



# THE KING'S BANNER



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

2353 Rice Blvd,  
Houston TX 77005  
ctkelc.org

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## 2022 STRATEGIC PLANNING: SURVEY AND SUMMIT



Our Strategic Planning Congregation Summit has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church, 1601 Sunset Blvd, Houston, Texas 77005.

This is the most important and critical meetings of our strategic planning process. We need substantial participation by members of Christ the King

Church; members who attend the former Memorial Drive Lutheran Church, now Christ the King Church, west campus; and our other partners. Originally scheduled for Saturday morning, January 29, this was rescheduled because of our concern that the current surge of the Covid-19 omicron virus would make attendance at this event difficult for some.

We promise to begin at 9:30 a.m. and end promptly at noon. We will carefully observe all recommended guidelines which will be in place on that date for the health safety of all participants. At this meeting, our consultants will share with us the data they have gathered about our congregation, our community, and the mission field around both of our ministry sites. They will ask us for our feedback. They will also facilitate small (5-10) "interest group" (i.e. music, liturgy, social ministry, etc.) discussions so that each of us can express our hopes and dreams for those areas of ministry. All participants are encouraged to express our opinions and our hopes for the future of Christ the King Church at both of our sites. Please make your attendance at this meeting a priority.

About ten days before the Summit, you will receive an email questionnaire from Triangle2, our consulting firm. Please respond to that questionnaire promptly. These responses will become part of our summit conversation and will help the strategic planning team formulate our new mission strategy.

Our strategic planning team, Daniel Zorn, Nyla Woods, Maureen Lamson, Pastor Beth Marie Halvorsen (transition pastor at our west campus); Pastor Rodriguez and Pastor Derr will meet immediately after this summit and begin working on a draft strategic plan to present first to the congregation council and then from the council to the congregation for adoption by the end of June 2022.

The data will provide the needed documents and inform the work of our soon-to-be-formed call committee as they begin the call process for our new pastor.

These are the days and opportunities for each of us to freely express our hopes for our church. Please participate and please pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom in all we do. Questions? Please feel free to contact Pastor Derr by phone or email.

### Congregation Summit

**Saturday, February 26**

**9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

**Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church**

1601 Sunset Blvd, Houston

At this meeting we promise these things:

- Start on time/end on time
- Coffee and a light breakfast
- Childcare, as needed
- Lively, directed, small group and plenary conversation

**All our members of all ages are invited.**

### Annual Congregational Meeting Part II

**February 20 at 12:30 p.m.**

On the agenda are the 2021 annual reports and the adoption of the 2022 budget. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 4:00 P.M.**

**at Memorial Drive Lutheran Church**

**HOLY COMMUNION IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF**

**Memorial Drive Lutheran Church**

and

**REDEDICATION AND COMMITMENT**

Of its members as they become a part of the life and ministry of

**CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### Carnival Festival February 27, Noon

- pancakes and sausage
- pancake races
- projects for the kids
- music and dancing
- sing our last "Alleluia."

**Come and have fun.**

*See pages 6 & 7*



Amandus Derr,  
Interim Senior Pastor

# “...our duty and our joy...”

**Worship. Liturgy. Music.** When members of Christ the King Church are asked what is most important to them in church, they respond with one of these interchangeable words. For our whole lives, Carole and I have always believed and practice this; excellent liturgy and music is what drew us to Christ the King Church in the first place. As we prepare for our congregation strategic planning summit at the end of this month, I think our shared passion for liturgy is worth writing about.

Excellence in liturgy is at the core of our congregation's life. That's evident at every worship service. That our liturgy be excellent is evident in the care taken by members of the altar guild to prepare the nave, elements, vessels, paraments and linens for each service and by the incredibly detailed instructions that have been prepared over time to assist all our worship enablers, from nursery attendants to bellringers to ushers, and even to presiding ministers, to faithfully fulfill their role. I can honestly say that the acolytes, servers and assisting ministers at Christ the King are the best-prepared I've ever encountered. Even after serving as pastor in two parishes well-known for liturgical excellence, I've found it essential for me to learn how we “do liturgy” here. The unique design of our nave compels careful attention. As a result, I have made very few changes to the way we worship.

But I have introduced a few and want to comment on them now.

First, on several occasions there has been more than one “Prayer of the Day,” and that is because historically the Church has acknowledged that each occasion and each day has a context. Sundays in Advent and Lent, for instance, are in that context. In Advent, the Prayer of the Day for the First Sunday, and in Lent, the Prayer of the Day for Ash Wednesday express that context and thus are prayed every day of those seasons. Likewise, commemorations, such as Reformation and All Saints, occur in the context of a given week and so the Prayer of the Day for the week is always prayed, usually as the final Prayer of the Day at each commemoration. Some liturgies have an intent, ordination is a good example, and that intent is also always in a context. The proper order of Prayers of the Day in a service with an intent would be the intent (ordination), the commemoration, if there is one, and the Prayer of the Day for the given Sunday which is also always prayed every day of the week following that Sunday. In keeping with the historic tradition of the Church, which in most places has been abandoned, there are plenty of services at which we pray more than one “Prayer of the Day.” Context is important.

**When people experience  
and participate in  
excellent liturgy,  
they carry that excellence  
into their public life...**

I also introduced celebrating baptisms at the beginning of the Sunday liturgy. There are three reasons for this:

Historical: In the most ancient liturgies, that's when baptisms were always celebrated.

Environmental: Over the past 40 years, contemporary church architecture

has restored the baptismal font to the entrance of the church, and in many cases, one cannot access the rest of the nave without passing by the font. This underlines our baptismal theology: one only enters the church through baptism.

Practical: It's easier on the parents and child to be baptized to do this first.

Finally, I've introduced a number of liturgical rites such as the renewal of baptismal promises on the day of the Baptism of our Lord; or the beautiful conclusion to the liturgy of Candlemas, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, which we just celebrated on January 30. Each of these have ancient, historic roots, but that's not the most important reason we've introduced them. You, the gathered worshipers, are that reason.

For what is liturgy? According to the Miriam-Webster Dictionary, Liturgy is Late Latin *liturgia*, from Greek *leitourgia* public service, from Greek (Attic) *leiton* public building (from Greek *laos* — Attic *leōs* — people) + *-ourgia* -urgy. This is to say, liturgy is the work of the people. We are all worshipers; we are not audience. These rites enable us to more fully participate, to be both hearers and doers of the Gospel we are experiencing. I hope you notice that each of these newly introduced rites invite more participation from you.

One final observation about the relationship between liturgy and daily life. When people experience and participate in excellent liturgy, they carry that excellence into their public life and strive for excellence everywhere. More often than not, churches with excellent liturgical life also endeavor to bring excellence — justice, fairness, equity, help — to societal life. What we do reflects how we worship (and vice versa).

At Christ the King Church, our worship and ministry eloquently prove that last point. Each Sunday, the presiding minister chants “It is indeed right, our duty and our joy” to invite us to offer excellent worship. Right, duty and joy are the exact words we use to describe our efforts to serve those in need and make our communities better. The connection, I think, is obvious. Do you think so too?



**FEBRUARY 6, 20, 27**

**freewheels  
houston**



**Freewheels  
Bikes Bring  
Independence  
for Refugee  
Families**

For an Afghan family of 12 recently resettled to Houston and facing steep barriers to transportation, receiving a bicycle from Freewheels Houston has been a joy beyond words, said Jennifer Dyer, a Christ the King Church member who, with her husband Brent, is helping the family.

The CTK Mission Offering for February 6, 20 and 27 will support Freewheels Houston’s efforts. The program was established at Christ the King Church in 2015 and became a 501(c)(3) organization in 2019; many CTK members are volunteers, bike donors and financial supporters.

If you want to learn more about Freewheels, please plan to attend the Sunday Forum on February 6. Also, many CTK members, including Bill Mintz, Bill Chapman, David West, Jessica Lockheed and Tom Frank, can answer your questions.

“Without a bicycle, this family was able to meet their basic food needs either by depending on the availability of friends and volunteers for car transportation or by limiting their choices to markets within walking distance and goods that could be carried home,” Jennifer said. “For example, a walk to the nearby Sunny’s convenience store for a gallon of milk was a daily activity. Having a bicycle means that the family is now able to not only independently access a halal market several miles from home to buy meat but also explore their neighborhood for the best produce and dry goods pricing. This makes their financial aid go further.”

In 2021, Freewheels distributed bikes to 190 people, including 69 refugees, 43 students at Wisdom High School, 38 veterans emerging from homelessness, 33 middle school students from low-income families and seven other people.

With 61 bikes distributed in December, Freewheels ended 2021 with momentum that has continued in the new year. More volunteers are signing up and productivity is on the upswing. Recently, Trek Bicycle Company and Trufflehound LLC, an Amazon seller, made substantial in-kind donations of bicycle parts, equipment and accessories.

Financial support from CTK members helps pay for tires, tubes and other essential parts; helmets, locks and other safety equipment, and rent for efficient warehouse space in Gulfton, near the apartment complexes that have become home for many Afghan families.



**Souper Bowl of Caring  
Funds and Food Drive  
Sunday, February 13  
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**

This year we are collecting funds and food during Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit our local food pantry at Christian Community Service Center. Items may be brought to worship or dropped off between 12:30-2:00 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to help with the drive-thru event. Questions may be directed to Deacon Ben at [benremmert@ctkelc.org](mailto:benremmert@ctkelc.org).

**Most Needed  
Food Items**

Canned fruit  
Hearty soups  
Dry rice (1- or 2- pound bags)  
Dry beans (1 or 2-pound bags)  
Peanut butter  
Boxed dry cereal  
Canned tuna or chicken

**Other requested items**

Canned vegetables  
Dry pasta/macaroni and cheese  
Toilet paper  
Bar soap  
Cleaning wipes  
Disposable face coverings  
Pet food

**Wear Your Favorite Sports Team Shirt**

to worship on February 13 in support of the Souper Bowl of Caring.

(That means professional, school, neighborhood attire).

As the capacity to repair bikes increases, Freewheels will be able to help more families like the Dyers’ new friends as they establish new lives in Houston.

“This family will face many challenges in the months and years ahead,” Jennifer said. “The children will soon be attending school for the first time in their lives. The parents—both illiterate in their native language—will soon be learning to speak, read, and write English. The father will need to find employment. Having a bicycle has given this family a measure of hope and confidence that they will certainly need to forge ahead in their quest toward self-sufficiency with us here in our community.



“The decision to leave their home country for freedom and opportunity in America drastically changed the direction of this family’s life. Freewheels Houston has made the first step toward the promise of free-

dom a tangible reality,” Jennifer said.

**Freewheels workdays are Friday and Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon at 6020 Jessamine #204, Houston, TX 77081.** Please let us know if you are planning to attend by completing the registration form on the volunteer page of the Freewheels website, <https://freewheelshouston.org/volunteer-at-freewheels/>.





# Sunday Forum

**Sundays  
9:30 a.m.**

If you would like the link to the meeting  
please contact us at [ctk@ctkelc.org](mailto:ctk@ctkelc.org).

Sunday Forum

## February 6

### Freewheels Houston

Inspired by the admonition to welcome the stranger, CTK Members launched Freewheels in 2015 and continue to repair donated bikes that enable Afghan refugees and veterans emerging from homelessness to get to work and school and take advantage of the opportunities available in the Houston community. Come and hear Freewheels volunteers as they tell stories of this growing ministry of welcome—and learn how you can help.

## February 13 and 20

### Black-American Holidays and Observances

*presented by Calvin Harris*

Come along on a journey discussing holidays and annual observances that are important to the Black American culture. Together we will explore popular holidays such as Kwanzaa and Juneteenth and also explore annual observances like Black History Month. Together we will learn more about these culturally enriching times of the year and come to an understanding as to how they are celebrated by those of the African Diaspora and their importance for everyone in our world!

## February 27

### Making Ashes: at 9:30 a.m.

in-person outdoors in the CTK columbarium (no online forum)

All are invited to attend a special time with Altar Guild members Liz Lloyd and Bette Bowers as they demonstrate how the ashes for Ash Wednesday are made. Join us for this great opportunity to experience first-hand this wonderful Lenten tradition.

### Carnival Festival at noon

Come and eat all the pancakes and sausage you can and enjoy one last celebration as we eat up all the fatty foods we cannot have after Lent begins. There will be activities for the kids beginning at 12:30 p.m., including pancake races, with dancing for everyone, followed by singing our last "Alleluia." Brunch will be served from 12:15 until 1:00 p.m. All donations for this event will go to support our youth attending the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering. Come and have a blast before the start of Lent on March 2.

# WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

## Thursday Afternoons

**3:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Zoom**

Pastor Derr leads a ZOOM Bible Study series, "From Alexander the Great to Herod the Great: Surveying the Apocrypha and Time between the Testaments" each Thursday through February 24. In this study, we look at Jewish history between 332 BCE when they submitted to Greek rule through Roman rule exercised through Herod the Great until 4 BCE. We also survey several books in the Apocrypha. Each session lasts one hour on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83215849169?pwd=cjdBR3RJTWRoK3ZyNEt1QTVMMzBYQT09>.

A study guide and outline is on the Christ the King website and in the weekly Thursday emails. Matthias Henze's book, *Mind the Gap: How the Jewish Writings between the Old and New Testament Help Us Understand Jesus*; Fortress Press, 2017; ISBN 9781506406428; EBOOK ISBN 9781506406435 is one of our resources.

## 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).

## 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).

# Music

**Bach Vespers** celebrating Candlemas will be sung  
**Sunday, February 6 at 6:00 p.m.**

Two featured works to be sung by our Bach Choir, with Ben Kerswell on organ, include Bach Motet O Jesu Christ, meins Lebens Licht, BWV 118, and the hauntingly beautiful "Lux Aeterna" by Morten Lauridsen. Vespers is preceded by a lecture at 5:15.

All are welcome to join for this light-filled event!



**Note to choir singers and brass:** We hope to return to in person rehearsals soon. Be in touch with Rick, Ben or Bob to confirm. Thank you to our wonderful singers who have sung (no more than 10 each Sunday!) during this time of waiting!

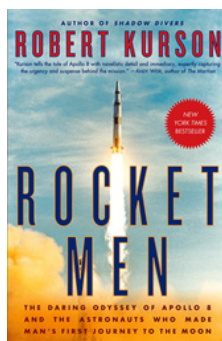
## CREDIMUS UT INTELLIGAMUS

*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:***

Kurson, R. **Rocket Men: The Daring Odyssey of Apollo 8 and the Astronauts Who Made Man's First Journey to the Moon**, Random House, New York, NY: 2019



### ***Blurb:***

By August 1968, the American space program was in danger of failing in its two most important objectives: to land a man on the Moon by President Kennedy's end-of-decade deadline, and to triumph over the Soviets in space. With its back against the wall, NASA made an almost unimaginable leap: It would scrap its usual methodical approach and risk everything on a sudden launch, sending the first men in history to the Moon—in just four months. And it would all happen at Christmas.

In a year of historic violence and discord—the Tet Offensive, the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy, the riots at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago—the Apollo 8 mission would be the boldest, riskiest test of America's greatness under pressure. In this gripping insider account, Robert Kurson puts the focus on the three astronauts and their families: the commander, Frank Borman, a conflicted man on his final mission; idealistic Jim Lovell, who'd dreamed since boyhood of riding a rocket to the Moon; and Bill Anders, a young nuclear engineer and hotshot fighter pilot making his first space flight.

## Campus Ministry

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Share with us in our Joy! Lutheran Campus Ministry, Rice University is finally receiving official club status at Rice University.

This will open plenty of new ministry opportunities, ability to join the Joint Campus Ministers Association, and be presenting at official tabling events. Next Month, we will announce the members of this Campus Ministry Board, its officers and a testimony from one of our students on the impact of ministry amongst students. Look forward to our new and revitalized Campus Ministry webpage.

### Schedule for February

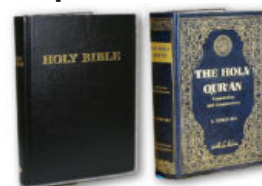
**Wednesdays in February: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Coffee and Conversation @ Brochstein Pavilion. Undergraduate, graduate, faculty and others are invited to join us for fellowship and mutual support over coffee.

**Sunday February 13, 12:30 p.m.** CTK Courtyard. Faith in the Round and for our world: Lutheran Campus Ministry, Rice University will be hosting a monthly discussion on pressing topics in the world today. This Month we will be discussing: MLK, Jr. Beyond the Sound Bite.

Look out for additional updates on our Semester Service Project and upcoming Peer Ministry training.

### Scriptural Reasoning February 15, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

The Prophet(s) of God: An Interfaith Dialogue Series. Due to the Omnicron surge, last month's Scriptural reasoning was cancelled. We apologize for this last-minute cancellation. Pending pandemic conditions, the Blue Mosque/Dialogue Institute and Christ the King church will be having an inter-faith discussion series on the The Prophet(s) of Christianity and Islam: Who were the Prophets of these great faith traditions? Was Adam a Prophet? What about Job? Every Third Tuesday of the Month from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., we will have a meal, fellowship and conversation on this topic for the 2022 Scriptural Reasoning year. Contact Pastor Rodriguez to join and for meeting location. [sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org](mailto:sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org).



## ARC Events

The Anti-Racism Committee of Christ the King Church is grateful and thankful for all who participated in the MLK Jr. Day Parade this year. We want to lift up the leadership and tireless efforts of Rebecca Shields in helping organize, gather and promote this event among the congregations of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod. On **February 13 and 20, Calvin Harris will be leading two adult forums on Black Celebrations and Culture**. Come and learn more! Join us for our last zoom session, Thursday February 3, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. over MLK Jr.'s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail.” On **February 17 and 24 Pr. Rodriguez will be leading two zoom discussions on Howard Thurman's “Jesus and the Disinherited.”** Who was Howard Thurman and his impact on the entire civil rights movement? Come and discuss this book that MLK Jr. was known to have carried on his person at all times.

We also want to provide information on issues that need advocacy; organize a congregation-wide book read/discussion; arrange fellowship with Augustana, our “mother” congregation; offer classes in association with the Center for the Healing of Racism. Please share any ideas you may have as well!

You are invited to contact members of ARC for more information: Donna Vass, Terri Koehler, Jim Shields, Rebecca Shields, Susan Uri, Jessica Lockheed and Pastor Sergio Rodriguez.

*“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.”*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**Good Trouble Ahead!**



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

## February Dates:

- 4-6: *Worship. Lead. Serve.*  
Retreat at Lutherhill
- 6: Confirmation Class and  
High School Gathering, 9:30 a.m.
- 13: Souper Bowl of Caring  
Confirmation Class and  
High School Gathering, 9:30 a.m.
- 19: TreeVentures Take Two, 11:00 a.m.
- 20: Annual Meeting Part Two, 12:15 p.m.
- 26: Church Summit, 9:00 a.m.
- 27: Carnival Festival

## March Dates:

- 2: Ash Wednesday

### Carnival Fundraiser Help Needed: February 27 at 8:00 a.m.

Youth and adult volunteers needed for our new Carnival Festival Fundraiser on February 27, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Volunteers will making pancakes, sausages, and eggs to go with our brunch at church. No experience necessary. The ways you can help are:

- bring breakfast foods and/or orange juice
- shop at Sam's for pancake mix and sausage patties
- decorate the Saturday before with Deacon Ben
- come at 8:00 a.m. and making pancakes and cooking the sausage
- come at 1:30 p.m. and continue with the pancakes
- help with kids' table and pancake race
- clean up at 1:45 p.m.

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

## 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 with teachers Bill Burgess and team of teachers. We will come together at church for our youth time of fellowship, prayer, bible study, and of course community building. Come and enjoy a time to recharge your spiritual batteries and take a sabbath from your school work. We have special Sunday activities on the following Sundays:

- February 6: No Class
- February 13: Souper Bowl of Caring Activities
- February 20: Trip to Starbucks
- February 27: Cooking and Preparing for Carnival Festival

### *Worship. Lead. Serve.* Retreat at Lutherhill: February 4-6

#### A gathering for high school youth 9th-12th grade

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

### Souper Bowl of Caring: Sunday, February 13

All youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to help serve on Sunday February 13 as we collect donations for our Souper Bowl offering during worship, lead in worship service, and help collect food after the service in a drive thru opportunity. See details on page 3. This year our offering is going to CCSC to help their food pantry. You are welcome to wear your favorite team color(s) to worship. For more information, please contact Beverly Davis or Deacon Ben Remmert.

### Texas Tree Ventures Trip (Take Two) February 19 at 11:00 a.m.

Since the weather did not cooperate with us last month, youth are invited for a trip to Texas TreeVentures to experience their aerial adventure course located in the campus of the Recreation Center at Rob Fleming Park. The course is directly adjacent to the expansive 1,800 acres of the George Mitchell Nature Preserve, which is home to abundant wildlife, several miles of wooded trails, and Spring Creek. The three-level aerial adventure course tests you in a fun environment with 72 challenging elements! Cost is \$20 which covers admission. Make sure to bring your lunch. RSVP by February 16.

### Kemah Shoreline Clean Up Event: February 20 at 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Luther League youth and parents are invited to join Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) and the Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston (IENoH) on Sunday, February 20, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. to learn about plastic pollution in Galveston Bay, tips for pollution prevention, and take part in a shoreline cleanup. This event will offer activities for all ages and skill levels, so bring the whole family! Please arrive a few minutes before 2:00 p.m. at Galveston Bay Foundation's property at 1725 Highway 146, Kemah to check in with staff by the entryway to the office. Cleanup supplies will be provided but please bring a mask, sun protection, a full water bottle, and wear closed-toe shoes. There are restrooms and a water refill station in the office for guest use. For information, contact Deacon Ben Remmert at [benremmert@ctkelc.org](mailto:benremmert@ctkelc.org). RSVP by February 13.



# CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## 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:

February 1: Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, Tunisia  
February 8: Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain  
February 15: Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland  
February 22: France, Germany, Monaco

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

## Children and Parent Playdate at the Playground, Weather Permitting: February 19 at 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Children and parents are invited to come to the church on Saturday, February 19 to come together to play at the playground and the courtyard at church for a time for children and our parents to talk meet and talk 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.

## Making Ashes February 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Come for a special time with our own Elizabeth Lloyd and Bette Bowers during the Sunday School time on February 27 as they show our children and parents how the ashes for Ash Wednesday are made. Great opportunity for children, youth, and parents understand a wonderful Lenten tradition!

## Carnival Festival February 27 at Noon

Come and eat all the pancakes and sausage you can and enjoy music and pancake races after late service on February 27 as we eat up all the foods we cannot have during Lent. There will be projects for the kids beginning at 12:30 p.m., with dancing for everyone, followed by singing our last "Alleluia." Brunch will be served from 12:15 until 1:00 p.m. All donations for this event will go to help out youth attending the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering. Come and have the most fun you'll have until Easter.

### Wear Your Sports Shirts

All worshipers on February 13 are invited to wear their favorite sports teams apparel in support of the Souper Bowl of Caring. (That means professional, school, neighborhood attire).



**Souper Bowl of Caring  
Funds and Food Drive**

**Sunday, February 13  
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**

*See page 3.*

# Plan for Summer



## Mark your Calendars

*Lutherhill Camp Registration is open!  
Make sure to register with Christ the King  
as your congregation to get your spot!*

## 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 and Register by February 15.**

#### 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 Gr) 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. **Sign up and Register by February 15. 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.

### ELCA Youth Gathering: July 24-28

After much prayer, conversation and tears, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2022 Gathering, MYLE and the tAble due to the ongoing pandemic, the recent COVID-19 surge and public health considerations.

We know there are thousands of young people who will not get to experience the Gathering, and our hearts break for them. This was not an easy decision, and we ask for your prayers and your grace. We understand the impact this decision will have on our youth, volunteers and planning teams, and we hope to return to Minneapolis for a future Gathering.

The ELCA is fully committed to supporting the young people of our church and to seeing that the ministry of the Gathering, MYLE and the tAble continue for years to come. With that assurance, we are turning our attention toward 2024 for the next Gathering. Stay tuned to Gathering communications for a location announcement this summer. – ELCA Youth Gathering Staff.

## 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.ctlkelc.org](http://www.ctlkelc.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—both are essential to a great Day Camp:

**Support Staff:** Starting at age 12, people are invited to serve in leadership positions that require orientation and specific time commitments.

**Paid Staff:** A limited number of people between the ages of 15 and 22 will be called to serve as small group leaders and directors. Paid staff are required to participate in pre-camp learning, attend the Staff Training Event, all staff meetings and to be prepared each day. **Paid Staff Applications are due on February 15!**

Applications can be found online at [www.ctlkelc.org](http://www.ctlkelc.org) or paper applications can be found at Christ the King Church.

## Spring Cleaning for the Tag Sale

Are you starting your spring cleaning early and decluttering your house? The annual Tag Sale at Christ the King Church will be **Saturday April 30, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** in the parish hall. Take advantage of this event to clean out closets, garages and attics! We will collect items April 24. All items donated will help in making our tag sale a success. For details, contact Deacon Ben.

# Tag Sale



# 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 here: <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.

## Beginners Meditation Retreat: February 25-27

Rejuvenate your body, mind and spirit by joining us for the first Pop-Up Retreat of 2022 - the Beginners Meditation Retreat led by Pastor Brad Otto - February 25-27, in Galveston, Texas. View the weekend schedule or register today by visiting: <https://lutherhill.org/retreats/pop-up-retreats/>

## Unwind: Lutherhill Women's Retreat: March 4-6

Start your Lenten observance with this restorative quiet time in the country. Alicia Goodrow is organizing a group to attend from CTK and we hope to spend this time deepening our friendships for service together in the time of transition, uncertainty, and opportunities in our church, our families, and our world. Sign up at <https://lutherhill.org/retreats/unwind/> and indicate that you are with Christ the King Lutheran Church Houston so you are assigned to a cabin with your CTK friends. Feel free to call the camp to get answers to Covid protocol questions.

## 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.



LUTHERHILL  
MINISTRIES

## Upcoming Retreats

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

### UNWIND

March 4 - 6

Renew your body and spirit with your favorite ladies.

### 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.

## Flowers for the Nave

You are invited to sign up to provide the altar flowers for weekend services in 2022 by going to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0849A4A92CA2F85-2022> or by emailing your preferred date to Cheryl at [cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org](mailto:cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org). Flower arrangements are \$70 which can be paid online or by check made out to Christ the King Church with "altar flowers" in the memo line.

## Join One of our Weekday Prayer Teams from the Comfort of your Home

Everyone knows that we pray for a few members and friends during Sunday worship, but did you know that there are people who pray for our extended list of friends and family every weekday? On any given day, there are between 80-100 individuals who are named in prayer. For many years, a few Christ the King members gathered at 8:15 a.m. daily for morning prayer. They gathered to pray the morning's liturgy and named all those on our weekday prayer list. Obviously with the pandemic, our weekday gatherings ceased, but our intercessory prayers certainly continued just from the comfort of members' homes.

We invite you to join one of our daily prayer teams. Simply choose a weekday and commit to praying through the intercessions and individual names anytime during your chosen day at your convenience. Please let Beverly know your choice of weekday at [beverlydavis@ctkelc.org](mailto:beverlydavis@ctkelc.org), so we can ensure that all those for whom we are called on to intercede are being remembered and enfolded in prayer.

# GET INVOLVED!

## Make a Call or Share a Meal

As we continue our sojourn through the pandemic, some of our members remain isolated and many feel tired, lonely, and anxious. While we continue to wait for the "all clear" signal, daily life is still challenging. As an ongoing effort to make sure no one feels forgotten, our Congregational Care Team provides support through phone calls and cards, and through occasional meals delivered to parishioners in special need or due to illness. We especially invite those of you who enjoy cooking (or ordering out) to sign up for our Meals Team to provide a few meals as needed over the course of the year and as you are available. Please email Beverly at [beverlydavis@ctkelc.org](mailto:beverlydavis@ctkelc.org) if you would like to learn more about our Congregational Care Team and/or to volunteer.

# LATINE MINISTRY

Despite the weather and the Omnicron surge, our Bilingual Epiphany Service (with our Rosca de Reyes [Mexican King's Cake with baby Jesus figurines]) had a great turn out. After the 11:00 a.m. Service on the Baptism of Jesus, Epiphany fun ensued. Cantor Erick had the blessing of receiving the baby Jesus figurine. In Mexican communities, the Rosca de Reyes is celebrated at home and centers around the arrival of the Magi. This is traditionally the gift exchanging day in Mexico and other Latin American Communities. The one who has the blessing of finding the baby Jesus in their slice of Rosca is honored by providing the community meal on Candelaria (February 2, Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ in the temple). Traditionally, this is the day when folks bring the Christ child of their crèche to be dressed and blessed at church. Candles are also typically brought to be blessed as a sign that the light of Christ is accompanying the family throughout the year. Blessings to all who received the Christ child in their Rosca.

Together with the Ministers of la Mesa Latina (A Latine Ministry strategy team of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod), several collaborative Latine retreats have been planned.

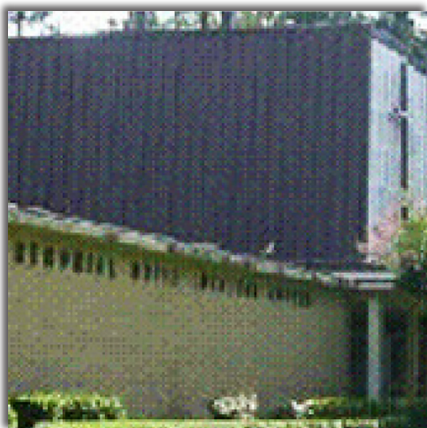
- A Latinex women's retreat at Zion Retreat Center in May. If you know of any Latine women who would like to deepen their spirituality and vocational leadership, have them contact Pr. Rodriguez for dates and registration.
- A Latine Youth Collegiate Retreat on June 11. Know of any Latine youth interested in attending college and want to grow in their understanding of faith and vocation, reach out to Pr. Rodriguez for information and for dates.

## PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 4:00 P.M.

at

12211 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024  
(Corner of Memorial Dr. and Gessner)



HOLY COMMUNION  
IN CELEBRATION OF  
THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF  
**Memorial Drive  
Lutheran Church**

and



### REDEDICATION AND COMMITMENT

Of its members as they become a part of the life and ministry of

## CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

Presiding Minister The Rev. Michael Rinehart, Bishop  
Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### CTK/MDLC Merger Steering Committee Formed

The Christ the King and the former Memorial Drive Lutheran Church Merger Steering Committee met for the first time on Sunday, January 23. We appreciate the commitment of its members to the task given to them by the congregation council.

Steering Committee Chair: Russell Post

Four Sub-Teams and Leaders—

Ministry: Pastor Beth Marie Halvorsen Work Processes: Tor Kargas

Governance: Alicia Goodrow Property: Karen Whitefield

Other Members: Pastor Mandy Derr, Janet Zaozirny

Thanks be to God for the thoughtfulness, productivity, and hopefulness that arose from this group! Expect to hear regular updates!



## Children's Health Website for Parents

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) offers a comprehensive website for parents. Advice related to children's health issues covers a wide range of topics including Safety & Prevention, Ages and Stages and a Symptom Checker. A mobile app and link to the AAP bookstore are also available. Other links present health issues in the news and discussions of adolescent trends and behaviors that can negatively impact health. Resources for insuring emotional health are also available. For more information check out [www.healthychildren.org](http://www.healthychildren.org).



## Yoga on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom

Did you know that CTK members and friends join together every Saturday at 1:00 p.m. for yoga? Led by veteran yoga instructors Katherine Krause and C.J. Liu, you are

invited to join our Hatha yoga class for a gentle, non-competitive opportunity to breathe, stretching, and expand both our bodies and our spirits. Class is free. Contact Beverly at [beverlydavis@ctkelc.org](mailto:beverlydavis@ctkelc.org) for details and to join the class.

# Volunteering

Do good in the world and help make a difference.

## Young Adults Volunteer at Christian Community Service Center on February 5

Join the Young Adults as we volunteer at CCSC's Emergency Services on **Saturday, February 5 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).

## HOUSTON FOOD BANK

**houston food bank**  **Saturday March 12 8:00 a.m. - noon**  
For information, contact [ctkhfb@gmail.com](mailto: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! We're very proud of our volunteers for all their hard work and the great start to 2022 that they have given our group! Join is for our next trip to the Houston Food Bank on Saturday, March 12. Contact Justin Schneewind at [ctkhfb@gmail.com](mailto:ctkhfb@gmail.com).



*Right: The Friberg foursome with their German student guest. Friends and neighbors are always welcome to join us.*







## Churchwide Assembly Justice Look-Back: Gender Justice

At churchwide assembly in August 2019, a resolution was passed that supports engagement of the ELCA in the #ThursdaysinBlack campaign of the World Council of Churches (WCC). The WCC's #ThursdaysinBlack campaign calls upon all member churches (which includes the ELCA) to recommit to education about and elimination of gender-based violence. The ELCA resolution requests all members to wear black on Thursdays and to utilize the resources for reflection and action on this topic found at:

- <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Gender-Violence>
- <https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-lwf-gender-justice-policy>
- <https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black>

To learn more about this resolution, or other justice-related actions taken at the 2019 churchwide assembly, see this link: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Churchwide-Assembly>.

## The Work of the ELCA: Resourceful Servants

The ELCA's Resourceful Servants initiative promotes the financial wellness of ELCA congregations, rostered ministers and seminarians. The ELCA believes a focus on financial wellness will help reduce some of the life strains on those who lead faith communities now and in the future, guiding these leaders and their communities toward greater health and vitality and enabling them to more effectively carry out the Great Commission — making disciples of Jesus Christ. To learn more about Resourceful Servants, go to <https://resourcefulservants.org/>.

# Justice Advocacy Opportunity *Smorgasbord*

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

### Climate Change

Transportation is the number one source of climate pollution in the United States, so we must rapidly move away from gasoline and diesel engines in order to effectively solve the climate crisis. Automakers are making grand promises for electric vehicles, but Toyota is lobbying against federal legislation supporting electric vehicles and GM stated they would have 20 new electric vehicles on the market by 2023, but they only have one. Urge Toyota & GM to make light duty vehicles 100% electric by 2035.

### Immigration – Afghan Adjustment Act

While the U.S. has welcomed tens of thousands of Afghan immigrants to our country, they have no pathway to permanent residency other than asylum, which requires paperwork that they were advised to destroy in order to elude the Taliban during evacuation. To ensure that Afghans find lasting safety in the U.S., Congress must pass the Afghan Adjustment Act, which would allow them to seek legal permanent residence. Ask Congress to support the Afghan Adjustment Act.

### Land Conservation for People & Nature

President Biden has set a goal of preserving 30% of U.S. lands/waters by 2030 (called 30x30) for the purpose of addressing the disappearance of nature, climate change, and inequitable access to the outdoors. A key tool that the Dept. of the Interior can leverage to achieve the goals of 30x30 is the designation of Wilderness Study Areas, which preserve lands in their natural state. Contact your senators to ask them to urge the Secretary of the Interior to act on Wilderness Study Areas.

### Religious Freedom

Church leaders in Jerusalem report that the Christian community has “become the target of frequent and sustained attacks by fringe radical groups,” including “physical and verbal assaults against priests and other clergy, attacks on Christian churches, with holy sites regularly vandalized and desecrated, and ongoing intimidation of local Christians who simply seek to worship freely and go about their daily lives.” Call on Congress to consider the Christian community in Jerusalem in U.S. Policy.

### Voting Rights

While the U.S. Senate has failed to pass voting rights legislation, we can keep the pressure up on them. The Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act would protect voters against discriminatory changes to voting rules that target communities on the basis of race or background. It would also protect and expand voting rights, take steps to remove dark money from political campaigns, and limit partisan gerrymandering. Contact your senators to express your support for voting rights.

### Hunger

Earlier in the pandemic, Congress expanded the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and distributed the money monthly. As a result, food insecurity dropped by 30% among families receiving the CTC. Unfortunately, Congress let the expansion expire in December 2021, putting tens of thousands of kids at risk of hunger. Ask Congress to restore the CTC improvements & make them permanent.

## Shoreline Clean-Up

**Sunday, February 20, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. 1725 Highway 146, Kemah, Texas**

Join with people of all faiths to care for our shared environment! We will remove trash polluting a shoreline along Galveston Bay in Kemah, helping to restore the beautiful bay ecosystem and learn about pollution prevention at home. This event will offer activities for all ages and skill levels, so bring the whole family! Supplies will be provided. You just need your mask, sun protection, a reusable water bottle, and closed-toe shoes. The event will be limited to 20 participants in two separate groups of 10 and social distancing guidelines will be followed. Registration for this event is limited and required for participation. Register at: <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/eOT0eGcF9ECbat3dVe>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) or Sasha Francis at [sfrancis@galvbay.org](mailto:sfrancis@galvbay.org) for more information.

## Living the Change Weekly Discussion Group

**Tuesdays, February 22 - May 17, 6 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. Inspired by religious teachings to turn away from consumerism & to seek balanced relationships with all people and the planet, Walk on Earth Gently invites you into a journey of Living the Change that the world needs. This program focuses on making personal lifestyle changes in three areas: transportation, energy, and food. 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. Are you ready to commit to a more sustainable lifestyle? Then join us on this journey to Living the Change by registering at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-the-change-weekly-discussion-group-tickets-235555241067>. For more information, please contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com).

Feb. 22: Introduction & Transport, week 1

March 1, March 9 & March 22: Transport, weeks 2, 3 & 4

March 29, April 5, April 12 & April 19: Energy, weeks 1, 2, 3, & 4

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

May 17: Food, week 4 & closing

## The Face of God

**Thursdays in Lent, March 3 – April 7 (except Mar. 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 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.



## 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.

## Earth Church



*Jim Blackburn*

**Sunday,  
February 27,  
6:00 p.m., online**

In February, join Jim Blackburn, Professor in the Practice in Environmental Law at Rice University, who will discuss his new book of poetry, Earth Church, which he co-authored with artist Isabelle Scurry Chapman. Earth Church is a book about Earth-based spirituality, a subject that will become much more prominent in a future defined by a changing climate and the creation of a new economic system that is circular rather than linear. At the center of Earth-based spirituality is the Earth itself, that wonderful planet without which we would not be. Blackburn will weave a narrative around the poetry and art of Earth-based spirituality. Time for interactive discussion with the speaker will be provided. Please register for this talk at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earth-church-tickets-235539965377>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) with any questions.



## Ocean Equity Collective Launch Event

**Wednesday, February 9, 5:00 p.m., online**

The Ocean Equity Collective (OEC) is a Black, Indigenous, People of Color led and focused coalition of organizations and people in the ocean conservation space. The OEC envisions a community-centered and community-led sustainability movement, where the ocean's ecosystems are conserved, accessible, protected, and cherished by all people. Join this event to learn about the Ocean Equity Collective's vision for a healthy ocean, and their priorities in 2022. Register at: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_6TkBgnZjRzeqg26857dP6g?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=93488148-12f1-41c9-a4c2-4220e594ff0a](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6TkBgnZjRzeqg26857dP6g?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=93488148-12f1-41c9-a4c2-4220e594ff0a)

## Resilience in Congress:

**Faithful Advocacy for Climate-Resilient Lands & Waters**

**Thursday, February 24 5:00 p.m., online**

Over the last year, Congress has considered legislation that would build climate resilience in God's people and planet. But what is the difference between the Bipartisan Infrastructure Package and the Build Back Better Act? What has Congress already done and what do we still need to advocate for? Join this virtual workshop to learn about climate resilience provisions in these bills. Hear from experts about ocean climate resilience and climate action on our public lands, ocean waters, and communities. Learn how you can faithfully advocate for climate resilience in your community and in all of God's Creation. Learn more/register at: <https://creationjustice.salsalabs.org/february2022climateresilience-webinar/index.html>

## Ongoing Creation Care Events:

- Climate Solutions 101
- Faithful Resilience: A Study on Climate Resilience for Faith Communities

**Climate Solutions 101**, a video course & discussion group, is ongoing on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. thru February 15. Join us for the second half of this course to learn about climate solutions available TODAY. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-solutions-101-tickets-215049578077?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**Faithful Resilience**, a course & discussion group using written course materials and websites, is ongoing on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. thru February 17. If you'd like to consider how our church can be a force for climate resilience in Houston, join the second half of this course. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faithful-resilience-a-study-on-climate-resilience-for-faith-communities-tickets-215046809797?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

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

# AMMPARO

Exciting opportunities to volunteer to assist the CTK Welcome Team-sponsored Afghan family will arise as the Welcome Team works with Refugee Services of Texas to help in critical areas of the family's resettlement in Houston. We need volunteers 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, support in learning how to use the Metro transportation system, getting to and from ESL classes and practicing English will be tremendously helpful as members of the family acclimate to life in the U.S. Other opportunities to get to know the family can include taking them to a park and enjoying a picnic together.

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



## Epiphany

**Patricia Chapman** marked the entrance to the nave (our church house) with the blessing of the magi at our Epiphany service on January 8. The three letters stand for either the ancient Latin blessing "Christe mansionem benedicat", which means "Christ, bless this house," or the legendary names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar.





## #LUTHERANS ARE HERE

### MLK Parade Walkers from Nine ELCA Congregations

Nine ELCA Congregations from across the city (including members and friends from Christ the King) walked side by side at the MLK Original Parade in downtown Houston. Thank you to Rebecca Shields for coordinating this wonderful event and Michael Shelton for all the signs.

