

CHRIST THE KING
LUTHERAN CHURCH

King's Chronicles

"She has done what she could, she has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial."
Mark 14:8

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Before us is Valentine's Day, a time when the opportunity presents itself for us to demonstrate the verity of our love for one another, and Lent, the season in which God the Father shows the verity of His perfect love for us in sending His Son Jesus to the cross to atone for our sins.

Just a short time before Jesus would show us God's ultimate love for us, He was in Bethany at the home of Simon the Leper. A woman named Mary came with an alabaster flask of nard, a fragrant, highly expensive eastern oil that was used to prepare the bodies of the wealthy for burial. It would have cost an ordinary working man one year's salary to buy a flask of this ointment. Mary broke the vial and poured it on Jesus' head. The disciples did not yet understand the meaning of this loving deed. They complained that this was a shameful waste, that the nard could have been sold for much and the money given to the poor. Jesus tells them: "You have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish, you may do them good; but Me YOU DO NOT HAVE ALWAYS." Little did they know that in days, Jesus would be crucified. To remind His disciples of His saving work and purpose, including His death, He says to them: "She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial."

Grateful for the forgiveness of her many sins, Mary had listened to Jesus and comprehended that He was God's Son sent to redeem her. By the power of the Holy Spirit, she caught the truth that Jesus was soon to die, and she was intent on showing her love for and gratitude to Him in response to the mercy, grace and love He had first shown her. She was not daunted by the criticism of others. This was her opportunity to give her love, and she was not about to let it pass!

The self-giving love of God that we receive in Jesus Christ is a love characterized by the understanding that there are opportunities that come to us in life and the chance to do some of them comes only ONCE. Had Mary procrastinated, the events of Jesus' passion and death may have made impossible her opportunity to act in love. It is one of life's greatest tragedies to be moved to do something loving and yet failing to get around to doing it. It can happen when we feel too shy or feel awkward, or when we may worry about what other people may say if we proceed. But we must remember...the door of opportunity to show love may not always remain open in every circumstance!

WHAT WE ARE LED TO DO IN LOVE, WE NEED TO DO NOW.

This Valentine's Day and this Lenten Season, as we ponder Jesus' anointing, suffering, death and burial, we rejoice that God clearly shows us His love for us in sending Jesus.

If God the Holy Spirit is laying some lovely word or deed upon our heart to do for Him or for someone we know, His sacrificial love for us in Jesus must move us to do it and to do it soon. How sad a thing to later regret that we did not seize that impulse to show His love in our lives at that special moment. Imagine how Mary's loving, generous kindness uplifted Jesus' human heart as He was contemplating His death and burial for us!

In Christ, we are moved to put our love for God and others into action...this Valentine's Day, this Lent, and every day of our lives. Don't wait!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Randy

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

Lenten Dinners

Join us for Lenten Dinners in our Library on March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3 and 10. Dinners are held each Wednesday evening from 5:30 until 6:45. This is a great way to fellowship with your family in Christ, and to gather for a good meal after a day of work. Dinner is served until 6:45, when we prepare for our worship service at 7:00.

Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, March 6th

Our Lenten Midweek Divine Services begin Wednesday, March 6th with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. We will worship **each Wednesday** for six weeks in the morning at **11:15 A.M.** and again in the evening at **7:00 P.M.** Holy Communion will be served at both services on Ash Wednesday, and the imposition of ashes will be available at the Communion Rail for worshippers who desire them.

Our Lenten Wednesday Preaching theme at Christ the King this year will be “The Gospel in Seven Words.” Imagine that a friend or family member who is unfamiliar with your Christian faith and worship asks you to summarize the Gospel. They are not looking for a long list of doctrines. They have no interest in hearing you recite the Apostles’ Creed, although you know that it is a meaningful confession of our faith. They want to get to the heart of the matter. Imagine that they ask you: “In seven words or less, tell me what you believe?” What would you say? How would you put it? Are you prepared to confess your faith in Jesus?

To be a Christian is to “believe with your heart” and to “confess with your lips” the Good News of God’s love for us in Christ (Romans 10: 9-10). Peter calls us to be prepared always to give a reason for the hope we have as Christians (I Peter 3:15). We believers have the best news in the world to share, but are we prepared to share it?

During this season of Lent, we’re going to prepare to celebrate Holy Week by sharing why Holy Week is so important. Our midweek worship services will serve as opportunities to consider the many ways in which the Holy Scriptures proclaim Jesus. During the week, we will be thinking and working on our own individual summaries with the prayer that we will all be even more prepared to share the Good News of Jesus. Come and join us in worshiping Jesus and following Him to the cross, and come and join us as we work on crafting our own individual confessions of the Gospel.

Our sermon series will help us to believe and confess Jesus.

Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019 “The Gospel in Seven Words” based on I Peter 3:15. Holy Communion Celebrated at both services at 11:15 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Midweek 2 March 13 “Preparing to Confess: based on II Cor. 5: 17-21.

Midweek 3 March 20 “Captivity and Freedom” based on Luke 4:16-21.

Midweek 4 March 27 “Death and Life” based on John 11: 17-27

Midweek 5 April 3 “Isolation and Community” based on I Corinthians 12: 12-27

Midweek 6 April 10 “The Gospel in Your Words” based on Mathew 16: 13-17

Sections of the Passion Narrative will be read in our hearing at each of our Wednesday Divine Services. Come and worship and sing our favorite Lenten Hymns together!

Confirmands Retreat: Friday, February 22nd at Grace Lutheran Church, Redford Township, MI.

Confirmands and parents, mark your calendars for our annual Confirmand’s Retreat with other English District congregations and pastors! The date is Friday, February 22nd through to Saturday morning, February 23rd. The event begins at 8:30 P.M. Friday, meaning that we will leave Christ the King parking lot at about 7:00 P.M. The lock-in will include time for games, sports, devotions and Bible Study on the Epistle of II Peter. Departure homeward will be at 7:30 A.M. Saturday morning, in time for other family or group events. Permission forms will soon be available. This is a great event, fun for all...especially meeting other Christian confirmands and their pastors from our other English District Lutheran Congregations. More information will come at our Tuesday Confirmation Fellowship times at 6:30 with pizza.

Divine Worship continued...

The Sundays of Lent beginning with the Transfiguration.

Join us for worship each Sunday from our Lord's Transfiguration through to Easter as we focus throughout the Lenten Season on Moses' Book called Exodus. In Exodus, Moses asks Pharaoh to let God's people Israel go seven times. Finally, exasperated by plagues and the death of his own son, Pharaoh does it...he reluctantly let God's people go. When he does, God's salvation is so amazing that it even becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. Did you know that Israel's Scriptures mention the exodus 125 times?

Throughout the Book of Exodus, God reveals Who He is through His absence and His presence, through His silence and His speech, through His wrath and His mercy, and through His judgment and amazing grace. In doing so, Exodus paints a beautiful portrait of Jesus.

Our Sermon Series from Transfiguration Sunday until Easter Sunday is entitled "Let My People Go."

The following will guide our worship:

Transfiguration Sunday March 3rd "Big Things with Small Stuff" based on Exodus 2: 1-10 Holy Communion celebrated at 8:15 A.M.

First Sunday in Lent March 10th "How God Changes Us" based on Exodus 3: 1-14 Holy Communion celebrated at 10:45.

Second Sunday in Lent March 17th "Stop Trying and Start Trusting" based on Exodus 14: 1-29 Holy Communion celebrated at 8:15.

Third Sunday in Lent March 24th "Strike the Rock!" based on Exodus 17: 1-7 Holy Communion celebrated at 10:45.

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 31st "Mine!" based on Exodus 20: 1-17 Holy Communion at BOTH services (5th Sunday of the month)

Fifth Sunday in Lent April 7th "Digging Ourselves Into a Hole" based on Exodus 32: 1-14 Holy Communion at 8:15.

Palm Sunday April 14th "A New Beginning" based on Exodus 34: 1-8 Holy Communion at 10:45.

Maundy Thursday April 18th "Access" based on Exodus 24: 1-11 Holy Communion at 11:00 A.M.

Good Friday April 19th "Agnus Dei" based on Exodus 12: 1-13 Holy Communion at 11:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Easter Sunday April 21st "Against All Odds" based on Exodus 15: 1-18 Holy Communion at 8:00 A.M. only.

Preschool Sunday Celebration March 24th

Each year we celebrate God's blessings and mercy to us in making possible Christ the King's Preschool Ministry, which has now been in existence for 33 consecutive years! Each year our preschoolers and their parents join us and bless our worship by singing God's praises. ***This year we are going to celebrate in a different way. We will hold our regular service at 8:15 and at 10:45 with Holy Communion. The day, however, will also host a special service beginning promptly at 10:00 A.M. for our preschoolers and their families.*** The service will be 30 minutes in length, giving the children the opportunity to sing God's praises, and for us to worship and praise God in a succinct, abbreviated service that will better suit our preschoolers, their parents, family members and visitors. Members of the congregation are encouraged to come to celebrate and support our preschool ministry at 10:00 A.M. Parents and children will proceed to the Large Auditorium downstairs at 10:30 for a fellowship hour, while our Late Service begins promptly at 10:45. We encourage members to come to our special service at 10:00, but to remain for our regular service which will offer the Sacrament at 10:45.

Bishop Jamison Hardy to join us Sunday, March 31st

The Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, now second-term President and Bishop of our English District, will be with us on Sunday, March 31st for worship and fellowship. Do come and hear Dr. Hardy deliver our sermon! It is a pleasure for us to have him join us that day! There will be a special fellowship gathering planned between services that day for the congregation and officers to meet with him, grow to know him, and to be encouraged in the Gospel ministry of our Church and Preschool. More details will follow.

Official Acts

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

Christian Burial

Stacey Lynn Sanders, daughter of Gayle and George Meldrum. Stacey died November 14, 2018. She was born April 3, 1966. Burial was held at St. Mary Cemetery in New Baltimore, MI on December 14, 2018. Pastor Boelter officiated.

Holy Baptism

Grace Lindsay Christensen, born April 19, 2017, daughter of Kyle Alan Christensen and his wife Emy Michelle ne'e Moreau, baptized December 30, 2018. Baptismal sponsors are: Kevin Christensen and Rachele Christensen. Pastor Boelter officiated.

Looking Back...with Thanks!

With grateful hearts we thank God for our wonderful Season of Advent and Christmas here this past year! First, our thanks to God for the wonderful, favorable weather He gave us for all of our services and events. Next, we thank EVERY staff member, volunteer, officer and member who contributed in any way to the decoration of our church both inside and outside for Christmas. The decorations and lights were all done tastefully and in good order, and the community as well as our own people enjoyed them immensely! Our thanks to everyone who provided time, treasure and talent for the annual Performance of the Judelaire's, for the Living Nativity, and for our Sunday School Children's Christmas Worship Service. The pride and love of Christ the King Congregation and Preschool for it's Lord as well as its church home and ministry was evident in the care that was taken in every respect. Thanks be to God, and thanks to all who helped in any way!

Elders' Corner *Paul Nuechterlein*

People in these times are missing out on almost every opportunity to hear what God's view of our relationship with Him really is. Self has become the most important aspect in the lives of most people. The prophets in Scripture have never had an easy time of presenting God's ways either.

When I pass the marquis at the church just south of CtK on Mack, I always look to see what the weekly message will be to us from God's perspective. I have many times used this as the basis for my Bible study at the Elders' meetings. Recently the message read, "Average is just as close to the bottom as it is from the top." Does God look at us as average? Is it our job to strive to get to the top?

When we look at what God says to us about our relationship with Him and how He sees us in our true nature, the term average is without meaning. In fact we are at the very bottom of any scale.

When God speaks, our worth is very clear.

"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags: we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away." Isaiah 64:6

"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins." Ephesians 2:1

"There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

Amazingly, God did not let us die in our transgressions. God acted in spite of us. But because of His great love for us, God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.

"It is by grace that you have been saved." Ephesians 2:5

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"God laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6

"Repent and turn to God so that your sins will be blotted out." Acts 3:19

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isaiah 1:18

"For He hath clothed me with a garment of salvation, and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness" Isaiah 61:10

"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." Romans 3:23

"For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8

There is no average in God's view of us. God sees us now as perfect through Christ alone.

Youth Group News



February and March Youth Group Happenings

Just last month, we started a regular youth group meeting each Sunday gathering at St. Paul's church with a devotion led by Pastor Rutter from 4:00 until 5:30. After the devotion and discussion, the kids played a group game. Last week it was hide and seek. Sometimes it's a board game, and they have a ping pong, air hockey, and pool table. I'm happy to report we are seeing some regular CtK attendees, so we've decided to forge ahead and continue this new practice! If we continue to gain momentum here, we will start hosting some of these Sunday youth group meetings too!

Sunday, February 3rd - Super Bowl Sunday - We will confirm whether we are going to hold our regular meeting via email. The kids have been looking at paint samples to select a color to paint the youth room at St. Paul's. This will be supervised by Pastor Rutter and myself. It should be a great learning experience and fun for the kids (or a very big mess and mistake in judgement on our part).

Sunday, February 10th - This youth group meeting time may be extended to accommodate our painting project. Food will be provided!

Sunday, February 17th - an afternoon of bowling at Shores Lanes! We will meet up at Shores Lanes at 4:00 p.m. for two hours of bowling. \$5.00 cost for youth group members, \$7.00 for friends. Mrs. J. is available to pick up and/or bring home your son or daughter.

Sunday, February 24th - back to our regular youth group meeting format - devotion, discussion, games and food! I'm determined to get them to sit still long enough to teach them this great new card game I have for larger groups called Nerts. It's a lot of fun!

This program will continue to be meeting on Sundays in March - 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st....more details with special activities and field trips to follow via email.

Mark you calendars confirmation families! Overnight Retreat - leaving the evening of February 22nd and returning the morning of the 23rd. See detailed info elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Preschool is hoping a few of our youth group kids can lend a hand at **CtK's Mom to Mom Sale** on Saturday, March 9th, 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Please reach out to the Preschool at mom2momctk@gmail.com if you have any questions and let them know your son or daughter can help!

If you have any questions or would like to RSVP for any of the above activities please feel free to contact the church office.

Dear members of Christ the King,

Our Senior 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. As a service project our troop adopted and has embraced for the past seven years, we have mailed nearly 2,500 boxes of Girl Scout cookies to servicemen and women in active duty overseas. Many of these past recipients have been the service men and women we pray for each week at Christ the King. In addition, we have personally handed out boxes of cookies to our proud veterans at the VA Hospital in Detroit. All of our recipients have been so thankful! The soldiers comment that the cookie care packages are such a morale boost and they are so grateful that the people back home are thinking of them and appreciate their service to our country. Our veterans are truly grateful as well; some moved to tears that our community donates cookies to honor them for their past service. It's amazing how a small act of kindness can have such a great 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 (Girl Scout Troop 75334) 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



Registration and Open House Our priority registration for our 2019-2020 school year began on January 31st and will run through February 10th. On February 11th, our registration opens to the public. **Our Open House will be held Sunday, February 10th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.** Please take a brochure from the Welcome Center and give it to someone who may be interested in our half day threes or fours program for next year. The Open House date is on the brochure!

Our Classrooms

The children will be enjoying our Valentine parties this month. Making those Valentine's to give to our friends is a great way to practice writing our names. The three year old classes will have parent/teacher conferences with Mrs. Cecchini during our Winter Break. March brings lots of fun as we celebrate Lutheran Schools week the week of March 24th. We kick off our week with Preschool Sunday and during the week we have fun dress-up days. We will also be holding our Preschool Olympics on March 26th and 27th.

Fundraisers

Thank you to everyone who participated in our holiday Ram's Horn Fundraiser Night. The preschool profited \$200! Our Scrip gift card sale profited \$575.00. Our next fundraiser is our Mom to Mom Sale held on March 9th. If you know anyone who would like to rent a table please let us know. We are also taking gently used clothes and toy donations to sell at the sale with proceeds going to the preschool. Also be on the look-out for a Jet's pizza night coming soon!

Preschool Lawn Signs

Now that we are kicking off our registration for the 2019-2020 school year the preschool would like to encourage you to put your lawn sign out in your yard so our name is visible in all communities. New signs were recently ordered so if you do not have one or need a new one they are available in the church office. Thanks for helping us advertise!

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 9th, 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 email mom2momctk@gmail.com.

Thank You!

The Christmas wreath fundraiser was a wonderful success, even with the challenges posed to our supplier by inclement weather. The incredible rallying of the volunteers on Dec. 1st made, what seemed an impossible situation, a quick resolution for many happy people. All wreaths were picked up within the next four days. A total of 136 small wreaths, 7 large wreaths, and 2 cemetery easels were sold netting almost \$800.00 profit for this fundraiser.

Many thanks to all who purchased a wreath and for the support of family and friends who made this a success. A BIG thank you to those who re-shuffled their schedules December 3rd-5th to make it all happen.

Treats for Missions

Looking for a sweet treat? Check out the table in the Welcome Center. Sweet treats will be available for various holidays with proceeds going to Missions.

Stewardship

Building Relationships

Relationships need to be built; they don't just happen. Even in families where blood relationships exist, emotional relationships must be built. How do we go about doing that? What are the criteria? Let's look to the master of relationships: our Lord Jesus.

Jesus, the incarnate Christ, lived in a relationship with His earthly family. In the Gospel of Luke, we are told that, when His parents became separated from their son on the return from Jerusalem where they had attended the Feast of the Passover, they were distraught. When they were reunited, Mary asked, "Son, why have You treated us so?" He gave His well-known reply: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Then, we are told, "He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them...And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:48-52) The Son of God, the Savior of the world, lived in obedient relationship with the earthly parents His Heavenly Father gave Him.

It is in the early days of His ministry that Jesus starts gathering to Himself His disciples, the Twelve who would sleep at His side, share their food with Him, endure the variances in the weather (as they were often outdoors), hear and try to understand His words, and seek to emulate Him, their Rabbi and Master. From Jesus we learn about being stewards of relationships. The criteria include quality time together, the opening of hearts to one another, trust and forgiveness, and interdependence.

Just as He called His disciples into relationship with Himself, so He initiates that closeness with us. He calls us with His Gospel words, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19) He abides with us (John 15:4); He shares His heavenly food with us (Matthew 26:26-28); He speaks to us by His Word, Jesus Himself, and through His called servants (Hebrews 1:1-2); He presents us to His Father as holy in His sight (Colossians 1:22).

Secure, then, in our relationship with Jesus, we come to understand both our identity and purpose as His stewards. Equipped by His Word and empowered by His transforming love, our stewardship is no longer limited to specific acts occurring here and there but encompasses our entire lives. With a growing awareness of Christ's redeeming love, we are motivated to express our faith by the way we live our lives.

News Briefs

A New Mission Opportunity will be presented to our congregation on Sunday, February 10!

The project is called 1 -1 -1 and stands for \$1.00 -per week-by each individual baptized member. Come and learn how we at Christ the King can join over 45 other English District Congregations in furthering the Gospel by planting new congregations through this simple and easy project! Elder Charles Cantin will be presenting this program to us! Come and learn what you and your family can do to enlarge the Kingdom of God each week!

Women's Guild

Women's Guild Woman of the Year

Congratulations to Betty Gade, our Woman of the Year! Betty will be honored March 19, 2019 by the Council of Lutheran Women. Reservations are \$29.00 per person. A few tickets are still available.

Women's Guild Luncheons

The Women's Guild meets the second Tuesday of each month (Feb. 12 and March 12) at 11:30 A.M. Bring your sandwich. Dessert will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

CtK Vestry will meet on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 6:30 P.M.

Our next Membership Meeting will be held Sunday, February 10, 2019 between the services at 9:30 A.M. Budget and the nomination of our Synodical President, First Vice President, and Regional Vice President will be our agenda as a congregation.

Chili Cook Off—Saturday, March 23rd!

First English Lutheran of Grosse Pointe Woods is hosting their annual Chili Cook-off and once again, they are kindly extending an invitation to members and friends of Christ the King to participate. The date this year is Saturday, March 23rd at 6:00 P.M. This fun evening is a wonderful fellowship event for our two congregations, with good food and an opportunity to raise some funds for one of our mission projects. The funds raised are divided equally between the two congregations, and each church uses the proceeds to give an added gift to the Gospel ministry of our Lord Jesus.

More information will be coming in the next few weeks as to the guidelines for entering your chili recipe or your favorite soup recipe! Plan to come and enter your favorite chili, or simply come and enjoy some good food and fellowship. We thank Pastor Sean Motley and the First English Congregation for welcoming us, and what will sure to be another great evening of fun with our brothers and sisters in Christ!

In the past, Christ the King members have taken home a goodly share of awards for first and second place recipes! How about entering the competition and making an attempt at keeping up our great record of wins! See you there!