

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!

- Bishop Eaton’s Message p. 9
- New Faith Wednesday p. 2
- Shine the Light Run Winners p. 5
- Women of Faith p. 4
- Youth Happenings p. 6

RITE OF CONFIRMATION MAY 19TH

Christ the King youth Lauren Williams will affirm her faith through the Rite of Confirmation at 9:30 AM worship Sunday, May 19th. Join us for this Faith Stepping Stone, and stay for a reception following worship.



FINAL DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL MAY 19TH

Sunday, May 19th, will be the final day for Sunday school classes for the 2018 to 2019 year. Watch the *Weekend Messenger* for further information.



HIGH SCHOOL GRAD RECOGNITION May 12, 9:30 worship



High School Graduation is the final Faith Stepping Stone. While it is not a graduation from their faith journey, CTK will honor these young adults as they enter the next phase of their life and faith journey:

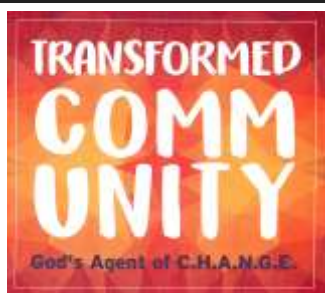
- Hailey Ball
- Gabrielle Doty
- Stephanie Hartland
- Adam Groenke

A reception for the grads will follow worship. A sign-up sheet for donations of finger foods is posted. Min. of Discipleship & Youth

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday, June 9 -
Thursday, June 13
6 PM - 8:30 PM

Please get
registrations in as
soon as possible!



Theme: *Transformed Community; God's Agent of C.H.A.N.G.E.*

Registration forms available in narthex & on website. (Ages: entering kindergarten-completing 6th grade)
Adult and Youth help are needed.

'Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect.' - Romans 12:2

Min. of Discipleship & Youth

BISHOP'S SPRING GATHERING MAY 4



Plan to attend Northeastern Ohio Synod Bishop Abraham Allende's Spring Gathering at St. Jacob Lutheran Church in North Canton on Saturday, May 4th, from 9 AM to noon. Lay people are especially encouraged to attend this special presentation to learn how to share your faith with people in everyday settings. See flyer on bulletin board for details. Talk to Pastor Matthew or Deacon Patti about carpooling to the Gathering.



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

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

ROCK, the Reaching Out in Christian Kindness Ministry, is presenting a guest speaker at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 27th. Gary King is a trained Climate Reality Leader and will explain the situation of the earth's climate and what we can do to help protect God's creation.

Everyone is invited! There will be refreshments, and child care will be available.

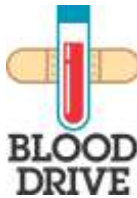
**CLOSER TO THE CROSS CANTATA TO BE PRESENTED APRIL 27TH & 28TH**

Celebrate the Resurrection of Christ in song with the 2019 Easter cantata as presented by Christ the King Singers under the direction of Kevin Basom. This year's cantata is *Closer to the Cross: Celebrating the Journey of Christ* created by Dave Clark and Nick Robertson and will be presented at 5:30 PM worship Saturday, April 27th, and at 9:30 AM worship Sunday, April 28th. Invite your friends to what promises to be an uplifting, inspirational event!

MAY 7TH BLOOD DRIVE AT CTK

Sign up for a one-hour shift or two at the registration desk or in the canteen for the Tuesday, May 7th, Red Cross blood drive. Training is available if you have never volunteered.

Blood donors, please mark your calendars and plan to donate. If you check in at redcross.org/rapidpass on the day of the drive, you can speed up the registration process when you arrive.

**FROM THE KITCHEN COMMITTEE ARE YOU MISSING ANY SERVING PLATTERS?**

It's time to clean out the kitchen again. There will be a table in the fellowship hall displaying orphan plates, platters, serving containers, etc. that have been left at CtK. Please take a look during May and pick up anything that is yours. In June we will dispose of any unclaimed, unneeded items.

LAFF WILL SEE YOU IN JUNE!

Due to busy schedules, the Life After Fifty Fellowship (& Friends) did not plan an event for May. Enjoy the beautiful spring weather, and watch the *Weekend Messenger* and *June Messenger* for information about a June activity!

**FAITH WEDNESDAY CLASS TO BEGIN NEW BOOK STUDY**

Pastor Matthew will lead a study of Adam Hamilton's latest book, *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple*, about the life, faith, and character of Simon Peter. The class will begin in early to mid-May after the noon Faith Wednesday class completes its current study of Paul's letter to the Romans.

A DVD introduction will begin each week's lesson. The hard-cover book is \$16.00, including shipping. Please sign up by Wednesday, May 1st, to have CtK order a copy of the book for you. Designate *Faith Wednesday* on your giving envelope when you pay for it. (You may find a used book at Amazon or without shipping fees if you have Amazon Prime. The ebook is about \$10 on Amazon. The Twinsburg Library may have copies of the book, but it is very new.)

**SUMMER DROP-IN CHOIR WILL BEGIN MAY 26TH**

The senior choir will not practice on Thursdays during the summer, but all singers are welcome to join the Drop-In Choir. If you would like to sing a familiar hymn during the offering time at 9:30 AM Sunday worship beginning May 26th, rehearse that week's selection in the choir room at 9:15 AM. See Music Director Kevin Basom with questions.

TOILETRY COLLECTION DISCONTINUED

CtK no longer has a Giving Center bin for hotel-sized toiletries for the Akron Battered Women's Shelter. Thank you for your past support. If you have hotel-sized toiletries to donate, please put them in The Emergency Assistance Center (TEAC) Giving Center bin.

DIRECTORY**Christ the King Lutheran Church**

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pjabre@CtKTwinsburg.com x106

Kevin Basom, Director of Music

Linda Mondry, Saturday Worship Musician

Wendy Gibbons, Office Administrator
wgibbons@CtKTwinsburg.com x102

RENEW YOUR STEWARDSHIP SPIRIT



Spring reminds us that God's all about new stuff. Jesus promised us that he would make everything new one day. He gives us a glimpse of that promise through Spring. Temps are rising. Bright colors replace brown and gray. Spring has sprung. Best themes of spring are:

- Growth in nature along with studying God's word and fellowship
- Starting over with forgiveness and healing
- Provision in depending on God to provide what we need
- Learning more about God and His goodness
- Renewal in being transformed
- Peace by allowing God to carry our worries and fears

Soak up the blessings of spring and be renewed in a new season of Stewardship this spring.

Sandy Molnar,
Financial Secretary

DIRECTED THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Christ the King received a gift of \$559 in April from Thrivent.



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

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Rob & Lisa Doty | Sandra Molnar |
| Shirley Duffy | Tom Pituch |
| Rev. Matthew Groenke | Mark Tiarney |
| Pamela Lewis | Daryl Van Bogart |

ALUMINUM CAN COLLECTION

CtK received \$9.60 for 32 pounds of aluminum cans in April. Special thanks to Mary Ellen Robinette, Paul Bucholtz, and their family for collecting and flattening six bags of cans! CtK has recycled 240 pounds of cans since 2015 for \$90.

GREEN PAPER RECYCLING BIN MAY GO AWAY

CtK received \$12.60 for paper recycled in March. We may not be able to keep the bin because we do not average 2,000 pounds per month.

MARCH 2019 FINANCE REPORT	
<i>Complete financial information is posted on the kiosk outside the office.</i>	
Operating Income	\$22,659
Other designated income	\$827
Total Income	\$23,486
Operating Expenses	\$21,031
Other payments	\$2,300
Total Expenses	\$23,331
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$155
Monthly Budget	\$18,161

PENTECOST GERANIUMS WILL BE ORDERED FOR JUNE 9TH

Pentecost is June 9th, and the liturgical color for the day is red. As in past years CtK will decorate the chancel with red geranium plants.



A sign-up sheet for red geraniums will be posted through Sunday, June 2nd. The price of a 4-inch pot was not set at press time, so watch the *Weekend Messenger*. Janet Nezbeda will get the flowers from the same source as in previous years. The quality of these flowers is excellent, and many people order them for their home gardens. See Janet if you have any questions about the plants.

If you'd like to donate geraniums to be planted at CtK by CtK gardener Lisa Doty, please be sure to note that on the sign-up sheet. Make payment to CtK through your giving envelope, designating *Geraniums*.



ST. PAULY SHED UPDATE

In March CtK received \$131 for the clothing put in our St. Pauly used clothing shed, bringing our 2019 total to \$385 and the total since 2014 to \$5685.

Remember that clothing, shoes, linens, stuffed animals, belts, purses, and drapes are all welcome. Please put all donations in plastic bags. Your donations are NOT shredded but are distributed all over the world. There are receipts in the mailbox outside the shed so that you can document your gift.

DON'T THROW AWAY RECYCLABLES!

Please remember that in trying to be good stewards of the resources that God has given us, CtK recycles!



There is a paper recycling receptacle just outside the nursery to put your worship bulletin after worship. You may also put small flattened cardboard boxes in that receptacle. This receptacle is emptied into the green River Valley Paper bin in the parking lot every week. Members are encouraged to bring their home paper to the River Valley bin to recycle. (We were just notified that the big green bin may be taken away since we do not average 2,000 pounds per month.)

In the Fellowship Hall, CtK has recycle bins like households used before large wheeled carts were introduced. Put empty plastic beverage bottles, clean glass jars & bottles, clean cardboard/paper, and clean steel or aluminum food cans in these bins. Clean aluminum beverage cans may also be put in the specially marked Giving Center bin. (See article at left.)

Thanks to everyone who recycles at CtK, especially: Shirley Duffy and Chris Driver for carting the Fellowship Hall recycling to the city bins; John Gibbons for recycling aluminum beverage cans; and Wendy Gibbons for emptying the paper receptacle into the outside bin.

From the CTK Minister of Discipleship and Youth

WOMEN OF FAITH....

In a vision **Saint Birgitta of Sweden** was announced to her mother even before her birth. Her mother was shipwrecked and one of a few who survived. Birgitta was born on December 15, 1303. At her birth a local priest had a vision of the Virgin Mary who told him a girl had been born "whose voice will be heard throughout the world with admiration."

Birgitta was educated and chose for herself the life of a holy woman. Unfortunately, in 14th-century Europe girls were married off to gain wealth and position, and Birgitta was wed at thirteen. Mores of the time allowed her to live a chaste life and engage in sexual relations with the goal of producing children. She bore eight children who all lived beyond infancy, rare in the Middle Ages. The couple were married for 28 years until her husband's death.

Upon his death, Birgitta gave herself to a religious life. She witnessed a bright cloud in her cell and was told by God that she would be a bridge and channel to the world. This vision enabled her to go into the world with a call to action.

She founded the Order of the Brigittines in 1346, an order that exists to this day. King Magnus (a distant relative of her mother) gave one of his castles as a residence for the nuns. She herself did not enter this order.

In 1349 she received a vision from God to go to Rome and stay there until the Pope (currently living in France) and the Holy Roman Emperor were there at the same time. While there, her visions and subsequent writings bordered on the heretical. Her searing criticisms of noblemen and clergy and their behaviors that exceeded their own laws were not well received.

Finally in 1370 the Pope and Emperor were in Rome at the same time, but the Pope did not remain there for long in spite of Birgitta's warnings that he would die if he left. Just days after he left and went to Avignon, Pope Urban was dead.

Birgitta spent the remainder of her life trying to restore the papacy to Rome. God gave her visions on how to accomplish this task. However, she would not see this happen in her lifetime. Some say she failed in her God-given calling, but she served in an extraordinarily unique capacity.

She founded the monastic order in Vadstena, she never waived in her trust in God, and she persevered in obedience. Pope Gregory XI did finally make his reentrance in Rome, January 17, 1377, four short years after Birgitta's death in 1373. Her greatest vision was fulfilled.

Saint Birgitta of Sweden reminds us that we might not always see God's promise fulfilled in our lifetime, but our contributions made in faith and trust are a necessary part of His ultimate plan.



Ratti Jalure

SECOND ANNUAL SHINE THE LIGHT RUN/WALK A SUCCESS!

The Second Annual CTK Shine the Light 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk was held Saturday morning, April 13th, under sunny skies and "perfect for running" temperatures. We had some return runners and walkers from last year's event, and some first-timers as well.

Twenty-five participants endured the 5K course to turn in some very fast times! Our 13 walkers all enjoyed a more leisurely pace on the 1 mile walk.

Julie from Champ Racing timed the race, recorded all the 5K race times, and tabulated our finishers' results.

The top three men and women 5K finishers received Olympic style medals in Gold, Silver, or Bronze.

The top three finishers in each age group received an "Age Group Award" Shine the Light 5K mug.

CtK Member & Friends Award Winners include:

Females

Carlee Bedford 1st female 14 and under
 Lauren Smearcheck (Kristin Bedford's sister) 1st female 30-34
 Erin DuPont 2nd female 30-34
 Heather Stayanchi 1st female 35-39
 Cindy Meyer 1st female 55-59
 Pam Wolfe 1st female 60-64
 Crystal McGaffic (Kristin Bedford's mom) 2nd female 60-64

Males

Gary Pavlik 2nd Men's Overall
 Jeremiah Groenke 1st male 14 and under
 Joe Pavlik 2nd male 14 and under
 Brandon DuPont 3rd male 14 and under
 Rob Doty 2nd male 55-59
 Mike Coss 1st male 60-64
 Wiley Wolfe 2nd male 60-64
 Dale McGaffic (Kristin Bedford's dad) 3rd male 65 +

We had many volunteers including Paul Bucholtz, Jean Coss, Gabrielle Doty, Chris Driver, Adam Groenke, Elijah Groenke, Pastor Matthew Groenke, Justin Hartland, Deacon Patti Jabre, Mary Ellen Robinette. The volunteers manned the turn arounds for both 5K and 1 Mile and the water station.



We hope to have the Third Annual Shine the Light 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk on April 11th or 18th, 2020. Watch for details in upcoming *Messengers*.

Contributed by Mike Coss, Race Coordinator

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, May 4th. See Tom Pituch for details.

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Ctk Tuesday Women's Bible Study will meet weekly through May 21st at 10 AM in Room 105. Wendy Gibbons leads the hour-long sessions, which include Bible study, fellowship, discussion, and prayer. Watch the *Weekend Messenger* for information about the group's year-end celebration date and location.

All women are invited to attend weekly or to drop in when their schedules permit. The group collects two offerings: one to support the Cleveland YWCA's Nurturing Independence and Aspiration initiative to assist youth aging out of foster care, and the other for ELCA Good Gifts.

The study in May is a devotional from *Gather* magazine, *Two Way Blessings* by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin. The devotional looks into intergenerational relationships in the Bible, including Miriam, Anna & Simeon, and Jesus' feeding of the 5,000.

The group will likely meet once a month in June, July, and August.

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 completing the letters of St. Paul in chronological order. See page 2 for details about the study that Pastor Matthew will begin sometime in May: Adam Hamilton's latest book: *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple* There is time to eat your brown bag lunch in the class. Everyone is welcome to attend whenever it's convenient.

CONFIRMATION CORNER

May 19, 9:30 AM Worship
Rite of Confirmation
for Lauren Williams



All Confirmands are requested to attend and serve.
Min. of Discipleship & Youth

First Bible Classes



For all those in third grade or above that have not had First Bible Classes.

Classes begin Sunday, May 5th following 10:45 Sunday Church School for about an hour and a half. Bring your lunch. Please let me know if you will attend. We need to know how many Bibles will be needed. The date for Bible presentation is not set.

For more information, contact Miss Patti.
Min. of Discipleship & Youth

MARCH SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

4th - 6th Grades - Jeremiah Groenke
Adults - Katie Bach

(Attendance was lower this month because of several meetings for adults during the Sunday school hour.)



Graduates' News HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES' NEWS DUE!

If you have not already done so, please give Wendy information about your high school graduate's plans for the future for inclusion in the June Messenger.



Classes for All Ages

0 OR 103 Years Old?
Join us at 10:45 AM Sundays
through May 19th!

Staffed nursery is available for those under three.

- *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 - Study of *Applause of Heaven* by Max Lucado - Room 103 - Karen Reid

Adult Forum of Current Topics

Fellowship Hall - John Humrichouser
Min. of Discipleship & Youth



INTEREST-FREE COLLEGE LOANS AVAILABLE!

The Pierstorf Memorial Loan Fund provides interest-free loans to Lutheran students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. This year, the maximum interest-free loan is \$3,000 for the school year. For information, go to www.Pierstorf.org. Complete the 2019-2020 application on the website. The deadline for all applications is Sunday, June 30, 2019.

BLESSINGS TO CTK'S 2019 FIRST COMMUNICANTS

CtK members Noah Lue and Alexander Sudnik celebrated their First Holy Communion at Palm Sunday worship April 14th.



Both boys had many family members at worship to witness this Faith Stepping Stone and to commune from their personalized chalices and patens, as shown in the photo above.

COLLEGE GRADUATE NEWS

CtK member Olivia Doty will graduate from Capital University in Columbus on May 4th. She will be awarded a BA in the majors of both Art Therapy and Psychology and in the minor of Studio Arts. She was a member of both the Arts and Psychology National Honor Societies. Olivia's future plans include attending the Counseling and Art Therapy Master's program at Ursuline University.



Mary Evelyn Hunt, Sue Simmons' granddaughter, will receive her bachelor's degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology from John Carroll University on Sunday, May 19th. Mary was also the captain of the women's golf team at JCU.

Brian Gibbons, John & Wendy's son, will be hooded at the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign and awarded his Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering May 11th. Brian is an engineer specializing in antenna design at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL) in Maryland.

Congratulations to each of these recent graduates, and best wishes to them in their future endeavors!

May 2019

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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<p>5</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship w/kneeling communion</p> <p>10:45 AM NewMember Class - tent.</p> <p>10:45 AM Sunday Church School</p> <p>12:00 PM 1st Bible Class-tent.</p> <p>2:30 PM -4:00 PM Private recital - sanctuary, narthex</p>	<p>6</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>2:30 PM Dodge Chess Club</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 AM Tuesday AM Ministry</p> <p>10:00 AM Pastors' study</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - rm 105</p> <p>2:00 PM -7:00 PM Blood Drive</p> <p>7:00 PM Finance - rm 103</p> <p>Weekend Messenger news due today!</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday</p> <p>6:30 PM G.S. Troop #90603 - F. Hall</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00 AM Cleveland East-Trinity Madison</p> <p>8:45 PM Twinsburg Garden Club - F. Hall</p> <p>7:00 PM Senior Choir</p> <p>7:00 PM Thurs. Eve. Group - 105</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Office closed</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship w/communion</p>																																																																																												
<p>12</p> <p>9:30 AM H.S. Grad Stepping Stone</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship w/communion</p> <p>10:30 AM H.S. Grad Reception</p> <p>10:45 AM NewMember Class - tent.</p> <p>10:45 AM Sunday Church School</p> <p>12:00 PM 1st Bible Class-tent.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00 AM Congregational Care</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Council - Room 103</p> <p>7:00 PM G.S. Troop #90603 - F. Hall</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM Tuesday AM Ministry</p> <p>10:00 AM Pastors' study</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - rm 105</p> <p>6:00 PM G.S. Troop #91007 - F. Hall</p> <p>8:45 PM ROCK meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM ITSC</p> <p>7:00 PM Worship planning</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday</p> <p>6:15 PM G.S. Troop #90720 - F. Hall</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00 PM Twinsburg Ministerial - office</p> <p>7:00 PM Senior Choir</p> <p>7:00 PM Thurs. Eve. Group - F. Hall</p> <p>Newsletter deadline</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship w/communion</p>																																																																																												
<p>19</p> <p>9:30 AM 1st Bible Stepping Stone-tentative</p> <p>9:30 AM Rite of Confirmation</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship w/communion</p> <p>10:30 AM Confirmation Reception</p> <p>10:45 AM Sunday Church School</p> <p><i>Final weekend of Sunday School</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>2:30 PM Dodge Chess Club</p> <p>4:15 PM GS Troop 90136 - F. Hall</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 AM Tuesday AM Ministry</p> <p>10:00 AM FINAL Women's Bible Study</p> <p>10:00 AM Pastors' study</p> <p>1:00 PM Assemble Messenger - room 103</p> <p>6:30 PM GS Troop 91449 - F. Hall</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 PM Senior Choir</p> <p>7:00 PM Thurs. Eve. Group - F. Hall</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship w/communion</p>																																																																																												
<p>26</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship w/communion</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Memorial Day - Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 AM Tuesday AM Ministry</p> <p>10:00 AM Pastors' study</p> <p>1:00 PM Staff meeting</p> <p>6:00 PM G.S. Troop #91007 - F. Hall</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00 PM Tburg Baccalaureate - St. Cosmas</p> <p>7:00 PM Thurs. Eve. Group - F. Hall</p> <p>Ascension</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Office closed</p>																																																																																													
<p><i>Flexible office hours this week & next</i></p>																																																																																																		

Go to ctktwinsburg.com, About Us, Newsletters to see current *Weekend Messenger* with assistants.
Please contact Wendy in the office to volunteer for any openings shown below.

SHINING THE LIGHT AT SATURDAY & SUNDAY WORSHIP - MAY 2019					
		MAY 4th & 5th Sunday Kneeling Communion	MAY 11th & 12th Sunday High School Graduate Recognition	MAY 18th & 19th Sunday Confirmation	MAY 25th & 26th
Acolytes	5:30 PM	Lydia Schiopota	Spencer Bach	Lydia Schiopota	Spencer Bach
	9:30 AM	Carlee Bedford	Gabrielle Doty	Truman Goss	Adam Groenke
	5:30 PM	Patti Jabre	Katie Bach	Patti Jabre	Kate Bach
Worship Assistants, Lectors (L), Communion Assistants (C)	9:30 AM	Sue Simmons (L), Karen Reid (wine), John Humrichouser (grape juice)	Shirley Duffy (L, C)	Julie Groenke (L), Wendy Gibbons (C)	Chris Driver (L), Jane Zaremba (C)
Lay Prayer Leaders	9:30 AM	Jenn Lue	Diane Procop	Karen Reid	Mike Coss
	5:30 PM	Sharon Straka	Elizabeth Novotny	Sharon Straka	Elizabeth Novotny
Ushers	9:30 AM	Chris Driver, Ginger Pituch	Joanne & Rich Ciarniello	Linda Bendler, Denise Hall	Jean & Mike Coss
Greeters	9:30 AM	Sue Brunst	Bob & Sonja Roe	Chanon Bortak	Chris Spitz
Sound Booth	5:30 PM	Claire Schiopota	Patti Jabre	Claire Schiopota	Wendy Gibbons
Altar Care	9:30 AM	Sue Simmons	Jenn Lue	Sue Simmons	Kristin Bedford
Punch Maker	9:15 AM	Kate Hartland	Bedford Family	Mary Ellen Robinette	Need volunteer
Coffee Clean-up	After 11:45 AM	Office Staff	Ginger & Tom Pituch	Sandy Molnar	After 10:45 AM - Office Staff
June Messenger Assembly Team – Kristin Wedemeyer Goss & Mary Ellen Robinette - Tuesday, May 21st, 2019, 1 PM in Room 103					
<p style="text-align: center;">June Messenger Deadline to office@ctktwinsburg.com: Thursday, May 16th, 2019</p>					
Thanks to Tina Coleman & Sally Morris for assembling the May Messenger!					



All created things

By Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop

God's entire divine nature is wholly and entirely in all creatures, more deeply, more inwardly, more present than the creature is to itself (Martin Luther).

I am formed by the Lutheran movement, so I tend to look for law and gospel, judgment and promise in everything. This quote from Luther is no exception. It does speak a word of judgment and, at the same time, a word of promise that brings hope.

First the law. "God's divine nature is ... more present than the creature is to itself." There is a tendency, especially in Western culture, for humans to see themselves as distinct from the creation. This positioning of human creatures as separate from the creation causes harm to the creation. We become the actors and creation is acted upon. The rest of creation becomes a commodity to be used as humankind sees fit. This has had dire consequences for our planet, the atmosphere around it and even space, which is now littered with our cast-off machinery.

But setting ourselves apart from the creation is also physically and spiritually deadly for humans. The burden of climate change falls disproportionately on people who are poor. Access to clean air and water and to sustainable living is often blocked in impoverished communities. Eventually income won't guarantee anyone an escape. Hurricanes and wildfires visit destruction on rich and poor alike.

Physical alienation has spiritual consequences. If "God's entire divine nature is wholly and entirely in all creatures, more deeply, more inwardly, more present than the creature is to itself," then denying our creatureliness sets up an internal dislocation for the human and separates us from God. It isn't possible to be whole apart from the rest of creation. We miss the divine all around us and deny the intimate presence of God within us. What a lonely way to live.

Somehow the church has been heard as setting spiritual against material, that the highest goal is to transcend creatureliness. This attitude discounts the witness of Genesis where "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). Even after the rebellion in the garden, God never stopped caring for creation.

And in the incarnation, God became a creature in Jesus Christ. Lutherans hold fast to the belief that "Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is [our] Lord" (Small Catechism; Apostle's Creed, Article 2). The Reformers insisted the human nature of Christ is not an abstract concept. Jesus is true God and true human being. "Therefore, we believe, teach, and confess that God is a human being and a human being is God" (Epitome, Article VIII).

In communion, Lutherans also hold fast to the real presence of Christ. "We believe, teach, and confess that in the Holy Supper the body and blood of Christ are truly and essentially present, truly distributed and received with the bread and wine" (Epitome, Article VII).

Humans are Earth creatures, formed from the Earth (Genesis 2:7). God has entrusted us with the care of creation. Our social statement, "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice," reminds us that "we are to love the earth as God loves us."

April 22 is Earth Day. Let us be especially mindful of the gift of creation and our place in it.

Here's the gospel. Human beings are part of the creation. Human beings are connected to everything in the cosmos. Human beings are connected to God. We are not doomed to alienation. That God is more present than we are to ourselves gives us a path to reconnect with God, each other and all of creation. The judgment is that we do not even perceive that the One who created all things is intimately present. The promise is that the One who created all things *is* intimately present. We—all created things—are family.

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Lisa Wells	5/3
Sally Morris	5/5
Jim Susnik	5/7
Nancy Fasnacht	5/8
Charlie Grigger	5/14
Ryan Hartland	5/21
Paul Bucholtz	5/22
Mark Tiearney Jr.	5/22
Melissa Dobbins	5/23
Mark Tiearney	5/23
Alyssa Jaskiel	5/25
John Gibbons	5/28
Bill Reid	5/28
Kara Nezbeda	5/30
Wendy Jones	5/31
Dale Spaeth	5/31



Bob & Nancy Anderson	5/5
Tim & Karen Stahlman	5/6
Diane & Mike Procop	5/8
Clayton & Terri Ream	5/25
Kristin Wedemeyer & Geoff Goss	5/26

Grace extended to congresswoman through LIRS

By Stephanie N. Grimoldby

Stephanie Murphy, a Florida Democrat, is the first Vietnamese American woman — and only the second Vietnamese American ever — to be elected to the U.S. Congress. Her congressional work, she said, is focused on two things: job security and equality of opportunity.

“No matter what zip code they’re born in, no matter what their family history is, [everyone should have] a fair shot at the American dream,” she said.

Murphy may understand the importance of equality better than most. Her family — including her father, mother and older brother — fled Communist-controlled Vietnam in 1979, when she was just 6 months old. The U.S. Navy found her family adrift at sea with no fuel and guided them to a refugee camp in Malaysia.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) sponsored her family’s passage to the U.S. With LIRS’s support, Christ Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg, Va., welcomed the family with everything they would need to survive in a new country.

“As you can imagine, we were not prepared for a winter in Virginia, so the church provided all [our] winter clothing,” Murphy said. The ELCA congregation also provided the family with housing and a car and helped Murphy’s father find a job at a power plant where he stayed for the rest of his work life, moving up the ranks from janitorial services to the coal yard lab.

James Cobb, pastor at Christ Lutheran when Murphy and her family resettled, recently reconnected with her after learning that the congresswoman had graduated from his alma mater, the College of William & Mary.

Murphy, who took office in 2017 and was reelected last year, invited Cobb to her January swearing-in ceremony in Washington, D.C., giving him the sole guest seat she was allotted for the gallery.

“I don’t remember the passage from Vietnam to Malaysia, or the early days of resettling,” said Murphy, “[but] my parents always told me those stories to make sure I had gratitude for the grace that was extended to my family. I was more or less meeting Pastor Cobb for the first time this January. It meant a lot to me [for him to attend], because I knew it was because of his generosity and his congregation’s generosity that I’ve been able to live the life that I have.”

Before taking office, Murphy worked for the U.S. Department of Defense as a national security specialist, as an executive at the investment firm SunGate Capital in Florida and as a business professor. She credits those opportunities in part to LIRS.

“We wouldn’t ... have gotten restarted in this country without LIRS,” Murphy said. “My dad always said we arrived in this country with just our bare two hands, but it’s with the generosity and the grace extended to us by LIRS that my family was able to rebuild and start anew.”

LIRS – there from the beginning

LIRS has welcomed more than 500,000 refugees and immigrants to the U.S. since the organization’s inception in 1939, before the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program existed. Originally, LIRS was formed by Lutheran congregations to help Lutherans who were fleeing persecution during and following World War II.

“We quickly realized that Lutherans weren’t the only ones we could help,” said Danielle Bernard, former director of marketing and communications for LIRS. “[The organization] expanded services to include anyone.”

For the past 30 years, LIRS also has helped unaccompanied refugee minors, finding long-term foster care for children without family in the U.S. Now the organization has started to work with recently detained immigrants who often are released from detention with nowhere to go and no possessions but the clothes on their backs.

“We make sure they have food, clothing, shelter, a ticket to get to family or support and knowledge to go out into the community to get resources,” Bernard said. “It’s all about providing support and communication to migrants and refugees ... so they can become settled and thrive once they get to the U.S. ... and they actually feel at the end of the day that they’re welcomed into the community as Americans.”

Faithful partners

For the past 80 years, the ELCA and its predecessor churches, along with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have been a strong partner with LIRS.

Congregations are asked to sponsor a family and to provide volunteers who will have dinner with the family, show them around their city, explain how to use public transportation, help family members get a drivers license, point the family to ESL classes and connect them to other resources they may need, Bernard said.

Cobb, who helped resettle two families while serving at Christ Lutheran Church and three others when he was pastor of a congregation in Grand Rapids, Mich., said refugee resettlement is one way the ELCA’s tagline — “God’s work. Our hands.” — is put into action.

(Continued from page 10)

"There should be more empathy for people who are seeking safety and protection," Cobb says. "And if this country can help that to happen, it's imperative that we follow the mandate to love our neighbors. Often, these are people who can't speak our language but are looking for refuge. I think God's heart is with the refugee and the poor. And the church has to be about that mission."

Murphy has similar thoughts. "I have always been grateful for the opportunity that I've had because of the generosity of the Lutheran Church and because of the providence that enabled the U.S. Navy to rescue my family during our escape," she said. "I didn't really tell this story growing up, in order to assimilate, in an effort to not be different. But in order to combat the rhetoric at the national level that was inconsistent with the experiences that I had, I needed to share my story, to present an alternate narrative to being an immigrant to America."

"I'm still incredibly grateful, and I think today LIRS reminds us that there's a place in this country for faith-based organizations who do the tough job of forging a path for those who are seeking a better life."



Stephanie N. Grimoldby is a freelance writer living in Antioch, Ill.

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THANKS TO OUR EASTER FLOWER DONORS!

Leatrice Alexander	Lynne Bailey
Sue Brunst	Diana Cerny
Paul Bucholtz & Mary Ellen Robinette	
Jody Clare-Harnak & family	Tina & Bob Coleman
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Glenn & Nancy Fasnacht	Lori Harrison
John & Wendy Gibbons	Linda Mondry
Sally Morris	MJ Neel
Ginger & Tom Pituch	Sue Simmons
D. Urban	Pat & Rich Wilhelms
Jane Zaremba	

Special thanks to Janet Nezbeda for ordering, delivering, and arranging the 32 beautiful Easter lilies, tulips, daffodils, and hydrangeas for Easter! (The supplier substituted hydrangeas for hyacinths.)

Shining the Light of Jesus...

....March 30th Haven of Rest volunteers - Juanita Chisholm, Chuck Goodnight, Jay & Kate Hartland, Sue Simmons, Jane Zaremba. CTK has volunteered at Haven of Rest since at least July 31, 2010! (The next date is Saturday, June 29th, 2019; watch for a sign-up sheet.)

....James, Lisa, & Cael Wells for picking up twelve bags of clothing and shoes for the St. Pauly shed from the family of a local resident who was moving.

....food providers for midweek Lenten suppers, March 27th to April 10th, including, but not limited to Barb Basmagy, Lynne Bailey, Dana & Jake Biltz, Joanne Ciarniello, Kerry Dominick, Chris Driver, Shirley Duffy, Glenn & Nancy Fasnacht, Wendy Gibbons, Linda Mondry, MJ Neel, Ginger Pituch, Mary Ellen Robinette, Sue Simmons,

....Midweek Lent ushers - Jay & Kate Hartland, Wendy Gibbons, MJ Neel

....Passion Saturday & Sunday readers - Mike Coss, Shirley Duffy, Pastor Matthew Groenke, Patti Jabre, Linda Mondry, Sally Morris, MJ Neel, Janet Nezbeda, Sue Simmons

....MJ Neel for donating & serving the First Communion cake & cupcakes after worship Sunday, April 14th.

....Palm Sunday palm distributor - Ginger Pituch

....Maundy Thursday altar care helpers - Bryan & Kristin Bedford, Joanne Ciarniello, Lisa Doty, Karen Scarpelli, Tom Pituch, Sue Simmons, Pam Wolfe, Jane Zaremba

....Maundy Thursday acolyte & communion assistant - Olivia Doty

....Maundy Thursday special music - Kevin Basom, Tom Pituch, Sally Morris

....Maundy Thursday & Good Friday ushers - Chris Driver, Wendy Gibbons

....Easter Vigil "fire duty" - Evan Harnak

....Easter Vigil acolyte & crucifer - Adam Groenke, Elijah Groenke

....Easter Sunday special music - Kevin Basom, Bob & Tina Coleman, Sally Morris, Pam & Wiley Wolfe

....some of the people who volunteer tirelessly behind the scenes throughout the year -

Lisa Doty - gardener

Gene & Marilyn Ulmer - tidying the pews

Linda Mondry & Karen Reid - counting the offering

Sandy Molnar - Financial Secretary

Mike Pereksta - Treasurer



MAY MESSENGER 2019

www.CtKTwinsburg.com



May 12

High School Graduation Stepping Stone at
9:30 AM Worship with reception following

May 19

Rite of Confirmation at 9:30 AM Worship
with reception following

May 19

Final Week of Sunday School at 10:45 AM



Summer Schedule begins May 26th

5:30 PM Saturday Worship with Holy Communion

9:30 A M Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday school resumes in September.

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

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

Sunday Worship and Schedule:

Worship 9:30 AM

Sunday School for All through May 19th 10:45 AM

Holy Communion at both Saturday & Sunday services.

Staffed nursery on Sunday mornings.

Cover this box with the
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