

CHRIST THE KING
LUTHERAN CHURCH

King's Chronicles

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Dear Friends in Christ,

The month of April brings us to Holy Week and the pinnacle celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus for our salvation. At Christ the King, we have been following our Savior's footsteps to the cross this Lententide by marking the various crossroads faced by our Savior, as well as those faced by some of the people of the passion narrative: Peter, Judas, Malchus, and Pontius Pilate. On Good Friday, our Lord Jesus faces the crossroad of physical and spiritual death. He accepts its power upon Himself to save us from our sins and to rescue us from having to face eternal separation from our Heavenly Father because of them. We too must each face crossroads in life, and this includes the crossroad of death. We cannot turn away from it. As we baptized believers meet that crossroad, we do so with the certainty that salvation waits for us on the other side. As we celebrate Good Friday, we come to see the power and eternal seriousness of sin and death, but we face that truth rejoicing to know that Jesus also faced the crossroad of the resurrection for us on Easter Sunday. Our Lord has conquered death and reminds us: "Because I live, you shall live also!" The resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone on which our entire Christian

faith is built. It is God's power in Christ that gives us both hope and peace as we face all the various crossroads that we are called to experience in life and in death, and all the decisions that we must make along the way. For this hope in Christ we can only shout aloud with Paul: "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

Holy Week Worship as follows:

Mauddy Thursday: ONE service at 11:00 AM. Holy Communion Celebrated

Good Friday: 11:00 AM Service "The Rose" 7:00 P.M. (Tenebrae) Holy Communion Celebrated

Easter Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:00 AM Easter Breakfast Fellowship
10:45 AM Easter Sunday Festival Worship

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Boelter



VBS 2017 is a victory celebration! Mark your calendars for **JUNE 19th - 23rd from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** when our *Mighty Fortress* VBS will take place. Students who have completed a year of preschool through students who have completed grade 5 are welcome. Every child will learn that in Jesus, the victory is won! We will look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts about God, our Mighty Fortress, and the victory Jesus has won for us.

Please prayerfully consider being part of our VBS by **volunteering**. If you can help full time, part time, help with preparations before or help with clean up afterwards, many hands are needed. There are various ways to get involved to suit your schedule and interests. Please call the VBS Director, Sharon Ziegler, at 313-884-5998 with any questions. Completed volunteer forms can be returned to Sharon Ziegler or the church office.

Registration forms will be available in May!

Spiritual Food For Thought...

Dear Fellow Believers-

In a conversation recently in our Sunday morning Bible Class, God's Word led us to speak about the present propensity of people in our culture to believe that they can have everything they desire or need right away. Our technological age has greatly helped to foster this mindset, and so many things we want are now immediately available to us. To a greater or lesser extent, we all buy into this notion that we can have instant gratification in every area of our life.

Case in point, I watched a young father enter a local sandwich shop with his preschool-age son to order lunch. Because of the recent power outage, the sandwich shop was out of most of the normal menu items, and it was immediately obvious to patrons entering the store that choices were greatly limited. After having the helper make a sandwich, the father became exasperated when he learned that the side item he wanted was not available, and he grew even more irate when he found out that all dessert items were unavailable. Refusing to pay for his sandwich, he stormed out of the store tersely telling the help to keep the sandwich. We patrons who had now been needlessly detained stood by and watched this 30 year old father throw a tantrum that one would have expected from his son. It really all came down to sinful entitlement. Forget that the storm had happened, forget that more people now needed food because they could not cook at home...he was still supposed to have what he wanted when he wanted it, and he was absolutely unable to deal with not being able to have what he wanted immediately.

As pastor serving in a community which for the most part always has what it wants... when it wants it... and the way it wants it, I've become more concerned recently than ever about the spiritual lives of those who profess Christ and seem to want instant gratification...especially in worship. Carrying this mindset over and living it out in our life of worship can lead parents and children to some false conclusions and even to some dangerous places, spiritually speaking. If a person approaches worship with the primary goal of satisfying one's own need for immediate pleasure, such an approach can subtly thwart the work of God's Holy Spirit in our lives. Worship, first of all, is God's work for us as He comes to us in Word and Sacrament. Worship does not only involve our doing, or our response. The Holy Spirit's work in Word and Sacrament comes invisibly, in increments, but it still comes as our hearts and minds are shaped by God through the Means of His Law and Gospel. This is what God teaches us in His Word about how He works for our good in worship. As such, worship cannot be an "ala carte" thing or a "once and done" thing any more than one can eat an occasional meal of one's choosing and expect to remain healthy and go the long-run in life. The faithful presentation of God's Word to our families each Sunday throughout the Church Year in our Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel readings presents to needy souls like ours the ENTIRE counsel of God for our instruction and faith. I love chocolate and I love the immediate pleasure chocolate gives me, but for me to choose that I will only eat chocolate when I please will soon make me sick and most likely kill me. Chocolate seems good to me, but the truth remains that meat and vegetables and fruits are important for me too. Regular meals with a balanced diet of all of these are the key to staying well and meeting our long-range goals.

There is a story that is making its way around the internet that speaks so well to approaching worship from the mindset of self-gratification. In effect, the story says that you may not remember most sermons you will hear in your lifetime, but each of those messages by the promise of God's Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, work to keep you spiritually healthy, feeding you from the entire counsel of God's Word. You hardly remember every meal made for you in your lifetime. But just because you can't remember them, or just because you can't see the immediate value to your health does not mean the meals were not vital or relevant. The value of those individual meals are not discounted because you don't receive immediate gratification. Many of those meals have not been memorable, but the fact that you are alive and well is testimony to the truth that each meal has nourished you one by one.

Culture can quickly and negatively shape our approach to God, to worship, to our spiritual life. The only healthy approach is to return to God's Word and learn what He says about worship and how He keeps us healthy in Jesus Christ. I'd say it is important for people who say they love Jesus to take a serious look at their inner lives, and ask what is truly driving their thoughts and practices. That exercise may lead to some repentance, and a return to a more humble approach to our Savior and His grace for us. Fathers especially have a responsibility to think on these things and ensure their families are being led in the truth of God's Word, not simply by what brings their loved ones immediate gratification. God works through His Word and Sacraments over a lifetime to shape us in Christ and sanctify us.

Is your approach to life and worship a Godly one? Has the desire for immediate gratification taken you or your family to a mindset that hinders the depth of the work the Holy Spirit desires to accomplish in you?

Jesus says: "Where your heart is, there your treasure will be also..." Matthew 6:21

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Boelter

Elder's Corner

Paul Nuechterlein

Sundials do not work during the night or even on a cloudy day, but only work on a sunny day with changing light. God stresses that His love and His mercy are constant, not changing, and we can rely on His light at all times of our lives. James 1:17 says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

God, unlike shifting shadows, does not change and move. His love is steady and constant, no matter the day or hour. He has shown us His love in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At the transfiguration, Jesus showed His radiance in light form to Peter, James, and John. Matthew 17 : 2, "He was transfigured before them, and His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light."

On Easter morning, the light of salvation shined on all of us even from inside the empty tomb. In Christ Jesus, the light of God shines even in your darkest hours. Call on Him in any trouble, and the Lord will be your light. Micah 7:8, "Rejoice not over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me."

We are directly connected to the source of all power and light. Jesus Christ is the light of the world. We have the power to speak the truth. We have the power to forgive. We have the power to make our requests known to God. We have the power to encourage others. 1 John 1:7, "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another: and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. This is constant and does not change."

The coming of the Son of Man will have its own signs as well, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light. The sundial will not give its time. But unlike these things of the world, our redemption has been completed in Christ Jesus. On that day we will only see Jesus as our saving light, the only constant light we will ever need in our lives.

Lord Jesus, guide us through even the dark days of life with your holy light. We know that your light will always be there for us.

Official Acts

The following acts were performed or are scheduled to be performed by your Pastor on behalf of the congregation:

Funerals

Robert Kromm—died in the Lord March 10, 2017 in Grosse Pointe Woods. Funeral Service held March 15, 2017. Cremation. Interment: Pending at Oakview Cemetery in Royal Oak, MI. Malachi 3:17. Pastor Boelter officiating.

Phyllis Elaine Lenz—died in the Lord March 19, 2017 in Clinton Township, MI. Funeral Service held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, Warren, MI on March 22, 2017. Psalm 137. Pastor Boelter officiating.

Holy Baptism

Dylan Joseph Nowicki, son of Michael Paul Nowicki and his wife, Lauren Lee Thompson Nowicki, born December 29, 2016 at St. John Hospital. Baptized February 12, 2017. Sponsors: Patricia Thompson and Brian Nowicki.

Hunter James Bailey, son of Andrew Jacob Bailey and Rachel Anne Piotruchowski, born February 28, 2016 at Henry Ford Hospital, Macomb, MI. Baptized February 26, 2017. Sponsors: Paul and Rebecca Piotruchowski.

Audrey MaryAnn Chase, daughter of Collin Ross Chase and his wife, Adrienne Michael ne'e Urso Chase, born October 28, 2016 at St. John Hospital, Detroit, MI. Baptized March 25, 2017. Sponsors: Cori and Nicholas St. Hilaire.

Shannon Kay Shanley, daughter of Andrew Joseph-Bauer Shanley and his wife, Whitney Christen ne'e Clarke Shanley, born November 20, 2016 at St. John Hospital, Detroit, MI. To be baptized May 14, 2017. Sponsors: Allison Jeanie-Bauer Shanley and Casey Christen Clarke.

Christina Patterson Wilson, born June 14, 2016, daughter of Kevin and Carolyn Wilson, to be baptized May 7, 2017. Sponsors: Samuel Pruitt, Brian Wilson, and Christina Wilson.

To be Married

Chuck Irvin and Emily Fortin, April 29, 2017. Witnesses: Marly Fortin and Daniel Irvin.

Preschool Happenings



Our Classrooms

We will be wrapping up our school year in April and May with the themes such as farm, insects, rainforest, and plants and seeds. Our students continue to learn a letter of the alphabet each week and are excited that we are so close to the end! The Fours and Young Fives are looking forward to our annual Trike-a-Thon to be held on April 26th. We will be raising money to help the sick children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The three-year-olds will be enjoying a special day with their mothers for our annual Mother's Day Tea. We will wrap up our year with closing programs for the Four and Young Fives and an all school picnic on our last day. We are proud that we have made friends, learned many new things, and have grown in our love for Jesus, our Savior!



Preschool Summer Extended Program

Our preschool will be offering a two week extended program after the close of our school year. Our program will run from Tuesday, May 30th—Friday, June 9th. Children who have attended a year of preschool are eligible to enroll. We will meet every morning from 8:45-11:15. For more information about tuition and registration for this program, please call or email the preschool director, Sharon Ziegler, at 313-884-5998 ext. 1 or sziegler@christthekinggp.org.

Preschool Mom's Day Out Program

Please help spread the word—our Preschool Mom's Day Out Program is back for some spring sessions. All sessions will be on Tuesday mornings from 8:45-11:15 on the dates listed below. Children ages 2-5 are welcome to attend. Cost is \$25/child and \$15 for additional children in the same family. Interested people may sign up by calling the preschool at 313-884-5998; emailing the director at sziegler@christthekinggp.org; or by signing up in the preschool hallway. Please sign up by the Friday before each session to be sure we are properly staffed. The program is led by Jackie Cecchini. Dates are as follows:

April 18th April 25th May 2nd May 9th



Registration for 2017-2018

We currently have 24 students enrolled in our program for next year. Please continue to help us spread the word and advertise our exceptional preschool program. Great ways to advertise are word of mouth, social media, lawn signs, and through prayer that God would send children to our program to minister to. Brochures about our program can be found in the Welcome Center and we also have an excellent website full of information. Check us out at the preschool link at www.christthekinggp.org!

Fundraisers

- Thank you to all who sponsored a child for our **Preschool Olympics**. Through all of your donations and donations from the preschool families, we profited \$1840.00 for the preschool. The students were all able to participate in various events and received a gold medal and goodie bag for all of their efforts!
- We also greatly appreciate all the help from congregational members for our annual **Mom-to-Mom Sale**. A special thank you to Christine Rhoton who is in charge of this event. Our preschool profited \$1285.00 this year. Great work!
- Our **Yankee Candle Fundraiser** has begun. Orders will be accepted through Tuesday, April 11th. This fundraiser has a great profit margin as the preschool receives 40% of all sales.
- Our March **TCBY** fundraiser brought in \$61.00 for the preschool. Watch for upcoming TCBY nights in June and August.
- Thank you to all who attended our **Ram's Horn Fundraiser** on March 20th. The profit was not available at the time of this publication.

Youth Group News



Spring Youth Group Happenings

I've put a few things together that I'd like to share with all of you – particularly our youth group parents! Please jot these dates down on your family calendars...

Thursday, April 6th – Laser Tag – Time to be determined Laser Edge on Gratiot in Clinton Township is now known as Laser Tag of Clinton Township – who knew? Since finding out that the kids have yet another week off of school – and if they are not heading to Florida with you – we would like to take them out for a fun time! I will be sending out an email invitation soon with the time and any cost involved.

Saturday, April 22nd – Belle Isle Clean-up – 8:00 until 2:00 p.m. We did this last year and found it to be a great way to help continue to beautify this island park just 20 minutes from our community. The transformation since the state of Michigan took over just three years ago is nothing short of miraculous. It is well run and completely safe....clean up from 9:00 until 1:00 and then we are invited to a hot dog lunch afterwards.

Saturday, May 13th – Whirlyball – Time to be determined We had a great time at their Clinton Township location on 15 Mile road last year, so I thought we'd better do it again! For those of you who are unfamiliar with this fun game, it is played in a Dodge 'em car. Each player is armed with a plastic trackball racquet. A whiffle ball is flung to teammates in an effort to get a shot off hitting the lighted backboard grid. Lots of laughs and a few bruises.

Memorial Weekend Car Wash – Saturday, May 27th from 9:00 until 1:00 p.m. Weather permitting and the ability to get a respectable work crew together, we will welcome our customers into "Christ the King Drive" where we will wash, rinse and dry cars to raise a little money for a good cause. One of our youth group members proposed raising money to help some of our area stray and homeless animals. We will discuss this with Pastor and our other youth group members and see if we can donate a portion of our proceeds!

Please contact the Church Office with any questions. 313-884-5090.

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild will meet on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 11:30 A.M. Bring your sandwich. Tea and dessert will be provided.

Come join the Guild for fun and fellowship on May 9, 2017 at 11:30 A.M. at Ram's Horn on 9 Mile Road and Jefferson. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Please make reservations by May 7, 2017. Everyone is welcome!



Christ the King will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 8th at 10:00am

We welcome all Christ the King Sunday School students, Preschool students, family and friends to attend our first annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Everyone will meet in the Large Auditorium for a short children's message from Pastor Boelter! Then we proceed outside to the side lawn. Children will hunt for Easter eggs by age group, starting with the youngest to oldest.

If you would like to participate please contact the Church Office at 313-884-5090 so we can get an accurate count of how many children will be attending. Hope to see you there!!

Please note: Bring your own basket or bag to collect Easter Eggs!!!

Christ the King Wish List

Our Vestry and Voter's Assembly has approved a "wish list" of items that are needed for our ministry. "Wish list" items included at this time:

-Rainy Day Fund- the establishment of an account to help us save for unexpected repairs to our facility. For instance, our roof is nearing 25 years in age, and will need replacement in the next 5-8 years or so.

-Actuator replacement- replacement of the valves that control the heat on our hot-water lines on each side of the Church Nave. Actuators are leaking and failing, and will need replacement in the not so distant future (ahead of estimate cost: \$ 12,000.00-15,000.00).

-Cement work to repair the steps that are crumbling just outside of our Mack Avenue Library Door. (ahead of estimate cost: \$ 10,000.00) as well as at our Bell-Tower entrance.

Stewardship

Expressing Thanks

As Christians, we truly understand the importance of being thankful because we know that all we are and have are gifts from God. God has created us and recreated us in Jesus. In the following story, we see a man who thanked God in a unique and special way:

An old man walks on a Florida beach carrying a bucket of shrimp. He makes his way to the end pier, and soon a mass of dancing dots fill the sky. The evening silence gives way to screeching birds. For half an hour the man stands surrounded by the birds until the bucket is empty. But even when the food is gone, the gulls perch on his hat and linger. This weekly offering to the sea gulls was his way of giving thanks.

The man is Eddie Rickenbacker. In October 1942, he was flying his B-17 on a mission to deliver a message to General Douglas MacArthur when he went down in the Pacific. All eight crew members escaped into life rafts. After eight days, all their rations were gone. All means of survival had been exhausted. In a weakened state, the men shared in an afternoon devotional service and then tried to rest. As Rickenbacker was dozing with his hat over his eyes, he felt something land on his head. He knew it was a sea gull, which meant food. The crew survived. God had sent a sea gull hundreds of miles from shore to their rescue. Rickenbacker never forgot to say thanks.

God rescued Mr. Rickenbacker and his crew in a dramatic way, and, in a very special way, He rescues us daily from the guilt and condemnation of our sins. May God open our hearts and eyes to see what God is doing in our lives and may we give thanks to Him for all that He has done and continues to do for us.