



Help Decorate the Nave Today

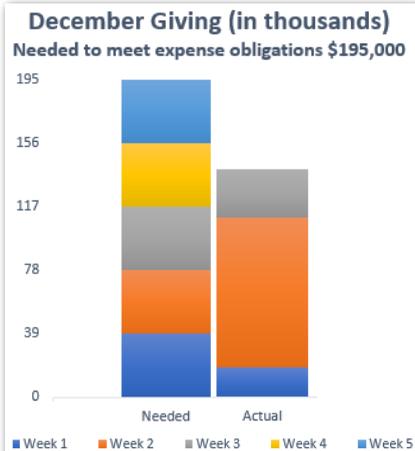
The Altar Guild will decorate the nave for Christmas on Sunday, **December 22 following the late service.** As usual, delicious food will be served to encourage all who would like to join the festive activity.

Year-End Tax Deductible Contributions from Any Asset

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 2019. Of course any gifts placed in the offering plate through December will be credited to 2019.

Your Ministry Needs Your Generosity

It's not unusual that we need your generosity at the end of the year to balance the budget and start the new year with a necessary reserve fund. We need \$195,000 by year's end to ensure our health going into 2020. Thank you for your prayerful sacrificial support.



Photographer: Niall McAuley

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve December 24

- 4:00 p.m. *Heiligabend*
German-language service
- 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion around the Crèche with Carols and Candlelight
- 10:00 p.m. Holy Communion with Carols and Candlelight (Incense)

Christmas Day December 25

- 11:00 a.m. Carols and Communion

First Sunday of Christmas

- December 28** 6:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship
- December 29** 8:30 a.m. Worship
10:50 a.m. Worship

New Year's Day January 1

- 6:00 p.m. New Year's Day Concert on the Bach Organ

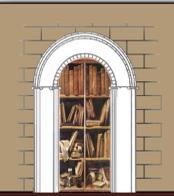
New Year's Day Organ Recital

January 1, 6:00 p.m.

Don't miss New Year's Day organ recital with Mary Joy Silmaro, flutist Kelly DeVany, trumpeter Bob Walp, and a cameo moment with Rick Erickson. Celebratory reception follows. This is one of the best kept secrets in town.

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Sunday Forum

SUNDAY FORUM

9:45 a.m. in the parish hall

December 22: The Magnificat is an ancient song of the church, and has been inspiration for music and art. Join Rick and Mary Joy as they explore some musical settings from a wide variety of sources.

December 29: Christmas Goodies Potluck in the courtyard. Bring anything delightful to share.

January 5: Intergenerational:

The story of “The Glorious Impossible”,
presented by Diane Schoppe

Adults, children and youth gather to hear and see "The Glorious Impossible" which is a retelling of the Christmas story using beautiful pictures from Madeleine L'Engle's book of the same name. All are welcome; room 204 on the second floor will be ready for you.

January 12 and 19: The Epistle to the Romans
presented by Dr. Christian Eberhart

How Can I Get Involved at Christ the King Church in 2020?

Each year the members of Christ the King Church generously donate their time and talent to the mission of living our faith. As we approach our 75th anniversary year, we invite members and friends to fill out a survey indicating your interests. In December you will receive a catalog in your email in-box (in PDF format) which describes many opportunities for your involvement in congregational life and community outreach in 2020. You will then receive a link to an online survey at SurveyMonkey.com to indicate your interests. Of course, there will also be paper copies available, both the catalog and response forms, in the narthex. We hope everyone will consider getting involved in strengthening our congregation's mission to be a healing place for one another, our community, and the world.

Shop & Support our Fundraiser for Luther League!

Last Two Days

It's never been easier to change a life for the better and support the Luther League this holiday season. You'll do a world of good by supporting this Serrv & Earn fundraiser. Dedicating to fighting poverty through fair trade since 1949, Serrv International works with nearly 8,000 artisans and farmers in 24 countries to bring you the world's most beautiful handcrafts. **Until December 23, you can get your shopping done** buying handmade gifts and home décor for your friends and family. Use the web link www.serrv.org?a=LutherLeague and 20% of your purchase will be donated to Luther League. Thank you so much for your support!

Flowers for the Nave

The 2020 Altar Guild Flower Chart is 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.

Epiphany Observance January 5

Join us on the 12th day of Christmas, January 5, to bless the nave, our “church house” with the blessing of the magi. At the end of the 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. services all will move to the narthex for the inscription of the lintel for the 2020 year. We will celebrate the occasion with king cake at coffee hour. A printed prayer rite and chalk can be taken home to inscribe and bless one's own house or door.

Annual Reports

The 2019 Annual Reports are due on **January 17**. See last year's reports online as a reference at ctkelc.org/about-us/how-we-work. Please email your report to michaelshelton@ctkelc.org.

Community of Hope Training begins in January — Is God Calling You to be a Lay Chaplain?

Do you want to deepen your relationship with God?
Do you want to acquire the skills needed to handle different life situations in your every day journey?
Do you want to be comfortable extending God's love to your family, friends, and neighbors?

Then, the Community of Hope may be for you! In addition to providing training to equip laypersons to serve in pastoral care ministry as Lay Chaplains, the Community of Hope offers a journey into wholeness through spiritual growth opportunities in a community shaped by prayer and Benedictine spirituality.

At Christ the King Lutheran Church, we have

trained 119 Community of Hope Lay Chaplains (both members of our congregation and from many other congregations) who live out their call to be "holy listeners" in many different settings: in their families, their workplaces, their neighborhoods, hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, and within the congregation. You are invited to consider becoming a part of our Community of Hope.

Classes will be held on Monday evenings, January 27 through April 6. Class size is limited. Registration deadline is January 10. For more information or to receive an application, contact Beverly Davis at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org or 713-400-0517.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton: Christmas Message



On Christmas Eve there always comes a time when everything is finally still. After all the preparations and Christmas pageants, after all of the rushing, it's wonderful just to settle into that stillness and have a chance to think about the miracle of Advent and Christmas.

For me that came after the 11 o'clock candlelight service and after going home. With my husband and children in bed, I could think and settle into that stillness and marvel at the miracle that had happened.

We know that God is up to something. We long for peace, and sure enough, God comes in the form of a helpless baby in a wooden manger. In that stillness, I think of another time when we are waiting and longing. It's at the Easter vigil, when, by tradition, we feel that at the very stroke of midnight Christ was raised from the dead. This helpless man on a cross now becomes the risen Lord.

I hope and pray, dear church, that in this season of Advent and Christmas you will find time for stillness, find time to sense the expectation and the longing, but also to celebrate the miracle of God's love that has come to us in the form of a tiny baby who grows to be a human being who gives his life for us, that we might have life.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 worshiping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of "God's work. Our hands.," the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA's roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

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

Bill Mintz	Oliver Miertschin	Charles Turner
Henry Thweatt	Marlee Thompson	Shanna Thorvilson
Gaelyn Leshar	Anna Fay Williams	Stephanie
Sarah Thweatt	Louis Monroe	Hoogerwerf
Alexandra Uri	Peter Nikonowicz	Mary Ella Orsburn
Katie Feuille	David Jurgens	Penny Linsenmayer
Evren Gener	Will Mallon	
Niell Gorman	Pierce Mathis	



Sunday, December 22

8:30 a.m. Worship, ELW 5
9:45 a.m. Sunday Forum, parish hall
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Worship, ELW 5

Monday, December 23

Church Office Closed
8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. German-language service, nave
6:00 p.m. Holy Communion, nave
10:00 p.m. Holy Communion, nave

Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day

Church Office Closed
11:00 a.m. Carols and Communion, nave

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed
8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, nave

Friday, December 27

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, nave

Saturday, December 28

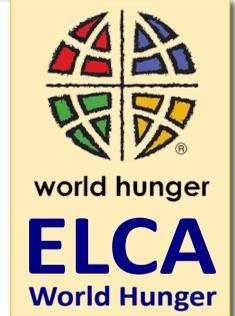
1:00 p.m. Yoga, parish hall
6:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship/

Sunday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Worship, ELW 5
9:45 a.m. Christmas Goodies in the courtyard
10:50 a.m. Worship, ELW 5

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 \$18,882** 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.

Foundation Invites Grant Applications

The Board of Directors for the Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church New Foundation invites grant applications. Regular grants may be made solely in support of the life and work of the Church and other qualified organizations whose purposes are aligned with the strategic emphases of the Church. Strong preference will be given to grant applications that, in the judgment of the Board, advance the Church's mission as "A Healing Place." Grant applications may be **submitted by December 31, 2019** to the Church office or to any member of the Foundation board (Russell Post, Kathy Collins, Bob Solberg, Wendy

The Rev. Dr. Duane Larson, Senior Pastor The Rev. Karin Liebster, Associate Pastor
Deacon Ben Remmert, Director of Youth and Family Ministry
Beverly Davis, Director of Congregational Care Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse
Deacon Rick Erickson, Cantor, Director of Bach Society Houston
Mary Joy Silmaro, Music Associate Robert Walp, Brass Choir Director
Beth Hartfiel, Business Administrator 2353 Rice Blvd, Houston TX, 77005
Phone: 713-523-2864 Email: ctk@ctkelc.org Website: ctkelc.org
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 7:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.