



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 76, Number 11
November 2022



Advent Wreath Workshop at Rice Campus

November 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Our Altar Guild will once again host their annual wreath making in the courtyard. Materials are provided. A donation of \$20 is suggested to cover the costs. All

ages are invited to join in this communal craft activity to begin the Advent season in your homes. If you already have a wreath that you would like to decorate, please bring it and join the fun.

Bach on Four Keyboards

Forty Fingers for Forty Years

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

Christ the King Rice Village

Featuring Rick Erickson and Ben

Kerswell. [See Page 5](#)



Dia de los Muertos Celebration

Saturday, November 5, 6:00 p.m.

Christ the King Rice Village [See page 9](#)

All Saints Sunday

Light a candle

To remember loved ones who have died.

November 6, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Eleven Days of Prayer for Veterans

Weekdays at 8:30 a.m., November 1-11

Join us for a "prayer moment" outside at the corner of Rice and Greenbriar as we hang 17 dog tags (representing the 17 service members and veteran suicides occurring daily) on a special handmade tree.

Thursday, November 10, 7:00 p.m. Veterans Day Service led by our veterans Christ the King Rice Village.

[See page 14](#)

Thanksgiving Day

Service of the Word

Thursday, November 24, 10:30 a.m.

All are welcome. Casual attire is encouraged.

[See page 17](#)

CHRIST THE KING FESTIVAL

Christ the King Festival

Friday, Nov. 18, 7:00 p.m.

Festival Party Tickets on Sale

\$10 per person through November 10 at church or online.

Late sales \$15 per person.

Piecemakers' Quilt "Starlight"

Drawing tickets are sold on Sundays.



What is the CTK Festival?

It's our time to party for a good cause, really, several good causes. The CTK Festival celebrates our anniversary as a congregation caring and sharing for each other and for our neighbors in need. 100% of the proceeds benefit our outreach ministries and community partners. [See Page 3](#)

Sounds like fun! How are the funds raised?

There are several fun ways to party for our causes:

- Make gifts directly to organizations at the festival dinner.
- Sign up for more parties (also known as Sociables).
- Raise your hand to buy an item at the live auction or play one of our games.
- Buy drawing tickets for an opportunity to take home the Piecemakers' hand-stitched quilt.

What can you do to help? [See Last Page](#)

- Plan to attend the Festival party.
- Offer to host a Sociable.
- Buy lots of drawing tickets.
- Donate a quality bottle of wine (\$20+).

Interested in volunteering?

Contact Mary Ann Beseda at maryannbeseda@gmail.com

Deeply rooted, joyfully revived,
faithfully bearing fruit



Dear faithful people of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church:

**“This is the finest
staff with whom I’ve
ever served!”**

You’ve all heard me say that in some form since I began serving as Christ the King Church’s Interim Senior Pastor on June 15, 2021. I’ve meant every word of it and, as time has gone by and I’ve experienced their dedication, professionalism, and teamwork, that sentiment has only grown. But our staff team today is not the staff team with whom I began serving. There are fewer team members, a lot fewer.

In January 2021, the Christ the King Church team totaled 15 members:

senior pastor; associate pastor; vicar; Cantor; Music Associate; Deacon for Children, Youth and Family Ministry; Deacon for Administration; Director of Congregation Care; Congregation Nurse; Administrative Assistant; Director of Communications; Receptionist; and two members of the maintenance staff.

By January 2023, due to several retirements, our staff will total 9 members:

Interim Senior Pastor; Cantor (beginning a three-year term); Deacon for Children, Youth and Family Ministry; Deacon for Administration; Director of Congregational Care; Director of Digital Ministry; Administrative Assistant; and two members of the maintenance staff.

Christ the King Church is also served by Sergio Rodriguez, Pastor for Community Ministries, now in year 2 of a 3-year term, but his call is primarily to serve as campus chaplain at Rice University and in outreach to the Spanish-language community. After our merger with the “west campus,” we also added a part-time, interim transition pastor primarily serving people at that site. We can expect one more staff team member to retire sometime in 2023, in addition to a new senior pastor replacing this interim one.

In light of all of this, many of you have asked me what I think a “right-sized” staff might be in the future. This same question was discussed, and a “best case scenario” was suggested by our current staff at our September 2022 staff retreat. What follows here is our “reverent best guess.”

We believe the mission and ministry of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church with two physical campuses will best implement our 2023-2025 Strategic Plan with:

1. Senior Pastor (new);
2. Mission Development Pastor (new) at our west campus;
3. Pastor for Community Ministries Sergio Rodriguez;
4. Cantor Ben Kerswell (who begins a three-year term on January 1, 2023);
5. Deacon for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Ben Remmert;
6. Church Business Administrator: Deacon Beth Hartfiel;
7. Parish Nurse (new)
8. A new Property Manager position to include public relations
9. Director of Digital Ministries: Rachel McWhirter;
10. Administrative Assistant: Cheryl Gaspard
11. and 12. Our current maintenance team of Santiago and Arturo.

We also believe that since Christ the King Church has long been recognized as a “teaching parish” and the following positions will both serve the larger Church and strengthen our parish ministry and mission; the team above should be augmented by:

- a. a Seminary Intern preparing for either pastoral or diaconal ministry, appointed annually;
- b. a Music Associate (part-time)
- c. an Organ Scholar (part-time)

In all of this, we have not yet determined how to manage the duties of congregational care.

While on the one hand this is a leaner staff and therefore will have less impact on the operating budget, this is a staff that we believe will best serve us over the next three years. The annual inclusion of persons filling positions a, b, and c also allows for the flow of innovative ideas, concepts, and technologies, keeping us nimble as we face a changing future.

Can we afford this kind of staff? Maybe not at this time. Yet this is a servant team worthy of our aspirations and our dreams and is therefore worth stretching our stewardship to achieve. I’ll conclude as usual. What do you think? And with this invitation: Let’s find time to talk!

Peace and Joy – and Courage!

Amandus J. Derr
Interim Senior Pastor



Mission Offering



Christ the King Festival

November 6: St. James Family Life Center

Please join the AMMPARO team in supporting our partner, St. James Family Life Center, in raising money to provide \$100 Thanksgiving baskets to families in need. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 for ten families. For online donations, select the "other" option with a note for "Thanksgiving Baskets". Deadline for these donations is Sunday, November 6th.

November 13, 20, and 27: Festival Mission Offering

Christ the King Church is known for generosity in fulfilling our mission and call to love and serve our neighbors, especially to those most vulnerable. We fulfill that mission individually and collectively through collaboration with various ministry partners. You are invited to support our many frontline agency partners by donating to the Festival Mission Offering. Your donations, along with the proceeds from the Festival Party will be distributed on an as-needed basis and according to our congregation's commitments to our various ministry partners. Or you may designate your gift to one of the ministries below.

Christian Community Service Center (CCSC)

Serves the hungry, poor, homebound, disabled, unemployed, and needy through many programs. Festival donations benefit the Jingle Bell Express program, providing Christmas gifts and grocery gift cards for families in need.

SEARCH Homeless Services

Provides outreach and case management to engage homeless individuals, guide them towards change, and foster their improved health, income, and stability.

Freewheels Houston

Collects, repairs, and distributes bicycles to Houston's refugee community, homeless veterans, and low-income teenagers.

Hospitality Apartments

Provides free temporary housing for out-of-town patients being treated at the Texas Medical Center.

Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston

Enables persons and congregations to provide direct services to those in need, advocates on behalf of those in need, and coordinates activities which express shared religious values (such as Meals on Wheels and AniMeals, refugee support, and interfaith dialogues).

Houston International Seafarers Center (Port Chaplaincy)

Provides support to the chaplains at the Houston International Seafarers' Center. We also participate in Shoeboxes for Seafarers which provides gifts for sailors during the Christmas holidays.

AMMPARO

Supports migrant minors and their families with protection, advocacy, representation and more by providing emotional, spiritual, financial or physical support. (Includes working with our Afghan refugee family and with St. James Family Life Center and other agencies).

Lutherhill Ministries


Provides summer camps and year-round retreats where people can gather, worship, study, and play together.

Bright Stars of Bethlehem

Supports the health, educational, cultural and spiritual development of people in Palestine through the outreach ministries of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Brings God's hope, healing, and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the U.S. and around the world. When the dust settles and headlines change, LDR stays on to provide on-going assistance.



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.

November 6: Baby Shower for families in need: disposable diapers, baby wipes, and dry cereal

Join us in the courtyard for sweet treats and fun baby shower games. Whose baby are we celebrating? All those babies in need whose parents get assistance from the St. James Family Life Center emergency pantry. Please bring packaged disposable diapers, baby wipes or boxed dry cereal (for the older siblings). No need to gift wrap! Remember how many diapers your own babies went through and be grateful you won't be changing these dirty duds! Questions? Donna Olson-Salas at 713-416-0763 or olsonsalas_d@hotmail.com.

November 13: Faithfully Bearing Fruit

Join us for a conversation with Pastor Derr.

November 20: Conversation with the Call Committee

The Senior Pastor Call Committee continues its regular third Sunday of the month conversation with members to provide updates and to hear members' thoughts. To learn more, go to the Call Committee webpage--<https://ctkelc.org/strategic-plan-updates/senior-pastor-call-committee/>.

November 27: Advent Wreath Making Workshop

The Altar Guild hosts our annual wreath making workshop in the courtyard. Two different styles of wire wreaths, blue and purple advent candle sets, ribbon, bows, and greenery are provided. A donation of \$20 is suggested to cover the costs. All ages are invited to join in this communal craft activity to start the Advent season in your homes. If you already have a wreath that you would like to decorate, please bring it and join the fun.

Pray the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle:

Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m. on Facebook

The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle takes us through every region of the world

WEEKDAY ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The Life and Times of Paul with Dr. Howard Jones

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

West Campus In-Person

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

Follow me: An Introduction to Matthew's Gospel

Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Derr

Thursdays November 3, 10, and 17 at 3:00 p.m.

This three-week study is to help us prepare for the new Church Year beginning November 27, the First Sunday in Advent. This is series A of our three-year lectionary, and the Gospel for each Sunday will be a reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

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

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

Friday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Mandy Derr

Fridays at 10:00 a.m.

Rice Village campus

In-person in the second floor council room and online

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

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:

November 1: Canada, United States of America

November 8: Oceania

November 15: Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia

November 22: East Timor (Timor Leste), Indonesia, Philippines

November 29: Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore

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



Oktoberfest 2022

Community of Hope Training begins January 23

Monday evenings, January 23-April 3

Do you long to deepen your relationship with God? Do you want to strengthen your ability to handle difficult circumstances in everyday life? Do you want to be a better listener—to God, to your own heart, to your neighbor? Then, the Community of Hope might be for you!

The Community of Hope class awakens participants to God's call on their lives



through experiential discovery and a journey into wholeness. **This spiritual formation program** is anchored in the timeless principles of Benedictine spirituality and equips people to serve in all forms of ministry including lay chaplaincy. Most classes will be offered online with a few in-person. Class size is limited. Registration deadline is January 3. For more information or to receive an application, contact Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org, and for more about Community of Hope International, go to: <https://www.cohinternational.org>.

Bach on Four Keyboards - Forty Fingers for Forty Years!

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

Join Ben Kerswell and Rick Erickson in a fun, interactive program featuring the four wonderful keyboards at Christ the King - two organs and two harpsichords!

In continuing celebration of the 40th anniversary season, we feature these marvelous instruments that have supported and enhanced Bach's music for these years. Featuring music of Bach, Pachelbel, Walther, and more!

All welcome - free-will offering received. Reception follows.

Looking ahead...

Sunday, December 4 at the 11:00 a.m. service, Christ the King Rice Village will celebrate our annual Service of Lessons and Carols, featuring our wonderful choral singers presenting wonderful music of the Advent season.



Saturday, December 10th at 3:00 p.m. Bach's great Christmas Oratorio will be performed by our Bach Society Houston artists at the magnificent new Brockman Hall for Opera at Rice University. Join us to hear this seldom (in the US) performed masterpiece. Tickets \$35-\$75 (\$20 students) available on the Bach website.



Space City Sound,

an acapella music group that uses the West Campus for outdoor concerts, will participate in the **10:30 am worship service on Sunday, November 6, 2022.** Their selections -- *Lumeinei, O Love That Will Not Let*

Me Go, and I'll Fly Away -- will be woven into the All Saints Sunday service.



Lectio Divina

Mondays, 12:00 p.m. on Zoom

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

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

November Dates:

- 6, 13, 20: Godly Play at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
13: Technology Milestone Celebration at Rice Campus, 11:00 a.m.
18: CTK Festival Celebration at Christ the King Rice Campus, 7:00 p.m.
27: Advent Wreath Workshop at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.

December Dates:

- 2-3: Advent Retreat at Lutherhill

Technology Milestone Celebration at Rice Campus November 13 at 11:00 a.m.

All our children that have received a new tablet, cell phone, or computer will be blessed during the worship service on Sunday, November 18 at 11:00 a.m. As new technology gives us access to information and greater communication, we want to bless all our families. If you will be participating in our blessing, please let Deacon Ben Remmert know at benremmert@ctkelc.org by Wednesday, November.

Advent Family Devotionals: *Be Not Afraid*

An Illustrated Advent for Families: Do Not Be Afraid provides an opportunity for families to take time each week during the Advent season to be intentional and focus on their faith. These weekly reflections explore our theme, "Do Not Be Afraid," which is found in Jesus' birth story in the Gospel of Luke.

Below is a list of the themes for each of the five weekly devotionals:

- Week 1: Do Not Be Afraid to Hold Hope
(Scripture: Luke 1:26-45)
- Week 2: Do Not Be Afraid to Bring Peace
(Scripture: Luke 1:46-55)
- Week 3: Do Not Be Afraid to Practice Joy
(Scripture: Luke 2:1-14)
- Week 4: Do Not Be Afraid to Choose Love
(Scripture: Luke 2:15-20)

Advent Retreat: *December 2-3, 2022*

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

Christmas is coming! Let's get ready. Advent is the sacred time in our church year that helps us prepare for Jesus to be born into our world, again. It's a time of holy anticipation

and preparation. At this mini-retreat, campers gather for an action-packed 24 hours at the Hill. We'll get ready for Christmas as we explore the story of Jesus' birth and prepare space in our lives and our hearts for Jesus to come.

Cost: \$60 per camper, \$40 per sponsor

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



LUTHERHILL RETREATS AND NEWS

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 Godmother. 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/>.



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



November Dates:

- 6: Confirmation Class at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 13: Confirmation Class at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 13: Luther League Turkey Olympics at Rice Campus, 12:15 p.m.
- 20: No Confirmation Class at Rice Campus
- 20: Advent Wreath Workshop at Rice Campus, 9:30 a.m.
- 27: Sr. High Gathering at Rice Campus, 12:15 p.m.

Sr. High Gathering Meeting

Second and Fourth Sundays of the Month at 12:15 p.m.

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

Fill a Shoebox and Delight a Seafarer

Christ the King Lutheran Church is collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts to give to seafarers who visit the Port of Houston during the holiday season. The gifts will be distributed by the Seafarers' ecumenical ministry. We encourage members and friends to fill a shoe-box FULL with items such as: combs, soap, shaving cream, disposable razors, lip balm, toothbrushes and toothpaste, pads, pens, puzzles, envelopes, needles and thread, deodorant, heavy socks (no ankle socks), shoe laces, work gloves, knit caps, flashlights, calendars, bottle openers, nail clippers, aspirin, band-aids, key chains, small photo albums, USB memory sticks, Texas souvenirs, playing cards, magazines, hard

candy (no chocolate) or something fun. Please pack boxes for men (there are very few women on the vessels). Please bring your filled shoebox to church by Sunday, December 4.

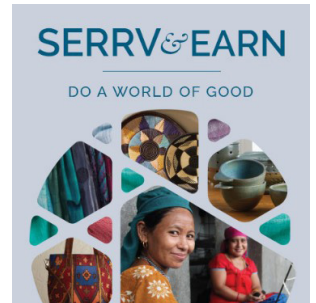
Luther League Turkey Olympics

Sunday, November 13, 12:30 p.m.

We will host our seventh annual Turkey Olympic games at Christ the King Church on Sunday, November 20 at 12:30 p.m. All youth are invited for a time to gather to see who will win the Gold this year in our Turkey Shot Put, Turkey Toss, Turkey Wrap, and several other games! You don't want to miss out on this event!

Raise money for Luther League by Shopping SERRV!

Love to give handmade gifts? Help the Luther League this holiday season with our online fundraiser from Serrv & Earn. The Serrv & Earn program partners with fair trade artisans and our youth group by offering this online shopping fundraiser. 20% of your total online sales will be donated to the summer 2023 Youth Trip. The website links will be emails in the weekly congregational emails. Here is the link to our special webpage: <https://www.serrv.org/?a=ctklutherleague>.



Shopping begins on November 7 and the last date to shop is December 12. Thank you for helping us to empower small-scale global artisans & farmers to build sustainable employment, resources, rights and a vision of hope for their communities.



2021 Shoeboxes for Seafarers wrapped by Luther League



Oktoberfest 2022



MARK YOUR CALENDARS SUMMER 2023

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

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

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

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

Summer Germany Trip

June 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 no later than December 1 with a \$600 deposit. Scholarships are available.



CTK tree that was planted in Wittenberg by the 2019 Germany trip participants.



Lutheran Campus Ministry, Rice University

We are almost at the end of the Fall 2022 Semester! And this one has been quite a challenge for our students. From job interviews to major architectural projects, we have supported our students through meals, prayer shawls, opportunities for spirituality and the comfort of Annie,

LATINE MINISTRY

Saludos en el nombre de Cristo!

Dia de Los Muertos is finally upon us! On **November 5, 6:30 p.m.**, Christ the King, Rice Village will be celebrating Dia de Los Muertos together. You're invited to bring the photos of your deceased loved ones to our CTK Ofrenda. The Ofrenda will stay up through the weekend.

In addition, mark your calendars for the celebration of **La Virgen de Guadalupe** at the **11 a.m. service on December 11** at Christ the King Rice Village and the various Las Posadas opportunities available for you and your family starting on December 16. Bendiciones y Paz!

Rev. Rodriguez' Westie. As the semester comes to its end, consider how you may host a meal, provide cookies or snacks for student study breaks, or any other kind of support that shows you are accompanying students along this final stretch. Reach out to Rev. Rodriguez at sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org if you would like to help in any of the ways provided above.



Dia de los Muertos

Freewheels seeks volunteers to prep bikes for refugees, veterans

Freewheels Houston is looking for more volunteers to clean and repair used bicycles so that people who lack other ways to get to work and school can count on a safe, reliable bike.

Through Sept. 30, Freewheels—the bike repair ministry launched at Christ the King Church in 2015—has provided bikes to 369 people including refugees, veterans emerging from homelessness and students from Klentzman Intermediate School in Alief ISD. The nine-month total for 2022 is nearly double the full-year 2021 total of 190 bikes.

The key to meeting continued high demand for Freewheels bikes is more people volunteering during Friday and Saturday workdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the well-equipped Freewheels shop, 6020 Jessamine #204 in the Gulfton neighborhood. CTK members are invited to volunteer as a group on the second Saturday of even-number months. The next session is Dec. 10.



Every week, bike requests flow in from case managers, school staff members and directly from people who need a bike. Freewheels also receives bike donations every week.

You don't have to be a bike mechanic to help at Freewheels. After your initial safety briefing, we will get you started cleaning a bike. If you know how to fix a flat tire, you will probably change a tube on one of your first bikes. If you don't, one of our experienced volunteers will show you how. If you come back, you are likely to learn something new about repairing bikes. You are also likely to meet some of the people who need bikes.

Your morning at Freewheels will be fun, productive and a way to welcome newcomers to the Houston community.



Freewheels board member Brent Dyer is a regular volunteer at Saturday workdays.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

*Looking ahead to monthly publications of **THE KING'S BANNER** several of the ELCA's **SOCIAL STATEMENTS** will be shared as summaries by Rev. George Brookover.*

Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective (1991) articulates the teaching of the ELCA on the church's relation to society and its public presence and responsibilities. The statement begins with the claim that the witness of the church in society flows from its identity as a community that lives from and for the gospel. It sets forth the basic affirmations that structure how faith is active in a love that calls for justice in relationships and structures of society. The statement also identifies as basic commitments the church's institutional witness in society, the baptismal vocation of individual Christians, and the church as a community of moral deliberation.

Described in a shortened form of the paragraph above ELCA Social Statements are our description of our denomination as being **IN, NOT OF** the world. We discern that as followers of Jesus we live **IN** the world but are determined **NOT TO BE "WORLDLY."** This concept makes clear that the ELCA is not telling the world what to think or be. Rather this mode is a way of expressing "GOD'S WORK...OUR HANDS" by stepping into the local and global realms sharing our hope for justice and peace for all people. Our Statements are not decrees, edicts, mandates, or commands. Rather they are expressions of our beliefs as Christians with a Lutheran perspective. Every effort is put forth to develop documents that are not political. This does not mean that the processes and outcomes are not controversial. Sometimes both are.

The development of an ELCA Social Statement is a deliberate and collaborative process/project that can require several years before it is voted upon at a Churchwide Assembly. After a Churchwide Assembly approves the need for a Social Statement to be developed about a specific societal concern, problem or issue multiple steps, thousands of individuals and tens of thousands of dollars are utilized by a Task Force to discuss, compose, prepare study materials, publish, and distribute these materials and seek feedback and completion of surveys. Every congregation in the denomination is encouraged to have a group of constituents read and discuss the study materials. Upon completion of the consideration of the study materials each congregation

has the opportunity to submit a report. And individuals in a study group may submit their own comments to the Task Force.

ELCA staff members and a Task Force of theologians, synodical leaders, church pastors, and laity meet to study, calculate responses, and write and edit a final document for consideration by the Conference of Bishops and the ELCA Church Council. Recommendations from these two groups are considered by the Task Force and a "final draft" is presented to the ELCA Church Council for affirmation before it is included in the agenda of the next Churchwide Assembly for a vote. This statement was adopted the 1991 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

All this work is an intentional focus on maintaining the ELCA's dedication to offering a statement that presents a thoughtful and carefully developed statement for all ELCA constituents to utilize as congregations, individuals and agencies and organizations serving as disciples of Jesus IN, NOT OF the world.

The link for the full document:

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



houstonfoodbank

Filling pantries. Filling lives.

Houston Food Bank

Join us for our last 2022 volunteer outing on Saturday, November 12.

Useful information

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

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

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

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

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

AMMPARO

St. James Family Life Center

Please join the AMMPARO team in supporting our partner, St. James Family Life Center, in raising money to provide \$100 Thanksgiving baskets to families in need. Our goal is to raise \$1,000 for ten families. For online donations, select the "other" option with a note for "Thanksgiving Baskets". Deadline for these donations is Sunday, November 6th.

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

Baby Shower for Families in Need

Disposable diapers, baby wipes, dry cereal (for sibling)

November 6, 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Rice Campus

Additionally, AMMPARO is inviting you to a baby shower! Please join us at Christ the King Rice Village campus on Sunday November 6th between 9:30 and 10:30 am for sweet treats and fun baby shower games on the patio. Whose baby are we celebrating? All those babies in need whose parents get assistance from the St. James Family Life Center emergency pantry. Please bring packaged disposable diapers, baby wipes or boxed dry cereal (for the older siblings). No need to gift wrap! Remember how many diapers your own babies went through and be grateful you won't be changing these dirty duds! Questions? Donna Olson-Salas at 713-416-0763 or olsonsalas_d@hotmail.com. We hope to see you on the 6th!

Casa Juan Diego

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



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

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

Hope for the Holidays-Card Writing and Decorating

November 27 after worship in our Rice Village courtyard

Write & decorate holiday cards in Spanish & English (sample texts and materials provided), for



LIRS

refugee & immigrant families after church on Nov. 27. The personalized cards will be distributed by Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service (LIRS) to asylum seekers and people in immigrant detection centers and to kids that they serve through their Children & Family Service partners. LIRS is the only national non-profit given access to kids in detention over the holiday season, to bring them gifts. Last year, they brought hand-selected gifts to nearly 1800 kids. Donations for gifts for kids can be sent by check to LIRS at P.O. Box 17467, Baltimore, MD 21297-1467 (indicate Hope for the Holidays in the Memo line) or online at LIRS.org/GiveHope.



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 i-phone. Look for the sign in the narthex or the courtyard highlighting the justice issue, with the QR code that you can use to access the e-advocacy opportunity. Speak for justice, using your smartphone, each week at CTK!

The Path of Hope: A Study on Climate Action for Faith Communities

Thursdays, December 1 – 22, 5 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. A discussion guide is included that asks participants to think deeply about their own local faith community's direct service programs. 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. Please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-path-of-hope-a-study-on-climate-action-for-faith-communities-tickets-441986412257>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

Justice Advocacy Opportunity *Smorgasbord*

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

Immigration – Refugees

While there are some measures in place to respond to the Ukrainian refugee crisis, more support and lasting protections are needed, not just for Ukrainian refugees, but for all refugees. During a time of unprecedented global displacement, the U.S. has only resettled about 8,760 refugees towards an annual cap of 125,000. Ask the administration to provide more support for Ukrainians refugees, rebuild the U.S. refugee program, provide a designated parole program for Afghans, continue to re-locate Afghans who were left behind, and use refugee resettlement to the fullest extent possible: <https://lutheranimmigrationrefugeeservice.quorum.us/campaign/42320/>.

Hunger - Global Food Security

The world is experiencing a food crisis at levels not seen in a long time. It is critical for the United States to respond to food insecurity by investing in resilient agricultural programs that will help families overcome hunger. Urge legislators to support the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act, which provides congressional authorization to Feed the Future, a U.S. initiative charged with combating chronic hunger and food insecurity around the world: <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1558>.

Affordable Housing

Skyrocketing housing costs this year have made the prospect of staying securely in a home more challenging for many in our communities. Lack of available housing has become one of the main drivers of homelessness and has also significantly contributed to overall inflation in the last year. Evidence-based programs to address housing issues should be a higher priority than ever. Join with other Lutherans to ask your members of Congress to fully fund affordable housing programs: <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1516>.

Disaster Relief & Prevention

With the increased frequency/severity of disasters such as severe storms, floods, droughts, wildfires, tornadoes...public policies must better prepare for & respond to these events. Join other Lutherans in urging support for disaster relief & prevention: <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1552>.

Justice Advocacy Event

Sunday, November 13, after each worship service

The Justice Advocacy Ministry Team invites you to advocate for justice after each worship service on Sunday, Nov. 13. There will be a variety of justice topics about which you can advocate, and multiple ways to advocate quickly and easily, including using your smart phone, signing pre-printed letters or postcards & more. Stop by the tables in the courtyard and raise your voice for justice!

The Work of the ELCA

Education Program Planners

Education Program Planners is a series of curriculum which emphasizes seven actions of disciples of Jesus Christ. Learn creative and effective ways to: invite, pray, study, worship, give, encourage, and serve. The following program planners are available: Teach the Faith Initiative, Fanning the Flames

of Discipleship, Stir Us to Deeper Discipleship, Nurturing Faith in Community, Proclaiming the Story, Led To Lead, Imitate My Heart, Grow To Go, EveryWhere and EveryWay, and My Word! The Bible for Everyone. To learn more about these program planners, see: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Program-Planners>.

Churchwide Assembly Justice Look-Back

Salary Equity

At churchwide assembly in August, a memorial was passed calling for a study of pay gaps for rostered ministers in the ELCA, particularly as they relate to women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQIA+ community. To learn more about this resolution, or other justice-related actions taken at the 2022 churchwide assembly, see this link: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Churchwide-Assembly>.



Distribution of Devotionals for U.N. Climate Conference

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

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

Sustainable Celebrations

Sunday, November 13, 3 p.m. central, online

Whether celebrating in your home or your house of worship, people of all faith/spiritual traditions would like their occasions to be sustainable. Sustainability is frequently defined

as fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations. This is a simple definition, but putting it into practice for holidays and holy days may require some thought and planning. Lisa Brenskelle will draw from her decades of work in earth-keeping ministry in both Christian and interfaith settings to explain the key aspects to consider to making your celebration sustainable. Time for interactive discussion with the speaker will be provided. Please register for this talk on www.eventbrite.com at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sustainable-celebrations-tickets-430614338077>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com with any questions.



Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Continue...

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

Oneness: Scripture & Science

Sunday, November 27, 6 p.m. central, online

As John Muir famously wrote in 1911: "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." This expression of oneness, which Muir observed from his time in the Sierras, has both a scientific and a spiritual basis. Muir was prescient, as the known science in 1911 had only a rudimentary understanding, by our modern standards, or how all things connect. And, although Muir was raised in very devout Christian home and considered himself a Christian, he may never have connected the spiritual aspect of this oneness with the Christian faith. Join CTK member Lisa Brenskelle, who holds a doctoral degree in engineering and has spent decades working in earth-keeping ministry in both Christian and interfaith settings, as she highlights the oneness of all things as understood by modern science and as expressed in

Christian scriptures. Attendees will gain a deeper appreciation of how everything connects to everything else, including how humanity is woven into the fabric of the universe. Time for interactive discussion with the speaker will be provided. Please register for this talk on www.eventbrite.com at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oneness-scripture-science-tickets-430609794487>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com with any questions.

Faithful Resilience

A Study on Climate Resilience for Faith Communities

Tuesdays, November 8 – December 13, 6 p.m., online

Faithful Resilience is a six-part weekly study on climate resilience for faith communities. Over the last decade, hurricanes have intensified, wildfires have burnt stronger, and heat waves have baked our cities. These events can only be expected to get worse in the next decades. Most of our faith communities are not ready for these climate-driven disasters. Yet, all communities have an opportunity to

play a role in building resilience in their towns and cities. Join us for this six-week exploration and consider how our faith community can become a force for climate resilience. To learn more/register, see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faithful-resilience-a-study-on-climate-resilience-for-faith-communities-tickets-421609735067>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com for more information.

New Creation Care Website

Due to a generous donation, there is now a website listing all creation care activities from CTK's Creation Care Team, the synod Lutheran's Restoring Creation Team, and the Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston. The site also includes creation-focused prayers, Bible verses, quotes from notable Christians throughout history, eco-tips, eco-justice advocacy opportunities & more. Check it out the new website at <http://creationcares.org>.

Still Welcoming Veterans on Their Journey Home

Prayer Moment at 8:30 a.m. November 1-11, corner of Greenbriar and Rice
Veterans Day Service at 7:00 p.m. on November 10, Christ the King Rice Campus

A "prayer moment" is held outside our nave at the corner of Rice and Greenbriar on weekdays. At the conclusion each morning, we hang 17 symbolic dog tags on a special tree acknowledging the 17 veteran suicides occurring daily. On **Thursday, November 10, a Veterans Day Service of Thanksgiving and Intercession** will be held in the nave, open to the wider community. Veterans from CTK helped plan and lead this event. Share the news. Join with us in prayer as CTK continues to reflect on how we authentically can be a place of healing for service members and veterans.



Mind Body and Soul Food

Mind Body and Soul Food

in little bites

During this month of Thanksgiving, we reflect on the spiritual practice of gratitude.

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is "Thank You," it will be enough.

-Meister Eckhart

We are never more than one grateful thought away from peace of heart. Br. David Stendel-Rost

Joy is really the simplest form of gratitude.

-Karl Barth

It is not happiness that makes us grateful. It's gratefulness that makes us happy.

-Br. David Stendel-Rost

This month let's "count our blessings." Find (and write down if you are so inclined) five things each day for which you are thankful. Discover what impact gratitude has on your attitude.

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



WOMEN IN TRANSITION

November 14, 1:00 p.m.

Are you a woman fifty or older and curious about exploring the question “What’s next in my life?” Are you considering retirement, newly retired, or facing other milestone transitions, opportunities, or responsibilities? If so, you are invited to consider membership in the Women in Transitions Group, an interactive group where women inspire and support each other to continue a life of learning and engagement.

Our Transition Group meets the second **Monday of each month at 1:00 PM** (omitting summer months) in the homes of individual members. The social component is an important feature of the group, which nurtures both new and ongoing friendships through sharing and refreshments. Members decide on the program topic several months in advance and presentations are given by participants or guests from the community. Topics vary depending on the interests of the group. We continue to explore topics such as planning for the future: financially and legally, what is meant by leaving a legacy, healthy living, spiritual growth, transitions involving self and family, graceful aging, and other areas of interest. Together we are discovering new ways of facing our present and future challenges and opportunities!

Our next meeting is November 14 where Naomi Nelson will lead a discussion of women who have influenced our lives. **We extend a special invitation to all members of both CTK campuses and to women in the community who may not have a church home but who may be interested in joining this group.** Contact Beverly Davis or Gaelyn Leshner (lesher2@sbcglobal.net) for more information or to be added to the e-mail list.



Some of the Women in Transition display the beautiful handbound journals they made at their October meeting under the guidance of Irmie Willcockson.



Linus Project items

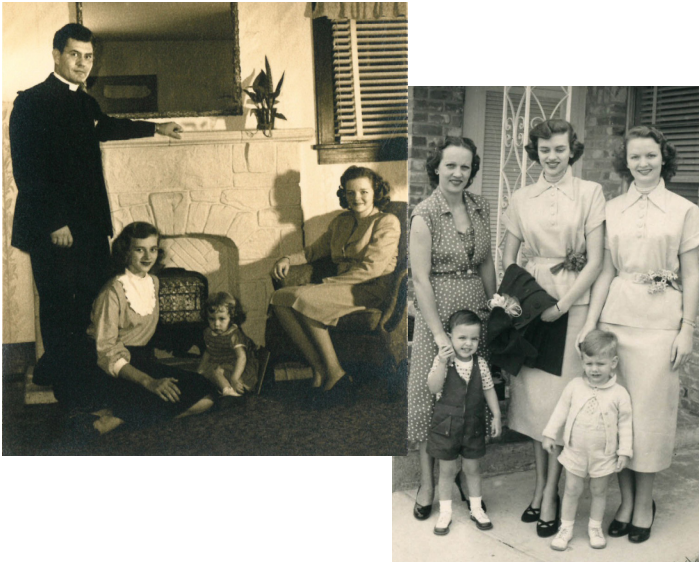
Prayer Shawl Ministry donates blankets, hats, and shawls

Our knitters are having a busy fall. Along with their normal prayer shawls, our Rice Village campus knitters have also been knitting blankets and other items for the Linus project and for SEARCH Homeless Services. Beverly Palmer’s sister Cindy Eagle crocheted 9 of the 14 blankets the group sent

to Linus, along with the five crocheted by Beverly, Sharon Ostwald and Wendy Wentland. The Linus Project provides new handmade blankets to children in need. Cindy and Beverly also collected the animals that were stuffed lovingly into each blanket. Additionally, Ellen Carter from our West Campus knitted 3 blankets, 3 car seat blankets and 12 hats. Others interested in knitting or learning to knit are always invited to join from home or in-person on Friday mornings.



GAIL GLASS CELEBRATES HER 90TH BIRTHDAY AND 75 YEARS AS A MEMBER OF CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH



On the first Sunday of Advent we will celebrate with our longest serving member of Christ the King, Gail Maurice Glass. Gail came to Houston when she was 13 years old to visit her sister Elaine whose husband Kenneth Larson was the pastor at Christ the King Church when it was a mission church. With its warm weather, Houston offered quite a change for Gail, who came from Duluth, Minnesota's cold weather. The next year when her mother died, she came to Houston to live permanently with the Larsons since her father traveled with his work. On November 30, 1947, Gail joined Christ the King Lutheran Church.



The 1995 Christ the King 50th anniversary quilt was "auctioned" and given to Gail as a surprise for her ministry with the Piecemakers.

In those early years, worship services were held at Roberts Elementary School with about 30 members in the charter group. From 1946 to 1949, the services were held in one of the classrooms. A teacher's desk was covered and served as an altar and table. The congregation sat in the students' small chairs. Andy Anderson played the piano and sang along

with his wife Norma and Gail, both altos, and soprano Elaine Larson. Gail was still singing in our church choir until not too long before the pandemic. She has served in many roles at Christ the King over the years and still serves on the Bach Society Houston Board.

An accomplished seamstress, Gail started sewing as a teenager for herself and clients. One of her first clients was member Louise Knutson who taught her many sewing skills. The first sewing group at the church was the Gold Thimble Group that made lap robes and bandages for the patients at MD Anderson Hospital. The Piecemakers started after Mary Peterman, Pastor Ed Peterman's mother, moved to Houston and introduced the group to quilting. (Pr. Peterman was senior pastor 1968-1998.) One of the highlights of the annual Christ the King Festival remains the unveiling of the annual Piecemaker's Quilt which was auctioned off for many years and is now offered to a lucky drawing winner.



This article contains portions of an interview with Gail written by Bridget Jensen for "Window to the Past", a book of recollections of early members of the church assembled by the Christ the King Life Stories Workshop facilitated by Anna Fay Williams from 2008-2010.



Thanksgiving Dinner at Christ the King

Rice Village Parish Hall

Thursday, November 24 at 11:45 a.m.

Paul and Marie Monroe have graciously volunteered to prepare turkey & dressing for a family-style Thanksgiving Day dinner in the parish hall on November 24. Students, seniors, and other folks without plans or family in town are invited. **If you would like, you may bring a covered dish to share** (salad, vegetable, bread, dessert, fancy drinks, etc.) **For an accurate count, please notify Beverly at** beverlydavis@ctkelc.org.

However, **if you don't sign up, you are still welcome;** everyone will eat their fill and we'll have baskets of food left over. Thanksgiving dinner will begin around 11:45 a.m. and run until the turkey tryptophan kicks in.



Thanksgiving Dinner

Crafting Tradition: A Crèche Festival

December 17 & 18, 2022

Parish Hall, Christ the King Church - Rice Village

Nativities from around the world have found their way into gift markets and private homes as people seek to connect with the authenticity and tradition represented by Indigenous folk arts. This exhibition of nativities represents the artistry by individuals, families, and community workshops utilizing various mediums, including clay, wood, paper, and textile, to craft a generational tradition of creating creche art. Come see beautiful nativities and learn the stories of the artists whose crafts have been emboldened through the art of the crèche.



Creche Fest Nativity

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS 2022

October 1
at Rice Village
Campus



October 8 at West Campus

Imagine two food trucks, multiple vendors, character sketch artists, face painters, and people offering guidance about animal care. To this beautiful October Saturday, add some horses from the Houston mounted police, lots of dogs, photos of cats, a bullsnake, and a possum, for whom blessings were given by Pastors Beth, Mandy, and Sergio at two times and in two different languages. From this event, hosted by Emmaus Spirituality Center and Christ the King West Campus, \$1,200 was collected for the benefit of the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition!!! Wow!





Christ the King FESTIVAL 2022



Donations
Needed!

Featuring:

Food and Fun!

Our ever-popular Sociables!
Piecemakers' Quilt Drawing!
Wishing Wall (featuring our
outreach ministries)
and Wine Pull!

Tickets On
Sale Now!



Christ the King Festival

2022 Celebration:
Deeply Rooted,
Joyfully Revived,
Faithfully Bearing Fruit

Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.
at the Rice Village Campus



Volunteers
Needed!



The Piecemakers are finishing up this year's quilt "Starlight," after sewing together 2,342 pieces of fabric and using over 1,500 yards of thread. Drawing tickets (\$10 each, \$25 for three chances) are on sale now through November 18.

If you want to donate a sociable
item, a bottle of wine, or an
auction item, contact Beverly!
beverlydavis@ctkelc.org



www.ctkelc.org

Want to volunteer?
Contact Mary Ann!
maryannbeseda@gmail.com