

King's Chronicles

A Living Faith in the Living Savior Makes a Living Church

"Because I live, you will live also..." John 14:19

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Easter Greetings to You in Christ Jesus!

When I traveled to Germany last July on a trip tracing the life and ministry of Dr. Martin Luther Pastor and Reformer, we visited many, many beautiful churches and cathedrals. Many of those old, beautiful churches still retained a schedule of regular worship. Others were open only as museums now, no longer gathering a congregation of believers for Divine Worship. It was evident that tourists, not worshipers formed the majority of the people present. For a tourist, the church is a place to focus on the past, a place where ancient stories are told, a place where great musicians like J.S. Bach, F. Handel and countless artists lived and worked. A true believer in Christ sees far more at those cathedrals than does a tourist. A believer enters those cathedrals and, with the eyes of faith, comprehends them as testimonies to a time when people took Jesus at His Word, worshiped Him, and looked for His return.

Without a heart-filled faith in our Crucified, Risen, Living and Ascended Savior Jesus Christ, we may be tempted to treat the church as a museum of past events, a repository of beautiful art, a place where the story of Jesus walking in our world is told. The temptation for us to live making the church into a museum does not come because the church and the Gospel has lost its relevance. The temptation comes because we are spiritually weak and fallen sinners. We are preoccupied in life with what we can see. We are not able to keep our Savior in mind. Since Jesus rose and ascended to God's right hand, we do not see Him with our eyes. The old saying: "out of sight, out of mind" sadly plays out in our spiritual lives. Because of our spiritual weakness we often consider Jesus "far away." Often this is not only out of our minds but absent in our hearts.

If you don't live truly believing that Jesus conquered sin, death and hell for you, then

you are most likely are living as if He were gone. If Jesus' hope isn't living in you, then you are probably looking at the church as a tourist would, and you are only seeing what a tourist sees. If you don't have a living faith in Jesus, are you really surprised that you feel as if your faith, the church and its message of grace is not relevant? If however the Holy Spirit moves you by Christ's Word and Sacrament to believe that your Lord Jesus lives, has conquered sin for you, then you will have a different outlook. You will live taking God at His Word, you will see what He is doing in Divine Worship and you will be given the ability to live seeing beyond the things your mortal eyes can see.

Forgiveness and eternal life come from real, past events like the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our God-given faith is a gift for TODAY...and for tomorrow too. With a living faith given by God's Spirit, we will occupy our church as a people who take God at His Word in our time. While our Living Lord is out of our physical sight for a time, with regular hearing of Jesus' Word and reception of His Holy Supper, He need NOT be out of our minds...or hearts. If He remains in us, we will remain in Him, and if we remain in Him, we will not treat our church as a museum, but treasure it as a place where Jesus makes it possible for us to abide in Him.

"A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but You will see Me. Because I live, you will live also."

Pastor Boelter

Divine Worship

Sunday Worship
8:15am & 10:45am

Holy Communion
1st & 3rd Sunday
8:15am
2nd & 4th Sunday
10:45am

Monday Worship
7:00pm
2nd & 4th Mondays of
the month

Easter Services, Sunday, April 1st

For the first time in over 60 years, Easter Sunday falls this year on April 1st. Blessed by God, we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at two Divine Services. Our first service is held at 8:00 A.M. and begins 15 minutes ahead of our normal worship time. Holy Communion will be celebrated at this early Service. Our Second Divine Service on Easter is held at our normal worship time at 10:45 A.M. Come and celebrate as we hear the blessed news of God's Will being done through our Resurrected Lord Jesus. When God caused His Son to rise from the tomb, He opened the door for us to new heavens and a new earth where we will dwell with our Savior in righteousness and eternal life.

Easter Breakfast will be served by our youth and our volunteers between 9:30 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. All are cordially invited!

We will celebrate the **Ascension of our Lord (actual date May 10th) on Sunday, May 13th which is Mother's Day.** All are cordially invited!

The Festival of Pentecost, the giving of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the New Testament Church, will be celebrated on **Sunday, May 20th**. The color Red is the liturgical color for Celebrations in the church, and the color used to represent the work of the Holy Spirit in the church. You may wish to consider wearing something red as you come to worship that Sunday! Holy Communion will be celebrated at the early 8:15 A.M. Divine Worship Service.

We celebrate the **Festival of the Holy Trinity on Sunday, May 27th.** Come join us for our special services. Communion will be celebrated at the late 1045 A.M. Service.

Note:

Monday evening worship will be held on April 9th and 23rd at 7:00 P.M. with Holy Communion. We will also worship on Monday May 14th at 7:00 P.M.

As the fourth Monday of the month falls this year on Memorial Day weekend, we will not be gathering for worship on May 28th, which is a holiday.

Confirmation Instruction

Classes will resume for Levels I, II and III on Tuesday, April 10th following our Easter Break. Level II classes are set to end on Tuesday May 1st, and Level III Classes are scheduled to end Tuesday, May 15th provided course work is completed by all students in a timely fashion. Following Summer Break, classes will resume Tuesday, September 4th.

Bible Classes

Our Wednesday morning bible class resumes April 18th following our Easter Break. The class is currently studying a verse-by-verse overview of the Book of Hebrews. Class meets at 10:00 A.M. and continues through May.

Our Sunday morning Bible Class resumes Sunday, April 8th at 9:30 between our Divine Services. The class is currently studying a course on prayer, designed to help us clear the obstacles of life which hinder this tremendous blessing and privilege that God has given us. The adult Sunday Morning Bible Class also continues until the Memorial Day weekend.

Adult Information Class

Two individuals have just completed our winter Adult Instruction Class with Pastor Boelter, and a new class is forming at this time. If you wish to complete the class and/or join our congregation, please indicate your intention to the Pastor. Dates to assemble and study are in the works at this time, and will complement the class members' schedules. No adult instruction will be taught this summer. The Next series will take place after Labor Day.

Vacation Bible School

The dates of our VBS Summer program have recently been set. VBS will be held June 25th to 29th.

Missionary Support

Missionary Dan Conrad

Each month, we include a special newsletter about the missionary work of Pastor Dan Conrad, who along with his wife and daughter, have moved to Mexico City to train Lutheran Seminarians for ministry. In the last decade, synodical financial support for missionaries has been reduced if not entirely removed, leaving our Lutheran missionary Pastors to raise their own funds before embarking on their calls. For this reason, we have lent our support to Pastor Conrad as we have been able. Please remember him in your prayers, not only for safety, but that the Holy Spirit would daily provide all the Conrad family needs to do God's work. As you are able, please consider giving a gift for Pastor Conrad's ministry. While we endeavor to continue to do all we can for the Gospel ministry of Jesus here at CtK, we never want to forget our obligation to look beyond our doors and do our part to assist the Gospel of Christ in places we cannot personally go. Funds raised at our Chili Cook-off with First English Lutheran and funds raised at our Easter Breakfast have both been directed by our Vestry and Congregation to assist Pastor Conrad's ministry.

Sunrise Outreach

Here at home, another way we seek to extend Christ's ministry in our community is through our consistent outreach to the residents and staff of Sunrise Assisted Living, Brys and Mack Avenues in Grosse Pointe Woods. A simple Service of the Word with Prayer is held every Thursday morning at 10:30 A.M. for our friends at Sunrise. We have received a warm welcome by staff and residents alike, and we offer you the opportunity to come and greet the residents with us, and share our friendship in Christ with our neighbors. Services last approximately 20 minutes. Elders Mark Gade and Charles Cantin regularly attend with Pastor Boelter.

Volunteers

Our many Volunteers at Little Caesar's Arena continue to work many hours after their regular, daily employment to raise funds for the maintenance of our Church and Preschool. We have been blessed to have the privilege of participation in this volunteer program for over 12 years now, and it has been fun to serve at the new arena in 2017-2018. We cannot thank God enough for the opportunity He gives us to continue to do our work there, and the help it affords us to maintain our beautiful church home. Continue to support your Little Caesar's Volunteers through your encouragement, through your prayers, and perhaps...even through considering becoming a volunteer with us next season. Over the years, this program has funded countless repairs to our facility, reducing the financial burden on our congregation at-large. It is truly one of the most creative ways God has offered us to continue our work for Christ in this place.

Outdoor Beautification

Through the work of the Paavolas and a group of helpers who love gardening, we have been blessed to have enjoyed the beautification of our church property for many summers. With the warmer weather coming soon, plans will be underway for our spring cleanup, and we hope, the planting of flowers to beautify our property. Last year, we experienced a shortage of volunteers to assist in the watering of our plants and shrubs. This caused a few helpers to be burdened with the task of garden maintenance all summer long, and resulted in some of our plants not growing as well. In order for us to beautify and maintain our gardens this year, we will need more people to give a few hours of their time here and there in the summer afternoons or evenings to help us water portions of our property that are not covered by our irrigation system. Please begin thinking about volunteering not only to clean up and plant flowers this spring, please also consider giving your time to maintain these blessings as well. Our community has always been appreciative of our efforts to maintain and beautify our church and its property. The warmer days are coming soon...and your hands will be needed. Can you help by making a commitment to give a few hours to your Lord? Many hands will make the burden much lighter!

Pastoral and Lay Delegates

Pastor Boelter and Jessica Garrett will represent CtK this year at our English District Convention which will be held June 19-21 at Concordia University in Ann Arbor, MI. Prior to the convention, the Detroit North and South Circuits of Pastors have been appointed by our Bishop, Jameson Hardy, to the task of doctrinal review of the motions (memorials) that will come before the Convention for discussion and voting. At this time, motions on the following topics have been presented by various congregations of our circuits: on Cremation, Affirmation of the 6-Day Creation, The Specific Ministry Program for educating pastors, changing the title "District President" to the more biblical term "Bishop" throughout the districts, encouraging congregations toward the every-Sunday practice of Holy Communion and encouraging the discussion of the faith and politics in our local congregations. The pastors of the Detroit Circuits will convene after Easter to begin their study of these memorials.



Vacation Bible School

Plunge in to VBS 2018! Mark your calendars for June 25th – 29th from 9:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. when our Splash Canyon 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 God keeps His promises on life's wild ride! They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five Bible accounts where our faithful God keeps His promises to be with us and gives us life and hope through Jesus, our Savior.

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 see the attached volunteer form and 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!

Elders' Corner *The Board of Elders*

There are times when we forget about the almighty power of God and only casually worship Him. We try to "make time" to fit God into our busy lives. Instead, our loving God should be our first thought each day and not an afterthought. Our future only exists due to the grace of God and His love for us. Consider the following passages which remind us of the sovereignty of God and our response to His grace.

"Above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord."

"We all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. It has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

"They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb."

"Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it."

"Establish your hearts for the coming of the Lord is at hand."

Phil. 3:20-21 Ezek. 1:26-28 2 Cor. 3:18 1 John 3:2 Rev. 7:16 Rev. 15:3 2 Peter 3:14
1 Thess. 5:22-24 James 5:8

Official Acts

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

Christian Burial

Diane Weinand Farr, born March 19, 1948, died in the Lord February 6, 2018 in Roseville, MI. Funeral services held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI on Saturday, February 13, 2018. Burial: Forrester, MI. Pastor Boelter officiated. Luke 7:11-12.

Funerals

Doris Nixon Streck, born February 6, 1928, died in the Lord March 10, 2018 in Sterling Heights, MI. Funeral services held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI on March 13, 2018. Text: Isaiah 66:13. Burial: White Chapel Cemetery, Troy, MI. Pastor Boelter officiated.

Preschool Happenings



Our Classrooms

We will be wrapping up our school year in April and May with 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 are looking forward to our annual trike-a-thon to be held on April 25th. We will be raising money to help the sick children at St. Jude's 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 fours 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! If students want to continue the fun, they can sign up for our summer extended program.

Registration for 2018-2019

We currently have 33 students enrolled in our program for next year. This is enrollment is up 9 students from this time last year so we are off to a good start! 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 (time to get them back out), and through prayer that God would send children to our program to minister to. Brochures about our preschool 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

- Our annual Little Caesar's pizza fundraiser was the best one we've ever had. Hopefully everyone has enjoyed their purchases! We profited \$1385.00.
- 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 \$1685.00. A big thank you to Jackie Cecchini for heading up this event!
- We also greatly appreciate all the help from congregation 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 \$1305.00 this year. Great work!
- Profits are still pending for our latest Jet's, TCBY, and Ram's Horn fundraisers. It's always great to see so many familiar faces at these places.
- Our next fundraiser has just begun with our Yankee Candle Home and Family brochures. Orders will be accepted through Tuesday, April 10th. Please see a preschool staff member if you would like to take a look at the merchandise available.
- We have some more TCBY dates coming soon. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 8th, Tuesday, June 5th, and Tuesday, August 28th. All fundraisers are at the TCBY across the street from the church and run from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. These will be great days to have an ice cream treat!

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 29th – Friday, June 8th. Children who have attended a year of preschool (does not have to be at Christ the King) 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.



Youth Group News



Spring Youth Group Happenings

We're all supposed to "Think Spring" this time of year...hopefully it will begin to start feeling like it! With Easter on April 1st that means the kids will have another week off to enjoy. For those families who won't be heading South for a little break we'll be heading over to 15 Mile and Gratiot to play some **Laser Tag (now called Revolution Laser Tag) on Wednesday, April 4th**. Once I confirm that they will be opening early that week I will let everyone know an exact time.

On Saturday, April 21st we will take a group – small or large – to Belle Isle for their annual Earth Day Island Clean Up from 8:00 until 12:00 p.m. Groups are assigned a specific section of the island to clean up paper, debris and possibly some weeding and trimming. It is a very nicely run volunteer opportunity - a hot dog lunch is provided when our work is done.

Pastor Rutter would like to invite us back to his Wednesday evening Youth **Fun Nights on the following dates – April 11th, 18th and 25th from 7:00 until 8:30**. We discussed making one of these dates a trip to bowl at Lakeshore Lanes – I will keep everyone posted! There will be more Wednesday fun nights planned for May as well!

In May we are going to visit a place called Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum in Farmington Hills. I got a Groupon deal that I just couldn't pass up. Marvin's is a self-described "collection of curiosities" from vintage amusement and pinball style games (up to present day arcade style) to games you would see at a carnival or state fair. I have a pass for up to 12 kids (and/or adult children) including a starter pack of tokens to play the games and a popcorn and soft drink for all....date to be determined.

Weather permitting we may try to organize our first **Car Wash of 2018 over the Memorial Day weekend**...we did this last year and had a great turnout of not only car washers but customers. I will take an informal survey of youth group parents and kids and see if this may work out again for us this year. CtK members -please watch your church bulletin for a date and time and bring us your dirty car!

Nancy Josefiak

News Briefs

Women's Guild Meetings

The Women's Guild will meet on Tuesday, April 10th at 11:30 A.M. Everyone is welcome! Come and join us for friendship and dessert.

Spring Lunch is on May 8, 2018 at 11:30 A.M. at Ram's Horn on Jefferson and 9 Mile. \$15.00 per person. Please make your reservation by May 6, 2018. See Judy Champine or Bev Zimmermann.

Rada Cutlery always available for sale. See Bev Zimmermann.

Kneelers Received

The Vestry recently approved the acquisition of two new kneelers which will grace our chancel area.

The kneelers will be used by the pastor/pastors during confession of sins and during prayer at worship, and will also be available for couples during wedding ceremonies as well as our Confirmands as they kneel before the Lord on Confirmation Sunday each year. This beautiful gift was given by the Ropes and Comfort families in memory of † Margaret Goetsch, one of our long-time Altar Guild members and chairperson. The kneelers will be assembled and placed in our chancel after Easter, and will be dedicated to God's glory at each service on Sunday, April 22nd.

Stewardship

Stewards Led by the Holy Spirit

Because we are uplifted and sustained by the Holy Spirit, we can be faithful stewards. Without the Holy Spirit, we could not acknowledge Jesus as the Lord of our lives or live our lives as God-pleasing stewards. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says, 'Jesus is accursed!' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit."* (I Corinthians 12:3) By grace, then, as called and equipped believers, empowered by the Holy Spirit to be stewards, we can willingly serve as Sunday School teachers, sing in the choir, serve as ushers, give generously, and spend time with the lonely and sick. By our own reason or strength, we can't be the stewards God wants us to be. In Christ, we are new creations (II Corinthians 5:17). We may look the same on the outside, but inside we are different. The Holy Spirit continually reminds us that God initiates all things; our stewardship is a response to what God has already done.

As faithful stewards, we are guided by the Holy Spirit. Our faithful stewardship begins when the Holy Spirit indwells us, and we respond with a personal commitment to consecrate ourselves to Christ. In Christ, we can become faithful stewards. Our stewardship goes beyond adherence to laws and traditions. We delight in serving our Lord. We do not see our stewardship as being compulsory; rather we see it as a privilege. Because the Holy Spirit transforms us, we respond in a spontaneous manner. We do not have to be coerced into giving our time, talents, and treasures. We give our gifts and ourselves cheerfully. As God's stewards, our eyes are opened to see opportunities to serve. We no longer see what we have as belonging to us but as tools to be used to extend God's kingdom. As we spend time in Word and receive the Sacrament, God fills our hearts with His Spirit, and we stop putting ourselves first. God is now in control, and we become faithful stewards.

Giving During Worship

During the worship service, there is time set aside for us to give a portion of our money to God through the church. How do you view the time allowed for the offering? Do you see the time given to the collection of the money as an integral part of worshiping God or is it simply an intermission between the sermon and the closing of the service? When you give your money during the collection, does your monetary gift properly reflect gratitude and thanksgiving for all of God's gifts to you? Does your giving reflect your trust in the Lord?

Our giving should and must be considered an important part of honoring and worshiping our Lord. As Christians, when we acknowledge that God is the creator and owner of all, we start acting as caretakers of the money that God has entrusted to us rather than owners. We respond to God's gifts of creation and redemption by giving our money and ourselves. The offering of our tithes and offering during the collection is an important part of our worship. Giving puts our love, trust, and gratitude into action.

The Apostle Paul wrote the following verses to the Corinthian Church about the giving of the Macedonians to the needy church in Jerusalem: *"For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means...and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us."* (II Corinthians 8:3-5) They gave generously because they first gave themselves. Their gift of money was an extension of what they were. In a significant way, our money represents who we are, also, because of all the time and energy we spend in accumulating it. When we give, we should think of ourselves as personally crawling into the offering plate. As Christians, we know that, when we give, we are only returning to God what He has already given to us.

From the blessings we receive from God, He bestows us with the capacity to give generously from those blessings. *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."* (II Corinthians 9:8)

In our worship services, we give God our adoration and praise, and, during the offering, we worship Him through the giving of our money. May God grant us faithful hearts so that we give Him our first and best.