



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

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2022 STRATEGIC PLANNING: SURVEY AND SUMMIT



The strategic planning process for Christ the King Church began with two two-hour back-to-back sessions, first with our church staff and then with our congregation council, on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. It continues through early January with a data gathering process which mostly involves the gathering of information from our Rice Village and Bunker Hill

Village ministry sites, from congregational membership records and trends and demographics from the 2020 U.S. Census. Christ the King Church has always kept meticulous records with up-to-the-minute statistical reports provided to the council each month and so much of this phase only involves staff input and work by our planning consultant.

Every member's involvement will be crucial.

Everyone in our congregation from both ministry sites, plus other "stakeholders" in our congregation will be asked to respond to a brief emailed survey about their hopes, dreams, and concerns about the future of our congregation. These, along with the information gathered above, will be presented to the gathered congregation at a **Congregation Summit on Saturday morning, January 29.**

Bilingual Epiphany Observance at Christ the King

Saturday, January 8, 6:00 p.m.



Join us as we celebrate Epiphany and bless the nave, our "church house" with the blessing of the magi. Following the brief service, king's cake will be shared. A printed prayer rite and chalk will be available on both Saturday and Sunday to inscribe and bless one's own house or door.

Congregation Summit

Saturday, January 29
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church
1601 Sunset Blvd, Houston

At this meeting we promise these things:

- Start on time/end on time
- Coffee and a light breakfast
- Childcare, as needed
- Lively, directed, small group and plenary conversation

All our members of all ages are invited.

This will be the most crucial step, until June, for the development of our strategic plan as well as the Ministry Site Profile so that we can call new pastoral leadership. Following this meeting, our strategic planning team, staff, and congregation council will do the work required to produce a concise and cogent strategic plan for adoption by the congregation at a date to be determined in June 2022.

Please save this date, watch for the survey email from our consultant and for additional information about this summit and the planning process; and most importantly, please keep our congregation, staff, and this process in your prayers as together we plan how we will continue our mission and ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE!

Christ the King's Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) invites you to **walk in the MLK, Jr. Black Heritage Society Parade on January 17, 10:00 a.m. downtown Houston.**

Please contact Rebecca Shields at rs Shields63@gmail.com.

Discussion of "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

January 20, 27, and February 6 at 7:00 p.m. on zoom.

MLK, Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" speaks to us as we continue to confront the reality of racism every day in our country.

See page 10 for more information.

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.





There is an old legend,

occasionally verifiable, that each year in the northern hemisphere on Epiphany, January 6, — and only on January 6 — two constellations appear at opposite points in the night sky. In the south, the Southern Cross appears. In the north, the constellation called Praecipio, the Cradle, appears.

Thus the expanse of the night sky, the entire world, and each of our lives is lived bordered by the manger and the cross.

“Lived between the manger and the cross.” That refers to our whole lives as Christians, but it also accurately describes this year’s first three months of our church life. It’s my intent to use this as our overarching theme for these next three months as we begin to focus on four major tasks and prepare for the forming of a Call Committee and for the calling of a new senior pastor. Those tasks are:

1. Stewardship:

How does the way we manage our time, talent, and treasure — gifts God has given us — reflect that we live our lives between the manger and the cross? I want to talk with you about that.

2. The Strategic Plan:

In January there will be two important parts of our strategic planning process needing each of our full participation. The first of these will be a brief, on-line survey sent to each of us and asking for our response to three specific questions. Please prayerfully and fully respond. Second will be the **Congregation Summit on Saturday morning, January 29 from 9:30 until noon in the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77005**. Again, your in-person participation will be critical. We will not waste your time. We will have distilled a large amount of information from you; from our affiliated partners and from and about our community, including 2020 Census data. We will present that information to you in a way that we can respond to it. All this information, your responses and the results of this summit will be presented to the Strategic Planning Team to develop a strategic plan that will be presented to the congregation for action as soon as it’s ready but no later than mid-June. This information will also be used to create the Ministry Site Profile for the bishop and Call Committee.

3. Merger Work:

The Council has already approved the mandated merger committees which will begin meeting this month; and designated a (temporary?) working name, Christ the King Lutheran Church, West Campus for the former Memorial Drive Lutheran Church location. We’ve also deliberately not intruded in any of that former congregation’s regular Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany celebrations. At some mutually agreed upon date before the beginning of Lent (Ash Wednesday is March 2), we are planning a liturgy for all of us at the west campus site to celebrate and conclude the MDLC ministry and to inaugurate the new. The merger committees will regularly report to our congregation council, which also includes representatives from the west campus, and to you through *The King’s Banner*. Of course, all this work will also be informed and shaped by our strategic planning process.

4. Congregation Council and staff development:

As all this moves forward, it seems increasingly important that both the council and the staff take time to completely understand their duties and responsibilities as well as have a clear vision of their individual and communal roles in the mission of Christ the King Lutheran Church. We’ll spend some time, including a couple of retreats, working on all of this.

“Lived between the manger and the cross.”

All of the above is chiefly administrative and not “pastoral” in the purest sense, but I believe these matters will be the best use of my time during these next two months and I want you to know that these will have higher priority for me. After six months serving among you, I believe it’s time for me to focus here. I hope you agree.

We’ve come quite far over these past six months, and we must plan that 2022 be our year for shaping and forming what we will be and do for the next few years. While that will be our challenging work, in the end it will be the Holy Spirit working in and through us who will be shaping and forming us and our ministry. To that end, I invite you to continue to pray:

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams; in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



SEARCH Homeless Services

*For a Houston without
Homelessness*

SEARCHHOMELESS.ORG



SEARCH Begins a New Round of "Coming Home"

SEARCH Homeless Services will begin a new round of their evidence-based, faith-based mentoring program, Coming Home, in January. If you would like to join Christ the King members in providing dinner for participants and their mentors on **Tuesday evening, February 1**, please contact Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org.

ENGAGE & STABILIZE

On any given day, approximately 3,400 individuals in Houston are experiencing homelessness.

Many of these men and women are immobilized by physical or mental health impairments and the lack of a support network. For many, it is virtually impossible to exit homelessness without some assistance. SEARCH is there to provide that help.

SEARCH's Mobile Outreach Team travels to common gathering areas for those who are homeless and provides on-the-spot assistance, assessments, intervention, and referrals. Armed with food, water, clothing, and blankets, they offer an important lifeline to people who are living on the street.

Once connected with SEARCH, they help clients obtain permanent housing and qualify for benefits and other resources that they need to stabilize their lives and exit homelessness.

HOUSE

The only way to cure homelessness is through housing.

Providing a home is just the first step on the path toward stability and self-sufficiency. Even after receiving a roof over their heads, many of the SEARCH clients need ongoing help in order to stabilize their lives and maintain their housing.

Once the clients have a safe place to call home, they are able to focus turning their lives around. Under the Housing First approach, SEARCH first places their clients in a stable home and then provide extensive case management and wrap-around support services to help them increase their income, improve their health, rebuild their lives, and maintain their stability over the long-term.

SEARCH's case managers are located at the housing sites where clients reside to work with the formerly homeless residents and support them as they work to regain their independence.

EDUCATION

Families with children represent the fastest growing segment of the homeless population.

The House of Tiny Treasures (HTT) provides a high-quality early childhood education for children, ages 2 to 5 years of age, who are either homeless or living in deep poverty. SEARCH's goal is to break the cycle of deep poverty and homelessness, and they know that breaking the cycle begins with the children.

Soon after SEARCH opened, it became apparent that their adult clients needed quality care for their children so that they could go back to work or school. Thus, SEARCH opened HTT in 1992. What began as a traditional day care has evolved into a nationally accredited early childhood education center preparing our young students for success in school and in life.

HTT offers a full-day, year-round program for our families. While the children are being cared for, their parents are able to focus on getting back on their feet and regaining a stable, self-sufficient life for their family.



CLIENT SUCCESS STORIES - HOUSING

George S. had been homeless and living on the streets for three years. During that time, George tried to get housing but was never able to complete the process on his own. Several months ago, George heard about the city's Coordinated Access system, got assessed for housing, and was assigned to a case manager at SEARCH. Earlier this month, George was elated to move into his very own apartment.

After being homeless for so long, it was an adjustment just sleeping in his own bed. George laughed about the first nights in his apartment. "It wasn't easy getting used to sleeping in my own bed again. I was used to sleeping on the ground and people waking me up all the time. This is new for me!" George is also enjoying something that he hasn't been able to do for a very long time – cooking his own food. "My family taught me how to cook, and I missed so much the food I had growing up. Now, I can make all that again." When speaking about SEARCH, George couldn't hold back the tears. "God is good, and God bless all SEARCH has done for me. They believed in me. Thank you so much."



Sunday Forum

Sundays 9:30 a.m.

If you would like the link to the meeting please contact us at ctk@ctkelc.org.

January 2 No Sunday Forum

January 9 **Lutherhill History and Updates**



Come and hear from Pastor Jenn Kindsvatter, Director of Programs, as she gives a brief history and updates of our outdoor ministry partner, Lutherhill Ministries.

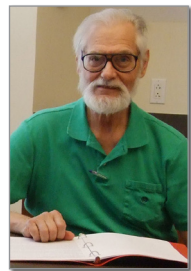
January 16, 23, and 30 **Reconciling in Christ (RIC)**

Our bulletins make it clear, "Our faith calls us to be an inclusive community welcoming and affirming people of all cultures, races, sexual orientations and gender identities." How then do we make this commitment public, thereby acknowledging our history of inclusivity (think of our AIDS Care Team) and yet setting a path forward for further engagement? Join Federico Salas-Isnardi, Pr. Rodriguez and Pr. Derr for a series of discussions on the Reconciling in Christ program.

Walking the Mourner's Path –

Eight Week Grief Support Program
February - March 2022, online

We all experience the grief that comes with losing someone we love and with that grief comes the journey of mourning. Christ the King Church plans to offer an eight week support program in February-March 2022 facilitated by Beverly Davis and Linda Schoene. The sessions will be held for eight consecutive weeks, day and time to be determined. Participants will have the opportunity to share their journey with others and discover that while their pain is unique, they are not alone. Christ is present with those who mourn and there are tools for moving forward while honoring our loved ones. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org or Linda at lindaschoene@ctkelc.org to determine if this group will meet your needs.



A memorial service for
Stephen Wentland

will be held at
Christ the King Church
Sunday, January 2, at 3:00 p.m.
with reception following.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Epiphany Thursday Afternoons

3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Zoom, beginning January 13

Pastor Derr will lead a new ZOOM Bible Study series, "From Alexander the Great to Herod the Great: Surveying the Apocrypha and Time between the Testaments" each Thursday from January 13 to February 24. In this study, we will look at Jewish history between 332 BCE when they submitted to Greek rule through Roman rule exercised through Herod the Great until 4 BCE. We will also survey several books in the Apocrypha. Each session lasts one hour at this Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83215849169?pwd=cjdBR3RJTWRoK3ZyNEt1QTVMMzBYQT09>.

A study guide and outline will be provided on the Christ the King website and in the weekly Thursday emails. Matthias Henze's book, *Mind the Gap: How the Jewish Writings between the Old and New Testament Help Us Understand Jesus*; Fortress Press, 2017; ISBN 9781506406428; EBOOK ISBN 9781506406435 will be one of our resources.

Friday Mornings

10:00 a.m. on Zoom beginning January 7

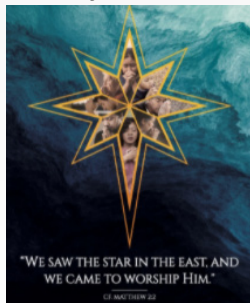
Led by one of the pastors, the group reads and responds to the upcoming Sunday's First Reading and to the Psalm each week. If you would like to receive weekly emails with the readings and the zoom link, contact Cheryl Gaspard at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org.



On **Saturday, January 1 at 6:00 p.m.** our annual New Year's Day organ concert will take place. Plan on joining this joyous welcome of the new year!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 18–25



We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship Him.

(cf. Matthew 2:2)

The theme, taken from the second chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew, is the Epiphany. Each year in January, the Church recalls the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem, highlighting God's invitation to all of humanity to a new covenant in the Incarnation of Christ. In the Eastern Churches, Epiphany is joined to the mystery of the Baptism of Christ, a baptism all Christians hold in common as testimony to their faith in the Son of God.

CREDIMUS UT INTELLIGAMUS *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. No Ph.D. necessary; just your desire to learn and to be well-informed. The above title, which translates “we believe so to understand,” is based on a classic theological phrase from early Christianity. It underscores that people of faith are encouraged to understand the world God has given us, so better to care for the creation.

This month: Margo T. Oge,



“Driving the Future: Combating Climate Change with Cleaner, Smarter Cars,”
Arcade Publishing,
New York, NY: 2016.

Blurb:

“In *Driving the Future*, Margo T. Oge portrays a future where clean, intelligent vehicles with

lighter frames and alternative power trains will produce zero emissions and run at 100+ mpg. With electronic architectures more like those of airplanes, cars will be smarter and safer, will park themselves, and will network with other vehicles on the road to drive themselves...*Driving the Future* is for anyone who wants to know what car they'll be driving in ten, twenty, or thirty years—and for everyone concerned about air quality and climate change now.”

Scriptural Reasoning

Tuesday, January 18, 6:00 p.m.



The Prophet(s) of God: An Interfaith Dialogue Series. **Starting on January 18**, The Blue Mosque/Dialogue Institute and Christ the King Church will be having an inter-faith

discussion series on The Prophet(s) of Christianity and Islam: Who are Prophets? Where do our faith traditions differ and agree? **Every third Tuesday of the month from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**, we will have a meal, fellowship time and conversation on this topic for the 2022 year. The Blue Mosque will be hosting this inaugural series. Contact Pastor Rodriguez to join or learn more. sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org.



Greetings in the name of Jesus!
Welcome back, Rice Owls (Students, Faculty, Administration) to our Spring 2022 academic year. We are so glad that you're back with us after a brief period of break. It seems as if we are going back in terms of COVID protocols. But as with every circumstance, we will respond responsively, taking our value of community of care to heart. God grant us grace to fulfill this. **Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., come visit Pastor Sergio Rodriguez at Brochstein Pavilion.** He'll be having his office hours there and engaging with students. If you're interested in serving on the steering committee for campus ministry, want to participate in our worship/volunteer opportunities, or know of students who would like to be a part of making our Lutheran Campus Ministry presence engaging, contact Pastor Rodriguez, Ben Kerswell or Dr. Allie Kieffer for more information. sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org.

Women in Transitions Group

Monday, January 10, 1:00 p.m.

We are women curious about exploring questions - "What's next in my life?", "How do I deal with the changes?", "How do I plan for the future?", etc. Our lives are a series of transitions from active parent to empty-nester, family member to caregiver, volunteer, or retiree – who we are now and who we want to be next. The group includes members of the congregation as well as friends from other churches and communities. We share books, hobbies, coping skills, sometimes have programs or speakers on topics of interest such as health, spirituality, financial planning, etc.

We generally meet on the **second Monday of each month**, September through May, at 1:00 p.m. and we are happy to add any interested people to our email list. Contact Gaelyn at lesher2@sbcglobal.net for more information and to receive details about our meeting on January 10.



Women in Transitions at their Christmas luncheon in December



For information, contact Deacon Ben Remmert, at benremmert@ctkelc.org or 281-468-4686.

January Dates:

- 9: Confirmation Class and High School Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
- 15-16: Luther League Winter Lock-In
- 16: Confirmation Class and High School Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
- 23: Confirmation Class and High School Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.
CTK Youth Ministry Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
- 29: CTK Church Summit

February Dates:

- 4-6: Worship. Lead. Serve.
Retreat at Lutherhill

Worship. Lead. Serve.

Retreat at Lutherhill: February 4-6

A gathering for high school youth 9th-12th grade.

The title pretty much sums it up. But if you're still curious...this weekend promises to be filled with worship that engages and ignites your passion for Christ, leadership skills that empower you to lead wherever you are and opportunities to serve that readily convey to your own communities and beyond. The campers at the retreat will be guided in conversation and discovery by a featured speaker. After this incredible weekend – you'll depart with up to 4 hours of community service that may apply to your National Honor Society or other service requirements. Cost is \$100 per person. RSVP by January 30 to Deacon Ben Remmert. Please contact us at registration@lutherhill.org if you are attending without a sponsor.



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

High School Bible Study Group Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

High School students are welcome to come for a time of fellowship and study of the scriptures every Sunday with teachers Bill Burgess and team of teachers. We will come together at church for our youth time of fellowship, prayer, bible study, and of course community building. Come and enjoy a time to recharge your spiritual batteries and take a sabbath from your school work. We have special Sunday activities on the following Sundays:

- January 2: No Class
- January 9: Lutherhill Rally Day
- January 16: Cheer Marathon Runners
- January 23: Brunch at Sweet Paris
- January 30: Create Luther Packs

Luther League Winter Lock-In: January 15-16

On January 15 beginning at 6:30 p.m., all middle school and high school youth are invited for an evening of fellowship and fun as we have a lock-in at the church. We will have service opportunities, large group games, cheer on the Chevron Houston Marathon runners, and come together for devotion and prayer. RSVP by January 13 to Deacon Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org as spots are limited. Cost is \$20 includes supplies and meals.

CTK Luther League Luncheon Meeting January 23 at 12:30 p.m.

Youth in 7th-12th grade and parents are invited to come together to share a lunch together and to discuss upcoming events and opportunities at Christ the King. We will discuss about how to include our friends from MDLC and afterwards travel together to see the MDLC campus.



Luther League wrapped 58 seafarer gifts for the Port of Houston on December 5. Thanks to Kirby Leshar for delivering our shoeboxes to the Seafarers' Center.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Epiphany Observance

Sunday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us on the 12th day of Christmas, January 8, to bless the nave, our “church house” with the blessing of the magi. At the end of the service all will move to the narthex for the inscription of the lintel for the 2022 year. We will celebrate afterwards with king’s cake. A printed prayer rite and chalk can be taken home to inscribe and bless one’s own house or door.

Lutherhill Rally Day: Sunday, January 9

Come and join us for a special Sunday as Lutherhill will come to Christ the King to preach during worship, teach during the Adult Forum, and of course give our children, youth, and parents a taste of Lutherhill. This is a great opportunity to come and hear Rev. Jen Kindsvatter, Director of Programs, preach and introduce children and youth to our outdoor ministry partners.

Language Milestone Celebration

Sunday, January 9 at 11:00 a.m.

In the transition from infant to toddler language plays a crucial role. It is also a main factor in the shaping of the Christian faith which proclaims God to be the Word made flesh who was born first a wordless infant. We therefore recognize the Milestone of Language, which children reach somewhere along their second and third years, on the Sunday of The Baptism of Our Lord, January 9, at the 11:00 a.m. services. Families with three-year-old children (and siblings) may approach the altar rail during the liturgy to receive a copy of Luther’s Small Catechism. The Catechism is a guidebook for parents to help their child learn the beginnings of formed language such as the Lord’s Prayer, table grace, and prayers for morning and evening. The members of Christ the King Lutheran Church take this annual opportunity to express their support for the important work that parents do at home and at church in the area of faith.

Pray the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle with Deacon Ben Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m.

The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle takes us through every region of the world over the course of a year. Praying for each place on earth and its people at least once a year, we affirm our solidarity with Christians all over the world, brothers and sisters living in diverse situations, experiencing diverse problems, and sharing diverse gifts. Pray with us every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. online through our Christ the King Facebook group. This month we will be praying for:

January 4 - Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon

January 11 - Iran, Iraq, Syria

January 18 - Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

January 24 - Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

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



The Luther League was excited to come back together to decorate the church Christmas tree, exchange white elephant gifts, and blow off some steam with a snowball fight before finals.



Plan for Summer



Mark your Calendars - Summer

Lutherhill Camp Registration is open! Make sure to register with Christ the King as your congregation to get your spot!

Children Trips this 2022 Summer (1st-6th Grade)

Lutherhill Elementary Summer Camp- July 17-22

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.

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 Gr) and Yearling's (4th-6th Gr) 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 Summer

Lutherhill Jr. High Adventure Camp- July 17-22

Those that have completed 6th-8th grade can experience a week at Lutherhill with Deacon Ben Remmert at Lutherhill's Junior High Camp. 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, 2022. **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.

ELCA Youth Gathering: July 24-28

8th grade- 12th grade youth have a great opportunity to participate in the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in Minneapolis with 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. We hope to bring a group of our youth to participate this summer in this great event. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Deacon Ben Remmert asap with a \$390 deposit by January 21.

Camp Hope Ministry is Coming this Summer!

June 20-24

Camp Hope is a day camp ministry where youth will be leading a day of camp here at church from 7:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. where children (ages 5 to 11) will learn bible stories through worship, games, snacks, science experiments, drama, and crafts throughout the day. The vision for Camp Hope is to be the best strategy for congregations to develop young Christian leaders doing justice, who serve God as servants in their neighborhood and in the world.

Location: Christ the King Lutheran Church

Dates: Each day during the week, Monday, June 20 through Friday, June 24 at 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. (before and after camp options available)

Who Can Attend: Those that have finished pre-K through 6th Grade by May 2022 (ages 4-10)

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

Register: Register online at www.ctkelc.org

If you have questions, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert.

Camp Hope Staff Applications are Out

This summer we are looking for middle and high school students to serve on our Summer Camp Hope staff. There are three ways to serve at Camp Hope—both are essential to a great Day Camp:

Support Staff: Starting at age 12, people are invited to serve in leadership positions that require orientation and specific time commitments.

Paid Staff: A limited number of people between the ages of 15 and 22 will be called to serve as small group leaders and directors. Paid staff are required to participate in pre-camp learning, attend the Staff Training Event, all staff meetings and to be prepared each day. Paid Staff Applications are due on February 15!

Camp Manager: A senior in high school or college students will be called to serve as Camp Manager who helps in promoting, facilitating, and leading the day to day operations of Camp Hope Ministries alongside with Deacon Ben Remmert.

Applications can be found online at www.ctkelc.org or paper applications can be found at Christ the King Church.



Lutherhill Retreats and News

Have you thought about where you will be next summer? Do you know someone that you think would be a great addition to Lutherhill's summer staff? It will be the BEST. SUMMER. EVER. for the 2022 Summer Staff! Lutherhill has many amazing opportunities available for young adults to work at camp. 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.

Mother and Daughter Retreat: January 21-23

Create incredible memories with your daughters, mothers and grandmothers, too at the Mother + Daughter Retreat!

This is holy time; time intentionally carved out for mothers and daughters to invest in one another. The weekend will include worship, activities, games and crafts. Register Today at www.Lutherhill.org



LUTHERHILL
MINISTRIES

**Upcoming Retreats
at Lutherhill:**
Register at
lutherhill.org

Worship. Lead. Serve.: February 4 - 6

A gathering for high school youth
in 9th-12th grade.

Unwind: March 4 - 6

Renew your body and spirit with your
favorite ladies.

Explore: March 25 - 27

A gathering for elementary school youth
1st-6th grade.

Spring Family Retreat: April 8 - 10

Invest in your family and revel in God's
creation.

Beginners Meditation Retreat at Galveston: February 25-27

Rejuvenate your body, mind and spirit by joining us for Lutherhill's first Pop-Up Retreat of 2022 - the Beginners Meditation Retreat. This retreat, led by Pastor Brad Otto, will be held on February 25-27, at Lutherhill in Galveston. Check out the weekend schedule and register today for this one-of-a-kind retreat!

Hope and Healing Center – Part 2

As promised, here is a description of the aging resources available through the Hope and Healing Center here in Houston. Community Bioethics and Aging Center (CBAC) - Hope and Healing Center and Institute. The three areas of information include:

- Aging Specific Resources Online videos and classes are offered during the year and focus on aging issues like health care, legal issues, how to down size, alternative living options, advanced care planning and mental decline.
- Care for the Caregiver There are a variety of support options for those who are caregivers. Options include support groups and personal coaching to help manage grief and caregiving concerns, especially the concerns of those caring for a person living with dementia.
- Guidance and Support Sometimes health care plans and decision making can present stressors for families as well as individuals as they try to determine what is best for those they care for. The health care ethics committee provides guidance to families dealing with chronic illness issues, complex treatment options and dementia.

Information and services are free of charge. If you have questions contact:
Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse at lschoene91@att.net.

Nurse

Notes

submitted by Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse

Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings

On **January 9** blood pressure screenings will be held in the narthex after each Sunday worship service.
Screenings will be available on the **second Sunday of each month.**

Access to Church for Early Service January 16



The **Chevron Houston Marathon** will be held Sunday, January 16, beginning at 7:00 a.m. The event results in numerous street closures including Bissonnet and Kirby. The disruption affects mainly 8:30 a.m. and Sunday Church School participants. The best route to church is from U.S. 59 to Buffalo Speedway then turning left on Rice Blvd. For a map of the course go to chevronhoustonmarathon.com.

Are You a Marathon Runner?

We encourage all friends and members of the congregation who will run in the Chevron Houston Marathon to let us know so we can include you in our prayers. Eat and rest well during the last weeks, and "Godspeed" to all!

LATINE MINISTRY

¡Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo!

As we commence this new year in the middle of a Latine festival season, you are cordially invited to the first of our monthly "Tamale Talks." **After worship on January 30**, you are invited to join us for a meal and conversation. For this month, we will be discussing: "A Donde Van? A discussion on the history of Latine barrios of Houston," 2nd floor council room (location subject to change). Together with our commemoration of Candelaria (Candlemass), the commemoration of Jesus' presentation in the temple, our Latine Christmas season comes to a close as we give thanks to God for the gift of light. In Latine communities, Candelaria is typically when the nativity creche is put away and a tamale feast is put on by the individual who had the blessing of finding the Christ-child in their King's cake slice. The theme of the innocence of children and blessings that children bring feature highly in this season. Nos vemos! Felices fiestas!

CHURCH BUSINESS

Annual Reports

The 2021 Annual Reports are **due on January 25**. See last year's reports online as a reference at ctkelc.org/about-us/how-we-work. Please email your report to michaelshelton@ctkelc.org.

Annual Meeting Part II

Part II of the annual congregational meeting will be held on **February 20 at 12:30 p.m.** On the agenda are the 2021 annual reports and the adoption of the 2022 budget. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend.

Flowers for the Nave

You are invited to sign up to provide the altar flowers for weekend services in 2022 by going to <https://www.signup-genius.com/go/30E0849A4A92CA2F85-2022> or by emailing your preferred date to Cheryl at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org. Flower arrangements are \$70 which can be paid online or by check made out to Christ the King Church with "altar flowers" in the memo line.



Thank You for the Staff Year End Gifts

Christ the King Church staff are very appreciative of the monetary gifts funded by generous members of the congregation

(not from budget). Andy Winesett collected the contributions and distributed to our very grateful staff.

Thanks so much to our generous members! Checks large and small added up.

GOOD TROUBLE

Sunday Forums On Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

Our bulletins make it clear, "Our faith calls us to be an inclusive community welcoming and affirming people of all cultures, races, sexual orientations and gender identities." How then do we make this commitment public, thereby acknowledging our history of inclusivity (think of our AIDS Care Team) and yet setting a path forward for further engagement? Join Federico Salas-Isnardi, Pr. Rodriguez and Pr. Derr for our Sunday Forum for a series of discussions on the Reconciling in Christ program (January 16, 23, and 30).

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade and Anti-Racism Committee (ARC) Events

The Anti-Racism Committee of Christ the King Church together with the Texas-Louisiana Gulf-Coast Synod invites you to **join us for the annual MLK Parade on January 17**. Register with Rebecca Shields at rshields63@gmail.com for the exact time and meeting location.

After the parade, on **January 20 and 27 and February 3, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** via Zoom, Pr. Rodriguez will be leading an intergenerational discussion of MLK Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," including some sections from his last book, "Where Do We Go From Here?" How do we live ever more into our calling as Micah (6:8) says, "Do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

We also want to provide information on issues that need advocacy; organize a congregation-wide book read/discussion; arrange fellowship with Augustana, our "mother" congregation; offer classes in association with The Center for the Healing of Racism. Please share any ideas you may have as well!

You are invited to contact members of ARC for more information: Donna Vass, Terri Koehler, Jim Shields, Susan Uri, Jessica Lockheed, Rebecca Shields, and Pastor Sergio Rodriguez.

*The arc of the moral universe is long,
but it bends towards justice.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr



houston food bank  **Saturday January 8**
8:00 a.m. - noon
For information, contact ctkhfb@gmail.com

Please put the following 2022 dates on your calendar.

Second Saturdays of Odd Months
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

2022 DATES

January 8	July 9
March 12	September 10
May 14	November 12

Volunteer at the Houston Food Bank

Saturday, January 8 8:00 a.m. - noon

In 2021, our group contributed to the production of well over 38,500 meals for people in our area. We look forward to even more this year.

For more information and to RSVP for our January 8 outing, contact Justin at ctkhfb@gmail.com to join our group.



Donations

Please DROP OFF

- **Toilet Paper and Socks and Small Hand Sanitizer**
for SEARCH Homeless Services
- **Pet Food**
for Interfaith Ministries Meals on Wheels
- **Non-Perishable Food Items and Can Openers**
for Christian Community Service Center



Drop Off

in the narthex or the church office

Young Adults Volunteer

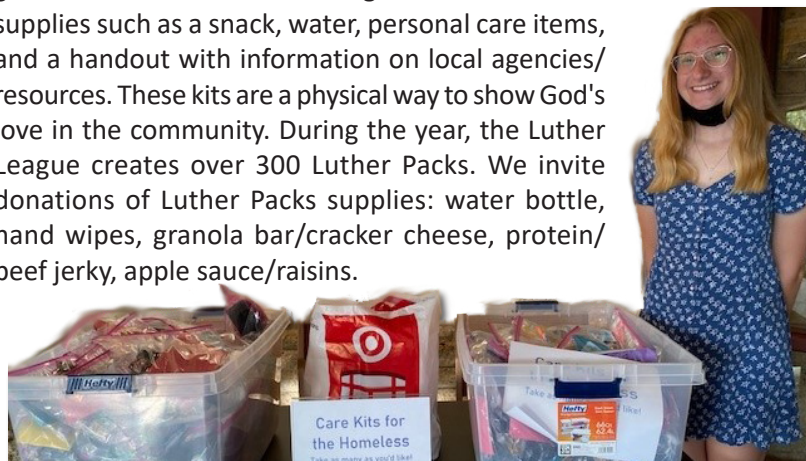
Join the Young Adults as we volunteer at CCSC's Emergency Services on **Saturday, February 5 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.**

All are welcome to join on **the first Saturday every other month.**
For questions or to RSVP, please contact nathan@wikernet.com.

Luther Packs Supplies Needed

Drop off any Sunday in the narthex

The youth group of Christ the King Church has been creating "Luther Packs" for the last five years to help combat homelessness and hunger in the city of Houston. Each kit is created by the youth for our congregation members and friends to give out to the homeless and contains supplies such as a snack, water, personal care items, and a handout with information on local agencies/resources. These kits are a physical way to show God's love in the community. During the year, the Luther League creates over 300 Luther Packs. We invite donations of Luther Packs supplies: water bottle, hand wipes, granola bar/cracker cheese, protein/beef jerky, apple sauce/raisins.



Olivia Winesett made 75 homeless care kits for World Homeless Weekend in October 2021.

AFGHAN REFUGEE FAMILY SETTLING IN HOUSTON

WITH SUPPORT OF CTK WELCOME TEAM

from Emily Triantaphyllis

Members of Christ the King Church's Welcome Team greeted the Hussaini family with flowers and signs with welcoming messages when they arrived at Bush Intercontinental Airport on December 10, the culmination of a journey that began with their escape from the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

The Welcome Team had prepared a South-west Houston apartment for their arrival, gathering furnishings, stocking the refrigerator and pantry and arranging for delivery of a first hot meal for the family of five—mother, father, 11-year-old and 18-month-old daughters and 3-year-old son.

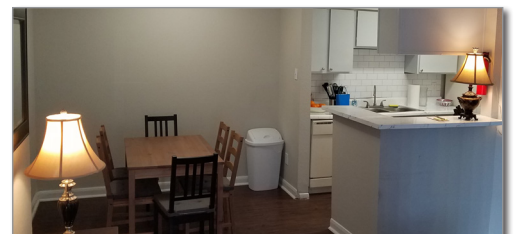
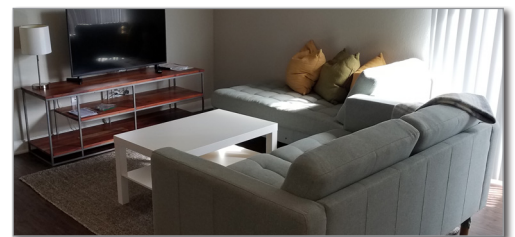
The congregation has embraced this new ministry project, by volunteering and by donating more than \$12,000 to support the family in its resettlement in Houston. The AMMPARO Ministry wishes to share our deepest gratitude for the generous hearts and minds of our congregation for this outpouring of support.

Our immense thanks go out to the CTK members, neighbors and friends who worked behind the scenes to help set up the apartment. They purchased and col-

continue on next page



The Hussaini family is pictured with Welcome Team members Bitia Esmali and Linda Murray (pictured right).



Afghan Family in Houston

continued from previous page

lected every item needed to create a beautiful and welcoming new home.

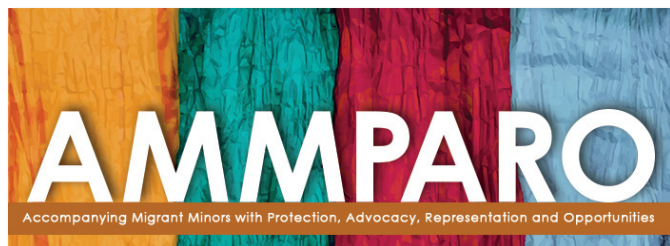
Special thanks go out to Bill Burgess, Beverly Davis, Brent Dyer, Jennifer Dyer, Bitá Esmaeli, Alicia Goodrow, Henry Goodrow, Bill Mintz, Linda Murray, Donna Olson-Salas, Federico Salas-Isnardi, Rebecca Shields, Sharon Ostwald and members of the CTK prayer shawl ministry. We extend a special thanks to Meaghan Purnell of Refugee Services of Texas (RST), who provided guidance and support through each step of our effort.

CTK Welcome Team members are the Hossaini family's sponsors, focused on helping them become self-sufficient within three months after their arrival and giving team members an opportunity to develop relationships as we accompany them. It is our response to Jesus' direction in Matthew 25:35 to welcome the stranger.

Members of the Welcome Team will help the family by addressing English-language difficulties and their lack of computer skills and access to transportation. We will advise our new friends on the importance of work for self-sufficiency; how to apply for and interview for jobs; how to access adequate health care; the importance of working toward getting a car and driver's license, and other everyday tasks such as budgeting.

RST, a nonprofit resettlement agency, is the Welcome Team's partner. By design, RST and the Welcome Team will taper their support gradually throughout the initial resettlement period for an emphasis on early self-sufficiency.

The AMMPARO committee is coordinating the effort as part of its mission to welcome immigrants in our community. If you are interested in joining the effort, please contact Emily Triantaphyllis, AMMPARO committee chair, by email at ewtrianta@gmail.com.



Thank You From Our DACA Recipients

Through a partnership with BakerRipley's Immigration and Citizenship program, the AMMPARO Ministry at Christ the King Church provided 10 young people with money to pay fees for their applications to renew their protected immigration status under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

DACA status is available for some immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. They are widely known as "Dreamers" after proposed legislation to grant them permanent status—the "DREAM Act."

Funding was provided through a grant by the Christ the King Lutheran Church Foundation. The renewal fee scholarships—\$495 for each person—were granted in October during a DACA Renewal Workshop.

Below is a card we received from one of our "Dreamers".

Thank you very much for
the help you provided not
just to me, but towards
other people like me.
Thanks to y'all I would be
able to accomplish my
dreams. Hope life pays
you back million times
more. ♥
-Kevin

Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection,
Advocacy, Representation and Opportunity

AMMPARO



The Work of the ELCA: Book of Faith

The Book of Faith Initiative strives to increase biblical literacy and fluency by encouraging members, congregations and synods to dig deeper into our book of faith — the Bible. For many, the encounter with Scripture is limited to the excerpts that are read on Sunday morning. Many of us — and many of our neighbors — are somewhat intimidated and unsure of how to engage Scripture. We believe all are invited to open Scripture and join the conversation. To learn more about Book of Faith, go to www.elca.org, hover over “Our Work”, and click the link for “Book of Faith” under the “Congregations & Synods” heading.

Churchwide Assembly Justice Look-Back: Augusta Victoria Hospital

At churchwide assembly in August 2019, a memorial was passed that requested the presiding bishop, ELCA synods, and congregations to petition the U.S. president and all relevant legislators to (1) release funding intended by Congress to support the East Jerusalem hospitals, and continue funding at previous levels until the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is resolved, (2) restore funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and beyond, and continue funding at previous levels until the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is resolved and (3) to amend the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act to remove legislative barriers to future funding of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian Authority. To learn more about this memorial, or other justice-related memorials from the 2019 churchwide assembly, see this link: 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!

Climate Justice – Methane Pollution Rules New rules that reduce methane pollution, a very potent greenhouse gas, are open for public comment thru Jan. 14. Let the EPA know that you support strong safeguards on methane pollution. Tender a public comment on the proposed methane rules.

Healthcare and Racial/Gender Justice – HIV/AIDS Despite medical advances to address HIV and AIDS, lack of access to healthcare, stigma, inequality and other factors have led to increased disparities between groups of people, worsening racial and gender justice inequities in our communities. Urge the U.S. government to enhance health programs, both in the U.S. and globally, as well as housing programs, in recognition of the large impact of housing stability on health outcomes. Urge Congress to take action to bolster U.S. response to HIV/AIDS.

Human Rights - Palestine Israel continues to flout international law and conventions by forcibly removing Palestinians from their homes and allowing massive violence against them, including against Palestinian children, to go unpunished. The United States, which annually sends \$3.8 billion in military aid to Israel, has great leverage to uphold international principles and enforce international laws. Urge the U.S. government to hold Israel accountable for human rights violations.

Religious Freedom - Hate-Free Campaigns Religious bigotry is on the rise in Texas. This bigotry is amplified when candidates for public office engage in hate speech, or even when they make no comments as others do so. Call on these candidates in Texas to condemn religious bigotry.

Voting Rights – Freedom to Vote Act For the first time, the International Institute for Democracy & Electoral Assistance deemed the U.S. a “backsliding democracy”, due in large part to attacks on free and fair elections. One counter to this trend is the Freedom to Vote Act, which would protect the right to vote, end partisan gerrymandering & decrease the influence of money in U.S. political life. Ask Congress and President Biden to support the Freedom to Vote Act.

Immigration – Afghan Adjustment Act While the U.S. has welcomed tens of thousands of Afghan immigrants to our country, they have no pathway to permanent residency other than asylum, which requires paperwork that they were advised to destroy in order to elude the Taliban during evacuation. To ensure that Afghans find lasting safety in the U.S., Congress must pass the Afghan Adjustment Act, which would allow them to seek legal permanent residence. Ask Congress to support this act.

Resilient Creation & Restored Communities: Voting for Climate Justice in 2022 Thursday, January 20, 6:30 p.m., online

After another year of record-breaking climate disasters, environmental injustices are degrading our communities, God's Creation, and democracy. This year, we're changing the script. Let's move from degradation to resilience, from brokenness to restoration, from death to revival! Join Creation Justice Ministries to LEARN what's at stake for our communities and climate in 2022, COMMIT to a year of engagement for resilience and restoration, and PRAY for a revival of climate justice. Learn more/register at: <https://creationjustice.salsalabs.org/climate revival/index.html>

Climate Solutions 101

Tuesdays, January 11 – February 15, 6:00 p.m. central, online

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS 101 PRESENTED BY PROJECT DRAWDOWN

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, presented in video units and in-depth conversations, combines Project Drawdown's trusted resources with the expertise of several inspiring voices from around the world. Climate solutions become attainable with increased access to free, science-based educational resources, elevated public discourse, and tangible examples of real-world action. Continue your climate solutions journey, today. Join others for a weekly online discussion on climate solutions! Register for this course at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-solutions-101-tickets-215049578077>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

Faithful Resilience:

A Study on Climate Resilience for Faith Communities

Thursdays, January 13 – February 17, 6:00 p.m., online

The climate crisis has arrived. Faith communities must not only react, but also prepare. Over the last decade, hurricanes have intensified, wildfires have burnt stronger, and heat waves have baked our cities. These events can only be expected to get worse in the next decades. Most of our faith communities are not ready for these climate-driven disasters. Yet, the communities who will be most threatened by climate change also have an opportunity to play a pivotal role in building resilience in their towns and cities. Whether a faith community has a large facility, land, social capital, or something else, those assets can be channeled into building climate resilience in preparation for the coming physical and spiritual storms of the climate crisis. Join us for a six-week exploration of how CTK can become a force for climate resilience for our community. To learn more/register, see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faithful-resilience-a-study-on-climate-resilience-for-faith-communities-tickets-215046809797>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Continue...

The CTK Creation Care Team invites you to a monthly environmental education web meeting series whose theme in 2022 is *Planet Earth & You*.

The Grammar of Creation: What is Nature Speaking to Us? (And Are We Listening?)

Sunday, January 30, 6:00 p.m., online

In January, join Sr. Damien Marie Savino, Dean of Science & Sustainability at Aquinas College and a Franciscan Sister of the Eucharist with a Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering, as she reflects on the ancient notion of the "grammar of creation" in light of contemporary ecological challenges. In many ways today, creation is "groaning, waiting to be made known" (Romans 8), waiting for humans to hear its cry. Sister Damien Marie will share her "reading" of some key messages from the grammar of creation and how they can help us better understand the nature of Planet Earth, in order to heal its wounds. Time for interactive Q&A with the speaker will be provided. Please register for this talk at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-grammar-of-creation-what-is-nature-speaking-to-us-are-we-listening-tickets-222689599587>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com with any questions.



Time for Living the Change

January 2022, online

Rooted in gratitude for life and for Earth itself, our spiritual paths guide us to care for creation, live simply, avoid waste, and love our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable. Start new year 2022 off right by considering how you can reduce your carbon footprint and taking action to do so. Select one new low-carbon lifestyle change to implement during the month of January, thereby aligning your life with your faith, and stand firm against climate injustice. Learn more/sign up at: <https://livingthechange.net/time-for-living-the-change>.



Faith, Climate Change & Justice:

A Multifaith Panel Discussion

Sunday, January 16, 2:30 p.m. online

You are invited to hear multiple faith perspectives on the topic of faith, climate change & justice. A panel of speakers of a variety of faith backgrounds will each address faith, climate change & justice from the perspective of their faith. An opportunity for Q&A with the panel will follow, as well as discussion with all in attendance in break-out groups. People of all faiths are encouraged to attend. Please join us! Register for this event at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faith-climate-change-justice-a-multifaith-panel-discussion-tickets-215039648377>. For more information about this event, or the Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston, please contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com.

THE CRÈCHE FESTIVAL WAS AMAZING!

About 350 people enjoyed the Crèche Festival at Christ the King Church curated and hosted by member Daniel Zorn on December 17-18. Over 120 nativities from all over the world were displayed. ***Thank you, Daniel!***



Indonesia



Fort Worth Stockyards



Alaska



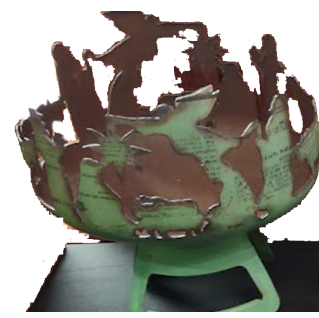
Hipster Nativity



S'Mores



Mexico



Made from Propane Tank



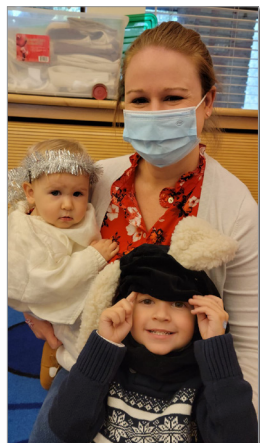
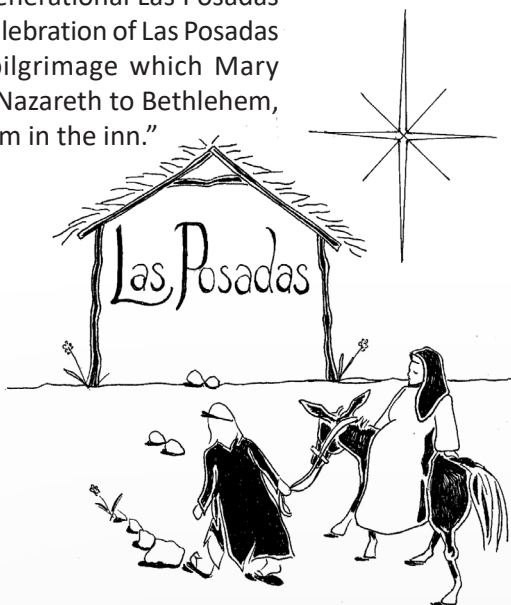
Denmark





Las Posadas

On December 19 during the Sunday school hour, Pr. Rodriguez, together with our Sunday School teachers and Cantor Rick Erickson, led an intergenerational Las Posadas in the courtyard. The celebration of Las Posadas commemorates the pilgrimage which Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem, ultimately finding "room in the inn."



Luther League Waffle Cafe on December 18



Welcome New Members



KC and Liz Lunden



Daryl and Aimee Elles
with Kayla and Ryan

QUE PASA

**at Christ the King
Church?**

Are You Connected?

Christ the King Church strives to keep our members connected and up to date. We generally send two weekly emails, on Thursdays with the news and events of the upcoming week and on Sundays with worship information.

Please let us know at ctk@ctkelc.org if you are not receiving our emails and would like to subscribe.

Also, be sure to check out our Facebook page and website.

CTKELC.ORG



Thanks to Altar Guild members and friends for decorating the church for Christmas.



Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Reverend Elizabeth Eaton, visited Christ the King Church in December to extend her thanks to the congregation for establishing the "Rev. Dr. Duane Larson and Dr. Joen Larson Seminary Scholarship" last May. The scholarship is managed by the Endowment Fund of the ELCA and is awarded through the ELCA Fund for Leaders.



CTK member and deacon Courtney Webb shared a Godly Play story at the Candidacy Retreat on December 7, 2021.



Our young members exhibited great perseverance following Las Posadas.

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9



Finally.... success!

