



Welcome to Worship

We welcome you to worship today. Please sign the guest book and enjoy a cup of coffee and snacks after the service. Donations at the snack table benefit the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

The pastors and worship servers look forward to meeting guests after worship and answer questions about Christ the King Church.

Advent Star

During Advent through Epiphany a star appears at Christ the King Lutheran Church. This paper star from the Moravian tradition is a reminder of the light of creation, of the prophecy that a star would arise out of Jacob, of the Star of Bethlehem, and of the bright and Morning Star, Jesus Christ.

Midday Advent Organ Concerts Fridays 12:15 p.m.

Falling just before Christmas, the season of Advent is a time of contemplation and introspection. While the pipe organ is often associated only with being loud, Rick Erickson and Christopher Holman, our organists at Christ the King Lutheran Church, will show a different side of the king of instruments with a series of 30-minute organ recitals, every Friday at 12:15 p.m. in December: 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Year-End Tax Deductible Contributions from Any Assets

As you prayerfully consider your calendar year-end giving, remember: You can take advantage of the charitable tax deduction for any gifts given before December 31. Checks must be dated and postmarked in 2016. Our church office is open from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 30 if you would like to bring your gifts in person. Of course any gifts placed in the offering plate through December will be credited to 2016.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Part 1

December 4, 12:15 p.m., parish hall

Part 1 of the Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday, December 4, immediately following the 10:50 a.m. service. The meeting will be brief, but consequential. A preliminary budget for 2017 will be presented, the “Salt and Light” stewardship campaign results to date will be shared, and council member elections will be held. There will be opportunity for other Q & A with council leadership, as well. Your presence and voice in the planning and administration of our congregational life together is vital. Thank you for your presence and support.

Lessons and Carols

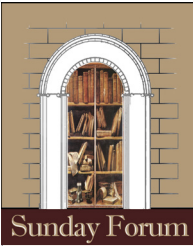
Sunday, December 4 at 6:00 p.m. we celebrate the Advent season with Advent Lessons and Carols. This beautiful annual event includes readings, hymns, anthems, and prayers that mark events in the story of Redemption. Join our Church Choir, Chorus, Choristers and Jr. Choristers as we fill our nave in sound! A potluck Open House will immediately follow Lessons and Carols in the parish hall. All are invited to bring a savory or sweet finger food to share. (Please bring food items already plated and ready to share, so that there will be a minimum of set-up and clean-up).

Pageant Rehearsals

Pageant rehearsals will be Wednesdays, December 7 and 14. The pageant will take place on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18.

T
H
I
S

W
E
E
K



Sunday Forum

9:45 a.m. in the
basement classroom

**December 4 and 11:
Connections Between**

People and the Rest of Creation: Scripture and Science

The Creation Care Team invites you to Sunday Forum for Connections Between People and the Rest of Creation: Scripture and Science. Lisa Brenskelle, Creation Care Team lead and a chemical engineer who manages research and development projects for her employer, will address the connections between people and the rest of creation from the perspectives of both scripture and science. Her talks will investigate the relationships and similarities between people and the rest of creation highlighted in scripture and then give examples of how these relationships and similarities have been observed by science. Learn some exciting newer science of which you may not be aware, and marvel at the connections between people and the rest of creation!

Fill a Shoebox and Delight a Seafarer

Christ the King Lutheran Church is collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts to give to seafarers who visit the Port of Houston during the holiday season. The gifts will be distributed by the Seafarers' ecumenical ministry. Check out the mobile bulletin board for a list of suggested items. Please bring your filled shoebox to church by **Sunday, December 4.**

Donate New Toys and Books

Please donate new, unwrapped toys and books (avoiding items violent in nature) for children ages 0 – 15 to the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC). You may place donations in the box in the foyer or in the church office. **Deadline for toys and gifts is December 4.**

Checks can be made out to Christ the King Church with Jingle Bell Express in the memo line.

Jingle Bell Express involves hundreds of volunteers. Help is needed with organizing toys, setting up the 'store', and even helping parents select toys.

Special Request for Volunteers:

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 5 - 7

6:00-8:00 p.m. Sort & Set-up (Prepare toys and food for distribution)

Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10

7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Distribution (Assist clients as they gather toys, books & food)

Location: Bellaire United Methodist Church, 4417 Bellaire Blvd.
Contact 713-961-3993 ext. 215 or seasonal@ccschouston.org.

Christ the King Foundation Accepts Grant Requests

The Board of Directors of the Christ the King Foundation is now accepting grant requests for projects meeting foundation criteria. Individuals or groups may request grants to further special projects and needs of the congregation or its mission to the community. The Foundation makes grants based on the income from its investments. Past grants have been awarded for seminary scholarships, special educational programs, and outreach projects. Application forms may be requested from the church office.

Deadline is December 5, 2016.



Bach Vespers for Advent

December 11, 6:00 p.m.

This Vespers features Bach's early cantata based on one of Luther's most beloved Advent hymns, Schütz's Magnificat for Four Choirs, and motets by Brahms and Distler. Pre-vespers talk 5:15 p.m. with Peter Loewen. Reception following.

German Christmas Concert

Wine and *Speculatus!* *Feuerzangenbole* (mulled wine set aflame)! Traditional German carols and more cookies! Free to the public on **Tuesday, December 6, at 7:00 pm**. The Houston Saengerbund, Houston's oldest musical organization, will present a concert, "A German Christmas" with flavors of the season at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in midtown at 1311 Holman Avenue.

Church Photo Directory

**PHOTO
TIME**

Photo dates are:

January 4-7, 17-21, 2017

We are excited to announce that we are creating a new pictorial directory of our church family. This new directory will serve as a valuable tool to help promote fellowship, showcase our congregation, and help us reach out to new members.

Photo sessions are January 4-7 and January 17-21. Sign up in the narthex before and after worship during December or sign up electronically by using the link on our homepage, ctkelc.org. Please plan now to participate. Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

Ten Thousand Villages Shopping Night

DATE CHANGE Tuesday, December 13

The Ten Thousand Villages fundraiser will be **Tuesday, December 13 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.!** Ten Thousand Villages is closing – this will be our last time for fundraising shopping. Stock up on your favorite fair trade items. 15% of net sales will be donated to the Luther League. Beverages and snacks will be served throughout the evening. Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit, fair trade gift store that works with over 130 artisan groups in more than 38 countries to bring you fair trade jewelry, home decor, gifts and more. Find a gift for everyone this Christmas!

The Longest Night:

**A Service of Hope and Comfort
Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.
in the parish hall**

Christmas is a joyous time for many and yet it is also a painful time for others. This holiday season may be the first time without the presence of a loved family member or friend taken by death; it may be a time that you are facing changes or the unknown in your life. It may be a time that has always been difficult.

For these reasons and more Christ the King Church will offer a special "Longest Night" service on December 21, at 6:30 p.m.

The constant refrain we hear about getting together with family, reminds many people of what and who they have lost, or what they never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all of these can make us feel very much alone in the midst of the festive season.

The Longest Night is an intimate service of scripture, stories, special music, silent reflection and healing prayer. It's a time to recognize that Christmas can be bittersweet. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. We need to know God's presence during this season.

We invite you to experience a meditative worship service that takes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Join with us to hear scripture, offer prayers for healing and wholeness, and to sing hymns that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who grieve, and for those who struggle. God is the light shining in our darkness.

This is also a wonderful way to remember those you know who might be in need. Everyone is welcome.

The short service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

Sunday, December 4

- 8:30 a.m. Worship ELW 5, nave
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday Forum, basement classroom
- 9:45 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal
- 10:50 a.m. Worship ELW 5, nave
- 12:15 p.m. Annual Meeting Part 1, parish hall
- 6:00 p.m. Luther League, youth room
- 6:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols, nave
- 7:00 p.m. Potluck Fellowship, parish hall

Monday, December 5

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor

Tuesday, December 6

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor
- 6:00 p.m. Executive Committee, 3rd floor

Wednesday, December 7

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor
No Wednesday Night Alive!
- 5:30 p.m. Pizza
- 6:00 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal
- 6:15 p.m. Brass Choir, music suite
- 7:30 p.m. Church Choir, music suite
- 7:30 p.m. Chorus, rehearsal room

Thursday, December 8

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor

Friday, December 9

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor
- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, 3rd floor
- 10:00 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study
- 12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Recital, nave

Saturday, December 10

- 1:00 p.m. Yoga, basement classroom
- 6:00 p.m. Taizé, nave

Sunday, December 11

- 8:30 a.m. Worship ELW 5, nave
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday Forum, basement classroom
- 9:45 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal
- 10:50 a.m. Worship ELW 5, nave
- 12:30 p.m. Luther League, youth room
- 5:15 p.m. Bach Society Pre-vespers talk, parish hall
- 6:00 p.m. Bach Vespers, nave



ELCA World Hunger Appeal

The December Mission Offering is designated for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger Appeal. The ELCA's commitment to supporting people

who live with chronic hunger, disease, and poverty around the corner and around the world is carried out by ELCA World Hunger through relief, development, education, and advocacy. Last year, we contributed \$14,477 to the World Hunger Appeal and, historically, our congregation has regarded the World Hunger Appeal as one of our distinctive global mission priorities.

All money raised by the World Hunger Appeal comes through specially designated offerings and donations from ELCA members, congregations, and friends. ELCA World Hunger receives no benevolence (general budget money from general ELCA member offerings); the ELCA's world hunger ministry is based in congregations, where most of the fundraising takes place.

Flowers for the Nave

The 2017 Altar Guild Flower Chart will soon be on the mobile bulletin board. Flower arrangements for weekend services are \$65. Please pay for the flowers when you sign up. Checks can be made out to Christ the King Lutheran Church with "Altar Flowers" in the memo line and placed in the offering. The flowers are a significant part of the Altar Guild ministry as its members deliver them after Sunday services to families and individuals to express the congregation's support in times of joy, sadness or concern.

We celebrate with these members and friends who are remembering their baptism this week:

Franz Liebster	Janning Hoenen	Susanna Schuster
Taylor Worthey	Ron Brownlee	Michael Vollmers
	Charles Hooks	

The Rev. Dr. Duane Larson, Interim Pastor
The Rev. Karin Liebster, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation
Ben Remmert, Director of Youth and Family Ministry
Beverly Davis, Director of Congregational Care
Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse
Rick Erickson, Cantor, Director of Bach Society Houston
Chris Holman, Music Associate Robert Walp, Brass Choir Director
Noelle Jung, Church Business Administrator

Phone: 713-523-2864 2353 Rice Blvd, Houston TX, 77005
Email: ctk@ctkelc.org Website: ctkelc.org
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.