

CHRIST THE KING
LUTHERAN CHURCH

King's Chronicles

"Why We Must Meet Together"

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Lead article cont'd/ Divine Worship/ Official Acts | 2 |
| Membership Meeting/Rally Day/ Religious Instruction/Funeral Services | 3 |
| Offerings/1-1-1 Mission Project/ Missionary Support/Wish List | 4 |
| Stewardship | 5 |
| Preschool | 6 |
| Youth Group | 7 |

Dear Friends in Christ,

Since the Covid-19 Epidemic began last March, our lives have certainly been changed, and that is no less true for life together in our church family here at Christ the King.

From March 22nd to June 6th, our church doors were closed. To remain safe and yet to remain faithful to Jesus and be nourished by God's Word, we began holding services that are broadcast on Facebook, and posted on our Christ the King Website. We resumed our public worship on Sunday, June 7th with safety protocols in place, and with requests that worshipers protect not only themselves, but others through social distancing and the wearing of masks. We knew that the return to worship would be slow, and that is understandable. Even with all that we are doing to make this a much safer environment than many other places one can and does go each day to sustain our lives, some in our family of faith at Christ the King still cannot come.

Summers do normally bring lighter attendances at Christ the King as our people travel and add extra activities to their schedules in the warmer months. This year however the combination of Summertime and Covid-19 have had a particularly hard impact on our attendance at worship.

True, our in-house gatherings have some limitations now. True, our Facebook Divine Services make worship extremely convenient. True, Covid-19 is a very real threat and anytime we are in public we are vulnerable to this virus. But unless you are truly someone who needs to remain isolated because of an underlying health issue, you need to consider a few very important truths so that our will to worship flourishes rather than fades. Our sinful, human nature can very readily turn this time into an excuse not to worship at all. I credit Pastor David Gundersen, a Christian writer at Crossway.org and Pastor at Bridgepoint Bible Church in Houston, TX for the thoughts I am sharing here. His article "Why Meet in Person? 10 reasons to come back to Church after Covid-19" appeared on June 13, 2020 and was reprinted in the July 6, 2020 edition of Christian News, pages 9 and 10. I wish to paraphrase the 10 valuable thoughts he presents from God's Word for our consideration as a family in Christ at this unprecedented time.

Why Meet in Person?

1. God made us the crown of His creation, giving us bodies, male and female (Genesis 1: 26; 2: 18-25). These bodies are designed to see and hear and feel our way through this physical world. While we have experienced the blessing and power of the online world especially since March 26th, we have also experienced it's limitations. We are meant to be near each other. A long-distance relationship is never ideal, even for a church family.
2. The Church is One Body, the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23). We are each a different body part, but closely joined together (Eph. 4: 15-16). Each of us with our individual gifts has a part to play in Jesus' Church. Like any healthy body, we know it is not good to remain dislocated.
3. The Holy Spirit draws us together. We not only have one body, we have one Spirit (Eph. 4:4) who calls us together in unity. When we are separated involuntarily, there is tension, and the Holy Spirit living within us yearns for us to be together.
4. We are a family in Christ Jesus. God is our Father in Christ Jesus, and He has brought us into His household (I Tim. 3:15). We are brothers and sisters in Christ and families are not meant to be separated. We yearn for everyone to be present together and if we can, we should seek to gather for God's life-giving service in our family of faith. We must also be reaching out in love to those who cannot gather with us at this time.
5. The Preaching of the Word is a live, sacred moment (Acts 20: 20,27). In these moments a pastor shepherds his flock and the sheep hear the voice of their shepherd. Not only the content of the message but the gravity of the moment strikes us as we are connected with the Risen Lord and His Word, and with each other.

(Continued on page 2)

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

*resuming Sept. 14, 2020

Monday Evening Services

Our regular, Monday evening services held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, are now cancelled at this time. We plan to resume our regular Monday schedule beginning September 14th.

(continued from page 1 - Why We Must Meet Together)

6. There's no experience like singing together as the Church (Psalm 95: 1-2). Singing glorifies God and enthrones Him again in our hearts, it brands our minds with truth and our hearts with His grace, and singing in harmony is a visible expression of our unity of faith. In singing together, we encourage one another (Col 3:16). Even now we will figure out how to praise Him as safely as we can: with masks and with social distance. God hears our songs of praise rising to Him...and it is good if we are there in person!

7. The Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion (Matthew 26:26,28) cannot be celebrated virtually. God communicates His presence and gifts to us in these sensory ways. In these ways we taste and touch and see the Gospel.

8. We each have a job to do. The work of a church is not just for the pastor to do, it is for every Christian to use his/her gifts (I Peter 4: 10-11), and that cannot be done unless we are physically present.

9. Our worship witnesses Christ to each other and to the world. People in our lives walk through the same broken world we do each week, and they need to see the Gospel embodied. We can witness Christ virtually by our Facebook Service, but the unbelieving world needs to see a family of believers confessing Christ together, and seeing God's love in Christ embodied in service to others.

10. Greetings change lives. Not only do the Christian writers like Paul greet members of various congregations (Romans 16), they also ask those believers to greet one another. Our greetings reflect God's love in Christ and establish hospitality. Even if these greetings are masked and at a bit of a social distance, they are still life-shaping and life-changing events in every church.

If you have an underlying medical condition and are still unable to worship with us, the Lord understands and so do we. You may have to exercise caution for a time. But when the time is right, it is important that we all gather together again. As Pastor Gundersen reminds us in his article, our gatherings in the Divine Service are a foretaste of heaven to come. In heaven, we will not be segregated in the mansions of heaven, rather we will be living and working and loving and singing and serving together forever in a new world where there is no sickness, sorrow, death, sadness or separation.

When it is safe for you, be sure you make it a priority to gather together with us at Christ the King again in person... and do so in your life until Jesus returns and makes all things new.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Randy

Official Acts

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

Holy Baptism

Callie Adrianna Chase, daughter of Collin Ross Chase and his wife Adrienne Michael ne'e Urso Chase, born on October 1, 2019 at St. John Hospital, Detroit, MI. Baptized Friday, August 7, 2020. Baptismal sponsors are: Amber Saroli of Shelby Township, MI and Kyle Chase of Grosse Pointe Farms, MI. Pastor Boelter officiating.

Holy Marriage

Evan Blair Chase and Francesca Marie Saracino, to be married at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit, September 19, 2020. Witnesses: Adam Davis of Grosse Pointe Woods, MI and Allison Smith of Dexter, MI. Pastor Boelter to officiate.

Christian Burial

Mary Lou Forbes, aunt of Nancy Josefiak. Service of Committal at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township, MI, Saturday, August 1, 2020.

Ray Beste and Doris Beste, parents of Nancy Josefiak. Cremation. Service of Committal at Resurrection Cemetery, Clinton Township, MI, Saturday, August 1, 2020.

Pastor Boelter officiating.

Bible Classes, Sunday School, and Confirmation Instruction

Our Next Membership Meeting will be held Sunday, August 9, 2020 between the Divine Services at 9:30 A.M. Social distancing will be practiced. We will be hearing reports about the ministry of our congregation and preschool, including upcoming plans for the reopening of our preschool, Sunday School, Confirmation and Bible Class programs this September. Important information will be provided to the congregation about where we stand financially, which has been on the minds and hearts of many of our members. We will also hear about the work that has continued and the projects that have been accomplished even through this time of epidemic. Join us for this important meeting the second Sunday of August!

Wednesday Study of the Book of Romans

Should conditions regarding the Corona Virus continue to improve, we plan to resume our Wednesday morning Bible Class on Wednesday, September 16th at 10:00 A.M. The class will be held in Library under social distancing guidelines.

Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th. We are planning to open our Sunday School that day during the 10:45 Service, and resume our Adult Bible Class at 9:30 A.M.

The Adult Class will be held in our Church Library, and social distancing will be practiced.

Confirmation Instruction will resume Tuesday, September 8th after Labor Day.

Levels I and III will meet socially distanced in class at 6:30 PM. Level II will meet at 5:30. Students are encouraged to continue to follow the syllabus and accomplish the scheduled lessons, however in Levels II and III, we will return to teaching the lessons that were missed when we stopped meeting on March 24th. Level II will continue with lessons on the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed. Level III will continue with a review of the Office of the Keys and the beginning of a concentrated study on the Lord's Supper in preparation for confirmation. Level III students have continued to write their essays, review the chief doctrines and create their banners in preparation for their confirmation. When it is safe to confirm our students and when they have adequately been instructed and are deemed prepared, we will move forward with the Rite of Confirmation.

Funeral Services

We are once again able at this time to conduct funeral services in our church nave with the same social distancing protocols in place that are used on Sunday mornings. Please note however, that until the epidemic passes, we will not be able to hold funeral luncheons or fellowship gatherings in the building outside of the funeral service itself. We look forward to the day when we can offer these fellowship opportunities once more. With our protocols in place, we are able to worship up to approximately 80 people in our nave at a time, which constitutes approximately a 25% occupancy rate. While we are air conditioning our building before our services to keep worshipers comfortable, the circulation of air is turned off for the safety of all who are gathered, so as not to recirculate air in a closed facility. We thank everyone for practicing our social distancing measures, and being patient with one another at this time.

Stewardship

A Gentle but Important Reminder about your regular offerings. We want to thank everyone who has faithfully continued to regularly give or send their tithes and sacrificial gifts for the work of our Lord's ministry during these difficult months. Because of God's faithfulness, the work of our Lord has continued day by day and week by week at our church and preschool. As a dedicated member of this congregation, if you have not remained current on your offerings this summer, please make it a point to bring your offerings to church or send them via mail. You can also safely use our online giving link on our Christ the King website. Regular bills, repairs, and salaries are obligations that have continued even through this time of epidemic. God will bless every gift you give when you give cheerfully, proportionately and with faith in God's provision for you. We understand that some people in our congregation have taken salary cuts to keep their jobs, and others have also faced harder times. Our Lord Jesus understands, and so do we. With that being said, everyone can still do something to lend a hand. The Scriptures declare that "many hands make the burden light." Every one of us can do something to help at this time, and for years we have experienced God providing for our needs and giving us encouragement, even under the hardest of times. Take heart...and consider what you too can do for your Lord and for your brothers and sisters in Christ who depend upon this ministry each and every day. We give only in response to what Jesus has done for us and to put the faith we declare with our lips into concrete action before God. May He bless you with unswerving faith in His promises to sustain us as He has in the past, and cause us to show gratitude and thankfulness for the blessings we enjoy in Jesus His Son.

1-1-1 Mission Project

While the Covid-19 epidemic has altered our schedules, the opportunity for all adults and children to participate in our 1-1-1 mission has continued each week. We thank everyone who has continued to remember this mission outreach in our English District which helps start new Lutheran congregations in the USA and Canada, and also helps fund the training of pastors in the Dominican Republic. 1-1-1 stands for one dollar-per week-per person. It is a wonderful way to teach our children of all ages that they can join us in doing significant work for the Kingdom of God through their \$1.00 offerings each week. All 1-1-1 monies are forwarded to our English District for this worthy cause, which has the participation of at least 65 congregations in the English District of the LC-MS.

Missionary Support

Continue to keep in your prayers: Pastor Daniel Conrad and his family as they continue to minister in Mexico City training Lutheran Pastors for ministry throughout Mexico and Latin America. Pray that God also keeps the Conrads safe during this world-wide epidemic.

Wish List Item: Video Equipment

We are grateful that so many friends and members of Christ the King have responded so favorably to the recording of our Divine Services on Facebook and on our Website. We will continue to broadcast the non-communion services each Sunday morning. So far, we have recorded the services only with the use of an iPhone. In order to enhance the reception of these services, we would like to purchase better cameras and equipment that will improve the virtual experience for those who cannot come to church at this time. We already have a wonderful gift given by one of our members that was earmarked for the acquisition of better equipment. As a wish-list item, we would like to suggest that if any other members would also like to contribute to this worthy project, donations can also be made at this time to CtK video equipment. The addition of this better equipment will ensure that for many years to come, our shut-in members and friends both far and near can access our worship and receive God's gifts each Sunday. This is also a wonderful way for our members to stay in touch with their home church while away, traveling, or on vacation. We wish to thank Ed Fleck for his work in recording our services each Sunday. In time to come, we are very much hoping to involve other members who also enjoy technology and would be willing to assist in the recording of our Divine Services each week. More to come!

Stewardship

Showing our Devotion

Webster's Dictionary defines devotion as "loyalty, deep affection, or religious worship." We can be devoted to jobs, to families, to hobbies, to attaining success, wealth, or status. We can be devoted to a political party or a sports team. A Christian's highest devotion should be to His Lord and the Lord's Church.

We show our devotion to Christ in different ways, but much of our devotion is expressed in what we say or do. To the Ephesians Paul wrote, *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:10) Our good works show our devotion to God for Who He is and what He has done for us. As Christians, we show our devotion to Jesus through the faithful stewardship of our time, talents, and money.

As devoted stewards...

- We give generously. Giving puts our devotion into action. Because of our devotion to Jesus, we generously give Him our best. Jesus said, *"Freely you have received, freely give."* (Matthew 10:8 NIV) He also said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* (Acts 20:35)
- We follow Jesus' example of serving. Jesus said, *"...the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve..."* (Matthew 20:28) Filled with Christ's love and grace, we become new people who are prompted to follow His lead by helping and serving others. *"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised."* (II Corinthians 5:14-15)
- We love others. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 19:19) We are equipped by Christ to be loving people because He changes us into loving people. Paul wrote, *"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."* (Galatians 6:10) Peter wrote, *"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins."* (I Peter 4:8)
- We are in this world but not of the world. (John 15:19) We acknowledge that God is the owner and the source of all good things. We are devoted to Jesus, so we hold things of this world loosely. We love people rather than things.

May God keep our hearts devoted to Him and, through our devotion, may He be glorified.

The Blessings of Work

At the end of the summer, we celebrate Labor Day, which is on the first Monday of September. Labor Day weekend provides an extra-long weekend for most people, and it often marks the end of summer vacation for students. Labor Day was established as a national holiday back in 1894 to pay tribute to workers and recognize the contribution workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

Jesus knew the meaning of work. Before He entered upon his public ministry, He worked in His father's carpenter shop at Nazareth. In Genesis 2:15, God gave man the responsibility to till the earth. *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it."* This work is neither punishment nor toilsome. Work only becomes a source of hardship as a result of sin. There are all different types of work, but our charge is to work.

The following are a few of the reasons God gives us work:

1. To provide for our basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing. *"If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat."* (I Thessalonians 3:10) The fear of hunger will always be one of the great driving forces for the motivation to work. We are to provide material support for our families: *"But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."* (I Timothy 5:8)
2. Work keeps us honest. It is extremely difficult to live honestly without working. To the Ephesians, Paul wrote, *"Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor..."* (Ephesians 4:28)
3. God wants us to share with others who have a need. We are called to work with our *"own hands, so that [we] may have something to share with anyone in need."* (Ephesians 4:28) Unless we work hard and make more than we need, we will have nothing to share. By God's grace, we can be generous.

Work is a great joy and blessing. It is a great source of satisfaction. What a joy it is to work so we can be generous to our church and to those in need. As we work, we should do our work as unto the Lord. *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men."* (Colossians 3:23)

Preschool Happenings



Dear Christ the King parishioners,

I wanted to reach out to you and first thank you all for your support of the preschool ministry that we have here at Christ the King. It is an honor and privilege to be able to help continue this part of the church's ministry, as we provide a Christ-centered, play-based program for the families in the Grosse Pointe and surrounding communities. Due largely in part to Covid-19, our preschool program has had to develop new safety measures that will help ensure the health and well-being of both our preschool families and the church family. I have been in direct communication with state licensing representatives to ensure that our program is kept up to date with all of the new rules and regulations that will be put into place this school year, and have been following the CDC recommendations and guidelines, as well. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a few of the new guidelines and procedures that will be put into place for the 2020/2021 school year.

We are now limited to having no more than 15 children in each of the classrooms to ensure that social distancing is still able to take place in the classroom setting. There will be no more than 5 children at each of the 3 tables. Each child will have a set spot at a table that will be theirs for the remainder of the day. Each child will have their own writing and art supplies to avoid cross contamination.

Children and teachers will not be required to wear a mask while in the classroom. However, during the daily screening process, before entering the classroom, masks will be required. Parents who are bringing their students into the classroom must wear a mask.

The daily screening process will consist of either myself or Pat Steinkampf, our new lead 3-year-old teacher, taking each person's temperature as they arrive at school. If at any point during the school day, a student exhibits symptoms or has a fever, their parents/guardians will be notified and they will have to return home until they have been fever or symptom free for 72 hours without the aid of medication. If a teacher exhibits symptoms or has a fever, they will not be able to return to work until they have shown a negative Covid-19 test. We have a list of substitutes that would be able to step in for a teacher who needed to go home.

With these precautions and regulations put into place, we feel confident that we will be able to provide a safe, caring, and healthy learning environment for our students and their families.

I would like to encourage you all to spread the word about our preschool program and all that we offer. We are ready for this upcoming school year, even with all that has happened in these past months, and are in need of your help to let the community know that we have spots available in both our 3 and 4-year old classrooms. We are up to date with both state and CDC guidelines and can provide a safe, caring, and healthy environment. My desire is to see this program grow and continue to be a beacon of Christ's love in the Grosse Pointe and surrounding communities.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in our program, or if you have any questions or concerns, please email mrfc143@gmail.com or call (586) 943-6528.

In Christ,

Melissa Pieper – Director of Christ the King Lutheran Preschool

We still have openings for our 3's and 4's Preschool program. We encourage you to spread the good news in our wonderful community. Thank you again for all your support and continued support!

- **Parent Orientation** is scheduled for September 10th at 6:30pm
- **Student/Parent Meet and Greets** will be on Monday, September 14th and Tuesday, September 15th
- **First Full Day of school starts September 16th**
- We hope to have a **Jets Pizza Fundraiser Dinner Night** in September
- **Savory Sweets Fundraiser** will begin in the first week of October

Youth Group News



August & September Youth Group News

As anyone reading this article knows – there truly hasn't been much going on these past 4+ months – and trying to make “plans” to write about here for the next several months going forward will be challenging to say the least!

Seriously, our Youth Group Members – and their families – have done a fantastic job of powering through what was the remainder of their school year virtually, staying safe and healthy by wearing their masks and practicing social distancing. They have also been faithful in attending worship services on Facebook when they have not been able to worship at church.

Many of our kids participated in the 10 virtual Scavenger Hunts I put on in April and May. They were given a list of 15 items or tasks to photograph returning the pictures to me within a two-hour period. Prizes were awarded. Our kids are so creative - from dressing up like they were going outside to shovel snow, to taking a picture of a delivery truck on their block, to showing Mrs. J a picture of their bed made! One member, when asked to take a picture of herself with swim goggles, decided to also get her kickboard and a couple of chairs to lay on so that it looked like she was swimming earned the extra points for creativity!

Bottle and Can Returnable Program As we work our way towards safely opening our preschool, I was told that the recycling bins that are stored in the vestibule area will have to be removed. The preschool staff will be using that space to check temperatures and implement other safety precautions. Please do not bring any more bottles and cans up to church at this point. We may be able to offer a pick-up service if we have enough youth group families who would be able to support it. Karly Harris and I did this for three of our members in July and it worked out well. Please keep an eye out for more information on this program via email and/or the church bulletin.

At the time of this newsletter deadline I was unable to confirm whether we will be able to plan an activity or two this August/September. As it is with most gatherings, we'll have to see where our virus numbers stand and also where our youth group family's comfort levels are too. I would like to take the kids out to Lake St. Clair Metropark (forever in my heart as Metro Beach). I thought that we could do a good job of staying socially distanced by doing a little fishing, play miniature golf, and have a BBQ. I would also like to put a Car Wash on the calendar – I think we could do a good job with the right amount of adult supervision to keep our washers two or three to a car – on different sides of the car - then put some hot dogs on the grill afterwards. Once again, please keep an eye out for dates and times.

Hoping and praying that you all stay safe, healthy, and virus-free. Looking forward to a time in the very near future when we can all be together again. Nancy Josefiak