Creation Care Fest
Environmental Extravaganza: Stewardship
Saturday, August 12, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

The Creation Care Team invites you to the Creation Care Fest – Environmental Extravaganza at Christ the King Church on Saturday, August 12. This year’s theme is Stewardship. This free environmental educational offering has activities for all ages. Adults can attend interactive lectures addressing the theme by a variety of experts, considering everything from air to water to plants and animals. Children (or kids and accompanying adults) can enjoy fun and educational environmental activities. Nursery care for children under 5 will be provided. Exhibits by local environmental nonprofits will offer more opportunities to learn and engage. The event begins at 10:00 a.m. with the first lecture and start of kids’ activities. From noon – 2:00 p.m., exhibits will be open and kids’ activities continue. Lectures resume at 2:00 p.m. and the event ends at 5:00 p.m. Please register at www.eventbrite.com for planning purposes. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at gcs.lrc@gmail.com with any questions.

Pictorial Directories Available
Our new pictorial directories are available through August 13 in the narthex for members who participated by either having their photo taken or by submitting a photo. If you did not participate, you are still invited to pick up a directory from the box without name labels. Please place $10.00 in the offering basket.

Please note that our church directory is for the exclusive use of our members for congregational and ministry use only and should not be used for commercial purposes or shared outside the church.

Back to School at Christ the King Church
Campus Ministry Sunday August 20
Blessing of college, graduate and certificate students at both services.

Houston Lutheran Campus Ministry (HLCM) Pastor Janelle Rozeck Hooper will be preaching.

Campus ministry “Cookies and Conversation” with the HLCM students and board will follow in the courtyard after both services.

Rally Day August 27
Join us for breakfast tacos in the courtyard and the start of our new Sunday School year. Sunday School classes are offered for children and youth ages two through high school. Children, youth, and parents will meet in the parish hall and then children will go to their classrooms to meet their teachers and have class pictures taken. Parents wanting their children to newly join Sunday School or Confirmation class please contact Pastor Liebster (karinliebster@ctkelc.org).

8:30 and 10:50 in the nave
Blessing of all school children and youth
Third grade Bible presentations
Welcome for Music Associate Brian Glikes and blessing of choirs

9:45 courtyard and Sunday school rooms
Breakfast Tacos and Sunday School Kick-off
Book review: Dream of the Earth
Reformation Quiz – What Do YOU Know about the Reformation?

Wednesday Night Alive!
begins September 6
See page 10

The Back to School program helps 6,500 students by providing school supplies and a new school uniform/shoes for grades PreK - 8.

Submit a check made out to Christ the King Church and earmarked “Back to School” in the offering on Sundays through August 14 or donate online at ccschouston.org. Contributions in any amount are welcomed!
Pastor Duane’s World

Vacation was a reverse “staycation.” Rather than leave home for leisure, we left Houston for our home in Iowa to attend to all the yardwork accrued since winter. Also to check almost daily that the grill was in working order. And to enjoy the quiet, the wildlife, and our view of the river from our perch in bucolic “Princeton on the Mississippi.”

That’s the name on the sign that greets anyone driving from the north or the south as they enter town. As I’ve often said to many of you, the town’s name is a high-sounding euphemism for a boater-biker bar. Really, it’s a simple place, one of those very small towns that you miss if you blink. On the main drag it is marked by the Casey’s gas station/convenience store (a small town has “made it” to town status in the Midwest if it gets both a little Post Office and a Casey’s), a dilapidated church that has been empty and for sale for years, with a small functioning Lutheran church just across the street from it, and the Portz’s Auto Repair shop, that looks like it hasn’t been “improved” in fifty years, which one finds true after going in.

On just the second day of Reverse-Staycation, I had to go in there. Our European car would not start in front of the “City Hall” after I had gone there to pay the bill for water not used for, well, months. A Triple A guy came quickly, but only in a jeep, no tow truck, to jump start the engine. No luck. Nothing. So he and I pushed the car down the slight incline around the corner for about 75 yards right into the driveway of…you guessed it, Portz’s Auto Repair.

Larry and Phil knew what to do if I didn’t come back, like they knew that now could race against anyone. I figured that Hemingway and Larry could have had two brothers named Darrell—would take a look at it. Phil, the long-white haired white-long-fur-faced son who evidently really ran the place when he wasn’t doubling for a ZZ Top dude or a gearhead Santa Claus, would take a look too.

Only an hour later, Larry called me, saying that the battery was just fine, and it could not have been the alternator. “Do you have a diagnostic computer to check it out?” I asked, knowing as soon as I asked that stupid question that of course they didn’t. He said he’d have to check the starter. But he’d have to google how to find the starter, these European cars being so cryptic. That, of course, was not his word choice. He said something more like “these German cars are so f-en something or other to figure out.” But he’d do it.

I said “I really appreciate it. If you have any trouble, let me know, and I’ll get a tow to take it into the city.” He said that wouldn’t be necessary, but the car would probably not be ready until the morning. “If you’re here by nine it will be fine.”

I showed up at 8:30. Larry had actually finished it the night before by 6. The hardest thing after googling the problem was getting the manifold off so finally to get at the starter. Then to get that manifold and all the heavy plastic sheathing and stuff back on. We chatted a lot. I was profuse with thanks. Phil noted how this all just proved to him again that he would never own another one of these. He had one once for a short time. Then he went out back for a smoke and to work on a boat motor.

I went in to pay Hemingway. The charge was less than half what a “real” dealer with a computer would have charged. I pulled out my credit card. A bit clearer than a mumble, Hemingway said cash or check only (“Duh!” I silently exclaimed). I said to Hemingway I’d need to go to the bank and come right back. “That’s fine,” he said. It was no big deal for me to run down to the ATM in my car that now could race against anyone. I figured that Hemingway and Larry and Phil knew what to do if I didn’t come back, like they knew how to deal with that coyote. Five minutes later I was back with the cash and then on my happy way back to Reverse-Staycation.

Yes, Princeton on the Mississippi is more than a boater-biker bar. Like any big city, only in PotM it might be easier to see them, it has its good people of integrity, honesty, simplicity, with hearts of gold and minds of drive and ingenuity. They help out the neighbor, agree on a hand shake, and leave as friends. They are what I call gold and minds of drive and ingenuity. They help out the neighbor, agree on a hand shake, and leave as friends. They are what I call in high-falutin terms “the naturalistic argument for Christian hospitality.” “By their fruits you shall know them” is how Jesus spoke of such folk. With a mind open about the prospect, one can see this most anywhere. The good, the true, and the beautiful are everywhere to be seen, if you just decide to look for it. And we can be this for others anywhere at any time, as well.

The good, the true, and the beautiful are everywhere to be seen, if you just decide to look for it.

And we can be this for others anywhere at any time, as well.

Love, Pastor Duane
Is the Church Dying? What Do You See?

As I stand on the corner of Rice and Greenbriar what stands out for me is a parking lot for students, staff and faculty of Rice University. A parking lot we share on Sundays, Wednesdays and high holy days for overflow. What else do we share?

A love for education is at the root of our Lutheran faith. Did you know Lutherans were the first to start campus ministry in 1905? A group of Lutheran students meeting at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, made the case for calling the first full-time campus pastor in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. And by 1909 it was determined that, “Religious work in universities and colleges is no longer an experiment. . . . It has been established as not only a legitimate, but also a necessary sphere of general church activity.”

The Lutheran church is ever reforming. Over a hundred years ago campus ministry became a vital and necessary activity of the whole church. Why? Because it continues our baptismal promise to journey with each other in some of the most faith challenging times of our lives.

This past year I moved from interim to the called pastor for HLCM and I’m excited to lead along with our Board, with the support of the Gulf Coast synod and every individual and congregation that gives to our ministry together. Over half of our gifts come from individuals like you! So thank you! Just look on the faces of these students, staff and faculty as we worship, pray, study, and serve together...what a difference your generosity makes!

Join us for “Cookies and Conversation” in the courtyard after both services on Sunday August 20 so we can say thank you for your support!

Together in ministry,
Pastor Janelle Rozek Hooper
pastor@houstonlcm.org
Houstonlcm.org

Confirmation Class Fall 2017

Confirmation Class for 7th and 8th grade students begins with a Milestone Celebration for youth and parents on Wednesday, August 30 at 6:00 p.m. Students will receive their study bibles and Small Catechisms at this meeting. Weekly classes for students are Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginning September 6. Pastor Liebster and Ben Remmert will lead the class through a year of studying Martin Luther’s Small Catechism, thereby exploring, experiencing and studying the key components of faith in the Christian life.

Confirmation class is generally for students in grades 7 and 8, though special circumstances may be accommodated as to when a student joins the class. One teaching year focuses on Bible study and the other is organized around Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. First year and second year students are taught together. New students are welcome anytime. Please contact Pastor Liebster, karinliebster@ctkelc.org or Ben Remmert, benremmert@ctkelc.org.

Confirmation Sunday with public Affirmation of Baptism is held in May of each year.

Walking the Mourner’s Path – A Grief Support Program

We all experience the grief that comes with losing someone we love and with that grief comes the journey of mourning. Christ the King Church will offer an eight week support program Mondays, September 18 - November 6, 5:00-7:00 p.m. facilitated by Beverly Davis and Linda Schoene at the church. Participants will have the opportunity to share their journey with others and discover that while their pain is unique, they are not alone. Christ is present with those who mourn and there are tools for moving forward while honoring our loved ones. If you are interested in joining the group please contact Beverly, beverlydavis@ctkelc.org, or Linda, lindaschoene@ctkelc.org, to determine if this group will meet your needs. Registration deadline is August 18.

Choir/Chorus Retreat August 25-26

Our Choir and Chorus retreat to Zion Center in Galveson will be August 25-26 in order to tune up and prepare for the season of singing ahead. New members welcome, please speak to Rick Erickson for further information, and please keep your singers in our prayers.

Celebrating your Baptismal Anniversary!

July 30/August 1
Rachel Zoch
Daniel Trapp
Belinda Beek
Julie Bixby
Will Burgess
Diane Cannon
Katie Carrington
Karen Douglass
William Fenner
Travis Harper
Elmer Ledesma
Reggie Munden
Ellen Tillery
Joshua Tillery
Timothy Vuong
Jacquelyn McNaney
Hannah Nelson
Marcus Hefty
Rudy Hefty
James Santana
Elizabeth Mallon
Charlotte Turner
Adrienne Winston
James Vorsalovic

August 6
Lisa Brenskelle
Irmil Willcockson
Eric Ardeel
Judith Hungerford
Martin Salas
Christian Triantaphyllis
John Walker
David West
Matthew Sommer

August 13
Eric Boyce
Michael Weida
Sabina Entzian
Philip Feldwisch
Christopher Holman
Raul Vieira
Akiko LoTurco
Rick Erickson

August 20
Andrea Salas
Lily Graham
Sheryl Aaruthn
Kaitlin Choi
Meaghan Wheeler
Robert Louis
Russell Post
Dick Smith
Elizabeth Ardeel
Janelle
Thompson
Angela Lenz
Cooper Lenz

August 27
Jacob Thweatt
Richard Baker
Marc Bela Sadlens
Anthony Goodoff
Erling Hansen
Sara Dobbs
Amy Allen
Alice Olson
Mike Bradshaw
Oliver Doollin
Veronique
Eberhart
Zachary Goodrow
Eric McNaney
Wambui
Wa-Ngatho
Janet
Nebnerman
John Weida

Introducing our New Music Associate

Brian Glines joins our Christ the King music staff and Bach Society as of August 15. Brian moves here from Rochester, NY, where he is finishing work on his DMA in Organ Performance and Literature. He holds the M.M. in organ performance from Emory University in Atlanta and a B.M. in organ performance with a minor in Biblical and Theological Studies at Gordon College in Wenham, MA. He has most recently served as Organ Scholar at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Buffalo, NY, and prior to that at Episcopal churches in Fairport, NY and Loganville, GA. Many thanks go to our interview team for their dedication and work: Pastor Larson, Donna Olson-Salas, Doug Koch, and Lee Thweatt. Brian will be active in many parts of our music ministry, including leading the Choir, working with our choristers, accompanying Bach rehearsals, continuo work, and much more. Brian begins a two-year appointment here and looks forward to his work! Welcome, Brian!

Bach Society season opens in September - plan now to join us!

Friday, September 15 at 7:30 p.m.  "The Instrument of Kings" (Christ the King Church)
Sunday, September 24 at 6:00 p.m.  "Mass in B Minor" (Zilkha Hall, Hobby Center)
**CTK Reformation Observances Kick Off with Monsignor Dennis Mikulanis**

On **Sunday, September 3**, Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis will be the first in a series of fine guest speakers for our Christ the King Reformation 500 observances. He will preach at both services on Sunday morning, speak at the 9:45 a.m. Sunday Forum, and address a luncheon following worship. The luncheon will be open to the public as well as to those unable to attend the morning’s Sunday Forum. Msgr. Mikulanis’ topic will be “What this Roman Catholic priest has seen of and in Lutherans the past forty years.”

**A Weekend with Professor Timothy Wengert**

**September 22-24**

**Friday, September 22**
10:30 a.m. Friday morning Bible study and Evening talk: Law and Gospel (both open to congregation/public)

**Saturday, September 23**
Lutheran/Catholic Symposium at the University of St. Thomas

**Sunday, September 24**
Sunday Forum and/or lunch: Professor Wengert
Evening: Bach Society - B minor Mass @ Zilka Hall

**Walk With Martin Luther**

Calling all runners and walkers! Join the 600 mile trail as we follow Martin Luther from his birth in Eisleben to Erfurt, Wittenburg and beyond. Beginning on Rally Day we will track miles individually and as a group. To sign up contact Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse, at lschoene91@att.net. A kind vendor from Synod Assembly provided ten Mi Fit tracking devices. Individuals who would like one of the trackers may contact Linda.

**Construction and Repairs**

We continue to fine tune some things on the nave and garden, but all is going well if often slower than we’d all like. Hope you're enjoying the new water feature in the garden while we are waiting for the benches.

While the blower motor on the organ gave out in a smoky event there was no further damage to the organ and all is well again.

We have a bid for the roof repair on the Ministry Building and for new sealing on the nave windows which have some leaks.

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**Reformation Festival Fall at Christ the King Church**

Christ the King Church will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a plethora of events – educational, musical, family oriented, and service minded. Instead of one big event, the entire fall from late August to November will offer opportunities for the congregation to engage at church and in the ecumenical community. Here is a first view of a working schedule.

**August**

August 28, Sunday: Rally Day, Reformation Quiz

**September**

September 3, Sunday: Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis will address Sunday Forum, preach at worship, and speak at a luncheon
September 9, Saturday: “God’s Work, Our Hands”
Volunteer day at the Houston Food Bank
September 22, Friday morning and evening: Professor Tim Wengert
September 23, Saturday: Catholic-Lutheran Symposium at University of St. Thomas
September 24, Sunday Forum and/or lunch: Professor Wengert
Sunday evening: Bach Society - B minor Mass, Zilka Hall

**October**

October 8, Sunday: Oktoberfest
Sunday Forum, Prof. Michael Haspel “Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. From Martin Luther to Martin Luther King, Jr.”
October 15, Sunday evening: Reformation Hymn Fest at Christ the King Church
October 21, Saturday: Reformation Family Fair 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
October 25, Wednesday: Lutheran/Catholic Reformation Anniversary Worship Co-Cathedral
October 28, Saturday: Luther League Reformation Lock-In
October 29, Sunday: Bishop Mike Rinehart preaches at Sunday Services
October 31, Tuesday: 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

**November**

November 5, Sunday: Bach Society, Complete Bach Motets
November 17-November 19, Friday - Sunday: Christ the King Festival Weekend celebrating the 500th

Look for our “Reformation 500” store coming to the narthex in September. You can buy fun and fabulous reformation-themed items as well as t-shirts (sold by Luther League). Proceeds will benefit the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

**Reformation Market**

**All Things Lutheran**

**Coming in September**

Proceeds benefit the ELCA World Hunger Appeal

During our Fall celebrations of the Reformation 500th, we will be using various musical sources in our Sunday morning liturgies that draw on both German and American settings first, and then also moving to music from around the world, reflecting the international nature of the Lutheran communion.
Luther League Meetings
The Luther League is open to all youth in 6th - 12th grade. Our First meeting is on Sunday, August 27 for a time to gather together over a meal, go through the year’s events, and catch up from the summer.

After the labor day weekend, we will have two options for the youth to meet for a time of fellowship, fun, bible study, and prayer. The First and Third Sundays of the month our youth will meet at 6:00 p.m. The Second and Fourth Sundays of the month our meetings will be after late service at 12:30 p.m. Friends and visitors are always welcome! Please contact Ben Remmert for more information.

Meals for Luther League
The Luther League youth group needs your help with preparing meals for our meeting. These meals are not part of the Luther League budget and are supplied by volunteers from the congregation. If you can cook, or order, or buy food, please help feed our hungry youth on Sunday afternoon around 12:30 p.m. or Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. We currently need meals for all of the Fall semester. Please contact Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org to sign up.

2017 Germany Trip- Thank you!
Christ the King Church high school youth and adults Yonas Eberhart, Kevin Eddington, Lina Ellis, Alicia Goodrow, Haley Goodrow, Henry Goodrow, Zach Goodrow, Anthony Lloyd, Elena Longoria, Hannah Longoria, Martina Longoria, Ben Remmert, Lindsay Remmert, and Eric Vuong have returned from their pilgrimage through Germany. It was such a moving experience worshipping together, learning about the Reformation, and connecting with our brothers and sisters at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig. We will present pictures and stories on a Sunday in September. Thank you to all our sponsors and those that donated their time, support, and finances to make this possible for our youth!

Luther League Trip to Schlitterbahn New Braunfels
August 11-12
Youth are invited to our summer trip to Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels with Ben Remmert. We will leave Friday, August 11 and stay the night at a hotel in New Braunfels. The morning we will go to Schlitterbahn for a day of fellowship and fun as we remember our baptism at the biggest waterpark in Texas. We will be back at church at 7:00 p.m. Cost is $60 which covers meals, transportation, and housing. RSVP to Ben Remmert by August 7.

Youth and Family Breakfast
September 10, 9:45 a.m.
Youth in 6th-12th grade and parents are invited to our first Youth and Family Breakfast of the year. We will come together for some “housekeeping” items for the year with a guest speaker. All the youth and parents are encouraged to bring a juice, milk, donuts, or a side-dish to share with the group. Please make sure to contact Ben Remmert if you are bringing an item to share.

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering Meeting
September 17, 12:30 p.m.
We are beginning preparations for 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. Our first planning meeting will be on September 17 where we will discuss fundraising, itinerary of the trip, and other preparations for youth and families. We will meet in the council room at 12:30 p.m. with light snacks and drinks.

SAVE THE DATE: 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering
June 27 – July 1, 2018
Youth have a great opportunity to participate in the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer in Houston. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. We hope to bring a group of our youth to participate this summer in this great event. The cost is $350 which includes registration for the event, two meals each day, day trips, and our stay in hotels during the Gathering. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ben Remmert.
CONFIRMATION CAMP LUTHERHILL
SUMMER 2017

Nurse Notes
submitted by Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse

Are You a 72 hour Lutheran?
Hurricane season began June 1st and goes to November 30th. The Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod encourages everyone to be prepared by ensuring that each household has enough supplies to meet basic needs for 72 hours.

In addition, make an evacuation plan, identify an out of state emergency contact for family and friends, identify the safest place in the home to “shelter in place”, keep vehicle fuel tanks full, and have a supply of cash. For more detailed information visit www.gulfcoastsynod.org and get prepared NOW!

Individuals with medical needs who might need assistance in a mandatory evacuation are encouraged to register by calling 211. Those who require supplemental oxygen should call their oxygen supplier and inquire about policies and services related to power outages. Early evacuation is recommended for these individuals so plan now!

If a hurricane comes and your plan is to shelter in place keep an eye out for neighbors needing assistance. Caring for a neighbor is a benefit of being prepared!

Additional tips can be found at: www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies/hurricane#About

Congregational Care: Member to Member
For twenty years the congregational care team has cared for members facing illness, surgery or life transitions that can make church attendance challenging. Keeping members connected to the faith community is the hallmark of health ministry. Care can include the following:

• Prayers: weekdays and/or Sundays
• Before surgery prayer with a member of the ministry staff
• Meal support
• Communion shared by Lay Eucharistic Ministers
• Transportation to appointments
• Phone calls or home visits from the congregational nurse

Should the need or desire for care arise please call the church office or contact Beverly Davis, Director of Congregational Care or Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse. See back page for more information.
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**Lesser Festivals and Commemorations**

8 Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), 1221
10 Lawrence, deacon, martyr, 258
11 Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, 1253
13 Florence Nightingale, 1910; Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society
14 Maximilian Kolbe, 1941; Kaj Munk, 1944; martyrs
15 MARY, MOTHER OF OUR LORD
20 Bernward, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153
24 BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE
28 Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 430
Moses the Black, monk, martyr, c. 400
SEARCH Cards and Coffee Ministry
Please join us in hosting our monthly coffee hour for SEARCH Homeless Services clients at the Perry St. Apartments, 4415 Perry, a New Hope Housing project in the Third Ward on Wednesday August 16, 10:00-11:00 a.m. This collaboration with SEARCH takes place every third Wednesday of the month. For more information, contact Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org.

‘God’s Work. Our Hands.’
Celebration September 9-10
We are a church that boldly does God’s work of restoring and reconciling communities. ‘God’s work. Our hands.‘ Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. On the weekend of September 9-10, the nearly 10,000 congregations of this church gather to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God’s people.

As a part of this celebration, we invite all our members and friends to join us at the Houston Food Bank on Saturday, September 9, 7:30 a.m.-noon. At Christ the King Church, we give thanks for the many opportunities we have to serve our community through the multiple Service and Care ministries in which our congregation is invested throughout the entire year.

Montrose Grace Place
Christ the King volunteers will be providing and serving a meal for at-risk LGBTQ youth on Thursday, August 10 at Kindred. If you would like to help with this community project, contact Rebecca at rshields63@gmail.com.

A Bright Future
"If we don’t correct his vision now, this 7-year old will not be able to enter certain professions by the time he is a teenager."

Lockhart Elementary Nurse Shawn Jarmon received this information while attending a vision care field trip to the University Eye Institute (UEI) sponsored by Christian Community Service Center (CCSC). Earlier in the school year, CCSC vision care volunteers provided screening to 1,859 students from thirteen schools, including Lockhart. Then, field trips were arranged for 581 students needing comprehensive medical exams and prescription glasses. Thanks to CCSC’s vision care program and the UEI optometry team, “Gabriel” was fitted for his prescription glasses and now wears them at all times - putting him on track for a future without limitations.

Most school screenings are completed in the fall semester during morning school hours. Training is provided. If you would like to assist as a vision care volunteer for the 2017-18 school year, please contact Cathy Brown at 713-961-3993, seasonal@ccschouston.org.

Volunteer with us at the Houston Food Bank
Leave the church at 7:30
Return at noon
For information, contact ctkhfb@gmail.com

Useful info for upcoming session
When: Saturday, September 9
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m
Where: Houston Food Bank
535 Portwall St.
Attire: Closed-toe shoes, pants, sleeved shirt (short or long sleeves)
Carpool: Will leave the CTK parking lot at 7:30 a.m.

‘God’s Work. Our Hands.’
We Choose Church on Wednesday Nights
submitted by Leslie Winesett

This fall will mark our family’s 13th year of participating in Wednesday Night Alive! We have enjoyed Wednesday nights at church from the time our children were tiny infants. Despite an ever-changing family schedule, lots of afterschool activities, and traffic and parking woes, Wednesdays at church are worth it to us. For our family, Wednesday nights offer:

...a fantastic music experience for our kids. In Choristers and Jr. Choristers, our children have learned music that nurtures their spiritual development and enhances their worship experience – music they will come back to when they need strength or comfort, to express sorrow and joy. When they sing in church, they have the valuable experience of being worship leaders and sharing their time and talent with the congregation. And for musical instruction, you can’t ask for better directors than ours. The school choir, as good as it may be, come with lots of time commitments for afterschool rehearsals and weekend performances. Choir at church is a choice that simplifies our family schedule and supports our children’s faith formation at the same time.

...an opportunity for education and faith formation. Our older daughter has aged out of Choristers and into Confirmation Class, which is conveniently offered on Wednesday nights as well. This important learning experience happens while the rest of the family participates in other WNA! activities. No need for a separate trip to church.

...an opportunity for our children to connect with friends and form strong bonds within our church community. On Wednesdays our kids eat dinner, play outside, make music, go to class, and worship with their friends. They have shared experiences that strengthen their relationships. We are grateful for the opportunity to nourish these friendships and give our children a peer group they can turn to through high school and beyond.

...an opportunity for us (grown-ups) to connect with friends and form strong bonds within our church community. See the above, and apply it to adults. Sunday mornings at church can feel busy with other duties and we’re often rushing off to the day’s next activity. Wednesday nights are more casual and relaxed, with more time to chat and catch up with friends.

...a great meal, lovingly prepared, with no clean up in the kitchen at home. Knowing we can count on a good dinner at church each Wednesday simplifies our week – and we love coming home to a clean kitchen!

We are grateful for Wednesday Night Alive! and all that it offers. It’s a priority for our family and a commitment we work hard to keep. We choose church on Wednesday nights. We hope to see you there this fall!

Left: Our nursery caregiver Myrna Diaz, husband Arturo Ortega, and their son Jesus express their deepest gratitude for the generosity of the congregation at the surprise baby shower on July 2. Angella Sophia arrived on July 20.

Right: Christ the King congregation representatives Ben Remmert, Gaelyn Lesher and Carolyn Phillips at our Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod Assembly in May.

Wednesday Night Alive! and Evening Prayer
Christ the King Church’s Wednesday Night Alive! program resumes September 6. Programs and activities run from 5:30 p.m. through 9:00 p.m. Dinner is served starting at 5:30 p.m. until 6:40 p.m. Children’s regular programs end at 7:00 p.m. Vespers service for everyone is held at 7:05 p.m. in the parish hall. This 15 minute service of prayers, readings, and hymns is less formal than our Sunday worship and includes a variety of forms and styles for all ages.

Following are program options by age group.

Music Explorers* (birth-18 months)
Music Explorers* (18 months-3 years)
Music Explorers* (4 years)
Jr. Choristers (K-second grade)
Choristers (third-sixth grade)
Grades 7-12: Confirmation class, homework, nursery volunteers, kitchen, chorus or church choir

Adults: Sharing dinner, adult classes, choir, chorus, brass choir, greeters, servers, kitchen helpers

The courtyard and playground are open for fellowship and play.

*Music Explorers - $65 per child per semester (13 classes)
All Choristers - no fee
SUNDAY SCHOOL - AN INVITATION

Pastor Karin Liebster

The Sunday School faculty at Christ the King Church is preparing for the new school year and looks forward to gathering with the children on Sundays starting August 27.

We invite parents to bring their children and youth to class where they hear the stories of the people of God, Jesus’ words, learn about worship and the holidays, and have plenty of opportunity to respond in age appropriate ways to what they experience.

The ministry of the Sunday School Church supports parents in the desire to raise their children in the very faith which has proven to be important and meaningful in their own life journeys.

The work of the Sunday School teacher is rooted in the promises which parents take at Holy Baptism to teach their child the Ten Commandments, the Lord’s Prayer, and the holy scriptures. At Christ the King Church baptism is such a joyful and important part of our faith life that we strive to make it meaningful and come to life for our families in every possible way!

Children starting at age 2 are welcomed to the Toddler Sunday School class. Parents may stay with their child until that time when the child (and parent) feel safe to separate. We encourage parents to watch for when it is time to entrust the child to the circle with the teacher and the other children alone. The teachers in the room are trained and experienced to teach this youngest group.

Preschool and elementary school age children gather in classroom circles according to their developmental age brackets. These are our classrooms: Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten; first and second grade; third and fourth grade; fifth and sixth grade. While sixth grade is the beginning of middle school in the school systems, our experience has been that fifth and sixth grade work best together. The teachers for all these classes are trained and certified in the curriculum Godly Play which is geared toward each stage of social and intellectual development.

Parents can participate in the Sunday School work by signing up to bring snacks and by volunteering as greeters/door persons.

Youth split into two groups: the confirmation class with the kids in grades 7 and 8, and the high school youth grades 9-12. The confirmation class is taught by Youth Director Ben Remmert and the high school class by volunteer Sunday School teachers.

A Word of Encouragement

In our time, life is very different than it was even when those who are now parents of young children were children themselves, not too long ago!

For every single decision concerning the wellbeing and development of our children there are multiple options to choose from. The freedom to choose can ironically become overwhelming and stressful. The fast pace of our lives and the countless possibilities can sometimes make us unaware for the inner yearning we have for that anchor which keeps us steady. I personally find that anchor in the unconditional promise of love and renewed life in Jesus Christ which I experience in the reminders of baptism and in the presence of Christ in Holy Communion. Our children need the same type of grounding as we do. So I encourage parents with children of all ages, little, big and youth, to give them the opportunity to be in the circle of the classroom with the other children and teachers who know so well how to open the circles for the presence of God.

If you would like to know more about Godly Play, please contact me or Marie Monroe at marie4118@gmail.com. Information and video samples of story telling may be found at godlyplay.org.

If you would like to know more about the classes for youth, please contact Director for Youth and Family Ministries Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org.

Recruiting Adults for Godly Play Classes

Every Godly Play class has a “door person”, one who greets the children and helps them join the community of children, as well as a story teler who anchors the circle and tells the story. They are all regarded as “teachers” though anyone who has led a Godly Play class soon wonders who really is teaching whom? Godly Play truly encourages and enables the mutual blessings of children and adults. As we participate in their discussions in response to the “wondering” which follows the stories, as we overhear the children working together, and as we watch the children learn to use the language of faith, we adults marvel and are deeply touched. Working with children is one way of moving toward our potentials as spiritual beings, and the Godly Play teachers would like to issue an invitation to join us in our ministry to children. To become a door person requires very little training and no weekly preparation, yet provides all the benefits from being in the community of children. We would like to recruit 5 new door persons this summer so our classes can be fully staffed. For more information please contact Marie Monroe at marie4118@gmail.com or 832-488-7696.

Lego Blocks Needed

We are planning to build a giant Lego Luther Rose so if you have a collection of Lego blocks (not the big blocks but regular size) in BLUE, RED, YELLOW, BLACK or WHITE that you could donate, please bring them to the narthex any Sunday.
The Work of the ELCA:

HIV & AIDS Ministry
AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 25 million people worldwide. Millions of children under 18 in sub-Saharan Africa have lost one or both parents to the disease. Progress has been made to halt the spread of HIV, provide treatment, eliminate the stigma of the disease, and reduce poverty conditions that contribute to the spread of HIV. Donations to this work of the ELCA provide funds to support children who have lost parents, train pastors in counseling on HIV & AIDS, get treatment to rural areas, provide free HIV testing, prevent new infections, and transform the church into a safe space for those impacted by the disease. See www.elca.org/hiv for more details.

Advocacy Does Make A Difference
It’s official, our advocacy actions helped move G20 leaders to step up for poverty. The G20 summit was held in July in Germany. This a collection of countries (of which the U.S. is a part) make up over 85% of the planet’s GDP. In other words, these countries have the fiscal power to play a critical role in ending poverty. Which is why over 750,000 of us tweeted, called, petitioned, and emailed G20 leaders asking them to make concrete commitments towards the Sustainable Development Goals for a world where no one is left behind.

Now we are a little closer to that world. The official communique, the document which G20 leaders release to the public that outlines what was agreed on in the summit contains some very good news on the areas of education and health, two core pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals—our roadmap to seeing an end to poverty by 2030.

GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY: Leaders agreed to fully eradicate polio—just the momentum needed to take the world over the finish line, for a disease that is 99.9% eradicated. But it’s not just polio that received much needed focus in the G20 communique—pandemic preparedness was also outlined, too. This commitment from the G20 agenda could not come at a more vital time when we are more connected than ever.

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION: For the first time ever, we saw concrete recommendations to support education for all in the G20 communique. The G20 have agreed to support and guide the development of all three of the complementary financing mechanisms in support of the Global Partnership for Education, Education Cannot Wait fund and the International Financing Facility for Education.

Advocacy does make a difference. Together, we can create a world where no one is left behind.

For Such A Time As This
The bishop of the ELCA has issued an invitation to prayer, fasting, and advocacy throughout 2017 on the 21st of each month in solidarity with those living with hunger or in poverty. See www.elca.org for resources to respond to the bishop’s call and look for the fasting guide on the literature rack in the narthex.

Kids’ Summer Nature Education
Sunday, August 13 at 9:45 a.m.
Rocks Rock!
The CTK Creation Care Team organizes a summer nature education series for kids during the Sunday School hour on one Sunday/month in June, July, & August. The August session, Sunday, August 13, will feature Rocks Rock!, taught by Steve Long. Kids will learn about the age of the earth, its components (i.e. crust, mantle, and core) and the processes by which rocks are formed. Rock samples for kids to see and touch will be used to illustrate rock formation and earth history. Kids meet at 9:45 a.m. on the second floor in the library area for the Kids’ Summer Nature Education Series. Parents are welcome to join in.

Calling all Cyclists: Opportunity to Care for & Enjoy God’s Good Creation
The CTK Creation Care Team invites both cyclists and non-cyclists to join the Lutherans Restoring Creation Team for Bike Around the Bay on October 21 & 22. Bike Around the Bay offers participants the opportunity to enjoy God’s good creation while riding around Galveston Bay over the two days of the event. As a fundraiser for the Galveston Bay Foundation, participating in this event also offers the opportunity to care for God’s good creation by supporting the foundation’s conservation work. Lutherans Restoring Creation Team members may ride one day or both days, or may be “virtual” riders. To join the team or support this effort, click on the “Join a Team” link at www.bikearoundthebay.org. For more information, contact Lisa Brenskelle at brenskelle@aol.com.

Justice Advocacy Opportunity-
Chlorpyrifos
Recently, the EPA declined to ban the pesticide chlorpyrifos, despite its own findings that infants and children were being exposed to unsafe levels of the compound, which has been linked to neurodevelopmental damage. EPA studies found that infants, children, young girls and women are exposed to dangerous levels of chlorpyrifos through diet alone. The pesticide is applied to a wide variety of food crops and persists in food even after washing & peeling. EPA also found that the pesticide is harmful to endangered plants and animals. And, safer alternatives are available. Given the EPA’s recent refusal to ban chlorpyrifos, action now is required at the state level to ban the pesticide. To petition the governor of Texas to ban chlorpyrifos, search online using these words: “Environment America” chlorpyrifos petition governor; click on the current action link for Environment America and scroll to find the action alert for chlorpyrifos.
Creation Care Back-to-School Ideas
We all know instilling good habits is easiest when we’re young. More parents and educators are working to make kids aware of the importance of caring for God’s creation. As kids return to class in the fall, here are some simple tips to encourage healthy habits and sustainable schools!

- **Safe (and Sustainable) Routes to School.** Instead of driving alone, start carpool, bike train, or group walk and take turns with other parents in the neighborhood to drop off and pick up the kids. You’ll each save time, energy, and fuel. As a bonus, you may just generate a new supportive community!

- **Healthy Lunches.** Encourage schools to offer healthier choices in the cafeteria. Check out Edible Schoolyards and the Farm to School Network for resources. For pack lunches, use reusable pails and utensils and try eating local and organic.

- **Recycle.** Ask administrators whether recycling bins and recycled materials are available and accessible, and if the kids are encouraged to use them. Make sure your child knows what can be recycled and what can’t.

- **Buy Smart.** Buy school supplies with less packaging and seek those made with recycled and sustainably-harvested materials. Invest in sturdier products for years of use and reuse supplies. You can also make environmentally-friendly choices when buying back-to-school clothes.

This article was modified from Earthshare.org. For more ideas visit the site.

Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation Continue...
The CTK Creation Care Team invites you to attend **Sunday Evening Conversations on Creation**, an environmental education web meeting series whose theme in 2017 is *Connections between People and Nature.*

**Sunday, August 27, 6:00 p.m. central: Connections between People & Nature: An Economist’s Viewpoint**

At the August web meeting, we welcome Professor Peter Hartley, the George and Cynthia Mitchell Family Professor of Economics at Rice University, a Rice Scholar in Energy Studies in the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy and the BHP Billiton Professor in Energy and Resource Economics at the University of Western Australia, where he holds an adjunct appointment. In his presentation, Professor Hartley will discuss the economic perspective on environmental issues. He will begin by discussing the distinction between normative and positive economics. He will then outline the key value judgements that underlie normative economic analysis — namely the cost/benefit principle. He will briefly discuss some objections to the approach before going on to contrast it with other ethical frameworks — such as “maximizing biodiversity”, or maximizing “natural” and minimizing “artificial” processes — which are taken as goals of policy. He will also present an economic analysis of “sustainability”. Finally, he will argue for the necessity of a “human-centered” approach to thinking about environmental issues and policies. After Professor Hartley’s talk, there will be time for Q&A. If you would like to join this online conversation, please register at www.eventbrite.com and you will receive an invitation to the web meeting. For more information, contact Lisa Brenskelle at gcs.lrc@gmail.com.

Other upcoming speakers include: Sunday, September 24: Kerri Crawford, University of Houston, Dept. of Biology & Biochemistry

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**Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston: Becoming Carbon Neutral**

*Sunday, August 6, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.*

University of St. Thomas or online, via web meeting

The Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston invites you to attend a free lecture on Becoming Carbon Neutral. Many in the faith community are concerned about climate change and our individual and institutional contribution to its cause. To address our role in climate change, we all need to understand and then implement carbon neutral design. In this presentation, Jim Blackburn, an environmental lawyer & planner, Professor in the Practice in Environmental Law in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Rice University, co-director of Rice’s SSPEED Center and a faculty scholar of the Baker Institute, will help us understand what carbon neutral design is for our faith institutions as well as ourselves by understanding our various carbon footprints and how to avoid, minimize and then offset our carbon dioxide emissions. The Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston is the Houston chapter of TX Interfaith Power & Light, a division of TX Impact. Please register at www.eventbrite.com for this event, for planning purposes. The lecture will be recorded, so if you can’t make it, you can still get a copy of the recording to review later. The University of St. Thomas is located at 3800 Montrose Blvd. in Houston. Metro bus lines 82, 25 & 56 stop nearby. For more information, please contact Lisa Brenskelle at gcs.lrc@gmail.com.
Kristi Stewart and I had planned to meet with her mother, Mary Hendley, but last minute complications prevented our being together. Kristi really wanted to be present but I assured her that I was not concerned about any situation I might encounter in a personal care or nursing home. When I arrived at the house, I asked twice to be sure I was seeing the right person, since I was seeing Mary alone for the first time.

Mary was in a wheelchair at a table with a pile of clean washcloths in front of her. She was carefully folding them and placing them in a neat stack. I sat with her, introduced myself and told her why I was there. I chatted with her a bit and she seemed to listen but was completely nonverbal and didn't make much eye contact. I wasn't sure of her ability to understand the reason for my visit or even what the Communion service was.

Relying on instinct, or maybe the Spirit’s leading, I completely deviated from the liturgy which I thought might be too long or distracting--all those words--and Mary didn’t have words anymore. I opened the kit and took out the Host and held it up. I looked at Mary and said, "Do you know what this is?" (I should have said WHO this is?). Well, Mary's beautiful face lit up with the first expression I had seen. Clearly, she knew! And I knew that she knew! She reached over, took the Bread from me, put it in her mouth, chewed, and swallowed. She had recognized Him in the Bread! And, because she did, I did. We both knew He was there. She took the Wine in the same way while I said the words, Body of Christ and Blood of Christ. Then, with our four hands in a tangled heap of fingers clasped together, I said the Lord's Prayer. She patted my hands and stroked my arm. After reading a short Psalm and prayer and giving her a blessing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I kissed her on the forehead before leaving. Surely we had been at a table in Emmaus and Mary Hendley, with no words, had shouted out, "Yes! I see him! I recognize Him in the Bread!"

This was a profoundly moving experience for me, unlike any other Communion service ever. I cried all the way home, and the next day, and now.

I didn't plan this. In fact, I am surprised at what I did and said, but Someone else was in charge. An unorthodox celebration of Holy Communion became the most Orthodox service ever. I will never, ever forget this.

I called Kristi after getting home and she told me about her mother and her lifelong devotion to Christ. She mentioned that they had lived in Amarillo and attended Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. Amazingly, we had all been there together at the same time! Ralph and I entered that church in 1961 as newlyweds and I had private confirmation classes with Pastor Daniel Schorlermer. Ralph had already been confirmed at Old Fredrick Lutheran Church in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. The Hendleys were members at the same time. Now I know why there had been something vaguely familiar about the name, Mary Hendley. Though I don't have any recollection of it, we surely had shared Communion before.

We were both close to the Schorlemer family so I called Pr. S’s daughter who said she had just moved him closer to her in Ft. Worth. She is now planning to bring him, 92, to meet again with Mary Hendley who is 90.

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Kristi Stewart and I had planned to meet with her mother, Mary Hendley, but last minute complications prevented our being together. Kristi really wanted to be present but I assured her that I was not concerned about any situation I might encounter in a personal care or nursing home. When I arrived at the house, I asked twice to be sure I was seeing the right person, since I was seeing Mary alone for the first time.

Mary was in a wheelchair at a table with a pile of clean washcloths in front of her. She was carefully folding them and placing them in a neat stack. I sat with her, introduced myself and told her why I was there. I chatted with her a bit and she seemed to listen but was completely nonverbal and didn't make much eye contact. I wasn't sure of her ability to understand the reason for my visit or even what the Communion service was.

Relying on instinct, or maybe the Spirit’s leading, I completely deviated from the liturgy which I thought might be too long or distracting--all those words--and Mary didn’t have words anymore. I opened the kit and took out the Host and held it up. I looked at Mary and said, "Do you know what this is?" (I should have said WHO this is?). Well, Mary's beautiful face lit up with the first expression I had seen. Clearly, she knew! And I knew that she knew! She reached over, took the Bread from me, put it in her mouth, chewed, and swallowed. She had recognized Him in the Bread! And, because she did, I did. We both knew He was there. She took the Wine in the same way while I said the words, Body of Christ and Blood of Christ. Then, with our four hands in a tangled heap of fingers clasped together, I said the Lord's Prayer. She patted my hands and stroked my arm. After reading a short Psalm and prayer and giving her a blessing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I kissed her on the forehead before leaving. Surely we had been at a table in Emmaus and Mary Hendley, with no words, had shouted out, "Yes! I see him! I recognize Him in the Bread!"

This was a profoundly moving experience for me, unlike any other Communion service ever. I cried all the way home, and the next day, and now.

I didn't plan this. In fact, I am surprised at what I did and said, but Someone else was in charge. An unorthodox celebration of Holy Communion became the most Orthodox service ever. I will never, ever forget this.

I called Kristi after getting home and she told me about her mother and her lifelong devotion to Christ. She mentioned that they had lived in Amarillo and attended Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. Amazingly, we had all been there together at the same time! Ralph and I entered that church in 1961 as newlyweds and I had private confirmation classes with Pastor Daniel Schorlermer. Ralph had already been confirmed at Old Fredrick Lutheran Church in St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. The Hendleys were members at the same time. Now I know why there had been something vaguely familiar about the name, Mary Hendley. Though I don't have any recollection of it, we surely had shared Communion before.

We were both close to the Schorlemer family so I called Pr. S’s daughter who said she had just moved him closer to her in Ft. Worth. She is now planning to bring him, 92, to meet again with Mary Hendley who is 90.

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In May Pastor Karin Liebster was invited to lead an English language Bible study at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, Germany. The invitation was issued by the Kirchentag, the biannual national church gathering of the Protestant Church in Germany which draws over 100,000 people. Pastor Liebster’s session on Jesus and Zacchaeus was attended by members of St. Thomas and a group of Norwegian pastors and synodical bishop.

Christ the King Lutheran Church
15 Congregational Care Team

Love one another as Christ has loved you.

We have been blessed as a congregation over the last 20 years to have many dedicated individuals willing to participate in this ministry of compassion and care. We invite all of our members to participate in one or more of the following:

Our Visiting/Phoning team provides the ministry of presence to those who have experienced loss of health or mobility or other losses, or to older members who may not have regular contact with family.

Prayer Notes are prepared by various members of the congregation and are sent to members expressing our support during times of need and to acknowledge life changes.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on Friday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the third floor conference room. The group makes shawls for church members and friends who are ill or who have suffered the death of a loved one. They also donate shawls to the Hospitality Apartments for people who are ill and who would benefit from the receipt of a prayer shawl.

Transportation is provided to members to doctors’ appointments or to worship as we are able to fill requests.

Meals are delivered to parishioners who are in special need or are temporarily homebound. The meals committee hosts and/or provides food for funeral and memorial service receptions at the church. A sub-set of the Meals Committee is our Meal Drops for families with newborns.

Home Emergency Response helps members and seniors with simple home repair projects or technological needs.

If you have a couple of hours a month, a quarter, or just once a year, we can find a spot for you to serve in an area of congregational ministry. Contact Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org or 713-400-0517 for more information. See also pages 7 and 14 for more information.