

THE

KING'S HERALD

DECEMBER 2020



CHRIST the KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

As the body of Christ, we are called and sent to love and serve the world.



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The King's Herald is a monthly newsletter of Christ the King Lutheran Church. It can also be found under the "King's Herald" tab on our website:
www.ctkluth.com

*Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

This beloved hymn, almost synonymous with Christmas Eve worship, came to life in a tiny village in Austria. The church's organ gave out the morning of December 24, 1817, and, intent on Christmas Eve worship including music, a young priest and a schoolteacher collaborated to bring "Silent Night" to life. That evening, accompanied by guitar, the choir led the singing of the song now integral to Christmas Eve worship.

As this story shows, things born out of necessity can be quite meaningful and long lasting. That's good news for us this year, isn't it?

I'm not sure if anything we're creating out of necessity in 2020 will be quite as meaningful or long lasting as "Silent Night," but the staff and Church Council are collaborating to make the upcoming seasons of Advent and Christmas as meaningful as possible. Here's a rundown of what is planned:

- **Advent worship:** Because it will be a quieter holiday season, Pastor Brad and I will talk about how we might "make lemonade" and embrace a quieter, more reflective holiday. The Sunday sermons will highlight prayer practices, inviting you to experience prayer and meditation in ways that may seem out of the ordinary, but are actually time-tested and can become quite meaningful. At some point during the Advent season, kits of beads will be available; you may make your own string of (very Lutheran) prayer beads.
- **Youth Christmas letters:** Instead of Christmas caroling out and about in the community like they did last year, this year our youth will write Christmas letters. This will be their way to make new connections and spread joy this season.
- **"Reverse Advent" food drive:** CtK's youth are also sponsoring a "Reverse Advent" food drive to benefit the Clay Food Pantry. What does "Reverse Advent" mean? Instead of getting something each day of Advent, this project has us giving something (in this case, a food item). For more information, see the article on page 6.
- **Charlie Brown "Drive-in" Christmas program for families:** CtK's youth have always enjoyed helping the children have fun at their annual Christmas party, and this year they're taking the fun outside! Our youth will perform an entertaining outdoor version of the Charlie Brown Christmas program especially for our CtK children and families on Saturday, Dec. 19. For more details, please see the article on page 6.
- **Music on the web:** The Sanctuary Choir and Alleluia Ringers recently recorded a number of pieces for Advent and Christmas. Tune in to Worship on the Web to listen to their musical offerings of the season, including a traditional arrangement of "Silent Night" for Christmas Eve.
- **Christmas Eve worship: In order to make Christmas Eve as special as the evening "Silent Night" debuted, your CtK staff is planning for Drive-in Worship at 4 pm and 5:30 pm, complete with a parking lot ringed in light.** Bring your own battery-operated candle for "Silent Night" or pick from our small cache of extras. Dress warmly and prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a new way. See page 3 to learn how you can help bring light to our parking lot and joy to the world on Christmas Eve.

I don't know whether any of these "necessary adaptations" will become as beloved or as long lasting as "Silent Night." But I do know we are pulling together to make the upcoming seasons of Advent and Christmas as meaningful as possible. And I also know that, however we celebrate, Christmas Eve will still be a silent and holy night.

*Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.*



Joy to the world!
Pastor Caroline

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE 2020

Christ the King will offer its annual Blue Christmas service in mid-December. Blue Christmas is a contemplative service filled with prayer, quiet music, candle lighting, and a reflection by Pastor Brad. The service will be entirely virtual this year, so watch for additional information about how you can tune in via the Friday e-newsletters and the CtK website.

This year has certainly been difficult for many of us, our families, and our friends. The Blue Christmas service is a special hour of worship set aside for us to grieve our losses, manage our frustrations, and begin to let go of those things we once hoped for but maybe did not receive. Oftentimes, the only way to process our pain is to walk through it. At CtK, we believe that no one should have to walk that journey alone. In the midst of all the usual holiday cheer and festivity, soothe your tender spirit with God's gift of honest lament.

Please, join us for CtK's Service of Blue Christmas. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVE LUMINARY PROJECT

Let's light up the world...or at least the parking lot!

In an effort to make this Christmas Eve memorable, even in the parking lot, the pastors and staff are planning to assemble hundreds of luminaries. Here's how you can help:

- Donate funds on the CtK website. Click the "Give to CtK" button and, on the drop-down menu, choose "Luminaries."
- Assemble the luminaries after Drive-in Worship on December 13, with a rain date of December 20. This activity will happen outside. Please wear a mask and maintain social distance.
- Place and light the luminaries on Christmas Eve, beginning at 2 pm.
- Clean up Saturday, December 26, beginning at 10 am. Hot chocolate will be provided.

Sign up to help on December 13 (rain date of December 20), December 24, and/or December 26 by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/CtKLuminaries>.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5

THANK YOU FROM HILLARY

I would like to take a moment to thank all of our wonderfully dedicated volunteer musicians at Christ the King. The Sanctuary Choir, Alleluia Ringers, and Xalt! faced many challenges during the pandemic, but together, we found ways to keep the song of Christ's church alive. I appreciate your flexibility, your patience, and your willingness to find alternative ways to do the things we've always done. For spending evenings in the sanctuary recording music for Worship on the Web, for insisting we check in with each other via Zoom during the spring shutdown, for withstanding the chilly fall air during outdoor choir rehearsals, for providing contemporary music for Drive-In Worship, and for adapting to new rehearsal procedures in order to keep everyone as safe as possible... THANK YOU.

And, of course, a very special thank you to my musical partners in ministry: to pianist, organist, and accompanist Bev Butler, and to Christina Beasley, our talented intern from Sacred Music at Notre Dame. I give thanks for each of you!

And, to all of YOU—the faithful congregation that is CtK—for tuning in to Worship on the Web in your jammies while singing along with the hymns between sips of coffee, or for those of you who belt out the morning's hymns from your cars during Drive-In Worship: a big THANK YOU to all of you as well. The musical tapestry of CtK would not be complete without your voices.

Although the next few months remain uncertain, I have faith that we will continue to work together to serve our congregation, the ELCA, and the Michiana community by making music that inspires, comforts, challenges, and brings hope to those who may have temporarily lost their voice or their will to sing. In both our praise and lament, let us continue to give thanks to God for entrusting creation with the good gifts of music and the arts.

Peace to you,

Hillary Doerries

Director of Music Ministries

FRESH HOPE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SEEKS NEW FACILITATORS

It is hard to believe that *Fresh Hope for Mental Health*, CtK's weekly support group for people living with a mental health challenge and their loved ones, has existed a little less than a year. *Fresh Hope* has had its own challenges in 2020. We mourned the loss of our dear friend and *Fresh Hope* facilitator, Allen Boehnlein. We switched over to a virtual meeting platform just weeks after the group began in mid-February. We grieved with those in our group who lost jobs in the early months of the pandemic, and we rejoiced together as we learned of their newfound employment.

If *Fresh Hope* can withstand these kinds of challenges in its very first year, I can only imagine the possibilities that 2021 has in store for us and this ministry. I would like to take this moment to remind you that *Fresh Hope* is open to all people, not just members of our congregation. There is no fee to attend, and the registration process could not be any simpler. We currently meet weekly on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in Van Oort Hall. All meetings are confidential.

If you or someone you care about is struggling with a mental health problem, please consider *Fresh Hope* as a component of your journey toward healing and recovery. With the holidays rapidly approaching, don't wait. Instead, when in doubt, reach out. No one should have to face the challenges the holidays can bring by themselves. The kind, supportive people in *Fresh Hope* can walk with you and listen as you process your experiences.

Furthermore, if you are interested in becoming a facilitator for *Fresh Hope*, we would love the opportunity to speak with you and provide you with more details about facilitator training. For more information, please feel free to reach out to me, Pastor Brad, or another *Fresh Hope* facilitator at any time.

Wishing you grace, peace, and wellness,

Hillary Doerries

Fresh Hope facilitator

FELLOWSHIP PLANS FOR 2021

The Fellowship Committee is excitedly planning events for 2021. Mark your calendars with the dates below, and look for additional information in the January *King's Herald*:

- Friday, January 26, 7-8 pm: **COVID Canvas**
Join our very own Kristen Workman as she leads an art class over Zoom. This is an event for any age or artist level.
- Friday, February 26, 7 pm: **CtK Virtual Talent Show**
Do you have a talent you want to share with your friends at CtK? We will be recording performances in January for the CtK virtual watch party.
- Friday, April 16, 7 pm: **Trivia Night**
Get your friends together to create a virtual trivia team.
- Sunday, May 23, after worship: **Pentecost Picnic**
Bring your own picnic and join your CtK family for lunch.
- Summer date to be announced: **South Bend Cubs Game**
- Fall date to be announced: **Bendix Woods Hayride**
- Friday, December 3: **CtK Cultural Gala**
Are you an artist or crafter? Please consider sharing your talent with CtK at the Cultural Gala. Want to sell your art? This is your chance. This will be an evening to remember, as we enjoy hors d'oeuvres and fine art created by our own CtK members.

HAPPENING AT CTK



Starting December 6— “What Camp Are You In?: Your Theology in 66 Verses”

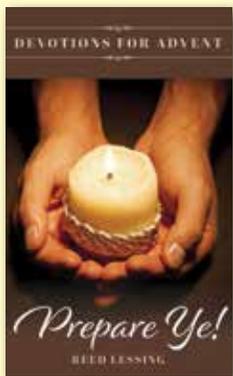
Curious about the Bible and its meaning in your life? Looking for ways to deepen your faith practices this Advent and beyond? Seeking new opportunities to connect with others at Ctk?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, please join Pastor Brad for “What Camp Are You In?: Your Theology in 66 Verses.” In this new class series, we’ll read our way through the Bible, one book at a time. As we finish each book, we’ll select and record the one verse in the book that best reflects the very heart of our faith. Ideally, by the time we finish all 66 books of the Bible, we’ll each know

what theological “camp” we are in (God camp, Jesus camp, or Holy Spirit camp), plus we’ll be able to articulate how knowing this has shaped and will continue to shape our lives of faith.

We’ll kick things off on Sunday, December 6, with the Old Testament book of Genesis. Join us from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm via Zoom (meeting ID: 840 2746 8346; passcode: 243056). Our second meeting will be on Sunday, December 20, when we’ll take a closer look at Exodus.

All are welcome! For more information (including Zoom links), please contact Sarah Felde at sfelde@ctkluth.com.



Advent Devotionals Now Available

Starting November 29, free copies of *Prepare Ye!: Devotions for Advent* will be available to the congregation. Each daily reflection focuses on the history and meaning of a beloved hymn or carol sung in the weeks leading

up to Christmas. Each reflection also includes a related scripture reading and prayer.

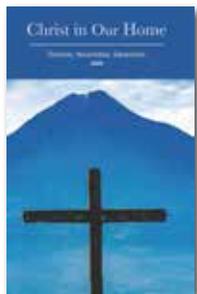
Copies of *Prepare Ye!* can be found in a box in the front office vestibule. You can also request a devotional at Drive-in Worship or by contacting the church office.

Take-Home Sunday School: Advent Edition

It’s a new month—and a new church season—which means it’s time for the next edition of Take-Home Sunday School!

Starting Sunday, November 29, all families with kids grade 5 and younger are welcome to pick up the Sunday school kit for December. In addition to Bible stories and activity recommendations, this month’s kit contains craft supplies, an interactive Advent calendar, and other surprises.

Pick up a kit at Drive-in Worship, grab one in the front office vestibule anytime, or contact Sarah Felde (sfelde@ctkluth.com) to make arrangements for delivery.



Booklets Available

The *Christ in Our Home* booklet for October, November, and December is now available.

Copies can be found in a box in the front office vestibule or in the narthex vestibule. If you aren’t able to leave your home, please contact **Geoff Layman** at (574) 302.1070 or glayman@nd.edu, and he will make sure a member of “God’s Army” delivers one to you.

HAPPENING AT CtK

Prayer Bead Kits

As mentioned in Pastor Caroline's cover article, the December sermon series will focus on different prayer practices—including the use of prayer beads.

To help you get started with this practice, kits for making your own Lutheran prayer beads will be available beginning December 6. Pick up a kit at Drive-in Worship, grab one from the front office vestibule, or contact the church office or Sarah Felde for alternate arrangements.

Charlie Brown Drive-in Christmas Program for Families

Families, mark your calendars for Saturday, December 19, at 2:00 pm, for an entertaining outdoor version of the much-loved Charlie Brown Christmas, performed live by our CtK youth!

We'll use the new platform under the canopy as our stage, so you can either park and watch the show from your car, or bring chairs, bundle up, and sit a bit closer to the action. (Distancing and masks required!) Hot chocolate and other Christmas treats will also be provided.

Come and join us for a new and different way to celebrate Christmas this year! For more information, please contact Faith Jordan at tfjordan3@comcast.net.



“Reverse Advent” Food Drive

CtK's youth are sponsoring a “Reverse Advent” Food Drive from November 29 through Christmas Day—and we invite everyone in the congregation to join us in this effort to help families in our community.

What does “Reverse Advent” mean? Instead of getting something each day of Advent, the “Reverse Advent” project has us giving something (in this case, a food item) each day.

You may want to collect your items in a Christmas bag or wrapped box, but any container will do. When completed, bring your donations to CtK, and the youth will get them to Clay Food Pantry after Christmas.

We've compiled a list of Clay's most-needed food items for your convenience. Feel free to add them to your collection in the order shown, or in whatever order you choose. For more information, please contact Faith Jordan or Jill Harms.

1. Cereal
2. Oatmeal
3. Bottle of juice
4. Coffee
5. Coffee creamer
6. Pancake mix
7. Pancake syrup
8. Jelly
9. Mac and cheese
10. Soup
11. Ramen noodles
12. Mayo
13. Barbecue sauce
14. Ketchup
15. Italian or Western salad dressing
16. Shortening or olive oil
17. Instant mashed potatoes
18. Boxed stuffing mix
19. Boxed scalloped potatoes
20. Boxed hash browns
21. Noodles
22. Cornbread mix
23. Canned pineapple
24. Canned tuna
25. Canned chicken
26. Cake mix
27. Cake icing
28. Brownie mix
29. Hot chocolate
30. Marshmallows

HAPPENING AT CtK



Please uphold Sharon Esmont in prayer at the death of her son, Kenny.

Please uphold in prayer Janis and Greg Exner

and Brian Exner at the death of Janis' father and Brian's grandfather, Wayne Nelson.

Please uphold in prayer Jill and Paul Knutson at the death of Jill's mother, Betty Povlin.

Please uphold in prayer Steve and Lori Huddleston and family at the death of Steve's mother, Edna Huddleston. Also grieving is Edna's grandson, Steven, and his wife, Amanda.

Children's Christmas Party—Now Via Zoom!

CtK's Children's Christmas Party is an annual tradition. Although we can't gather in person this year, we won't let COVID ruin our fun!

On Saturday, December 5, all kids grade 5 and younger are invited to a Zoom-based Christmas celebration. Starting at 1:00 pm, we'll gather online for stories, games, songs, and perhaps even some special guests!

Families, please watch your email and the CtK Facebook pages for more information, including a Zoom link. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Sarah Felde. See you on December 5!



Congratulations

Congratulations to **Swanson Traditional School** for receiving a \$2,500 mission grant to help with their technological needs in the time of COVID.

Thank you!

Thank you for your generosity this holiday season. Because of your support, CtK was able to assist Clay Food Pantry in supplying Thanksgiving dinner to those in need. We also provided over 200 angel tree gifts to be distributed to individuals throughout our community. Again, many thanks to all who contributed!



Online Prayer Requests

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. — Philippians 4:6

Prayer requests may now be made online at www.ctluth.com. The names of those on our prayer list will be published (if the requester grants permission) each week in the worship folder. Names will be printed for four weeks per request.

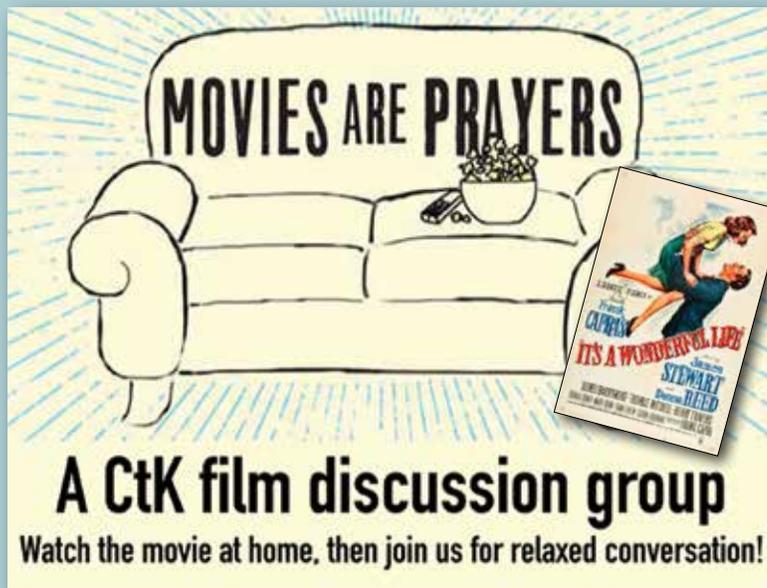
If prayers should continue beyond four weeks, please fill out another request form on the web.

HAPPENING AT CtK

Parsing Scripture with Pastor Steve (PS2)

Join **Pastor Steve** for a closer look at the Scripture readings **Mondays at 7 pm**, either by using the computer for a video conference, or by calling in and participating over the phone.

Connect at www.ctkluth.com/ps2.



CtK Movie Club

Do you love watching (and talking about) movies? Do you want to form meaningful relationships with other CtK members through relaxed conversation? If so, join the CtK Movie Club on **Saturday, December 19, at 10 am**. The group will discuss **It's a Wonderful Life**, which is currently streaming on Amazon Prime, available from local libraries, or can be borrowed from the church office.

Using film critic Josh Larsen's book *Movies Are Prayers* as a guide, the group meets monthly.

The films are not inherently religious (and some are rated R), but they all have thought-provoking messages about how we, as imperfect people, seek to find our place in the world and understand it better. More information is available on our website.

Attention Families: Please Join Our Facebook Group!

All families with kids grade 5 and younger are invited to join our new Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctkluthkids>.

Our goal is to use the group as a place to pass along important information, share fun ideas, and allow kids and families to stay in touch during COVID and beyond. Staff will add new content each week, but everyone is welcome to comment and/or post! Come join the conversation!

Please note that this is a closed group, so only other families from CtK will be able to see posted content. Also, all membership requests will be approved by CtK staff as an extra check to keep us safe and secure online.



HAPPENING AT CtK

Christmas Donations for ELCA Good Gifts

CtK members and their families will not be celebrating Christmas in the Sanctuary this year because of Covid-19 restrictions. Instead of the usual purchase of poinsettias to decorate the church, the Worship Committee is proposing donations be made to support the ELCA Good Gifts program.

All money collected will go toward funding the purchase of the Good Gifts described below. Donations can be made online; go to www.ctkluth.com, select "Give to CtK," then enter the amount in the "ELCA Good Gifts" category. You can also donate by check. Make your check out to CtK, write "ELCA Good Gifts" in the memo line, then place your check in the Sunday collection basket, drop it off during the week, or mail it to the church office.

Thank you for your generosity during the Christmas season!

Goat and flock of chicks: \$60

When chicks become chickens, their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals—they can also help start a small business and generate a steady source of income.

Goats are able to survive in some of the world's most challenging terrain and unreliable climates. Their milk provides daily nutrition for children and their families. Plus, goats are incredibly quick to reproduce, which means they provide an opportunity for families to pass the gift on to others.

Piglet: \$30

Pigs are a source of natural fertilizer to add to crops. Funds from taking a pig to market can be used to pay school fees for children or cover an emergency trip to the clinic.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): \$25

Workers on the front line of the pandemic are in dire need of face masks, gloves, and disinfectant. This gift cares for the caretakers, making sure they are protected as they put themselves at risk to serve others.



HAPPENING AT CtK



Crib Club Update

Thank you, members of CtK, for recent donations to the Women's Care Center Crib Club, including a beautiful pink handmade blanket, head-to-toe lotion, hand and face wipes, a large bag for a mom, and diapers and pull-ups.

As far as loose diapers and pull-ups, please note that the WCC and other local charities will not accept these items. All packages of diapers and pull-ups must be unopened. The charities I contacted suggested that people just give loose diapers to individuals that they know. All opened packages of diapers received at CtK have been placed in our nursery for future use.

Thanks to all for your continued support,

Sandy Whiteman

CtK BUSINESS UPDATE

FINANCIAL GIVING STATEMENT - OCTOBER 31, 2020

Summary of Missional/Charitable Gifts	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
ELCA Mission Work	\$335	\$2,945
Community Mission	\$1,016	\$87,885
International Mission	\$8	\$23,656
INTO Mission Fund	\$10	\$5,009
Seminary Fund	\$165	\$11,689
CMG	\$365	\$66,772
Sunday School	\$ -	\$7,692
Youth Activities	\$8	\$24,995
		<u>\$230,643</u>

Operating Outlook *(Monies used to pay benevolence to I/K Synod, utilities, staff salaries, and programming expenses)*

	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$37,381	\$603,605
Expenditures	\$45,667	\$492,478
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$8,286)	\$111,127

	<u>TOTAL</u>
Trust Memorial Fund	\$4,124
Trust Endowment Fund	<u>\$121,135</u>
Total	\$125,259

October Loose Offerings

Hope Mission	\$296
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WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Stewardship of Life Committee

At last year's annual meeting, the congregation approved increasing our General Fund giving to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod from 10% to 10.5%. However, a question was raised concerning how our broader church uses these funds. The following is a brief answer to that question, told with numbers and stories.

Indiana-Kentucky Synod

- The total budget for the I-K Synod in 2020 is about \$2.5 million. (For a detailed, line-item budget, go to <https://iksynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2019-20-Budget-SA-Approved.pdf>.)
- About 80% of this budget (roughly \$2 million) is provided by CtK and its 169 sister congregations in the synod. Most of these congregations are small, with an average weekly worship attendance of 50 or fewer.
- CtK gave about \$63,000 to the synod in 2019. This is the fourth-highest amount of all churches in the synod.
- Approximately 43% of the I-K Synod's income is sent to the ELCA. Staff compensation and administrative costs make up most of the rest of the budget.
- Synod staff consists of Bishop Bill Gafkjen, four additional pastors, one additional professional staff person, and four administrative support people. (Visit <https://iksynod.org/our-staff/> to see their pictures and learn more about their work.)
- In addition, the I-K Synod has Capital University, Wittenberg University, and Trinity Seminary within its territory. Some synod funds are sent to these schools, along with funds to support campus ministries at Butler, Ball State, Indiana University, Purdue, Kentucky, and Louisville.

ELCA

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) comprises about 9,000 congregations, organized into 65 synods. These synods fund about 61% of the 2020 ELCA budget, which is roughly \$68.4 million. (Go to <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Financial> to access the ELCA Churchwide Budget for 2020-2022.)
- In addition, the ELCA oversees the ELCA World Hunger program, which has a budget of \$21.5 million, funded primarily by direct gifts.
- The two budgets are combined, then organized into major expenditure categories, including (but not limited to) the following:
 - ◆ *Growing the ELCA in the United States: About \$17.5 million*
 - ◆ *Providing relief and development to help end world hunger: About \$16 million*
 - ◆ *Growing the Lutheran church around the world: About \$12.5 million*
 - ◆ *Providing coordination and support for churchwide ministries: About \$11.3 million*
 - ◆ *Supporting and developing current and future leaders in the ELCA: About \$10.8 million*



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Executive Director

Alexandra Sobieski

Director of Operations

Deborah Campoli

Business Director

Don Zervas

Professional counselors available by appointment.



*"...[For] God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather
a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."
2 Timothy 1:7*



With the above words of holy encouragement ringing in our ears, this is how we as Christ the King will continue to proclaim God's love and grace, connect with each other in spite of "social distancing," and serve one another and the world around us. We have created a "new normal" by providing many different virtual opportunities to stay connected to CtK.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

There are two ways you can worship with fellow CtK members and guests each Sunday: Drive-in Worship in the parking lot at 9:30 a.m. or Holy Communion under the canopy at 11:15 a.m. Visit ctkluth.com for more information.

WORSHIP ON THE WEB

We invite everyone to join us each Sunday either at their regularly scheduled worship time or any time during the day or week to celebrate worship. Visit www.ctkluth.com/worship to find a worship video, the worship folder for Sunday's service, Taking Faith Home questions for discussion, and an online donation link to continue your tradition of giving at worship.

WAYS TO CONNECT

Some groups and studies are meeting in person, and some continue to meet via Zoom (a free service that allows participants to "meet" through the Internet). Please visit www.ctkluth.com or call the church office for more information.