



THE KING'S BANNER



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

ctkelc.org

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RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

Houston Pride Parade 2023

June 24

On May 7, Christ the King Church members voted to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. Join us, together with other RIC congregations of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, as we march in the Houston Pride Parade on June 24. **Register with Rev. Sergio Rodriguez, sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org, by June 11 to be included in this year's parade.** The LGBTQIA+ coalition of the TX-LA Synod will be selling shirts to be used for this parade and any further events. Contact Rev. Rodriguez to place your order.

Back-to-School Bash

August 27, after 11:00am worship
Rice Village Campus

To kick off the 2023-2024 academic school year, Christ the King Church will celebrate with a back-to-school cook-out. All are welcome to participate! Please be sure to invite your school friends, teachers, and school staff to mark a fresh start to the academic year. If you are interested in volunteering to prepare, cook, or serve, please reach out to Rev. Sergio Rodriguez, sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org, to sign up.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 28, the Congregation voted to call the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali to serve as Senior Pastor of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church.



Pastor Hope-Tringali is expected to begin her call on Sept. 1, 2023. [See pages 17-18](#)

SUMMER LITURGIES

Rice Village Campus

SUNDAYS

From July 2 — the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Independence Day weekend) through September 3 — the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Labor Day weekend), **there will be one Sunday service of holy communion at 11:00am at our Rice Village Campus.**

During this period, our Sunday worship will include three special occasions.

On July 23, we will observe the **Day of Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles**. Since Mary Magdalene was the first to see the Risen Christ and first to proclaim "I have seen the Lord" to the others, this is an Easter (white) Sunday interrupting the long "Ordinary Time" (green) liturgical season.

On July 30, our guest preacher will be the **Rev. Dr. Robert Moore**, one of our former senior pastors. Together with Robert, with whom she began her ministry (and now concludes it) we will celebrate the ministry and retirement of **Beverly Davis**. This will be a sad, joy-filled, memory-laden day!

On August 13, we will observe the **Day of Mary, Mother of God**, the "bearer of the Eternal Word" who "leads our praises," as we join our voices with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven. This day is, like July 23, a white day, but it is Christmas white that will this time interrupt Ordinary Time green.

Sunday, August 27 will mark the conclusion of interim ministry at both our campuses.

West Campus Sunday worship continues at 10:30am.

SATURDAYS

Our 6:00pm Saturday Contemplative Taize services of holy communion continue through the summer as usual. Beginning June 10 and continuing throughout the summer through September 2, these liturgies will include the semicontinuous first reading and psalm in our lectionary — you can find these listed each Sunday under the other readings on pages 38-53 of Evangelical Lutheran Worship. These readings invite us to walk along with our early faith ancestors, this year beginning with the stories of Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 12 and continuing through to the story of the call of Moses in Exodus 3.



Dear faithful people of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Since this is my final
KING'S BANNER
article as interim
senior pastor and

I've already written about you, who are the

Ministers the people of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

I want to write about those I've had the honor and privilege to work most closely with over these last two years, the staff, or those I prefer to call the

Ministry Team of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

I emphasize the word "team" because that is the way the compensated staff works. I call what all of them do "ministry" because each one of them works to serve God's people in the wider Church and world as well as in our congregation and give praise to God through Jesus Christ, depending daily on the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to live (24/7) their ministry and not simply "clock in" for a 5-day-a-week, 8 hour day. These are among the absolute best people of faith I've ever worked with and are also the best team mates any minister, "rostered" (ELCA jargon) or otherwise, could have.

In relation to the above paragraph, I want to speak to a criticism I've heard, namely that "the church office is closed on Monday." That critique implies that Monday, for every staff member, is a "day-off." I want you to know three things about this:

1. We all know that, even on "days-off," we can, in time of pressing need, reach and be served by every member of the staff, including the "un-rostered" folks.
2. Since the beginning of the pandemic, we've also all learned that a great deal of "office work" can be done – often more efficiently – from home.
3. While both 1 and 2 are demonstrably true among us, we also know that everyone deserves a break. We've known that since "God rested on the seventh day" (Genesis 2:2-3). Sabbath, like its cousin, sabbatical, are both about needed rest and re-creation.

Enough said, I think, on that.

One of the joyful passions I share with Pastor Hope-Tringali is a deep appreciation for collaboration. On every core ministry (worship, faith formation, pastoral care, communication, justice, service and care), the best decisions are always those made collaboratively. Collaborative decision-making naturally strives toward excellence; it always strives to leave no one out.

When I arrived here exactly two years ago, that collaborative excellence was clear and evident. Thanks to all who worked to ensure that that kind of team was in place. As this interim concludes, I am sure that every member of our current ministry team is indeed fully committed, exquisitely collaborative ministers; and that they, and our elected leadership, will continue to strive for those qualities as new team members are called, chosen, and engaged.

There are, of course, other members of Christ the King Church's ministry team: members of our congregation council; finance committee; Foundation and Bach Society boards; increasingly effective new (or revitalized) committees, teams, and task forces; ushers, bell ringers, gardeners, acolytes, servers, crucifers, thurifers, digital (visual and audio) volunteers; choir (and soon again, chorus) members; instrumentalists; food ministers, caregivers, LEMs, Community of Hope chaplains; Godly Play teachers; Confirmation instruction leaders; members of the altar guild (!); AAMPARO members; Freewheels and Food Bank volunteers; our members who serve on ecumenical and community boards and committees; quiet enablers of, and noisy prodders for, justice, creation care, and human rights -- the list goes on and on. Ultimately, we, ministers of Christ the King Church, working and collaborating with the members of our staff ministry team, have one goal – I've preached often: that God's kin-dom be experienced now, on earth as it is in heaven."

It's been a great privilege to serve as a pastoral leader among you. It's even better to know that Carole and I are privileged to continue to serve among you as Ministers the people of Christ the King Lutheran Church.

Peace and Joy --- and Courage,
Amandus J. Derr
Interim Senior Pastor

SUMMER Mission Offerings

June, July, August

JUNE: LUTHERHILL MINISTRIES



lutherhill.org

Lutherhill Ministries is a camping ministry of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod for all people of every generation to experience the love of Christ in unique settings and new ways. Their facilities accommodate all ages, all people, all year round. Everyone is welcome to engage in one of their camps, retreats and hosted events at Lutherhill in La Grange or on Galveston Island. Our mission offering to Lutherhill will help make camp improvements, provide camp scholarships, and provide staff enrichment. Christ the King Church has a long history with Lutherhill as our children and youth attend camp every summer with Deacon Ben; Lutherhill staff provide leadership for our Summer Day Camp at Christ the King; and many of our adults and families attend special retreats and events throughout the year. As Lutherhill prepares for their 69th season of summer camp, we are invited to join them in praying for a transformational, welcoming, healthy summer camp experience for campers.

JULY: HOSPITALITY APARTMENTS

hospitalityapartments.org

The Hospitality Apartments provide rent-free temporary housing (up to three months) and a safe, welcome, comfortable, supportive environment for people receiving medical treatment at the Texas Medical Center and surrounding areas in Houston. Since 1986 this 100% volunteer ministry has served thousands of people from all over the world. Christ the King has been one of this ministry's supporting churches for almost four decades. Check out the



apartments at hospitalityapartments.org, or contact CTK member Julie Giam at juliegiam005@gmail.com for more information.

AUGUST: UPBRING



upbring.org

ABUSE INSULTS OUR HUMANITY

It is Upbring's mission to break the cycle of child abuse by empowering children, families and communities.

ABOUT UPBRING

Upbring (formerly known as Lutheran Social Services) is a Texas-wide organization implementing generational innovation to advance child well-being. They are the leaders in delivering a broad spectrum of life-restoring services that elevate and heal human beings in our communities. Intent on shifting perspectives and reimagining current systems, their work secures a future free from the damages of abuse.

WHAT THEY DO

Inspired by faith and compelled by compassion, Upbring seeks others to join them in the call to defeat abuse. Foster care and education are at the forefront of their work, joined by other vital mission-oriented programs. With their partners, they deliver services that produce measurable progress toward five key markers of every child's well-being: safety, life skills, education, health and vocation.

DISASTER RESPONSE

Upbring also serves as the ELCA's disaster response agency for our region.



Sunday Book Reviews

9:30am in-person in the basement classroom or online

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

June 4: John Boles

Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed: The Story of the Village of Le Chambon and How Goodness Happened There by Philip Hallie

June 11: Carolyn Jacobs

Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman

June 18: Pr. Rodriguez

African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle and Song edited by Kevin Young

June 25: The Borderlands and Immigration:

A Conversation on the changing shape of immigration policy

July 2: Linda Schoene

(P)LUCK: Lessons We Learned for Improving Healthcare and the World by Alfred and Blair Sadler

July 9: Vicki Gorman

Breath by James Nestor

July 16: Kristine Wallace

Fatal Discord: Erasmus, Luther and the Fight for the Western Mind by Michael Massing

July 23: Beverly Palmer

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 by W. Phillip Keller

July 30: Linda Siemers

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Aug. 6: Mary Ann Beseda

Life in Five Senses by Gretchen Rubin

Aug. 13: Lucky Sahualla

Grace: President Obama and Ten Days in the Battle for America by Cody Keenan

Aug. 20: Andy Achenbaum

Safeguarding Social Security for All Generations by Andy Achenbaum

Aug. 27: Terri Bourne

Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America by Matika Wilbur

See archived Sunday Forums and Summer Book Reviews on our website.

WEEKDAY ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Lectio Divina

Mondays at noon, online

Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) is a Christian practice in which one reads a small passage of scripture, trusting in God's presence and relevance in daily experience. Attend as you are able, but please register with Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org.

Friday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Mandy Derr

Continues the study of First Corinthians (through June) at 10:00am online and in-person at our Rice Village campus. Contact cherylaspard@ctkelc.org for the Zoom link.

Other weekday studies are taking a summer break and will resume in September.

NAVIGATING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Interactive Workshop Led by Pastor Beth Halvorsen

Saturday, June 24 at Christ the King Rice Village Campus

9:00am-noon

Difficult conversations are . . . well, difficult. Situations vary greatly, ranging from personal relationships to larger systems surrounding us. However, the question remains. When emotions are stirred up and thinking becomes hyper-focused or muddled, what do we do? How do we handle ourselves so that we figure out how to honor ourselves, see others, and glorify God? It is not easy, but there is hope. Join us for this experiential workshop with Pastor Halvorsen.

Pray the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Tuesdays at 8:15am on Facebook

The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle takes us through every region of the world over the course of a year. Pray with us every Tuesday at 8:15 am online through Facebook live with Deacon Ben Remmert. During July & August, members of the congregation are encouraged to pray for these nations while Deacon Ben Remmert is out on his sabbatical. This summer we will be praying for:

June 6: Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini

June 13: Botswana, Zimbabwe

June 20: Malawi, Zambia

June 27: Kenya, Tanzania

July 4: Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda

July 11: Eritrea, Ethiopia

July 18: Djibouti, Somalia

July 25: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda

August 1: Republic of Congo, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

August 8: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea

August 15: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger

August 22: Liberia, Sierra Leone

August 29: Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

More details can be found here:

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

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Deacon Ben Remmert on Sabbatical

July 2- September 5

In March, the Congregation Council generously approved a two-month sabbatical for Deacon Ben Remmert. Sabbaticals are a gift to those who serve for years in ministry and are meant to be a time of rest, renewal, and growth. Deacon Ben will be traveling to the Holy Land with Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, taking a trip to the Pacific Coast with family, and catching up on reading and playing disc golf in Houston. Deacon Ben Remmert will lead the Sunday Forum on Sunday, September 17 to report on his reflections and discoveries to the congregation.

Lutherhill Day Camp is Coming to Rice Village Campus

June 12-16!

Lutherhill Staff and Luther League youth are leading Day Camp at Christ the King from 7:30am until 6:00pm daily. Children (ages 5 to 11) will learn bible stories through worship, games, snacks, science experiments, drama, and crafts. Contact benremmert@ctkelc.org.



Thursday, August 17, 7:00-9:00pm at Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp, Houston, TX

Come see what Godly Play all is about. For info please email godlyplayhouston@gmail.com.

Children's Creation Care Classes

August 13, 20, and 27 at 9:30am

Children and adults are invited to room 204 on three Sundays in August to learn about God's good creation from Creation Care experts in our congregation. Each class will be filled with fun, engaging, educational activities for all ages. For information, please contact Marie Monroe. Watch <http://creationcares.org> for details.



We joyfully celebrated the baptisms of Bailey Faith and Jalen Roger Wiker on May 21.



Godly Play Summer Nights

Attend one, or all three Summer Nights. During each, you will experience a Godly Play story, have refreshments and enjoy the fellowship of others. Meeting at different places with different stories and a different storyteller each time, each Summer Night is a different, unique experience. This is an informal gathering that is open for anyone to attend.

Thursday, June 22, 7:00-9:00pm at St. Philip Presbyterian, 4807 San Felipe St, Houston, TX

Thursday, July 20, 7:00-9:00pm at St. Martin's Lutheran, 1123 Burney Rd, Sugarland, TX

SAVE THE DATE

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Back to School Blessing for Teachers and Students

on August 27

Students (of all ages) and teachers/school administrators are invited to attend church and receive a special blessing during worship. Each of our teachers and students will receive a milestone gift as we pray for a great start to the new academic year. After worship we'll enjoy fellowship and lunch in the courtyard. Make sure to bring your lawn chairs and blankets. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather to share stories from the summer. Donations will be collected to offset the cost of lunch.

Godly Play Teachers, Door Persons, and Luther League Training

Saturday, September 9 at 10:00am

In a Godly Play class, there are always two adults in each room: the storyteller and the doorperson. Adults are there in service to the children and to support the community that develops. All teachers, door persons, and new volunteers are invited to attend this training on Saturday, September 9 in the council room to prepare for the upcoming semester. If you would like to become a doorperson or want more information, please call Marie Monroe at 832-488-7696.

If you would like to help with Confirmation, High School Bible Study, or Luther League please contact Deacon Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org.

Milestone Celebration: Bible Presentation to Third Grade and New Confirmation Students on Sunday, September 10

All new third grade and new confirmation students will be presented with Bibles to celebrate their milestones. We rejoice with the children who have reached the stage when reading has become a tool for learning and with our confirmation students beginning a new chapter in their faith journey. This milestone celebration will take place during worship at the 11:00am service. If you have a 3rd grader in your family, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org by Wednesday, September 7.

Rally Day Sunday

Sunday, September 10 at 9:30am

Join us for the start of our new Sunday School year! Sunday School classes are offered for children aged 2 through high school. Children, youth, and parents will meet in the parish hall for a short program recognizing this year's teachers and classes. Children and youth will be dismissed to be with their teachers while parents are encouraged to stay for a short orientation of Godly Play by our own Oliver Doolin. All students will have class pictures taken in the courtyard. Regular Godly Play classes will be offered every Sunday at 9:30am beginning on Sunday, September 17. You may contact Marie Monroe or Deacon Ben Remmert with any questions regarding Sunday School: marie4118@gmail.com or benremmert@ctkelc.org.



Emmaus Spiritual Center Summer Offerings

June 10 — 10am-noon online, \$30: **Doubt and Spiritual Life** presented by Rev. Mike Gemignani

June 17 — 9:30-11:30am in-person, \$30: **Living Water (Morning of Music and Prayer)** with David Joseph Rofrano

June 20 — 9:30-11:30am in-person, \$30: **Choices** presented by Joan McGovern

July 20, 21, 22 — **REVIVE Spiritual Spa Weekend:** This three-day event features a number of presenters, including Christ the King member Judith Richey on July 22 who will focus on **Spiritual Practice for Everyday Life**.

Go to www.emmausspiritualitycenter.com for more information and to register for these great opportunities.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



Luther League Germany Trip

June 18-27, 2023

This summer six adults and fifteen youth from Christ the King Church and House of Prayer Lutheran Church will travel to Germany and visit St. Thomas Church, our companion congregation in Leipzig Germany. As we build on our partnership with our church family across the pond and continue to foster long-term relationships based in our faith and walk the footsteps of Martin Luther, please keep us in your prayers. The youth and adults traveling are Amy Allen, Nathaniel Allen, Peter Bryant, Jack Campbell, Bryce Flick, Elliot Harlan, Joshua Kenyon, Luke Leshar, Elena Longoria, Hannah Longoria, Johnny Longoria, Martina Longoria, Charles Mathera, Aidan Parish, Deacon Ben Remmert, Daniel Rumph, Darren Rumph, Andrei Schoppe, Luke Schoppe, and Emily Winesett. Be on the lookout in September for a special Sunday forum presentation from our travelers. **Thank you to all our sponsors and those that donated their time, support, and finances to make this possible for our youth!**

Luther League D&D Meetings

Wednesdays at 6:30pm beginning in September

Youth are invited to join the Deacon for an adventure online through **Dungeons and Dragons** on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. Each meeting includes time together adventuring and devotional prayers. No experience needed and dice are provided. If you are interested in participating, please contact Deacon Ben Remmert before our first meeting on **Wednesday, September 6.**

Confirmation Class

Fall 2023- Spring 2024

Confirmation Class is open for all in 6th-8th grade with orientation on Rally Day Sunday, September 10. Weekly classes for students are Sundays at 9:30-10:30am beginning September 17 with hybrid in-person and online. Deacon Remmert will lead the class studying The New and Old Testament. Confirmation class is generally for students in grades 6-8 although special circumstances may be accommodated as to when a student joins the class. One teaching year focuses on Bible study, second year is on Lutheran life and topics, and the third year is organized around Martin Luther's Small Catechism. New students are welcome anytime. New confirmation students should contact Deacon Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org to register for this upcoming year.

SAVE THE DATE

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

July 16-20, 2024

Youth and Young Adults have a great opportunity to participate in the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer in New Orleans when 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. We hope to take a group of our youth to participate in this great event. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Ben Remmert no later than November 1 with a \$375 deposit.

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the table BE MYLE
Young Adult Gathering

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2023



Emily Claire DeVany

School: West Briar Middle School

Favorite Interest:

Playing violin, competitive swimming and making slime

Random Fact about yourself:

I love Rainbow Dippin' Dots!

What will I take away from Confirmation:

That I need to read the bible more because so much is happening that I didn't know.

Confirmation Project:

Canvas painting of faith journey



Maya Entzian Kolb

School: Riverwood Middle School

Favorite Interest:

Horseback riding, reptiles, and small animals.

Random Fact about yourself:

When on vacation, I love to scuba dive and my favorite color is green.

What will I take away from Confirmation: The memories of attending the lock-ins and summer camp at Lutherhill.

Confirmation Project: Artistic faith journey map



Will Mallon

School: St. Anne's Catholic School in Tomball

Favorite Interest:

Soccer and Chess

Random Fact about yourself:

I have lived in Australia with my family.

What will I take away from Confirmation: The fun and open conversations about faith we had with our confirmation teachers.

Confirmation Project: 3 interviews with members of the congregation



James Scott Santana

School:

River Oaks Baptist School

Favorite interest:

Football

Random Fact about yourself:

Favorite subject is history.

What will I take away from Confirmation: The time together in confirmation class with my friends talking about the bible and faith in an open way that did not cause me to stress.

Confirmation Project: Research paper on King David



Charlie Axel Turner

School: Pin Oak Middle School

Favorite interest: I love to play golf and compete in wrestling

Random Fact about yourself:

I pulled my first "all nighter" at a church lock in this year.

What will I take away from Confirmation: The fun that we had at Lutherhill and at the Galveston Retreat center.

Confirmation Project: 3 interviews with members of the congregation



Kylie Justine Whitefield

School:

Spring Forest Middle School

Favorite interest:

Horseback riding & hiking

Random Fact about yourself:

Favorite color is green.

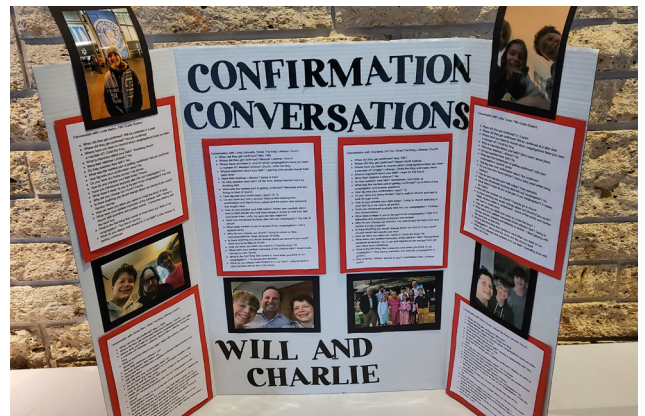
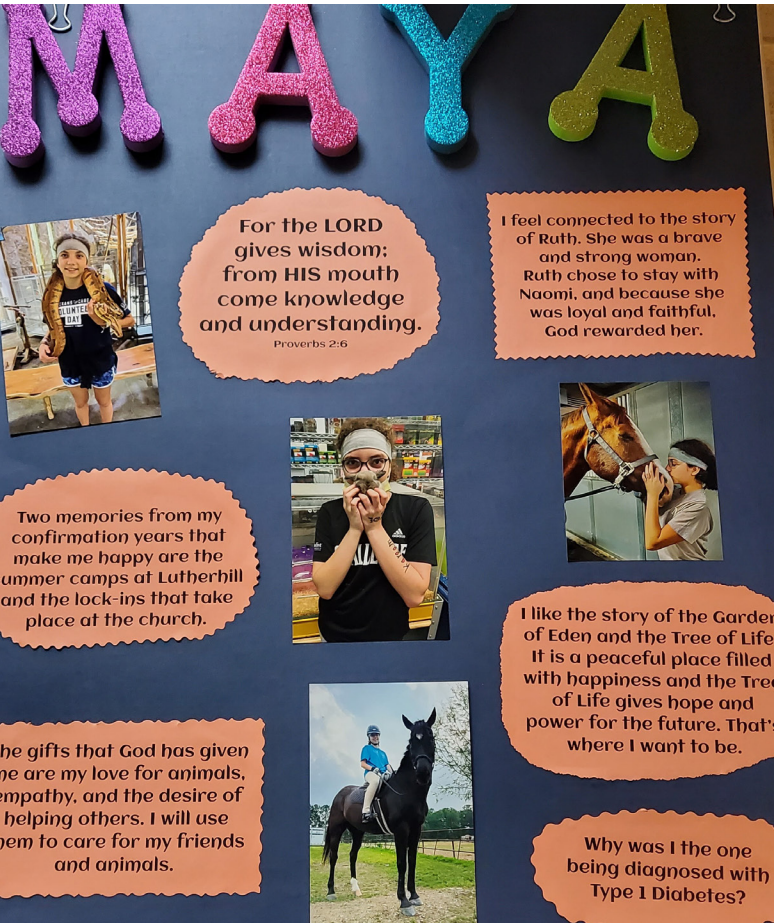
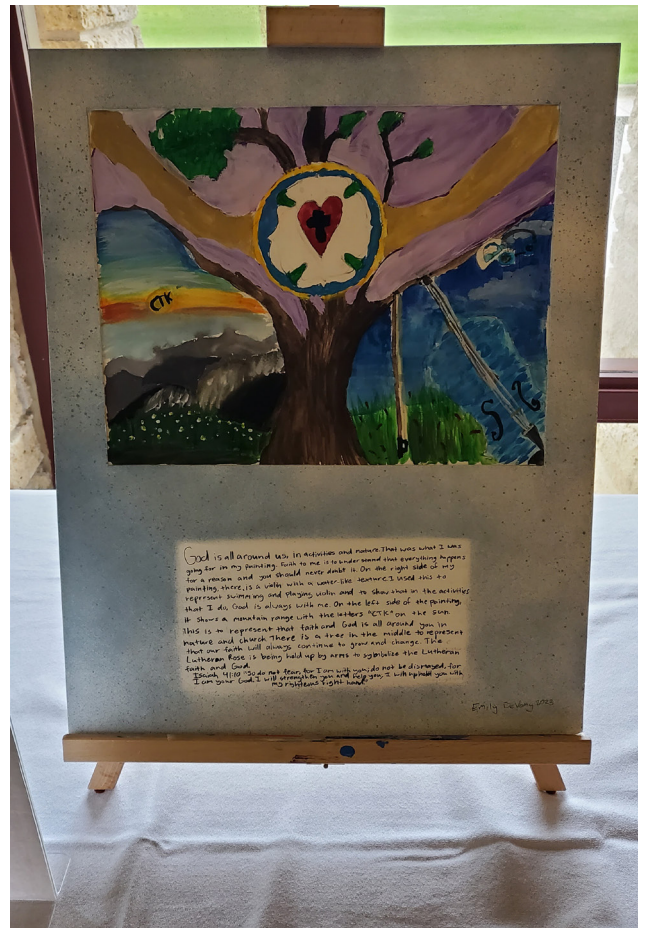
What will I take away from Confirmation: The lessons that we learned in confirmation class about the bible and the Christian faith.

Confirmation Project:

Research paper on Sarah

2023 Confirmation Class Projects

The Confirmation Project is an important component of the confirmation experience. It is an opportunity for our students to creatively make their personal statement of faith in preparation for Confirmation Sunday. At baptism, parents promise to raise their children in the faith. Confirmation is the affirmation of that promise. Our young people are now old enough to have their own personal faith stories. Each of our confirmation students have different gifts and passions, and through these projects we are able to see their outlook and personality.





Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

We continue this ongoing series highlighting the ELCA's **SOCIAL STATEMENTS** shared as summaries by Rev. George Brookover.

CARING FOR HEALTH: OUR SHARED ENDEAVOR (adopted in 2003)

"Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor" Like many Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) this one starts with a description of the social situation, explores biblical and theological themes, and then lays out implications. And it is necessary to share that the statement was adopted before the Affordable Care Act was enacted by the U. S. Congress in March of 2010.

Section One acknowledges the crisis in health care in the U.S. and describes Christian responsibility.

Section Two turns to the Bible and theology to establish basic principles and define terms such as *"healing," "cure"* and *"illness."*

Section Three The vision of health as a shared endeavor rests in a biblical view that wholeness is a blessing that God intends for all (1Thessalonians 5:23). In this vision, *"A ministry of healing is integral to the life and mission of the Church."* Guided by this vision, the statement addresses the health care system and its primary parts, from congregations to medical research.

Sections Four and Five are dedicated to specific recommendations about equitable access to health care for all and provide ethical guidance for individuals and families.

The title captures the theme of the statement: caring for health is a shared endeavor, an endeavor that requires sustained and determined effort from all of us. Each of us bears some responsibility for his or her own health, but health and health care also depend upon other people and conditions in the wider society. Such interdependence is at odds with the common message of this individualistic society, but it flows from the biblical vision of wholeness. The biblical vision challenges the belief that illness equals disease and health equals cure. There are deeper dimensions to healing, such as restoration to God, and life within a community of meaningful relationships. *"Being*

well' for Christians does not mean we are untouched by pain and suffering. Human beings are finite and vulnerable, and so we recognize limits on what health and health care can mean." Being well for Christians means that we are able to participate in Christ's love by giving ourselves for others. We share their suffering in response to Christ, who bore the suffering of all. The statement's vision means that health care should not be organized primarily for profitability: *"Although health care goods and services may be bought and sold, health care is above all an activity of caring that grows out of relationships of mutual responsibility, concern and trust — and that cannot be reduced to a commodity."* Rather, the statement concludes, *"...health care is the kind of good most appropriately given on the basis of need."* It specifies, *"At a minimum, each person should have ready access to basic health care services that include preventive, acute, and chronic physical and mental health care at an affordable cost."* Rather than encouraging privatization, the belief that health is a shared endeavor *"makes public health services... the foundation for any health care system."* Since the vision encompasses the physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions of people's lives, this church believes health care involves more than doctors, nurses, and hospitals. Each of us has responsibility *"to be a good steward of his or her own health out of thankfulness for the gift of life and in order to serve God and the neighbor."* This requires a number of activities: keeping healthy habits, seeking preventive health care, attention to spiritual exercises and action in our callings as citizens. The statement asserts that congregations are in the health care *"business"* because they are centered in word and sacrament ministry, which offers *"salvation"* (*"salvation"* is from the Latin word for *healing or wholeness*).

Congregations are to encourage healing through vibrant prayer, services of healing, pastoral care, and congregational health ministries. The statement also recognizes and celebrates the many contributions that ELCA social ministry organizations make through *"respectful and equitable attention to the physical, mental and spiritual needs of those persons served."*

The vision of the shared endeavor means that the church is called to be an active participant in fashioning a just and effective health care system. The primary concern of the statement is achieving equitable access to basic health care for all, and so the statement calls the whole ELCA to commit itself to this goal. The ethical principles of agape, love and

justice are to guide that participation. The statement called for reform of the U.S. health care system: *"The United States does not currently have a health care system that is capable of care for all people. Significant changes in financing and structure are therefore required."* The statement did not name a particular system for achieving that reform but rather concluded: *"Our obligation could be met through*

any one of several combinations of personal, market and governmental means, although none of these means alone can provide equitable access to health care."

Link to the entire Social Statement: <https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/HealthSS.pdf>

More Christ the King Church Graduates



Haley Goodrow graduated from Wellesley College this May with a B.A. in Biology and Spanish. Her Honors Thesis in the biological sciences department focused on vesicle mediated horizontal gene transfer in microbial communities. In June she will start as a research assistant at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in the laboratory of Dr. Kathrin Bernt studying hematopoiesis in association with pediatric leukemias. She looks forward to expanding her interests in genetics to human health before applying for graduate school.



John Uri received his Masters in Liberal Studies from Rice Graduate School in May.

2023 Texas Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Assembly Report

Rebecca Shields, Lucky Sahualla, and Federico Salas-Isnardi were Christ the King Church's lay voting members at the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Assembly, May 19 and 20, 2023 meeting at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in the Woodlands. Deacon Ben Remmert and Pastors Beth Marie Halvorsen, Sergio Rodriguez, and Amandus Derr also attended as rostered minister voting members. The Assembly heard several reports, convened briefly as the governing agency of Lutherhill Ministries, adopted the 2023 synod budget, and, in its most significant action, voted on the synod's welcome statement and became a Reconciling in Christ Synod, two weeks after our congregation had a voted the same.

Deacon Beth Hartfiel served as the very effective and efficient assembly manager, assisted by a number of volunteers, including Deacon Ben Remmert. Carolyn Jacobs of our congregation presented the report on our companion synod relationship with the Lutheran Church in the Central African Republic. Pastor Rodriguez, also a member of the synod council, led several workshops; and Lucky Sahualla was honored for his work as a long-time member of the Lutherhill Ministries board.

All rostered ministers are expected to attend synod assemblies and each congregation or synodically authorized worshipping community can send at least two lay voting members. Larger congregations like ours are invited to send three.



Ben Willcockson graduated with a degree in Architecture from Auburn in May and is relocating to Birmingham, Alabama to start the next phase of his life.



St. James Family Life Center

Planting the Seed of Hope, Growing Opportunities

CTK members support St. James Family Life Center's \$25,000 fundraising goal!

Members of the AMMPARO committee and a multitude of Christ the King members enjoyed a festive evening highlighting 10 years of contributions St. James Family Life Center has made to the Garden Oaks/Oak Forest community during the center's celebration event in April.

The center actively supports the needs of a primarily immigrant community in the Garden Oaks area. Their work includes outreach to nearby apartment complexes where they connect families with resources and support. They have also established relationships with HISD and Pasadena



Their work is supported by established and growing partnerships throughout the community, including their relationship with Christ the King Lutheran Church. AMMPARO committee members and Christ the King Lutheran Church were recognized for their ongoing support.

Through the generosity of our congregation, Christ the King helped raise \$10,000 of the \$25,000 fundraising goal. If you have a special interest in volunteering with St. James Family Life Center, please be in touch with Emily Triantaphyllis via email: ewtrianta@gmail.com.

You may continue to support the center's programs through the AMMPARO line on the CTK online giving form at <https://ctkelc.org/give>.



ISD to assist families in developing the skills necessary to support their children in their educational endeavors. Additionally, the center conducts citizenship classes, immigration forums, financial workshops, and ESL classes.



**freewheels
houston**



Freewheels receives its largest grant to expand bike ministry

Freewheels Houston, the bicycle repair and distribution program launched at Christ the King Church, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant by the Baxter Trust to expand its shop space in southwest Houston and provide more bikes to refugees, veterans emerging from homelessness and young people from low-income families who need transportation to work, school and other destinations.

Established in 1986 by Murphy and Betty Baxter, the Baxter Trust provides financial support to smaller, newer non-profit groups who lack major fundraising capabilities but are committed to helping people from underserved communities improve themselves and their station in life. The Baxter Trust accepts grant applications by invitation only. "This is a tremendous validation of the Freewheels ministry, the efforts of our volunteers and the support we have received from Christ the King Church, its members and many others in the Houston community," said Bill Mintz, Freewheels executive director and founder. "We see this grant as an opportunity to grow; Freewheels will continue to need volunteer support, bike donations and financial support to maintain the program."



Freddy Alberto Navas Lopez, (front) a Nicaraguan dissident expelled from his country by dictator Daniel Ortega, is surrounded by Freewheels Houston volunteers after received a bicycle that will enable him to explore his new Houston home.

With approval of the grant, Freewheels has leased additional space at its shop in the Gulfton area, where many refugee bike recipients reside. The grant will also enable Freewheels to expand bike distributions and acquire more helmets, locks and lights. Freewheels is planning a new initiative to engage recipients in building their own bikes and teach basics of maintaining a bike.

Freewheels Houston's greatest need is for more volunteers to help clean, repair and distribute bikes. Volunteer bike shop days are on Friday and Saturday mornings from 9:00am to noon at our shop/warehouse in the Gulfton neighborhood. If you have questions, please ask CTK members Bill Mintz, Bill Chapman or David West. The main email address is info@freewheelshouston.org. We also need more donations of used bikes. Our customers most often ask for adult mountain bikes and hybrids with 26-inch, 700c and larger wheels. We also give youth bikes with 24-inch wheels to students in Alief ISD schools. Our refugee and veteran customers rarely ask for road bikes or beach cruisers. At this time, we are not collecting bikes for younger children.



Freewheels Houston volunteers recently delivered bikes to 15 Mata Intermediate School 5th and 6th graders who read 40 books during the school year.



Ekaterina Shapoval, center, a refugee from Ukraine, requested a Freewheels bike to commute to her new job in Houston. She is pictured with volunteers Audrey Angel (left) and Terri Koehler.

VOLUNTEER with Christ the King Church on SECOND SATURDAYS

We volunteer at Freewheels Houston every Second Saturday of Even-Numbered Months and at the Houston Food Bank on every Second Saturdays of Odd-Numbered Months.

Volunteer at Freewheels Houston

Saturdays: June 10, August 12, October 14

When: 9:00am to 12:00pm

Where: 6020 Jessamine St. #204, Houston 77081

Attire: Closed toe shoes, outdoor work

Contact: Bill Chapman at wpchapman01@gmail.com



Volunteer at the Houston Food Bank

Saturdays: July 8, September 9, November 11

When: 8:00am to 12:00pm

Where: 535 Portwall St., Houston 77029

Attire: Closed toe shoes, pants, sleeved shirt

Carpool: If needed, it will leave the church parking lot at 7:30am. Let Justin know.

Contact: Justin and Yuricel at ctkhfb@gmail.com



VOLUNTEER with CTK Young Adults on First SATURDAYS at Christian Community Service Center Emergency Services (Food Pantry):

Saturday mornings: June 3, August 5, November 4

Contact: Nathan Wiker at nathan@wikernet.com for info and to volunteer.



SPONSOR A STUDENT TODAY!

\$75 provides brand-new school supplies, a backpack, and a clothing gift card to a child in need.

Give online until August 6 at ccschouston.org/backtoschool or through Christ the King Church in the collection plate or online. Please designate "Back to School." Last year over 6,000 students started the academic year with school supplies and clothing, thanks to generous donors like us.

June 4

Karlene McGowen 6/5
Chris Eklof 6/6
Rudolph Oeben 6/7
Sharon Ostwald 6/7
Madeline Moore 6/7
David Hollrah 6/8
Anneliese Williams 6/8
John Triantaphyllis 6/8
Harry Schyma 6/8
Claudia Thorvilson 6/8
Elizabeth Smith 6/10
Nathaniel Allen 6/10

June 11

Bridget Jensen 6/13
Melissa Santana 6/15
Eric Swindell 6/15
Connor Scaff 6/15
Barbara Doty 6/15
Brannon Lloyd 6/16
August Triantaphyllis 6/17
Reese Felder 6/17

June 18

Marc Miller 6/18

Lillian Fenner 6/18
Jordan Carrillo 6/18
Naomi Nelson 6/21
Lindsay Remmert 6/21
Martina Longoria 6/24
Vicki Gorman 6/24

June 25

Samuel Vollmers 6/26
Edwin Peterman 6/27
Elizabeth Lloyd 6/29
Kathy Collins 6/29
Thomas Wilson 6/29
Ute Cezeaux 7/1
Susan Turner 7/1
Stephen Long 7/1
Hatley Post 7/1
Emily Winesett 7/1
Ian Vuong 7/1
Robert Doty 7/1
Paula Roalson 7/1
Aimee Elles 7/1

July 2

Matthew Willcockson 7/2
Benjamin Willcockson 7/2

Eileen Weida 7/3
Colin Burke 7/5
Luke Leshar 7/6

July 9

Bill Pelham 7/9
Daniel Johnson 7/11
Alice Oeben 7/11
Rebecca Matheny 7/13
Mitchell Gorman 7/13
Dylan Smith 7/15

July 16

Max Leshar 7/17
Steven Stewart 7/18
Lukas Schoene 7/21

July 23

Robin Russell 7/23
Kirk Hansen 7/24
Flora Roeder 7/24
Hannah Longoria 7/24
Seren Winston 7/26
Helga Aurisch 7/27

July 30

Rachel Zoch 7/30
Diane Cannon 8/1
Timothy Vuong 8/1

Juliet Bixby 8/1
William Fenner 8/1
David West 8/1
Joshua Aagaard 8/1
Elmer Ledesma 8/1
Ellen Tillery 8/1
Will Burgess 8/1
James Versalovic 8/1
Katie Wallace 8/1
MacKenzie Wallace 8/1
Katie Carrington 8/1
Jacquelyn McAnelly 8/2
Todd Hegarty 8/2
Hannah Nelson 8/2
James Santana 8/3
Adrienne Winston 8/5
Lisa Miller 8/5
Charlotte Turner 8/5
Elizabeth Mallon 8/5

August 6

Irmgard Willcockson 8/7
Lisa Brenskelle 8/7
Martin Salas 8/9
Judith Hungerford 8/9
Katherine Cuadra 8/9
Christian Triantaphyllis 8/10
Marie Martinez 8/11

Rachel McWhirter 8/12

August 13

Richard Erickson 8/15
Ryan Elles 8/15
Sabina Entzian 8/19
Raul Vieira 8/19
Philip Feldwisch 8/19
Anna Van Buskirk 8/19
Matthew Niestrawski 8/19

August 20

Andrea Salas 8/20
Russell Post 8/24
Robert Louis 8/24
Janelle Thompson 8/25

August 27

Richard Baker* 8/28
Anthony Goodoff 8/30
Sara Dobbs 8/31
Beverly Davis 9/1
Janet Neberman 9/1
Mike Bradshaw 9/1
Zachary Goodrow 9/1
Amy Allen 9/1
John Weida 9/1
Wambui Wa-Ngatho 9/1
Veronique Eberhart 9/1
Oliver Doolin 9/1
Suzanne Locheed 9/1

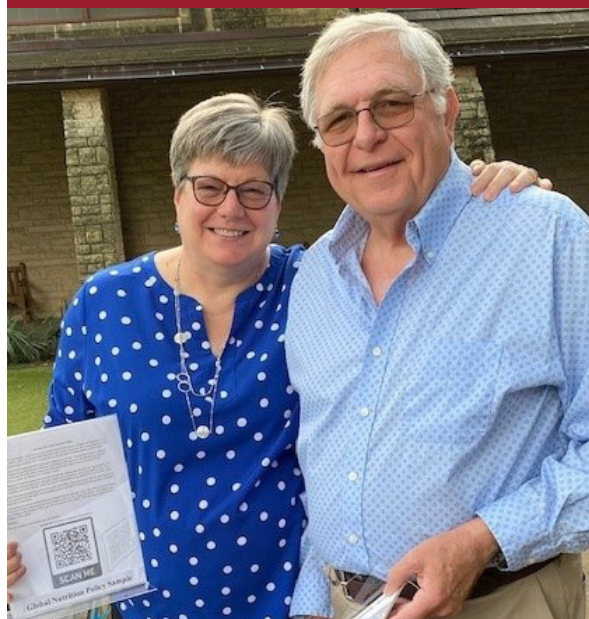
Summer Baptismal Anniversaries!

We celebrate these member baptismal anniversaries during Sunday worship.

"Remember and rejoice, Renewed by flood of grace, We bear the sign of Jesus Christ, That time cannot erase." (ELW 454)



Advocate for Justice Every Week



Churchwide Assembly Justice Look-Back: Conflict Free Metals

At churchwide assembly in August of 2022, a memorial was passed calling for the ELCA to: (1) encourage purchasing electronics with conflict free minerals, (2) continue monitoring human rights in the mining of minerals as part of its work, and (3) report its advocacy efforts on conflict minerals. To learn more about this or other justice-related actions taken at the 2022 assembly, see this link: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Churchwide-Assembly>.

The Work of the ELCA: Stewardship

As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. How do we respond to God's call to service and love? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us. Stewardship is about how we use ALL that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents, and our treasures. As we focus on personal, household and congregational stewardship, there are helpful resources: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Stewardship>.

Justice Advocacy Opportunity *Smorgasbord*

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

Opportunities to Advocate — To enable you to speak for justice regularly, the Justice Advocacy Ministry team posts justice advocacy opportunities several times per week on Facebook. And each weekend at church, you may advocate with your cellphone. Look for the sign with the QR code in the narthex or on the snack table on Sundays.

Also, you can advocate with the following affiliated organizations:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

<https://www.elca.org/advocacy>

Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service:

<https://www.lirs.org/advocate/>

Bread for the World:

<https://www.bread.org/act/advocate/>

Creation Justice Ministries:

<https://www.creationjustice.org/action.html>

Texas Impact:

<https://texasimpact.org/take-action-2/>

Interfaith Power & Light:

<https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/get-involved/#current>

Interfaith Justice Advocacy Workshop

Sunday, June 11, 2:00-4:00pm, online

June 2023 is the perfect time to refresh your advocacy knowledge and set goals for engaging around issues that impact the planet and its peoples. Why is it such a perfect time? The Texas legislative session just ended, and in September all eyes will turn toward the 2024 elections. Faith communities typically don't want to be seen as "political," but, as we'll cover in this workshop, faith communities can provide important education and leadership roles in nonpartisan civic engagement. Join Bee Moorhead, executive director of Texas Impact, an interfaith justice advocacy organization, to talk about what that looks like "in real life," and do a deep dive into Texas Impact's specific Houston-area resources and projects. Register for this event on www.eventbrite.com at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/interfaith-justice-advocacy-workshop-tickets-627649485507>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com with any questions.



Plastic Free EcoChallenge

July 1 - 31, online

Plastic pollution now contaminates the deepest trenches in the ocean, the highest mountain peaks, and even the air we breathe. Microplastics have been found in human blood, lungs, breast milk and placenta. Plastic has entered the food chain killing wildlife and causing the average person to eat tens of thousands of microplastic particles every year. To learn more about this issue & take action, join the Lutherans Restoring Creation – Gulf Coast team for the online Plastic Free EcoChallenge in July. Join the team at this link: <https://plasticfree.ecochallenge.org/>!

Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Continue...

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church in Houston invites you to a monthly environmental education web meeting series whose theme in 2023 is Interconnection.

Interconnections with the Environment: Ecosystem Services & Us

Sunday, June 25, 6:00pm, online

Professor Kerri Crawford of the University of Houston invites us to consider more deeply the interconnections between humans and our environment through the lens of ecosystem services. Nature provides us with many services, including water purification, climate regulation, and pollination. What happens to these services when we start losing biodiversity? Can we restore ecosystem services? This presentation will highlight how we benefit from

nature, new research on how humans are influencing ecosystem services, and paths forward to restore nature and the benefits it provides. Register on www.eventbrite.com at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/interconnections-with-the-environment-ecosystem-services-us-tickets-627645523657>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com.

Sunday, July 30, 6:00pm, online

Lisa Reznick of Texas Parks & Wildlife addresses *Interconnection*.

Sunday, August 27, 6:00pm, online

Professor Robert Mace, Executive Director and Chief Water Policy Officer at The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment and a Professor of Practice in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Texas State University, will speak on *Interconnection*.

Sew Loved Quilts on Display June 11 in the parish hall, Rice Village Campus

The congregation is invited to view a collection of Sew Loved Quilts on Sunday, June 11, in the Parish Hall. Sew Loved Quilters formed in February 2023 with the help of grants from the CTK Foundation and Thrivent, as well as personal donations of in-kind materials and a phenomenal



Sew Loved Quilts have already been donated to the Hospitality Apartments for Medical Center patients undergoing treatment.

treasure trove of donated fabric and batting. Some of the quilters are very experienced; others have never before put together a quilt. The quilts are machine quilted or tied, not hand quilted like the archival quality quilts that Piecemakers create each year. Each quilt will be given to someone facing difficult life challenges, including new immigrants, foster children going to a new home, people undergoing medical treatment, domestic abuse victims, and elderly vets.

If you think you might like to learn how to make a quilt or help someone else to do so or if you just want more information, please contact Gretchen Miertschin, gnmier@swbell.net. This is a very casually organized group that is becoming a very tight-knit community as we reach out to others with the gifts we have been given.



Sew Loved Quilts have already been donated to St. James Family Life Center for babies of new moms.



Christ the King Lutheran Church Calls New Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali

Dear Faithful People of Christ the King Church:

I am delighted to announce that on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, the Congregation voted overwhelmingly (137 for, 4 against, 4 abstentions) to approve the following motion put forward by the Council and Call Committee:

“That, guided by the Holy Spirit and on the unanimous recommendation of the Congregation Council and Call Committee, this congregation call the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali to serve as Senior Pastor of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church.”

Pastor Hope-Tringali currently serves as Executive Director and Dean of Hope Academy, a bilingual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) school for girls from impoverished families living in rural Guatemala. She has been a rostered minister with the Lower Susquehanna Synod in Pennsylvania since June of 2016. Pastor Hope-Tringali has been dividing her time between Guatemala and Harrisburg, PA. She recently earned her Doctor of Ministry degree in Missions/Missiology with highest honors from United Lutheran Seminar in Gettysburg, PA. She speaks Spanish fluently.

Please join me in thanking our outstanding Call Committee: Anne Clutterbuck (chair), Kathy Collins (secretary), Quentin Adams, Victoria Allen, Jill Baker, Henry Goodrow, Andrea Salas, Nathan Wiker, and Emily Winesett. This hardworking group accomplished their charge with extraordinary effort,

prayerful deliberation, and careful listening to God’s voice. We are also indebted to the Rev. Dr. Tracey Breashears-Schultz, the Gulf Coast Synod Bishop’s Associate for Leadership, for her wisdom and guidance during the call process.

I am confident that the Holy Spirit led us to Pastor Hope-Tringali; she possesses multiple gifts that precisely match our congregation’s needs and vision as described in our Ministry Site Profile. Pastor Hope-Tringali plans to live in the parsonage so as to be close to the church and part of the community. She is expected to begin her call on Sept. 1, 2023.

Thanks be to God!

Terri Koehler

Congregation Council President



Dear King’s Banner Readers,

Since this will be my last edition of The King’s Banner as editor, I want to take the opportunity to say THANK YOU for the many years of love and support I’ve received. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve as a member of the CTK ministry team and I look forward to continuing to serve with you as a volunteer after retirement.

***Yours in Christ,
Beverly***



Dear Christ the King Community:

Rejoice in the Lord, always. Again, I say rejoice!

My family has just returned home from our wonderful Pentecost celebration with you filled with

joyous anticipation of our next chapter of life and ministry in Houston. This summer we will be packing, traveling on vacation, packing, traveling back to Guatemala to host congregations, packing, traveling back to the US, packing, visiting family, packing, traveling to Houston, and unpacking.

For sure, we will be packing both practical and sentimental items into boxes, along with a slew of books. In addition to those physical items, we will also be packing up our expectations, life experiences, conscious and unconscious biases, fears, worries, delights, and challenges. We will arrive in Houston, bringing our whole selves with us, as we join into the CTK community. I imagine many of your summer plans might also include visits to family, traveling for business or for fun, worries, delights, and challenges of a variety of sorts.

As we enter the fall, you and I will begin the journey of unpacking together, of bringing our whole selves and all of our individual and communal experiences, our hopes and fears, our biases, and our challenges into a space of anticipated exploration and discovery. My hope is that though we surely will begin with expectations of each

other, that we might also enter with open minds and hearts, striving to overflow like that baptismal font with grace.

Rejoice in the Lord, always. Again, I say rejoice!

I never cease to find myself in awe when I pause to remember that Paul wrote these words to the Philippian community from prison, apart from the Philippian community, yet continuing to care for and encourage them.

Wherever we find ourselves this summer, may we pause to remember to rejoice individually and as a community, moving into a new season of life together. May we look for and rejoice in small daily delights, and may we also rejoice in what is to come, trusting that the Holy Spirit is guiding and equipping us. Again, I will say rejoice!

Grace and peace and hope,
Pastor Jennifer



Pastor Jennifer, daughter Maeve, and husband Deacon David





PENTECOST 2023

