



THE KING'S BANNER



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

2353 Rice Blvd,
Houston TX 77005
ctkelc.org

Volume 75, Number 4
April, 2022

April 10 Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

- 8:30 a.m. Eucharist
with Palm Procession
and the Passion
According to Luke
- 9:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross
walk-through
- 11:00 a.m. Eucharist
with Palm Procession
and the Passion
According to Luke
- 12:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross
walk-through
- 6:00 p.m. St. John Passion
presented by
Bach Society Houston

Justice Advocacy Event

Sunday, April 24

after each worship service

The Justice Advocacy Ministry Team invites you to advocate for justice after each worship service on Sunday, April 24. There will be an offering of letters for Bread for the World, as well as several other justice topics about which you can advocate quickly and easily using your cell phone. Stop by the tables after worship and raise your voice for justice!



**TAG
SALE**
**APRIL 30
MAY 1**

We will collect items starting the Sunday before the sale, April 24. Furniture sells well so we would gladly take it if you can get it to the church. Larger items and large volume donations can only be accepted in the parish hall on Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29. Volunteers needed. Contact Deacon Ben.
See page 10 & 20.



The Three Days and Easter

See page 3 for details.

April 14 Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. Confession and Absolution
Holy Communion
Stripping of the Altar

April 15 Good Friday

- 3:00 p.m. St John Passion
presented by
Bach Society Houston
- 7:00 p.m. Passion Reading,
Bidding Prayer,
Adoration of the Cross

April 16 Holy Saturday

- Midnight until 6:00 p.m.
(every three hours)
Canonical Hours
- 6:00 p.m. Vespers
(Contemplative Worship)
- Vigil of Easter**
- 9:00 p.m. Service of Light
Readings of Redemption
Eucharist

April 17 Easter Day

- 8:30 a.m. Festive Easter Eucharist
- 9:30 a.m. Easter Brunch
Flowering of the Cross
Egg Hunt for Children
- 11:00 a.m. Festive Easter Eucharist
- 2:00 p.m. Domingo de Pascua
Spanish-language
Easter Service

St. John Passion

Palm Sunday, April 10, 6:00 p.m.
Good Friday, April 15, 3:00 p.m.

Bach's great
Passion According
to St. John
to premiere in new
American English
version!

**BACH
SOCIETY
HOUSTON**

Performances are in-person and can
be viewed online. *See page 8.*



Dear faithful people of Christ the King Church:

I began serving you as interim pastor by announcing “The beginning is coming.” Today, with great joy, I announce “The beginning is here.” God through Christ has put the chaotic season

of uncertainty behind us. God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, has worked among, in and through us to lay the foundation for what will be – and even now is – one new mission and ministry: Christ the King Lutheran Church, Rice Village and West Campus.

Why lies behind us?

First, the two-year long Covid-19 pandemic nightmare. To be sure, Covid is not behind us. Yet its new season is not pandemic but endemic. We know how to deal with endemics; we learned that from living with the flu. While there still may be surges and occasional impositions of some protocols, it appears that the necessary and seemingly draconian protective measures are behind us.

Second, the doubting and dejection about our parish life and our future together. The merger we overwhelmingly voted for in September and the ministries we magnificently remembered and celebrated on March 13 is now a reality and no longer a possibility. We are now a mission and ministry – a congregation – with two well-situated campuses.

The beginning is now.

While there is much work to do, all of that work is forward-, not backward-, looking. We are working for what the writer of Hebrews calls “the joy set before us.” I expect April, May, and June to be joyfully productive months filled with a great deal of work.

Together, empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit, we will continue to shape our strategic plan. Facilitated by Daniel Zorn, the strategic plan steering committee is committed to presenting all the elements of that plan and, with the congregation council’s recommendation, present it to the congregation in June. Please continue to follow this progress, reported weekly in each Thursday “Mailchimp,” and respond to the steering committee’s continuing request for your input.

Together, empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit, we will continue the “nuts and bolts” of merger. We have merged, to be sure, but there is much to be done to unify our work processes, governance, and legal identity. Led by Russell Post, the merger steering committee and its six subcommittees will also be working to complete that process by the beginning of 2023 because, while we are one congregation with two campuses, there is still much unifying work to be done.

Together, empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit, we will continue to be proactive on our already strong commitment to be a fully open, welcoming, and increasingly more diverse

Christian communion of diverse individuals and communities. Our (and our synod’s) Reconciling in Christ (RIC) process; our work through Pastor Rodriguez and others with campus ministry at Rice University, each well-begun, will continue to be fleshed-out and grow into something more by September of this year.

Together, empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit, we will call a new senior pastor. At this point, that timeline is fully in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

The beginning is here now! This beginning, thanks be to God, coincides (there are no coincidences!) with the center and the heart of our life and liturgical year: Holy Week and Easter. I fully expect the liturgies of these days to look, feel and be like those we reveled in before the pandemic, before the tumult, before the uncertainties of the previous two years. One of our great Easter hymns sums this up best:

“All the doubtings and dejections of our trembling hearts have ceased;

hail the day of resurrection, let us rise and keep the feast.”

– ELW 382, verse 4 “Christ is risen! Alleluia!”

I hope and pray to see and greet and worship with all you during these great and holy days. Unless events determine otherwise, we will no longer require masks. I hope and pray to see you and greet you and worship with you these days because it is these days, what we celebrate, Who we celebrate, and the way we celebrate that are the unchangeable and unshakeable foundation of our life together in Christ! It is precisely because of what God in Christ has done that I can confidently say: “The Beginning is here!” And invite you and urge you to “rise and keep the feast.”

Peace and Joy – and Courage!

Amandus J. Derr, Interim Senior Pastor

*The Beginning
is here!*

*Rise and keep
the feast.*

Canonical Hours in-person or online

The eight canonical hours mark the vigil from Good Friday (midnight) until the Saturday Easter Vigil (9:00 p.m.). Every three hours a 30-minute service will occur in the narthex, beginning at midnight. Everyone is invited to join the prayers at these times. If you would like to say the canonical hours at home, copies of the services will be available in the narthex. To participate online, request the Zoom link at ctk@ctkelc.org.

Canonical Hour

12:00 am	Matins:	The Virgins (watchful waiting)
3:00 am	Lauds:	The Tomb (ecstatic praise)
6:00 am	Prime:	The Martyrs (consecrated service)
9:00 am	Terce:	The Fire (unceasing dependence)
12:00 pm	Sext:	The Cross (humble supplication)
3:00 pm	None:	The Throne (steadfast perseverance)
6:00 pm	Vespers:	The Supper (fervent thanksgiving)



Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

April 10

- 8:30 a.m.** Eucharist with Palm Procession
and the Passion According to Luke
- 9:30 a.m.** Stations of the Cross walk-through
- 11:00 a.m.** Eucharist with Palm Procession
and the Passion According to Luke
- 12:15 p.m.** Stations of the Cross walk-through
- 6:00 p.m.** St. John Passion
presented by Bach Society Houston



The Three Days and Easter

Maundy Thursday April 14

- 7:00 p.m.** Confession & Absolution
Holy Communion
Stripping of the Altar
in-person and live-streamed

We conclude Lent with Confession, forgiveness, and the sharing of Christ's peace. We join the Disciples with Jesus at the last supper. We strip the altar and leave it unadorned in remembrance of Jesus' passion, death, and burial.

Good Friday April 15

- 3:00 p.m.** St. John Passion
presented by
Bach Society Houston,
in-person
- 7:00 p.m.** Passion Reading
Bidding Prayer
Adoration of the Cross
in-person and live-streamed

On Friday we continue the Three Days with the reading of the Christ's passion from the Gospel of John, the Bidding Prayers, Adoration of the Cross and Solemn Reproaches.

Holy Saturday April 16

- Midnight until 6:00 p.m.** (every 3 hours)
Canonical Hours,
in-person or on Zoom
- 6:00 p.m.** Vespers
(Contemplative Worship)

Vigil of Easter

- 9:00 p.m.** Service of Light
Readings of Redemption
Eucharist
in-person with interactive
digital liturgy available
- Easter Vigil marks the night when the church celebrates Christ's victory over the tomb by his resurrection. The interactive digital liturgy allows for an individual, group, or house church to celebrate the Vigil with prayer, story, music, and baptismal remembrance.

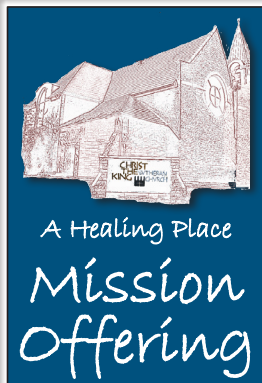


Easter Sunday April 17

- 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.** Festive Easter Eucharist in-person and online
- 9:30 a.m.** Easter Brunch
Flowering of the Cross
Egg Hunt
- 2:00 p.m.** Domingo de Pascua

Spanish-language Easter Service in-person and online

Households can help celebrate the Resurrection of Christ by participating in the Flowering of the Cross and children can hunt for Easter eggs. Please plan to bring lots of flowers to use and a basket for the egg hunt.



FEEDING HUNGER, FOSTERING HOPE, FURTHERING SUCCESS

Christian Community Service Center

is a community-based nonprofit organization serving central and southwest Houston. With a coalition of 39 churches, volunteers and donors, they unite in a mission to serve the poor, hungry, disabled, and otherwise needy while respecting their religious, ethnic or cultural differences. CCSC was created out of faith, and founded in the belief that we are called to help all God's children heart to heart and hand in hand.



CCSC serves as our congregation's Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, and Emergency Services for members and neighbors in need.

BASIC NEEDS CCSC provides crisis relief for people struggling to make ends meet. The two locations at Emergency Services Central and Emergency Services-Southwest offer food, hygiene items, and financial assistance for rent, utilities, and limited medical needs. In 2021:

25,211 Nutritious food packages were provided to families facing hunger and food insecurity.

927 Households received rent or utility assistance, helping clients avoid homelessness and substandard living conditions.

138 People received assistance for eyeglasses, dental services or prescription medications.

7,176 Pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables were harvested for clients from the CCSC Garden.

YOUTH SERVICES CCSC supports the needs of vulnerable children and their families. Back To School promotes academic readiness and Jingle Bell Express addresses play, literacy and hunger. The Louise J. Moran Vision Care Program* serves underprivileged students with vision screenings and glasses.

6,802 Students started the academic year with new school supplies and clothing.

1,741 Children received new toys and books for Christmas;

498 Families received a grocery gift card to address hunger.

178 Students received professional eye exams.

161 Students received new prescription glasses. (Offered only during fall semester in 2021 due to the pandemic.)

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS CCSC equips job seekers to build financial stability and brighter futures. JobNet prepares motivated job seekers through classes and coaching. Martha's Way and the Professional Home Caregiver Training Program cultivate talented entrepreneurs through hands-on vocational training and business skills development.

270 Job seekers gained valuable skills through workshops, computer training, computer lab access, and personalized job search assistance.

177 Entrepreneurs participated in a 42-hour residential housekeeping training program and 90% graduated; 134 job leads were shared with graduates.

20 Aspiring home caregivers completed a 45+ hour training covering technical and communication skills and business development.

76 Clients pursued personalized strategies for success with CCSC's Success Coach or Financial Coach.



Jessica Locheed and Tom Frank (pictured left) along with other CTK volunteers, deliver bread from Kraftsmen Bakery in the Heights to CCSC who then distributes it to those in need. If you can help deliver bread once or twice a month, please contact Jessica at jlocheed@outlook.com.

Also, we collect non-perishable food items on behalf of CCSC every Sunday. Look for the donation basket in the narthex.



Sunday Forum

Sundays 9:30 a.m.

In-person in the basement classroom
or online

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

LENT 2022

**Fast on Fear,
Feast on Faith
Together**



April 3 Faithful Following—Together Stations of the Cross

Presented by Pr. Sergio Rodriguez

Join us for our last Lenten Sunday Forum on the theme of Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith-Together.

Pr. Rodriguez will introduce the spiritual practice of walking the Stations of the Cross in preparation for Passion Sunday's walk-through of the Stations.

April 10 Stations of the Cross (walk-through)

Visit the Stations of the Cross in the parish hall between the Sunday services (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.) and following the late service (12:15 p.m.).

See page 11.

April 17 Easter Brunch Flowering of the Cross Egg Hunt



Households can help celebrate the Resurrection of Christ by participating in the Flowering of the Cross and children can hunt for Easter eggs. Please plan to bring lots of flowers to use and a basket for the egg hunt.

See page 11.

April 24 Preventing Childhood Emergencies

Gail Gould, M.Ed., CWP, will present "Preventing Childhood Emergencies". Included topics are management of choking, childproofing the home, water safety and motor vehicle safety. She will also present an overview of current CPR practices. To learn more about Gail's work consult www.cprand-safetylady.com

See archived Sunday Forums on our YouTube channel at shorturl.at/cx149



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES - ZOOM

Thursday Afternoons

3:00 p.m. on Zoom

The Daily Use of the Gospel: Living faithfully daily

Led by Pastor Amandus Derr

April 7: Living for systemic change: The Bonhoeffer variation

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83215849169?pwd=cjdBR3RJTWRoK3ZyNEt1QTVMMzBYQT09>

Friday Mornings

10:00 a.m. on Zoom

Led by one of the pastors, the group reads and responds to the upcoming Sunday's First Reading and 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.

Adult Study at the **WEST CAMPUS**

12211 Memorial Drive

Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.

(people gather sooner) Luther Room in the Office Building

New Perspectives in Reading Scripture

April 6 (part 3 of 3)

Sometimes we need to take a fresh look at sexuality and gender identity. Join us as we explore scripture with biblical integrity and knowledge, through four key Lutheran interpretative lenses, and with the diverse experiences of LGBTQ+ community in mind.

April 13: No class (Holy Week)

April 20: Pastor Sergio Rodriguez, Pastor for Community Ministries at Christ the King

Come and learn from our guest speaker about Lutheran Latine ministries and his work in the community on behalf of Christ the King!

Houston Science and Religion Discussion Group

Monday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

The Houston Science and Religion Discussion Group (HSRDG) will conduct its regular monthly meeting on **Monday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.** The public is welcome to participate in the HSRDG meetings, which are scheduled for the third Monday of every month. To join, email Marian Hillar at hillar@sbcglobal.net.

Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop

Thursdays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. through April 7



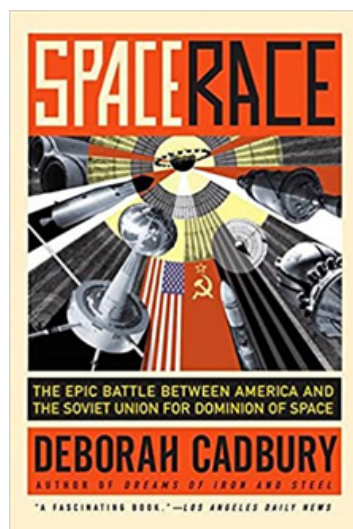
Pysanky (Ukrainian egg decorating) classes meet on the 3rd floor on Thursdays from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. through April 7, led by Marie Monroe and Jennifer Roschke. All supplies provided. Contact Marie for more information, marie4118@gmail.com.

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:



Space Race:
The Epic Battle
B e t w e e n
America and the
Soviet Union for
Dominion of
Space

Cadbury, D.,
Harper Perennial,
New York, NY,
2007.

One of the most
exhilarating true
adventures in his-
tory, the race into

space was marked by courage, duplicity, political paranoia, astonishing technological feats, and unbelievable triumphs in the face of overwhelming adversity. It is the story of an unparalleled rivalry between superpowers and of the two remarkable men at the center of the conflict. On the American side was Wernher von Braun, the camera-friendly former Nazi scientist, who was granted hero status and almost unlimited resources by a government panicked at the thought of the Cold War enemy taking the lead. The Soviet program was headed by Sergei Korolev, a former political prisoner whose identity was a closely guarded state secret. Korolev was expected to—and did—work miracles on a shoestring budget, his cooperation assured through intimidation and threats of possible disgrace or death. These rivals were opposite in every way, save for one: each was obsessed with the idea of launching a man to the Moon.

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Greetings in the Name of Jesus!

I am pleased to announce that Lutheran Campus Ministry, Rice University will be undergoing a timely strategic planning process. This process will be more action focus and oriented towards student engagement at Rice University. If you are interested in contributing your voice to this timely process, please reach out to Rev. Rodriguez. This plan will be focused on a key starting deadline for Campus Ministry: O-Week 2022 for the upcoming 2022/2023 academic year.

If you are an undergraduate or graduate student this semester and need a care package, please reach out to Rev. Rodriguez and Deacon Remmert so that we may prepare care packages for finals and study days.

Next month, we will be honoring our outgoing senior and member of our campus ministry board, Shifa Rahman (he/they), Lovett College, Religion and French.



sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org

Events

Office Hours: 3 to 5pm, Wednesdays in April.

Saturday Worship: 6pm to 7pm. Contemplative

Interfaith Panel:

Queer Religious Voices: Students, leaders, ministers. April 9, Multicultural Center, Rice University at 7:30 p.m.

An interfaith panel on queer religious voices will be held at the Multicultural Center on Wednesday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. Speakers will be queer students from various religious organizations including Rev. Rodriguez as a campus minister. Contact Rev. Rodriguez for more information.

Graduates Recognition

If you are receiving a degree from high school, undergraduate, or graduate programs, we would like to know! Email the church office with details about your graduation date and any plans you have for your future (ctk@ctkelc.org). High school graduates will receive a gift from the congregation. All graduates will be highlighted in our May newsletter.

Ramadan Iftar Dinner

Tuesday, April 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Iftar Dinner, Discussion and Mosque Tour
Blue Mosque and the Islamic Institute.

Together with the Blue Mosque/Dialogue Institute, we will be celebrating a Ramadan Iftar Dinner in-person at the Blue Mosque and Islamic Institute as part two of our Dinner and Discussion Series. Join us for a full meal, sacred conversations on the meaning of Ramadan, a tour of the stunning Blue Mosque in Houston, and allow yourself to experience a deep connection with God through our Abrahamic siblings. Contact Rev. Rodriguez at sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org to sign up.

Adult Study
at the **WEST CAMPUS**
12211 Memorial Drive
Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.
(people gather sooner) Luther Room in the Office Building

New Perspectives in Reading Scripture

April 6 (part 3 of 3)

Sometimes we need to take a fresh look at sexuality and gender identity. Join us as we explore scripture with biblical integrity and knowledge, through four key Lutheran interpretative lenses, and with the diverse experiences of LGBTQ+ community in mind.

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Come and learn from our guest speaker about Lutheran Latine ministries and his work in the community on behalf of Christ the King!

EMMAUS SPIRITUALITY CENTER



Emmaus Tent Gala

Saturday, May 21

Ever desire to become closer to God? Ever consider becoming certified as a spiritual director? Stop by the Emmaus Tent Gala on **Saturday, May 21 (4:00 - 8:00 p.m.) at 12211 Memorial Drive, the West Campus** of Christ the King Lutheran Church. Learn more about the varied programs and enjoy a fun-filled evening with balloon making, face-painting, and food.

Silent Auction Items Needed for Fund-Raising Gala

Think. Might you have any items that you can donate for a silent auction (bidding online also) at the Fund-Raising Gala for Emmaus Spirituality Center on Thursday, June 16? Our website, emmausspiritualitycenter.com, will soon post the donor forms and offer information about buying tickets.

Knoeller Garden

As we walked into the sanctuary for the celebratory service on March 13 at 12211 Memorial Drive, many of us noticed wooden stakes in the Knoeller Garden, which were marking the location for already purchased plants. Warmer weather and some labor brought a fresh change to the Knoeller Garden!

Photos at left:

1. Wooden Stakes in Knoeller Garden
2. Anders White planting a bush
3. Mary Ellen, Master Gardener from Emmaus
4. Part of the Work Crew:
Anders and Glen White,
Karen Whitefield,
Pastor Beth Marie Halvorsen



Below left: Synod rostered leaders attending the Rededication of Memorial Drive Lutheran Church as the West Campus of Christ the King Lutheran Church. Below right: Bishop Mike and representatives of both campuses rehearsing for the rededication service on March 13.





Music



Bach's great Passion According to St. John to premiere in new American English version!

Coming Sunday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m. and Good Friday, April 15 at 3:00 p.m.,
this new version has been a BSH project in preparation for almost four years.

Translator Madeleine Forrell Marshall (see her translations from Spanish and German in ELW!) has been working with Rick Erickson, as well as workshoping in various places with various people — including our church choir! — during these years to prepare a rich, powerful Passion!

Featuring our Bach Choir, Players, and several guests, each event is open to all without charge — although a free-will offering will be gladly received.

Bach's Passions were intended to be heard and understood as they were sung. Our hope is that the immediacy and freshness of American English, much like German of Bach's time, will render an energy and immediacy as we hear the Passion together.

Please join us as you are able. The events will also be offered online.
All welcome, of course! Rick

BACHSOCIETYHOUSTON.ORG

Lectio Divina

Mondays, 12:00 p.m. on Zoom

Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) is an ancient Christian practice in which one reads a small passage of scripture, trusting in God's presence and relevance in daily experience. Lectio Divina is not about acquiring head knowledge of Scripture, but is about a personal encounter with the heart of God, inspiring one's attention and already praying through the listener. Through this mingling of reading and prayer, the stories and texts of the bible meet us in our own life story. You attend whenever you can, but registration is needed so we can maintain a safe space. Register with Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org.

Easter Flowers

All are invited to donate flowers to decorate the nave for Easter on April 17. Please use the link in the weekly email, place payment in the offering, or mail to the church office. Each lily costs \$20 (and you are welcome to order more than one).

Easter Candy Needed!

Easter egg candy (individually wrapped) is needed for Easter Sunday. Please make sure to donate candy that has no peanuts. The candy should be delivered to the church by Good Friday, April 15, in order for the youth group to fill plastic eggs that night.



Paul Schenck (1929 – 2022)

Paul died peacefully at home on Wednesday morning, March 30, 2022.

The funeral will be conducted at Christ the King Church on Saturday, April 2 at 1:00 p.m.

CTK Garden Refresh

April 9

Want to get your hands dirty weeding a native plant/pollinator garden & planting new plants that support native wildlife at church? Join the Creation Care team at church for a great time outside! This activity is for a very small group & space is limited. Contact gcs.lrc@gmail.com to sign up.

YOUNG ADULTS

Faith on Tap: Young Adult Group

April 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Are you a young adult looking to talk "theological shop" with others like yourself? Have pressing questions about hot-button issues of today? Join our *Faith on Tap: Young Adults Group*. Every third or fourth Sunday of the month, we meet for beverages, snacks and discussion. Contact Rev. Rodriguez to be placed on our mailing list and for the location for our monthly meetings. Topic Discussion: The Resurrection of the Dead: Metaphor, Metric, Myth or Maybe neither? Does the phrase, "Resurrection People," have any merit? Is there a role for quantum physics to play in understanding Jesus' resurrection? Join us and bring your questions.

Young Adults Volunteer

Join the Young Adults as we volunteer at CCSC's Emergency Services on **Saturday, April 2 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.

Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunity

AMMPARO

Welcome Team Update

As noted last month, the Hussaini family has been reunited with extended family members which include two young women, daughters of Fatema – Shafiq (19) and Zainab (17). Special thanks to Christ the King members – Anita Bryant, Beverly Davis, Bitia Esmaeli, Alicia Goodrow, Carolyn Jacobs, Linda Murray, David and Jennifer Roschke, and Mary Wilt for their time and donated goods to help support the entire family and make them feel welcome. Our members have fixed bicycles, donated towels, furniture and other household items and continue to meet weekly to practice conversational English and to teach basic English language skills. In other good news, Mr. Taqi Hussaini, the patriarch of the family, received his driver's license!

Volunteers are always needed to help the adults with employment readiness. Currently, several members are working to identify potential job opportunities and assist with filling out online job applications. Additionally, we've identified that the younger Hussaini children would benefit from activities outside of the home. The Welcome Team is currently researching free summer programming for children. Taking the family to a park or showing them an interesting Houston experience would be most appreciated! Recently, the family enjoyed an outing with several members to Bayou Bend where they relished in the beauty of azaleas, tulips and narcissus in full bloom while picnicking together.

The AMMPARO committee is coordinating the effort as part of its mission to welcome immigrants in our community. If you are interested in joining our welcome team, have a job opportunity, or know of free summer programs for children, please contact Emily Triantaphyllis, AMMPARO committee chair, by email at ewtrianta@gmail.com.



Alicia Goodrow and David and Jennifer Roschke hosted an outing to Bayou Bend for the Hussaini family.

St. James Family Life Center Update

Since the start of the pandemic, St. James Family Life Center has been a beacon of hope for Northwest Houston by providing food and emergency financial support to hundreds of families each month. Additionally, the center puts on Immigration Forums and are always in need of immigration attorneys. Upcoming sessions are June 11, 2022 and October 8, 2022. Please notify Emily Triantaphyllis if you know of immigration attorneys who may be able to assist.

Calling all Potential Employers of Afghan Refugees

Job Fair for Afghan Refugees

Sunday, April 10, 12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

KIPP Connect Campus in Gulfton

Houston has welcomed over 4,000 Afghan refugees so far. Those who arrived in the fall are reaching the point of being phased out of resettlement cash assistance and need to secure employment. With that in mind, An-Nisa Hope Center, the Alliance, Combined Arms and others are organizing a job fair.

In the meantime, the organizers need help reaching out to potential employers, particularly those who offer lower-skilled jobs, jobs that do not require strong English proficiency, and/or provide on-the-job training. This may include service sector employers like restaurants, security companies (many of the jobseekers are former Afghan military) and manufacturing. If you know of business owners/ potential employers please reach out and/or refer to Sheryl.w.abrahams@gmail.com, 713-249-5589.

Dari/Pastho interpreters will be available at the event. (Although some of the arrivals are highly-skilled and fluent in English, many are not.)

A job fair dedicated to helping **newcomer & refugee families** find jobs to match their skillsets

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

JOB FAIR 2022

Sunday
April 10th | **12-5 PM**

Kipp Connect Primary School
6700 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, TX 77074

This event is free for employers and job seekers who register.
Tables and chairs will be provided by event hosts.
Register here:



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

April Dates:

- 1-2: Luther League Spring Retreat, Galveston
- 3: Confirmation and High School Gathering, 9:30 a.m.
- 9: Lutherhill Service Day
- 10: Palm Sunday and Stations of the Cross at Church Stations of the Cross Bike Trail, 2:00 p.m.
- 15-16: Good Friday Lock-In, 9:00 p.m.- 7:00 a.m.
- 17: Easter Sunday
- 29: Set Up Tag Sale, 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- 30: Tag Sale, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Good Friday Lock-In

April 15 at 9:00 p.m.

All youth 6th through 12th grade are invited to the Good Friday Lock-in on April 15 starting right after the Good Friday service. During the night we will enjoy food, fellowship, putting together the LWR health kits, stuffing easter eggs, games, and leading the canonical hours at 12 a.m., 3 a.m., and 6 a.m. The lock-in will conclude at 7 a.m. the next morning. A few youth worship volunteers are needed to help lead music at the Canonical Hours services. RSVP by Thursday, April 14. No Cost, just bring snacks and candy for Easter Egg stuffing. Please contact Deacon Ben Remmert to help provide food, chaperone, or sign up!

Tag Sale Volunteers Needed

We will need volunteers to help set up (beginning Wednesday, April 27 - Friday, April 29), sell and clean up on Saturday, April 30 (7:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.). We are looking for help with advertising. If you live or work near Rice Village, you could distribute fliers, or if you have a connection to a local newsletter you may be able to facilitate getting an ad in for our event. Sign-up sheets to help out will be online and at the church bulletin board. Contact Deacon Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org for more information.

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. Come and enjoy a time to recharge your spiritual batteries and take a sabbath from your school work. During the season of Lent, we will be working on our Stations of the Cross artwork as a Lenten spiritual practice. We have special Sunday activities on the following Sundays:

- April 3: LWR Kit Prep and Finish Coloring Stations of the Cross
- April 10: Palm Sunday/Stations of the Cross
- April 17: Easter Hunt Prep and Work
- April 24: Sweet Paris Crepes

Envelope Fundraiser

We continue our Envelope Fundraiser as we raise money for our trip to Chicago this summer. Come on over and hear the exciting trip our youth will be doing this summer. 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 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. Thank you for your support!

Luther League Service Day at Lutherhill

Saturday, April 9

Calling all volunteers! Luther League youth and parents are invited to go to Lutherhill with Deacon Ben on Saturday, April 9. Projects include landscaping, painting, small building projects, AND MORE! We will meet at church at 7:00 a.m. and carpool over to Lutherhill. Come and enjoy a day of service getting Lutherhill ready for summer. RSVP by Wednesday, April 6.

Good Friday Stations of the Montrose Cross Bike Ride Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Just as early Christians made their way through the city of Jerusalem, pausing to pray and to contemplate the mysterious journey of Christ to the cross, so we make our way through this city and particularly this Montrose neighborhood - pausing to pray, to witness, and to remember. While practicing a loving distance from our neighbors, Luther League and friends are invited to come together to ride through local landmarks and read their histories paired with readings from the Bible. We will meet at Kindred Church at 2:00 p.m. to begin our ride. More questions, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert. You are welcome download the guide here: www.tinyurl.com/stationsofmontrose.

Easter Egg Hunt Help

April 17 at 8:00 a.m.

Beginning on Easter Sunday at 8:00 a.m., we will be setting up the back field for our children's easter egg hunt. We would love to have some help hiding eggs and setting up our boundaries for our children. Please let Deacon Ben Remmert know if you are able to help by Friday, April 15.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Stations of the Cross Illustrated Ministry Devotional for Holy Week

Grab a copy in the narthex for your household to use during Holy Week. This devotional guide walks you through all fifteen of the scriptural Stations of the Cross with meaningful reflections for all ages.

Each of the fifteen devotionals includes the following:

- A prompt with the scripture listed for each station
- A reflection that is geared toward youth and adults
- A short reflection on the scripture for children
- Questions for children
- A "Going Deeper" section with questions for all ages

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. 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:

April 5: The Balkans
April 12: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania
April 19: Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine
April 26: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

More details can be found here:

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle>.

Lutherhill Spring Family Retreat

April 8-10

**Invest in your family, nurture new friendships
and revel in God's creation.**

Lost that spring in your step? Need a reminder of what's important? Retreat to the Hill for a weekend of rest and renewal with your family. Invest in your family, create new friendships and revel in God's creation. The featured guest speaker for the Spring Family Retreat this year is Pastor Jared Stillions.

Cost: \$90/per adult, \$60/per child (ages 4-12, ages 3 and younger are free) Register now at www.lutherhill.org/spring-family-retreat

CTK Garden Refresh

April 9

Want to get your hands dirty weeding a native plant/pollinator garden & planting new plants that support native wildlife at church? Join the Creation Care team at church for a great time outside! This activity is for a very small group & space is limited. Contact gcs.lrc@gmail.com to sign up.

Christ the King Service Day at Lutherhill Saturday, April 9

Calling all volunteers! Christ the King families are invited to go to Lutherhill with Deacon Ben on Saturday, April 9. Projects include landscaping, painting, small building projects, AND MORE! We will meet at church at 7:00 a.m. and carpool over to Lutherhill. Come and enjoy a day of service getting Lutherhill ready for summer. RSVP by Wednesday, April 6.

Stations of the Cross: Passion Sunday

April 10 at 9:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

We invite you to visit the Stations of the Cross in the parish hall between the Sunday services (9:30 - 10:30 a.m.) and following the late service (12:15 p.m.) on Palm Sunday, April 10. Starting with a presentation about Jesus in the Garden, the Stations depict Jesus' actions from the Garden to the Resurrection. Ponder the trial of Jesus; struggle with the cross; grieve at the crucifixion; and wonder as the sadness turns into the pure joy of the Resurrection. Take as long as you want, thinking or praying, then you may pick up a scripture card, an item relating to the story, or both to remind you of each part of the story. We hope this will help you as you get ready for the Mystery of Easter.

Easter Morning:

Flowering of the Cross and Egg Hunt

April 17 at 9:30 a.m.

Easter at Christ the King Church is always an exciting time for children! Little ones help celebrate the Resurrection of Christ by participating in the Flowering of the Cross and hunting for Easter eggs. Please plan to bring lots of lovely flowers for your children to use and be sure to bring a basket for the egg hunt. The festivities begin with a potluck Easter Breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and Flowering of the Cross. There will be egg hunts beginning at 10:00 a.m., with special designated areas for the little ones. Age groups will be split 0-4 and 5 and up. **Donations of wrapped candy are needed.** Please drop them off to the church by April 15 (Good Friday). No peanuts, please.



Luther League youth serving at The Beacon alongside Jewish and Muslim youth on Interfaith Service day on March 27, 2022.

Plan for Summer

Register soon as spots are filling up fast!

Children Trips (1st-6th Grade)

Lutherhill Elementary 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 worship, afternoon activities and daily All Camp activities. Spend an evening around the campfire making s'mores. Cost breakdowns are below. **Sign up asap as spots are filling up. Alpha (1st Grade) Program Cost: \$375**

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

Youth Trips

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 worship, 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 asap as spots are filling up. Program Cost: \$650**

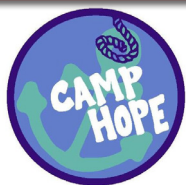
Chicago Service Trip: July 23-30

8th grade-12th grade youth are invited to our new summer trip to Chicago. Chicago is an amazingly diverse city made up of dozens and dozens of unique neighborhoods full of culture and opportunity. We will be serving in this great city in ways that support and build up our partners in their unique contexts for a week with other high school students around the country. We'll hit a few of the iconic city sights from the Bean and Lincoln Park Zoo to Buckingham Fountain – it will be a week you will not soon forget! For more information, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert.

Camp Hope Ministry is Coming this Summer!

June 20-24

Camp Hope is a day camp ministry where youth lead a day of camp here at church from 7:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. for children (ages 5 to 11) to 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: online at www.cktelc.org

If you have questions, 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—Support, Paid, and Camp Manager. Applications can be found online at www.cktelc.org or paper applications can be found at Christ the King Church.

LUTHERHILL RETREATS AND NEWS

Lutherhill Ministries hires staff for a variety of positions at camp in La Grange, and for our retreat center in Galveston. We offer many opportunities for Lutherhill summer staff members. You may have an opportunity to work at either facility if the opportunity arises. We welcome summer staff who are positive Christian role models to all of our campers and guests. Questions? Contact: Curtis Bradbury, Program Director, curtis@lutherhill.org or 979-243-9831.



LUTHERHILL
MINISTRIES

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. The best part? Housing is free if you are participating in the Month of Service! Contact Russell Dittrich to discuss projects, dates & details at russell@lutherhill.org or 979-290-4478.

OPEN CAMP DAY

June 4

You're invited out to Lutherhill to kick off our Summer 2022 - Come As You Are! Open Camp Day is a FREE event - bring your family and friends out to experience an action-packed day of camp in just a few hours:

- 10:00 a.m. - Camp Opens
- 11:00 a.m. - Camp-style Worship
- 12:00 p.m. - Hamburger Lunch
- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. - Camp Activities Open:
Ropes Course, Pool, Pond, Arts & Crafts and more!

RSVP to office@lutherhill.org, call us at 979-217-1954, or on Lutherhill Ministry's Facebook page! (RSVPs are appreciated but not required). We can't wait to see you!

LATINE MINISTRY

Via Crucis for Peace in Ukraine

Friday, April 1. 6:45 p.m.

Livestreamed on Facebook or in-person at Kinsmen Lutheran Church.

On Friday Evening, the Latinex Ministries of the Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod will be celebrating a Spanish and English liturgy of the Stations of the Cross for peace in Ukraine. Join us together with Kinsmen Lutheran, Principe de Paz/Sagrada Familia and Santiago Apostol Lutheran Church in this practice for peace.

Domingo de Pascua

Sunday, April 17, 2:00 p.m.

Christ the King Church will be celebrating our first Spanish language Easter Sunday mass, in the nave. Small refreshments, piñata, and music will precede starting at 1 p.m. Invite family, friends, and neighbors of all kinds to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Retiro de Relajar y Recargar para Mujeres

May 13 and 14

Contact Rev. Rodriguez at sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org for details and to sign up. The Latinex Ministries of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod are hosting a two day women's retreat at Zion Retreat Center in Galveston, Texas. Whether you are a member, a friend, or unaffiliated, you are invited to join us for two days of connection, relaxation and sacred conversation. Housing and meals are provided.

Let's Talk...



Emergency Preparedness

Be Prepared – Part 1

As we are able to resume more activities and be physically present at our church facilities it is time to review safety and preparedness.



submitted by Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse

Consider the following:

Answers:

1. Do you know where fire extinguishers and fire pulls are located?
 2. Where can you find the Automated External Defibrillator (AED)?
 3. Would you be able to locate a safety kit to assist with first aid?
 4. Where do we evacuate in case of a fire?
 5. Do you have a current CPR card?
 6. What are steps toward preventing childhood emergencies?
1. Extinguishers and pulls are located throughout the building. Look out for them the next time you are on the property.
 2. The AED is located to the left of the kitchen serving window.
 3. Safety kits are located in the kitchen, nursery, sacristy, narthex, Sunday School office on second floor and third floor bathroom.
 4. Evacuate to the Chaucer property.
 5. If you would like a current CPR card two classes are coming up on May 14 and June 4. Time frame is 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$45. Space is limited to 10 participants per class.
For questions or to register contact Linda Schoene at lindaschoene@ctkelc.org
 6. Gail Gould, the CPR instructor, will present "Preventing Childhood Emergencies" at Sunday Forum on April 24.

NOTE: The West Campus is also looking at these items and taking action as needed. More information to follow.

CPR Class

Date: Choose one of two classes, May 14 or June 4
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Where: Council Room at CTK Rice Village campus

Cost: \$45 payable at class
Register: lindaschoene@ctkelc.org
Class size is limited to 10 participants per class.



A Message from Leipzig

Britta Taddiken, Senior Pastor of St. Thomas Leipzig, Leipzig, in March 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ the King,

I greet you warmly from Leipzig! We have not heard from each other for a long time and it was not possible to visit each other in Houston or Leipzig. I hope very much that it will soon be possible again for a group from the USA to come to Germany and vice versa. Corona took a lot out of all of us. Life in the congregation had to be reduced to a minimum at times. Like you, we worked with new worship formats on YouTube.

But all this does not replace the human, brotherly contact. We are glad that now more and more is possible and people can come together again. The St. Thomas Choir with its new Thomaskantor Andreas Reize sings wonderfully even with only a few singers and we hope that it will soon be possible to hear the whole choir again. Many other things have changed for us as well. We have a wonderful young St. Thomas organist in Johannes Lang. Our church music office is also new and well staffed with Maren Glockner and Carolyn Rau. Youth work is also going well, we have many confirmands and interested young people. Our church council has a lot to do with getting the finances in order. Unfortunately, we had to cope with many losses - but we can do it!

It is all almost secondary when you consider that a criminal war is claiming its victims in the immediate vicinity. Many people from Ukraine live in Leipzig and we try to stand by them and the people in our twin city Kyiv. Nobody knows how it will develop further. It is therefore all the more important that people stand together, for whom democracy, law and partnership are important values. Fortunately, we are also experiencing this right now, which gives us hope! And so I hope and we as the congregation of St. Thomas Church hope that our contact and friendship will also remain and grow. I hope to see you all again soon. God bless you and your congregation Christ the King!

Best regards on behalf of the church council of St. Thomas, Britta Taddiken, Senior Pastor of St. Thomas

Great News -

the City of Leipzig has a PayPal Link for Donations to the Ukraine Refugee Efforts

Thank you to those who have donated to assist Ukrainian refugees through any number of vetted agencies.

In follow-up of our appeal for donations to the City of Leipzig for their support of the Ukrainian humanitarian crisis, we have news for you - the City of Leipzig is now accepting Ukraine donations via PayPal! The link for the donations is: paypal@leipzig.de.

Just go to your PayPal account to "make payment" or "send money," and in the recipient's link paste paypal@leipzig.de. For the allocation of the payments, please specify: Sistercities help Kiev/Ukraine.

Payments are transferred daily to Leipzig's bank account at Deutsche Bank. When you send a payment, PayPal will automatically convert the funds to Euros. You can send the funds from a personal or a business PayPal account, and your name as donor will appear in the PayPal reports to the City of Leipzig.

And of course, you may also contribute through Christ the King Church by check or online designated for "Ukraine response."

Fighting has displaced more than 10 million people and forced nearly 4 million to flee Ukraine in Europe's biggest refugee crisis since the end of World War Two, according to the U.N. refugee agency. Most have arrived in Poland, which says it has welcomed 2.3 million people so far.

With a train of refugees arriving from Poland every day in Leipzig, everything is needed: food, clothing, medications, even places to sleep. The famous Messe Leipzig – the huge exhibit halls in Leipzig – have been converted to accommodate refugees. The city is also pleading with private citizen to offer empty apartments, houses, etc. for refugees.

Our sister city, the City of Leipzig, and its sister city Kyiv, our step sister city, urgently need your help. Thank you to all of you from all of us for donating to help refugees from Ukraine.

houston food bank  **Saturday May 14**
8:00 a.m. - noon
For information, contact ctkhfb@gmail.com

Useful information
When: 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Where: Houston Food Bank East Branch,
535 Portwall St., Houston, TX 77029

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

Next DATES
July 9
September 10
November 12

Attire: Closed-toe shoes, pants, sleeved shirt (short or long sleeves). HFB requests volunteers to bring their own mask/face covering.

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



LWR PERSONAL CARE KITS

Building Personal Care Kits for People Around the World

Offering comfort and care to those who need it most

We 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.

lwr.org/personalcarekits



The items we still need 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
- **Toothbrushes**, individually packaged

Deadline to drop off items in the narthex or the church office is Palm Sunday, April 10.

Members of the congregation are invited to come and put kits together with the Luther League after the Good Friday service.



SEARCH's Coming Home Program

Serve with SEARCH Homeless Services

Tuesday, April 26, 5:30 p.m.

St. Paul Methodist Church, 5501 Main St., Houston

Please join Christ the King members in providing dinner, dessert, and ambience for participants and their mentors of SEARCH's Coming Home program. Coming Home is an evidence-base, faith-based mentoring program for SEARCH clients. If you would like to serve dinner, make a salad, bake a dessert, or provide 8 table centerpieces (to send with clients), please contact Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org. Christ the King is a member of the Council of Congregations and has served with SEARCH in ministry to Houston's homeless population for over 20 years.



The Work of the ELCA: Children's Ministry

The Children's Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America seeks to focus on intergenerational lifelong faith formation of Christian communities found in households, congregations and children--centered ministry settings. In efforts to cohesively cover the first third of life for faith formation, the Children's Ministry of the ELCA partners with other ELCA ministries, as well as other related entities that focus on the faith formation of children. Together in mission; marked, claimed, gathered and sent, our goal is to journey with you in faith formation, as our children learn to live out Jesus' love. To learn more, see <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Childrens-Ministry>.

Churchwide Assembly Justice Look-Back: Thrivent

At churchwide assembly in August 2019, a resolution was passed that encourages ELCA Thrivent members to express concerns to Thrivent about how Thrivent Choice Dollars are being restricted from organizations that support civil rights, congregational inclusion for LG-BTQ+ people and women's reproductive rights. Thrivent is a not-for-profit financial services company organized as a member-owned fraternal benefit society, and was founded by Lutherans. To learn more about this resolution, or other justice-related actions taken at the 2019 churchwide assembly, see this link: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Churchwide-Assembly>.

Justice Advocacy Opportunity *Smorgasbord*

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

Advocate
with the
ELCA

Investments in Climate Action & Resilience

Congress is overdue to pass legislation addressing the climate crisis. Even if you've previously contacted your senators/representative on this topic, your Congresspersons need to hear from you again! Call them to urge their support for \$550 billion in investments that will deliver on climate, jobs, justice and clean energy. Use this site (and the script it contains) to make your calls: <https://creationjustice.salsalabs.org/actforcreationjustice/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=84a9d017-a005-45e9-b43e-1504e604ffd2>

Immigration – Ukraine

Russia's recent invasion of Ukraine has already led to more than 10 million Ukrainians being displaced. While the Biden administration has announced that the U.S. will admit 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, and provide \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance, there is still need for advocacy urging (a) quick implementation of the plan to admit 100,000 Ukrainians, (b) immediate disbursement of the \$1 billion in aid, (c) immediate implementation of temporary protected status for Ukrainians already in the U.S. (d) granting special student relief to permit Ukrainian students in the U.S. to remain, and (e) rebuilding a robust refugee program to process refugees effectively. Urge action on these topics at: <https://www.votervoice.net/LIRS/campaigns/92369/respond>

Human Rights & International Law

Since the invasion of Ukraine, the international community has shown robust resolve in holding Russia accountable and supporting Ukrainians. But not every military activity bringing devastation and violating international law has been opposed so vigorously. The ongoing war in Yemen has become the world's worst humanitarian crisis, instigated by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates and supported by the United States. During the 11-year civil war in Syria, supported by various outside partners, almost 7 million Syrians have become refugees in neighboring countries and more than half the Syrian population has been displaced overall. And, Israel's illegal and decades-long acquisition, occupation and annexation of Palestinian land continues without any real action to counter it by the international community. Urge the U.S. government to uphold human rights and international law everywhere, not just in Ukraine, at this link: <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1480>

Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence increases during conflict and humanitarian crises. The United Nations reports that 1 in 5 refugees or internally displaced women living in humanitarian crisis have experienced sexual abuse. In conflict situations, gender-based violence is sometimes used as a weapon of war. The Keeping Women and Girls Safe from the Start Act, a bill seeking to expand the ability of the U.S. government to prevent gender-based violence and provide early interventions at the onset of humanitarian emergencies, has been introduced in Congress. More senators are needed to support this bill. Urge your senators to co-sponsor this legislation at this link: <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1394>



Justice Advocacy Event

Sunday, April 24, after each worship service
The Justice Advocacy Ministry Team invites you to advocate for justice after each worship service on Sunday, April 24. There will be an offering of letters for Bread for the World, as well as several other justice topics about which you can advocate quickly and easily using your cellphone. Stop by the tables after worship and raise your voice for justice!

The Path of Hope:

A Study on Climate Action for Faith Communities

Thursdays, April 21 – May 12

6:00 p.m., online

You are invited to join an online discussion series built around 15-minute videos featuring interviews with US faith leaders, representatives of climate-impacted communities from the global South, and presentations by UN officials and other experts. The videos walk viewers through four key climate policy issues that intersect with universal faith concerns for vulnerable and marginalized people. The series focuses on how climate change is impacting the core ministries of faith communities around the world, how those impacts will increase in the future, and why these impacts create an imperative for people of faith to advocate for strong US climate action. A discussion guide is included that asks participants to think deeply about how their own local faith community's direct service programs intersect with climate impacts, and how knowledge and experiences gained through these programs might help to inform climate policy. The study's Action Center provides practical, step-by-step instructions for advocacy activities, as well as recommended policy asks for local, state, and national leaders. Join us! Please register on [www.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-path-of-hope-a-study-on-climate-action-for-faith-communities-tickets-273103288287) at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-path-of-hope-a-study-on-climate-action-for-faith-communities-tickets-273103288287>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.



Collective Visioning for Our Region's Water

Sunday, April 24, 6 p.m., online

In a generation, much of the U.S. will resemble the lower Galveston Bay Watershed, a 10-county region surrounding Houston which Bayou City Waterkeeper (BCWK) serves. Home to the most diverse population, and also one of the most ecologically diverse major urban areas, our waterways — consisting of 2,500 miles of bayous, as well as creeks, coastlines, and the ocean — support immense biodiversity. Our region has lived through unprecedented storm surges and widespread flooding from hurricanes and heavy rain storms over the last two decades. Amplifying the worst effects of these storms are the region's long-time underinvestment in forward-thinking flood prevention, lax attitudes towards land use regulation, and historic redlining practices which have driven over-development of ecologically sensitive wetland areas and the outer-lying parts of our city. Ayanna Jolivet Mccloud, Executive Director of BCWK, will explore the critical role that collective visioning, ecological imagination and storytelling play in connecting to and advocating for our region's waterways and our community. Beyond the built environment, how can we use imagination as a tool to explore new ways to restore prairies and wetlands, which hold rainfall and prevent flooding? How can we use imagination as a tool for new approaches towards water infrastructure that center ecological impacts and environmental justice? Time for interactive discussion with the speaker will be provided. Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/collective-visioning-for-our-regions-water-tickets-288968451417>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com with any questions.

Spring Interfaith Environmental Stewardship Event

Sunday, April 24, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Willow Waterhole Greenspace, 5300 Dryad Dr., Houston, TX 77035

Join with people of all faiths to care for our shared environment in observance of Earth Day! We will engage in hands-on environmental stewardship at the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve. This event will offer activities for all ages and skill. Meet at the Swartz Gazebo in the park to sign in. Metro bus line 7 stops nearby, and line 49 is not far. Tools/supplies will be provided. Please register for planning purposes on [www.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2022-interfaith-environmental-stewardship-event-tickets-273115956177) at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2022-interfaith-environmental-stewardship-event-tickets-273115956177>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

Tour de Houston

Sunday, April 3, 7:30 a.m., 901 Bagby St.

Attend worship on Saturday and join the synod Lutherans Restoring Creation bike team for the Tour de Houston ride on Sunday. Distances of 20, 40, and 60 miles are available. After the ride, enjoy the party in Hermann Square 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 to meet up to ride.

Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Continue...

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



Forest Bathing & Earth Examen

Saturday, April 16, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center

1300 Riley Fuzzel Road, Spring, TX 77386

Experience forest bathing, led by a certified guide, followed by practice of the Christian spiritual discipline of the Earth Examen. Forest bathing, a practice that originated in Japan, involves taking in, in all of one's senses, the forest atmosphere. Not simply a walk in the woods, it is the conscious and contemplative practice of being immersed in the sights, sounds and smells of the forest. Forest bathing has been shown to reduce stress, improve mood and focus, enhance creativity, and lead to an increased sense of calm and altruistic behavior, in addition to other benefits such as boosting the immune system and lowering blood pressure. As Christians, we understand that God is present in God's creation, and after our guided forest bath, we'll spend some time considering the Earth Examen as we reflect both on our time spent forest bathing and on our relationship with all creation. This activity is for a small group and space is limited. Please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/forest-bathing-earth-examen-tickets-291848535827>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com with any questions.

Carbon Fee & Dividend: What's Justice Got to Do with It?

Sunday, May 1, 3:30 p.m., online

Members of Citizen's Climate Lobby explain the ins and outs of carbon fee & dividend as an economic policy tool to address climate change. Learn about the positive impact not only on the environment, but also on jobs, the economy, and human health. And, carbon fee & dividend has been deemed by economists as the fastest way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of any economic policy approach. But, best of all, carbon fee & dividend is designed to ensure equity and justice, a key concern of people of all faith/spiritual traditions. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/carbon-fee-dividend-whats-justice-got-to-do-with-it-tickets-307725203367> Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more details.

Living the Change Weekly Discussion Group

Tuesdays thru May 17, 6:00 p.m., online

Scientists tell us that we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030. That may seem like a very high hurdle. But, it translates to only a 5%/year reduction. Participants in this course will leave with a plan for at least their first 5% reduction, and knowledge of how to find the other 40%. Many participants have found easy, cost-effective reductions of more than 20%. The course was developed in response to the Walk on Earth Gently multifaith statement, which invites you into a journey of Living the Change that the world needs. The journey is inspired by religious teachings to turn away from consumerism & to seek balanced relationships with all people and the planet we share as our common home. This program focuses on making personal lifestyle changes in three areas: transportation, energy, and food. The facilitator will tailor the course as needed for participants. We just started the journey on Feb. 22, so you can still join us in accepting the Walk on Earth Gently invitation and committing to a sustainable lifestyle, via a weekly online discussion group. Can't make it every week? Join us as you are able. A detailed schedule is given below. Are you ready to commit to a more sustainable lifestyle? Then join us on this journey to Living the Change by registering at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-the-change-weekly-discussion-group-tickets-235555241067>. For more information, please contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com.

April 5, 12 & 19: Energy, weeks 2, 3, & 4

April 26, May 3 & 10: Food, weeks 1, 2 & 3

May 17: Food, week 4 & closing

Creation-Focused Worship for Earth Day

Friday, April 22, 6:00 p.m., online

Gather with other Christians to celebrate Earth Day by participating in a streamed pre-recorded creation-focused worship service. Listen to the wisdom, song, and stories from our fellow Creatures, human and non-human. The Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos will share the message of the day. This 45-minute worship service is in English with full Spanish translation, and does not include communion. Observe Earth Day by praising the Creator and giving thanks for God's good creation in worship on April 22! Register to participate at www.eventbrite.com at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/creation-focused-worship-for-earth-day-tickets-301138712997?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com with any questions.

**an ecochallenge
for earth month**

Throughout April, online

Join the Lutherans Restoring Creation – Gulf Coast Team for the online Earth Month EcoChallenge. Select the challenges of your choice – to learn about environmental issues, spend time in nature, advocate for eco-justice, develop new creation-care habits... - then share your experience with your teammates online. To sign up or to learn more, go to <https://earthmonth.ecochallenge.org/>. Questions? - Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com.

Native Plant Pollinator Garden Party

Saturday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.

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

TAG SALE

Saturday, April 30, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 1 at 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

The annual Tag Sale at Christ the King Church will be Saturday April 30 and Sunday, May 1 in the parish hall. Give us anything you want out of your closets, garages and attics! We will collect items starting the Sunday before the sale, April 28. Furniture sells well so we would gladly take it if you can get it to the church. Larger items and large volume donations can only be accepted in the parish hall on Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29. All proceeds will go to the Pastor Karin Liebster Children's Ministry Fund and the Luther League Fund.

Clothes are only accepted when in pristine condition. Baby's and children's clothes need to be in near perfect condition.

Pre-priced items appreciated.

Please tell us about large and/or valuable donations.

GET YOUR
RID OF
STUFF

CLEAN OUT
YOUR CLOSETS AND GARAGE
FOR OUR

TAG SALE
APRIL 30 & MAY 1

Certain items are big sellers. Some ideas:

- Books
- Sneakers
- Baseball caps
- Light fixtures
- Extra tiles
- Costumes
- Purses/bags
- Watches
- Kitchen Accessories
- Toys and Games
- Costume or vintage jewelry
- Electronics –
- Tools – including garden tools and lawn mowers
- Appliances (manual included if necessary)
- Bedding (mark size – twin, king, etc.)
- Sporting goods – tennis rackets, golf clubs, etc.
- Baby Gear – strollers, cribs, etc.

Volunteers needed, contact benremmert@ctkelc.org

BREAD FOR THE WORLD



OFFERING OF LETTERS Sunday, April 24

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

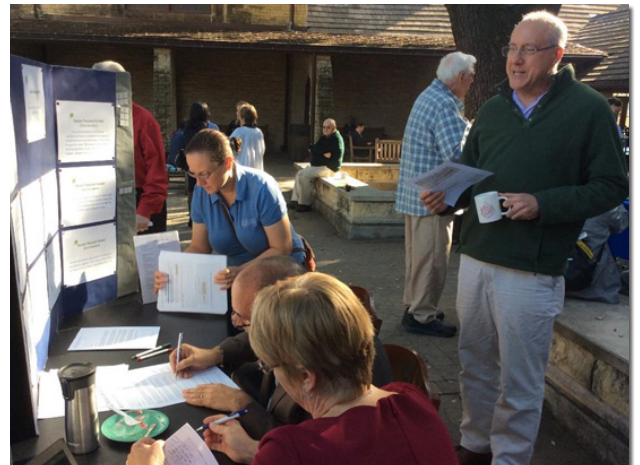
(Proverbs 31:8-9)



More than 12 million children in the U.S. are not getting enough to eat. On Sunday, April 24, we will be asking our representatives to reduce child hunger by making permanent the refundable tax credit expansion and by reauthorizing child nutrition programs. Access to adequate and safe nutrition is vital to growth and learning, especially in the first 1,000 days of a child's life.

We will also take this opportunity to ask our representatives to co-sponsor the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021 (H.R. 4693/S. 2956) and increase global nutrition funding to \$300 million. Approximately 811 million people are facing hunger across the globe, erasing years of progress. Investing in nutrition saves lives, creates stability, and is economically smart; for every \$1 invested there is an estimated \$35 in economic return.

Please join us in the courtyard of Christ the King on Sunday, April 24, between services and after late service, to write letters together or you can advocate online using the QR code.



Justice Advocacy Event

Sunday, April 24, after each worship service

The Justice Advocacy Ministry Team invites you to advocate for justice after each worship service. Along with an Offering of Letters for Bread for the World, there will be several other justice topics about which you can advocate quickly and easily using your cell phone. Stop by the tables after worship and raise your voice for justice!