

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!

- Healing Service p. 2
- LAFF Hike & Dinner in June p. 2
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SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JUNE 2ND

On Sunday, June 2nd, at 10:45 AM, all voting members of Christ the King are encouraged to attend a specially called congregational meeting. The sole order of business is repairing the leaky roof.

NEW MEMBERS JOINING CTK

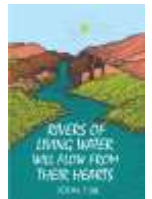
These people will join Christ the King on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th: Zareh Avitsian, Hailey Ball, Dana & Jake Biltz, Brian Harnak, Dale McGaffic, and Elizabeth Novotny. Sign up on the bulletin board to bring finger foods for a reception after worship or to help set up or clean up.



Watch for details about our new members in upcoming issues of the *Messenger*. Their contact information will be put in Ctk mailboxes for your phone directory.

GRATITUDE CELEBRATION SCHEDULE PLANNED!

We are excited to share with the congregation our Ctk 2020 "Gratitude Celebration" schedule. Our theme this year is "We Are a Mighty River," and our theme scripture is John 7:38 "Rivers of living water will flow from their hearts." Our theme song is *The River Is Here*.



Special family events will follow worship services on **Sundays, June 23rd** and August 25th, **at 11 AM**, and Saturday, July 20th, at 6:30 PM. We will have games, music, food, and t-shirt decorating!

During the six weeks following Rally Day, September 8th, we will highlight the mission of Ctk within our congregation, our community, and the world, through sermons, ministry presentations, and special guest speakers. On the weekend of October 12th-13th, our Ctk Gratitude Celebration will culminate with our congregation pledging support for the 2020 Ctk Mission.

More information will be in the monthly and weekly *Messengers* as each important event approaches.

Have a safe and happy summer!
Your Ctk Church Council

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS ALMOST HERE!

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

Please get registrations in as soon as possible!

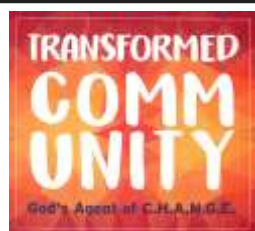
Theme: Transformed Community; God's Agent of C.H.A.N.G.E.

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

Theme verse: *'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



CLUSTER CARE GROUPS TO ORGANIZE JUNE 3RD



If you'd like to help Ctk stay in touch with all our members, come to the Cluster Care Groups organizational meeting Monday, June 3rd, at 7 PM. See Paul Bucholtz for more information.

PUT ON YOUR HIKING BOOTS WITH LAFF!

On Saturday, June 1st, LAFF (Life After Fifty Fellowship & Friends) is going to hike the Cleveland Clinic, Twinsburg, Trail (aka, the Razing Family Community Trail, which is a well-kept secret!) at 4:00, then drive to El Campesino for dinner. The hike should be about 45 minutes long, and it is not difficult. Sign up on the LAFF kiosk so that we can make dinner reservations.

For those that want to carpool, we will meet at the church at 3:45 PM. If you will not carpool, meet us at the trailhead in the right corner of the parking lot behind the Clinic. Questions? Call or see Tina (216-548-6890) or Bob Coleman.

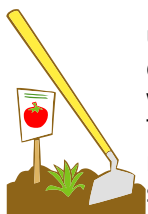
SYNOD ASSEMBLY IN AKRON JUNE 14TH & 15TH

NEOS Pastor Matthew, Deacon Patti, Joanne Ciarniello, and David Schiopota will represent CtK at the Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly at the John S. Knight Center in Akron on June 14th & 15th. Donations for Fear 2 Freedom and hygiene kits are needed in the Giving Center bin by Wednesday, June 12th: 2-qt, 1/2-gal, 1-gal, or 2-gal ziplock bags; paper lunch or gift bags; any size diapers; travel size toiletries; men's M-XL underwear, t-shirts, sweat pants. Please pray for discernment for all those attending this important annual gathering of the Synod.

YOU CAN HELP FEED GOD'S CHILDREN!

Did you know it is estimated that a person dies of hunger or hunger related causes every ten seconds? That means 21,000 die every day from hunger or malnutrition. Sadly, it is children who die most often. Hungry people are trapped in severe poverty.

The ELCA World Hunger program gives us the chance to save people's lives by donating money that will provide them with the means to help feed themselves. The Lester Fund will supply \$200 in matching funds if we can raise \$200 to buy seeds for poor farmers.



A small table is set up just outside the sanctuary where you can leave a check made out to *ELCA World Hunger* or give cash donations to me, Karen Reid. May God bless this project.

Submitted by Karen Reid

HAVEN OF REST HELPERS NEEDED JUNE 29TH

Several volunteers are needed to serve supper at Haven of Rest in Akron on Saturday, June 29th. Carpools leave CtK around 5:30 PM. To serve food, volunteers must be at least 15 years old, but younger volunteers can help set up and clean up. Sign up on the bulletin board to help, or talk to Sue Simmons, coordinator.

CtK volunteers first helped at Haven of Rest work days in June and August 2009 and started serving supper on a month's fifth Saturday in June 2010.

RED PENTECOST GERANIUMS MAY BE ORDERED

Pentecost, when we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit as tongues of fire upon the apostles, is June 9th this year. On Pentecost weekend CtK's chancel will be covered with red geraniums.



Sign up on the bulletin board through Sunday, June 2nd, to order geraniums. A 4-inch pot costs \$1.25, and Janet Nezbeda will order good quality flowers from her usual source. If you'd like to donate flowers to be planted at CtK by CtK gardener Lisa Doty, please note that on the sign-up sheet. Make payment to CtK through your giving envelope, designating *Geraniums*.

Remember to wear red to worship on Pentecost weekend, June 8th & 9th!

**NAME TAG WEEKENDS SET IN JUNE**

To help our newest members get to know us and vice versa, please wear your name tag to worship on the weekends of June 8th & 9th, 15th & 16th, and 22nd & 23rd. (If you need a name tag, please leave a note in Wendy Gibbons' mailbox or make a note on the pew pad.)

RITE OF HEALING AT WORSHIP JUNE 15TH & 16TH

Worship services on Saturday, June 15th, & Sunday, June 16th, will include a brief Rite of Healing with special prayers, anointing with oil, and the laying on of hands. Invite your friends and family members who may benefit from this special service.

**DIRECTORY****Christ the King Lutheran Church**

10285 Ravenna Road
Twinsburg, OH 44087

Phone: 330-425-7377

www.CtKTwinsburg.com



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

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

Kevin Basom, Director of Music

Linda Mondry, Saturday Worship Musician

Wendy Gibbons, Office Administrator
wgibbons@CtKTwinsburg.com x102

Email Wendy to receive this publication via email.

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

JUNE 2019

One of the most important ways to grow closer to God is through the discipline of daily Bible reading. Spending time in God's written Word opens our hearts and minds to the truth that God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and God's ways are not our ways. Martin Luther famously said that "the Bible is the cradle that holds Christ." Thomas Merton once said that, "It is the nature of the Bible to affront, perplex, and astonish the human mind. Hence the reader who opens the Bible must be prepared for disorientation, confusion, incomprehension, perhaps outrage." Lutherans believe that God addresses us individually and collectively whenever scripture is read, that this is a Living Word alive in the Holy Spirit.



Geoffrey Thomas once said of the impact of reading the Bible daily that one "should not expect to master the Bible in a day, or a month, or a year. Rather, expect often to be puzzled by its contents. Do not expect always to get an emotional charge or a feeling of quiet peace when you read the Bible. Often, you will get no emotional response at all. But let the Word break over your heart and mind again and again as the years go by, and imperceptibly there will come great changes in your attitude and outlook and conduct. You will probably be the last to recognize these. Often you will feel very, very small, because increasingly the God of the Bible will become to you wonderfully great. So go on reading it until you can read no longer, and then you will not need the Bible anymore, because when your eyes close for the last time in death, and never again read the Word of God in scripture, you will open them to the Word of God in the flesh, that same Jesus of the Bible whom you have known so long, standing before you to take you forever to his eternal home."

There are lots of different ways and methods to try when it comes to taking up the practice of daily Bible reading. I have included a few below:

Compare different versions – Read the same Bible text in several different English translations, noticing the different connotations that they offer.

Ask questions – Read the Bible passage and then ask questions such as:

- Does this text reveal something I should believe about God?
- Does this text reveal something I should praise or thank or trust God for?
- Does this text reveal something I should pray about for myself or others?
- Does this text reveal something I should have a new attitude about?
- Does this text reveal something I should make a decision about?
- Does this text reveal something I should do for the sake of Christ, others, or myself?

Empathize with characters – Read a Bible story repeatedly, pretending that you are a different character each time and sensing what you think and how you feel about what transpires. For example, read the story of the prodigal son from the perspective of the prodigal, the father, and the older brother.

Paraphrase the passage – Read a Bible passage and then summarize or rewrite it in your own words. Then compare your paraphrase with the original, noting what you might have added, left out, or changed.

Emphasize different words – Read a verse repeatedly, putting the stress on different words and thinking about how this brings out different dimensions of the meaning. An example would be: "For *God* so loved the world"; "For God so *loved* the world"; "For God so loved the *world*."

"God's Word is the treasure that makes everything holy. At whatever time God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day, and the work is hallowed, not on account of the external work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints." (Martin Luther)

Living in God's amazing grace,

Pastor Matthew Groenke

CONGRATULATIONS TO CTK'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!

At worship on Sunday, May 12th, Christ the King's high school seniors celebrated the final Faith Stepping Stone, High School Graduation.

Hailey Ball

Graduates from Elyria High School June 5th on the High Honor Roll

Summer job: counselor at Pocono Plateau in the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania for two months

Future plans: college and nursing school

Gabrielle Doty

Graduates from Nordonia High School May 23rd as a member of the National Honor Society.

Future plans: attending Wittenberg University and majoring in History, with a minor in Education.

Adam Groenke

Graduates from Twinsburg High School June 2nd with an Honors Diploma, finishing in the top 10 of his graduating class

Awards: National Merit Certificate of Commendation; Global and Ohio Seals of Biliteracy for Functional Fluency in English & Spanish; Social Studies Department Award; National Honor Society Honor Cords; Foreign Language National Honor Society Honor Cords

Future plans: attending Miami University of Ohio in the fall to study Global Politics and Diplomacy with a minor in Philosophy and Law in Miami's Honors Program. He was awarded an academic merit scholarship from the University

Stephanie Hartland

Graduates from Aurora High School

Awarded the Connections Award for the work/study program and scholarships from the Rotary Club and the Aurora Educators Association

Future plans: attending Slippery Rock University in the fall, majoring in Special Education

FIRST BIBLE TO BE PRESENTED MAY 26TH

Alex Bortak, Ctk third grader, attended First Bible class and will be recognized at the First Bible Faith Stepping Stone at 9:30 AM worship Sunday, May 26th.

APRIL SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

4th – 6th Grades – Truman Goss

Adults – Joanne Ciarniello, Chris Driver, Pastor Matthew Groenke, John Humrichouser, Ginger Pituch, Tom Pituch, Karen Reid, Dale Schlosnagle, Mary Schlosnagle, Jane Zarembo

MAY SUNDAY SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE

1st - 3rd Grades - Benjamin Stayanchi, Alex Sudnik

4th - 6th Grades - Nathan Stayanchi

Adults - Zareh Avitsian, Katie Bach, Joanne Ciarniello, Rich Ciarniello, Pastor Matthew Groenke, Denise Hall, John Humrichouser, Karen Reid, David Schiopota, Amy Williams

**Faith, Formation & Fun**

F3, better known as Confirmation Camp, will be July 7-12. This year Koren Goss will attend and learn more about God as he continues his faith journey. Deacon Patti will be an adult leader at the camp. (This is the final year that camp will be held at Camp Mowana near Mansfield. The Northeastern Ohio Synod has sold the camp.)

Please pray for the safety and spiritual growth of all participants.

Min. or Discipleship & Youth



To our youth for purchasing and building the new picnic table near the back door. They did this during their April 26-27 lock-in as a servant project for the congregation.

Min. of Discipleship & Youth

VACATION TIME IN OFFICE

The office will be closed Monday, May 27th, then Wendy will be on vacation. Office hours will be flexible from May 28th through June 7th. Please call ahead if you need to talk to someone or if you need to get in the building but do not have a key.

Special thanks to Office Administrator Emeritus Ginger Pituch for printing bulletins and otherwise holding down the fort in Wendy's absence!

OIKENOMOUS

Stewardship comes from the Greek word *oikenomous* which means somebody manages a household.



Stewardship is not just about giving money to a church. It encompasses so much more, as the Greek translation iterates. We have to be careful not to fall into the trap of thinking that if we give of ourselves in one area, we can neglect giving in another.

Generosity is Stewardship in all the ways we can be and a help to all at CtK and in our community.

As faithful stewards are we managing CtK to the best of our abilities with our gifts?

Sandy Molnar, Financial Secretary

THRIVENT FINANCIAL[®] DIRECTED THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Christ the King received a gift in the amount of **\$67** in May from Thrivent. The following members of Thrivent requested we receive this gift. Thank you for your support. (Contact your Thrivent representative to find out more about the Thrivent Choice program.)

Rob & Lisa Doty

Christ the King Lutheran Church Lester and Cooper Endowment Grants		Spring 2019
Haven of Rest remodeling program	J Ciarniello / Outreach	4,000
Baccalaureate mailing	P Jabre / Outreach	50
Garage Sale Warriors	K Reid / Outreach	600
Our Community Hunger Center	J Humrichouser / Outreach	1,000
Donation	J Hunt- P Jabre / TEAC	3,000
CtK Lighting upgrade	T Pituch / Property	2,100
Beds for Kids	M-R Mitch / Outreach	2,400
Projects 2019	K Bach-J Coss / ROCK	3,500
Aurora Food Pantry	L Bailey / Outreach	2,500
Zoe Kirchens Fundraiser	D Tierney / Outreach-Matching	4,000
ELCA - Disaster relief (Hurricane Michael)	G Pituch / Outreach	2,500
Shine the Light Run	M Coss / Outreach	1,000
CtK 2020 Stewardship	M Coss / Council	2,400

WELCOME CTK'S NEWEST MEMBER!

At 5:30 PM worship on Saturday, May 4th, Pastor Matthew baptized five-month-old Madison Jane Smearcheck, the daughter of Jeff & Lauren Smearcheck. Her sponsors are her aunt & uncle, Kristin & Bryan Bedford, and her uncle Matthew Smearcheck. Madison's grandparents, including frequent CtK worshipers Crystal & Dale McGaffic, and other relatives attended. Her parents hosted a cake reception after worship. Welcome to CtK, Madison!



ENLIGHTENMENT FROM PROPERTY MINISTRY

Thanks to volunteer workers and CtK Endowment funding of \$4,000 we were able to convert office, hallway, fellowship hall, and classroom florescent ceiling lights to energy efficient LED bulbs. This project not only provides more light lumens per bulb, but it also reduced energy usage from 32 watts to 13 watts per bulb (a 40% reduction). We received a \$1,000 rebate from First Energy, and over time we will benefit from lower electrical power costs.

By the way, I could not resist including a comment about our mission of "Shining the Light."

Submitted by Tom Pituch, Property Ministry Chair

COLLECTIONS AT CTK

St. Pauly Used Clothing Shed: \$150 for April; \$536 for the year; \$5,686 since inception in 2014. Whether we have rain, sleet, snow, or tropical temperatures, Karen Reid monitors the donations to be sure they are acceptable to St. Pauly. Sadly, games, toys, furniture, kitchen appliances & utensils, and rubber horse masks do not make the cut!
Salvation Army Bed & Bread: \$35.52 in April. This collection box is in the narthex, and Lynne Bailey keeps track of the donations and sends them to the Salvation Army.
River Valley Paper: \$12.30 was received for paper put in outdoor paper recycle bin in April
AmazonSmile: \$19.68 for January 1st through March 31st, 2019. CtK has received \$104 since October 2017.



APRIL 2019 FINANCE REPORT	
<i>Complete financial information is posted on the kiosk outside the office.</i>	
Operating Income	\$22,949
Other designated income	\$2,449
Total Income	\$25,398
Operating Expenses	\$20,662
Other payments	\$3,030
Total Expenses	\$23,692
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	\$1,706
Monthly Budget	\$20,119

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 IN JUNE 2019

	Worship time	JUNE 1 st & 2 nd Kneeling Communion	JUNE 8 th & 9 th Pentecost - Wear red!	JUNE 15 th & 16 th Holy Trinity Rite of Healing	JUNE 22 nd & 23 rd	JUNE 29 th & 30 th
Acolytes	5:30 PM	Lydia Schiopota	Sign up to volunteer	Lydia Schiopota	Sign up to volunteer	Lauren Williams
	9:30 AM	Sign up to volunteer	Nathan Stayanchi	Sign up to volunteer	Sign up to volunteer	Evan Harnak
	5:30 PM	Patti Jabre	None available	None available	Katie Bach	Patti Jabre
Worship Assistants, Lectors (L), Communion Assistants (C)	9:30 AM	Kristin Wedemeyer Goss (L, wine), Mike Coss (grape)	Wendy Jones (L), John Humrichouser (C)	Shirley Duffy (L, C)	Sally Morris (L, C)	Jenn Lue (L), Denise Tearney (C)
Lay Prayer Leaders	9:30 AM	Kristin Wedemeyer Goss	Shirley Duffy	Jenn Lue	Diane Procop	Karen Reid
	5:30 PM	Elizabeth Novotny	Elizabeth Novotny	Elizabeth Novotny	Sharon Straka	Sharon Straka
Ushers	9:30 AM	Chris Driver, Ginger Pituch	Chuck Goodnight, Chris Spitz	Bob & Sonja Roe	Linda Bendler, Denise Hall	Joanne & Rich Ciarniello
Greeters	9:30 AM	D. Urban	Jean & Mike Coss	Joanne & Rich Ciarniello	Sue Brunst	Jay & Kate Hartland
Sound Booth	5:30 PM	Claire Schiopota	Schiopota family	Claire Schiopota	Wendy Gibbons	Wendy Gibbons
Altar Care	9:30 AM	Sue Simmons	Jenn Lue	Sign up in sacristy	Sign up in sacristy	Sign up in sacristy
Punch Maker	9:15 AM	Kate Hartland	Kristin Bedford	Mary Ellen Robinette	Volunteer needed	Rich Ciarniello
Coffee Clean-up	After 10:30AM	Office Staff	Ginger & Tom Pituch	Sandy Molnar	Office Staff	Office Staff

July Messenger Assembly Team: D. Urban & a volunteer to be selected
- **Tuesday, June 25th, 2019, 1:00 PM in Room 103**

July Messenger Deadline: **Thursday, June 20th, 2019**

Thanks to Kristin Wedemeyer Goss & Mary Ellen Robinette for assembling the June Messenger!



June 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>2</p> <p>9:30AM Worship w/communion</p> <p>10:45 AM Special Cong. Meeting for Roof Repair</p> <p><i>Deadline to sign up for Pentecost geraniums</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Mon. Min.</p> <p>11:00AM Staff Mtg</p> <p>7:00 PM Cluster Care Group Mtg</p> <p>7:00 PM G.S. Troop #90603 -</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:00 AM Pastor's study</p> <p>11:30 AM LAFF planning - offsite</p> <p>7:00 PM Finance - rm 103</p>	<p>5</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday</p>	<p>6</p> <p>1:00 AM Cleveland East & West-Navy's staff</p> <p>7:00 PM Mothers of Twins - Room 105</p> <p>7:00 PM Thurs. Group - F. Hall</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship w/communion</p> <p>Name Tag Weekend</p> <p>Pentecost - wear red!</p>																																																																																																		
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<p>9</p> <p>9:30 AM Receive new members</p> <p>9:30 AM Worship w/communion</p> <p>10:30 AM New member reception</p> <p>Name Tag Weekend</p> <p>Pentecost - wear red!</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:00AM Monday AM Ministry</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00 AM Pastor's study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday</p> <p><i>Deadline for donations of ziplock bags, travel toiletries, etc. for Synod Assembly</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 PM Thurs. Group - F Hall</p> <p>7:00 PM VBS Family Fireside Program</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship w/Healing, communion</p> <p>Name Tag Weekend</p>																																																																																																		
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Evening VBS				NEOS Assembly - Akron																																																																																																				
<p>16</p> <p>9:30AM Worship w/ Rite of Healing, Communion</p> <p>Holy Trinity Sunday</p> <p>Name Tag Weekend</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM Monday AM Ministry</p> <p>10:00AM Congregational Care</p> <p>11:00AM Staff Mtg</p> <p>7:00 PM Council - Room 103</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00 AM Pastor's study</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Bible Study & Potluck Lunch - F Hall</p>	<p>19</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:45 PM Twinsburg Garden Club - F Hall</p> <p>7:00 PM Thurs. Eve. Group - 105</p> <p>Newsletter deadline</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship w/communion</p> <p>Name Tag Weekend</p>																																																																																																		
<p>23</p> <p>9:30AM Worship w/communion</p> <p>11:00 AM Generosity Brunch for ALL</p> <p>Name Tag Weekend</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:00AM Monday AM Ministry</p> <p>11:00 AM Staff Mtg</p>	<p>25</p> <p>10:00 AM Pastor's study</p> <p>1:00 PM Assemble Messenger - room 103</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:00 PM Faith Wednesday</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 PM Thurs. Eve. Group - F Hall</p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Office opens at 10AM.</i></p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30 PM Serve at Haven of Rest</p> <p>5:30 PM Worship w/communion</p>																																																																																																		
<p>30</p> <p>9:30AM Worship w/communion</p>																																																																																																								



- Mike Coss 6/6
- Kristopher Bedford 6/7
- Marge Bowman 6/8
- Koren Goss 6/8
- Carlee Bedford 6/9
- Laura Corbin 6/11
- Corey Thompson 6/12
- Lauren Williams 6/12
- Irene Ream 6/15
- Angel Hall 6/18
- Emily Heath 6/18
- Karen Scarpelli 6/24
- Jody Clare-Harnak 6/26
- Janet Schiopota 6/26
- Mike Pereksta 6/28



- Dale & Mary Schlosnagle 6/8
- John & Wendy Gibbons 6/9
- Tom & Ginger Pituch 6/24
- Bob & Sonja Roe 6/24
- Wiley & Pam Wolfe 6/24

I'D LOVE TO TELL THE STORY...BUT

This was the theme of Northeastern Ohio Synod Bishop Abraham Allende's Spring Gathering, held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at St. Jacob's Lutheran Church in Canton. Deacon Patti Jabre and council member Karen Reid attended the Gathering as CtK representatives.



Bishop Allende opened the meeting with a Bible study from Matthew 28, then introduced the main speaker, the Rev. Katie Kerrigan, Director for Evangelical Mission, Southern Ohio Synod. The speaker explained that although Christians want to share their faith, they don't feel prepared to evangelize. Christians don't feel prepared because they feel their Biblical literacy is lacking, their knowledge of Lutheranism is lacking, and they don't feel like they have a faith story to tell. The most powerful evangelism tool is the faith story, and every Christian has one although they may not recognize it for what it is. It is not necessarily a conversion story.

Then attenders practiced sharing stories, using a list of prompts and suggestions such as "Tell about a time when you felt God very close to you," and "Tell about a time when you didn't think you could have made it through a situation if God had not been there to bring you through it." There was also a table with resources for stewardship, mission support, discipling, and evangelizing.

Please talk to Deacon Patti or Karen if you'd like more information.
Submitted by Karen Reid

APRIL 8, 2019 COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Complete meeting minutes are posted on the Council kiosk.

Approved the revised agenda with added Synod Assembly and discussion of new business before old business.

Approved Minutes from March 12, 2019 council meeting.

New Business

- Approved Endowment Grant requests as recommended by Endowment.
- Facility Use Requests
 - ◊ Approved Twins Days Committee request to use CtK tree lawn to park flatbed tractor trailer during Parade.
 - ◊ Approved request to use sanctuary, marthex, and restrooms for a piano recital May 5th; a church member must open and lock church.
- Approved second draft of March 17th CTK Congregational Meeting minutes

Submitted by Tom Pituch, Council Secretary



2019 EASTER CANTATA PRESENTED APRIL 27TH & 28TH

This year's Easter cantata, *Closer to the Cross: Celebrating the Journey of Christ* by Dave Clark and Nick Robertson was presented at worship April 27th & 28th.

Thanks to this year's cantata participants under the direction of fearless & faithful Music Director Kevin Basom.

Sopranos

- Tina Coleman
- Linda Mondry
- Mary Schlosnagle
- Victoria Valore
- Jane Zarembo

Altos

- Wendy Gibbons
- Sandy Molnar
- Sally Morris

Narrator

- MJ Neel

Sound Booth

- John Gibbons

Tenors

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

Basses

- Bob Bortak
- John Humrichouser
- Dale Schlosnagle
- Wiley Wolfe

Questions in life

By The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

The good people at Lenoir-Rhyne University's Living Well Center for Vocation and Purpose invited me to address the school on the topic "Lives Worth Living." Yikes! This is one of The Questions in life—right up there with "What is the meaning of life?" and "What is true, beautiful and good?" and "Where do socks go after you put them in the dryer?"

For me, this turned out to be a good, if slightly disturbing, time of reflection. Our lives can be consumed with busyness—all the stuff that we do or need to get done to make it through the day, week, year, life. A lot of this is necessary, some not so much. Even those called to public ministry get swept up in the endless round of meetings, reports and events. And some in this world don't have the luxury of carving out time for contemplation as they struggle to keep their families fed, clothed and safe from harm.

As I write this it is Lent, a time of reflection and examination. I do have the privilege of time and, with the added incentive of a deadline, here are some thoughts.

We are inundated with messages of salvation, or at least better lives, through things. Ads for products as diverse as cars, toothpaste, brokerage firms, weed killers and more are carefully crafted to cast an aspirational vision of the good life. Sometimes this vision of the good life is presented in such a beguiling way that one forgets what product is being advertised. It's possible to get lost if you go down this road. There will always be a new thing, the promise of a more beautiful you. It's there—just beyond reach.

Jesus warns us about this in the parable of the rich man, who believed he had attained the good life. "And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' " (Luke 12:19-20).

So, what's the point? If materialism doesn't bring meaning, why not just give up?

In Ecclesiastes we hear: "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done; there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Nihilism, oddly enough, can provide a frame for meaning. "Who cares?" can quickly become "Don't care." Protected from disappointment by withdrawing from this world of care is as tempting as a frenzied life in pursuit of self-made happiness.

I believe there is another way, a different way, of shaping our lives. The cruciform life is the life worth living. The cruciform life delivers us from our constant striving to make our lives have meaning through our own efforts. It saves us from the exhausting pursuit of self-justification and worth, from the loss of our true selves in all of our posturing.

Jesus, crucified and risen for the sake of the world, breaks through all of that. He breaks down all pretense on our part and all claims of salvation that the world offers. God comes to us, cherishes us, bids us to come to God's life and peace. Augustine, an early Christian theologian, knew this when he wrote: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in you."

The cruciform life also breaks through nihilism. Free from the necessity of saving ourselves, and from the numbness of the pointlessness of all that, the cross breaks us open to others, to the world. The rush of feeling back into a self that has cut itself off from circulation is painful. But it is also a sign of life. We can feel, we can touch and be touched by others. The cross sets us free to serve the neighbor. Here is the life worth living that God gives us.

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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, June 1st. See Tom Pituch for details.

TUESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

From June through August the Ctk Tuesday Women's Bible Study meets once monthly. June's gathering will be the 18th at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall **with a potluck lunch** afterwards. The study for June through August from *Gather* magazine, is *Lessons from Esther* by Kay Ward, a bishop of the Moravian Church. June's topic is "For such a time as this: Esther the queen-voices in the king's court." The author writes, "In this session we will think about how our culture may challenge our faith."

Wendy Gibbons leads the sessions, which include Bible study, fellowship, discussion, and prayer. All women are invited to attend 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.

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 reading *Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple* by Adam Hamilton the first three weeks of June. Each week's class begins with a DVD introduction. Everyone is welcome to attend whenever it's convenient, even if you do not have the book. See the *Weekend Messenger* to know which chapter will be read that week. There is time to eat your brown bag lunch in the class.

 A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you to our loving CtK family for all of the prayers and help provided during **Mike's cardiac event and my recent surgery**. We are indeed fortunate to have such a great group of people looking out for us. Blessings to all.

Mike and Jean Coss

Shining the Light of Jesus™

...2018 – 2019 Sunday church school teachers & substitutes and Bible study facilitators: Katie Bach, Wendy Gibbons, Pastor Matthew Groenke, Denise Hall, John Humrichouser, Deacon Patti Jabre, Karen Reid, David Schiopota, Heather Stayanchi, Amy Williams

...Pam Wolfe for designing and making the new banner [shown at right] on the Welcome Center in the narthex.



...Chuck Goodnight, who has begun regular lawn mowing at CtK as of the last week in April!

...the youth for assembling the new picnic table at the April 26th-27th lock-in under the supervision of Jay Hartland and Deacon Patti Jabre: Gabrielle Doty, Justin Hartland, Koren Goss, James (Koren's friend), Lydia Schiopota, Claire Schiopota.

...Tom Pituch for hours of work to stop a running toilet.

...Lauren & Jeff Smearcheck for the cake for the reception for their daughter Madison's baptism, and to Sharon Straka & Wendy Gibbons for serving the cake.

...May 7th blood drive helpers Marge Bowman, Kerry Dominick, Luella Goodnight, MJ Neel, Elizabeth Novotny, Ginger Pituch. Eleven pints were collected. The next blood drive at CtK will be Tuesday, July 2nd, from 2 to 7 PM.

...May 12th High School Graduates' reception set up & clean up: Chris Spitz, Louise Susnik; food providers, including: Jean Coss, Wendy Gibbons, MJ Neel, Mary Ellen Robinette, Sue Simmons, Chris Spitz, Louise Susnik

...May 19th Confirmation reception set up & serving: MJ Neel, Chris Spitz; cake donation: MJ Neel, Louise Susnik; corsage donation: Lynne Bailey

...more tireless, behind-the-scenes helpers:

Attendance takers – Ginger Pituch, Karen Reid
 Coffee bar clean-up – Ginger & Tom Pituch, Sandy Molnar, Wendy Gibbons

For the sake of the earth

By Cindy Uken

While talking about the uptick in severe weather and extreme temperatures, Ruth Ivory-Moore, ELCA program director for environment and corporate responsibility, is direct: "All of creation is experiencing the impact of global warming.

"These extreme weather patterns result in unprecedented floods, droughts and wildfires, and rising sea levels that are leading to the degradation of the earth. And the consequences are not being borne equally. The most vulnerable among us are paying a higher price; that is, they are disproportionately impacted with extraordinary losses and damages. We are truly in a dire situation, but there is hope—both spiritually and scientifically."

Against this backdrop, the ELCA is underscoring its work in environmental justice through a new collaboration with ecoAmerica's Blessed Tomorrow program, an ecumenical faith community initiative to empower climate action and advocacy.

"The earth is our home and we are accountable to God for protecting and caring for all of creation," Ivory-Moore said. "We recognize and value the benefits of establishing relationships and working with other denominations. Therefore, the ELCA embraces the opportunity to form collaborative relationships with others to work to protect our home—the Earth.

The nonprofit ecoAmerica conducts research to learn who is ready to advocate on the issue of climate change and how organizations involved in that work can motivate people to take action.

"We can use this information to bring awareness to our congregations in language that resonates to their specific concerns," Ivory-Moore said.

Amy Reumann, director of ELCA Advocacy, said that the relationship with ecoAmerica expands and deepens the ELCA's ability to provide resources that inform, inspire and equip congregations and leaders to learn about climate change, talk about its impacts and address it through their ministries.

"Climate change is hurting people now and impacting core ministries of the church," she said. "It's uprooting populations, undermining global gains in health, exacerbating hunger, and driving natural disasters and regional conflicts. We are involved for the sake of our neighbor's well-being and the security of generations to come.

"It's also a theological problem, rooted in distortion of our relationship with God that results in treating creation as an endless storehouse to plunder rather than a precious trust to steward. Climate change is the result of human sinfulness, as we in the U.S. consume more than our fair share of natural resources through unsustainable lifestyles and energy use while those who contribute

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least to greenhouse gas emissions are suffering its impacts the most.”

Ivory-Moore said the church’s work in environmental advocacy is based on Scripture and ELCA teachings, including the social statements “Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice” and “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All.”

“Our climate-justice work includes advocating for public laws and policies that protect the health and well-being of humans and all of life,” she said.

Ann Svennungsen, bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod, said Martin Luther’s concept of vocation is key to understanding the church’s call to address climate change.

“Because Luther was so clear on justification by faith alone, he spoke courageously about our freedom to boldly engage the world,” Svennungsen said. “He always seemed to be pushing Christians back into the community. If your town needs a mayor, run for mayor. If it needs a school, build a school. These are the vocations of the baptized. Today, Luther would probably add: If your global home needs healing, find a way to do it.”

Ivory-Moore said ELCA Advocacy works to create resources and opportunities to get involved, including action alerts so Lutherans can send messages to their members of Congress.

ELCA Advocacy works with not only full-communion partners but also interreligious offices on Capitol Hill so the faith community speaks with one voice in the most strategic way.

“The Blessed Tomorrow program is another area where we can collaborate and work with our full-communion partner churches,” Ivory-Moore said. “Blessed Tomorrow provides another venue to collectively raise our voices for action. We can share ideas and tools, and help build compelling strategies to address climate change and to protect and uplift the most vulnerable.”

Cindy Uken is a veteran, award-winning reporter based in Palm Springs, Calif. She has worked at *USA Today*, as well as newspapers in South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and California.

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Campus ministry provides a place, purpose

Alive in the church

By Megan Brandsrud

Editor’s note: “There are no young people here” is a common refrain as some worry about the future of the church. But young adults are indeed active across the ELCA and have powerful faith stories to share. This series will highlight young leaders who are boldly pursuing God’s call and extending the ministry of the church.

There are hundreds of Lutheran campus ministries providing an ELCA presence at state and private colleges and universities around the country. *Living Lutheran* asked graduating students what campus ministry has meant to them and what role it played in shaping their sense of vocation.

Grant Moehlenhoff University of Nebraska, Lincoln (UNL) UNL Lutheran Center Master of architecture

College is a significant transitional period where I’m forming values and beliefs while pursuing a career, and this brings uncertainties and anxieties in faith and life that are often difficult to manage. Many students are going through the same struggles of “finding yourself,” and the community at the Lutheran Center tackles these issues through a faith-based mindset, which has allowed me to grow deeper in my faith while simultaneously pursuing my degree.

How does my faith impact my work? What does it mean to be an architect who is Christian? These are questions I have spent many hours thinking about.

Adam White, campus pastor, informed me before the start of my sophomore year that the Lutheran Center wanted to design a new building because the current one is falling apart and doesn’t meet the needs of today’s students. He asked me to join the design team as a voice for the students, as well as an aspiring architect. I have now been part of the Lutheran Center design team for five years, spanning from undergraduate to graduate school.

From the first prayer at the initial design meeting through numerous iterations of the building design and now, finally, planning the groundbreaking of the new center, my involvement in Lutheran campus ministry has blessed me with invaluable opportunities to discover my sense of vocation as an architect and how my faith can be expressed through my work.

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Maggie VanBrakle
Penn State University Park
Penn State Lutheran Student Community
Music education major

I'm not usually one to take risks or try new things, but I feel totally comfortable reaching out of my comfort zone within this community. I have had the opportunity to speak at Lutheran campus ministry board meetings, introduce Nadia Bolz-Weber (an ELCA pastor) at a campus event and travel to Houston as a volunteer with Lutheran Campus Ministry Builds at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. Through these experiences, I've been able to explore new opportunities in my faith life and find ways to apply my faith in my daily life.

I am studying to be a music educator, and I always considered myself to be more of an instrumentalist than a vocalist. Alicia Anderson, the Lutheran campus minister at Penn State, sings in our church choir. One night she was talking about the great experiences she was having in choir and encouraged us to give it a try. I found that I absolutely love singing, and I felt reconnected to my passion for music—I was singing because I wanted to, not because it was required for a grade.

I realized that I have more strengths as a music teacher than I previously thought. Singing in choir gave me more confidence as a musician and a singer, and I wouldn't have developed in this way without the encouragement of Lutheran campus ministry.

Also, I loved working with the high schoolers at the ELCA Youth Gathering and teaching them how they can make a difference in the world. This experience solidified my passion for teaching.

Bryce Bommersbach
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks
Christus Rex Lutheran Campus Center
Social work major

At Christus Rex, we find that hearing stories, experiences and opinions of others serves a much greater purpose than any fixed theological belief to be imposed upon the diverse array of students who come through the doors. Hearing, welcoming and relating to these viewpoints has directly impacted and expanded what I view God to be up to across all of creation and in my everyday faith life.

Whether it be pushing me outside my comfort bubble to spend two summers on staff at Bible camp, doing pulpit supply for area congregations or leading programming within this ministry, this community has opened opportunities for me to live out my faith in active and practical ways.

Prior to my arrival on campus, I was planted with a call to seminary from my home congregation, which I was hesitant to share with the Christus Rex community. While I took these words of call into consideration, I never fully realized what God was up to in my life until I shared this with the campus pastors. Christus Rex named similar gifts in me that were previously named back home and gave me opportunities to explore this call throughout my undergraduate career.

Through Christus Rex, I had the opportunity to visit five ELCA seminaries, do pulpit supply and engage in dialogue with rostered ministers who were invested in my discernment. These experiences were instrumental in internalizing the external calls I'd been receiving.

Lutheran campus ministry is not only concerned about the lives of students but also understands the pivotal role it plays in the future of the church.

Laura Tiffany
University of Maryland, College Park
The Humble Walk
Dual degree in biology and Spanish

Lutheran campus ministry gave me a space to learn and grow in my faith by developing my leadership skills, and by giving me opportunities for involvement in the local community and for teaching about advocacy and faith in international contexts. It has also helped me become more involved in the local community through serving with a Latino Lutheran congregation in Langley Park, adopting the stream in front of Hope Lutheran Church and Student Center and advocating for the environment with the local government, and providing child care at Hope Lutheran Church on Sunday mornings. Internationally, campus ministry took me to Haiti to learn about advocacy, Germany to learn about the history and reconciliation of the Lutheran church, France to worship at the Taize monastery, Geneva to learn about the World Council of Churches, and Israel-Palestine to learn about Christian peacekeepers and medicine under occupation. I have seen God at work in people throughout my ministry, my community and our world, and I'm thankful for these experiences to learn and grow among other Christians.

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As an underclassman I thought I knew exactly what I wanted to do. As I grew in my studies and as a person through my experiences with campus ministry, I began to question my call. I had planned the next 10 years of my life, but it no longer seemed fulfilling. Then I went on discernment retreats with my ministry and with the ELCA Young Adult program, and I thought critically about where I was being called. I thought about what has given me the most joy during my studies, and I realized that working in the Langley Park community has been the most life-giving experience because I've already seen people grow in their language acquisition and I've been able to connect people with the health resources they need. I also think back on the experience I had in Palestine with Augusta Victoria Hospital Mobile Diabetes Unit and how inspiring it was to see health care become more accessible to some of the most oppressed and least accessible populations in the world. I still don't know where I will study for graduate school, but now I know that I would like to work in community health. I am excited to see where my camino takes me.

Candace Ballentine
Clemson University, South Carolina
Lutheran Campus Ministry – Clemson (LCM-C)
Chemical engineering major, music – voice minor

Lutheran Campus Ministry has given me the opportunity to interact with many people from different backgrounds and interests. College can be stressful at times, but I've always had the relationships I made at LCM to help me through those times. My faith strongly stems from the relationships I make and the memories I share with people. I'm happy to say that some of my favorite times in college have been with people I've met through LCM.

LCM-C has always been a very welcoming community. Pastor Chris plays a big part in this by encouraging people to get involved, and his sense of inclusion rubs off on us. When I first started going to LCM, even though people that had been there for years already had their established friend groups, I never felt that I didn't belong. I think my sense of vocation has come from being surrounded by this sense of inclusion. I was so happy to be a part of this great ministry and I want to make others feel the same way.

Amelia Piotter
University of Northern Colorado
Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry (LECM)
Recreation, tourism and hospitality major

Campus ministry created a place where I could come as I am and grow in my faith. I grew in my desire to serve and connect with others through attending LECM because it provided me a place to worship alongside others my own age and to serve the community, the campus and my friends. I grew in my faith through the intentional space LECM provided for me to focus on the Lord and his word, surrounded by a group of college students who have the same heart and desire.

Campus ministry helped me develop my sense of vocation through the structural and intentional worship time it provided each week and through Bible study. While I grew up Lutheran, it was not until college and attending LECM that I came to have a deeper understanding of how much God loves me and uses me in the world. My involvement with campus ministry has prepared me to love others outside of my comfort zone by being a place of acceptance. Campus ministry has shaped me to be the friend I am to those around me, and it has prepared me to go out into the world and love everyone to the best of my ability by accepting who they are regardless of identity, status, background or beliefs.

For more information, go to elca.org/youngadults and elca.org/campusministry.

Megan Brandsrud is an associate editor of Living Lutheran.

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**OFFICE HOURS** **VACATION TIME IN OFFICE**  
The office will be closed Monday, May 27th, in observance of Memorial Day. Then Wendy will be on vacation, and office hours will be flexible (and unpredictable) from May 28th through June 7th. Please call ahead if you need to talk to someone or if you need to get in the building but do not have a key.

Special thanks to Office Administrator Emeritus Ginger Pituch for printing bulletins and otherwise holding down the fort in Wendy's absence!

**FOR YOUR 2020 CALENDARS!**  
The Third Annual Shine the Light 5K Run / 1 Mile Walk is planned for Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. (This is the Saturday after Easter 2020.) Talk to Mike Coss, run coordinator, with questions.



**NEWS FROM NEIGHBORING CONGREGATION**  
Ss. Cosmas & Damian will hold its Vacation Bible School from 9 AM to noon June 24th to 28th. Call 330-425-8141 for more information.



# JUNE MESSENGER 2019

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



Wear Red for Pentecost

### **Wear Red for Pentecost**

Wear red to worship the weekend of June 8th & 9th.

### **Welcome New Members**

Stay after worship Sunday, June 9th, to welcome CtK's newest members!



### **Healing Service**

Both services June 15th & 16th will include a brief Rite of Healing.

### **Monthly Gratitude Celebration Event**

Everyone's invited for food & fun at 11:00 AM Sunday, June 23rd.



## SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



### **ADDRESSING ROOF REPAIRS 10:45 AM Sunday, June 2nd**

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

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

Sunday Worship ..... 9:30 AM

*Holy Communion at both Saturday & Sunday services.*

*Staffed nursery on Sunday mornings.*

*(Sunday Church School resumes in September.)*

Cover this box with the  
mailing label!

Dated Material - JUNE 2019  
Please Rush!



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE HERE

Christ the King Lutheran Church  
10285 Ravenna Road  
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087