



THE KING'S BANNER



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

2353 Rice Blvd,
Houston TX 77005
ctkelc.org

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January 2023

Lutherans Love a Parade!



Monday, January 16, 9:00am, downtown Houston

Everyone is invited to walk with Bishop Mike Rinehart and lots of other synod Lutherans--of all ages--to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We'll gather at Allen Parkway and Crosby St. around 9:00am. The parade begins at 10, and we will walk behind our synod's banner, "#Lutherans are Here!" Contact Rebecca Shields at 281-389-3616 or rshields63@gmail.com.

See Page 5

Annual Meeting Part 2

Sunday, February 5, 12:30pm

Christ the King Church, Rice Village

All congregation members are strongly encouraged to attend. On the agenda are the 2022 annual reports, the adoption of the 2023 budget, and the adoption of updates to our congregation's constitution and bylaws.

Pray Ground is Open at Christ the King Church

We have a new space in the nave for our children. Sometimes referred to as Grace Space, a Pray Ground is a place where our children can experience worship through age-appropriate worship materials and tools that help keep them engaged in worship. The Pray Ground 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. Please feel free to check out this new worship space!

EPIPHANY OBSERVANCE

Epiphany Observance

**Sunday, January 8, 8:30 and 11:00am
Rice Village Campus**

Join us as we celebrate Epiphany and bless the nave, our "church house" with the blessing of the magi. Following worship, we will enjoy king cake in the courtyard. A printed prayer rite and chalk will also be available to take home to inscribe and bless one's own house or door.



**BACH
SOCIETY
HOUSTON**

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!

We Need You in 2023

We are grateful for all our members' partnership in the life of our congregation and service to the community. It isn't too late to review our Time and Talent catalog and choose at least **one thing** to "do" this year. We would love to have 100% member involvement in 2023 in gratitude for being **"deeply rooted, joyfully revived, and faithfully bearing fruit."**

Click on this link, <https://ctkelc.shelbnextchms.com/external/form/d69fe853-4c33-4b7c-8178-6b9ad0375d75> to fill out your short Time & Talent form by January 31. It will take about 5 minutes to complete. **Hard copies are also available in the narthex or may be requested from the church office at ctk@ctkelc.org.**

Houston Food Bank
Second Saturdays of ODD Months
[See page 12](#)



Dear faithful people of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Lutheran Church to call a new senior pastor and bring my service as interim senior pastor to its conclusion. When that will happen is up to the Holy Spirit. But as we begin what may be a significant year for our life together, I think it's important we all understand what boundaries must be in place when my service as interim senior pastor among you concludes.

As you know, Carole and I joined Christ the King Church in August 2020 with no expectation that I would be asked to serve as interim pastor beginning June 15, 2021. When our bishop asked me to serve, I made clear to him and to our congregation council that I would only do this if we were allowed to remain members of Christ the King Church after a new pastor is called. Both the bishop and the council agreed. Therefore, as you have heard me state numerous times, after this work is done, I intend to return to my place with Carole in the pew. The liturgy as we do it, and the community service we offer, make that a necessity for us.

With that question answered, what are the boundaries which we and you must maintain?

The first thing Carole and I will do is absent ourselves from you for a while. We want to do some traveling, and your new pastor and you will need to develop necessary pastoral relationships.

But we will eventually be back, and this will be the most important boundary for all of us to keep. Any requests you make of me for any matter must be made through our next pastor. I will not respond positively or negatively, not even non-committedly to any request made directly or indirectly to me. This obviously includes all worship and pastoral matters, but it also needs to include any other matter in our congregation. Please help both Carole and me as we do this.

The converse is also true. If our new pastor asks Carole or I to do something, we will respond as best we are able, just as any other member would. Carole will continue, as long as she is able, to serve as a member of the Altar Guild and to sing in the choir. I may eventually join the choir too, if they'll have me. After a time, I'll also continue the Thursday Bible studies on zoom that have subscribers all across the country. Rick Erickson and I have already begun discussing a liturgical/educational project or two; we'll see where that goes. I'd

also like to work on forming a collaboration with other ELCA parishes and rostered liturgies that share our passion for the historic liturgies of the church. As the number of ministries with that passion decline, there is a growing need for those relationships to be created and maintained.

When I left both of my previous calls, the president of the congregation and I signed a covenant with the following provisions: In that covenant I agree:

- to pray for the ongoing mission of the congregation and for the new pastor
- to communicate to the congregation, in writing and in conversation, the terms of the covenant, which terminates this pastoral relationship
- to refrain from language or behavior that could undermine the development of the relationship between the congregation and a new pastor
- to not support or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement
- to refuse requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation, including baptisms, weddings, funerals, anniversaries, visiting the sick and homebound, except as invited by the current pastor
- to consult with the current pastor regarding my attendance at worship and special events
- to encourage my family members to support me in maintaining this covenant and to support the ministry of the congregation's new pastor
- to refrain from any communications with the members of the staff regarding the conduct of the parish's mission and ministry
- to refrain from any communications with the congregation's partner organizations and these organizations' staff or leaders

This covenant does not affect or require termination of friendships with individuals who are members of this congregation. It ought not affect our active membership at Christ the King Church. I'm sure we'll be conversing more about this in the days ahead. But as this new year with all its promises and challenges begins, I thought it best to write all this for you, and any prospective candidate to be our pastor, to read.

Peace and Joy – and Courage!

Amandus J. Derr

Interim Senior Pastor

JANUARY Mission Offering



SEARCHHOMELESS.ORG

SEARCH HOMELESS SERVICES

ENGAGE & STABILIZE

On any given day, approximately 3,000 individuals in Houston are experiencing homelessness.

Many of these men and women are immobilized by physical or mental health impairments and the lack of a support network. For many, it is virtually impossible to exit homelessness without some assistance. SEARCH is there to provide that help. SEARCH's Mobile Outreach Team travels to common gathering areas for those who are homeless and provides on-the-spot assistance, assessments, intervention, and referrals. Armed with food, water, clothing, and blankets, they offer an important lifeline to people who are living on the street. Once connected with SEARCH, they help clients obtain permanent housing and qualify for benefits and other resources that they need to stabilize.

HOUSE

The only way to cure homelessness is through housing. Providing a home is just the first step on the path toward stability and self-sufficiency.

Even after receiving a roof over their heads, many of the SEARCH clients need ongoing help in order to stabilize their lives and maintain their housing. Once the clients have a safe place to call home, they are able to focus turning their lives around. Under the Housing First approach, SEARCH first places their clients in a stable home and then provide extensive case management and wraparound support services to help them increase their income, improve their health, rebuild their lives, and maintain their stability over the long-term. SEARCH's case managers are located at the housing sites where clients reside to work with the formerly homeless residents and support them as they work to regain their independence.

EDUCATION

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

The House of Tiny Treasures (HTT) provides a high-quality early childhood education for children, ages 2 to 5 years of age, who are either homeless or living in deep poverty. SEARCH's goal is to break the cycle of deep poverty and homelessness, and they know that breaking the cycle begins with the children. Soon after SEARCH opened, it became apparent that their adult clients needed quality care for their children so that they could go back to work or school. Thus, SEARCH opened HTT in 1992. What began as a traditional day care has evolved into a nationally accredited early childhood education center preparing our young students for success in school and in life. HTT offers a full-day, year-round program for our families. While the children are being cared for, their parents are able to focus on getting back on their feet and regaining a stable, self-sufficient life for their family.

Sociable to Support SEARCH: Steaks and Stogies

Sociable to Support SEARCH

Steaks and Stogies

Sat., Jan. 21, 7:00pm-12am

Join Janeen and Nick Cornor in their home as they host a relaxing evening dinner of ribeye steaks, potatoes, veggies and dessert, complete with adult beverages. Your contribution of \$50 will benefit our January mission offering. For singles or couples, but space is limited—please RSVP to Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org by **January 10**. After dinner, those who want are invited to stay and watch the pay-per-view UFC fight.



Sunday Forum

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Rice Village Campus basement
classroom and online

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

January 8: Lutherhill Rally Day

Join us for a special Sunday as Lutherhill Ministries comes to Christ the King to teach during the Sunday Forum and give our children, youth, and parents a taste of Lutherhill. This is a great opportunity to hear from our partners in outdoor ministry.

January 15: Texas Southern University and Eldrewey Stearns: The Fight for Desegregation in Houston

While Eldrewey Stearns never achieved widespread fame for his activism, his work was foundational in its significance and impact on Houston. Along with other students at TSU, Stearns organized the 1960 peaceful sit-in movement that would lead Houston to desegregate. Join Pastor Sergio Rodriguez for a look-back at this important time in the history of our city.

January 22: 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.

January 28: Becoming a Reconciling in Christ community



As the Texas-Louisiana Synod begins the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ Synod and Christ the King Lutheran Church begins a similar process as a congregation, Pastor Derr leads this forum for open discussion and invites members to attend a synod-sponsored forum on February 18, 2023, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp Avenue, Houston. Register for the February 18 forum with Beth Hartfiel at bethhartfiel@ctkelc.org.

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. Through a mingling of reading and prayers, the stories and texts of the bible meet us in our own lives. Attend as you are able, but please register with Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org.

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

Wednesdays at 10:00am

West Campus In-Person

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

Justice, Not Charity *with Pastor Mandy Derr*

Thursdays on January 12, 19, 26 at 3:00pm on zoom

Participate in this short survey of texts in the Hebrew Scriptures about God's call to care for "the widow, the orphan and the stranger." Since the World Council of Churches' WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (January 18-25) focuses on the theme "Do Good, Love Justice," the focus of this study will be on passages in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy.

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

Friday Morning Bible Study *with Pastor Mandy Derr*

Fridays (resuming on Jan. 13), 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. The group reads and responds to the upcoming Sunday's texts. Email Cheryl Gaspard at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org to receive the weekly readings and the zoom link.

Pray the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Tuesdays at 8:15am on Facebook

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

January 3: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon

January 10: Iran, Iraq, Syria

January 17: Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen

January 24: Cyprus, Greece, Turkey

January 31: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia

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

Access to Church for Early Service January 15

The Chevron Houston Marathon will be held Sunday, January 15, beginning at 7:00am. The event results in numerous street closures including Bissonnet and Kirby. The disruption affects mainly 8:30am and Sunday school participants. The best route to church is from U.S. 59 to Buffalo Speedway then turning left on



Rice Blvd. For a map of the course go to chevronhoustonmarathon.com.

Are You a Marathon Runner?

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

Revised Constitution and Bylaws of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church

Have you ever read the Constitution of Christ the King Church? Did you know that the ELCA provides a Model Constitution? The Model contains many statements that are mandated for all ELCA congregations but permits individual congregations to include some unique statements regarding structure and operation. Thus, we are bound to other ELCA congregations by shared principles stated in our constitutions, yet we can use the document to express our unique identity.

While the ELCA updates the Model every three years, it has been over 15 years since our congregation has had a prayerful and diligent dialogue about our constitution. As part of our Strategic Plan and the integration of our campuses, it is necessary for us to bring our governance documents into conformance with the ELCA Model Constitution and set out terms for orderly administration of our affairs. For many months, the Congregation Council,

Executive Committee, and a special committee consisting of our corporate legal counsel Alicia Goodrow, and church governance expert George Brookover, have been examining our constitution and drafting revisions. The goal is to bring us up to date on required changes and to lay a foundation for good and orderly administration for the years to come.

You can find a summary of the proposed revisions and a marked-up copy of the modified Constitution and Bylaws on our website. (Type "constitution" in the search function). A Q&A session regarding the updated Constitution was held during the Sunday Forum hour on Dec. 11 at the Rice Village Campus. If you missed the Forum, you can view it on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8Lg-lr-7hM>.

We will vote on the revised Constitution and Bylaws at the Part 2 Annual Meeting on Feb. 5, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Terri Koehler, Congregation President at Theresa.m.koehler@uth.tmc.edu.

Everyone Loves a Parade!

Join an enthusiastic group of Lutherans of all ages from across the synod led by Bishop Mike Rinehart who will walk in the annual Black Heritage Society parade that honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on Monday, January 16. We will gather on Allen Parkway at Crosby St. about 9 am and then, beginning at 10 am, we will walk through downtown behind our synod's banner, "#Lutherans are here!" The parade route ends near City Hall and Allen Parkway, and we should be finished about 11:30 or so. There is free parking near the start and the finish of the parade at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston on Crosby. (***) Allen Parkway will be closed so you need to enter Crosby St. from W. Dallas.)

There is no dress code; wear your CTK shirt, your 'blacklivesmatter' shirt, or whatever is handy. Last year 8 members from CTK participated along with over 60 friends from around the synod. Will you and your family/

friends walk this year? Joining in this parade is a great way for us to support our black neighbors, speak to our community, and celebrate our diversity.

If you have any questions about logistics or need a ride to the parade, please contact Rebecca Shields 281 389-3616 or email her at rshields63@gmail.com.



CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

January Dates:

8:	Lutherhill Rally Day
8:	Language Milestone Blessing, 11:00am
15, 22, 29:	Godly Play Classes at Rice Campus, 9:30am
20-21:	Mother-Daughter Retreat at Lutherhill
28:	Playdate at the Playground, 10:00am
28:	Acolyte Training, 11:00am

Lutherhill Rally Day

Sunday, January 8

Come and join us for a special Sunday as Lutherhill will come to Christ the King to teach during the Sunday Forum and give our children, youth, and parents a taste of Lutherhill. This is a great opportunity to come and hear from our partners in outdoor ministry.

Language Milestone Celebration

Sunday, January 8 at 11:00am

In the transition from infant to toddler, language plays a crucial role. It is also a main factor in the shaping of the Christian faith which proclaims God to be the Word made flesh who was born first as a wordless infant. We therefore recognize the Milestone of Language, which children reach somewhere about their second and third years, on the Sunday of The Baptism of Our Lord, January 8, at the 11:00 a.m. services. Families with three-year-old children (and siblings) may approach the altar rail during the liturgy to receive a copy of Luther's Small Catechism. The Catechism is a guidebook for parents to help their child learn the beginnings of formed language such as the Lord's Prayer, table grace, and prayers for morning and evening. The members of Christ the King Lutheran Church take this annual opportunity to express their support for the important work that parents do at home and at church in the area of faith.

Mother-Daughter Retreat

January 20-22, 2023

A gathering for mothers, daughters and grandmothers, too. Enjoy a weekend away as you invest in your relationships and have some fun! Create incredible memories with all the women in your life – whether that's your mother or daughter, your grandmother, aunt, or God-mother. Sing songs around the campfire, cheer each other on at the ropes course, and connect with other faithful women, too.

Cost: \$110 per Adult, \$80 per Child, Ages 2 & Under: Free.

Register online at

<https://lutherhill.org/retreats/mother-daughter-retreat/>.

Interested in helping with our Children's Ministry?

In a Godly Play class, there are always two adults in each room: the storyteller and the doorperson. Adults are there in service to the children and to support the community that develops. As more and more children are returning, we need more volunteers to help with our Godly Play and children's ministry programs. If you would like to help or want more information, please call Marie Monroe or Deacon Ben Remmert.

Playdate at the Playground, weather permitting

January 28 at 10:00am

Children and parents are invited to come to our Rice Village campus on Saturday, January 28 to play on the playground and in the courtyard. Enjoy this time for our children and parents to meet up, play, and talk together. We will have beverages and snacks outside on the picnic tables and will end our time together with a story. This event is geared for families with young children, but all are invited to come. For more questions, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert.

Acolyte Training

January 28 at 11:00am

All new and current acolytes are invited to a training with Deacon Ben Remmert on January 28 at 11:00 a.m. – 12 noon in the nave.



We appreciate the Luther League for decorating our beautiful Christmas tree.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



January Dates:

- 7: Epiphany Party, 4:00pm
- 8: Confirmation Class, 9:30am
- 8: Jerusalem Peacebuilders Service, 9:30am
- 15: Confirmation Class, 9:30am
- 15: High School Gathering, 12:30pm
- 21-22: Luther League Winter Lock-In
- 22: Germany Trip Meeting, 9:30am
- 28: Acolyte and Crucifer Training, 11:00am
- 29: Confirmation Class, 9:30am
- 29: High School Gathering, 12:30pm

Epiphany Party

January 7 at 4:00pm

All youth are invited to come to church to help take down the Christmas tree! After we take down the tree, we will have dinner in the Village. Join us for a great time and help us get ready for the Epiphany season!

High School Gathering Meeting

January 15 and 29, 12:15-2:00pm

Sr. High Gatherings are open to all youth in 9th - 12th grade. We enjoy this time to gather, 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.

Jerusalem Peacebuilders Service Opportunity

January 8 at 9:30am

High School students are invited to join Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth from across Houston as we come together for an exciting series of powerful interfaith events. Participants will learn from each other's religions, make new friends, engage in service projects, and develop key leadership skills. Schedule of activities are as follow:

January 8- Mitzvah Day

February 26- Cemetery Clean Up

March 26: Ramadan Iftar

April 30: Interfaith Ministries

If interested in joining our January outing, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert.

Luther League Winter Lock-In

January 21-22

On January 21 beginning at 6:30pm, all middle school and high school youth are invited for an evening of fellowship and fun as we have a lock-in at the church. We will have service opportunities, fellowship, and come together for devotion and prayer. RSVP by January 20 to Deacon Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org as spots are limited. **Cost of \$20 includes supplies, activities, and meals.**

Worship Server and Crucifer Training

January 28 at 11:00am

Youth in 7th-12th grade are invited for our worship server training on Saturday, January 28 at 10:00am in the nave. We will go through all the roles of Crucifer, Server One, and Server Two. This training is for new and returning servers. Join us for great conversations on this hands on training.

Worship.Lead.Serve. Retreat at Lutherhill

February 17-19

A gathering for middle and high school youth

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





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 that have **completed 1st-5th grade** will spend a whole week at Lutherhill discovering all of the joys camp has to offer with Deacon Ben Remmert! Alpha Campers (1st Graders) are at camp from July 17-20 and Youngin's (2nd-3rd Graders) and Yearling's (4th-6th Graders) are at camp from July 17-22. Enjoy fun bible studies, camp-wide worships, afternoon activities and daily All Camp activities. Spend an evening around the campfire making s'mores. Cost breakdowns are below. **Sign up and Register by February 15, 2023.**

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

Register by 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. **Sign up and register by February 15, 2023.**

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.

Summer Germany Trip

June 18-27, 2023

7th-12th grade youth are invited for a great opportunity to travel to Germany this summer. Our group will travel to Leipzig to visit with our sister congregation St. Thomas. Throughout the week we will have day trips to famous Luther sites such as Wittenberg, Eisenach, Eisleben, Wittenberg, and Erfurt. The cost is \$600 plus airfare (\$1,200 average) which includes lodging, two meals each day, museum admissions, the day trip activities, tour guides and program leaders, and train tickets. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Deacon Ben Remmert as **we have a few more spots available. Scholarships are available.**

Lutherhill Day Camp at Christ the King this Summer!

June 12-16, 2023

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

Location: Christ the King Lutheran Church

Dates: Each day during the week, Monday, June 12 through Friday, June 16 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 2023 (ages 4-10)

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

Register: Register online at www.ctkelc.org If you have



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. There are three ways to serve at Day Camp—all are essential:

- **Support Staff:** Starting at age 12, people are invited to serve in leadership positions that require orientation and specific time commitments.
- **Paid Staff:** A limited number of people between the ages of 15 and 22 will be called to serve as small

group leaders and directors. Paid staff are required to participate in pre-camp learning, attend the Staff Training Event, all staff meetings and to be prepared each day. Paid Staff Applications are due on February 15, 2023!

- **Camp Manager:** A senior in high school or college students will be called to serve as Camp Manager who helps in promoting, facilitating, and leading the day-to-day operations of Camp Hope Ministries alongside with Deacon Ben Remmert. Camp Manager applications are due on January 15, 2023!

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

LUTHERHILL RETREATS AND NEWS



Summer Camp Staff Applications.

Have you thought about where you will be next summer? Do you know someone that you think would be a great addition to Lutherhill's summer staff? It will be the BEST. SUMMER. EVER. for the 2023 Summer Staff! Lutherhill has many amazing opportunities available for young adults to work at camp. Check out all the positions here: <https://lutherhill.org/about-lutherhill/employment-at-lutherhill/>. Applications are open now. Questions? Contact Program Director, Curtis Bradbury atcurtis@lutherhill.org or 979.243.9831.

Unwind Retreat

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

Gather the ladies in your life for a weekend away specially crafted 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. **Cost: \$175 per Adult.** Register online at <https://lutherhill.org/retreats/unwind/>.



UPCOMING RETREATS AT LUTHERHILL

Register at lutherhill.org

Worship. Lead. Serve: February 17-19

A gathering for high school youth in 6th-12th grade.

Unwind: February 24-26

Renew your body and spirit with your favorite ladies.

Explore: March 24-26

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

Spring Family Retreat: April 14-16

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



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 ELCA's social statement entitled **ABORTION** (1991) is grounded in the conviction that "Christians are united in Christ through faith with both the freedom and obligation to engage in serious moral deliberation." As ELCA a social teaching it draws upon this community's faith tradition that understands God's life-giving purposes as pressing "beyond the usual 'pro-life' versus 'pro-choice' language." The social statement provides guidance for pastoral care and deliberation regarding unintended pregnancies as well as basic themes for reflecting on and discussing public policy issues. It was adopted by the 1991 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

In the midst of a polarized public debate in the 80s and 90s that included people of faith on all sides, the abortion statement had the challenging task of speaking for a church similarly divided. The first question the statement dealt with was whether we as Christians were allowed to disagree. The first section, "Our Unity and Diversity in Christ," states that our unity comes because we are a) part of God's creation, b) members in the Church, and c) share in one confession that we are justified by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Lutherans also share a belief that the Bible is the authoritative source and norm ("*authoritative source and norm*" being a quote from the ELCA's constitution).

The statement's fundamental judgment about abortion is this: "*Abortion ought to be an option only of last resort. Therefore, as a church we seek to reduce the need to turn to abortion as the answer to unintended pregnancies.*" The statement continues "*we confess our sin and move to 'live out our support for life in all its dimensions'*" through hospitality, keeping sexual intercourse in its proper setting and using contraception, action, and education.

Lastly, the section addresses life-degrading attitudes such as irresponsible sexual activity, individualism, and

materialism. The statement then reminds the church of its call to be a compassionate community that gives care, offers competent counsel, and recognizes the moral complexity of individual situations. The pastoral response focuses on respecting the integrity of those involved in making the decision. In most circumstances, the statement says, this church encourages women with unintended pregnancies to continue the pregnancy, assessing the situation realistically, and considering adoption as a positive option.

When considering ending a pregnancy, a woman or couple may consider factors such as unwilling participation in the sexual act leading to conception, threat to the life of the mother, and severe fetal abnormalities. However, "This church opposes ending intrauterine life when a fetus is developed enough to live outside a uterus with the aid of reasonable and necessary technology." Whatever the decision made, "we must ultimately rely on the grace of God." Next, it supports a better life for the child and parents through improved social services and initiatives such as parental leave.

Lastly, the statement addresses issues that require further deliberation, such as gaining spousal and parental consent for abortions and using public funding to pay for the procedure. It elaborates on the complexity of those issues, then calls Lutherans to engage in "public debate on abortion in a spirit of respect for those with whom they differ." The statement ends with this final paragraph, seeking to call ELCA members to full participation in shaping the society into which mothers ponder bearing their children: "In conclusion, the church's role in society begins long before and extends far beyond legislative regulation. It seeks to shape attitudes and values that affirm people in whatever circumstances they find themselves. Its pastoral care, compassionate outreach, and life-sustaining assistance are crucial in supporting those who bear children, as well as those who choose not to do so. Through these and other means the people of God seek to be truly supportive of life."

The link for the full document:

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

AMMPARO

St. James Family Life Center

St. James Family Life Center offers free ESL classes. AMMPARO members Rebecca Shields and Carolyn Jacobs taught English to a small group of Spanish-speaking women for 10 weeks this fall. Linda Alexander also volunteered to provide more one-on-one opportunities for the students. The students, all women, knew almost no English to start with, but all were literate in Spanish. Emphasis in the course is on speaking and listening comprehension to develop communication skills for practical situations of daily life. The women were always enthusiastic as we worked with dialogues and vocabulary, but some were not able to continue the whole time as they got jobs or had other interruptions. At the end of the term, they celebrated their hard work and collaboration with a cake, and each participant was given a certificate and a copy of "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein.

A few students will continue beginning in January for another 10 weeks and there will probably be new students added to the group.



Christ the King volunteers Linda Alexander and Rebecca Shields celebrated the end of the term with participants of the Family Life Center's ESL class.



Church World Services *Welcome Backpacks*

Help us assemble backpacks for Migrant Children

January 28, 10am-12pm

Parish Hall, Rice Village Campus

Right now, there are hundreds of unaccompanied children that need your support. Most of these children have seen intense violence and were forced to flee their home countries with what little they could carry. After traveling thousands of miles full of uncertainty, these children are gearing up for their newest journey here in the United States: school! For any child, the start of school comes with both nerves and excitement. For children who are new to this country and don't have school supplies, however, it can feel terrifying and lonely.

Please join AMMPARO with an upcoming engagement opportunity to benefit Church World Services Welcome Backpacks campaign. Each backpack will help welcome children ages 14+ and give them the courage and supplies they need to feel prepared and ready for success as they enter their new school. **Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 28th from 10am-12pm at Christ the King as we host and join in partnership with St. James Lutheran Church, Sagrada Familia/Kinsmen Lutheran and Principe de Paz/Sagrada Corazon to assemble backpacks for migrant children and youth in need!**

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



**Saturday
January 14**

8:00 a.m. - noon

For information
contact 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, Jan. 14
Saturday, March 11
Saturday, May 13
Saturday, July 8
Saturday, Sept. 9
Saturday, Nov. 11

Volunteer with us at the Houston Food Bank Saturday, January 14



Filling pantries. Filling lives.

Useful information

When: 8:00am to 12:00pm

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

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

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

Contact: Justin and Yuricel at ctkhfb@gmail.com.

**freewheels
houston**



Christ the King Workday at Freewheels Second Saturdays of EVEN Months

9:00am-12pm

Next volunteer date: February 11

Details to follow in our February newsletter of contact Bill
Chapman at wpchapman01@gmail.com.



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!

Faith Perspectives: A Justice Lens on the Relationship between People & Planet

Sunday, Jan. 8, 3 p.m. central, online

All faiths espouse a human responsibility to care for the planet. But how is that responsibility linked to faith-based concepts of justice? A panel of speakers of diverse faiths will address their faith's view on the relationship between people & the planet, and how it connects to justice. Once all panelists have spoken, an opportunity for audience Q&A with the panel will follow. Register for this event on www.eventbrite.com at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-justice-lens-on-the-relationship-between-people-planet-tickets-480197974067>. For more, please contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com.

Churchwide Assembly Justice Look-Back: Black Migrant Strategy

At churchwide assembly in August, a memorial was passed calling for the strengthening of advocacy, protection, and accompaniment of Black migrants. In particular, the memorial re-commits the ELCA to advocating for Temporary Protected Status and a just and humane

Justice Advocacy Opportunity *Smorgasbord*

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

Environmental Justice for All – The Environmental Justice For All Act would establish various programs and requirements in order to combat disproportionate environmental effects of federal laws on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) communities and/or low-income households. Some noteworthy provisions include outdoor access for all, environmental justice grants, a fair and just transition economic development assistance fund & more. Take action at this link: <https://secure.everyaction.com/s0RM0nF3iUCZ9aC-C4PyAQ2>.

Protect Dreamers & Other Immigrants – Sadly, many undocumented immigrants, even with established roots, continue to be pushed to society's peripheries. Long-term Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders and DACA recipients are among those that have endured tremendous legal uncertainty over the past several years. Because undocumented workers often live in fear of deportation, unfair and unsafe working conditions go unchecked. As integral as undocumented immigrants are to U.S. communities, U.S. laws have not changed in a meaningful way to reflect their vital status. There are multiple bills before Congress that envision a humane path forward. Take action at this link: <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1572>.

HIV/AIDS – Though there have been considerable medical advances in addressing HIV and AIDS in the last several years, issues such as access to healthcare, stigma, inequality, and other factors have led to increased disparities in new HIV and AIDS cases rapidly becoming a core threat to addressing racial and gender justice inequities in our communities. Core public policy issues include: Enhancing U.S. Health Programs, Recognizing Housing is Healthcare, & Strengthening Global HIV/AIDS Programs. Take action at: <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1570>.

Protect and Feed Our Nation's Children – More than 12 million children in the U.S. are not getting enough to eat. Policies that strengthen and protect child nutrition programs and refundable tax credits could make a big difference. Reinstating the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) would be a major step forward. Take action at: <https://go.bread.org/page/39219/action/1>.

immigration policy. It also encourages working with ecumenical and interfaith partners both domestically and internationally to strengthen the current protection and accompaniment of Black migrants. To learn more about this memorial, or other justice-related actions taken at the 2022 churchwide assembly, see this link: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Churchwide-Assembly>.

The Work of the ELCA: Innovation Lab

In our ever-changing and increasingly complex world, innovation is key. This is especially true for the ELCA. As we address today's biggest challenges – and opportunities – the lab provides a space for the church to generate ideas, unleash creativity and create positive change in the world God so loves. "The way people hear and receive the gospel is changing at an increasingly rapid rate. The competitors of the gospel are many. What hasn't changed is the liberating good news that we are loved and are set free to serve the neighbor. The Innovation Lab gives us the space to experiment and innovate in real time so more people

can know more about Jesus and experience the love of God." (Bishop Elizabeth Eaton) To learn more about The Innovation Lab, see: <https://www.elca.org/innovationlab>.

Rapid Response & Legislative Engagement Teams

The Texas legislature is in session in 2023, so it's time to get ready. Texas is a big place, and it takes a lot of faithful advocates to keep the arc bending toward justice! There are two ways you can get involved. (1) Consider signing up for the volunteer Rapid Response team at Texas Impact. Rapid Response volunteers receive frequent, time-sensitive requests for action during the legislative session, including texts, calls, and emails. (2) You can work with Texas Impact staff to speak for justice as a member of the volunteer legislative engagement teams. These are geographically based teams whose members work together to establish relationships with legislative offices and serve as connectors between legislators and Texas Impact. Learn more/sign up here: <https://texasimpact.org/join-a-team/>.



Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Continue...

The CTK Creation Care Team invites you to a monthly environmental education web meeting series whose theme in 2023 is Interconnection.

Confronting Climate Gridlock

Sunday, January 29, 6 p.m. central, online

Confronting climate change will require interconnected efforts to improve technologies, policy, and diplomacy. Professor Dan Cohan of Rice University will explore the interconnections between domestic and international efforts and market-based and policy approaches to accelerate the pursuit of clean energy and slow global warming. Drawing on lessons from his recently published book, *Confronting Climate Gridlock: How Diplomacy, Technology and Policy Can Unlock a Clean Energy Future*, this talk will show how efforts to confront climate change can help make clean energy more abundant and

affordable around the world. Register for this talk on www.eventbrite.com at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/confronting-climate-gridlock-tickets-480202658077>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com with any questions.

Climate Solutions 101

Tuesdays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 14, 6 p.m. central, online

Think there is no solution to climate change? Nothing could be farther from the truth. Climate Solutions 101 is the world's first major educational effort focused solely on climate solutions. Rather than rehashing well-known climate challenges, these materials from Project Drawdown concentrate on game-changing climate action based on rigorous scientific research and analysis. Register on www.eventbrite.com at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-solutions-101-tickets-468915688447>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

Faithful Resilience: A Study on Climate Resilience for Faith Communities

Wednesdays, January 11 – February 15, 6 p.m., online

Faithful Resilience is a six-part weekly

study on climate resilience for faith communities. Join the exploration and consider how you can become a force for climate resilience. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fairful-resilience-a-study-on-climate-resilience-for-faith-communities-tickets-468917503877>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

Turning Lawns into Native Vegetable Gardens

Sunday, February 5, 3 p.m. central, online

Join Dany Millikin, Director of Education at the Houston Botanic Garden, to learn how to convert your lawn to a native vegetable garden. In addition to his work at the garden, Dany has long specialized in incorporating edibles into landscaping. In fact, he co-founded Edible Earth Resources, an edible-focused regional landscaping company, specializing in the design, installation and maintenance of edible landscapes. Learn how to transform your lawn into a beautiful edible native plant garden! Register on www.eventbrite.com at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/turning-lawns-into-native-vegetable-gardens-tickets-487290347547>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

QUE PASA at Christ the King Church? Are you connected?

Christ the King Church strives to keep our members connected and up to date. We generally send two weekly emails, on Thursday with the news and events of the upcoming week and on Sundays with worship information. Please let us know at ctk@ctkelc.org if you are NOT receiving our emails and would like to subscribe. Also, be sure to check out our YouTube channel, our Facebook page, and website. CTKELC.ORG



Flowers for the Nave in 2023

To donate flowers in honor, memory of or thanksgiving for someone, you will find available dates listed at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0849a4a92ca2f85-2023> or you may email your preferred date to Cheryl at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org. Flower arrangements are \$70 per Sunday. Checks can be made out to Christ the King Lutheran Church with "Altar Flowers" in the memo line or submit an online payment at www.ctkelc.org.



Gail and Pr. Larson



The congregation honored Gail Glass on her 90th birthday and for her 75 years as an active member of Christ the King Church. The "surprise" guest preacher for the day was Gail's nephew, Dr. Stephen M. Larson, the son of Christ the King Church's first pastor Kenneth Larson (Gail's brother-in-law).

Deacon Rick Erickson was celebrated with a cake and champagne reception on December 4 in honor of his retirement as Cantor at Christ the King Church. Rick will continue to serve as Director of Bach Society Houston.



Las Posadas