



THE KING'S BANNER



Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2353 Rice Blvd,
Houston TX 77005
ctkelc.org

Volume 76, Number 03
March 2023

Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop

Thursdays during
March, 6:00-7:30pm
Rice Campus, Third
Floor Conference
Room

Learn and work at your own speed as you enjoy this relaxing, meditative art with Marie Monroe. You too can make beautiful eggs. All supplies provided. Email Marie at marie4118@gmail.com for more information or just show up on a Thursday.



LENT 2023

AT CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 22 – APRIL 5, 2023

TABLE TALK

Table Talk, our theme for Lent 2023, focuses our prayerful attention on the Table, restoring the connection between Christ's Table and our own. Who sets the Table? Who sits at the Table? What is our Table etiquette? These and other questions guide our conversations



over Lent's Forty Days in worship, Sunday Forums (*page 4*), and on Wednesday evenings. For Wednesday Vespers we are using an Evening Prayer liturgy from Holden Village as our musical setting, with psalms, prayers, readings, and Table Talk reflections.

Water and Spirit: Devotions for Lent 2023

Pick up a copy of Augsburg Fortress' *Water & Spirit* in the narthex. *Water and Spirit* provides daily devotions with an evocative image and a brief passage from the Gospel of John. The writers then bring their



unique voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers. As you read the daily devotions, pause to think about how John describes water and the Spirit, and how water and the Spirit are at work in your life. Suggested donation of \$3.00 per book.

Via Crucis Service—Stations of the Cross Friday, March 31, 7:00pm

Christ the King nave

Christ the King Church, together with the ministries of the Latinex Strategy Team (Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod), will have a bilingual service of the Stations of the Cross. You are invited to join us in reflecting on the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ through the traditional fourteen stations.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Vespers	March 1-29	6:30pm
March 1	<i>Setting the Table</i>	Isaiah 55: 1-2; Psalm 34: 1, 8-11; Matthew 6: 7-15
March 8	<i>Food at the Table</i>	Daniel 1:3-17; Psalm 145: 1-2, 15-21; Matthew 14:13-21
March 15	<i>Table Companions</i>	Jeremiah 18: 18-20; Psalm 32; Matthew 20: 17-28
March 22	<i>Table Manners</i>	Exodus 32: 7-14; Psalm 106: 4, 14-15; 43-48a; John 5: 31-47
March 29	<i>Table Prayers</i>	Numbers 21:4-9; Psalm 23; John 8: 1-11
Sunday Forums	March 5-26	9:30am
Sunday Lent Lunch and Table Talk	March 5-26	12:15pm

Soups, Salads, and Servers on Sundays

Join us for Lent Lunch and Table Talk in the Parish Hall following worship on Sundays.

We invite you to make a pot of soup, fix a salad, or help dish it up on Sundays during Lent as we enjoy food and fellowship following worship. Contact Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org to let us know what you'd like to bring and to choose your date: **March 5, 12, 19, 26.**





Dear faithful people of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church:

By now you have seen that we have removed the Paschal Candle from the nave and placed

our Lenten cross on tables near the font, with candles available for worshipers to light as you enter, as you leave, during the Greeting of Peace, or after you have received communion. We believe that, especially at this time, the act of lighting a candle as you pray might be particularly helpful. This arrangement will remain in place every day through Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023.

Our use of this cross has led to some interesting questions about why there is no cross on the Table. These questions, in turn, offer me an opportunity to respond from the historic tradition of the Church and from Christ the King Church's own liturgical practice, based on that tradition. I begin by asking a question I've recently asked at server training:

What is the primary symbol of Christ in any church?

Historically, it was never the cross; not as the primary symbol. In the Church's historic tradition, the primary symbol of Christ has always been the Table (altar). There have been a number of ways that has been communicated over the centuries. In some churches, five crosses, representing the nail and spear wounds Jesus received at his crucifixion, have been carved into the wood or stone of the Table. In others, those same five crosses are embossed on the fair linen (the white "table cloth") one in each corner and the fifth in the center. However, since the Fourth Century CE, there has always been a more dramatic demonstration of the Table as primary symbol; an ancient tradition enacted by the members of our altar guild every Holy (Maundy) Thursday. Do you remember what they do at the end of the liturgy that day, the first day of the **Triduum (Three Day liturgy)** that begins on **Maundy Thursday**, continues through **Good Friday**, and concludes with the great **Vigil of Easter**?

The Maundy Thursday liturgy has four distinct parts, three of which re-enact the events Jesus and the disciples experienced "in the night he was betrayed." The first part of the service that evening is the rite of Confession and Absolution. This declaration of forgiveness is the first one we will have heard since Ash Wednesday's lengthy confession inaugurating the forty days of penitence we know as Lent, when we confessed our sins and began the forty-day penitential season of Lent. This absolution concludes Lent and readies us to celebrate the passion, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus.

The next three parts of the Maundy Thursday service re-enacts—remembers—the events of Jesus' Passion. Part one is the "maundy" (command) section, in which we remember that after Jesus washed the disciples' feet, he gave the command that they "love one another as I have loved you." In part two, the Church remembers, again as Jesus commanded ("Do this for the remembrance of me.") the institution of the Lord's Supper, which Lutherans also call Holy Communion, the Eucharist, the Divine Service, and the mass. Third, and finally on this night, we remember Jesus' arrest, trials, and humiliation. It is in this

part that the Table as primary symbol of Christ is made absolutely clear: Members of the altar guild "strip the Table," removing all of the vessels, linens, and paraments, re-enacting symbolically what the Roman soldiers did to Jesus during his trial. Here at Christ the King Church we go one step further to make this abundantly clear: Altar Guild members place a crown of thorns on the Table's center. For nearly 1700 hundred years, this simple yet moving ritual, which we repeat every year, makes the point that the Table is the primary symbol of Christ in the nave.

Therefore, we treat that Table with reverence. Only those items necessary to convey Christ to God's people – communion vessels mainly -- are placed on the Table. Our offering gifts are also placed as an indication that it is always through Christ that we offer our gifts to God. An altar book with liturgical materials may be placed as well, although these can just as easily be held for the presiding minister by an assisting minister. Otherwise, nothing else is placed on the Table. It is the primary symbol of Christ.

I know, you've seen other items placed there before and you've seen other items – flowers, candles and the like placed on Christ the King Church's Table and in other churches. Truth be told, the recovery of this ancient understanding that the Table symbolizes Christ only happened in the last 75 years or so in the liturgical renewal of which Christ the King Church has always been a part.

There are other secondary symbols of Christ in our nave:

- the Paschal Candle, symbolizing the risen Christ, the "first fruits" of the resurrection, which we light for all fifty days of Easter and at baptisms and funerals;
- the Baptismal Font with its running water, filled and flowing every day but one;
- the Presence Light in the Narthex, which many call an "eternal flame," announcing that Christ is present in the sacramental elements here.

Since each of these is a symbol of the risen Christ; the font is emptied, and the presence light extinguished from Maundy Thursday evening through Good Friday and until the Easter Vigil. There is, of course, the processional cross, carried into and out of the nave as a symbol that Christ Jesus leads into worship and out in service to the world. Often there is a crucifix visible to preachers reminding them to always proclaim "Christ crucified." For those wishing to always see a cross in the nave, there is, I believe, an excellent place for that and for other symbols in the Nave. I'd be happy to discuss that place with any who wish to see that happen.

In the meantime, please find cross and candles accessible for prayer and meditation in the nave each day this Lent. The Table – Christ Jesus -- is always at the center of our life together, reminding us of the One who "prepares a table in the midst" and who is for us, both Gift and Giver divine; Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Peace and Joy --- and Courage!
Amandus J. Derr
Interim Senior Pastor

MARCH Mission Offering

Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston

Meals on Wheels

Animeals on Wheels

IM's Core Beliefs are:

- Interfaith Ministries promotes a community where faith is vital for our life together.
- People of faith are accountable for building a just and compassionate community.
- There is value in working together in the community.

Interfaith Ministries (IM) brings people of diverse faith traditions together for dialogue, collaboration and service, as a demonstration of our shared beliefs.

It envisions a community of faith working and acting together in response to the Divine call to create a more just, compassionate, and caring society. Christ the King Church is a covenant member of IM's Interfaith Circle.

IM works with 10 communities of faith, including Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Unitarian Universalist and Zoroastrian. Together they provide the foundation upon which IM builds collaborative

partnerships to serve seniors and refugees. Their programs advocate for the needs and rights of at-risk and special needs children, enhance the independence and dignity of low-income seniors, and improve the quality of life for refugees.

Collaboration among people of different faiths strengthens what IM accomplishes and bridges misunderstandings among people of diverse beliefs. IM serves individuals in a ten-county, greater Houston area with the help of over 2,000 volunteers. Christ the King Church is a member of IM's "inner circle."



Meals on Wheels

provides home-delivered meals to disabled adults and homebound clients over 60. This nutritional support helps people stay independent and in their own homes. They serve nearly 5,000 seniors a hot meal each day.



For every \$5 you give, IM is able to provide one homebound senior with a home delivered meal. The program also delivers weekend meals and a week's worth of breakfast to about a quarter of our most frail and isolated clients.

Animeals on Wheels

delivers pet food to over 1,300 cats and dogs of Meals on Wheels clients so the clients do not feel compelled to share their limited food and resources with their furry friends. IM collects donated pet food that volunteers deliver each month to clients.



You are invited to donate dry cat or dog food throughout April. Drop off your kibbles on Sundays or contact ctk@ctkelc.org to arrange a weekday drop-off.



LWR Personal Care Kits
Building Personal Care Kits for People Around the World
Offering comfort and care to those who need it most

During Lent, CTK members will have an opportunity to assist people coping with poverty, disaster and conflict by making Lutheran World Relief's Personal Care Kits. This simple effort provides dignity and hope in the direst situations and expresses love to our neighbors in need. Each week, you are invited to bring an item so that we can reach out as Christ's healing hands in the world.

The items we need most are:

- Light-weight bath-size towels (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"),



dark color recommended

- Bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- Metal nail clippers, remove packaging


Drop off items in the Narthex or the church office.

Additional items we collect are:
Adult-size toothbrushes in original packaging and
Sturdy combs, remove packaging

We can only assemble as many kits as we have bath towels: new, light-weight, preferably dark colored bath towels (maximum 52" by 27")

lwr.org/personalcarekits





Sunday Forum

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Rice Village Campus basement classroom and online

Look for the Zoom link in the Sunday e-blast or contact ctk@ctkelc.org.

March 5: *We all share one bread, one cup: table practices of the church at Corinth.*

What did the earliest Christian communities share at the table? What did they believe about the table? Join us in studying Paul's letter to the Corinthians and find out!

March 12: *We who are many are one body: a panel discussion on hospitality, inclusion, and welcome.*

Who are we called to share with in the communion of Christ's body and blood? A diverse panel of lay and clergy leaders will lead us in this gracious conversation.

March 19: *Bearing these holy gifts: a spirituality from the table.*

How do we daily live with the awareness that the Lord's body and blood makes us whole? Join us as we discuss how to deepen our connection with God, through the gift of the table.

March 26: *That those to whom you go: a service and care dialogue about feeding the most vulnerable.*

Who is my neighbor and how ought I to receive them in love? A panel of our service and care leadership will dialogue over who is our neighbor in Houston, yesterday, today and tomorrow.



Our Lenten Mission Offering (Wednesday Vespers and Lent Lunches)

will benefit ELCA Global Mission and the Ministry of Rev. Dr. David Brondos and the Theological Community of Mexico.

The congregation enjoyed Pr. Brondos' teaching and preaching during his visit to Christ the King last July. CTK has been a supporter of David's ministry as an ELCA missionary for about 20 years.

WEEKDAY ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Lectio Divina

Mondays at noon, online

Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) is a Christian practice in which one reads a small passage of scripture, trusting in God's presence and relevance in daily experience. Attend as you are able, but please register with Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org.

The Life and Times of Paul with Dr. Howard Jones

Wednesdays at 10:00am

West Campus In-Person

Dr. Jones guides the group in understanding Paul's letters from a 1st century perspective.

DISCIPLESHIP 101: The Sermon on the Mount (Saint Matthew 5-7) with Pastor Mandy Derr

Thursdays, 3:00pm on Zoom

Through this study, led by Pastor Derr (with a little help from Dietrich Bonhoeffer), we will consider our baptismal calling through the lens of Jesus' words to disciples in the Sermon on the Mount.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81892157026?pwd=V1U2K0JEbm9HLOE3azJhUU13aIFUdz09>

Friday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Mandy Derr

Fridays, 10:00am

Rice Village campus

In-person in the second-floor council room and online

The group that meets on-site begins gathering for fellowship at 10:00am with the online participants joining at 10:15am for an engaging and in-depth study of First Corinthians. Email Cheryl Gaspard at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org to receive the weekly readings and the zoom link.

Pray the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Tuesdays at 8:15am on Facebook

The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle takes us through every region of the world over the course of a year. Pray with us every Tuesday at 8:15 am online through Facebook live with Deacon Ben Remmert. This month we will be praying for:

March 7: Ireland; United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales

March 14: Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden

March 21: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

March 28: Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

More details can be found here: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle>.

CREDIMUS UT INTELLEGAMUS

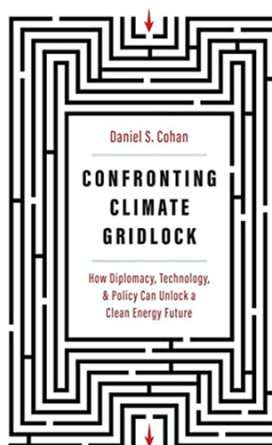
we believe so to understand

Elmer Ledesma suggests a book each month that may interest “lay readers” in learning more about science and its importance for us people of faith.

This month:

Cohan, D. S. “Confronting Climate Gridlock: How Diplomacy, Technology, and Policy Can Unlock a Clean Energy Future” Yale University Press, New Haven, CT: 2022.

Professor of environmental engineering Daniel Cohan argues that escaping the gravest perils of climate change will first require American



diplomacy, technological innovation, and policy to catalyze decarbonization globally. Combining his own expertise along with insights from more than a hundred interviews with diplomats, scholars, and clean-technology pioneers, Cohan identifies flaws in previous efforts to combat climate change. He highlights opportunities for more successful strategies, including international “climate clubs” and accelerated development of clean energy technologies. Grounded in history and emerging scholarship, this book offers a forward-looking vision of solutions to confronting climate gridlock and a clear-eyed recognition of the challenges to enacting them.

Transgender Day of Visibility

March 31

In 2009, Rachel Crandall, head of Transgender Michigan, created Transgender Day of Visibility to bring a more nuanced perception of Trans-folk, outside of the typical narrative of victimization. Despite the obstacles of discrimination, poverty, and violence, Trans-folks have made significant positive contributions to our world today. In honor of these beloved children of God, we invite you to pray this petition of thanksgiving for all trans-folk, those known to us and those yet-to-be-known:

O Infinite Love, bathe us with Your beams of compassion for all persons, made in Your image. Give us eyes to see the sides of You revealed in transgender persons, that they may see themselves as unique lights of Your light, that we may see ourselves as lights of Your light. Give us hearts to nourish their tender shoots of courage into wild daring for all to celebrate, as transgender persons become who You created them to be. Give us joy to learn from them the unfathomable depths of Your creativity, dancing into this starving world through their lives (Rev. Bob Howard, Pastor, Community Christian Church, Tempe, Arizona).

LATINE MINISTRY

Via Crucis Service

March 31

On Friday, March 31 at 7:00pm, Christ the King Church together with the ministries of the Latinex Strategy Team (Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod) will have a bilingual service of the Stations of the Cross. You are invited to join us in reflecting on the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ through the traditional fourteen stations.



CLEAN OUT
YOUR CLOSETS AND GARAGE
FOR OUR

Spring Cleaning for the Tag Sale

April 29

Are you starting your spring cleaning early and decluttering your house? The annual Tag Sale at Christ the King Church

Bach Society Houston

Brandenburg Concertos

Friday, March 10, 7:00pm

Friday, April 14, 7:00pm

Over two concerts, the Bach Orchestra presents the complete Brandenburg Concertos at the Museum of Fine Arts, 5601 Main St. Houston.

For tickets, visit bachsocietyhouston.org.



Erickson's St. John Passion

Sunday, April 2, 6:00pm

Friday, April 7, 3:00pm

Featuring Deacon Rick Erickson's St. John Passion
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Rice Village nave

will be **Saturday April 29, 8:00am – 12:00pm in the parish hall**. Take advantage of this event to clean out closets, garages, and attics! We will collect items beginning April 23. All items donated will help in making our tag sale a success. For details, contact Deacon Ben Remmert.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

March Dates:

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: PRAY Classes for Scouts, 6:00pm
5, 12, 19, 26: Godly Play Classes at Rice Campus, 9:30am
19: Faith Formation Meeting, 12:30pm
24-25: Explore Retreat at Lutherhill, La Grange

Lenten Family Devotional: Seeking Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

This Lent, we invite you to engage in the **spiritual practice of seeking** with *A Sanctified Art*. We encourage you to stay curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives. We pray that these questions will create a safe space to explore—to be drawn more deeply into the fullness of life, into the heart of God. Pick up this free devotional book in the narthex.



PRAY Classes for Scouts

Wednesdays at 7:15 pm

Calling all the Scouts in our congregation! Do you need to get your Lutheran Religious Patch? Deacon Ben Remmert will be leading PRAY program's *God and Me* at Christ the

King Rice Village Campus on Wednesdays at 7:15pm. The class objective is to help young people grow in their understanding of their Christian faith, to translate their belief into action and serve others. This is a five-class series. If you are interested in joining the class, please let Deacon Ben Remmert know.

Explore Retreat at Lutherhill La Grange March 24-26

A gathering for 1st – 6th grade youth to explore camp! Calling all happy campers! Come out with Deacon Ben Remmert to the Hill. Explore all that camp has to offer – from the giant swing to slingshot, arts & crafts to campfire worship. This is a great opportunity for anyone who'd like to take a trial run at camp for a weekend retreat before coming out for a whole week in the summer OR for the seasoned campers to get in a little camp fun before Summer. Let's explore camp together! Cost is \$95 per camper. RSVP to Deacon Ben Remmert by Sunday, March 19. Register online at <https://lutherhill.org/retreats/explore/>.



St. James Family Life Center— Non-perishable Food Items Needed

The AMMPARO committee has discerned the need for a sustaining partnership with St. James Family Life Center. St. James offers emergency assistance with food, rent, and utilities relief to communities surrounding the Garden Oaks/Oak Forest area. St. James primarily serves immigrants in the Houston

community. Please watch a video about their work:

https://www.youtube.com/supported_browsers?next_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DA_BqColmeI8.

Join the AMMPARO committee in support of a **Food Drive for St. James Family Life Center during March. Their food pantry has very limited quantities of food and they are in need of a tremendous boost.** Look for the donation basket in the narthex to drop off the following non-perishable food donations any Sunday:

- cereal, oatmeal
- rice, beans, pasta (vermicelli,

spaghetti, macaroni, etc.), canned spaghetti sauce

- peanut butter, canned fruit, canned vegetables
- salt, sugar, flour
- canned tuna, canned chicken breast, spam ham
- pancake mix, oil (small bottles), granola bars, raisins, etc.

Every donation helps! Please continue to follow our news posts and if you have a special interest in volunteering with St. James Family Life Center, please be in touch with Emily Triantaphyllis via email: ewtrianta@gmail.com.

***Christ the King supports the food pantries of St. James Family Life Center via AMMPARO and of Christian Community Service Center (CCSC).**

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



March Dates:

- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Coffee and Boardgames, 5:30pm
4: Disc Golf Sociable, 10:00am
5, 19, 26: Confirmation Class, 9:30am
10-11: Luther League Spring Retreat at Lutherhill Galveston
19: Sci-Fi Double Feature, 5:00pm
26: Jerusalem Peacebuilders Iftar Dinner, 6:00pm

Coffee and Boardgame Nights

Wednesdays at 5:30pm

Youth are invited to join Deacon Ben Remmert during the season of Lent for a time of fellowship and faith-filled discussion at *Bitty & Beau's Coffee*, our new coffeehouse which opened right across the street from the church. We will gather for a time to catch up, play a boardgame, and talk. Coffee and snacks will be provided. All are also invited to join afterwards for Lenten vespers at church.

Disc Golf Sociable

Saturday, March 4 at 10:00am

Join Deacon Ben Remmert as we welcome the new spring season with a game of disc golf! We will play the first 13 holes of the TC Jester Blvd Disc Golf Course. We will have discs and snacks on hand, but please bring your own water bottle. Those attending the Germany Trip this summer afterwards will have a quick update meeting.

Luther League Spring Retreat at Lutherhill Galveston

Friday, March 10-Saturday, March 11

Middle and high school youth are invited for an overnight at Zion Retreat Center for our spring retreat. Our students will have a great opportunity for fellowship, swimming, fun, and growing in their faith with caring conversations on the sacraments at the beach. This gathering will focus on the sacrament of holy communion. This is a wonderful opportunity to take a break and reconnect to creation with other youth. Cost is only \$40 for housing, food, and activities. Please RSVP no later than Sunday, March 5.

Sci-Fi Double Feature Sociable

March 19 at 5:30pm (New Date)

Deacon Ben Remmert and his family are excited to host the fifth Sci-Fi Double Feature sociable event at Christ the King Rice Campus. Festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. where we will have an assortment of root beer selections and assortment of backyard games. The first show will begin at 6 p.m. with *The Green Slime* (1968) and afterwards will continue with a screening of *District 9* (2009). We will have dinner and snacks throughout the event and dinner will be between films. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Spots are limited.

Jerusalem Peacebuilders Iftar Dinner

Sunday, March 26 at 6:00pm

High School students are invited to join Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth from across Houston as we come together for an exciting series of powerful interfaith events. This month, we will join with the EL Fargoug Mosque to have an Iftar Dinner on Sunday, March 26. Participants will learn from each other's religions, make new friends, engage in service projects, and develop key leadership skills. If interested in joining our March outing, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert.

Envelope Fundraiser

The Envelope Fundraiser continues throughout the season of Lent. When you pick an envelope off the bulletin board in the courtyard it will have a number. Match your donation with the number marked on the envelope. Top donors will receive a special prize. Checks should be made out to "Christ the King Lutheran Church" with Youth Germany Trip in the memo line. You may put your donation in the offering plate on Sundays or drop it off at the office during the week. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward sending our youth to 2023 Summer Germany Trip. Come on over and hear the exciting trip our youth will be doing this summer. Thank you for your support!





MARK YOUR CALENDARS - SUMMER 2023

Lutherhill Camp Registration is open!

*Make sure to register with Christ the King as your congregation to get your spot with our group code: **ctkelchouston!***

Children Trips this 2023 Summer (1st-6th Grade)

Lutherhill Elementary Summer Camp

July 16-21, 2023

Those **completed 1st-5th grade** will spend a whole week at Lutherhill discovering all the joys camp has to offer with Deacon Ben Remmert! Alpha Campers (1st Graders) are at camp from July 17-20 and Youngin's (2nd-3rd Graders) and Yearling's (4th-6th Graders) are at camp from July 17-22. Cost breakdowns are below.

Alpha (1st Grade) Program Cost: \$375

Register by March 15 and pay in full or enroll in a payment plan; you are eligible for donor support of \$25.

Young'ns (2nd-3rd Grade) and Yearling's (4th-6th Grade) Program Cost: \$650

Register by March 15 and pay in full or enroll in a payment plan; you are eligible for donor support of \$25.



Youth Trips this 2023 Summer (7th-12th Grade)

Lutherhill Jr. High Adventure Camp

July 16-21, 2023

Those that have **completed 6th-8th grade** can experience a week at Lutherhill's Adventure program. Learn from cabin Bible studies and camp-wide worships, challenge yourself on the high ropes course, enjoy afternoon activities and daily All Camp activities, grow in community with fellow

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junior high students, spend a night cooking over open fires and sleeping in the tree houses and hanging village.

Program Cost: \$650

Register by March 15 and pay in full or enroll in a payment plan; you are eligible for donor support of \$25.

Lutherhill Day Camp is Coming to Rice Village Campus on June 12-16, 2023!

Lutherhill Staff and Luther League youth are leading Day Camp at Christ the King this upcoming summer! From 7:30am until 6:00pm where children (ages 5 to 11) will learn bible stories through worship, games, snacks, science experiments, drama, and crafts throughout the day. This is always a highlight of the summer, so you'll want to make sure and register!

Who Can Attend: Those that have finished pre-K through 6th Grade by May 2023 (ages 4-10)

Costs: \$100.00 (Before Camp- \$25.00 & After Camp- \$25.00)

Register: Register online at www.ctkelc.org.

Lutherhill Day Camp Staff Applications are Out

This summer we are looking for middle and high school students to serve on our Summer 2023 Day Camp Staff as support staff, paid staff, and camp manager.

Applications can be found online at www.ctkelc.org or paper applications can be found at Christ the King Church. Applications are due February 15, 2023.



LUTHERHILL RETREATS AND NEWS



Summer Camp Staff Applications

Do you know someone that you think would be a great addition to Lutherhill's summer staff? Lutherhill has many amazing opportunities available for young adults to work at camp this summer. Check out all the positions here: <https://lutherhill.org/about-lutherhill/employment-at-lutherhill/>. Applications are open now. Questions? Contact Program Director, Curtis Bradbury at atcurtis@lutherhill.org or 979.243.9831.

Month of Service

Start Planning Now

Calling all volunteers! We're bringing back the Month of Service this April! We're focusing our projects around nature at camp which include: landscaping, worship sites cleanup, land clearing, AND MORE! Grab your small group, family or just yourself and head to Lutherhill during the month of April...you pick the day (or days!) that work best for you to help Lutherhill get ready for Summer 2023. The best part? Housing is free if you are participating in the Month of Service! Contact Russell Dittrich to discuss projects, dates & details at russell@lutherhill.org or 979-290-4478.



The Awakening Retreat at Lutherhill

Galveston

March 17-19

Join us for The Awakening Retreat, a time set apart to open our eyes and hearts. Together we will ask, "What is it we cannot see about racism?" Group activities, personal stories, and caring conversations will create a welcome and safe place to question our certainties and doubts. This weekend retreat is an entry-point to a deeper dive into racism awareness. The speakers for this retreat are Rev. Ele Clay and Rev. Austin Nickel. Learn more about our speakers [HERE](#). **Cost is \$36 per person.** This event is made possible by a grant from the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod.

Spring Family Retreat

April 14-16

A gathering for your whole family

Time for a little spring cleaning? Not in your home, but in your family life? Our Spring Family Retreat is the perfect reset when daily life gets a little crazy. Take a break from all the demands of school, sports, and work to focus on your family, nurture new friendships and revel in God's creation. Our guest speakers for the Spring Family Retreat will be John and Kelsey Vickery and will explore the theme "Way, Truth, Life" with us. **Cost is \$110 per adult, \$80 per child. Children under 2 are free.** Register online at <https://lutherhill.org/retreats/spring-family-retreat/>.



REBIRTH OF THE WEST CAMPUS

Catalysts for Change

- Long-recognized need for new visions to animate the ministry site
- Shrinking and aging worshipping community welcomes a new beginning
- Potential for connections to the surrounding community creates an opportunity
- Completion of merger process and CTK strategic plan signals a rebirth

Design Challenges

- Decaying infrastructure, most of which is not worthy of new capital investment
- Acute need for renovation of the nave immediately
- Arcade at front edge of property isolates the church from the community
- Awkward siting of physical structures impedes flow around the site
- Inconvenient and dangerous access at the corner of Memorial and Gessner
- Excessive paved parking sacrifices valuable green space

Opportunities and Priorities

- Exceptional parcel of real estate in prime location with no meaningful debt
- Original nave has both architectural value and the potential for renovation
- Location in excellent community near the new center of metropolitan Houston
- Rare opportunity to develop a multi-acre Lutheran presence within the city
- Tremendous potential for green space
- Demonstrated interest from current and potential ministry partners
- Potential for multi-faith and multi-purpose functionality as a “town square”

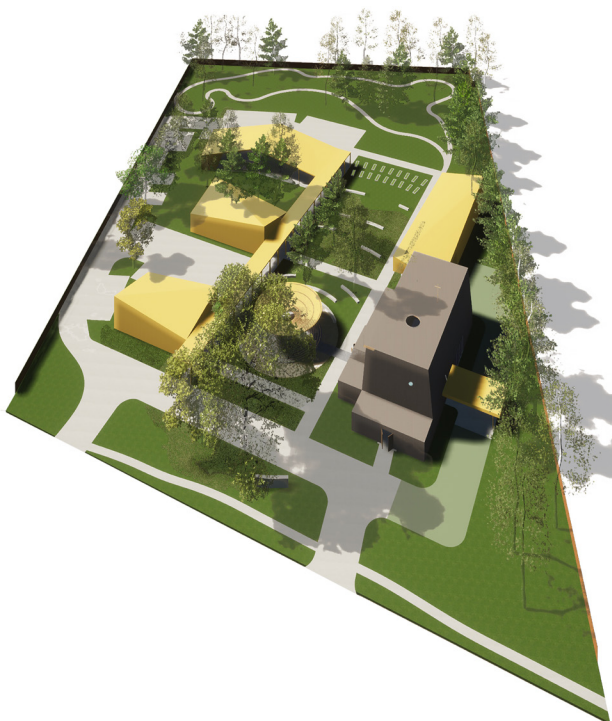
Key Aspects of Design Concept

- Renovate nave for modern, multi-purpose functionality—including worship
- Provide flexible spaces for worship and cultural events of various sizes
- Relocate vehicular entrances and exits to maximize traffic flow and safety
- Reorient nave to the interior of the site to create a more intimate relationship
- Open the site to the community with the visual perspective of a “town square”
- Create a visually iconic labyrinth at the threshold of the central space
- Create a new fellowship space at the front of the site with a potential coffeehouse
- Anticipate future buildings for offices, education, ministry partners, etc.
- Anticipate a covered, open-air multi-purpose facility
- Restore and maximize green space in the central courtyard and around the site

Financial Considerations

- Phased plan allows financial commitments to be staged over time
- Significant equity in real estate provides attractive base for borrowing capital
- Structures designed to accommodate potential revenue-generating purposes





EASTER FLOWERS

All are invited to donate flowers to decorate the nave for Easter on April 9. ***The deadline is Palm Sunday, April 2.*** You may place payment in the offering, mail it to the church office, or look for the link in our weekly Thursday email. Notate if the lily is “in honor or in memory” of someone. Checks can be made out to Christ the King Lutheran Church with “Easter Flowers” in the memo line. **Each lily costs \$20** (and you are welcome to order more than one).

Each lily costs \$20 (and you are welcome to order more than one).



Advocate for Justice Every Week

Each week, the Justice Advocacy Ministry Team highlights a different justice issue, and offers all CTK members the opportunity to advocate using their smartphone. Look for the sign in the narthex or the courtyard highlighting the justice issue, with the QR code that you can use to access the e-advocacy opportunity. Miss a Sunday? We also post this justice advocacy opportunity on CTK's Facebook page. Speak for justice every week!

Churchwide Assembly Justice Look-Back: Russian Divestment

At churchwide assembly in August of 2022, a memorial was passed calling for the ELCA to divest from Russian assets. The memorial reaffirmed the church's use of social screens to ensure that ELCA investment support human rights and reject companies benefitting from the occupation. To learn more about this memorial, or other justice-related actions taken at the 2022 churchwide assembly, see this link: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Churchwide-Assembly>.

Justice Advocacy Event

Sunday, March 12, after each worship service

The Justice Advocacy Ministry Team invites you to advocate for justice after each worship service on Sunday, March 12. There will be a variety of justice topics about which you can advocate, and multiple ways to advocate quickly and easily, including using your smart phone, signing pre-printed letters or postcards & more. Stop by the tables in the courtyard and raise your voice for justice!

Justice Advocacy Opportunity *Smorgasbord*

There are a number of active justice advocacy requests from a variety of organizations. Speak up for justice today!

Support Stronger Soot Pollution - Soot is a dangerous pollutant that is produced by power plants, tailpipes on cars and trucks, and other industrial sources, and threatens our health and environment - posing particular risks for children, seniors and people with chronic illnesses. The EPA has proposed new soot protection standards to improve our air quality, advance environmental justice, and protect our health. Urge the EPA to set the strongest possible soot standard at:

<https://interfaithpowerandlight.salsalabs.org/sootcopy1/index.html>.

Support a Better Farm Bill - The Farm Bill is up for re-authorization. Its impact is significant, not only affecting the agriculture and food sectors but playing a huge role in ending food insecurity and hunger in the U.S. and saving the lives of millions abroad. This is our chance to ensure that the bill supports not only hunger prevention, but equity and sustainability in the agricultural sector. Take action at this link: <https://www.bread.org/offering-letters/#advocacy-campaigns>. Don't feel comfortable that you know enough to advocate effectively? Check out this recorded webinar on the topic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fji3fVN8Qpw> and read the additional materials available at the advocacy link above.

Get Engaged on Bills before the Texas

Legislature - The Texas legislature is in session, and all bills must be filed by March 10 to be considered during this legislative session. Join with Texas Impact to support or oppose bills in line with your faith values. Texas Impact's legislative priorities this year include: Economic Justice, Climate Justice, Civic Engagement, and Human Rights (read more here: <https://texasimpact.org/texas-impact-legislative-priorities-2023-2024/>).

Join their Rapid Response, Legislative Engagement, or specific issue programs (see <https://texasimpact.org/join-a-team/> for all of these), check out their weekly witness podcast on the issues (<https://texasimpact.org/weekly-witness-home/>) or their legislative updates (see https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLpxHelqhyPk2k_b-VWs3l-ijYudPqJMA5).

The Work of the ELCA: Organizing for Mission

The Organizing for Mission Network (OFMN) is a community of practitioners using the arts and skills of community organizing to develop and redevelop gospel-centric communities that act for the sake of the world. OFMN works with a base of people to identify concerns within communities, research innovative solutions and build power toward creating systemic change. This group has made an explicit commitment to include participants from communities often underrepresented in the life of the church (people of color, immigrant communities, low-income people, etc.).

Learn more at: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Organizing-for-Mission>



YOU CAN STILL JOIN US!!

Living the Change Weekly Discussion Group

Tuesdays thru May 9, 6:00pm, online

This program focuses on making personal lifestyle changes in three areas: transportation, energy, and food. Even though we started on Feb. 21, you can still join us and create a plan to reduce your carbon footprint. Join us as you are able. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-the-change-weekly-discussion-group-tickets-504063065197>. For more information, please contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com.

Earth Month EcoChallenge – The Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations

Throughout April, online

Join the Lutherans Restoring Creation – Gulf Coast Team for the online Earth Month EcoChallenge. This EcoChallenge focuses on the sustainable development goals of the United Nations. Select the challenges of your choice – to learn about environmental issues, spend time in nature, advocate for eco-justice, develop new creation-care habits. Then share your experience with your teammates online. To sign up or to learn more, go to:



CTK Rice Campus Garden Party 2022.

<https://earthmonth.ecochallenge.org/>
Questions? - Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com.

Native Plant Pollinator Garden Party

Sunday, March 26, 12:30pm

Wear your gardening gear to church and help beautify the Native Plant Pollinator Garden at CTK! Join the Creation Care Team in getting your hands dirty weeding & adding some plants to the garden. Bring your gardening gloves & tools to weed and plant native pollinator plants in the garden. Participation will be limited to 6 people. Contact Lisa Brenskelle with any questions or to volunteer, at brenskelle@aol.com.

Guided Prayer Walk in the Park

**Saturday, March 25, 10:00am
Hermann Park**

Connect with God as revealed through creation at Hermann Park in this

guided prayer walk in the park, using the park's beautiful natural setting to stimulate prayer and reflection. At each stop along the walk, there will be a theme, an accompanying Bible verse, and reflection questions for you to ponder. All attendees will receive materials to take home and use again. This event is for a small group and advance registration is required. Specific meeting location in the park will be sent to all registrants several days prior to the event. Register on www.eventbrite.com at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-prayer-walk-in-the-park-tickets-530860948387>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

Watershed Connections:

**Land, Water, and People
Sunday, March 26, 6:00pm, online**

Houston is the Bayou City, but many of us do not touch or experience these creeks and streams in our daily lives. We drive past and over bayous

without seeing them, but every day we make decisions and take actions that impact our water in profound ways. Join Charriss York, Program Director for Green Infrastructure and Stormwater at Texas Community Watershed Partners as she discusses the intersection of land, water, and people along with steps we can take as both individuals and a community to address local water issues. Register for this talk on www.eventbrite.com at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/watershed-connections-land-water-and-people-tickets-530691371177>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com with any questions.

Greening Finances for Faith Communities & People of Faith

Sunday, March 5, 3:00pm, online

Want to align your finances, or those of your faith community or other faith-based organization, with the values of your faith - but not sure how to go about it? Bob Errett has extensive experience in greening the finances of a large faith-based organization, while Lisa Brenskelle has worked for years on greening of her personal finances. Learn from their experiences!! Register on www.eventbrite.com at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/greening-finances-for-faith-communities-people-of-faith-tickets-520812372827>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

The Face of God

Wednesdays, Mar. 1 – Mar. 29, 6:00pm, online

The Face of God is a film about God and nature, faith and climate change, and the experience of communities around the world facing and experiencing changes in their lives now. This is also a film about beauty, ecology, theology, sanctity, our relationship to the natural world, love, asceticism, and always it is about the radiant living icon of the face of God in creation. Join us online each week to view segments of the film and discuss them. Can't make it every week? Join as you are able. Register on www.eventbrite.com at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-face-of-god-tickets-504026576057>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com

houston food bank  **Saturday March 11 8:00 a.m. - noon**

For information and to rsvp for our next outing, email Justin at ctkhfb@gmail.com

Please put the following 2023 dates on your calendar.

Second Saturdays of ODD Months 8:00am-12:00pm

2023 HFB schedule

Saturday, March 11, 8 am to noon
Saturday, May 13, 8 am to noon
Saturday, July 8, 8 am to noon
Saturday, Sept. 9, 8 am to noon
Saturday, Nov. 11, 8 am to noon

In January, our volunteer group assisted in producing 6,400 individual 2-lb. bags of dry macaroni pasta for a total of 12,800 lbs. and the equivalent of more than 10,600 meals. Join us on March 11 for our second outing of 2023 and the opportunity to help feed our region's hungry people.

houstonfoodbank 
Filling pantries. Filling lives.

We volunteer at the Houston Food Bank **every Second Saturday of Odd-Numbered Months** and we volunteer at Freewheels Houston **every Second Saturday of Even-Numbered Months**.

Contact Justin Schneewind at ctkhfb@gmail.com for information on the Houston Food Bank or contact Bill Chapman at wpchapman01@gmail.com for information on Freewheels Houston.



CTK members and friends generously supported the Souper Bowl of Caring again this year by donating cash and non-perishable food items for Emergency Services of Christian Community Service Center (CCSC).



Souper Bowl of Caring



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

SOCIAL STATEMENTS of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

*We continue this ongoing series highlighting the ELCA's **SOCIAL STATEMENTS** shared as summaries by Rev. George Brookover.*

GENETICS, FAITH, AND RESPONSIBILITY (adopted by the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly) addresses our church's teaching to the human power increasingly unleashed today in genetic research and its applications, with all its questions and complexities. In light of God's sustained and creative work in creation, the statement recognizes these developments as carrying both promise for abundant good and potential for immeasurable harm.

The statement highlights the biblical view of human beings as innovative stewards who are called to be responsible to the Golden Rule. It translates the Golden Rule in the contemporary context of unprecedented human power as "Respect and promote the community of life with justice and wisdom." (15) This imperative should be used to direct all activity and use of genetic research and knowledge in medicine, agriculture and other arenas of life. The statement provides guidance for discerning what justice and wisdom mean and points to practices that respect human dignity and encourage Christian community in this age of genetic knowledge.

In its continued effort to discern God's will under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and in the light of the Holy Scriptures, the ELCA articulates basic convictions that should frame and guide thinking and action with respect to developments in genetics:

- Genetic science, its meaning, and its applications, represent gifts intended by God to contribute to the

human vocation* to order and shape, nurture, and invent.

- The vocation of the human race includes God's call to recognize and accept our distinctive power and freedom; and to take responsibility as innovative stewards who live out this gift and duty through various callings in daily life.
- The age-old human reality of sin, manifested as excessive pride and negligence or complacency, corrupts individual and social efforts.
- Contemporary power obligates human beings individually and collectively to assume a greater level of accountability for the future of society and the natural world.
- Within these new complexities, God calls the church to renew the virtues and practices of koinonia (coy-no-nee-ah) or Christian community that emphasize spirited fellowship and unity in diversity.
- Earthly life is morally and spiritually ambiguous. Good and bad, right and wrong, sin and redemption are always mixed together.

The ELCA contends that morally responsible discernment about these matters requires knowledge and insights from both religious and secular sources. This statement draws on both to provide a framework for theological reflection, public moral deliberation, congregational life, pastoral practice, and mission-oriented action. It focuses attention on analysis, values, and convictions and **not on specific issues**. Such specific issues require detailed attention and may change quickly as genetic science and its applications open new frontiers and pose new questions.

The entire GENETICS Social Statement link:

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements/Genetics>.

Carnival Brunch 2023

