



# 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 78, Number 02  
February 2023

## ASH WEDNESDAY February 22

Rice Village Campus  
Imposition of Ashes

7:00am

12:15pm

7:30pm

Sandwiches will be served after the 12:15pm service.

*Ashes to Go*

8:00-9:00am

11am-12:00 noon

5:00-6:00pm

West Campus

Imposition of Ashes 12:00pm

*Ashes to Go* 1:00-2:00pm

## LENT 2023

FEBRUARY 22 – APRIL 5

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



conversations over Lent's Forty Days at our Sunday services, forums, after service Lent lunches, and at Wednesday evening vespers.

**Sundays:** Pastor Sergio Rodriguez will introduce this theme at our 9:30am Forum on February 26, the First Sunday in Lent, **setting the Table** by leading a discussion of the theology of the Table rooted in Holy Communion. That same day, our first Lent Lunch—a twist on our past "Soup Suppers," will enable us to engage in our own, self-directed "table talks." Subsequent forums and Lent lunches will expand on this theme.

**Wednesdays:** Beginning March 1 at 6:30pm, and every Wednesday through March 29, we will use an Evening Prayer liturgy from Holden Village as our musical setting, with psalms, prayers, readings, and Table Talk reflections.

### Soups, Salads, and Servers on Sundays

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



### The PrayGround is Open at Christ the King Church

A new space for our children was blessed on December 18. The PrayGround is a "grace space" where children can experience worship through age-appropriate materials and tools that help keep them engaged in worship. [See Page 6](#)

## Annual Meeting Part 2

Sunday, February 5, 12:30pm

Christ the King Church, Rice Village

*All congregation members are encouraged to attend.*



## Dear faithful people of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church:

February is the shortest month. This year it is also the most liturgically complicated. Our Altar

Guild will change the paraments on the altar and pulpit, and we will change vestment colors, 5 times ---from white to green to white to black to violet – all in twenty-one days; and we will observe the end of Christmas (February 5), an ordinary Sunday after Epiphany (February 12), Transfiguration (February 19), Ash Wednesday, February 22, and the First Sunday in Lent over those 21 days. It's all about liturgy and liturgical tradition. Given this "complication," and this congregation's commitment, in both our Strategic Plan and Ministry Site Profile, on "the Lutheran tradition," this seems like a good time for me to write about matters liturgical. In order to be as helpful as possible to all of us, those who are (as I described myself recently) "liturgical snobs," those who find tradition stuffy and those in the middle, I need to introduce a word and a concept to you.

That word is "adiaphora;" it means "matters of indifference;" and Lutherans use this term more than any other Christian group. Among us at Christ the King, it's important that we understand what matters of indifference really are. But first, let's highlight the essentials.

For its entire history, Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church has embodied the values of the Lutheran liturgical renaissance which blossomed in the 1960s and 70s and has flourished since. Put simply, that renaissance had three emphases: 1. That baptism be restored to its rightful place in Lutheran liturgical life. 2. That Holy Communion be celebrated every Sunday and holy day. 3. That proclamation of the Word – Judgment and Promise or Law and Gospel – be restored to its appropriate prominence in the context of emphases 1 and 2. The nave of Christ the King Church with its font, table, and pulpit precisely proclaims these Gospel-centered essentials.

As many are aware, emphases 1 and 2 were missing for most of regular, every-Sunday Lutheran liturgical practice for quite a long time. Word and Sacraments, and appointments to use these appropriately are essential. Nothing else is.

While not essential, other matters – vestments, paraments, chalices, patens, processional crosses and like elements – are also very important, chiefly because these visually connect us to the earliest Christian practices. From the Fourth Century CE onward, these have been used in Christ's Church so regularly that they could be described as having been used "always, everywhere, by everyone;" an overstatement to be sure, but not a big one. Again, our Christ the King worship practice continues that tradition.

There are other matters which are also of great importance. Eucharistic prayers which rehearse the story of God keeping promises, the lectionary, which gives order to our hearing of scripture, the rhythm of the church year, and the shape, or order of our liturgies all fit into that category. We do all of these for historic reasons, to maintain connections with the rest of ancient and contemporary Christianity, and chiefly because it enables us in an organized way to

experience the Promises of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, trust this and use this in our daily lives.

Finally, there are certain matters that are of great importance to us because they reflect our cultural heritage. Best examples among us? The organ and the bells.

So what are not essential? What are adiaphora? Here's a short list: Bowing, making the sign of the cross, kneeling, lighting candles (each of us can think of many more) and those who practice and use all of these and other such actions do them for no other reason but this: these actions are helpful to them. No one can force another to do these. Likewise no one can force another Christian not to do these.

As I watch others when we worship together, I realize I am on the extreme end of these practices. I bow my head at the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:10) and I likewise bow my head at a doxology, at the acclamation "holy, holy, holy," and at the doxological conclusion of the Lord's prayer to remind myself – and those watching me – of the honor due to God. I make the sign of the cross regularly to remember what God has done for us in baptism. I trace the cross on my forehead, lips, and heart when I announce or prepare to hear or proclaim the Gospel. None of these are essential, but each is helpful to me and, I hope, to those who watch me. Likewise, I use liturgical gestures to visibly proclaim the actions I chant. "The Lord be with you;" "Lift up your hearts;" "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God" each have historic liturgical actions which illustrate the words sung or said. Non-essentials to be sure, but, I hope, helpful.

As we enter the season of Lent this month, informed as we are this year by the Gospel according to Matthew which has Jewish roots, I'd like to invite all of you to try another "adiaphora" action yourself as we pray the Lord's Prayer. Try using what Jews has always done and what we Christians call "the Orans position."



Here's an illustration from the catacombs in Rome.

Put down your bulletin and worship book – you know this prayer! Raise your hands up on either side of your head, or in front of you if that's more comfortable, and see if this posture changes how you experience this prayer. Listen to yourself. Listen to the others. Listen to the bell. Both the traditional and the contemporary prayer end with "deliver us from evil." As you begin the next doxological line, drop your hands, fold them and bow your head.

Try this during Lent and see if it is useful to you. If it is, continue. If not, stop. Gestures and postures are all adiaphora. Whatever you decide to do, focus on the essentials! That's where the Good News is always.

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

# FEBRUARY Mission Offering

**FEBRUARY 5, 19, 26**

**freewheels  
houston**



**Freewheels  
bikes: Safe  
transportation  
for refugees,  
veterans and  
young people**

Powered by volunteers, prayers and financial support from the Christ the King Church congregation, Freewheels Houston provides safe and reliable bicycles that enable refugees, veterans emerging from homelessness and young people to get to work, school and other destinations. With a bike, a refugee can look for work and shop for food and other essentials. A veteran can get to a job or medical appointment, and a young person can get to school without relying on a parent.

The **CTK Mission Offering for February 5, 19 and 26** will support Freewheels Houston's efforts by helping pay for tires, tubes and other essential parts; helmets, locks and other safety equipment, and rent for efficient shop space in Gulfton, near the apartment complexes that have become home for many refugee families.

Freewheels was established as a CTK ministry in 2015 and became a separate nonprofit corporation in 2019. CTK members continue to form the core of the all-volunteer project and provide substantial support through board leadership, volunteer service, regular giving, and bike donations. As more than 6,000 Afghan refugees settled in Houston after fleeing the Taliban takeover of their homeland in August 2021, Freewheels volunteers responded to requests for bikes that came via phone and text message on a daily basis. We also gave bikes to Ukrainian refugees who resettled in Houston after fleeing Russian occupation.

Bike deliveries more than doubled in 2022, with 452 bikes distributed to men, women and children.

- 287 were given to refugees;
- 44 were given to veterans;
- 72 were given to Alief students, and
- 49 were given to other people referred by agencies assisting people emerging from homelessness and other human services agencies.

In 2022, 162 volunteers worked 1,326 shifts or 4,638 hours. Freewheels has two principal assignments that enable people



## Souper Bowl of Caring February 12

The Luther League will be collecting funds and food during Super Bowl Sunday to benefit our local food pantry at Christian Community Service Center.

There are three ways for you to donate:

1. **Food Drive at Church:** Drop off food items in the donation basket in the narthex when you come to church.
2. **Virtual Food Drive:** Donate now until February 12 here: <https://yougivegoods.com/ctkhouston>.
3. **Monetary Donation:** You may make a contribution through Christ the King Church as part of our Souper Bowl of Caring mission offering on February 12 following worship services.

with a range of bike knowledge to enjoy a rewarding volunteer experience.

- Shop volunteers clean bikes, repair flat tires and perform other minor repairs, and
- Volunteer mechanics repair brakes, gears and other bike systems.

As shop volunteers spend more time at Freewheels, they have opportunities to learn more about repairing bikes and take on more responsibilities. Freewheels is becoming more well known, which brings more volunteers, bike donations and financial support. For the first time, Freewheels worked with employees of three corporations—Dow Chemical, Marine Well Containment Corp. and Tailored Brands—to assemble 75 new adult and youth bikes. The finished bikes were checked by Freewheels mechanics before they were distributed to Alief students, refugees and veterans.

Freewheels workdays are Friday and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon at 6020 Jessamine #204, Houston, TX 77081; and **every second Saturday of EVEN numbered months** is designated as Christ the King's volunteer day. Please read more and register for a shift at <https://freewheelshouston.org/volunteer-at-freewheels/>. If you want to learn more about Freewheels, please ask CTK members Bill Mintz, Bill Chapman, Ed Pennell, David West, Jessica Lockheed, Tom Frank and Cindi Scruggs, who can answer your questions.



*Freewheels volunteers delivered bikes to 5th- and 6th-graders at Mata Intermediate School in the Alief Independent School District in December.*





## Sunday Forum

**Sundays at 9:30am**  
Rice Village Campus basement  
classroom and online

Look for the Zoom link in the Sunday  
e-blast or contact [ctk@ctkelc.org](mailto:ctk@ctkelc.org).

### February 5: West Campus Site Plan for Reborn Mission

#### In the courtyard, in-person only

Enjoy this informal opportunity to hear from Architect Jesse Hager, his team from CONTENT, and members of the MIST team and chat with them as they present a site plan and models, for a reborn ministry at Christ the King Church's West Campus. This will include preliminary drawings for the sanctuary. This forum will be the prelude to a formal concluding report at the Part 2 Congregation Meeting from MIST chair Russell Post. Come and see our exciting mission plans for this part of our ministry!

### February 12: Conversation with the Pastors

Join the pastors for an informal gab session. Bring your questions about the church, theology, liturgy, and life, etc.

### February 19: Conversation with the Call Committee

The Senior Pastor Call Committee hosts its regular third Sunday of the month conversation with members to provide updates on the call process and to hear members' thoughts. To learn more, click on the Call Committee link on the Christ the King Church website, [ctkelc.org](http://ctkelc.org).

### February 26: What's for Supper? Understanding of the Eucharist for a post/post-modern world

Join Pastor Rodriguez to learn about the theology of the Lord's Supper and its importance in our daily lives.

## WEEKDAY ADULT FAITH FORMATION

### *Lectio Divina*

#### **Mondays at noon, online**

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

### **The Life and Times of Paul with Dr. Howard Jones**

#### **Wednesdays at 10:00am**

#### **West Campus In-Person**

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

### **Bible Study with Pastor Mandy Derr**

#### **Thursdays resuming on Feb. 23 at 3:00pm on zoom**

After a brief break, the Thursday group resumes with a study of The Sermon on the Mount.

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

### **Friday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Mandy Derr**

#### **Fridays, 10:00am**

#### **Rice Village campus**

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

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

### **Pray the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

#### **Tuesdays at 8:15am on Facebook**

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

**February 7:** Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain

**February 14:** Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland

**February 21:** France, Germany, Monaco

**February 28:** Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

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



### **Bach Society Houston: 300th Anniversary Vespers**

**Sunday, February 5, 6:00pm**

**Rice Village Campus**

Bach Society Houston celebrates the 300th anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's audition

at the Thomaskirche in Leipzig by presenting the cantatas performed that day, *Jesus nahm zu sich die Zwölfe*, BWV 22 and *Du wahrer Gott und Davids Sohn*, BWV 23. All are welcome to this service celebrating these two foundational works!

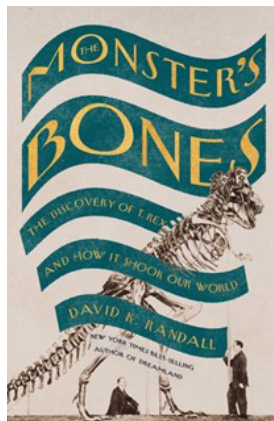
## CREDIMUS UT INTELLEGAMUS we believe so to understand

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

### *This month:*

Randall, D. K. “The Monster’s Bones: The Discovery of T. Rex and How It Shook Our World” W. W. Norton & Company, New York, NY: 2022.

In the dust of the Gilded Age Bone Wars, two vastly different men emerge with a mission to fill the empty halls of New York’s struggling American Museum of Natural History: Henry Fairfield Osborn, a privileged socialite whose reputation rests on



the museum’s success, and intrepid Kansas-born fossil hunter Barnum Brown. When Brown unearths the first Tyrannosaurus Rex fossils in the Montana wilderness, forever changing the world of paleontology, Osborn sees a path to save his museum from irrelevancy. With four-foot-long jaws capable of crushing the bones of its prey and hips that powered the animal to run at speeds of 25 miles per hour, the T. Rex suggests a prehistoric ecosystem more complex than anyone imagined. As the public turns out in droves to cower before this bone-chilling giant of the past and wonder at the mysteries of its disappearance, Brown and Osborn together turn dinosaurs from a biological oddity into a beloved part of culture.

## Science and Religion Discussion Group

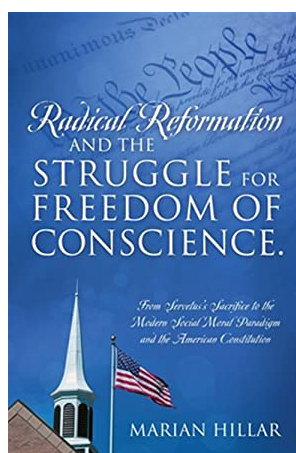
**Monday, February 20, 7:00-9:00pm**

**Christ the King West Campus, 12211 Memorial Drive**

***Radical Reformation and the Struggle for Freedom of Conscience* by Marian Hillar**

Review and Discussion led by **Howard Lamont**

We are basically familiar with the people who initially broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. However, we might not know as much about the later history of these churches after



they became more politically accepted and powerful. In the 16th century, how did they handle it when new reformers (like Michael Servetus) challenged their tenets and dogmas? Why was Servetus violently suppressed? How did the Socinians, a highly influential group then, further the argument for freedom of conscience in the Christian movement? Why do we know so little (if anything) about them now? These issues from this period of history remain with us today—and we still struggle with them. ALL are invited to join the discussion and encouraged to read the book! You can purchase it from Amazon and if you would like a PDF, please email [hillar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hillar@sbcglobal.net).

## LATINE MINISTRY



La Paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes! As we celebrate the Feast of Candelaria when we commemorate the presentation of Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem, we ask you to pray for and continue to support the following work impacting Latine folk in Houston:

- Bilingual Ash Wednesday Service at Kinsmen Lutheran. 7:00pm Pastor Rodriguez will be co-celebrating.
- Via Crucis Service. Latinex Strategy Congregations of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. Host will be Christ the King Church- Rice Campus. Pastor Rodriguez will be

presiding.

- Latina Women’s Retreat 2023: “Con Voz Profetica”
- Encuentro de Jovenes Adultos Latinex: “Yo soy el camino!”
- Summer Latinex Camp.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in participating in any of the following events, reach out to Pastor Rodriguez ([sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org](mailto:sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org)) for more information and to join.

### **Ashes-to-Go on Ash Wednesday**

For those whom Spanish is a primary language, a Spanish speaker will be available onsite at Rice Village Campus for the Ashes-to-Go.



# CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## February Dates:

5, 12, 19, 26: Godly Play Classes at Rice Campus,  
9:30am

19: Carnival at Rice Campus

### Lenten Family Devotional: Seeking Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

The lectionary for Year A offers us many stories of Jesus encountering people

who are seeking: Nicodemus comes to him in the veil of night, he approaches a Samaritan woman at a well, he heals a man born without sight. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. Often, an unveiling occurs—assumptions are disrupted, a new perspective is revealed, mystery grows.

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

### Making Ashes

February 19 at 9:30am

Come for a special time with our own Elizabeth Lloyd and Bette Bowers during the Sunday School hour as they show all our children and parents how the ashes for Ash Wednesday are made. This is a great opportunity for children, youth, and adults to learn about this wonderful Lenten tradition.

### Carnival Brunch

February 19 at noon

Come and eat all the pancakes and sausage you can and



enjoy music and pancake races after late service on February 19. There will be activities for the kids beginning at 12:30pm, pancake races, with dancing for everyone, followed by singing and burying our last "Alleluia." Lunch will be served from noon until 1:00pm. All donations for this event will go to help youth attending the 2023 Germany Trip. Come and have a blast before the start of Lent on February 22.

### Godly Play Spring Workshop

Saturday, February 4, 8:00am- 1:00pm  
Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp,  
Houston TX 77009

Join us for a time of learning and creating your own Circle of the Church Year Calendar. \$20 per person if paid in advance, \$25 per person at the door. Lunch is included, bring you fabric scissors. Register by emailing [godlyplayhouston@gmail.com](mailto:godlyplayhouston@gmail.com).



### Why offer a PrayGround to families during worship?

Our new PrayGround is designed for younger children who are not comfortable sitting in a pew or may need to leave during the worship service. Parents, other adults, and older siblings sit close or on the floor with the children. The PrayGround is a valuable tool for both worship and faith formation:

- **Scripture:** Matthew 10:13-15. Unlike his disciples, who considered children a distraction, Jesus welcomed & blessed the children.
- **Tradition:** The tradition of sending children out of worship prevents them from participating in essential components of Christian faith formation, i.e., community prayer, music, scripture reading, preacher's message and Holy Communion.
- **Reason:** In order to be fully formed and developed, worship skills, behaviors, knowledge, and beliefs require exposure, practice, and experience. Without these, children cannot learn what to do in worship or what worship can do for them.
- **Experience:** Many families agree that "worshiping together" for the whole service is essential for Christian faith formation.



# YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



## February Dates:

- 5, 12, 19, 26: Confirmation Class, 9:30pm  
12: Souper Bowl of Caring  
17-19: Worship. Lead. Serve Retreat at Lutherhill  
19: Carnival Fundraiser  
25: Sci Fi Double Feature, 5:30pm  
26: High School Gathering, 12:30pm

## Souper Bowl of Caring

**Sunday, February 12**

All youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to help serve on Sunday February 12th as we collect donations for our Souper Bowl offering after worship, lead in worship service, and help collect food. This year our offering is going to CCSC to help their food pantry. You are welcome to wear your favorite team color(s) to worship. For more information, please contact Beverly Davis or Deacon Ben Remmert.

## Worship. Lead. Serve. Retreat at Lutherhill

**February 17-19**

### A gathering for middle and high school youth

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 February 5 to Deacon Ben Remmert. Please contact us at [registration@lutherhill.org](mailto:registration@lutherhill.org) if you are attending without a sponsor.

## Carnival Fundraiser Help Needed

**February 19 at 8:00am**

Youth and adult volunteers are needed for our Carnival Festival Fundraiser on February 19, beginning at 8:00am. Volunteers will be cooking pancakes, sausages, and eggs for brunch at church. No experience necessary. The ways you can help are:

- bring breakfast foods and/or orange juice
- shop at Sam's for pancake mix and sausage patties

- decorate the Saturday before with Deacon Ben
- come at 8:00 and make pancakes and cook sausage
- arrive at 11:30 and continue with the pancakes
- help with kids' table and pancake race
- clean up at 1:45

Please let Deacon Ben Remmert know if you are available or if you know someone who would enjoy participating.



## Envelope Fundraiser

The Envelope Fundraiser will begin on Sunday, February 26 and will continue throughout the season of Lent. When you pick an envelope off the bulletin board in the courtyard it will have a number. Match your donation with the number marked on the envelope. Top donors will receive a special prize. Checks should be made out to "Christ the King Lutheran Church" with Youth Germany Trip in the memo line. You may put your donation in the offering plate on Sundays or drop it off at the office during the week. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward sending our youth to 2023 Summer Germany Trip. Come on over and hear the exciting trip our youth will be doing this summer. Thank you for your support!

## High School Gathering Meeting

**February 26**

Sr. High Gatherings is open to all youth in 9th - 12th grade. We gather for a time together, fellowship through games, service projects, and our Faith5 candle time. Friends and visitors are always welcome! This month we will plan our Lenten season activities coming up. Please contact Deacon Ben Remmert for more information.

## Spring Cleaning for the Tag Sale

Are you starting your spring cleaning early and decluttering your house? The annual Tag Sale at Christ the King Church will be **Saturday April 29, 8:00am– 12:00pm in the Rice Campus parish hall**. Take advantage of this event to clean out closets, garages and attics! We will collect items April 23. All items donated will help make our tag sale a success. For details, contact Deacon Ben.





## MARK YOUR CALENDARS - SUMMER 2023

*Lutherhill Camp Registration is open!*

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

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

#### Lutherhill Elementary Summer Camp

July 16-21, 2023

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Lutherhill Jr. High Adventure Camp

July 16-21, 2023

Those that have **completed 6th-8th grade** can experience a week at Lutherhill's Adventure program. Learn from cabin



Bible studies and camp-wide worships, challenge yourself on the high ropes course, enjoy afternoon activities and daily All Camp activities, grow in community with fellow junior high students, spend a night cooking over open fires and sleeping in the tree houses and hanging village.

##### **Program Cost: \$650**

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

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

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



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

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

**Register:** Register online at [www.ctkelc.org](http://www.ctkelc.org).

### Lutherhill Day Camp Staff Applications are Out

This summer we are looking for middle and high school students to serve on our Summer 2023 Day Camp Staff as support staff, paid staff, and camp manager. Applications can be found online at [www.ctkelc.org](http://www.ctkelc.org) or paper applications can be found at Christ the King Church. Applications are due February 15, 2023.





# LUTHERHILL RETREATS AND NEWS



## Summer Camp Staff Applications

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

## Month of Service

### Start Planning Now

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



## Unwind Retreat

February 24-26

**A gathering for women of all ages to renew body and spirit**

Contact Alicia Goodrow if you are interested in joining a group of women from Christ the King for this specially crafted weekend away to renew body and spirit. There's something for everyone! Care for your body with a lazy afternoon lying in a hammock or an exhilarating trip down the Zip Line. Care for your spirit with campfire devotions or soulful conversations with old friends and new. Care for your body and spirit with a relaxing massage. Join us at the Hill to Unwind. Contact Alicia for information at [agoodrow@live.com](mailto:agoodrow@live.com). **Cost: \$175 per adult.** Register online at <https://lutherhill.org/retreats/unwind/>.



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

### LWR Personal Care Kits for People Around the World

#### Offering comfort and care to those who need it most!

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

healing hands in the world. The items needed to make kits are:

- Light-weight bath-size towels (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- Metal nail clippers, remove packaging
- Adult size toothbrushes in original packaging
- Sturdy combs, remove packaging



Drop off items in the Narthex or the church office through Good Friday.



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

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

The ***Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope, and Justice*** (1993) social statement explains the ELCA's teachings on ecology and the environment, grounded in a biblical vision of God's intention for the healing and wholeness of creation. This statement provides a Christian understanding of the human role to serve in creation, and a hope rooted in God's faithfulness to the creation from which humans emerge and depend upon for sustaining life. It provides a framework for understanding the human role in creation, the problem of sin and the current environmental crisis.

**Caring for Creation** expresses a call to pursue justice for creation through active participation, solidarity, sufficiency, and sustainability, and states the commitments of the ELCA for pursuing wholeness for creation — commitments expressed through individual and community action, worship, learning, moral deliberation, and advocacy. This statement summons us, in particular, to a faithful return to the biblical vision.

Christian concern for the environment is shaped by the Word of God spoken in creation, the Love of God hanging on a cross, the Breath of God daily renewing the face of the earth.

We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are deeply concerned about the environment, locally and globally, as members of this church and as members of society. Even as

we join the political, economic, and scientific discussion, we know care for the earth to be a profoundly spiritual matter.

As Lutheran Christians, we confess that both our witness to God's goodness in creation and our acceptance of caregiving responsibility have often been weak and uncertain. This statement:

- offers a vision of God's intention for creation and for humanity as creation's caregivers;
- acknowledges humanity's separation from God and from the rest of creation as the central cause of the environmental crisis;
- recognizes the severity of the crisis; and expresses hope and heeds the call to justice and commitment.

Given the power of sin and evil in this world, as well as the complexity of environmental problems, we know we can find no "quick fix"—whether technological, economic, or spiritual. A sustainable environment requires a sustained effort from everyone. The prospect of doing too little too late leads many people to despair. But as people of faith, captives of hope, and vehicles of God's promise, we face the crisis. We claim the promise of "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1) and join in the offertory prayer (Lutheran Book of Worship) "*Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*"

The link for the full document: <https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/EnvironmentSS.pdf>

## Sci Fi Double Feature Sociable

February 25

Deacon Ben Remmert and his family are excited to host the fifth Sci-Fi Double Feature sociable event at their home. Festivities will begin at 5:30pm where they will have an assortment of root beer selections and backyard games. The first show will begin at 6:00pm with *The Green Slime* (1968) followed by a screening of *District 9* (2009). There will be snacks available throughout the event and dinner will be served between films. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Spots are limited. Your \$15 donation will benefit our February mission offering to Freewheels Houston.



## Turning Lawns into Native Vegetable Gardens

**Sunday, February 5, 3:00pm, online**

Join Dany Millikin, Director of Education at the Houston Botanic Garden, to learn how to convert your lawn to a native vegetable garden.

Register on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/turning-lawns-into-native-vegetable-gardens-tickets-487290347547>.

Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) for more information.

## Living the Change Weekly Discussion Group

**Tuesdays, February 21 – May 9, 6:00pm, online**

Scientists tell us that we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030. That may seem like a very high hurdle. But, it translates to only a 7%/year reduction, starting now. Participants in this course will leave with a plan for at least their first 7% reduction, and knowledge of how to find the other 43%. The course was developed in response to the *Walk on Earth Gently* multifaith statement. Inspired by religious teachings to turn away from consumerism & to seek balanced relationships with all people and the planet, *Walk on Earth Gently* invites you into a journey of Living the Change that the world needs. Can't make it every week? Join us as you are able. Register on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-the-change-weekly-discussion-group-tickets-504063065197>. For more information, please contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com).

## Tour de Houston

**Sunday, February 26, 7:30, 7:45 &**

**8:00am starts**

**901 Bagby St.**

Attend worship on Saturday evening and then join the synod Lutherans Restoring Creation bike team for the Tour de Houston ride on Sunday! Distances of 20 (8am start), 40 (7:45am start), and 60 miles (7:30am start) are available. After the ride, enjoy the party in Hermann Square Park in front of City Hall. This ride benefits the city's reforestation efforts.

Register/learn more at: <https://www.houstontx.gov/tourdehouston/>.

Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) to meet up to ride.

## Beach Clean-Up

**Sunday, Feb. 26, 2:00-4:00pm**

**Seawolf Park**

**100 Seawolf Park Blvd.**

**Galveston, Texas 77550**

Calling all people to care for our shared environment! We will remove trash polluting a shoreline along Galveston Bay at Seawolf Park in Galveston, helping to protect and restore the beautiful bay ecosystem. This event will offer activities for all ages and skill levels, so bring the whole family! Supplies will be provided. You just need sun protection, bug spray, a reusable water bottle, and closed-toe shoes. Registration for this event is limited and required for participation. Register at: <https://x.gldn.io/e/qL7Gec2Dbwb>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) or Lisa Scobel at [lscobel@galvbay.org](mailto:lscobel@galvbay.org) for more information.

## Reconnecting Communities after a Natural Disaster

**Sunday, February 26, 6pm, online**

Join Dr. Brett Perkison of the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston for a discussion of the effects that repeated record flooding due

to climate change can have on local communities – often having more impact on lower socioeconomic communities who have less flood control measures put in place and have less resilience to recover from them due to financial constraints. Dr. Perkison will also focus on efforts of the local Houston community to improve resiliency through public advocacy – reviewing both the progress and the barriers that they have encountered along the way. Learn how the Houston community can help to be better prepared for the next flooding event and how we can best assist our neighbors. Register on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reconnecting-communities-after-a-natural-disaster-tickets-504059023107>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) with any questions.

## The Face of God

**Wednesdays, Mar. 1 – Mar. 29,**

**6:00pm, online**

*The Face of God* is a film about God and nature, faith and climate change, and the experience of communities around the world facing and experiencing changes in their lives now. This is also a film about beauty, ecology, theology, sanctity, our relationship to the natural world, love, asceticism, and always about the radiant living icon of the face of God in creation. Join us online each week to view segments of the film and discuss them.

Register on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-face-of-god-tickets-504026576057>.

Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) for more details.







## Advocate for Justice Every Week

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

## Churchwide Assembly Justice Look-Back: DEIA Audit

At churchwide assembly in August of 2022, a memorial was passed calling for a comprehensive audit for diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA and related governance documents. Based on the findings of this audit, the memorial further directs the ELCA to recommend changes to the governing documents. To learn more about this or other actions taken at churchwide assembly, see this link: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Churchwide-Assembly>.

## The Work of the ELCA: Seeds Monthly

Seeds Monthly is the resource email of the ELCA. Each issue contains articles that provide congregational leaders with insights, ideas and tools to assist them in a variety of ministries including worship, Christian education, stewardship, evangelism, youth ministries, social ministries, leadership and more. Sign up to receive this monthly electronic resource here: <https://community.elca.org/seeds-monthly-newsletter>.

## Justice Advocacy Opportunity *Smorgasbord*

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

**Strengthen Methane Rule** — An EPA public engagement process is a critical opportunity for faith communities to ensure that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopts strong, comprehensive methane safeguards to protect our health, frontline communities, and Sacred Earth. In November 2022, the EPA proposed an updated draft rule to cut methane and other harmful pollutants from oil and gas operations across the country. A public comment period is now open through Feb. 13, faith communities have an opportunity to voice their support for cutting methane, emphasizing where the rule must go further, and urging EPA to finalize and implement the rule quickly so communities can realize the benefits as soon as possible.

Take action at this link: <https://interfaithpowerandlight.salsalabs.org/strengthenmethanerule/index.html>.

**Take Action on Creation Justice** — The 118th Congress has been elected and taken their seats in the House and Senate! As we enter a new congressional term, we want to welcome members, returning and new, to their new term. We have the opportunity to be welcoming, encouraging and be a reminder of the values we would like to see our elected officials uphold. Contact your senators and representative to encourage the care of creation in federal legislation. Take action at this link: <https://secure.everyaction.com/oIUyboQcl0a1rAoND4-HAA2>.

## Interfaith Advocacy Days

**Feb. 19 – Feb. 21, Austin**

Join people of all faiths in Austin to get updates on hot policy issues, strengthen your advocacy skills, experience interfaith fellowship and worship, and visit legislative offices at the Capitol to advocate for justice. Connect your faith with public life in Texas at Interfaith Advocacy Days! Learn more/register at: <https://texasimpact.org/tiad-2023/>.

## Women in Transition Monthly Meeting

**February 13 1:00pm**

The Women in Transition group will meet at the Emmaus Center on the West Campus of Christ the King Lutheran Church on Monday, February 13 at 1:00pm. We are an interactive group who inspire and support each other to continue a life of learning and engagement and we welcome visitors and new members. If you would like to join us, please contact Gaelyn Leshner, [lesher2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lesher2@sbcglobal.net).



houston  
food bank 

**Saturday  
March 11  
8:00am - noon**

For information and to RSVP for our next outing, email Justin at [ctkhfb@gmail.com](mailto:ctkhfb@gmail.com)

Please put the following 2023 dates on your calendar.

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

### 2023 HFB schedule

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

Our Christ the King group saw a great start to another year of service at the **Houston Food Bank** on January 14. The CTK crew donned their fanciest hairnets and tried their hands at a new task, packaging warehouse-sized bulk quantities of dry macaroni pasta into bags for individual distribution. Christ the King's 11 volunteers had a busy morning separating the two-ton pallets of dry pasta into 2-lb. bags that were then heat-sealed and boxed for distribution to local food pantries. We assisted in producing 6,400 individual 2-lb. bags of dry macaroni pasta, a total of 12,800 lbs. and the equivalent of more than 10,600 meals!

It was a great start to the 2023 calendar, and we're looking forward to the five trips still ahead!

**houstonfoodbank**   
Filling pantries. Filling lives.



### **A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARY NEBERMAN**

will be held at Christ the King Church  
**Saturday, February 11, at 1:00pm**  
with reception following



## Water and Spirit

### Devotions for Lent 2023

Beginning Feb. 19, grab a copy of Augsburg Fortress' *Water & Spirit* in the narthex. *Water & Spirit* provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (traditionally known as Holy Saturday). Devotions begin with an evocative image and a brief passage from the Gospel of John. The writers then bring their unique voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

For year A the Revised Common Lectionary assigns texts from John's gospel to the second through fifth Sundays in Lent, as well as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter. These texts are included in this devotional. Several

of them are unique to John: Jesus urges Nicodemus to be born again "of water and spirit," offers "living water" to a Samaritan woman at the well, raises Lazarus from the dead, washes the disciples' feet, and surprises Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb. As you read the daily devotions, pause to think about how John describes water and the Spirit, and how water and the Spirit are at work in your life. **Suggested donation of \$3.00 per book.**



### Interested in Becoming a Member of Christ the King Church?

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church is a vibrant and growing community of Christians of all ages, backgrounds, and gender identities centered in Jesus Christ, nourished in worship and faith forming activities, passionate about justice, and committed to the proposition that the church and each member can positively affect the lives of people all around us. Are you interested in exploring membership in this congregation? Please contact Pastor Amandus "Mandy" Derr at [amandusderr@ctkelc.org](mailto:amandusderr@ctkelc.org) or [Amandus.derr@gmail.com](mailto:Amandus.derr@gmail.com) or (713) 400-0518 (office) or (917) 952-8410.







## MLK Parade 2023



We had an enthusiastic group of **Lutherans** of all ages from across the **Synod** who walked in the annual **Black Heritage Society** parade honoring the legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

We especially thank **CTK** member **Rebecca Shields** for organizing our participation.

