

CHRIST THE KING
LUTHERAN CHURCH

King's Chronicles

God's Love and Ours

"See what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God..."
I John 3:1

Inside this issue:

Divine Worship	2
Divine Worship continued/Lenten Dinners	3
Youth Group News/ Girl Scout Cookie Care Packages	4
Preschool Happenings	5
Stewardship	6
News Briefs	7
Official Acts/ Confirmation Instruction	8

Dear Friends in Christ. Some have called the month of February "The Month of Love" because Valentine's Day, a day to express our love for one another, falls on the 14th day of February. We show our heartfelt love for each other that day with flowers, gifts, cards and other special remembrances.

This year we also begin the season of Lent and celebrate Ash Wednesday on February 14th! This is a day of love indeed...for on Ash Wednesday we gather in worship and in awe of the greatest love ever shown: God's love, proven for us sinners in the sending of His only-begotten Son Jesus to suffer and die to restore us to our God Who made us... and loves us the most!

The Good News Translation of I John 3:1, which reminds us of God's love for us in Jesus the Crucified and Risen Savior, reads this way: "See how much the Father has loved us! His love is so great that we are called God's children..."

We all enjoy the special gestures which demonstrate the love which others have for us each February 14th. Those gifts and valentines warm our hearts and bring us joy. But this year on February 14th we gather in God's House because God also wants to present us with a Valentine...His amazing love for us in Jesus, given to us in His Means of Grace: His Word and Sacrament. What a day to know with assurance that we are loved! John writes: "see how great God's love

for us is"...by faith in Jesus He even calls us sinful but forgiven people HIS CHILDREN!

I'm sure you are making some very special plans to remember your loved ones on Valentine's Day. Maybe you are going to give your loved one a card, some chocolates, a gift, or maybe a special dinner. What joy they will have to receive your love! Consider also inviting your dearest loved ones to worship with us February 14. Then God can also present His Valentine to them too! What could be more loving than you or me bringing our loved ones to receive assurance of their Almighty Creator and Redeemer's love for them?

February 14th is lining up to be a very special day for us believers in Christ! Rejoice in the love of others for you, and worship Christ Jesus who has lavished you with His undeserved love and grace and mercy, and gives you His love this Ash Wednesday in the forms of Bread and Wine, Jesus' Body and Blood.

Remember: The response of faith in and worship of Jesus our Crucified Savior is also the BEST valentine we can give on February 14th to show our love for the God Who first loved us in Jesus!

Rejoicing in God's Sacrificial love for us this Lent with you,

Pastor Randy

Our Circuit Forum was held on Sunday, January 21, 2018 at Angelica Lutheran Church in Allen Park, MI.

Jessica Garrett attended and represented Christ the King as our Lay Delegate, and Pastor Boelter as Christ the King's Pastoral Delegate. Eleven Overtures were studied and discussed by members of the Forum ranging from the issues of Cremation to Requesting the Synod to change the designation "District President" to "Bishop," to congregational support of our international missionaries, to affirming the Bible's teaching of the literal 6 Day Creation account. A total of 7 of the 11 Overtures or Memorials were approved and forwarded to our District's Memorial's Committee for study and doctrinal review. Pastors Brad Scott of Good Shepherd Lutheran, Toledo, and Dan Grams of Ascension of Christ Lutheran, Beverly Hills, MI were both re-elected by acclamation as our Circuit Visitors for the next three years. More information will come at our next Membership Meeting.

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

Lent Begins February 14th

We will gather each Wednesday between Ash Wednesday, February 14th and March 21st for worship at 11:15 A.M. and at 7:00 P.M. Holy Communion will be celebrated on Ash Wednesday, February 14th at both services. Weekly services will last approximately 45 minutes each.

Each service features the reading of the Passion Narrative of our Lord's Suffering and Death that we may never forget what our ransom from sin, death and the devil cost our blessed Savior Jesus.

There will be **ONLY ONE Service held with Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, March 29th at 11:00 AM.** **Note: the beginning time of worship (which is 15 minutes earlier on Maundy Thursday) due to parking.* Plan on coming to worship in a timely manner to ensure parking that morning. There will be NO Maundy Thursday evening service held due to parking constraints next door.

Two Divine Services will be held on Good Friday, March 30th, one at 11:00 A.M. and one at 7:00 P.M. We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar at both Services. **Again, notice the time change to 11:00 A.M. for the morning Good Friday Service.* Again, this 15 minute change, which differs from our normal Wednesday morning worship times, is due to parking constraints. Plan on coming to the church for worship a bit in advance to ensure parking.

Our special sermon series this year for our Lenten Wednesday Divine Worship Services is entitled: "Thy Will Be Done."

"Not as I will, but as You will" was the prayer that our blessed Savior prayed to His Heavenly Father the night before He went to the cross to do the work of our salvation. As we live our lives for Christ day-by-day, this is also our prayer, for we too seek to do the will of God. This will be our focus as we draw near to the observance of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection during Holy Week. Each service will focus upon a different aspect of God's will at work among us. Each sermon will be a monologue sermon, wherein one of the Biblical characters helps to give us special insight into living for Jesus and doing the Father's will. Our following will be our preaching schedule for both our morning (11:15 A.M.) Services and our evening (7:00 P.M.) Services:

Ash Wednesday February 14 "God's Will and God's Promise" (Abraham)

We remember that by faith, Abraham trusted the will of God when God promised that a son would be born to him. God's will was done when Isaac was born, and His will was done when our Crucified Savior Jesus came to redeem us.

Lenten Midweek II February 21 "God's Will and My Inadequacy" (Moses)

At first, Moses did not think he could free God's people from slavery. God gave him confidence to set His people free. God sent our suffering Savior to do His will and set us free from the slavery of sin.

Lenten Midweek III February 28 "God's Will and My Dreams" (David)

Anointed by God, David followed God's will to shepherd God's people, even though he often failed to live up to God's dream for him. Jesus came as our Good Shepherd and fulfilled God's dreams perfectly, and by His Lenten work, gathered His wandering sheep into the sheepfold of heaven.

Lenten Midweek IV March 7 "God's Will and My Identity" (Mary)

In humility, Mary dutifully accepted the role God gave her to become the mother of our Savior.

Jesus would later accept His role, faithfully following the path His Heavenly Father had in mind to save us from our sins.

Lenten Midweek V March 14 "God's Will and My Worldview" (Paul)

On the road to Damascus, Paul had his worldview turned upside down when Jesus called Him to preach the Name of Christ Jesus which he had been pursuing and persecuting. We follow God's will too by putting the Crucified Christ at the center of our worldview.

Lenten Midweek VI March 21 "God's Will and My Response" (Lydia)

Lydia followed the will of God by responding in both faith and hospitality when the Gospel message of Jesus' sacrifice was preached to her. We follow the will of God by responding in love and service to one another in response to what Christ has done for us on the cross and at the open tomb.

Divine Worship cont'd.

Sunday Morning Services During Lent

Our Worship on Sunday Mornings during Lent will also feature a sermon series. The Sunday morning sermon series is entitled: "The Lies of Lent." Satan, the world and the culture around us constantly whisper ideas to us that on the outside may seem good, but in truth are deadly lies which can rob us of our faith and the salvation Jesus won for us. Each Sunday we will focus on one of the people in the Passion Narrative, and how those lies confounded their faith and their living for the Master. This year, we are also going to hear the Passion Narrative in our Sunday Services so that all in our congregation would know and be versed in the truths of God's Word and ponder the depths of our Savior's work to win us from sin, death and the devil's power. Our sermon series will be as follows on Sunday mornings:

February 18th First Sunday in Lent "You Know Best!" Lk. 22:4
 February 25th Second Sunday in Lent "You are a Rock!" Mt. 26:40
 March 4th Third Sunday in Lent "Sit back and Wait!" Mt. 26:58
 March 11th Fourth Sunday in Lent "A Little is Alright!" Mt. 26:72
 March 18th Fifth Sunday in Lent "Entertainment is always Entertaining" Lk. 23: 8-9

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday March 25th "God's Will When We are Not Willing"

We remember that we are not always willing to do what God desires. In His Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, Jesus perfectly accomplishes the will of God and shows us that even the tough roads of life are worth walking for the sake of God's Kingdom.

Maunder Thursday March 29th "God's Will and Joyful Service"

Jesus asked His disciples to wash the feet of others as He has washed their feet, for the joy set before Him. Serving the One Who has served us perfectly is a joy, and is a tribute to Him, the Servant of all.

Good Friday March 30th "God's Will is Done"

On the cross, Jesus followed through with the will of God declaring: "It is Finished." This ultimate sacrifice has brought us salvation, and serves as a motivation for us to live our lives to Him and others as a holy sacrifice.

Monday Evening Services There will be NO Monday evening service on February 12th (Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14th) and NO Monday evening service on March 26th (Holy Week). There will be a Divine Worship Service with Holy Communion on Mondays, February 26th and March 12th.

Lenten Dinners will be held every Wednesday from Ash Wednesday (February 14th) evening to our 6th Lenten Wednesday on March 21st.

Our dinners are held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30-6:45 P.M. in our church library. We conclude our dinner in time for worship at 7:00 P.M.

Our first dinner on February 14th will include baked chicken, homemade macaroni and cheese and special desserts for Valentine's Day. A free will offering will be taken at each dinner.

Should you desire to plan one of our dinners or provide food or beverages, a sign-up sheet will be located in our Welcome Center. Simply sign up for the date you would be willing to provide a meal, or a portion of a meal. Our first meal on February 14th is provided.

As we move from the deeper and darker days of winter into the lighter and warmer days of spring, it is a perfect time to come and fellowship with your family in Christ on these Wednesday evenings and enjoy a meal together. After a long day at work, it is nice to enjoy a meal prepared for you, and to grow to know your family in Christ better. Do plan to join us.

****It is helpful for planning that if you know you can attend each week, you would give the church office a call to let us know you are coming. This greatly helps us in planning the proper amount of food. See you there!***

Youth Group News



February and March Youth Group Happenings

By the time this newsletter hits your inbox or mailbox Pastor, Bethany and I will have taken our confirmation kids on an overnighter to Grace Lutheran Church in Redford February 2nd through the morning of the 3rd that most certainly didn't include any sleeping! Here are some of the upcoming events for this month -

Sunday, February 11th - 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. - Feather Bowling at Cadieux Café The birthplace (at least to those of us in southeast Michigan) of this fun Belgian sport involving a wooden wheel, a lane composed of compressed dirt and sawdust and an itty, bitty feather sticking up at the end of the lane. t's a lot of fun! We'll enjoy some appetizers from the Café while we play a few games....no cost!

Saturday, February 17th - Gleaners Food Bank A volunteer opportunity sorting and packing non-perishable food and fresh produce....a great way to help people in our own community who are less fortunate. This date is tentative until I hear back from the director at Gleaners, but the shift will either be 9-11:30 a.m. or 1-3:30 p.m.

Friday, February 23rd - Youth Group Fun Night from 7:00 until 10:00 p.m. - Marty & Noelle Fleszar, Holly Fleszar and fiancé Steve have rescheduled their January date with us and promise to bring a truckload of real fun group games, some great guitar playing and Christian music as well as an inspiring Christian message from Marty. No cost!

Now on to March....Mrs. J will be out of town for the better part of three glorious weeks with her family and would like to encourage any of our youth group families to organize an activity, or a Lenten dinner or perhaps just wait until Mrs. J returns to pick up where I left off. No matter, I know that Pastor Boelter will continue the Trivia questions on Tuesday confirmation evenings in my absence. Tell the kids to be ready,. He asks some pretty tricky questions!

To RSVP, ask any questions or express an interest in lending a hand with any of our youth group activities, please contact the church office. 313-884-5090.

Dear members of Christ the King,

Our Cadette Girl Scout troop is once again selling Girl Scout cookies to be donated to our military service men and women stationed overseas, as well as to our veterans. Last year, we sent over 360 boxes to five different soldiers in various parts of the world, and distributed cookies to 120 veterans at the VA hospital in Detroit. All of our recipients were so grateful! Our service men and women commented that the cookie care packages are such a morale boost and they are so appreciative that people back home are thinking of them and appreciate their service to our country. Our veterans were truly grateful - some moved to tears - that our community donated cookies to honor them for their past service. It's amazing how a small act of kindness can have such a big impact!

If you would like to donate toward our military cookie service project, please see Karen or Stephanie Westrick. Cookies are \$4/box, and our troop will be collecting money through the end of March. Also, if you know of anyone serving overseas and would like us to consider sending them a care package, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Stephanie and Karen Westrick
Girl Scout Troop 75334

Preschool Happenings



Our Classrooms The children will be enjoying our Valentine parties this month. Making those Valentines to give to our friends is a great way to practice writing our names. The whole school will be going on a field trip on February 1st to see Sesame Street Live. Our 3rd annual Preschool Olympics will be held this month also. What a great way to incorporate our Health and Nutrition theme during this time. We will enjoy our Winter Break from February 19th-23rd. During this time the three-year-olds will be having their Parent/Teacher Conferences with Mrs. Cecchini.

Preschool Sunday and Lutheran Schools Week

Our preschoolers are excited to be singing some songs at Christ the King's annual Preschool Sunday on March 18th at the 10:45 A.M. Service. Members of Christ the King are welcome and encouraged to attend the service and the reception afterwards. This is a great opportunity to make our preschool families feel welcome and it would be great to personally invite them to come and worship with us again! Throughout the week we will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week with fun activities and dress up days. Watch for a Ram's Horn night during this special week!



Registration and Open House

Our priority registration for our 2018-2019 school year began January 30th and will run through February 11th. On February 12th, our registration opens to the public. Our Open House will be held Sunday, February 11th from 1:00-3:00. Please take a brochure from the Welcome Center and give it to someone who may be interested in our half day Three's or Four's program for next year. The Open House date is on the brochure!

Fundraisers

- Thank you to all who participated in our **Scrip Gift Card** fundraiser which profited \$579.00 and our **Holiday Ram's Horn Night** which profited \$365.00.
- Our third annual **Preschool Olympics** will be held on February 6th and 7th. You may choose to sponsor a child for the different Olympic activities they will be doing. Please see the special article with details.
- Our **Mom to Mom Sale** is Saturday, March 3rd from 8:30-12:30.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT IN OUR MANY FUNDRAISERS!

Stewardship

Because God First Loved Us

Each February, we celebrate Valentine's Day so we associate this month with love. Sharing valentines with loved ones is a wonderful way to express love to our family members and friends. As Christians, we know the occasion that marks the greatest gift of love is celebrated at Christmas when Jesus came into the world as a servant and took upon Himself our sin and the sins of the whole world. Jesus was willing to give up His Heavenly realm and glory to become one of us and then suffer and die for us.

The love of Jesus is far more wondrous than we can ever imagine. The Apostle Paul prayed that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit *"so that Christ may dwell in [our] hearts through faith—that [we], being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that [we] may be filled with all the fullness of God."* (Ephesians 3:17-19)

God loves us so much that He was willing to send His Son to suffer and die on our behalf (John 3:16). The Apostle John said it so well: *"We love because He first loved us."* (1 John 4:19) One of the best ways we can respond out of gratitude for that wondrous love is through our faithful stewardship. Stewardship is love in action. God's love for us prompts us to love others. The Holy Spirit opens our hearts and minds so we experience God's love and equips and makes us eager to show our love through our deeds and words.

Are You a Giver or a Taker?

Even though we know that God wants us to give generously and, when we do, we derive great joy from our giving, oddly enough, we still often hold back in our giving. Perhaps some of our reluctance to give stems from a fear that something will happen, and we will need that money we've given away. This is simply lack of faith, isn't it? God promises to provide for our needs, but we're just not sure He means it.

A second reason for not giving is that, through most of our lives, we've gotten into the habit of taking rather than giving. We have become more comfortable in acquiring things not giving things away. We are taught how to get friends, how to influence people, how to make money, how to invest so that we make more money, and how to hold on to things. Yes, it is natural that many of us are more skilled in getting and keeping than in giving.

By God's grace, we don't have to remain selfish hoarders of God's gifts to us. As we read and study God's Word, we must be struck by His giving nature, starting with His very Son! *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16) Through His perfect life, death, resurrection, and ascension, He has given us all we need. *"He Who did spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?"* (Romans 8:32) Through His Word, we are given confidence that He will provide for all our needs (Matthew 6:25-34); we're promised that He will always be with us (Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20). He has promised to give us joy in our giving (II Corinthians 8:1-5).

God frees us from the selfishness and fear that keep our hands clenching our wallets and opens our hearts to give as we've received: *"Freely you have received, freely give."* (Matthew 10:8 NIV) Prompted by the Holy Spirit to give generously and cheerfully, we begin to understand why Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* (Acts 20:35)

News Briefs

Vestry Meeting and Membership Meetings

CtK Vestry will meet on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 6:30 P.M.

Our next Membership Meeting will be held Sunday, February 11, 2018 between the services at 9:30 A.M. Plan to join us to conduct the business of God's Kingdom through our Church and Preschool Ministries.

Women's Guild Meetings

The Women's Guild will meet on Tuesday, February 13th and Tuesday, March 13th at 11:30 A.M. Everyone is welcome! Come and join us for friendship and dessert.

Congratulations to Jean Azar Christ the King's Woman of the Year. Jean will be honored March 20, 2018 at the Council of Lutheran Women Luncheon at Wyndham Garden, Sterling Heights.

Preschool Olympics

The Preschool can't wait for our 3rd annual Preschool Olympics! On February 6th and 7th, at various times during our school day, the students will be participating in events such as the Icicle Bend, Shotput Coin Toss, Cross Country Ski Pass, Skeleton, and the Winter Wipeout Obstacle Course. Family and friends will be sponsoring our preschool for this event and all proceeds go directly to our preschool program! We would love to have congregational members sponsor our students too. Please see the display on Sunday, January 28th and February 4th regarding participating in this fundraiser. Donations will be accepted for this event through Friday, February 16th. GO TEAM CHRIST THE KING!



Mom-to-Mom Sale

Mark your calendars and pass the word! The preschool's annual, spring Mom-to-Mom Sale will be held here at CtK on Saturday, March 3rd, from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Table rental is \$25.00, on a first come, first served basis. If you don't want to rent a space, but have some large items to sell, you can do that too. Or, if you do not want to rent a table or put items in the "Big Item" room, CTK preschool will accept gently used toy donations. All proceeds from donated toys will go to the preschool. Plan to shop if you need any children's clothing, toys, or big items such as strollers, high chairs, rocking chairs, etc. All items are gently used and are sold at great prices. This is great for Moms and also Grandmas who may need some items when the grandkids come to visit. For more information or to obtain a contract, please email us at mom2momctk@gmail.com.

Opportunities to Serve at Christ the King

Perhaps your New Year's Resolution this year is to give time; to be more involved in your church and community. Christ the King offers a variety of ways in which you can serve.

CtK is looking for 2 or 3 **Collection Counters**. One team that needs another member meets every week in the months of January, May, and September. This is one day per week during these months; about 1.5 hours on that day. If you are interested in becoming a Collection Counter, please contact the church office.

The team that works the concession stand at **Little Caesar's Arena** always needs volunteers. This is a very special fundraising opportunity and we would love to have you join us. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the Little Caesar's Arena, please contact the church office.

Bruce Sininger is always looking for more people to sing in the choir. The Senior Choir provides beautiful music at the 10:45 A.M. Service. Consider sharing your time and talent by singing in the Senior Choir. If interested, please speak with Bruce or contact the church office.

A special thank you to all of our volunteers! Your time and service is vital to the mission and ministry of Christ the King Lutheran Church and Preschool.

Church office number is 313-884-5090.

Official Acts

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

Holy Baptism

William LaVeque, baptized at home in the Name of the Triune God on Tuesday, December 5, 2017. Witness: Patricia LaVeque. Officiant: Pastor Boelter.

Christian Burial

William LaVeque, husband of Patricia LaVeque, who was born April 2, 1931, died in the Lord at his home on December 6, 2017. Services were held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods on Saturday, December 9, 2017. Interment was held at the Veteran's National Cemetery in Holly, MI on Monday, December 11, 2017. Pastor Boelter officiating. Text: Luke 7:11-12.

Funerals

Beatrice Clara Zielesch, born June 16, 1921 in Detroit, MI died in the Lord at Sunrise Assisted Living on December 19, 2017. Services were held at A.H. Peters Funeral Home in Grosse Pointe Woods on December 22, 2017. Interment: Forest Lawn Cemetery, Detroit, MI. Pastor Boelter officiating. Text: Isaiah 63:7.

Charles Straley Davis, born January 16, 1923 in Grayson County, VA, died in the Lord at St. John Hospital on January 3, 2018. Services were held at Christ the King Lutheran Church on January 11, 2018, with interment at Downing Cemetery in Deckerville, MI on Friday, January 12, 2018. Pastor Boelter officiating. Text: II Timothy 4:6-8.

Confirmation Instruction

Our 2018 Confirmation Instruction Program has gotten off to a terrific start this winter. We have one student preparing to be confirmed this fall in Level III Confirmation. We have 5 students studying with Pastor Boelter in Level II, and there are 6 new students that have entered our program in Level I this year, taught by Jan Ropes. Classes meet every Tuesday evening from 5:30-7:30 P.M., with a simple pizza dinner donated by our participating families from 6:15 -6:30 P.M.

Nancy Josefiak, our Youth Coordinator, is also present each Tuesday to provide some fun and fellowship time as our students eat their supper and enjoy each other's company. Our next special confirmation event is our joint Winter Confirmation Retreat held at Grace Lutheran Church, Redford, MI on February 2-3. The event includes an overnight stay, games, Bible Study, a special project and plenty of opportunity to meet other confirmands from our sister English District Lutheran Congregations. Students will break from the catechetical studies during the week of February 19-23, which corresponds to the Winter Break in the Grosse Pointe School System. Classes continue until our next break which will take place on Tuesday, March 27th during Holy Week, and April 3rd, which is Easter Break.