Listen to their stories, and join them as we move out of the worship center and into the world. Team members are Gabrielle Doty, Adam Groenke, Elijah Groenke, Justin Hartland, Lydia Schiopota, Claire Schiopota, Pastor Matthew Groenke, & Deacon Patti Jabre.

Min. of Discipleship & Youth

BLESSING OF TEACHERS, HELPERS, FACILITATORS

September 8th & 9th Rally Day weekend worship (5:30 PM Saturday & 9:30 AM Sunday) will include a blessing for CtK's teachers, helpers, and facilitators as we begin a new year of Faith Formation.

RITE OF ENROLLMENT IN CONFIRMATION

All seventh and eighth grade students will take part in a Rite of Enrollment in Confirmation during 9:30 AM worship on Sunday, September 16th. The first monthly class for the year will be at 5 PM that day. Pastor Jim Lewis & students from Advent Lutheran Church in Solon will join CtK youth and Pastor Matthew & Deacon Patti for this year's classes.



ATTENTION PARENTS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Please toss your child's old Sunday school giving envelopes before Rally Day. Numbers assigned previously to your child have been changed and will no longer be valid with the new school year.

REMINDER TO PARENTS & CONFIRMED YOUTH

To be considered an active CtK member in good standing Attendance, Communion, & Giving are integral components of membership. Confirmed youth should have a record of giving in their own names each year. Parents' gifts are not inclusive of their confirmed youth.

COLLEGE ADDRESSES REQUESTED!

CtK likes to stay in touch with our students when they leave for college. Please send your student's college address to Wendy at wgibbons@ctktwinsburg.com.

(The USPS and some universities' mail systems are not very forgiving, and *Messengers* have been returned for perceived address errors that we cannot correct.)



Notes of THANKS

Thank you all so much for the cards and prayers I received during my recent illness.

I will always remember and appreciate your kindness.

Lynn Pereksta

The new Reaching Out In Christian Kindness (R.O.C.K.) ministry distributed cold bottled water to spectators at the August 4th Twins Days Double Take Parade.

We gave out close to 200 bottles of water, along with business card-sized invitations for CtK.

Thanks to everyone who donated coolers and ice; we used all the coolers. Several people walked up and down the sidewalks with coolers on carts, coolers on wheels, or bottles of water in tote bags. Planning, set-up, and distribution participants included Katie & Cory Bach, Pam & Wiley Wolfe, Jean Coss, Pastor Matthew, Julie, & Adam Groenke, Denise Hall, Joanne Ciarniello, Karen Reid, Mary Ellen Robinette, Paul Bucholtz, Joe Gregorino, Claire Schiopota, Sue Simmons, Patti Jabre, Kristin Wedemeyer Goss, & Koren Goss.

Those who helped take down the tent on Sunday included Paul Bucholtz, Joe Gregorino, Denise Hall, John McBride, Karen Reid.

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way!

Chris Driver

FINAL BUS TRIP PAYMENT DUE SEPTEMBER 2ND

Final payment for the November 6th & 7th bus trip (\$40 deposit + \$150 balance) is due to Tina Coleman by Sunday, September 2nd. Please make all checks payable to Tina. There are still several seats remaining. See Tina or Bob with questions or to participate.



COLLEGE CONNECTIONS ARE KEY!

Soon young adults will return to college! To connect friends & family with on-campus worship and service opportunities, please refer them with Lu-Min Network Referral Page <http://lumin-networkreferral.org/student-referrals/>. Each student will be invited to explore and grow in faith.

In Cleveland, ELCA Pastor Shelley Nelson-Bridger is ready to connect with Lutherans at Tri-C Metro, Cleveland State & Case Western Reserve as she serves the United Protestant Campus Ministries in Cleveland; contact her at office@upcam.org or 513.635.7594.

FINANCIAL STATUS

We received Progressive Matching funds of \$4,800 in June. Next year this amount will be only about two thirds of this amount. We had a five-Sunday month in July. The treasurer transferred funds from Helping Hands to Operating. These actions resulted in elimination of the deficit as of June, and Christ the King is in the black for the moment at the end of July.

However, the estimated projections going forward using the current rate of operating income indicate that by year end the deficit will be approximately \$7,000.

Why? Because the operating income giving is less than what is needed to cover operating expenses. We cannot continue to operate this way. Your financial support is needed if we are to continue operating with the budget as approved last November.

Budget time is approaching and all Ministries will need to provide realistic projections to be included in the planning for 2019. Your promises to support the Ministries in place at Christ the King are necessary and a vital part of this budget process.

Sandy Molnar
Financial Secretary

DIRECTED THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS



Christ the King received a gift in the amount of **\$302** in August from Thrivent. The following members of Thrivent requested we receive these Thrivent Choice Dollars. Thank you for your support.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Rob Doty | Linda Fouts |
| Lisa Doty | Sandra Molnar |

JULY FINANCE REPORT	
<i>Complete financial information is posted on the kiosk outside the office.</i>	
Operating Income	\$21,430
Other designated income	\$1,687
Total Income	\$23,117
Operating Expenses	\$19,890
Other payments	\$7,296
Total Expenses	\$27,186
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	(\$4,069)
Monthly Budget	\$19,995

Note: The chart above does not include treasurer transfers of funds, just actual income and expenses.

REST IN GOD'S PEACE, ANITA

CtK member Anita (Krakora) Spaeth joined the Church Triumphant August 5, 2018. She was born October 3, 1964 and joined CtK in 1985. We extend our sympathy to her husband Dale, whom she married on May 24, 1986, and her daughter & son, Heather & Eric. Pastor Matthew officiated at a Celebration of Life Service on August 9, 2018 at Shorts Spicer Crislip Funeral Home in Streetsboro. Anita, we will miss your smile.



JOIN LAFF AT TREMONT FESTIVAL!

On Saturday, September 15th, Life After Fifty Fellowship (& Friends!) will carpool to the Tremont neighborhood of Cleveland for the Tremont Art & Culture Festival. The Festival includes: children's-hands-on arts, historical, & educational projects; community non-profiits explaining their mission & services; cultural-food sales by area churches, non-profit organizations, & ethnically diverse local restaurants; and sales of paintings, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics, & photographs created by local artists. Admission is free!

For ease of parking, please plan to carpool. The festival starts at 11 AM so we will carpool from CtK at 10:15 AM. Everyone can get lunch from food vendors of their choice. Maps & parking information are posted with the sign-up sheet on the LAFF kiosk. Questions go to Sue Simmons & Karen Scarpelli.

LAFF TO VIEW COVERED BRIDGES IN OCTOBER

On Sunday, October 14, Life After Fifty Fellowship (& Friends) will join Ferrante Winery's Covered Bridge Festival. For \$29 per person, we get a bus tour of a limited number of Ashtabula County's historic covered bridges, followed by dinner at the winery. The price does not include alcohol. Carpools will leave CtK at 2:30 PM for the 4 PM tour. Maps will be posted on the kiosk.

This event is very popular. We have 15 bus seats reserved but must have a final count and pay for the event two weeks in advance. **Please sign up on the kiosk & give Shirley Duffy your payment by Sunday, September 30th.** Questions and money go to Shirley.

HAVEN OF REST HELPERS NEEDED SEPTEMBER 29

HAVEN of REST MINISTRIES

Five or six volunteers are needed to serve supper at Haven of Rest in Akron on Saturday, September 29th. Carpools leave CtK around 5 PM to help set tables, serve food to those served by Haven of Rest, and clean up after the meal. Sign up on the bulletin board to help, and see Sue Simmons with questions.

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 CHRIST THE KING IN SEPTEMBER 2018						
	Worship time	September 1 st & 2 nd	September 8 th & 9 th <i>Rally Day Weekend- Wear name tags, CKK apparel!</i>	September 15 th & 16 th	September 22 nd & 23 rd	September 29 th & 30 th
Acolytes	5:30pm 9:30am	Lydia Schiopota Carlee Bedford	Spencer Bach Nathan Stayanchi	Lydia Schiopota Truman Goss	Spencer Bach Lauren Williams	Lydia Schiopota Madysyn Wise
Worship Assistants, Lectors (L), Communion Assistants (C)	5:30pm 9:30am	Katie Bach Shirley Duffy (L, C)	Patti Jabre YOUTH	Volunteer needed Julie Groenke (L), Denise Tearney (C)	Katie Bach Sally Morris (L, C)	Patti Jabre Sue Simmons (L), Jane Zaremba (C)
Prayer Leaders	9:30am	Shirley Duffy	YOUTH	Jenn Lue	Diane Procop	Mike Coss
Ushers	5:30pm 9:30am	Sharon Straka Joanne & Rich Ciarniello	Sharon Straka YOUTH	Lynne Bailey Jean & Mike Coss	Lynne Bailey Linda Bendler, Denise Hall	Sharon Straka Chuck Goodnight, Ginger Pituch
Greeters	8:30am	Jean & Mike Coss	Sue Brunst	Denise Tearney	Chris Spitz	Sue Brunst
Sound Booth	5:30pm	Claire Schiopota	Wendy Gibbons	Claire Schiopota	Wendy Gibbons	Wendy Gibbons
Altar Care	9:30am	Kristin Bedford	Youth	Jane Zaremba	Kate Hartland	Jenn Lue
Punch Maker	9:30am	Kate Hartland	Kristin Bedford	Mary Ellen Robinette	Wendy Gibbons	Rich Ciarniello
Coffee Clean-up	After noon	Office Staff	Ginger & Tom Pituch	Sandy Molnar	Office Staff	Office Staff
October Messenger Assembly Team: Lynne Bailey, Shirley Duffy, Sandy Molnar, Mary Ellen Robinette - Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at 1 pm in Room 103						
October Messenger News Deadline: Thursday, September 20, 2018						
Thanks to Leatrice Alexander, Tina Coleman, Sally Morris, & Ginger Pituch for assembling the September Messenger!						



September 2018

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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<p>2</p> <p>9:20AM Drop-in Choir 9:30AM Worship w/communion <i>November Bus Trip payment due</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Labor Day - Office closed</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00AM Tuesday Morning Ministry 10:00AM Pastor's study 1:00 PM Staff meeting 7:00 PM Finance - rm 103 7:00 PM Quilters - F Hal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday 7:00 PM Generosity Ministry</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:00AM Men's Breakfast - Fresh Start 5:30 PM Buss leaders 5:30 PM Worship w/ comm.</p>																																																																																				
Bonus paper pick-up																																																																																										
<p>9</p> <p>9:30AM Teacher blessing 9:30AM Worship w/communion 10:45AM Sunday Church School 12:00 PM God's work Our hands - lunch - rm 105 God's work Our hands & Faith Day NYC Ram leads worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00AM Tuesday Morning Ministry 10:00AM Pastor's study 10:00AM Women's Bible Study - rm 105 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM Blood Drive 6:00 PM G.S. Troop #91007 - F Hal 7:00 PM Council 7:00 PM IT SC</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00AM Cleveland East - offsite 7:00 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:15 AM LAFF carpools to Tremont Art Fest 5:30 PM Worship w/ comm.</p>																																																																																				
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<p>16</p> <p>9:30AM Rite of Confirmation Enrollment 9:30AM Worship w/communion 10:45AM Altar Guild - Choir Room 10:45AM Sunday Church School 5:00 PM Confirmation Class</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Stephen Ministers</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00AM Tuesday Morning Ministry 10:00AM Pastor's study 10:00AM Women's Bible Study - rm 105 4:15 PM G.S. Troop #90136 - F Hal 6:30 PM G.S. Troop #91449 - F Hal 7:00 PM Worship planning</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:00 PM Senior Choir Newsletter deadline</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship w/ comm.</p>																																																																																				
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We are the branches

By Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Is it possible to be Lutheran and an ecumenist? Of course, the answer is yes. The ELCA has continued the work of our predecessor churches—the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, the American Lutheran Church, and the Lutheran Church in America—all of which engaged in dialogues with other denominations. When the ELCA was born, its DNA included the will toward unity. The 1991 Churchwide Assembly adopted “A Declaration of Ecumenical Commitment: A Policy Statement of the ELCA”—we were barely 4 years old.

Where did this impulse come from and why is it so deeply important to us?

We have just marked the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We were a little restrained about celebrating because division in the church is nothing about which to rejoice. (Though when explaining this sensibility to a Roman Catholic colleague and dialogue partner, he did say the reformers’ insistence on the primacy of the gospel is something to be celebrated.) It was never Martin Luther’s intention to divide the church. Loathing the thought that this new movement should be called “Lutheran,” he wrote: “How should I, a poor stinking bag of worms, become so that the children of Christ are named by my unholy name?”

The intent of Luther and the reformers was to give the gospel free course in the world, to make the evangelical case that it is God’s good and gracious will to reconcile the world to God’s self, and that this has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ apart from any human effort.

Early on, in 1530, the Augsburg Confession not only clarified and defended the evangelical position of the Reformation but made it clear that the reformers’ work was consistent with the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. (You should all study the confession. I know of congregations that have read and studied this and all the Lutheran Confessions found in the *Book of Concord*. Ask your pastor.)

This wasn’t a departure from the Christian tradition, nor a break with the church. The Seventh Article of the Augsburg Confession laid out the basis and the possibility for church unity and a variety of expressions of how the gospel could be communicated: “For the true unity of the church it is enough to agree concerning the teaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments.”

But this is really Christ’s intention and the reality that we have in him. Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5). We all are not only connected to the same vine, but we have no life apart from that vine. In Holy Communion, we live Christ’s current and our future reality that we are already one. The ELCA humbly tries to embody this truth in the six full-communion partnerships we already have with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church, and the United Methodist Church.

We are scripturally, confessionally and even constitutionally wired to be an ecumenical church. This month’s cover story highlights the ecumenical ministries of congregations and the work of ELCA Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. It is possible to be Lutheran and an ecumenist.

But let me pose this—it is not possible for Lutherans to be ecumenists if we are not Lutheran. This might sound counterintuitive, but I believe it is true. If we aren’t clear and conversant about the Lutheran movement’s way of telling the Jesus story, if we are not clear about the grace that sets us free, if we waffle on the conviction that the reconciliation and redemption of the world is God’s work and not ours, how can we enter into dialogue and relationship with other branches of the Christian tradition?

I called on us to read the Small Catechism during 2017. If you have put your copy away, dust it off and start studying.

Reprinted from the August *Living Lutheran* with permission.



Paul Spitz	9/2
Spencer Bach	9/5
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Terri Ream	9/19
Jay Hartland	9/23
Tyler Oravetz	9/27
Nancy Anderson	9/28
Grace Lue	9/30



Elizabeth & Paul Serrin	9/1
Tom & Carol Foster	9/3
Jenn & Mike Lue	9/3
Betsy & Corey Thompson	9/3
Laurel & James Michalek	9/4
Denise & Mike Cuper	9/10
Art & Shirley Duffy	9/12
John & Bev Humrichouser	9/19
Mark & Denise Tiearney	9/23



JULY 9, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Complete minutes are posted on the Council kiosk.

Approval of the agenda for this meeting - (Council Approved)

"The Invitational Christian" – Chapter 4 discussion "Knowing Our Story"

Finance Ministry Report

Transfer Helping Hands funds to Operating to eliminate YTD deficit

Other Ministry Topics

- Generosity Ministry
 - R.O.C.K. Evangelism Ministry – Request to set up a Visitors Table in the Narthex and an outside weather proof container that can hold information brochures that would be available when the church is not open. (Council Approved)
 - Discussed feedback from the Emergency Congregation Meeting
 - New Business
 - Request by the Twins Days Festival to park their truck on our front lawn from Friday, August 3rd, through Sunday, August 5th. (Council Approved)
 - Request by the Twinsburg Police to freeze all of our sign announcements from 2 AM until midnight Friday, July 13th, and instead display a picture that they will send us in memory of Josh Miktarian, who was killed 10 years ago. (Council Approved)
- Submitted by Tom Pituch, Council Secretary*

JUNE 18, 2018 COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Complete minutes are posted on the Council kiosk.

Approval of the agenda for this meeting

Added 12 Step recovery group meeting request

Reports: Pastor Matthew and Patti Jabre

"The Invitational Christian" – Chapter 3 discussion

Northeast Ohio Synod Assembly – Things learned

- Donations to the synod are declining
- Closing Camp Mowana
- World Hunger programs
- Approved budget with 2% increase

Other Ministry Topics

- Generosity Ministry
- New Evangelism Ministry focus on younger people based on Congregational Meeting discussion

Old Business

- David Stauffer's Eagle Scout project
- Worship videos with lyrics used during Saturday and Sunday Services
- Congregational Meeting to address our financial shortfall and "Building the Church".

New Business

- Parking lot repair
- Financial seminars for members and the community

Submitted by Tom Pituch, 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. It is usually the first Saturday of the month, but because of Labor Day, it will be September 8th. 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 beginning September 11th. 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 collects an offering 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 *Repentance* by the Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni. September's topic is *Time after time: Turning to God*. She writes, "...the prophet Joel reminds us that repentance is nothing to be afraid of-for when we turn to God, we find grace.."

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. The group is currently studying the Gospel of John. Watch the *Weekend Messenger* for the weekly reading assignment. There is time to eat your brown bag lunch in the class. Everyone is welcome to attend whenever it's convenient.

Cyberbullying and the church

My take

By Martin Zimmann June 12, 2018

There is a website that, at first glance, appears to be working for good. But delve a little deeper into it, and you'll quickly find evidence to the contrary. On display is human sin: hatefulness and harassment directed at individuals or groups online, known as cyberbullying.

Which site am I referencing? Well, it could be any, including and especially any form of social media, but I'll leave that to your imagination.

Cyberbullying is common: the Pew Research Center reports that 4 out of 10 people have been victims of online harassment, and almost 70 percent have witnessed some form of online aggravation. Most alarmingly, evidence indicates young women are more likely than any other demographic to be targets of cyberbullying, often in the form of sexual harassment or other prejudicial expressions.

When the computer or smartphone creates an imaginary barrier between people, it's much easier to lose one's inhibition and give way to anger and spite. We've all seen it—the seemingly harmless Facebook post that causes a spiral of aggressive commentary. (Hint: “Winning” an argument on social media at the expense of another's well-being or reputation isn't worth it.)

I wish I could say the church is immune to this behavior, but scrolling through the comments of many lay and clergy groups, sites and threads reveals that we can hate as well as any “none” (unchurched).

There is a better way for us to coexist online, and our faith can guide us there.

It's affecting our youth

The rise of personal technology in tandem with ubiquitous social media is causing an adolescent world of isolation, depression and dramatically increased risk of suicide, wrote psychologist Jean Twenge in “Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?” (*The Atlantic*, September 2017). Twenge shows the correlation between levels of screen time and the likelihood of depression and anxiety. The culprit? Cyberbullying. This isn't the backyard bullying that many of us suffered as kids—it's more invasive and dangerous.

My daughter is a high school freshman. Like the majority of her generation, she's consumed with social media. Sometimes when she's moody, we talk about how the online world is affecting her capacity for joy. I think she gets it. Nevertheless, she shows much of the same anxiety Twenge identifies.

Adolescence is its own crucible, and the added anxiety of social media's demands only makes it worse. If our kids' self-worth is based solely on their Snapchat streaks, the church is failing them. They are baptized children and priceless treasures to the God who created them. As ELCA members we should be doing our utmost to make sure that youth are feeling loved and celebrated. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide among teens and young adults has nearly tripled since the 1940s. I pray our congregations address this issue before they are forced to bury a precious person whose life was cut short.

The toxic reality of social media in our time is a metaphor for the larger soul-sickness that is pervasive in our culture. Christians should know better, but we aren't immune to it. Cyberbullying has no respect for one's faith narratives. In fact, online harassment is considered to be a crucial factor in the decline of American religious adherents, according to a 2016 article in *Psychology Today* by sociology professor Phil Zuckerman. Not only is this atmosphere of hate harming our children and ourselves, but it is attempting to dismantle the koinonia of saints and sinners who gather under the banner of God's love.

A way forward

Jesus upends the social media nightmare with these words: “Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,’ when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye” (Luke 6:42).

To paraphrase this in postmodern language: We need to become self-aware to the level where we can love people through their challenges without judgment or sharing criticism. Our task as Christians is to humble the self and exalt the other, which stands in direct contradiction to the cutting sarcasm in the digital realm.

Many ELCA congregations have effective social media policies that protect the innocent from being exploited, but we can be more proactive by adopting a system of best practices for our personal online behavior.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Moreover, we should encourage our youth groups—and adults as well—to take a pledge to confront online bullies and stand up for the victims of any form of harassment.

The apostle Paul was no stranger to controversy. At times he even found himself at odds with other church members. But he does end most of his letters with words that would be fitting to start any congregation's policy on life together in real time and cyberspace: "Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you" (2 Corinthians 13:11).

We must engage with our congregations, synods, youth groups—joining with any expression of Christian community is the perfect means by which the light of Christ can banish the darkness of online hatred.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Otto Zimmann is an adjunct professor of church and society at United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg campus. He holds a Ph.D. in American culture studies.

AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM

Between April 1st & June 30th, 2018, Ctk was designated as a recipient of AmazonSmile Foundation monies by enough Amazon shoppers that we received a \$15.80 donation. Thanks to everyone who has specified Ctk as their Amazon Smile non-profit of choice. Since Ctk was accepted into the program in fall 2017, the AmazonSmile Foundation has donated over \$45 to Ctk. Go to Smile.Amazon.com for info.



REJOICE! LUTHERAN FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Rejoice! Lutheran Church of Hudson will hold its annual Fall Women's Retreat October 12th – 14th at Lake Chautauqua, New York. The theme is "Sitting at Jesus' feet is worth it...How the Bible sustains us through difficult times" based on Matthew 11:28, and the program will be led by Pastor Pam Kelly.



Women's Retreat

This is open to all women. Total Cost is \$145. The registration deadline is September 9th; reserve your space with a nonrefundable \$75 deposit. See the bulletin board for information.



Blessing of the Pets

2 PM Sunday October 7th

TO ALL AREA PETS:

Have your people mark their calendars for Ctk's sixth annual Blessing of the Pets service at 2 PM in the back Barking Lot October 7th. And invite your fur-friends!

UNDIES SUNDAYS (& SATURDAYS) A SUCCESS!

In June & July, 352 pairs of underwear (111 of them from a Thrivent grant) and 26 pairs of men's socks were donated to the annual Undies Sundays (& Saturdays) collection. This is 57 more than Ctk collected in 2017. They were delivered to Haven of Rest in August. Thanks to Lynne Bailey for spearheading this program & for delivering the donations, and to all the generous Ctk members & friends who contributed underwear or cash.



ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT CTK

Salvation Army Bed & Bread - \$21 was donated in June & July

St. Pauly Clothing Shed - \$343 was received for clothing in the bin in June & July for a total of just over \$5000 since 2014.

River Valley Paper - \$12.77 was received for June

Aluminum Cans - \$4.00 was received for 11.2 pounds in mid-July.

Shining the Light of Jesus...

....Leatrice Alexander, Marge Bowman, Wendy Gibbons, Mike & Rita Mitch, and Ginger Pituch for volunteering with the July 17th blood drive. The goal was 20 pints, but 35 donors came in, giving 30 pints of blood, making it one of our most successful drives in a while.

....our June 30th Haven of Rest volunteers: James, Lisa, & Cael Wells, Juanita Chisholm & her brother, John Martin. See page 5 for details about Ctk's next opportunity to help at Haven of Rest.

....everyone who brought food or helped with the reception following the July 20th funeral of Chanon Bortak's father, Tim Sasala, including Lynne Bailey, Chanon Bortak, Wendy Gibbons, Rita Mitch, MJ Neel, Karen Reid. Special thanks to Lynne Bailey for ushering and for taking charge of hospitality duties.

....Sandy Molnar for cleaning & polishing the coffee bar cabinet prior to Twins Days.

....Tom Pituch & Rich Ciarniello for fixing a leak in the sink in the men's restroom.

....Lisa Doty for countless hours of stealth gardening at Ctk, and Chuck Goodnight for ongoing Ctk lawn care this summer.

....Diane Procop for weekly chancel flowers.

....Sandy Molnar and Ginger & Tom Pituch for cleaning the coffee bar on Sundays.



SEPTEMBER MESSENGER 2018

www.CtKTwinsburg.com

*Fall Schedule begins after Labor Day
on Rally Sunday, September 9th.*

NOTE NEW FALL SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME.

*Wear CtK apparel - including God's work. Our hands.
shirts and Thrivent shirts - and name tags!*

5:30 PM Saturday Worship



9:30 AM Sunday Worship - Youth lead worship

10:45 AM Sunday Church School Intergenerational
Program - Room 105

12:00 PM God's work. Our hands. Project with light
lunch - Room 105

Sunday, September 9th



***CtK's 2018 ELCA National Youth Gathering Team
will lead Sunday worship at 9:30 AM.***

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

Saturday Worship 5:30 PM

Sunday Worship **(NEW FALL TIME)** 9:30 AM

Sunday School **resumes 9/9 at new time** 10:45 AM

Holy Communion at Saturday & Sunday services.

Cover this box with the
mailing label!

Dated Material - SEPTEMBER 2018
Please Rush!



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