

# THE KING'S BANNER



Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

ctkelc.org

Volume 76, Number 04  
April 2023

## April 2 Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

- 8:30am Eucharist with Palm Procession and the Passion According to Matthew
- 9:30am Stations of the Cross Walk-through
- 10:30am Worship at West Campus
- 11:00am Eucharist with Palm Procession and the Passion According to Matthew
- 6:00pm Erickson's St. John Passion presented by Bach Society Houston

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



### BACH SOCIETY HOUSTON

**Erickson's St. John Passion**  
Palm Sunday, April 2, 6:00 pm  
Good Friday, April 7, 3:00 pm  
Christ the King, Rice Village nave

### April 6 Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Confession and Absolution  
Holy Communion  
Stripping of the Altar

### April 7 Good Friday

12:00 noon Good Friday Worship (West Campus)

3:00 pm Erickson's St. John Passion Presented by Bach Society Houston

7:00 pm Passion Reading  
Bidding Prayer  
Adoration of the Cross

### April 8 Holy Saturday

Midnight until 6:00 pm (every three hours)

6:00 pm Vespers (Contemplative Worship)

### Vigil of Easter

9:00 pm Service of Light  
Readings of Redemption  
Eucharist

### April 9 Easter Day

8:30 am Festive Easter Eucharist

9:30 am Easter Brunch  
Flowering of the Cross  
Egg Hung for Children

10:30 am Festive Easter Worship (West Campus)

11:00 am Festive Easter Eucharist

1:00 pm Domingo de Pascua  
Spanish-language Easter service



### Easter Candy Needed!

Donations of wrapped candy (no peanuts) are needed for our Easter Egg Hunts.

Please drop off candy at the church by Good Friday, April 7. [See page 9](#)

### Easter Brunch at 9:30am

Luther League will provide breakfast tacos for our Easter potluck. Members and friends are invited to bring a breakfast item (pastries, bagels, eggs, fruit, bacon, etc.) to share.

### TAG SALE

**April 29-30**

We will start collecting items on Sunday, April 23. Furniture sells well so we will gladly take it if you can get it to the church. Larger items and large volume donations can only be accepted in the parish hall on Thursday and Friday, April 27-28. Contact Ben Remmert for info and to volunteer! [See page 9](#)

**For more information about Holy Week and Easter**

[see pages 2-3](#)



# Dear faithful people of Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church:

baptism promises and gives. “They” in that sentence are the Sundays in Lent and the Easter Vigil, arguably the single most important liturgy – and among the most ancient – in the Christian Church.

Our baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection and the new way of living it gives is at the core of every Sunday in Lent. That is never more true than it’s been this past Lent. After the First Sunday in Lent, every Sunday’s Gospel has been from the Gospel according to John. Those texts call us to see ourselves as inquiring Nicodemus; accepted and renewed as the Samaritan woman at the well; “blind but now we see” as the blind man healed by Jesus; and raised from death to life as Lazarus, the friend whom Jesus raised. Put simply (and a bit corny), Nicodemus, the woman, the blind man, and Lazarus are us! Even as Lent concludes, there’s still an opportunity for each of us to read those Gospels and find ourselves in them.

Baptism and the life baptism promises and gives is the radiating core of the Easter Vigil. In the early Christian community, already by the mid-300s, this exact liturgy flowed from the lighting of the “new fire” and Paschal Candle, through the readings from the Hebrew scriptures (each prefiguring baptism) and gushed into the baptism of new Christians and from there flowed smoothly into the first of several gifts of baptism, participation by the newly baptized into the community meal, their first taste of the Body and Blood of Christ with their fellow Christians.

This liturgy is common to both eastern Orthodox and western Christian communions but was lost in the West for several hundred years. It was restored to most “catholic” church bodies

They are all about baptism: its gift, remembrance, and renewal; and the life

beginning in the 1950s and became an official part of American Lutheran worship with the publication of the green Lutheran Book of Worship in 1978, using the same ancient order of service I’ve stated above, flowing to and from baptism (or affirmation of baptism when no one is available to be baptized) and flowing from baptism into the first communion of Easter was what we celebrated and used.

We are restoring that order to our Easter Vigil this year. You see, for the last several years, memorialized in Evangelical Lutheran Worship, that order with baptism at its core, was altered and that baptismal emphasis was, in my opinion, diluted. That change began as the Roman Catholic communion altered the liturgical order to be more like a typical Saturday vigil mass. Lutherans and a few others followed suit. I’m not really sure why. In my opinion, that adjusted order put more emphasis on each part and made the baptismal core more difficult to discern and experience.

Lent and the Easter Vigil, you see, is all about all of us as the risen Body of Christ and not, strictly speaking, about one truly human being, Jesus Christ – Passion (Palm) Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are for the most part solely about Christ; almost a re-enacting of Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection. We all should participate in these as we remember what God in Christ has done for us.

But the Lent we are now concluding, the Vigil we will shortly do together, and the Sundays of Easter to Pentecost are all about us, our life and our future. That’s the purpose of this article because that’s the purpose of these days. So come, beloved of God in Christ, celebrate the risen Christ and remember also to celebrate us! Because God for us is precisely what these days are all about and the chief reason for bringing our “alleluias” back!

Amandus J. Derr  
Interim Senior Pastor

## Canonical Hours *in-person or online* Beginning Midnight on Good Friday until Easter Vigil

The eight canonical hours mark the vigil from Good Friday (midnight) until the Saturday Easter Vigil (9:00 pm). Every three hours a brief service occurs in the narthex (or online via Zoom). Everyone is invited to join the prayers at any of these times. If you would like to say the canonical hours at home, copies of the services will be available in the narthex. To join online, request the Zoom link at [ctk@ctkelc.org](mailto:ctk@ctkelc.org).

Canonical Hour		
12:00 am	Matins:	The Virgins (watchful waiting), hosted by Luther League
3:00 am	Lauds:	The Tomb (ecstatic praise), hosted by Luther League and Night Owls
6:00 am	Prime:	The Martyrs (consecrated service), hosted by Luther League and Early Risers
9:00 am	Terce:	The Fire (unceasing dependence), hosted by Altar Guild
12:00 pm	Sext:	The Cross (humble supplication), hosted by Congregational Care
3:00 pm	None:	The Throne (steadfast perseverance), hosted by Congregation Council
6:00 pm	Vespers:	The Supper (fervent thanksgiving), contemplative worship

# THE THREE DAYS AND EASTER

## **Maundy Thursday** **April 6**

**7:00 pm – Confession & Absolution, Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar**

In-person and livestreamed  
We conclude Lent with Confession, forgiveness, and the sharing of Christ's peace. We join the Disciples with Jesus at the last supper. We strip the altar and leave it unadorned in remembrance of Jesus' passion, death, and burial.



## **Good Friday** **April 7**

**12:00 noon – Good Friday Worship**

In-person at West Campus

**3:00 pm – Erickson's St. John Passion Presented by Bach Society Houston**

Rice Village Campus in-person

**7:00 pm – Passion Reading, Bidding Prayer, Adoration of the Cross**

In-person and livestreamed

On Friday we continue the Three Days with the reading of the Christ's passion from the Gospel of John, the Bidding Prayers, Adoration of the Cross and Solemn Reproaches.

## **Holy Saturday** **April 8**

**Midnight until 6:00 pm Canonical Hours**

In-person or on Zoom

**6:00 p.m. – Vespers (Contemplative Worship)**

## **Vigil of Easter**

**9:00 pm – Service of Light, Readings of Redemption, Eucharist**

in-person with interactive digital liturgy available

Easter Vigil marks the night when the church celebrates Christ's victory over the tomb by his resurrection. The interactive digital liturgy allows for an individual, group, or house church to celebrate the Vigil with prayer, story, music, and baptismal remembrance.

## **Easter Sunday** **April 9**

**8:30 am – Festive Easter Eucharist**

In-person

**9:30 am – Easter Brunch, Flowering of the Cross, Egg Hunt**

**10:30 am – Festive Easter Worship (West Campus)**

**11:00 am – Festive Easter Eucharist**  
In-person and livestreamed

**1:00 pm – Domingo de Pascua**

Spanish-language Easter service in-person only

Households can help celebrate the Resurrection of Christ by participating in the Flowering of the Cross and children can hunt for Easter eggs during the Sunday school hour. Please bring lots of flowers and a basket for the egg hunt. [See pages 8-9](#)



Lizze Mallon and Lottie Turner enjoyed last year's egg hunt.

# APRIL Mission Offering



**St. James Family Life Center**  
Planting the Seed of Hope, Growing Opportunities

*10th Anniversary Celebration  
and Silent Auction*

APRIL 29, 2023

6:00 P.M.

**Help support St. James Family Life  
Center emergency assistance and  
other programs**

Supported by a partnership with CTK, St. James Family Life Center provides emergency assistance—food, rent and utilities relief—to immigrants and others facing challenges in the Garden Oaks/Oak Forest area.

The needs in the community are great. In 2022, the center served 203 families at the food pantry and provided emergency cash assistance totaling \$26,950 to 121 families in need. The center also had two ESL classes for beginners taught by Christ the King AMMPARO members Carolyn Jacobs, Rebecca Shields and Linda Alexander, four citizenship classes and seven immigration counseling sessions at community events.

The center will celebrate 10 years of service and support for the community on April 29th at 6:00pm located at St. James Lutheran Church. Please save the date for an evening recognizing the contributions of the founders, volunteers, and donors that have contributed in making St. James Family Life Center a success. CTK's AMMPARO committee



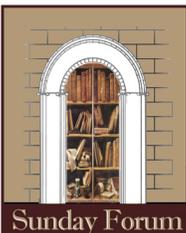
seeks to sustain and grow our partnership by helping raise \$25,000 in recognition of this pivotal anniversary.

The Family Life Center aims to raise \$10,000 for Camp Hope; \$10,000 for Immigration and \$5,000 for Family Assistance. Please join us in a spirit of generosity for those who are marginalized in our city.

Please watch a video about their work here. OR [https://youtu.be/A\\_BqColmeI8](https://youtu.be/A_BqColmeI8). Every donation helps! Please continue to follow our news posts. If you have a special interest in volunteering with St. James Family Life Center, please be in touch with Emily Triantaphyllis via email: [ewtrianta@gmail.com](mailto:ewtrianta@gmail.com).

**You can also support St. James' food pantry by dropping off non-perishable items in the donation basket in the narthex on Sundays.**

- cereal, oatmeal
- rice, beans, pasta (vermicelli, spaghetti, macaroni, etc.), canned spaghetti sauce
- peanut butter, canned fruit, canned vegetables
- salt, sugar, flour
- canned tuna, canned chicken breast, spam ham
- pancake mix, oil (small bottles), granola bars, raisins, etc.



**Sunday Forum**  
Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
Rice Village Campus basement  
classroom and online

Look for the Zoom link in the Sunday  
e-blast or contact [ctk@ctkelc.org](mailto:ctk@ctkelc.org).

**April 2: Stations of the Cross (walk-through)**

Visit our interactive Stations of the Cross in the parish hall. [See Page 8](#)

**April 9: Easter Brunch, Flowers of the Cross, Egg Hunt**

Households can help celebrate the Resurrection of Christ by participating in the Flowering of the Cross and children are invited to hunt for Easter eggs. Please plan to bring lots of flowers to use and a basket for the egg hunt.

**April 16, 23, 30: Reconciling in Christ (RIC): Proclaiming our Wide Welcome**

“Since 1983, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church. The RIC Program is made up of congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, outdoor ministries, and other Lutheran organizations.” (From the RIC website; webpage entitled: How to become RIC)

**April 16: History of Care, Welcome, and Inclusion**

Rev. Morgan Gates (Campus Pastor for HouMin) and Rev. Sergio Rodriguez will give a presentation on the history of the Reconciling in Christ program, and LGBTQIA+ inclusion at Christ the King Church.

**April 23: What does the bible say about welcome and inclusion?**

Rev. Ryan Dockery (Pastor of Celebration Lutheran, Cypress and chair of the LGBTQIA+ coalition of TX-LA Synod) will lead a bible study on the theme of inclusion.

**April 30: Reconciling in Christ: What does this mean for us?**

Lisa Miller and members of CTK who attended the February Reconciling in Christ panel discussion at Zion Lutheran will lead us in a discussion on the importance of LGBTQIA+ stories. If you have any additional questions about RIC, we will be discussing them at this session.

**WEEKDAY ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

***Lectio Divina***

**Mondays at noon, online**

Lectio Divina (Sacred Reading) is a Christian practice in which one reads a small passage of scripture, trusting in God’s presence and relevance in daily experience. Attend as you are able, but please register with Beverly at [beverlydavis@ctkelc.org](mailto:beverlydavis@ctkelc.org).

**The Life and Times of Paul with Dr. Howard Jones**

**Wednesdays at 10:00am**

**West Campus In-Person**

Dr. Jones guides the group in understanding Paul’s letters from a 1st century perspective.

**DISCIPLESHIP 101: The Sermon on the Mount (Saint Matthew 5-7) with Pastor Mandy Derr**

**Thursdays, 3:00pm on Zoom**

Through this study, led by Pastor Derr (with a little help from Dietrich Bonhoeffer), we consider our baptismal calling through the lens of Jesus’ words to disciples in the Sermon on the Mount.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81892157026?pwd=V1U2K0JEbm9HLOE3azJhUU13aIFUdz09>

**Friday Morning Bible Study with Pastor Mandy Derr**

**Fridays, 10:00am**

**Rice Village campus**

**In-person in the second-floor council room and online**

The summer book reviews are a beloved tradition as an educational offering on Sundays during the summer months. All interested in presenting a book are invited to contact Pr. Rodriguez at [sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org](mailto:sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org) with title, author, and your Sunday availability. We particularly welcome books that explore religious, moral, or ethical concerns withing society and the world.

**Pray the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

**Tuesdays at 8:15am on Facebook**

The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Prayer Cycle takes us through every region of the world over the course of a year. Pray with us every Tuesday at 8:15 am online through Facebook live with Deacon Ben Remmert. This month we will be praying for:

- April 4:** The Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia
- April 11:** Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania
- April 18:** Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine
- April 25:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

More details can be found here: <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle>.

# LATINE MINISTRY

Pastor Sergio Rodriguez, together with Interim Associate Pastor Cassandra Nagel (Lord of Life Lutheran, The Woodlands) have been invited to be a part of the 2023 ELCA Young Adult Border Immersion team. They will be in Las Cruces, NM from April 26-30 learning with and providing pastoral care to the rest of the cohort. On May 7th, Pastor Rodriguez and members of his cohort will be leading a discussion on immigration during the Sunday Forum hour.

## Update from the Lutheran Church in Peru (IL-P)

Since the failed coup and arrest of former President Pedro Castillo in December 2022, supporters of Castillo have protested throughout major cities in Peru. In response, the government of the acting President Dina Boluarte has responded with force



against the protestors. Jorge Aguilar-Pereda of Trujillo, Peru, acting lay pastor of our sister congregations in that city, has repeatedly assured Pastor Rodriguez of their safety and expressed his disgust with the lack of leadership at all levels of government. Though largely unaffected by the majority of the protests in the southern part of Peru,

Jorge recently shared the devastating effects of a recent storm on the city, loss of many homes, mud slides, disruption of services. (See photos). Below is a letter published by the Presiding Pastor of the Lutheran Church in Peru, expressing a similar frustration against a government disposed against its people. Please pray for Trujillo's continued recovery from the recent flood and for the country of Peru!



## Letter from the Presiding Pastor Pedro Bullon (IL-P) urging the acting President of Peru to resign *Translation by Pastor Sergio Rodriguez*

**Time has run out! The loss of life must also come to an end!**

### **President Dina Boluarte, Resign Now!**

Approximately two months ago, we lauded the beginning of your presidency as one grounded in the promise to address corruption, and the stalemate in government. You promised to form a government that would truly be representative of Peruvians, everywhere. We too share a common desire for this new government to convoke a general election, ensuring the kinds of reforms that would strengthen our democratic institutions and protect the basic human rights, prioritizing the most urgent needs of the populace.

However, in these past sixty days, you have done and permitted the contrary. According to the report of the

Department for the Defense of the Populace, since 5 February 2023, 47 civilians have died in civil protests, 11 have died as a result of events relating to the protests, and 1 member of law enforcement. Similarly, there have been 1229 cases of bodily injury, and 700 arrests by law enforcement officers, many of whom relate inhumane and degrading treatment.

Madam President, urging your resignation ought not to define us as terrorists or accomplices to the acts of vandalism unrelated to the protests at hand. We reject violence in all forms, and in particular those acts which, as the Nuncio, Paolo Rocco declares, "hide more insidious forms of violence, and which devalue difference, especially when such difference seems to threaten special interests. As a result, Madam President, in the name of God and the pain of the families and communities deeply damaged by the loss of their loved ones, we urge you: "End this repression! Resign now!"

Lima, Peru; 6 February 2023



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## **SOCIAL STATEMENTS of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)**

*We continue this ongoing series highlighting the ELCA's **SOCIAL STATEMENTS** shared as summaries by Rev. George Brookover.*

***SUFFICIENT, SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FOR ALL*** (Adopted by the 1999 Churchwide Assembly in Denver, Colorado by a two-thirds vote).

Economic life pervades our lives—the work we do, the income we receive, how much we consume and save, what we value, and how we view one another. An economy (*oikonomia* or “management of the household”) is meant to meet people’s material needs. The current market-based economy does that to an amazing degree; many are prospering as never before. At the same time, others continue to lack what they need for basic subsistence. Out of deep concern for those affected adversely, we of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America here assess economic life today in light of the moral imperative to seek **sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all**.

Pursuing policies and practices that will lead to “sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all” is such a formidable challenge that to many it seems unrealistic or not worth the effort. The Church as an employer, property owner, consumer, investor, and community of believers can be as caught up in the reigning economic assumptions as the rest of society. But despite the Church’s failings, through the Word and the sacraments, we are forgiven, renewed, and nourished. At the Table, we together receive the same bread and drink of the same cup. What we receive is sufficient; it does sustain us. We are strengthened to persist in the struggle for justice as we look forward to the coming of God’s kingdom in all its fullness.

We are sent forth into the world to bear witness to God’s promised reign. The world is the whole household of God that economic life is intended to serve. The Spirit of God expands our vision and transforms our priorities. We realize that we do not eat alone; everyone needs to eat. The multitudes present around God’s global table become our neighbors rather than competitors or strangers. Empowered by God, we continue to act, pray, and hope that through economic life there truly will be sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all. The following are the implementing

resolutions. To adopt “Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All” as a social statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in accordance with “Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns” (1997). **The following items are the Implementing Resolutions:**

- To call upon members of this church to pray, work, and advocate that all might have a sufficient, sustainable livelihood, and to draw upon this statement in forming their own judgments and actions in their ministries in daily life;
- To call upon our bishops, pastors, and other rostered leaders to give renewed attention to how Scripture, liturgy, preaching, hymnody, and prayers may express God’s will for economic life and empower a faith active for justice, and to provide leadership in seeking economic justice in their communities;
- To challenge all congregations, synods, and churchwide units to carry out the substance and spirit of this statement and intensify their work with various ecumenical, interfaith, and secular groups in pursuit of its commitments;
- To encourage the education, service, and outreach ministries of this church in their work for economic justice;
- To urge churchwide units and affiliated organizations (social ministry organizations, schools, colleges/universities, and seminaries) to review and adjust their programs and practices in light of this social statement;
- To direct the Division for Church in Society, in cooperation with other churchwide units, to provide leadership, consultation, and educational and worship resources on the basis of this statement, particularly through the development of resources that interpret this statement and develop its implications for different arenas of responsibility;
- To direct the Division for Church in Society to expand its work in advocating for corporate social responsibility, in assisting with community economic development, and in public policy advocacy that furthers the various commitments made in this statement;

*continued on page 8*

**SUFFICIENT, SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FOR ALL  
continues...**

- To call upon the members of this church to give generously to the World Hunger Appeal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, so that the Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief, domestic hunger grants, and our partner ecumenical agencies might do more in helping to alleviate the causes and consequences of hunger, poverty, and injustice; and to call upon the members of this church

to participate actively in supporting these and similar ministries; and

- To call upon the educational institutions of this church schools, colleges, universities, seminaries, continuing education centers, camps, and retreat centers to develop programs and educational resources in light of this statement so people can be better prepared to respond to the challenges of economic life.

**Link to the entire document: [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Economic\\_LifeSS.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Economic_LifeSS.pdf)**

# CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

## April Dates:

- 2, 16, 23, 30: Godly Play Classes, 9:30am
- 2: Stations of the Cross
- 2, 16: PRAY Classes for Scouts, 12:30pm
- 9: Easter Celebration: Flowering of the Cross & Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30am
- 14-16: Spring Family Retreat at Lutherhill

## Stations of the Cross Illustrated Ministry: Devotional for Holy Week

Grab a copy in the narthex for your household to use during Holy Week. This devotional guide walks you through all fifteen of the scriptural Stations of the Cross with meaningful reflections for all ages.

Each of the fifteen devotionals includes the following:

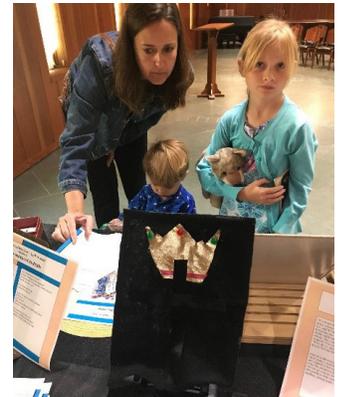


- A prompt with the scripture listed for each station
- A reflection that is geared toward youth and adults
- A short reflection on the scripture for children
- Questions for children
- A "Going Deeper" section with questions for all ages

These devotionals were written by Geoff Duffy whose writing brings the Stations of the Cross alive with relevant and meaningful reflections for the whole family.

## Stations of the Cross: Passion Sunday, April 2 at 9:30am

We invite you to visit the Stations of the Cross in the parish hall between the Sunday services on Palm Sunday. Starting with a presentation about Jesus in the Garden, the Stations depict Jesus' actions from the Garden to the Resurrection. Ponder the trial of Jesus; struggle with the cross; grieve at the crucifixion; and wonder as the sadness turns into the pure joy of the Resurrection. Take as long as you want, thinking or praying, then you may pick up a scripture card, an item relating to the story, or both to remind you of each part of the story. We hope this will help you prepare for the Mystery of Easter.



## Easter Celebration: Flowering of the Cross and Egg Hunt on April 9 at 9:30am

Easter at Christ the King Church is always an exciting time for children! Little ones help celebrate the Resurrection of Christ by participating in the Flowering of the Cross and hunting for Easter eggs. Please plan to bring lots of lovely flowers for your children to use and be sure to bring a basket

for the egg hunt. The festivities begin with a potluck Easter Breakfast at 9:30am and Flowering of the Cross. There will be egg hunts beginning at 10:00am, with special designated areas for the little ones. Age groups will be split 0-4 and 5 and up. **Donations of wrapped candy are needed. Please drop them off to the church by April 7 (Good Friday). No peanuts, please.**

**Tag Sale: Saturday, April 29, 8:00am – 12:00pm and Sunday, April 30 at 9:30am – 1:00pm**



The annual Tag Sale at Christ the King Church will be Saturday April 29 and Sunday April 30 in the west campus parish hall. **Give us anything you want out of your closets, garages and attics!** All proceeds will go

to the Pastor Karin Liebster Children’s Ministry Fund and the Luther League Fund.

**Volunteers are needed to help run the Tag Sale and help donate left over items.**

### Meet our new Nursery Attendant

Herlinda Torres joined the Christ the King ministry team as our nursery attendant on March 5. She has a passion for working with young children and has years of experience as a teacher assistant at Little Bo Peep School and Childcare and more recently at Crème de la Crème. Please feel free to drop by the CTK nursery on any Sunday and meet our newest CTK staff member.



## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY



### April Dates:

- 2, 16, 23, 30: Confirmation Class, 9:30am
- 7-8: Good Friday Lock-In
- 9: Easter Celebration
- 15: Eastern House of Worship Tours, 10:00am
- 22: Lutherhill Service Day
- 29: Tag Sale and Car Wash, 8:00am
- 30: Drivers’ License Milestone Celebration, 11:00am

### Good Friday Lock-In

**April 7-8 at 9:00pm**

All youth 6th through 12th grade are invited to the Good Friday Lock-in on April 7 starting right after the Good Friday service. During the night we will enjoy food, fellowship, putting together the LWR health kits, stuffing easter eggs, games, and leading the canonical hours at 12:00am, 3:00am, and 6:00am. The lock-in will conclude at 7:00 on Saturday morning. A few youth worship volunteers are needed to help lead music at the Canonical Hours services. **RSVP by Thursday, April 6.** No cost; just bring snacks and candy for



Easter Egg stuffing. Please contact Deacon Ben Remmert to help provide food, chaperone, or sign up!

### Easter Egg Hunt Help

**April 9 at 8:00am**

Beginning on Easter Sunday at 8:00am, we will be setting up the back field for our children’s easter egg hunt. We



would love to have some help hiding eggs and setting up our boundaries for our children. Please let Deacon Ben Remmert know if you are able to help by Friday, April 7.

### Tag Sale Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to help set up (beginning Wednesday, April 26 - Friday, April 28), sell and clean up on Saturday, April 29 (7:30am 2:00pm & Sunday, April 30 at 8:00am – 1:00pm. Sign-up sheets to help will be online and on the church bulletin board. Contact Deacon Ben Remmert at [benremmert@ctkelc.org](mailto:benremmert@ctkelc.org) for more information.

### Eastern Houses of Worship Tours

**Saturday, April 15**

Come and join us as we tour three important worship sites on Saturday, April 15 at 10:00am. We will visit a Hindu, Buddhist, and Zoroastrian temple. This tour is put together by our friends at Interfaith Ministries of Greater Houston.

Cost is \$20 per person. RSVP by Wednesday April 12 to Deacon Ben Remmert at [benremmert@ctkelc.org](mailto:benremmert@ctkelc.org).

### Driver's License Milestone Celebration - April 30

On Sunday, April 30 we will recognize youth who have received their driver license in the last year. Those preparing to receive their license before the end of the school year are also invited. We will bless youth at both worship services on this important milestone. Parents, please contact Ben Remmert to RSVP or for more information.

### Graduate Recognition

If you are receiving a certificate or degree from high school, undergraduate, certification, or graduate programs, we would like to know! Email us at [ctk@ctkelc.org](mailto:ctk@ctkelc.org) with details about your graduation date and any plans for your future. High school graduates will receive a gift from the congregation. All graduates will be highlighted in our May newsletter.

### Summer Book Review on Sundays

The summer book reviews are a beloved tradition as an educational offering on Sundays during the summer months. All interested in presenting a book are invited to contact Pr. Rodriguez at [sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org](mailto:sergiorodriguez@ctkelc.org) with title, author, and your Sunday availability. We particularly welcome books that explore religious, moral, or ethical concerns withing society and the world.



*Christ the King and House of Prayer youth gathered together for disc golf on Saturday, March 5. This was a great opportunity for the youth to get to know each other and prepare for our Germany Trip this summer.*



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS - SUMMER 2023

*Lutherhill Camp Registration is open!*

*Make sure to register with Christ the King as your congregation to get your spot with our group code: **ctkelchouston!***

### Children Trips this 2023 Summer (1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

#### Lutherhill Elementary Summer Camp

July 16-21, 2023

Those that have **completed 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade** will spend a whole week at Lutherhill discovering all the joys camp has to offer with Deacon Ben Remmert! Alpha Campers (1<sup>st</sup> Graders) are at camp from July 17-20 and Youngin's (2nd-3rd Graders) and Yearling's (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Graders) are at camp from July 17-22. Cost breakdowns are below.

**Alpha (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) Program Cost: \$375**

**Young'ns (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>Grade) and Yearling's (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
Program Cost: \$650**



### Youth Trips this 2023 Summer (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

#### Lutherhill Jr. High Adventure Camp

July 16-21, 2023

Those that have **completed 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade** can experience a week at Lutherhill's Adventure program. Learn from cabin Bible studies and camp-wide worships, challenge yourself on the high ropes course, enjoy afternoon activities and daily All Camp activities, grow in community with fellow junior high students, spend a night cooking over open fires and sleeping in the tree houses and hanging village.

**Program Cost: \$650**



### Lutherhill Day Camp is Coming to Rice Campus on June 12-16, 2023!

Lutherhill Staff and Luther League youth are leading Day Camp at Christ the King this upcoming summer! From 7:30am until 6:00pm where children (ages 5 to 11) will learn bible stories through worship, games, snacks, science experiments, drama, and crafts throughout the day. This is always a highlight of the summer so you want to make sure and register!



**Who Can Attend:** Those that have finished pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade by May 2023 (ages 4-10)

**Costs:** \$100.00 (Before Camp- \$25.00 & After Camp- \$25.00)

**Register:** Register online at [www.ctkelc.org](http://www.ctkelc.org).

### Lutherhill Day Camp Staff Applications are Out

This summer we are looking for middle and high school students to serve on our Summer 2023 Day Camp Staff as support staff, paid staff, and camp manager. Applications can be found online at [www.ctkelc.org](http://www.ctkelc.org) or paper applications can be found at Christ the King Church.

# LUTHERHILL RETREATS AND NEWS



## Christ the King Service Day at Lutherhill

Saturday, April 22

Calling all volunteers! Christ the King families are invited to go to Lutherhill with Deacon Ben on Saturday, April 22. Projects include landscaping, painting, small building projects, AND MORE! We will meet at church at 7:00 a.m. and carpool over to Lutherhill. Come and enjoy a day of service getting Lutherhill ready for summer. RSVP by Wednesday, April 6.

## Spring Family Retreat

April 14-16

A gathering for your whole family

Time for a little spring cleaning? Not in your home, but in your family life? Escape to the Hill for all the camp activities your heart desires. Invest in your family, nurture new friendships and revel in God's creation.

**Cost is \$110 per adult, \$80 per child. Children under 2 are free.** Register online at <https://lutherhill.org/retreats/spring-family-retreat/>.

## Summer Camp Staff Applications

Lutherhill has many amazing opportunities available for young adults to work at camp this summer. Check out all the positions here: <https://lutherhill.org/about-lutherhill/employment-at-lutherhill/>. Applications are open now. Questions? Contact Program Director, Curtis Bradbury at [atcurtis@lutherhill.org](mailto:atcurtis@lutherhill.org) or 979.243.9831.

## Open Camp Day is June 3rd!

Gather your family and friends together and head to Lutherhill for the day to help us kick off our summer of AMEN! Open Camp Day is a FREE event - bring your family and friends out to experience an action-packed day of camp in just a few hours:

**10am** - Camp Opens

**11am** - Camp-style Worship

**12pm** - Hamburger Lunch

**1pm-4pm** - Camp Activities Open: Ropes Course, Pool, Pond, Arts & Crafts and more!

RSVP to [office@lutherhill.org](mailto:office@lutherhill.org), call us at (979) 217-1954, or on Lutherhill Ministry Facebook page! (RSVPs are appreciated but not required.)



## John Boles Book Signing

Brazos Bookstore (2421 Bissonnet) will host a book-signing on April 21 at 6:30 PM for John's twentieth book, *Seven Virginians: The Men Who Shaped Our Republic*. The book uses the biographies of George Washington, George Mason, Patrick Henry, Thomas

Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, and John Marshall to tell the story of the nation's political beginning, from the Revolution through the Constitution and its ratification to the formation of the new government, the evolution of the office of the presidency, the origin of political parties, and the maturation of the Supreme Court. The book is written for a general audience and is surprisingly relevant for our time.

## FaithFULL Feeding on April 23 after worship

Members of our Food Service Ministry plan to resume "feeding the five thousand a roomful at a time" beginning April 23. Join us for a home-cooked meal in the parish hall on the third Sunday of the month as we continue the great Table Talks we enjoyed during Lent this year. More details to follow...



*A big thank you goes to the 34 volunteers that cooked, baked, assembled salad, and served our Lent Lunches.*



## Advocate for Justice Every Week

Each week, the Justice Advocacy Ministry Team highlights a different justice issue, and offers all CTK members the opportunity to advocate using their smartphone. Look for the sign in the narthex or the courtyard highlighting the justice issue, with the QR code that you can use to access the e-advocacy opportunity. Miss a Sunday? We also post this justice advocacy opportunity on CTK's Facebook page. Speak for justice every week!

### Churchwide Assembly Justice Look-Back: Gun Violence

At churchwide assembly in August of 2022, a memorial was passed calling for the ELCA to reaffirm (1) the church's social teaching to address the broad issues of violence in society; (2) the church's sense of urgency for advocacy for the renewal or replacement of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban and expanded background checks and other measures to increase gun safety; (3) that ELCA social policy does not reject gun ownership or the recreational activities associated. To learn more about this or other justice-related actions taken at the 2022 churchwide assembly, see this link: <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Churchwide-Assembly>.

### Justice Advocacy Event

#### Sunday, April 16, after each worship service

The Justice Advocacy Ministry Team invites you to advocate for justice after each worship service on Sunday, April 16. There will be a variety of justice topics about which you can advocate, and multiple ways to advocate quickly and easily,

## Justice Advocacy Opportunity *Smorgasbord*

There are a number of active justice advocacy requests from a variety of organizations. Speak up for justice today!

**Protect Forests** – Safeguarding and expanding carbon-rich forests on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands is one of the most important, cost-effective, and timely approaches to fighting the climate crisis. Mature trees store and continue to absorb large amounts of carbon in addition to providing the public with clean drinking water, habitat for imperiled wildlife, and world-class recreational opportunities. Larger, older trees are also more fire resistant. Urge the Administration to create a strong, lasting national rule that protects mature and old-growth trees and forests across federal public lands at <https://interfaithpowerandlight.salsalabs.org/climateforest/index.html>.

**Support a Better Farm Bill** – The Farm Bill is up for re-authorization. Its impact is significant, not only affecting the agriculture and food sectors but playing a huge role in ending food insecurity and hunger in the U.S. and saving the lives of millions abroad. Among the measures that should be included in the Farm Bill are strengthening nutrition security in domestic and international programs; creating a more equitable SNAP program; and increasing food systems sustainability. Take action at this link: <https://go.bread.org/page/48001/action/1>.

**Comment on Fair Housing & the Impact of Segregation** – The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) took new steps toward addressing patterns of segregation and expanding fair access to housing by proposing a change in policy through a proposed rule. The proposal would create more accurate maps of existing segregation in our communities and facilitate local plans to help proactively lower housing discrimination in our communities. Submit your comments in support of this rule on [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov) by April 10. See this link for more information to use in your comments on [federalregister.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov): <https://support.elca.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1598>.

including using your phone, signing pre-printed letters or postcards & more. Stop by the tables in the courtyard and raise your voice for justice!

## The Work of the ELCA: Social Issues

The ELCA is a church energized by lively engagement in faith and life, a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work. We encourage this kind of engagement with social concerns by providing written resources, fostering learning and encouraging action. Materials are available on hunger & poverty, the environment, health & wellness, and race, ethnicity & culture. Learn more at:

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Social-Issues>.



## The Path of Hope: A Study on Climate Action for Faith Communities

Wednesdays, April 19 – May 10,  
6:00pm, online

You are invited to join an online discussion series built around 15-minute videos featuring interviews with US faith leaders, representatives of climate-impacted communities from the global South, and presentations by UN officials and other experts. Please register at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-path-of-hope-a-study-on-climate-action-for-faith-communities-tickets-570682395407>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) for more information.

## Earth Month EcoChallenge – The Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations

April 1 - 30, online

You are invited to participate in the online Earth Month Ecochallenge. This event offers you the opportunity to care for the earth and all its peoples by taking on a challenge in: climate & ecosystems, economy & communities, health & equity, education & livelihood

or basic needs & security. You can learn about these topics, take action in your personal life, advocate, or create a new environmental justice/stewardship habit over the course of the 3 weeks of the challenge!!

Join Lutherans Restoring Creation – Gulf Coast team:

[https://earthmonth.ecochallenge.org/participants/join?referral\\_code=167d6c71-a74e-437b-a3c5-fa0d8727ad83&team\\_invitation=true&team\\_id=22754](https://earthmonth.ecochallenge.org/participants/join?referral_code=167d6c71-a74e-437b-a3c5-fa0d8727ad83&team_invitation=true&team_id=22754).

## Hatchling Hustle

Saturday, April 15, 7:45am start  
Babe's Beach, Galveston

Calling all runners! Join the Lutherans Restoring Creation team for the Hatchling Hustle in Galveston on April 15. This 5K/1 mile benefits the Turtle Island Restoration Network, an organization dedicated to protecting marine wildlife and the oceans and inland watersheds that sustain them. Adults can run 5K or 1 mile, and kids run the 1 mile only. Learn more/register at this link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Galveston/HatchlingHustle>. If you are running, please contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) to meet up for the event!

## Walk for the Wild

Sunday, April 23, 7:00am start  
Houston Zoo

6200 Hermann Park Dr.

You may not be a runner nor a cyclist, but what about walking? Join the Lutherans Restoring Creation team for Walk for the Wild, a fundraiser for the Houston Zoo's wildlife-saving

programs. Bring the whole family and take a walk through the zoo on Sunday. The route is 3 miles, so for a typical walking pace, this is a one-hour walk. Registration includes a t-shirt, after party, entrance to the zoo for the day and more. Learn more/register (join the Lutherans Restoring Creation team) at this link: <https://www.houstonzoo.org/events/walk-for-the-wild-2023/>.

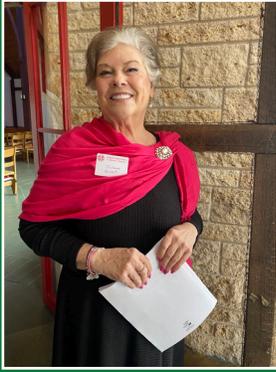
## Spring 2023 Interfaith Environmental Stewardship Event

Sunday, April 23, 1:30 – 4:30pm  
Willow Waterhole Greenspace  
5300 Dryad Dr., Houston, TX 77035

Join with people of all faiths (or no faith at all) in Houston to care for our shared environment during Earth Month! We will engage in hands-on environmental stewardship at the Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve, including mulching around plantings, cleaning up the park and painting. This event will offer activities for all ages and skill levels. Meet at the Schwartz Gazebo in the park to sign in. Metro bus line 7 stops nearby, and line 49 is not far. Tools/supplies will be provided. This event is organized by Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston, in partnership with the Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy.

Please register for planning purposes on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spring-2023-interfaith-environmental-stewardship-event-tickets-570667340377>.

We welcome new members!



Julane Powell



Claudia Thorvilson



Amy & Benjamin Kerswell



Mishelae Alsandor

## Creation-Focused Worship for Earth Day

Saturday, April 22, 6:00 p.m. central, online

Join other Christians to celebrate Earth Day by participating in a streamed pre-recorded creation-focused worship service. Listen to the wisdom, song, and stories from

our fellow Creatures, human and non-human. This 45-minute worship service is in English with full Spanish translation. Register to participate at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/earth-day-worship-service-tickets-570629868297>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) with any questions.

## VOLUNTEER with Christ the King Church on SECOND SATURDAYS

We volunteer at Freewheels Houston every Second Saturday of Even-Numbered Months and at the Houston Food Bank on every Second Saturdays of Odd-Numbered Months.

### Volunteer at Freewheels Houston Saturday, April 8

**When:** 9:00am to 12:00pm

**Where:** 6020 Jessamine St. #204, Houston 77081

**Attire:** Closed toe shoes, outdoor work

**Contact:** Bill Chapman at [wpchapman01@gmail.com](mailto:wpchapman01@gmail.com)



### Volunteer at the Houston Food Bank Saturday, May 13

**When:** 8:00am to 12:00pm

**Where:** 535 Portwall St., Houston 77029

**Attire:** Closed toe shoes, pants, sleeved shirt

**Carpool:** If needed, it will leave the church parking lot at 7:30am. Let Justin know.

**Contact:** Justin and Yuricel at [ctkhfb@gmail.com](mailto:ctkhfb@gmail.com)



Niestrawski family

Alexander, Shannon, Nicholas, and Matthew Niestrawski



Ben Kerswell and Rick Erickson

Ben Kerswell was installed as Cantor of Christ the King Lutheran Church on February 19 following Deacon Rick's retirement in December.