



# THE KING'S BANNER



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

2353 Rice Blvd,  
Houston TX 77005  
ctkelc.org

Volume 75, Number 3  
March, 2022

## LENT 2022

### Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith Together

How ought we to be community? How are we to abide as the body of Christ? Our Lenten Season, *Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith Together* calls us to abide in practices of solidarity; with each other, with the saints, in solitude, in God and on the way to the cross. There is much to fear coming out of this particular time: how are we becoming church today? What kind of meaningful life may we have in light of this pandemic time? Will the broken fabric of society be knit into some form of life much more grace-filled and connected than before? Join us these five weeks during our Sunday Forums as together we learn how to feast on faith; faith in community, with the saints, in solitude, through God's promises, on the way to life through the crucified one.

### Grace Unbounded, Devotions for Lent available in the Narthex

You are invited to pick up a copy of Grace Unbounded, Devotions for Lent 2022 in the narthex. Grace Unbounded provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil). Each devotion begins with an evocative image and a brief passage from the Gospel of Luke and includes quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers. In Luke's gospel, Jesus reaches out to all kinds of people. No limits, no restrictions, no boundaries—not even death—can stop Christ's love and grace for all people. Suggested donation per copy: \$2.00.

## LENTEN VESPERS

Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

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

### Feasting on Faith in the Spirit of the Catechism In-person in the nave or via livestream

Our Lenten Vespers this year offers a series of reflections on the central themes of Luther's Small Catechism that nourish our life together: Commandments, Creed, Prayer, Baptism, Communion. Through faith, we feast together on God's grace available through these central

elements in our life together.

These traditional Vespers will help us keep the spiritual discipline of Lent as we attend to the central theme of our Lenten Season this year: Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith Together.

**March 9 – Ten Commandments**    **March 30 – Holy Baptism**  
**March 16 – Apostles Creed**    **April 6 – Holy Communion**  
**March 23 – Lord's Prayer**

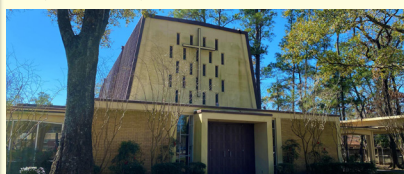
### A Study on Oscar Romero

Thursdays, March 17, 24, and 31 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

Gloria Dei, Vivens Pauper (The Glory of God is the Poor who Lives): A three-part study of the life and sermons of Oscar Romero.

Join us to commemorate and to deepen our knowledge of the ministry of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Contact [ctk@ctkelc.org](mailto:ctk@ctkelc.org) for the Zoom link.

A Celebration  
of the Life and Ministry of  
**MEMORIAL DRIVE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**



and

Rededication  
in Becoming Part of  
the Life and Ministry of  
**CHRIST THE KING  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
as the West Campus

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 13**

**4:00 O'CLOCK  
IN THE AFTERNOON**  
12211 Memorial Drive

**Reception to follow**  
in the Knoeller Garden  
Fellowship Hall  
in case of inclement weather

**FELLOWSHIP  
REFRESHMENT  
REACQUAINTANCE**

### Ongoing Weekly Offerings during Lent

See details inside.

**Sundays, 9:30 a.m. in-person and online**

Sunday Forum: Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith Together

**Mondays, 12:00 p.m. online**

Lectio Divina

**Tuesdays, 8:15 a.m. online**

Pray the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

**Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. in-person and online**

Lenten Vespers

**Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. online**

Bible Study on The Daily Use of the Gospel

**Fridays, 10:00 a.m. online**

Bible Study on the upcoming Sunday's  
First Reading and the Psalm



# Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith

“Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith Together,” our theme for Lent 2022 is neither an accidental choice nor is it new. This was the theme for my New York City parish twenty years ago; for Lent 2002, begun almost exactly 6 months after the September 11, 2001, attacks. Although these situations are significantly different from each other, the reactions, and responses I saw and experienced at the beginning of Lent then are little different from those I see and experience now. It was hard to “do” Ash Wednesday that year. Fires still burned at “the pile.” The smoke was still evident, a haze in the air; a stench in the nostrils. It was hard to say and, I believe, even harder to hear “remember that you are dust” that day. Especially as I traced the ash crosses on the foreheads of survivors; particularly when I did so at our neighborhood police precinct and fire station, each company having lost numerous colleagues, family members and friends on that day. The air waves were filled, and the city was plastered with cautionary messages: “if you see something, say something.” In nearly every venue many looked at neighbors, passers-by, strangers, even friends as if each was a threat. The authorities— in those days, the Counterterrorism Task Force, contacted me daily to convey the day’s threat level, color-coded red, orange, yellow and green. They reserved the right at any point, to curtail or cancel public gatherings. Signs, warnings, and fear were all around. Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith became my personal and pastoral theme that year.

I’m sure you see the parallels between then and now. Hence the theme Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith with one important addition – together.

As Lent 2002 began, there was a real sense of community and commonality. Fear-filled individuals found each other, embraced, and held on to each other, found faith together with one another. Community was needed then. Community was encouraged then. Community was allowed then; and community eclipsed differences and divides. Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith then was for the individual and the disciplines of Lent were much more personally focused.

As Lent 2022 begins, that sense of community and commonality is, at best, strained, and at worst, the fabric of our community is shredded. The Lenten resources we developed are to address that reality as we come slowly out of our long – two week short of two year – pandemic-induced fast.

We have not yet completely ended our COVID fasting from people, activities, and things we love; and we have managed, thanks be to God, to nourish our faith through live-stream as well as cautiously in-person worship; similarly offered faith formation and on-line gatherings and activities; and a whole raft of other “remote” resources and opportunities. All of these have been good, but none of these, by themselves, has been wholly adequate. Lent 2022 must be something completely different. It must give the Holy Spirit more means

and must give us more opportunities to gain experience in fearless faith together. It must show us ways to knit our communities at all levels together. This Lent cannot be for self-improvement but about re-weaving the

tattered social fabric meant that holds us safely together. Please consider what kind of fasting will help you participate in that and then commit yourself to fast on fear together with others.

In order to feast on faith together we need to over-indulge on communal gatherings that knit us together and nourish us together in faith. Over-indulge, feast on faith, by committing to be safely present, receiving Christ’s body and blood together every week in Lent. We are each essential parts of the Body of Christ, needing each other. Invite others you know to join you so that with them all of us can feast on faith together. At Christ the King Church we will continue to maintain reasonable precautions to keep us all, especially the most vulnerable, safe when we gather. With equal care for each of our well-beings, we encourage you to gather!

I invite you to look over the resources highlighted in this King’s Banner and commit yourself to use the resources you think will be most helpful to you and your sense of community during Lent. Invite others to join you as you use these.

Lent is a time of renewal. This Lent, we need renewal together more than ever. Peace and Joy – and Courage!

Amandus J. Derr, Interim Senior Pastor

## Together Lent 2022

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF CHURCH PLANNING SUMMIT

## FEBRUARY 26, 2022

**133 persons attended the church summit** to hear and participate in discussion about internal (us) perceptions and trends, and external (others) perception and trends. This data has been informed through survey, church data, cold calls to individuals in the church's surrounding community, and community data.

**314 unique responses** (over a 50% response rate) to the church insight survey and 448 interviews conducted from over 2,000 calls to individuals in the church's surrounding community provided major themes and insights. The major themes and insights will serve as guideposts to the results of the priorities poll/questionnaire which was administered to attendees at the Summit (and soon released). The four major themes and insights distilled by Triangle2 along with Summit discussions will be considered by the planning team in strategic plan development.

### In no order the four major themes are:

1. Current membership base is different in demographic makeup than future membership base;
2. To fully realize growth potential, refreshed vision, intentional organization and new thinking will be required (and the church is enthused for it);
3. Tension at the intersection of Social Gospel and Lutheran traditions; and
4. Music is a key element to worship experience

The Planning Team (Maureen Lamson, Nyla Woods, Pastor Beth Marie Halvorsen, Pastor Amandus Derr, Pastor Sergio Rodriguez, with Terri Koehler, Council President, and Daniel Zorn, Local Facilitator) met immediately after the Summit to establish: 1) a communications plan to be administered throughout the process; 2) a plan for congregational-member access to information and data; 3) mechanisms for continued congregational input throughout the process; 4) affirmation of project timeline; and 5) beginning work to identify Christ the King Lutheran Church's core values (tradition).

Regular congregational reports from the Planning Team to the congregation will be communicated through the church's Thursday-member email distribution. The Planning Team affirmed to achieve a draft strategic plan presented to Church Council in early June for ratification by the congregation no later than June 30, 2022.

**The following link offers access to data from Triangle2:**  
**[www.triangle2.com/CtKSummitData](http://www.triangle2.com/CtKSummitData)**

I offer my personal email address should you wish to share any thoughts during this process:

Daniel Zorn – [zorn.daniel@gmail.com](mailto:zorn.daniel@gmail.com).

### I invite you to pray this prayer

#### offered by Pastor Halvorsen at the Summit:

Spirit of patience, remain with us.

Help us to honor experiences that may differ from our own, and to be attentive to what we might not have considered.

May the fruits of being patient then make us curious about how these differences might shape us anew.

Spirit of restlessness, awaken us.

Help us to imagine new possibilities, even if a bit wild and crazy, and to eventually birth new life with our neighbors both near and far.

Stir us through our creativity,

but also let us perceive how our heritage is nonetheless grounding and shaping us.

Spirit of grace, be within us—and among us.

Help us to wrestle with both our gifts and our limits, and to navigate the awkwardness of becoming one congregation.

Calm us when we are irritated or afraid, and call us to trust that you are, have been, and will be leading us in this journey.

Spirit of strength, empower us.

Help us to articulate appropriately our thoughts, ideas, feelings, and to assert that shifting, adapting, and adjusting is good - part of being God's people.

Give us the strength not only to offer clarity, but also, to embrace the reality that uncertainty, messiness, and mistakes are natural.

Spirit of patience, remain with us.

Spirit of restlessness, awaken us.

Spirit of grace, be within us and among us.

Spirit of strength, empower us.

We ask this in your name and for the sake of the vision that you desire. Amen.

On behalf of the Planning Team thank you for your faithfulness, your participation, and your prayers.

Daniel Zorn, Local Facilitator, Strategic Planning Team





A Celebration of the Life and Ministry of  
**MEMORIAL DRIVE  
 LUTHERAN CHURCH**



and  
**Rededication**  
 in Becoming Part of the Life and Ministry of  
**CHRIST THE KING EVANGELICAL  
 LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 as the West Campus

**SUNDAY  
 MARCH 13**

**4:00 O'CLOCK  
 IN THE AFTERNOON**

12211 Memorial Drive Houston, Texas

Reception to follow in the Knoeller Garden

*Fellowship Hall in case of inclement weather*

**FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENT REACQUAINTANCE**

**HONORED GUESTS**

*Former Pastors and Interim Pastors of  
 Memorial Drive Lutheran Church*

**Members and Staff from**

*Christ the King Lutheran Church  
 (both campuses)*

*Aihua Chinese Class*

*Memorial Drive  
 Community Garden*

*Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod*

*Local Clergy of All Faiths*

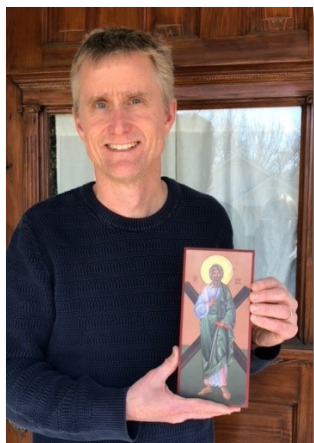
*Emmaus Spirituality Center*

*Umoja Lutheran Church*

*Memorial Assistance  
 Ministries*

**CLERGY ARE INVITED TO VEST. COLOR OF THE DAY IS WHITE.**

**Daylight Savings Time March 13**  
*Spring Forward*



**Our Saint Andy  
 with Saint Andrew**

Andy Winesett was presented with an icon of Saint Andrew at the annual meeting on February 20 in gratitude for his leadership as congregation council president, 2020 -2021.

**Guess Who?**

Anneliese Williams enjoyed making her Mardi Gras mask at our Carnival brunch on February 27.



**Where do  
 our ashes  
 come  
 from?**

Liz Lloyd and Bette Bowers, with help from Marcello Rodriguez and Paul Schoppe, prepared this year's ashes for Ash Wednesday using last year's palm crosses.







# CARNIVAL 2022



On February 27, Christ the King members and friends enjoyed a festive and delicious pancake brunch cooked by our youth, music by the Brass Choir, games and dancing, culminating in the cutting of Deacon Ben's hair to be donated to the non-profit *Children with Hair Loss*.



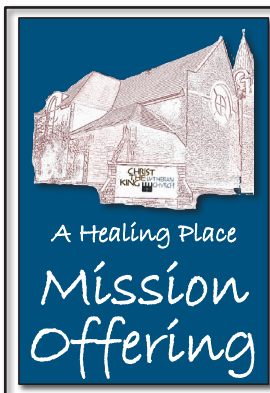




Deacon Ben Remmert demonstrates that he is a “cut above the rest” as he gets “sheared” to support *Children with Hair Loss*.







# Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston



## Meals on Wheels Animeals on Wheels

### IM's Core Beliefs are:

- Interfaith Ministries promotes a community where faith is vital for our life together.
- People of faith are accountable for building a just and compassionate community.
- There is value in working together in the community.

Interfaith Ministries (IM) brings people of diverse faith traditions together for dialogue, collaboration and service, as a demonstration of our shared beliefs.

It envisions a community of faith working and acting together in response to the Divine call to create a more just, compassionate, and caring society. Christ the King Church is a covenant member of IM's Interfaith Circle.

IM works with 10 communities of faith, including Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Unitarian Universalist and Zoroastrian. Together they

provide the foundation upon which IM builds collaborative partnerships to serve seniors and refugees. Their programs advocate for the needs and rights of at-risk and special needs children, enhance the independence and dignity of low-income seniors, and improve the quality of life for refugees.

Collaboration among people of different faiths strengthens what IM accomplishes and bridges misunderstandings among people of diverse beliefs. IM serves individuals in a ten-county, greater Houston area with the help of over 2,000 volunteers. **Christ the King Church is a member of IM's "inner circle."**

### Meals on Wheels

provides home-delivered meals to disabled adults and homebound clients over 60. This nutritional support helps



people stay independent and in their own homes. They serve nearly 5,000 seniors a hot meal each day.

For every \$5 you give, IM is able to provide one homebound senior with a home delivered meal. The program also delivers weekend meals and a week's worth of breakfast to about a quarter of our most frail and isolated clients.

### Animeals on Wheels

delivers pet food to over 1,300 cats and dogs of Meals on Wheels clients so the clients do not feel compelled to share



their limited food and resources with their furry friends. IM collects donated pet food that volunteers deliver each month to clients.

**You are invited to donate dry cat or dog food throughout April. Drop off your kibbles on Sundays or contact [ctk@ctkelc.org](mailto:ctk@ctkelc.org) to arrange a weekday drop-off.**

## LWR PERSONAL CARE KITS

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

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

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



#### The items we need most are:

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

**Drop off items in the Narthex or the church office.**

Additional items we collect are:

Adult-size toothbrushes in original packaging and Sturdy combs, remove packaging.

**[lwr.org/personalcarekits](http://lwr.org/personalcarekits)**



**We can only assemble as many kits as we have bath towels:**

**new, light-weight, preferably dark colored bath towels (maximum 52" by 27")**



# Sunday Forum

Sundays 9:30 a.m.

In-person in the basement classroom  
or online

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

## LENT 2022

### Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith Together

How ought we to be community? How are we to abide as the body of Christ? Our Lenten Season, *Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith Together* calls us to abide in practices of solidarity; with each other, with the saints, in solitude, in God and on the way to the cross. There is much to fear coming out of this particular time: how are we becoming church today? What kind of meaningful life may we have in light of this pandemic time? Will the broken fabric of society be knit into some form of life much more grace-filled and connected than before? Join us these five weeks during our Sunday Forums as together we learn how to feast on faith; faith in community, with the saints, in solitude, through God's promises, on the way to life through the crucified one.

**March 6: Fast on Fear, Feast on Faith—Together**  
The Spirituality of Community  
*Presented by Pr. Sergio Rodriguez*

**March 13: Faithful and Fearless—Together**  
Saints of Lent:  
Dietrick Bonhoeffer (April 4)  
Oscar Romero (March 24)  
Harriet Tubman  
Sojourner Truth (March 10)  
*Presented by Pr. Amandus Derr*

**March 20: Fast on Isolation—Together**  
The practice of Solitude with Hildegard of Bingen  
*Presented by Pr. Sergio Rodriguez*

**March 27: Feast on the Word—Together**  
God's Covenantal Promises  
*Presented by Pr. Amandus Derr*

**April 3: Faithful Following—Together**  
Stations of the Cross  
*Presented by Pr. Sergio Rodriguez*

See archived Sunday Forums on our YouTube  
channel at [shorturl.at/cxl49](https://shorturl.at/cxl49)



## WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

### Thursday Afternoons

3:00 p.m. on Zoom

**The Daily Use of the Gospel: Living faithfully daily**

*Led by Pastor Amandus Derr*

March 3: Jesus is not a lawgiver or ethicist

March 10: Living the Sermon on the Mount: Saint Matthew 5:1-48

March 17 & 24: No Bible Study

March 31: Living the Sermon on the Plain: Saint Luke 6:17-49

April 7: Living for systemic change: The Bonhoeffer variation

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

### Friday Mornings

10:00 a.m. on Zoom

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

### A Study on Oscar Romero

**Thursdays, March 17, 24, and 31 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom**

Gloria Dei, Vivens Pauper (The Glory of God is the Poor who Lives):  
A three-part study of the life and sermons of Oscar Romero.

Join us to commemorate and to deepen our knowledge of the ministry of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Contact [ctk@ctkelc.org](mailto:ctk@ctkelc.org) for the Zoom link.

### Lectio Divina

**Mondays, 12:00 p.m. on Zoom**

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

### Houston Science and Religion Discussion Group

*The Body Against Itself*, presented by Susan Giesecke

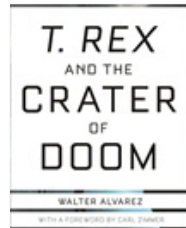
**Monday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.**

The Houston Science and Religion Discussion Group (HSRDG) will conduct its regular monthly meeting on **Monday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m.** The public is welcome to participate in the HSRDG meetings, which are scheduled for the third Monday of every month. To join, email Marian Hillar at [hillar@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hillar@sbcglobal.net).



**CREDIMUS UT INTELLIGAMUS**  
*we believe so to understand*

**Elmer Ledesma** suggests a book each month that may interest “lay readers” in learning more about science and its importance for us people of faith. No Ph.D. necessary; just your desire to learn and to be well-informed. The above title, which translates “we believe so to understand,” is based on a classic theological phrase from early Christianity. It underscores that people of faith are encouraged to understand the world God has given us, so better to care for the creation.



**This month:** *T. Rex and the Crater of Doom*, Alvarez, W. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2015.

Sixty-five million years ago, a comet or asteroid larger than Mount Everest slammed into the Earth, inducing an explosion equivalent to the detonation of a hundred million hydrogen bombs. Vaporized detritus blasted through the atmosphere upon impact, falling back to Earth around the globe. Disastrous environmental consequences ensued: a giant tsunami, continent-scale wildfires, darkness, and cold, followed by sweltering greenhouse heat. When conditions returned to normal, half the plant and animal genera on Earth had perished.

This horrific chain of events is now widely accepted as the solution to a great scientific mystery: what caused the extinction of the dinosaurs? Walter Alvarez, one of the Berkeley scientists who discovered evidence of the impact, tells the story behind the development of the initially controversial theory. It is a saga of high adventure in remote locations, of arduous data collection and intellectual struggle, of long periods of frustration ended by sudden breakthroughs, of friendships made and lost, and of the exhilaration of discovery that forever altered our understanding of Earth's geological history.



# Music

**Sunday, March 6 at 7:00 p.m. -**  
**Bach Inspirations Gallery Concert** will take place at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.

This concert, tickets required, features Kurt Johnson and Oleg Sulyga, violin; Louis-Marie Fardet, cello; and Rick Erickson, harpsichord, performing movements from Bach's Musical Offering and Sonata in G, BWV 1019, along with trios by Vivaldi and Couperin.

Helga Aurisch will give commentary on relationships between the music and the beautiful art in the Gallery.

Come join us for this lovely way to conclude the weekend in a beautiful, intimate setting.

Tickets available through Bach Society: [bachsocietyhouston.org](http://bachsocietyhouston.org)

If you find yourself in Galveston on **Saturday, March 19 at 3:30 p.m.**, join Bach Society for a Bach 327th Birthday Concert at First Lutheran Church on Winnie and 25th. Violinists Oleg Sulyga, Kurt Johnson, and Maria Lin join Rick and Ben on harpsichord, performing Violin Sonatas BWV 1015 1017 and 1018. Admission is free, although a free-will gift is welcome.



Looking ahead.....**On Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10 at 6:00 p.m.**, and **Good Friday, April 15 at 3:00 p.m.**, **Bach Society presents Johann Sebastian Bach's St. John Passion** in a new American English performance

edition. This will be the premiere performance. We will be joined by Madeleine Forrell Marshall, translator (look her up in ELW!) who has been part of this three-year project in preparation for this performance. Many thanks for all who have been part of preparation for this event - including our choir, and many others, in both Houston and New York. The Passion is presented as a gift to the community, with no admission charge. Of course, free-will gifts will be gratefully received.

The Passions were written for Good Friday in Leipzig, and, in German, had an immediacy of effect on listeners. They were not prepared for concert, but for presentation in church. We hope now to give this same intimate immediate affect for all in attendance. American English, we believe, has a direct, powerful element that relates well to the German of Luther and Bach. Come and join this American premiere!

**[BACHSOCIETYHOUSTON.ORG](http://BACHSOCIETYHOUSTON.ORG)**



*What a joy it is for our choristers to resume Wednesday rehearsals! If you might like to join this wonderful group, please speak to Rick or Ben. Welcome back, choir!*



For information, contact Deacon Ben Remmert, at [benremmert@ctkelc.org](mailto:benremmert@ctkelc.org) or 281-468-4686.

## March Dates:

- 2: Ash Wednesday
- 6: Confirmation Class and High School Gathering, 9:30 a.m.
- 13: Luther League Boardgames Hour, 9:30 a.m.
- 19: Youth Kayak Trip at Clear Lake, 12:30 p.m.
- 20: Confirmation Class and High School Gathering, 9:30 a.m.
- 27: Confirmation Class and High School Gathering, 9:30 a.m.

## April Dates:

- 1-2: Luther League Spring Retreat, Galveston

## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

### High School Bible Study Group

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

High School students are welcome to come for a time of fellowship and study of the scriptures every Sunday. Come and enjoy a time to recharge your spiritual batteries and take a sabbath from your school work. During the season of Lent, we will be working on our Stations of the Cross artwork as a Lenten spiritual practice. We have special Sunday activities on the following Sundays:

- March 6: Stations of the Cross Work
- March 13: Luther League Boardgames
- March 20: Sweet Paris
- March 27: Stations of the Cross Work

### Youth Kayak Trip at Clear Lake

March 19 at 12:30 p.m.

Come and join us for a time in creation as we kayak in Clear Creek in League City. We will meet at church at 12:30 p.m. to carpool over for our guided tour. We will kayak for two hours and return to church at 4:00 p.m. Come and see great scenery and fellowship outside. RSVP by March 12. Thank you to Linda and Ron Siemers for a great trip out in nature.

### Luther League Spring Retreat

April 1-2

Our confirmation grade students (as well as our high school students) are invited for an overnight at Zion Retreat Center for our spring retreat. Our students will have a great opportunity for fellowship, swimming, fun, and growing in their faith with caring conversations on the sacraments. This gathering will focus on the sacrament of holy communion. This is a wonderful opportunity to take a break and reconnect to creation with other youth. Cost is only \$40 for housing, food, and activities. Please RSVP no later than Sunday, March 27.

### Envelope Fundraiser

The Envelope Fundraiser began on Sunday, February 27 and will continue throughout the season of Lent. When you pick an envelope off the bulletin board in the courtyard it will have a number. Match your donation with the number marked on the envelope. Top donors will receive a special prize. Checks should be made out to "Christ the King Lutheran Church" with Youth Trip in the memo line. You may put your donation in the offering plate on Sundays or drop it off at the office during the week. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward sending our youth to 2022 Chicago Summer Trip. Come on over and hear the exciting trip our youth will be doing this summer. Thank you for your support!

## TAG SALE APRIL 30

The Tag Sale at Christ the King Church will be **Saturday April 30, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the parish hall.**

Tag Sale

Give us anything you want out of your closets, garages and attics! We will collect items starting the Sunday before the sale, April 24. Furniture sells well so we would gladly take it if you can get it to the church. Larger items and large volume donations can only be accepted in the parish hall on Thursday, April 28 and Friday, April 29. We will need volunteers to help set up, sell and clean up on Friday, April 29 (all day) and Saturday, April 30 (7:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.). We are looking for help with advertising. If you live or work near Rice Village, you could distribute fliers, or if you have a connection to a local newsletter you may be able to facilitate getting an ad in for our event. Sign-up sheets for the event will appear on the bulletin board in April, or you can email Deacon Ben Remmert at [benremmert@ctkelc.org](mailto:benremmert@ctkelc.org).

GET YOUR  
RED OF  
STUFF

**CLEAN OUT**  
YOUR CLOSETS AND GARAGE  
FOR OUR

**TAG SALE APRIL 30**



# CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## Grace Unbounded: Devotions for Lent 2022

Come and grab a copy of Augsburg Fortress' Grace Unbounded in the narthex. Grace Unbounded provides daily devotions with an evocative image and a brief passage from the Gospel of Luke. The writers then bring their unique voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus reaches out to all kinds of people. He proclaims good news—in particular, to those experiencing poverty, oppression, or captivity. Despite the tensions at the time between Jewish people and Samaritans, he tells a story about a Samaritan who shows what it means to be a neighbor. Jesus also responds to those who want healing, welcomes time with children, shows great regard for women, shares meals with “unsavory” characters, and seeks out people who have lost their way. No limits, no restrictions, no boundaries—not even death—can stop his love and grace for all people. Suggested donation of \$2.00 per book.

## Lenten Family Devotional: God is Still with Us

God is Still With Us Lenten Devotional invites us to remember that from the foundations of the world, the Holy Spirit hovered over creation. The Spirit hovers, even now. When God's people seemed abandoned in Egypt, God guided them into the Promised Land. God guides us, even now. In the birth of Jesus—Immanuel—God was with us. And God is still with us, even now.

We will explore Gospel passages that remind us that God is still with us. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus experienced the fullness of humanity—comfort and pain, celebration and heartache, and joy and suffering. And when he had the choice to escape ridicule or rejection, Jesus stuck with the outsiders, the oppressed, and the hurting. The life of Jesus demonstrates that God knows what it is to be human and to be with us in all our experiences, especially in our suffering. Come and grab a copy in the narthex for your Lenten journey.

## Interfaith Youth Service Day

Sunday, March 27 at 9:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.



Join Jewish, Christian, and Muslim youth from across Houston as we come together for a powerful interfaith experience. Participants will meet each other, volunteer, discuss important topics, and build interfaith friendships. The focus will be on service. We will share in dialogue and volunteer at The Beacon, 1212 Prairie St. All youth (ages 13-18) are welcome to participate. RSVP by March 23. For more information, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org.

## Pray the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle with Deacon Ben

Tuesdays at 8:15 a.m.

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

March 1: Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands

March 8: Ireland; United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales

March 15: Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia

March 22: The Balkans

March 29: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

More details can be found here:

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

## Children and Parent Playdate at the Playground, weather permitting

March 12 at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

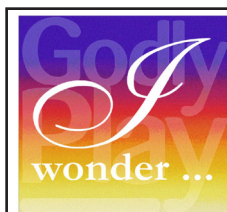
Children and parents are invited to come to the playground at church for a time of fellowship and conversation during this Lenten time together. We will have beverages and snacks outside on the picnic tables. This event is geared for families with young children, but all are invited to come. For more questions, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert.

## Explore Retreat at Lutherhill

March 25-27

A gathering for 1st-6th graders

Calling all happy campers! Come out to the Hill with Deacon Ben to explore all that camp has to offer – from the giant swing to slingshot, arts & crafts to campfire worship. This is a great opportunity for anyone who'd like to take a trial run at camp for a full weekend retreat before coming out for a whole week in the summer OR for the seasoned campers to get in a little camp fun before Summer. This year, Explore Campers will get a sneak peak of the Summer 2022 theme.... Come As You Are! Cost is \$80. Register online at [www.lutherhill.org](http://www.lutherhill.org). RSVP by Sunday, March 20.



## Godly Play Spring Workshop

Saturday, March 26, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp, Houston TX 77009

\$25 per person (lunch included)

Contact Courtney Webb at [courtneymartinwebb@gmail.com](mailto:courtneymartinwebb@gmail.com)

# Plan for Summer

*Register soon as spots are filling up fast!*

## Children Trips (1st-6th Grade)

### Lutherhill Elementary Camp- July 17-22

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

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

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 Gr)

**Program Cost: \$650** Register by March 15 and pay in full or enroll in a payment plan; you are eligible for donor support of \$25.

## Youth Trips

### Lutherhill Jr. High Adventure Camp- July 17-22

Those that have completed 6th-8th grade can experience a week at Lutherhill with Deacon Ben Remmert at Lutherhill's Junior High Camp. Learn from cabin Bible studies and camp-wide worships, challenge yourself on the high ropes course, enjoy afternoon activities and daily All Camp activities, grow in community with fellow junior high students, spend a night cooking over open fires and sleeping in the tree houses and hanging village. **Sign up asap as spots are filling up.**

**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.

### Chicago Service Trip: July 23-30,

8th grade-12th grade youth are invited to our new summer trip to Chicago. Chicago is an amazingly diverse city made up of dozens and dozens of unique neighborhoods full of culture and opportunity. We will be serving in this great city in ways that support and build up our partners in their unique contexts for a week with other high school students around the country. We'll hit a few of the iconic city sights from the Bean and Lincoln Park Zoo to Buckingham Fountain – it will be a week you will not soon forget! **Final Deposits are due on March 15.** For more information, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert.

## Camp Hope Ministry is Coming this Summer!

June 20-24

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



**Location:** Christ the King Lutheran Church

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

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

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

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

If you have questions, contact Deacon Ben Remmert.

## Camp Hope Staff Applications are Out

This summer we are looking for middle and high school students to serve on our Summer Camp Hope staff. There are three ways to serve at Camp Hope—Support, Paid, and Camp Manager. Applications can be found online at [www.ckelc.org](http://www.ckelc.org) or paper applications can be found at Christ the King Church.

## LUTHERHILL RETREATS AND NEWS



Have you thought about where you will be next summer? Do you know someone that you think would be a great addition to Lutherhill's summer staff? It will be the BEST. SUMMER. EVER. for the 2022 Summer Staff! Lutherhill has many amazing opportunities available for young adults to work at camp. Check out all the positions: <https://lutherhill.org/about-lutherhill/employment-at-lutherhill/>. Applications are open now. Questions? Contact Program Director, Curtis Bradbury at [curtis@lutherhill.org](mailto:curtis@lutherhill.org) or 979-243-9831.

## Month of Service: Start Planning Now

Calling all volunteers! We're bringing back the Month of Service this April! We're focusing our projects around nature at camp which include: landscaping, worship sites cleanup, land clearing, AND MORE! Grab your small group, family or just yourself and head to Lutherhill during the month of April... you pick the day (or days!) that work best for you to help Lutherhill get ready for Summer 2022. The best part? Housing is free if you are participating in the Month of Service! Contact Russell Dittrich to discuss projects, dates & details at [russell@lutherhill.org](mailto:russell@lutherhill.org) or 979-290-4478.

## Upcoming Retreats

Register at [lutherhill.org](http://lutherhill.org)

### EXPLORE

March 25 - 27

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

### SPRING

FAMILY RETREAT

April 8 - 10

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



## LATINE MINISTRY

What sort of Lenten practices are distinctive to Latine folks? Besides the usual fish Fridays and fasting from any sort of vice one may have, there are certain characteristics that make Lenten Latin to a variety of folks. Msgr. Patrick Brankin describes Lenten and Holy week devotions as, “dramatic images of God’s mercy and humanity’s need for penance, both of which are personally and directly experienced as something which is happening right now and right in front of us (Bilingual Ritual of Hispanic Popular Culture, pg. 87).” Consider the spiritual practice of the Way of the Cross. There are fourteen stations depicting the passion of Jesus Christ. In Roman Catholic Parishes, the nave houses the stations. Other protestant congregations travel to twelve to fourteen different locations to experience the passion of Christ as its very spirit is present in the local community. For some latine folks, Mexican-American communities in the Southwest, this latter sense conveys what Brankin describes. We see Pilate at the judgement seat. We are Simon of Cyrene. Our bodies experience the shame of the cross.

This experiential dimension of the passion is how faith is nurtured during the Lenten season. Let us consider two other practices of faith: Devociones al Divino Preso (Ecce Homo Devotion: Christ before Pilate) and El Pesame a la Virgen Maria (Condolences to Mary on the loss of her son). During Lent, the image of the Divino Preso is brought into the congregation before or after the Sunday service, or on Wednesday or Friday evening. One contemplates the sufferings of Christ before the imperial might of Pilate. On Good Friday after the Good Friday service, the Pesame recounts the story of passion and focuses on the experience of the women of Jerusalem and Mary (this is known as the Passion of Mary). One ends on offering condolences to La Virgen. This is supposed to awaken in the hearts of the folks a sense of solidarity with Jesus’ Mother and with all mothers who suffer in seeing the loss of their children. While Easter Vigil is not widely practiced in Latine congregations, this strong focus on the passion of Christ goes beyond a cathartic release. This brings a sense of dignity to folks knowing that the Lord has taken upon himself our infirmities and makes us a part of his divina familia, whose members are all around us in the community.

### Upcoming Events:

Gloria Dei, Vivens Pauper (The Glory of God is the Poor who lives): A three-Part Study of the life and Sermons of Oscar Romero (March 17, 24 and 31). Join us via Zoom from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. to commemorate and to deepen our knowledge of the ministry of Oscar Romero.

Spanish Language Easter Service: April 17 Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Join us.

Retiro de Mujeres (A Retreat for Latinas in the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod): May 13 and 14 at Zion Retreat Center in Galveston. Email Rev. Sergio Rodriguez at [sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org](mailto:sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org) for more information.

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

Greetings in the name of Jesucristo!

We have so much good news to report. As of February 21, 2022, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Rice University (a ministry of Christ the King Church) has been officially approved at Rice University. This has been a two-year project in the making. Thanks be to God!



We are pleased to announce the board members of Lutheran Campus Ministry, Rice University.

Please pray for our ministry board as we begin to lay the groundwork for this ministry and its outreach. Stay tuned as we develop our programming, leadership, and outreach updates on campus. We want to thank Kinsmen Lutheran Church for their generous gift to our Lutheran Campus Ministry.

### Board members of Lutheran Campus Ministry, Rice University:

Shifa Rahman

(4th Year, Lovett College): Secondary Student Leader

Ben Kerswell

(PhD Candidate, School of Music): Primary Student Leader

Lea Godret-Miertschin

(Rice 2021 Alumna, Will Rice College): Member

Dr. Alexandra Kieffer

(Associate Professor of Musicology): Sponsor

Kathy Collins

(Vice-President for Finance): Member

Dr. Jessica Locheed

(Professor, Houston Community College): Member

Rev. Sergio Rodriguez: Campus Pastor, Ex Officio

Rev. Amandus Derr: Ex Officio

### Weekly Events:

Faith in the Round: Email Pr. Rodriguez for time and date of our fellowship and study time.

With Hillel Rice, the Episcopal Church at Rice, and Rice Pride, Lutheran Campus Ministry will be hosting in the **Miner’s Lounge on March 10 at noon** a Queer Interfaith discussion entitled the following--Esther: A Coming-Out story.

### Voices of our students:



*Ben Kerswell, Primary Leader*

“In my undergraduate studies, the Lutheran church presence on my campus strengthened my faith and affirmed my aspirations to serve. Here in Houston, Lutheran Campus Ministries will offer support for students and inspire them to discern how they can serve their communities.”

## HOUSTON FOOD BANK

houston  
food  
bank



**Saturday  
March 12**  
 8:00 a.m. - noon  
For information, contact ctkhfb@gmail.com

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

**Next 2022 DATES**  
 May 14    September 10  
 July 9     November 12

In January, Christ the King's group of 10 volunteers worked on one of the group's favorite projects: Backpack Buddies. Our group played a huge role in creating more than 3,000 bags of food that will be sent home with area schoolchildren on Fridays to ensure they have enough to eat over the weekend when school-provided meals are not an option. That comes out to more than 22,000 meals for neighbors in need! **Join is for our next trip to the Houston Food Bank on Saturday, March 12. Contact Justin Schneewind at ctkhfb@gmail.com.**

### Useful information

**When:** 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

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

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

## CTK Members

### Featured in Local Newspaper

Christ the King Church members (Nathan Wiker, Nathaniel Allen, and Elena Longoria) were featured in an article, Souper Bowl of Caring Donations Help CCSC to Help Others, in the February 15 *Village News*. Nathaniel was quoted, "It's a good way to give food to people who need it. Super Bowl is a big event for everyone in America so why not make it even better?" Nathan (who also served as a CCSC Board Member) said, "If it has to do with helping CCSC, I'm going to be there. The mission of CCSC is core to my principles of helping those who need help, and Souper Bowl of Caring is a great way to do it." CTK members and friends donated \$1800 and over 200 food items to our Souper Bowl of Caring food drive on Super Bowl Sunday.



SOUPER  
BOWL  
OF CARING

**THANK YOU!**  
 Christ the King Lutheran Church's 2022 Collection  
raised:  
**\$1,806 and 250 food items**



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Our prayer shawl knitters have resumed their in-person knitting on **Fridays at 10:00 a.m. in the third floor conference room**. Along with making shawls for members in need, they are knitting baby blankets for The Linus Project - a national nonprofit that delivers handmade blankets to children in local hospitals, child abuse centers, and other facilities where a child might feel anxious or unsafe. Since 1996 the Houston chapter has distributed more than 21,000 blankets. For information on our prayer shawl ministry, please contact Beverly Palmer at palmerbeverly16@gmail.com.

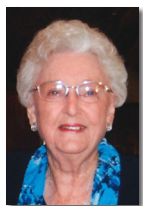


### SEARCH Homeless Services New Hope Housing's Perry St. Apartments

Julia Dominguez (Healthcare for the Homeless) gratefully received our January collection of 189 rolls of toilet paper, along with 2022 calendars, lots of warm socks, and toiletry items at New Hope Housing's Perry St. Apartments, a partner of SEARCH Homeless Services.



A memorial service for



## Ruth Dittmar

will be held at  
Christ the King Church

**Saturday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m.**  
with reception following.

### Easter Flowers

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

## YOUNG ADULTS

### Faith on Tap: Young Adult Group

**March 20, 7:00 p.m.**

Are you a young adult looking to talk “theological shop” with others like yourself? Have pressing questions about hot-button issues of today? Join our Faith on Tap: Young Adult Group every third Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. We meet up for beverages, snacks and discussion. Email Rev. Sergio Rodriguez at [sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org](mailto:sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org) to be placed on our mailing list and for the location of our March Meeting.

Our topic for March 20 will be: Community or Church? Is the idea of “church” passe? If so, what’s next for those who consider themselves to be disciples of Christ? Are there any examples of what has been called “future church” around us?

*Whenever the devil harasses you, seek the company of others or drink more, or joke and talk nonsense, or do some other merry thing.*

Martin Luther

### Young Adults Volunteer

Join the Young Adults as we volunteer at CCSC’s Emergency Services on **Saturday, April 2 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**. All are welcome to join on **the first Saturday every other month**. For questions or to RSVP, please contact [nathan@wikernet.com](mailto:nathan@wikernet.com).

## MARCH HEALTH FOCUS



*submitted by Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse*

### Colorectal Health

In 2021 the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) lowered the age for recommended colon cancer screening to age 45. This change was related to an increase in the incidence of colon cancer among younger adults. According to a 2015 study by MD Anderson Cancer Center, researchers predict that by 2030 expected rates of colon cancer will increase by 90 percent for people ages 20-34 and 27.7 percent for people ages 35-49.

#### People under 50 who are diagnosed with colorectal are more likely to:

- Be diagnosed at a later stage of the disease when the cancer is more advanced
- Have to see two or more doctors before getting diagnosed
- Have a family history of colorectal cancer

#### While the risk of getting colorectal cancer increases with age, it's important to learn about other risk factors when you're young, including:

- Being overweight or obese
- Not getting enough physical activity
- Eating a diet high in red or processed meats
- Smoking
- Heavy alcohol use

#### Personal/family history is also a factor.

##### Is there a personal or family history of:

- Colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps (growths)
- Inflammatory bowel disease (like Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis)
- Genetic syndromes like familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (Lynch syndrome)

#### Be alert for the following signs and symptoms that should be monitored and reported to your health care provider if they persist:

- Blood in or on bowel movements
- Stomach pain, aches or cramps that don't go away
- A change in bowel habits (like diarrhea or constipation) lasting more than a few days
- Unexplained weight loss

Most cancer of the colon begins as precancerous polyps which supports the need for screening and thereby reducing risk. Start screening at age 45 if there is average risk. In the presence of risk factors consult with a health care provider to determine the best screening process.

*Information obtained from: National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month - Prevent Cancer Foundation*



## Churchwide

### Assembly Justice Look-Back: Social Purpose Funds

At churchwide assembly in August 2019, a resolution was passed that urges Portico Benefit Services to conduct an educational campaign for plan members designed to increase awareness of the Social Purpose Investment Funds. Portico Benefit Services provides benefits for ELCA faith leaders & their families, and a social purpose fund is designed not only to provide returns on investment, but also to benefit society. In alignment with the ELCA's corporate social responsibility ministry, Portico has maintained a social purpose investing strategy for over 30 years — starting well before this type of investing became popular. To learn more about Portico Benefit Services and social purpose investing, see <https://porticobenefits.org/elca-together/social-purpose-investing/>.

### The Work of the ELCA: Vocation

There are a variety of vocational choices in the ELCA. We have pastors, but we also have accountants, chaplains, youth workers, musicians, evangelists, nurses, office managers, counselors, and caregivers. We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. The ELCA has many needs to fill as we carry out our mission to share God's boundless love with the world. Would like to consider becoming a leader in the ELCA? To learn more, <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Leadership/Vocation-Become-a-Leader>.

## Justice Advocacy Opportunity *Smorgasbord*

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

### Federal Budget

The budget set by the U.S. federal government speaks to our priorities as a nation. Investments in addressing climate change, protecting the natural world, and pursuing environmental justice are a moral imperative if we are to leave a just and thriving world to future generations. Investments in renewable energy, clean vehicles and public lands/waters would also benefit the economy. Urge your representative to pass a budget that protects the planet. Another budget issue is funding to address affordable housing, homelessness and eviction. Distressed communities all over the country rely on community development funds from HUD and USDA to revitalize their struggling urban, rural and suburban areas. Urge Congress to support affordable housing and homelessness funding in the budget.

### Immigration – Afghan Adjustment Act

For many Afghan evacuees, the transition into a new life hasn't been easy. Many had to leave everything they knew behind and must now rebuild their lives in a country very distant in almost every way from their own. The Afghan Adjustment Act would ensure Afghans seeking to make the United States their home can apply to become lawful permanent residents. Authorizing such a roadmap would go a long way in creating long-term stability and security for our Afghan neighbors and their families, strengthening the communities receiving them, and respond to the biblical call to welcome and love the newcomer. Ask Congress to support the Afghan Adjustment Act.

### Human Rights & Peace

In Israel and Palestine, home demolitions, settlement construction, settler violence, forced displacement, the Gaza blockade and other violations of Palestinian rights continue unabated. These different rights violations cannot be viewed in isolation from one another; together they contribute to an Israeli structure of control and occupation that systematically discriminates against Palestinians in the occupied territories and Israel. This systematic inequality, discrimination and occupation must end if peace is to be possible. Ask Congress to hold Israel accountable for human rights violations.

### Voting Rights in Texas & Throughout the Country

Are your Texas senator and representative exercising strong oversight over the Texas Secretary of State? If you have concerns about voter roll purges, inconsistent and confusing information on mail-in voting, and lack of voter registration forms, let your legislators know that you expect better from our state's top elections office. Demand strong voting rights protections from your Texas legislators. At the federal level, the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act would protect the right to vote throughout the nation. The ELCA's social policy resolution, Voting Rights to All Citizens, calls on all of us to "promote public life worthy of the name" by supporting legislation to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens. Urge your senators to pass the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act.



## Welcome Team Update

Several members of the congregation's AMMPARO Welcome Team have led the effort to support the Taqi Hussaini family from Afghanistan. Recently, Freewheels Houston provided the family with a bike. The oldest daughter, Huriah, has started school and has begun riding a bike to school every day!

Also, a few Christ the King volunteers have committed to visiting the family weekly to practice their English. During those visits, there are many inevitable moments of cultural exchange whereby the volunteers help give guidance for the ways of our world here in the United States. Also, the family has happily been reunited with extended family members.

Volunteers are always needed to help the adults with employment readiness. Identifying potential job opportunities and working on resumes are just a few examples of the assistance that is needed. Additionally, we've identified that the younger Hussaini children would benefit from activities outside of the home. Taking the family to a park or showing them an interesting Houston experience would be welcome!

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

## Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunity

# AMMPARO

## St. James Family Life Center Update

The AMMPARO team wants to share our gratitude for the congregation's ongoing support of St. James Family Life Center. Since the start of the pandemic, St. James Family Life Center has been a beacon of hope for Northwest Houston by providing food and emergency financial support to hundreds of families each month.

Recently, St. James has seen an influx of families requesting support and greater needs than before; the need is much greater than their resources allow. With the support of our generous congregation, we recently contributed \$4,500 to St. James' emergency financial support program. As always, thank you for your caring spirit and generosity!

In addition to funding from the AMMPARO ministry, the Christ the King Lutheran Church New Foundation has proposed additional funding for St. James Family Life Center's emergency program, which is focused on helping immigrant families and others who have tremendous needs but are not eligible for many government-funded assistance programs.



## Houston's Climate Action and Resilience Strategies

Sunday, March 6, 2:30 p.m., online

Join Priya Zachariah, Chief Resilience and Sustainability Officer for the City of Houston, as she discusses the City of Houston's Climate Action Plan and

the Resilient Houston plan. Priya will explain how the City of Houston's Climate Action Plan aims to address reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the Resilient Houston plan addresses community resilience, especially for our most vulnerable and under-resourced communities. Priya will delve into aspects of both plans that address these issues, highlighting how faith communities can partner with the city to assist frontline communities. Please register for this event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/houstons-climate-action-and-resilience-strategies-tickets-258978701267>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) for more details.

## an ecochallenge for earth month

April 1 – April 30, online

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

## Living the Change Weekly Discussion Group

Tuesdays thru May 17

(except March 15), 6:00 p.m., online

Scientists tell us that we must reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030. That may seem like a very high hurdle. But, it translates to only a 5%/year reduction. Participants in this course will leave with a plan for at least their first 5% reduction, and knowledge of how to find the other 40%. Many participants have found easy, cost-effective reductions of more than 20%. The course was developed in response to the Walk on Earth Gently multifaith statement, which invites you into a journey of Living the Change that the world needs. The journey is inspired by religious teachings to turn away from consumerism & to seek balanced relationships with all people and the planet we share as our common home. This program focuses on making personal lifestyle changes in three areas: transportation, energy, and food. The facilitator will tailor the course as needed for participants. We just started the journey on Feb. 22, so you can still join us in accepting the Walk on Earth Gently invitation and committing to a sustainable lifestyle, via a weekly online discussion group. Can't make it every week? Join us as you are able. A detailed schedule is given below. Are you ready to commit to a more sustainable lifestyle? Then join us on this journey to Living the Change by registering at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-the-change-weekly-discussion-group-tickets-23555241067>. For more information, please contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com).

March 1, 9 & 22:

Transport, weeks 2, 3 & 4

March 29, April 5, 12 & 19:

Energy, weeks 1, 2, 3, & 4

April 26, May 3 & 10:

Food, weeks 1, 2 & 3

May 17: Food, week 4 & closing

## Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Continue...

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

### Eight Crucial Years for Our Civilization Sunday, March 27, 6:00 p.m., online



Most people don't realize quite how pivotal the next eight years are for the future of our climate, our planet, and our civilization.

Join **Phoebe Barnard**, lead author of the global climate action blueprint, "World Scientists' Warnings Into Action: Local to Global," with 15 top global scientists, economists and governance specialists, as she outlines the actions that humanity needs to take to avert our complex planetary crises by 2026, 2030 and 2050 at six scales, from the household and community levels to cities, states, nations and the UN. What are the most important things which we can, and must, all do as individuals, as communities, in cities? These include concrete actions for energy conservation and decarbonization; for reduction of atmospheric pollutants; for nature conservation and restoration; for food systems reform, dietary change and soil conservation; for smaller families and stabilizing and slowly reducing population; and for reform of our consumerist economy. A summary of the paper is given in an article in The Conversation, and the paper is open for cosignature by anyone with a degree in any kind of science at Scientists' Warning Europe. Time for interactive discussion with the speaker will be provided. Please register for this talk at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/eight-crucial-years-for-our-civilization-tickets-261427736397>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) with any questions.



## The Face of God

Thursdays in Lent, March 3 – April 7  
(except March 17), 6:00 p.m., online

From the melting permafrost that threatens churches in Alaska to the wildfires that ravaged California this past year, to the U.S. South where hurricanes are becoming stronger and more deadly, communities around the globe are already feeling the rising impacts of global climate change. The Face of God is a film about God and nature, faith and climate change, and the experience of communities around the world facing and experiencing changes in their lives now. This is also a film about beauty, ecology, theology, sanctity, our relationship to the natural world, love, asceticism, and always it is about the radiant living icon of the face of God in creation. The film showcases important Christian voices, scientists, politicians, lay leaders, theologians, and communities around the world, and gathers the witness of the whole church on the defining issue of our time. Join us online each week during Lent to view segments of the film and discuss them. Can't make it every week? Join as you are able. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-face-of-god-tickets-252042886057>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) for more details.

## Tour de Houston

Sunday, April 3, 7:30 a.m.

901 Bagby St.

Attend worship on Saturday and join the synod Lutherans Restoring Creation bike team for the Tour de Houston ride on Sunday. Distances of 20, 40, and 60 miles are available. After the ride, enjoy the party in Hermann Square in front of City Hall. This ride benefits the city's reforestation efforts. Register/learn more at: <https://www.houstontx.gov/tour-dehouston/>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) to meet up to ride.



## First Week in Lent I March 6-12

### Jesus Faces Temptation

Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:86-13 Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. -Luke 4:1-2a

Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. -Psalm 91:14

#### PRAYER

*O God, grant us faith to trust that, in Christ's death and resurrection, all the forces of evil have been overcome. During these days of Lent, may we be strengthened by your Spirit, so that we might serve you by helping those who suffer from the evil of hunger. Amen.*

## Second Week in Lent I March 13 - 19

### Jesus is on His Way to Jerusalem

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-43

[Jesus said,] "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem."

-Luke 13:32b-33

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! -Psalm 27:13-14

#### PRAYER

*O Christ, you willingly set your course to Jerusalem, and you faced death on the cross that we might live. May our new life in you give us strength and courage to advocate for those who suffer from hunger and disease. Amen.*

## Third Week in Lent I March 20-26

### Jesus Offers Mercy and Forgiveness

Isaiah 55:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10: 1-13 Luke 13:1-9

So he said to the gardener, "... For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil? [The gardener] replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year . . . If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." -Luke 13:7-9

For you have been my help and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me. -Psalm 63:7-8

#### PRAYER

*O God, you don't give up on us and you offer mercy and forgiveness to all who repent and trust in Christ Jesus. May this gracious gift nourish us to bear the fruit of sharing the abundance of your creation with all those in need. Amen.*



## Fourth Week in Lent I March 27-April 2

### Jesus Welcomes Sinners

Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." -Luke 15:1-2

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy all you who are upright in heart. -Psalm 32: 11

#### PRAYER

*O God, we confess that we are both the prodigal son and the elder brother. Save us from despair and from pride. Through your love and grace in Christ, turn us around so that we may prepare a feast of hope and opportunity for those who live in hunger. Amen.*

## Fifth Week in Lent I April 3-9

### Jesus Is Anointed for Death

Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalm 126

Philippians 3:46-14 John 12:1-8

Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. -John 12:3

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. -Psalm 51:10 and 12

#### PRAYER

*O Christ, we give thanks that, in your suffering and death, you reveal God's glory and offer us the gift of new life. As you create a new heart in us, may our eyes be opened to new ways we can create hope and opportunity for those who hunger and live in poverty. Amen.*

## Holy Week I April 10-16

### Jesus Suffers Death

Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31 :9-16

Philippians 2:5-11 Luke 22:14-23:56

This man Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. -Luke 23:52-53

But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love. -Psalm 31:14-16

#### PRAYER

*O God, trusting in your steadfast love, your Son Jesus gave up his life for us. Now, the tomb of death has become the birthplace of new life that sustains us as we work together to save the lives of mothers and children threatened by hunger and disease. Amen.*