



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 75, Number 10
October 2022



Blessing of the Animals at Christ the King Church

Join us at either Christ the King Church campus for the annual blessing of our pets.

Rice Campus Courtyard:
Saturday, October 1, 11:00 a.m.

West Campus (includes Vendor Market):
Saturday, October 8, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Blessing of Pets at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.
See Page 16

Oktoberfest

Sunday, October 2 at 5:00 p.m.

Bach Society Houston will present Oktoberfest Vespers followed by an Oktoberfest celebration in the courtyard. For more upcoming Bach Society Houston events.

See Page 2



Worship Server Training

October 15 at 10:00 a.m. Rice Village campus

We will host a worship server training in the nave to practice the roles of Assisting Minister, Server One, and Server Two. This "hands-on" training is designed for both new and returning servers.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD



Bread for the World Sunday

October 23 after Worship, Rice Village Courtyard

Ending Hunger Can Start with a Letter

Join us as we write letters to our leaders in Washington, D.C. and encourage them to pass legislation to reduce hunger in the U.S. and around the world. Writing materials and templates will be provided. There will also be other justice topics about which you can advocate, and multiple ways to advocate quickly and easily, including using your smartphone, signing pre-printed letters or postcards & more.

"Speak out for the rights of all who are destitute. Defend the rights of the poor and needy."

(Proverbs 31:8-9)



Trunk or Treat at Christ the King West Campus

October 30 at 4:00 -6:00 p.m.

This safe and fun activity is for kids Pre-K through 6th grade and the whole family. Children dress in their Halloween costumes (or not) and "trick or treat" from car trunk to car trunk. CTK members will host the event and provide the treats. Volunteers and/or questions can be directed to Deacon Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org. See Page 6

SAVE THE DATE

Christ the King Festival Party 2022

Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.
Parish Hall and Courtyard

Remember what it was like in the Before Times? When friends, and soon-to-be-friends gathered for fun, conversation, and new experiences? **Festival Sociables are back!**

Hosting a Sociable is a gift to yourself and to others. Sociables are whatever you can dream – casual to formal, small to large, indoor or outdoor. In your home, at church, at a park, or on the road. Winter, spring, summer or fall. You choose the day and time. Sociables can be sporty, entertaining, educational, artsy, musical, intergenerational. They can be

built around breakfast, brunch, lunch, snacks, cocktails, dinner, or dessert. Hosts (or co-hosts) have as much fun planning and hosting as the guests have attending!

Past Sociables have included Wine and Hymn Pairing, Gourmet Dinners, Literary Café, Line Dancing, Beer and Boardgames, Memorial Park Trail Bike Ride, Jazzercise Boogie and Bites, and many others. Get your creative juices flowing! If you have an idea for a Sociable or would like more information on how they work, contact Terri Koehler at 713-582-4321 or theresa.m.koehler@uth.tmc.edu. Sociables are a great way to make new friends and the funds they raise benefit our outreach ministries.

At the Festival Party we will enjoy our favorites:

- Piecemakers' Quilt Drawing
- Live Auction
- Food and Fun
- Wishing wall and Wine Pull
- Sociable Party sign-ups



The Piecemakers are working diligently to finish this year's stunning quilt!

WE'RE BACK!!!! And for all that will be, YES!



Deeply rooted, joyfully revived, faithfully bearing fruit.

I thought we'd lost a tree last year, the result of the "unprecedented"

February 2021 freeze. It was a large Japanese Blueberry tree in our front yard which was not only beautiful but was home to an astonishing number of happily singing birds who found shelter and food and one another in its branches. After several days below freezing, its leaves withered; it seemed to have died. We had it cut back after a full year of barrenness, but its roots and its stump remained. This past spring, it sprang to life anew and, as I write this, it has already reached four feet in height. The happy birds are back.

This story is, at least to me, a parable. A parable of what is happening – thanks be to God – at Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church. We too experienced an "unprecedented" disaster; several, as a matter of fact. For the better part of two years, we were forced to cut back. Life together felt a bit tenuous for a while, but – thanks be to God! – we're back. Our nave is mostly full. Our singing is joyful and lively. Our youth programs, Godly Play and confirmation classes are strong. Our staff, choir members, and youth group members are vibrant. Our leadership robust and looking forward to a future filled with love and care, learning, and growing, worship and service ahead. Our congregation has sprung forth to new and abundant life. Like the happy birds in the revived tree at our home, those who see our church as their sanctuary and home have also returned. All because, we are **deeply rooted** in the promises of God, **joyfully revived** through our unity with our crucified, dead, and risen Lord Jesus Christ, and **faithfully bearing fruit** through the nourishing gift of the Holy Spirit.

Deeply rooted, joyfully revived, faithfully bearing fruit.

This is the truth about our life together as the faithful people of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas. Since this is the truth, it is also theme of our rather ambitious stewardship program for the year 2023 ahead.

We will all receive stewardship materials, inviting us to offer our "time, talent and treasure" later this month. With this article, however, I am inviting each of us to reflect deeply and prayerfully about how we, like our congregation, have experienced these last two years. How have we experienced rootedness – stability, firm grounding – over these past two years? How have we been revived – in the last six months (since Easter!) and become able to thrive again? How has God enabled these to happen?

Think and pray next about "the fruit;" how the Holy Spirit enables you to thankfully show the activity of God in your life. What are the ways each of us – you – are faithfully bearing fruit"?

I commend this prayerful exercise to you over these next few weeks. In the name of Christ, we will soon be asking us all to "be fruitful" in the way we use our rooted and revived life in 2023. In all that is to come, I look forward to blossoming with you and sharing with the world the fruits of the Spirit, Christ's life, and God's love for all.

Peace and Joy – and Courage!

Amandus J. Derr,
Interim Senior Pastor



Bach on Four Keyboards

Saturday, November 5, 3:30 p.m.

Rice Village Campus nave

The second event of our 40th Bach Society anniversary season continues with this joyful exploration of four of our marvelous instruments for the music of Bach and others!

Join Rick Erickson and Ben Kerswell as we explore our two organs and two harpsichords and their various gifts and

properties. This will be a conversational concert, with time for question and answer. A reception for all will follow.

Looking ahead....a capstone of our anniversary season will be a performance of **Bach's joyous Christmas Oratorio on Saturday, Dec 10 at 3:00 p.m.** This event will take place at the magnificent new Rice opera house. Tickets will go on sale shortly. Please join us for this wonderful concert!



Mission Offering



Central African Republic



CAR Pastors Conference

Our Companions in Ministry: Lutherans in the Central African Republic

We rejoice with our companion synod in the Central African Republic (CAR) as times become safer and there is renewed energy in the ELC-CAR. In September, Lutheran pastors were able to gather at the School of Theology in Baboua, their first conference in four years. 99% of the pastors were able to attend. The church's president (bishop), Pastor Joseph NGOE, has worked hard in negotiations with the church's international partners, who, besides the three U.S. synods, include Lutherans in Denmark, Germany and France, and the Lutheran World Federation, to develop new procedures. The ELC-CAR has set as priorities for support (in no particular order): health, education, theological education, food security/humanitarian assistance, and management. The church's health program with its two clinics, including the Emmanuel Health Center at Gallo which we have long supported, the village school program, and the Food Security/Humanitarian Assistance programs all serve the community at large—not only Lutherans. Funds recently received enabled distribution of food and supplies.



Hand Washing




CAR Village School

We look forward to the 2023 Centennial of the founding of the mission which gave birth to the Lutheran Churches in Cameroon and the Central African Republic. It was called the Sudan Mission because in the 1920s, the whole region of central and west Africa was called The Sudan. Celebrations are being planned on both sides of the Atlantic, with a main event in July 2023. The bishops of the three U.S. partner synods will jointly invite President NGOE and another visitor, who will be a woman chosen by the ELC-CAR, to visit our synods and attend the ceremonies. Let us pray for our companion synod as that church carries out ministry in a country still harassed by rebel movements, having little electricity, Internet, running water, and other necessities for a safe and comfortable life that we take for granted. Let us continue to support them with our offerings, especially this month for our October Mission Offering.



CAR Disaster Response distribution



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.

October 2 and 9: Founding Principles of the U.S.A. with Professor John Boles

These two classes will examine the political assumptions and expectations of the so-called Founding Fathers, the religious reality and ideals of the time, and the presumed role of the nation in the world. The impact of both Puritanism and the Enlightenment on the nation will also be examined.

October 16: Conversation with the Call Committee

Join us on the third Sunday of each month to hear updates on the call process and to share your thoughts with the Call Committee as we await our next Senior Pastor.

October 23: Finding Ways to Navigate Difficult Conversations with Pastor Beth Marie Halvorsen

We will explore the questions: How do we manage ourselves amid strong disagreement? What dynamics require our attention so we can remain connected even though we have different opinions?

October 30: Martin Luther Walk-Thru in the Rice Village Courtyard

All ages are invited to "walk through" the story of Martin Luther guided by our congregation's Godly Play teachers on Reformation Sunday. Come see the lightning that so frightened young Martin Luther. Read the 95 Theses nailed onto the door. Be amazed at the huge stack of writings he and his colleagues created and learn about the Luther Rose. Celebrate the Reformation in style, walking through Luther's story and taking a little bit home to remember him by.

WEEKDAY ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Life and Times of Paul with Dr. Howard Jones Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. West Campus In-Person

Dr. Jones guides the group in understanding Paul's letters from a 1st century perspective. Have you ever thought of Paul as a comedian? Tools from history, philosophy, and sociology will accompany the biblical study that impacts our lives now.

Biblical Roots of Jewish and Muslim Holy Days

Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Derr

Thursdays through October 27 at 3:00 p.m.

This ZOOM conversation will survey:

1. the seven /major Jewish holidays beginning with Rosh Hashanah [Trumpets], celebrated September 25, 2022) and working through Yom Kippur (October 4, 2022); Sukkot [Booths] (October 9-16); Purim (March 6, 2023); Passover (April 5, 2023); Shavuot [Pentecost/First Fruits] (May 25, 2023). We'll also consider the Jewish holy days of Simchat Torah (October 17-18); Chanukah (December 18-26); as well as Tish B'Av (July 26, 2023).
2. We'll also consider the major Muslim feast, Eid al-Fitr (April 21, 2023).

Check below or our website, Facebook page and Thursday emails for the outline and zoom link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86901270775?pwd=bW02cVlBeTkzM3AvOGk3SzE0b0ZVUT09>

Friday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Mandy Derr Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

Rice Village campus

In-person in the second floor council room and online

The group that meets on-site begins gathering for fellowship at 10:00 a.m. with the online participants joining at 10:15 a.m. The group reads and responds to the upcoming Sunday's texts. If you would like to receive weekly emails with the readings and the Zoom link, please email Cheryl Gaspard at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org.

presented by Pastor Beth Marie Halvorsen

Wednesday, October 19, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

In-person at Christ the King Church West Campus, Emmaus Spirituality Center

Join Rev. Dr. Beth Marie Halvorsen to explore a fresh interpretation of the Samaritan Woman by recognizing our possible biases, gaining a fuller sense of history, and moving into greater breadth and depth in our own lives.

Cost is \$30. For information and to purchase tickets, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-samaritan-woman-tickets-419293115997>



THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

CREDIMUS UT INTELLIGAMUS

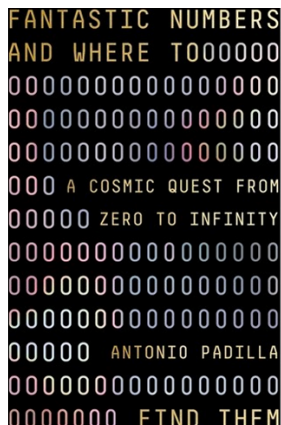
we believe so to understand

This regular column by **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:

Padilla, A. “Fantastic Numbers and Where to Find Them: A Cosmic Quest from Zero to Infinity”, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, NY, 2022.

In *Fantastic Numbers and Where to Find Them*, the leading theoretical physicist and YouTube star Antonio Padilla takes us on an irreverent cosmic tour of nine of the most extraordinary numbers in



physics, offering a startling picture of how the universe works. These strange numbers include Graham’s number, which is so large that if you thought about it in the wrong way, your head would collapse into a singularity; TREE(3), whose finite nature can never be definitively proved, because to do so would take so much time that the universe would experience a Poincaré Recurrence—resetting to precisely the state it currently holds, down to the arrangement of individual atoms; and 10^{-120} , measuring the desperately unlikely balance of energy needed to allow the universe to exist for more than just a moment, to extend beyond the size of a single atom—in other words, the mystery of our unexpected universe.



Satterwhite Lectures on Faith and Life featuring:

Christ the King Lutheran Church is honored to host the first of the new Satterwhite Lectures on Faith and Life featuring:

Dr. Elaine Howard Ecklund speaking on
“Why Faith and Science Need Each Other Today”
Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Christ the King Lutheran Church – West Campus
12211 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX

Dr. Ecklund is the Herbert S. Autrey Chair in Social Sciences, Professor of Sociology, and director of the Boniuk Institute at Rice University. As a sociologist of religion, science, and work, she is particularly interested in social change and how institutions change. She is the author (with students and colleagues) of over 100 journal articles and seven books.

Her recent book *Why Science and Faith Need Each Other: Eight Shared Values That Move Us beyond Fear* will be available free, with signing by the author, to the first 50 attendees.

This new lecture series is sponsored by Dr. Terry Satterwhite in honored memory of his wife, Martha, who cherished critical thinking, compassion, responsibility, and joy. Martha was a devoted member of Memorial Drive Lutheran Church and an avid supporter of people dealing with the complexities of Parkinson’s Disease.

Pray the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m. 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 a.m. online through Facebook live with Deacon Ben Remmert. This month we will be praying for:

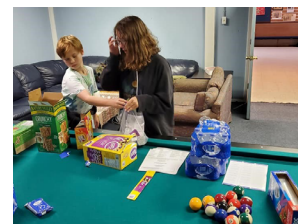
October 4: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela
October 11: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama
October 18: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico
October 25: The Caribbean, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Puerto Rico

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

World Homelessness Sunday

October 9

Christ the King members join with people of faith throughout Houston to pray for those who find themselves unhoused. Even though Houston has made better progress in alleviating homelessness than most major U.S. cities, there is much more to do. Visit our agency partner SEARCH Homeless Services’ website at <https://www.searchhomeless.org> to learn how you can help and pick up Luther Packs any Sunday in the narthex to distribute to individuals you encounter on the street.



At their September lock-in, CTK youth prepared Luther Packs for members to pick up at church.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

October Dates:

- 1: Animal Blessing at Rice Campus, 11:00 a.m.
- 2, 9, 16: Godly Play at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 8: Animal Blessing at West Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 22: Family Movie Night at Rice Campus, 6:00 p.m.
- 23: Godly Play at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 30: Martin Luther Walkthrough at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 30: Trunk or Treat at West Campus, 4:00 p.m.

Fall Family Retreat at Lutherhill

October 14-16

Need a break to reconnect, refresh and renew? Escape to the Hill for a fun-filled family weekend. Connect with the ones you love and our loving God in the serene beauty at Lutherhill. The peaceful mornings, the soul-filling worships and the camp fun will be just the ticket for your family to recharge. Grab your family or friends that are family and join us in La Grange. Cost is \$110 per adult, \$80 per child ages 4-12, Children 3 and under are free. Family Maximum: \$360 Register online at <https://lutherhill.org/retreats/fall-family-retreat/>.

Family Movie Night at Christ the King Church

October 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Children and families of all ages are invited to enjoy a movie in the church courtyard! Bring your lawn chair and blanket as we come together to watch *The Book of Life*. We will have water, tea, and popcorn to share with the whole family. All are invited for this fun family gathering.

Martin Luther Walkthrough at Rice Campus

October 30 at 9:30 a.m.

All are invited to a "walk-through Martin Luther Godly Play story" on Reformation Sunday, October 30 at 9:30 a.m. with your Godly Play teachers as your guides. Come and see the lightning that so frightened young Martin Luther. Read the 95 Theses nailed onto the door. Be amazed at the huge stack of writing he and his colleagues, especially Philip Melancthon, created: pamphlets, books, sermons, hymns and more. Finally, see and discuss the Luther Rose and take away the makings of one of your own to finish at home. Let's celebrate Reformation in style, walking through Luther's story and taking a little bit home to remember him by.

Trunk or Treat at Christ the King West Campus October 30 at 4:00 p.m.

Our fourth annual Trunk or Treat experience will be on Sunday, October 30, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at our West Campus. This safe and fun activity is for kids Pre-K through 6th grade and the whole family. Children may be dressed in their Halloween costumes or not and go from trunk to trunk in the back parking lot to go "trick or treating" safely. CTK members will host this event and provide the treats. Babies in strollers and grandparents are also welcome! We will end our Trunk or Treat festivities with a blessing service at 5:45 p.m. to bless the trick or treaters. Pizza will also be provided at that time. Volunteers and/or questions can be directed to Deacon Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org. We hope to see you there!

Acolyte and Crucifer Make Up Training

October 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Did you miss out on the training in August? We have another chance for all children (fourth grade and above) to participate in our acolyte training with Deacon Ben Remmert on Saturday, October 22 at 10:00 a.m. This training is for new and returning acolytes and we need your help! Join us for a fun time and learning how to serve in worship.

LUTHERHILL RETREATS AND NEWS

Advent Retreat: December 2-3, 2022

A gathering for 1st-6th grade youth to explore the joy of advent.

Christmas is coming! Let's get ready. Advent is the sacred time in our church year that helps us prepare for Jesus to be born into our world, again. It's a time of holy anticipation and preparation. At this mini-retreat, campers gather for an action-packed 24 hours at the Hill. We'll get ready for Christmas as we explore the story of Jesus' birth and prepare space in our lives and our hearts for Jesus to come. **Cost: \$60 per camper, \$40 per sponsor**

**One Sponsor is free for every 5 youth participants registered. If less than 5, 20% off for every youth participant registered.*



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



October Dates:

- 1: Animal Blessing at Rice Campus, 11:00 a.m.
- 2: Confirmation Class at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 2: Brat Fundraiser at Rice Campus, 2:00 p.m.
- 9: Confirmation Class at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 16: Confirmation Class at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 16: Germany Trip Meeting at Rice Campus, 12:30 p.m.
- 22: Family Movie Night at Rice Campus, 6:00 p.m.
- 23: Confirmation Class at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 23: Sr. High Gathering at Rice Campus, 12:15 p.m.
- 28-29: Fall Retreat at Lutherhill Galveston



Youth bowling the night away at the Lock-in.

Sr. High Gathering Meeting

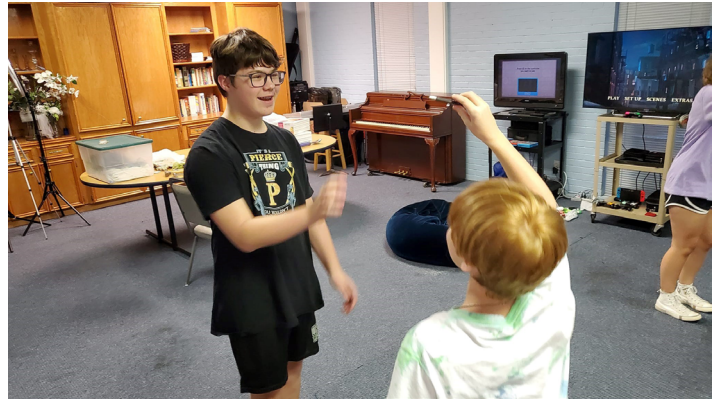
Second and Fourth Sundays of the Month at 12:30 p.m.

Sr. High Gatherings are open to all youth in 9th - 12th grade for a time to gather, fellowship through games, service projects, and our Faith5 candle time. Friends and visitors are always welcome! Please contact Deacon Ben Remmert for more information.

Luther League Brat Fundraiser

October 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Christ the King Lutheran Youth and parent volunteers are needed starting at 2 p.m. on October 2 to cook, serve, and help with cleanup for the Bach Society Houston Vespers/Oktoberfest celebration. Food and beverages will be served at 5 p.m. Proceeds from the dinner and drinks will benefit the Luther League. We need adults to help serve adult beverages. For more information, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert.



Youth getting to know each other at the Lock-in.

Germany Trip Meeting

October 16 at 12:30 p.m.

Youth in 8th-12th grade and parents are invited to our Germany Trip meeting to get updated on our trip and fundraising goals. We will gather together after late service and go out to eat (possibly get a taste of German food). Location will be determined at a closer time. RSVP to Deacon Ben Remmert by October 12.

Fall Luther League Retreat at Lutherhill

Galveston

October 28-29

Middle and high school youth are invited for an overnight at Lutherhill Galveston (formally Zion Retreat Center) for our fall retreat at the beach. Our students will have a great opportunity for fellowship, swimming, fun, and growing in their faith with caring conversations on prayer life. **This is a wonderful opportunity to pause, rest, and connect.** Cost is only \$50 for housing, food, and activities. Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, October 26.



Youth preparing for service projects at the Lock-in.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS- SUMMER 2023

Lutherhill Camp Registration opens on October 15, 2022!

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

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

Lutherhill Elementary Summer Camp July 16-21, 2023

Those that have completed 1st-5th grade will spend a whole week at Lutherhill discovering all of 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. Enjoy fun bible studies, camp-wide worships, afternoon activities and daily All Camp activities. Spend an evening around the campfire making s'mores. Cost breakdowns are below. **Sign up and Register by February 15, 2023.**

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

Register by December 15 and pay in full or enroll in a payment plan; you are eligible for donor support of \$50. 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 December 15 and pay in full or enroll in a payment plan; you are eligible for donor support of \$50. Register by March 15 and pay in full or enroll in a payment plan; you are eligible for donor support of \$25.

Youth Trips Summer 2023 (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 junior high students, spend a night cooking over open fires and sleeping in the tree houses and hanging village. Sign up and register by February 15, 2023.

Program Cost: \$650

Register by December 15 and pay in full or enroll in a payment plan; you are eligible for donor support of \$50. Register by March 15 and pay in full or enroll in a payment plan; you are eligible for donor support of \$25.

Summer Germany Trip

June 2-11, 2023

7th-12th grade youth are invited for a great opportunity to travel to Germany this summer. Our group will travel to Leipzig to visit with our sister congregation St. Thomas. Throughout the week we will have day trips to famous Luther sites such as Wittenberg, Eisenach, Eisleben, Wittenberg, and Erfurt. The cost is \$600 plus airfare (\$1,200 average) which includes lodging, two meals each day, museum admissions, the day trip activities, tour guides and program leaders, and train tickets. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Deacon Ben Remmert no later than December 1 with a \$600 deposit. Scholarships are available.



Germany trip 2019: posing with our newly planted tree in Wittenburg.

LATINE MINISTRY

Felices Fiestas, y'all!

September 15 to October 15 is known as National Hispanic Heritage Month. Beginning with the Independence Day celebrations of five Central American countries (Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua) and Mexico, through what is now known as Indigenous Peoples' Day, we celebrate the stories, cultures, and contributions folks from Latin-American descent have imparted to us all. Visit hispanicheritagemonth.gov to find out more.

We want to thank and pray for the following individuals who have volunteered to be a part of the Latine Launching Committee: Logan Faron, Robert Rivera, Eva Slomba, Sarahi Cardenas, and Daniel Weaver. Representing Christ the King Church, Communities in Schools, and our full communion partnerships, this committee will help build bridges for younger and diverse folks. Please reach out to them if you have any suggestions, feedback, or potential partnerships to pursue.



Lutheran Campus Ministry, Rice University

We are in the middle of the midterm season right now at Rice University and students are really feeling pressured. Annie and Pastor Rodriguez have been meeting with more than 30 students a week during their Wednesday event, *Ask Annie Anything*. What have we been hearing? Students are overwhelmed, peeved, trying to balance work and self-care, and some are looking forward to the midterm break. For as silly as the idea sounds for Pastor Rodriguez to sit outside and just wait for the students to gush over Annie, his Westie, students have found comfort in this event.

What else can we do to show care for these stressed students? First, pray for the students, sponsors, and



The World in-between: Ancient Roots of Dia de los Muertos

October 22, 7:00 p.m.

Museum of Fine Arts Houston

Join Pastor Rodriguez at the Museum of Fine Arts to learn about the rituals and meaning of Dia de Los Muertos, from its origin in Mesoamerica to its usage in Mexican-American families today.

Dia de Los Muertos Celebration at Christ the King Church

Saturday, November 5, 6:00 p.m., Rice Village campus

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Campus Minister of LCM, RU as this midterm period comes to its conclusion. Second, reach out to Pastor Rodriguez before finals week in December. We will be making care-packages for the wider Rice Community and will need plenty of helping hands. Third, reflect on your own time as a student. "What sort of wisdom or mentoring may I offer to students in our program? Am I able to host a meal or a gathering for students? Do any of my friends, family members, fellow alumni, or church folk know about this good program? Perhaps they might know students who need to be supported.

Our **Speaker Series** commences this month on October 18 with an LGBTQIA+ interfaith panel at the Multi-Cultural Center at Rice University. Follow our Instagram for more updates and a full schedule of events. [@lcm_at_rice](https://www.instagram.com/lcm_at_rice)

Lectio Divina

Mondays, 12:00 p.m. on Zoom

Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) is an ancient Christian practice in which one reads a small passage of scripture, trusting in God's presence and relevance in daily experience. Through a mingling of reading and prayer, the stories and texts of the bible meet us in our own life story. You attend whenever you can, but registration is needed so we can maintain a safe space. Register with Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org.

CALL COMMITTEE

Senior Pastor Call Committee Update

At the September 1st Call Committee meeting we finalized the Ministry Site Profile and it was presented to both the Executive Committee and the Congregation Council. The document was sent to the Synod office the third week of September and was posted soon afterward. Our next Sunday Forum will be held at both campuses on Sunday, October 16. For more information on the Call Committee members, the work of the Call Committee and answers to your questions, please visit the Call Committee Webpage (<https://ctkelc.org/strategic-plan-updates/senior-pastor-call-committee/>).

We appreciate the feedback we are receiving through the Call Committee Webpage and direct discussions with members of the congregation—please continue to speak with any of the members of the committee as we continue our work to prepare for the interviewing of candidates. If you have a candidate in mind, please let Anne Clutterbuck know so she can send you a form to fill out and send to the synod.



Jill Bailer and the Members of the Call Committee for Senior Pastor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

SOCIAL STATEMENTS of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) submitted CTK member and pastor George Brookover

Christ the King Lutheran is a congregation with connections that are beyond just our constituents. There are also the locations of our two campuses, the entire Greater Houston community and statewide; as well as our bonding with the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod and the ELCA as a national organization with global contacts.

THE ENTIRE ELCA IS A PUBLICLY ENGAGED CHURCH

Congregations, synods and the ELCA are a publicly engaged church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. We do God's work in the world, the work of restoring and reconciling communities. We pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm. Because we are grounded in God's love and forgiveness, we are well equipped to live and serve here and now, in the world, with all its complexities, tensions and ambiguities.

There is no aspect of life in which God is not active, no place where God is not present. And this is exactly where we are called to participate in God's work, in the thick of life, embracing individuals, families and communities that are hungry for hope and healing, justice and peace, advocates and partners.

Our faith and our call to boldly serve and love our neighbor take us into some interesting and challenging aspects of life: advocacy, corporate social responsibility, racial justice, science and ethics, peacemaking, justice for women, social issues, and community organizing. We are drawn into every corner of life, society, and its institutions to bring the good news of Jesus Christ and to work for lasting, positive change that upholds human dignity.

LOOKING AHEAD AS WE EXPLORE AND COMMUNICATE ABOUT SOCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE ELCA

The Brookovers (Claudia and George) have been participants in a **HOUSE CHURCH** cohort since the program was developed. Our conversations have been filled with interesting and informing topics.

During the spring of this year, I facilitated an introduction and dialogue about **ELCA Social Statements**. As those conversations continued the idea of sharing the existence of and reason for the ELCA Social Statements occurred to me. So, I will share the spectrum of the development of the process for focusing upon a specific social issue or cause that our entire denomination could have conversations about churchwide. In the months ahead there will be an article **The BANNER** about a few of the Social Statements.

The link provided opens the Social Statements site on the ELCA webpage: <http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>

AMMPARO

Casa Juan Diego

Use your time and talents to welcome refugees and immigrants

Casa Juan Diego, a shelter for immigrants and refugees in the Heights, continues to receive large numbers of people, and their beds are overflowing. There is a great need for the following items:

- towels, pillows, and blankets
- new baby clothing
- sleeping bags and backpacks for both adults and children
- adult diapers, wipes, underpads for the injured and wounded

If you can help (or have any questions), please contact Rebecca Shields 281 389-3616 to arrange a pick-up either at your home or you may drop off items at church on Sundays.

St. James Family Life Center

Our partnership with St. James Family Life Center continues to grow. Rebecca Shields and Carolyn Jacobs will be volunteering for their ESL program which runs on Wednesdays. Please be on the lookout for ongoing communication from our AMMPARO team about volunteer and donation opportunities, including support for a collaboration with HISD and immigrant families and a diaper baby shower!

If you have a special interest in being informed of upcoming opportunities with St. James Family Life Center, please be in touch with Emily Triantaphyllis via email: ewtrianta@gmail.com.

Migrant Shelter

We have the opportunity to volunteer at a migrant shelter for asylum-seekers opening soon. Volunteers will focus on helping the arrivals feel safe, welcomed, and cared for. Our group will staff the welcome center one day each month from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; a volunteer could choose the entire day or a 4-hour shift. No particular language skills are required; interpretation devices will be provided. Volunteers should have a warm and caring attitude and the flexibility to focus on the most important needs during their shift. Each shift will be

different! If you are interested or have questions, please contact Rebecca Shields at 281-389-3616.



Afghan Family Resettlement

The initial Afghan family group that our Church welcomed to Houston and decided to help support alongside RST in December of 2021, also now includes more extended family members, who are living in two other separate households. The entire family recently celebrated their one-year anniversaries of their respective differing arrival dates into the United States refugee camps. These camps were set up for all Afghanistan evacuees at military bases across the US, and our family was initially divided into two separate refugee camps when first arriving to the US, before they all ultimately arrived here in Houston. These US arrival date milestones were also the deadline for our entire family group to apply for Asylum, and ultimately towards actual US citizenship. Thanks to the help of the Houston Legal Aid Center lawyers on a pro bono basis, these Asylum applications were submitted, for each family member, on a timely basis, and the three sub-family households will each have their first round of US Immigration office interviews next month. Each of the three family households are now doing very well! The entire family is learning the nuances of our American culture, and they are all becoming independent productive members of our Houston Community. The two male heads of households obtained their Texas driver's licenses, along with their own fully-owned used reliable vehicles. Each of the three of these heads of household extended family units are now each gainfully employed. All of the school-age children are enrolled in HISD schools. All family members are enjoying making new friends and learning about their new homeland. The family patriarch welcomed his first grandchild, a healthy daughter, in early July, which was a joyous celebration, and included even more extended family members, who had also arrived into Texas this summer. Yes, the family keeps growing! Our original Church and AMMPARO Team goal, to nurture this family, both spiritually and practically, to help them to become self-sufficient, and happily integrated independently here in the US, is, so far, a very happy success! The entire Afghan family would like to express that they are very grateful for all of the support, both emotional and financial, that the Church has provided to them. So thank you ALL for the wonderful congregational support of "our" Afghan family!



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 smart phone. 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.

Churchwide Assembly

Justice Look-Back

Land Back

At churchwide assembly in August, a memorial was passed calling for all ELCA members, congregations, synods, etc. to explore including land acknowledgements as part of their public gatherings, to become educated about the Indigenous peoples who thrived, prior to European contact, on the land they currently inhabit, and to learn about, learn from, and be in deepening relationship with Indigenous people and tribal nations. The memorial also urged all ELCA members, congregations, synods, etc. to support creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous people. The memorial called on the churchwide organization to work collaboratively with synods and their Indigenous partners to provide needed funding for the more than 30 ELCA Indigenous congregations and service ministries and to engage with them whenever planning or considering work related to Indigenous people or ministries. To learn more about this resolution, or other justice-related actions taken at the 2022 churchwide assembly, see this link: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Churchwide-Assembly>.

Justice Advocacy Opportunity *Smorgasbord*

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

Creation Care – Electric Vehicles

Join people of all faiths in urging car makers to produce clean, affordable electric vehicles. Use this link to advocate: <https://interfaithpowerandlight.salsalabs.org/goev/index.html>.

Hunger - Global Food Security

A global hunger crisis threatens to push 47 million people into famine in 81 countries. The Global Food Security Act was passed in 2016, but needs to be re-authorized. The Global Food Security Act prevents hunger, promotes nutrition for pregnant women & young children, and strengthens agricultural infrastructure. Join other Christian in urging Congress to pass the Global Food Security Act: <https://go.bread.org/page/43528/action/1>.

Religious Freedom – Protect Sacred Indigenous Land

The San Carlos Apache Tribe is struggling to save their sacred land Chí'chil Bítłdagoteel, or Oak Flat. Currently protected within Tonto National Forest, this oasis an hour east of Phoenix is threatened with destruction. The bipartisan Save Oak Flat Act can protect this sacred land. Ask your members of Congress to protect sacred Indigenous land by passing the Save Oak Flat Act: <https://secure.everyaction.com/jU0pEqdwOUa59JT35OvJMQ2>.

Human Rights – Violations of International Law

Recently, Israeli forces welded shut the doors of internationally respected civic advocacy and human rights organizations in Ramallah, but the international community has not accepted this action. Join other Lutherans in urging President Biden and Secretary of State Blinken to use their influence to press for support of civic advocacy and human rights organizations' right to operate freely. <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1546>.

Disaster Relief & Prevention

With the increased frequency/severity of disasters such as severe storms, floods, droughts, wildfires, and tornadoes, public policies must better prepare for & respond to these events. Steps can be taken to better prepare/respond: community development block grants, prioritizing low income people for aid, updating flood maps, funding and streamlining FEMA & more. Join other Lutherans in urging Congress to support disaster relief & prevention: <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1427>.

The Work of the ELCA

Faith Practices – Living Our Baptism

We are living in unprecedented times—a health pandemic with economic uncertainty and unresolved racism. There is much that we cannot control, but we can control our choices of behavior. Now is the time to intentionally choose healthy patterns to offset the grief and lament related to these times as we shift to a new normal. Healthy choices include faith practices. Receive each as a gift from God. To learn more, see: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices>.

Justice Advocacy Event

Sunday, October 23, after each worship service

The Justice Advocacy Ministry Team invites you to advocate for justice after each worship service on Bread for the World Sunday, Oct. 23. There will be a variety of justice topics about which you can advocate, and multiple ways to advocate quickly and easily, including using your smartphone, signing pre-printed letters or postcards & more. Stop by the tables in the courtyard and raise your voice for justice!



Distribution of Devotionals for U.N. Climate Conference

Saturday, November 5 & Sunday, November 6, before/after each worship service

The CTK Creation Care Team has created a devotional for use from Nov. 6 – Nov. 18, during the U.N. Climate Conference in Egypt. Pray for world leaders at the climate conference each day, and for ourselves, that we may all act as good stewards of God's beloved creation. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for an electronic copy.

Rain Barrels for The Houston-Area Community

Sunday, Nov. 6, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

**First Unitarian Universalist Church
5100 Main St., Houston, TX 77004**

Join us to learn about the benefits of rain barrels, get one for your home/house of worship and learn how to install it on your property. Registration includes one rain barrel, one connector kit and training to install them. Supplies of rain barrels are limited, so please register early. Rain barrels will be available to be picked up on Sunday, Nov. 6, from 1 – 1:45 p.m. Installation training will take place immediately

afterward. This workshop is sponsored by LyondellBassell and Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages. Register to participate at: www.galvbay.org/events. For more information, contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com.

Park to Port Ride

Saturday, Nov. 5, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. rolling start

Hermann Park

Join members of the Lutherans Restoring Creation bike team for the family-friendly Park to Port ride benefitting Hermann Park. The ride begins at the park, runs along the Bayou Greenway Trail all the way to the Port of Houston. At 20 miles round trip, with a stop for food/drink/fun at the midway point at Mason Park, the distance is doable for even a casual cyclist. Join the fun and care for God's good creation! Register for the ride at: <https://www.hermannpark.org/calendar/parktoport/>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com to find out how to meet up with other Lutherans for the ride.

Bike to Church/Alternative Transport Sunday

Sunday, October 30

The CTK Creation Care Team invites you to walk, bike, carpool, take the bus...to church on Oct. 30! We will have information on transportation alternatives other than driving your personal vehicle available after each worship service. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

Lutherans Ride Bike Around the Bay

Oct. 22 & Oct. 23

Join the Lutherans Restoring Creation Team for Bike Around the Bay as a cyclist or supporter! There are multiple ride options: 20 or 43 mile routes in Galveston on Oct. 22, or a two-day ride all around the bay (starting from Baytown, with overnight in Galveston) on Oct. 22 & Oct. 23 for a total of 175 miles. Beneficiary of the ride is the Galveston Bay Foundation, which acts to preserve the bay. Please consider joining our team or making a donation to support the team and Galveston Bay. See this site for details: www.bikearoundthebay.org. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more details on the team.

Fall 2022 Interfaith

Environmental Stewardship Event

Sunday, October 16, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Willow Waterhole Greenspace

5300 Dryad Dr., Houston, TX 77035

Join with people of all faiths, or no faith at all, to care for our shared environment! We will engage in hands-on environmental stewardship at the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve, getting the park spruced up for MusicFest on Oct. 29. This event will offer activities for all ages and skill levels. The conservancy requires signing of a waiver to participate. Please register for planning purposes on www.eventbrite.com at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-2022->

interfaith-environmental-stewardship-event-tickets-405652576777. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

Climate Solutions 101

Thursdays, Oct. 13 – Nov. 17, 5 p.m. central, online

Climate Solutions 101 is the world's first major educational effort focused solely on climate solutions. Rather than rehashing well-known climate challenges, these materials from Project Drawdown concentrate on game-changing climate action based on rigorous scientific research and analysis. This course combines Project Drawdown's trusted resources with the expertise of inspiring voices from around the world. Register for this course on www.eventbrite.com at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-solutions-101-tickets-405602787857>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

People's EcoChallenge

Oct. 5 – Oct. 26, online

You are invited to join the Lutherans Restoring Creation – Gulf Coast Team for the online People's Ecochallenge. This event offers you the opportunity to care for the earth by taking on a personal challenge in: regenerating nature, nourishing food, balancing consumption, cultivating communities or enacting equity. Join the team at: https://peoples.ecochallenge.org/participants/join?referral_code=fe21cf25-9b06-489e-9f75-e61ace8bee6e&team_invitation=true&team_id=21278. Learn more at: <https://peoples.ecochallenge.org/>! Have questions? Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com.

Native Plant Pollinator Garden Party

Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m.

Get out of the house 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.

Mind Body and Soul Food

People often say that "beauty is in the eye of the beholder," and I say that the most liberating thing about beauty is realizing that you are the beholder.

-Salma Hayek

Mind Body and Soul Food in little bites

Beauty surrounds us, even in the most unexpected places, people, and circumstances. This month let's challenge ourselves (like many of the ancient Christian contemplatives) to see with the "eye of the heart." Take some time every day to gaze upon, listen to, read, or touch something beautiful. You may be surprised to experience what a positive effect that observing beauty can have on your health and well-being!

You are invited to send nourishing nibbles and food for thought to beverlydavis@ctkelc.org for inclusion in our monthly newsletter.

Still Welcoming Veterans on Their Journey Home

Veterans Day is November 11. November 1-11 we pray, thank, and care for military service members and veterans. Their "journey home" is not complete until we whom they've served have our ears and hearts fully open and welcoming and supportive. Seventeen Service Member and veteran suicides a day show we're not there yet.

Weekdays at 8:30 a.m. November 1-11, a "prayer moment" will be held outside our nave at the corner of Rice and Greenbriar. At the conclusion each morning, we'll hang 17 symbolic dog tags on a special tree. **At 7:00 p.m., Thursday, November 10, a Veterans Day Service of Thanksgiving and Intercession** will be held in the nave, open to the wider community. Veterans from CTK help plan and lead this event. Share the news. Join with us in prayer as CTK continues to reflect on how we authentically can be *A Healing Place* for Service Members and veterans.



SECOND SATURDAYS

serving with Christ the King Church

Second Saturdays of even numbered months at the Freewheels

Second Saturdays of odd numbered months at Houston Food Bank

Christ the King Workday at Freewheels

Saturday, October 8

Join us **every second Saturday of even months** to work on bicycles for Freewheels Houston. Freewheels Houston has three volunteer opportunities:

1. **Shop volunteers:** Cleaning bikes, fixing flats, adding lights, bells and kickstands and some other repairs
2. **Mechanics:** Thoroughly inspect brakes, drivetrains and other bike systems. Requires knowledge of bike systems.
3. **Connectors:** Assist Freewheels customers--refugees and veterans emerging from homelessness--when they come for a bike.
4. **Useful information:**

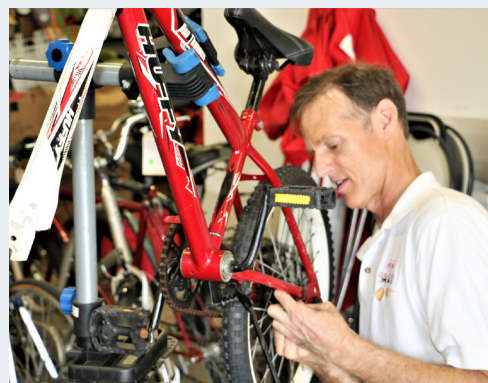
When: First Saturdays of Even months from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Where: 6020 Jessamine St #204, Houston, TX 77081

Attire: Closed toe shoes, outdoor work

Dates: Dec. 10, Feb. 11

Contact: Bill Chapman at wpchapman01@gmail.com



Christ the King volunteers at the Houston Food Bank

Saturday, November 12

On **"God's Work. Our Hands"** weekend, Christ the King's outstanding volunteers worked in the "Carousel Room" along with UH students, sorting food and other donations that the Houston Food Bank receives. Our group helped organize 14,112 pounds of donated food and goods -- equivalent to more than 11,500 meals!

Useful information:

When: Saturday, Nov. 12: 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Where: Houston Food Bank East Branch, 535 Portwall St., Houston, TX 77029

Attire: Closed-toe shoes, pants, sleeved shirt (short or long sleeves).

Carpool: If needed, it will leave the church parking lot at 7:30 am. Please specify if you wish to carpool so we can be sure to send someone there before heading to the HFB.

Contact and RSVP: Justin and Yuri at ctkhfb@gmail.com



and

Christ the King
Lutheran Church -
West Campus formerly
Memorial Drive
Lutheran Church

bring you

*Blessing of the Pets
and Vendor Market*

12211 Memorial Dr Houston, TX 77024

October 8th, 2022

9:30 AM - 2 PM

For more info, contact

mzermeno@emmausspiritualitycenter.com

