

THE MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026

The Mission of Christ the King

To Shine the light of Jesus, Reflect his unconditional love, and Mirror his kindness to all people.

WHAT'S NEW AT CTK?

- Brats, Band, Bring Friend! p. 3
- Culture Quest p. 3, 4
- Free Caterpillar Film p. 6
- Mission Fund Grant Requests p. 2
- Monthly Schedules p. 3, 4

www.CtKTwinsburg.com

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." SEPTEMBER 27TH

The CtK Outreach Ministry will again donate kits to Lutheran World Relief for local and worldwide distribution. This year, 100 school kits will be assembled as CtK's "God's work. Our hands." project on September 27th. Each kit includes a backpack bag, pencils, a pencil sharpener, pens, spiral-bound notebooks, a ruler, a pair of scissors, a box of crayons, and an eraser.

Outreach is asking the congregation to donate money towards the project through September. Each school kit costs approximately \$8 with an additional \$4 shipping cost. Outreach monies will also be used to defray the costs. Please write "LWR kits" on the memo line of your check or on your giving envelope with your name, if giving cash. If paying by check, please use a separate check from your regular giving.

Everyone is invited to assemble kits after worship September 27th and stay after for a light lunch. On Sunday, October 11th, Deaconess Almuth Koby will bless the school kits at worship.

See Sandy Longenecker if you have any questions.

PET BLESSING IS OCTOBER 4TH!

CtK's annual Pet Blessing will be in the back parking lot at 2:00 PM Sunday, October 4th, with Pastor Bill Diehm leading. All pets are welcome, provided they are properly restrained! Bring Fido, Fluffy, and Bubbles to receive a personal blessing and a lovely certificate.

AMERIQUEST MEAL IS AT WELSHFIELD INN

The next Ameriquest dinner will be at 6:00 PM Wednesday, September 2nd, at Welshfield Inn (14001 Main Market Road Burton 44021). Carpools will leave CtK at 5:00 PM. Sign up by Sunday, August 30th. Up to 18 diners may attend. Hosts are Ginger (440-668-7019) & Tom Pituch; please direct questions to them.



OFFICE HOUR ADJUSTMENTS IN SEPTEMBER

The CtK office will be closed on Monday, September 7th, for Labor Day.

Office Administrator Wendy Gibbons will be on vacation from

September 17th through October 4th. Linda Bendler has graciously offered to cover office communications (voicemail, USPS, email, *Weekly Messengers*) during that time, so office hours will be flexible. Please call ahead if you need to be let in the building.

News for the September 20th *Weekly Messenger* is due in the office by 9:00 AM Wednesday, September 16th.



MISSION FUND REQUESTS DUE SEPTEMBER 15

Fall Mission Fund Grant Request forms are due Tuesday, September 15th. If you know of a person or organization needing funds, please give them a copy of the Mission Fund Grant Request Form (found in Mission Fund mailbox or on the Resources page of

ctktwinsburg.com. If you have any questions, please contact a Mission Fund member: chair Mike Pereksta, Chuck Goodnight, Joe Meyer, Ginger Pituch, & council representative Karen Reid.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY MEETS WEEKLY

After monthly summer meetings, Ctk's Women's Bible study resumes weekly meetings at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, September 15th. All women are invited!



Sessions include Scripture study, prayer, sharing, and fellowship time, and they last about an hour. The group also takes up a collection for a charity of their choice. Talk to Karen Reid with any questions.

MEN HAVE BREAKFAST TOGETHER EACH MONTH

All men are invited to meet for breakfast at Fresh Start on the Twinsburg Square at 9:00 AM on the first Thursday of each month. The men converse, share concerns, and get to know one another better. The next two breakfasts will be September 3rd and October 1st. See Bob Coleman with questions.

SUPPER SERVERS NEEDED AT HAVEN OF REST

Whenever a month has a fifth Saturday, Christ the King volunteers to help serve supper at Haven of Rest Ministries in Akron. August 29th is the next date to help. Volunteers meet at Haven of Rest at 6:00 PM. They help set tables for 80 to 100 diners, serve food, and clean up the dining area after the meal. Please talk to Chris Driver with questions. (Volunteers must be at least 15 years old to serve food.)



**On Sundays from 4:00 to 5:30 PM,
everyone is invited
to a local church for a free meal!**

**Meal Schedule**

1st Sunday - Ss. Cosmas & Damian Catholic Church, 10419 Ravenna Road

2nd Sunday - Faith United Methodist Church, 2560 Post Road - **Their food pantry is also open.**

Call for clothing closet times.

3rd Sunday - Good Shepherd Church, 9571 Shepard Road

4th Sunday - First Congregational Church, UCC, 9050 Church Street

5th Sunday - Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10285 Ravenna Road - **Meals will be offered at Ctk on August 29th & November 30th, 2026.**

*All are invited to attend for fellowship
& a free meal!*

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL TO BE AUGUST 30TH

Christ the King will host its next community meal on Sunday, August 30th, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM.  Community Meal Volunteers are instrumental in making the meal a success by making cookies or other desserts, setting up the fellowship hall, serving food, taking carry-out orders,, welcoming diners, and cleaning up afterwards. Please see meal coordinator Chris Driver with questions, and sign up on the bulletin board to help.

The complete community meal schedule is shown above.

DIRECTORY**Christ the King Lutheran Church**

10285 Ravenna Road
Twinsburg, OH 44087

330-425-7377

www.CtKTwinsburg.com

office@CtKTwinsburg.com

Email office to receive this publication via email.

Office hours: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Monday -
Thursday; closed Fridays

Kevin Basom, Director of Music

Wendy Gibbons, Office Administrator



ENJOY GREAT DELI CUISINE AT SIMON'S!

The September Culture Quest meal will feature deli cuisine at Simon's Restaurant & Deli (In Brecksville Town Square at 7770 Chippewa Road (Route 82), Brecksville 44141 at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 16th. Simon's is renowned for its fine deli foods. Up to 18 people may participate, so sign up early!

Top off your meal with ice cream from Honey Hut, at the west end of the same plaza. Bob & Tina Coleman are meal hosts and can answer questions.

**PRESIDING PASTORS**

9/6 – Pastor Gale Green
 9/13 – Pastor Bill Diehm
 9/20 – Pastor Dick Beck
 9/27 (God's work. Our hands.) – Pastor Betti Hazelton

LECTORS, PRAYER LEADERS

9/6 – Mike Pereksta (Lector)
 9/13 – Linda Bendler
 9/20 – Donna Lange
 9/27 – Denise Tiearney (Lector)

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

9/6 – Joanne Ciarniello, Kerry Dominick
 9/13 – Linda Bendler, Sandy Longenecker
 9/20 – Joanne Ciarniello, Kerry Dominick
 9/27 – Linda Bendler, Sandy Longenecker

OFFERING COUNTERS

9/6 - Chris Driver, Karen Reid
 9/13 – Linda Bendler, Debbie Virgili
 9/20 – Chris Driver, Debbie Virgili
 9/27 – Linda Bendler, Karen Reid

BRATS, BAND, & BRING A FRIEND OCTOBER 10!

CtK's second **Oktoberfest: Brats, Band, & Bring a Friend** is scheduled for Saturday, October 10th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Everyone is encouraged to invite friends to gather in the front yard to enjoy brats and side dishes while listening to *The DarpelGangers* with Brian Harnak.

Bring a dessert or side dish to share, your beverage of choice, & a lawn chair. Rain location is in the narthex. Please sign up by Sunday, October 4th.

Watch the *Weekly Messenger* or talk to Jody Clare-Harnak for details.

PRAYER CHAIN LEADERSHIP UPDATES

While Denise Tiearney is on vacation, Ginger Pituch will lead the Prayer Chain. From September 16th through 20th and October 1st through 6th, please phone or text prayer chain requests to Ginger at 330-562-4530. At other times, phone or text your prayer requests to Denise at 330-554-5937.

USED CLOTHING SHED RECEIPTS IN JULY

CtK received \$337 for items left in the Used Clothing Shed in July, which adds up to \$1,921 for 2026. Since the shed was installed in March 2014, CtK has received \$21,732.

THRIVENT CHOICE© DOLLARS RECEIVED

Thrivent recently notified CtK that \$186 in Thrivent Choice© Dollars was designated to be given to CtK by Thrivent members James Baker & Daniel Lange. Thanks to Jim & Danny for designating CtK! Thrivent members, talk to your representative about how to designate your Thrivent Choice© Dollars.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER MINISTRY MEETINGS

These ministries have scheduled meetings for September. Everyone is invited to attend! See the ministry chair for details.

- Finance Ministry (Chair - Mike Pereksta) – 11:00 AM Thursday, September 3rd
- Outreach Ministry (Chair - Jody Clare-Harnak) – 11:15 AM Sunday, September 6th
- Finance Ministry (Chair - Mike Pereksta) – 11:00 AM Thursday, October 1st
- Outreach Ministry (Chair - Jody Clare-Harnak) – 11:15 AM Sunday, October 4th
- Congregational Care Ministry (Chair - Linda Bendler) – 10:30 AM Monday, October 5th

OCTOBER 11TH WORSHIP DETAILS

On Sunday, October 11th, ELCA Deaconess Almuth Koby will lead 10:00 AM worship. Because she is not an ordained pastor, she cannot preside at Holy Communion. This service will be a Service of the Word.

During the service, Deaconess Koby will bless the 100 school kits that CtK plans to assemble for Lutheran World Relief on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, September 27th. The kits will then be delivered to the annual LWR Ingathering the following weekend.

OCTOBER CULTURE QUEST GOES CHINESE

Enjoy Chinese cuisine at the October Culture Quest dinner at 6:00 PM



Wednesday, October 28th at Imperial Wok (33825 Aurora Road Solon 44139). The meal is hosted by Sally Morris, and she can answer your questions. Please sign up on the bulletin board by Sunday, October 25th to attend. *The dinner is limited to 18 people.* Carpools will leave CtK at 5:30 PM.



Culture Quest

From November through March, Culture Quest dinner reservations will move ahead one hour to 5:00 PM as the days grow shorter and darkness arrives earlier.

TIME TO PLAN FOR ANNUAL ELECTIONS

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A congregational meeting date will be set soon for elections at CtK. Offices that must be filled for 2027 are Council President, Council Vice President, and one Council At-Large opening, all of which are two-year terms. Two people will be elected to two-year terms on the Mission Fund, and up to six people may be selected for the 2027 Nominating Committee. Talk to a Council member (Bob Coleman, Chris Driver, Brian Harnak, John Kafuman, Karen Reid, Denise Tiearney) or a member of the 2026 Nominating Committee (Linda Bendler, Joanne Cianreillo, Ginger Pituch, Debbie Virgili). for more information.

**PRESIDING PASTORS**

10/4 – Pastor Bill Diehm
10/11 – Deaconess Almuth Koby (No communion)
10/18 – Pastor Joyce Penfield
10/25 (Reformation) – Pastor Dick Beck

LECTORS, PRAYER LEADERS

10/4 – Karen Reid
10/11 – Linda Bendler
10/18 – Mike Pereksta (Lector)
10/25 (Reformation) - Denise Tiearney (Lector)

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

10/4 – Joanne Ciarniello, Kerry Dominick
10/11 – No communion today
10/18 – Joanne Ciarniello, Kerry Dominick
10/25 - Linda Bendler, Sandy Longenecker

OFFERING COUNTERS

10/4 – Chris Driver, Karen Reid
10/11 – Linda Bendler, Chris Driver
10/18 – Karen Reid, Debbie Virgili
10/25 - Linda Bendler, Debbie Virgili

2026 BLOOD DRIVES AT CTK

CtK hosts monthly Red Cross blood drives on Tuesdays. **During the summer, there has been a critical blood emergency, and type O blood has been especially needed.** Donors may go to redcrossblood.org to set up an appointment.

These are the remaining 2026 blood drives at CtK:

- September 22 – 12 PM – 6 PM
- October 6 – 12 PM – 6 PM
- November 17 – 12 PM – 6 PM
- December 1 – 12 PM – 6 PM

CTK RECYCLES ALUMINUM CANS

CtK recycled 5 pounds of aluminum cans during August, receiving \$2.45. Since 2015, CtK has received \$193 for recycling 521 pounds of cans. Thanks to everyone who puts rinsed aluminum cans in the Giving Center bin.

JULY 15, 2026 COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Next Council meeting: 6:30 PM Wednesday, September 9th

Complete Council meeting minutes are posted on the kiosk outside the office.

**AGENDA**

Bob Coleman asked for revisions or additions to the proposed agenda. Karen Reid made the motion to approve the agenda, and a second was provided by Brian Harnak. Denise Tiearney abstained, all others voted to approve.

MINUTES

A motion by Denise to approve the June 10th minutes was seconded by Brian. All voted in favor of accepting the minutes of the meeting.

MINISTRY REPORTS**Finance Ministry** (Council rep - Chris Driver)

CtK Treasurer Mike Pereksta provided a summary of revenue and expenses. Expenses exceeded revenue in the last month. \$20,000 balance in money market account. The expense of the safe deposit box at Huntington was discussed, and also storing copies of important documents on site in a fireproof safe.

Generosity Discretionary Funds (Council rep - Bob Coleman)

\$925 in gift cards has been distributed so far this year. Recipients in the last month received Giant Eagle cards. Bob keeps track of recipients and the dates cards were given. Recipients are also given information on other resources for assistance.

Property Ministry (Council rep - Bob Coleman)

- Donation shed use application with the City is in process. When that application was first sent to Twinsburg, it was discovered that the Ohio Secretary of State Articles of Incorporation for the church's entity had expired in 2007 and could not be renewed. The Articles were subsequently re-filed with the State. A Certificate of Good Standing was given to Twinsburg for the shed application.
- Bob is in the process of gathering 3 quotes on the outside painting job.

Worship & Music

- No pastor or deacon is available for December 27th, Wendy Gibbons and Kevin Basom to prepare a hymn sing for that date.
- October 4th will be the pet blessing with Pastor Bill Diehm with a possible lunch between the Sunday service and the pet blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian K. Harnak

CtK Council Secretary

**2026 CTK COUNCIL MEMBERS****Executive Committee**

Bob Coleman, *President*
Chris Driver, *Vice President*
Brian Harnak, *Secretary*

At-Large Members

John Kaufman
Karen Reid
Denise Tiearney

Shining the Light of Jesus...

...by mailing August *Messenger*: Linda Bendler

...by sorting clothing at Faith United Methodist's clothing closet: Linda Bendler, Chris Driver

...by keeping Used Clothing Shed organized: Karen Reid, Joe Meyer, Debbie Virgili, Wendy Gibbons

...by mailing letters for office: Cindy & Joe Meyer

...by picking up litter on lawn after Twins Days: Donna Lange

...by putting away Twins Days barricades, etc.: Tom Pituch

...by greeting supply pastors: Bob Coleman, Chris Driver, Denise Tiearney

...by giving worship announcements: Bob Coleman, Chris Driver

...by representing CtK at Tinker's Creek Family Fun Day: Chris Driver

...by taking pictures at Twins Days: Chris Driver, Sandy Longenecker

...by cleaning coffee bar: Cindy & Joe Meyer, Debbie Virgili

...by keeping CtK's gardens looking spectacular: Sue Davis, Danny Lange, Sandy Longenecker

...by leading worship music: Kevin Basom, Bob Coleman, John Gibbons, Tom Pituch

...by assisting with worship, communion: Linda Bendler, Joanne Ciarniello, Lynn Cicchirillo, Kerry Dominick, Wendy Gibbons, Donna Lange, Sandy Longenecker, Mike Pereksta, Ginger Pituch, Karen Reid, Denise Tiearney

...by counting and depositing weekly offerings: Linda Bendler, Chris Driver, Karen Reid, Debbie Virgili

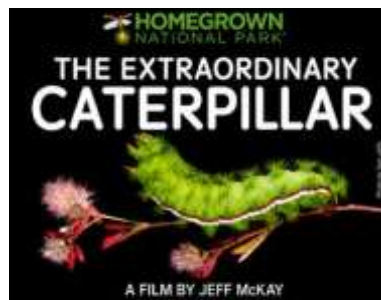
...by making coffee: Rich Ciarniello, Bob Coleman, Wendy Gibbons, Tom Pituch

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO FILM!

Twinsburg Native Habitat Association (with support from CtK) is presenting the film *The Extraordinary Caterpillar* at CtK on Wednesday, September 23rd.

Everyone is invited to a 6:00 PM Meadow Tour and the 6:30 PM film screening. The evening features Doug Tallamy, an expert in native plants.

This is a free event, but donations are welcome.



SEPTEMBER Birthdays

Kayden Severino	4-Sep
Cathy Novotney	9-Sep
Jillian Harnak	13-Sep
Karen Reid	14-Sep
Angelina Smiddle	14-Sep
Alex Bortak	15-Sep

SEPTEMBER Anniversaries

Laurel & James Michalek	4-Sep
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OCTOBER Birthdays

Donna Comas	3-Oct
Mike Mondry	7-Oct
Lea Reyes	8-Oct
Tom Pituch	13-Oct
James Spagnola	13-Oct
Bryan Bedford	18-Oct
Heather Stayanchi	18-Oct
Larry Jaskiel	20-Oct
Bob Coleman	28-Oct

OCTOBER Anniversaries

Bob & Chanon Bortak	4-Oct
Zar & Stacy Reyes	5-Oct
Brent & Kori Susnik	7-Oct
Joe & Cindy Meyer	14-Oct
Jody Clare-Harnak & Brian Harnak	16-Oct
Cathy & Don Novotney	16-Oct
Marty & Chris Spitz	20-Oct
Bryan & Kristin Bedford	28-Oct

For up-to-date CtK information, go to <https://ctktwinsburg.com/new-calendar-page/>

[illegible]

October 2026

For up-to-date Ctk information, go to <https://ctktwinsburg.com/new-calendar-page/>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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4 10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 11:15 AM Outreach Meeting 2:00 PM Pet Blessing 4:00 PM Free Community Meal - Sts. Cosmas & Damian Catholic Church Last day to sign up for 10/10 Oktoberfest	5 10:30 AM Congregational Care - Rm 103 6:30 PM Twinsburg Native Habitat Ass'n (TNHA) - Rm 105	6 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - Fell. Hall 12:00 PM -6:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive - Room 105	7	8 7:00 PM Outside Group - Fell. Hall	9 Office Closed	10 2:00 PM -4:00 PM Oktoberfest Brats, Band,																																																																																				
11 10:00 AM Worship w/school kit blessing - No communion 4:00 PM Free Community Meal - Faith United Methodist LWR School Kits blessed during worship Wear name tag to worship	12	13 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - Room 105	14 6:30 PM Council - Room 105	15 7:00 PM Outside Group - Fell. Hall	16 Office Closed	17																																																																																				
18 10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 4:00 PM Free Community Meal - Good Shepherd Christian Church Wear name tag to worship	19	20 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - Room 105	21	22 9:00 AM Monthly Messenger news due 7:00 PM Outside Group - Fell. Hall	23 Office Closed	24																																																																																				
25 10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion 4:00 PM Free Community Meal - First Congregational (JCC) Final day to sign up for 10/28 Culture Quest Reformation Sunday - wear red!	26	27 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study - Room 105	28 5:30 PM Carpool from Ctk to Culture Quest dinner 6:00 PM Culture Quest dinner at Imperial Wok	29 7:00 PM Outside Group - Fell. Hall	30 Office Closed	31 6:00 PM Serve supper at Haven of Rest, Akron																																																																																				

MORNING, EVENING TWINS DAYS HOSPITALITY

During the Saturday, August 8th, Twins Days Double Take Parade, CtK staffed a tent in the front yard, offering cold water, snacks, & dog treats. Meanwhile, the building was open so that parade goers could use the restroom or just relax inside.

According to Tom Pituch's tally, 125 people used the restroom.

- Brian Harnak, John Kaufman, and Tom Pituch staked up tape on the perimeter of the parking lot to keep people from parking on the grass, set up the tent in the front yard, and put up cones to reserve parking spaces for CtK volunteers.
- During the parade, Tom Pituch greeted indoor guests & monitored the restrooms.
- Ginger Pituch checked on restroom supplies
- Rich Ciarniello made coffee.
- Joanne Ciarniello, Chris Driver, Wendy Gibbons, Brian Harnak, John Kaufman, Sandy Longenecker set up on Saturday morning.
- Jody Clare-Harnak, Brian Harnak, Sue Davis, Chris Driver, Wendy Gibbons, & Sandy Longenecker greeted people in the front yard.
- Joanne Ciarniello & Chris Driver purchased snacks & cups.
- Jody Clare-Harnak distributed CtK flyers to people in parking lot.

**NOTES OF THANKS**

Dear Christian Friends,

No words can tell you how I feel about my card and my book of devotions. I treasure them.

Being in charge of somebody else's life is simply daunting and impossible without a lot of prayer. We will be going to where Art will have that care by his special daughter if I become incapable. Never would I move for any other reason. He will also get care for his dementia. He doesn't have Alzheimer's and it's different.

My book of devotions lives on the table next to the chair I love to have coffee in. It will also go there in Waterville. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

My love to all of you,

Shirley [Duffy – CtK member from 2009 - 2022]

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Christ the King Parish,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of Target gift cards. They have been helpful in purchasing needed items. This has been a tough time. But your prayers and thoughtfulness bring us comfort.

Love,

The Wienczkowski Family

Hiram Lange, Hudson



During that evening's fireworks, CtK made the restrooms available, and two spectators took advantage of them, according to Chris Driver. Chris reported that most of the spectators stayed in their cars.

- Chris purchased ice cream sandwiches to distribute to spectators.
- Chris welcomed visitors into the building.
- Joanne Ciarniello & Donna Lange each distributed more than one box of treats to those sitting on the lawn.





## SEPT/OCT MESSENGER 2026

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

Email [office@CtKTwinsburg.com](mailto:office@CtKTwinsburg.com) to receive a link to this publication via email.



**September 27th, 2026**

**Monetary contributions to defray costs of Lutheran World Relief school kits are being accepted.**

**Everyone is invited to stay after worship  
Sunday, September 27th, to assemble 100 kits  
A light lunch will follow!**

**School kits will be blessed at worship  
on Sunday, October 11th.**

**Pet Blessing  
All pets are welcome!**



**2:00 PM Sunday, October 4th  
In back parking lot  
Pastor Bill Diehm, presiding**

Pick up an invitation from the glass table to share!

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

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Sunday Worship with Holy Communion | 10:00 AM |
| Sunday Fellowship Time             | 11:00 AM |

Cover this box with  
the mailing label!

Dated Material - SEPT/OCT 2026  
Please Rush!



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE HERE

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