Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates!

See page 4 for a list of CTK graduates and how we ministered to them during this Covid-19 pandemic.
CTK has been doing vital ministry since we suspended on-site worship services on March 15. The staff has attempted to reach out by phone, postcard, or email as way to offer support, care, and prayer. Most of the staff have been working remotely from their homes during this time. Our worship services on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening are live-streamed. Thank you for inviting us to bring “God’s Good News” to you every week!

CTK’s council leadership is drafting a tentative plan for reopening our building for us to safely gather together. We are looking forward to the time when we can worship together again in person. We have learned in a new way what the church is really about, a caring community of relationships, centered on the grace and love of Jesus Christ. We will be sending out a copy of the “reopening plan” to you in the next few weeks. The plan is based on our mission which God has called us to be. In addition, we will use data from the department of Health, the CDC, guidance from our bishop, and the Governor’s office. Unfortunately, specific dates will not be included in the plan. We know that every plan is subject to change as we live in unprecedented times, but God’s love remains the same.

5 Wishes & Celebration of Life Service, by Pastor Audrey

COVID-19 has put me once again in touch with my own mortality. The different churches I have served as interim pastor, I have led forums on Advance Directives and Funeral Planning. My training and work in chaplaincy, palliative care, and hospice have provided me the opportunity to witness the gift that people have passed on to their loved ones when they have shared their end-of-life wishes and funeral/memorial plans. The best time to pull together these wishes are when one is not dealing with a health crisis. Please call the church office or sign up on the website for the forums as these will be done via Zoom. I am also available for an individual conversation by phone if you prefer. “Five Wishes” is an advance health care directive that considers the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual care of the person and is user friendly. Copies of “Five-Wishes” are available from the church. Please know you can sign up for one or both classes.

⇒ “Five Wishes”-Advance Healthcare Directive Sunday, June 14 4:00-5:00 p.m.
⇒ Celebration of Life-Funeral/Memorial Service Planning Sunday, June 28 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Financial Update—from Chris Austin, Treasurer

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Give electronically here!
Holy Humor, By Pastor Tim

In Christian tradition, the Second Sunday of Easter is sometimes called Holy Humor Sunday or Bright Sunday. It was a feast day dedicated to sharing in the joy of the resurrection with parties and laughing even practical jokes on each other. The tradition is rooted in early church fathers musing that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. They sometimes referred to it as the “Easter laugh.” And while we did not participate in Holy Humor Sunday this year I think we could use a little more of it in our lives, especially now.

I don’t know about you, but it seems like humor has been in short supply in the last few months. Life has been so serious that it has been difficult to find time to laugh or indeed find anything to laugh at. But the Bible carries with it a great tradition of laughter and humor even in the midst of uncertainty or impossibility. When Sarah was told that she would still have a child in her old age what did she do? She laughed at the news. And then when she and Abraham had their son they named him Isaac, meaning “he laughs.”

That’s not all the Bible has to offer. The entire book of Jonah was written as a piece of satire, and when viewed in this way it is a very funny book. God tells his own prophet, you know, a man of God to deliver a message. So what does Jonah immediately do? He says, “Nope!” and runs away! However, he doesn’t just try to run away, he tries to run away to the furthest place he can think of. He tries to run away to place he thinks that God won’t be. As if there is somewhere on earth God isn’t. Some prophet! The story only gets more absurd from there with non-Hebrew sailors having more faith than Jonah (the prophet), being eaten and spit up by a fish, the entire city of Nineveh instantly repenting (even the cows!), Jonah somehow being unhappy with the results, and a worm eating Jonah’s plant he was using for shade. Go read it! The book of Jonah is wonderfully whimsical and humorous. There is much more humor in the Bible to be found. The Bible is full of stories of faulty humans, how can it not be funny?

Joy and humor are created by God and God delights in them. During this time of pandemic, when life is serious and coming at us fast take some time to laugh. Find joy, humor, and absurdity every day. Find the joy that God has given to us. Share the joy of the resurrection. We need it now more than ever.
I get out to golf whenever the weather is good. My kids come with their lawn chairs and I stay on the patio – keeping appropriate distancing – and we have great family time together. I sure miss all you folks at Christ the King. It’s not been easy – having to stay confined to our rooms all the time.

Those are just some of the comments I’ve heard in the recent phone calls I’ve been making as part of our pastoral care ministry. Even though the way in which we do that part of our ministry has had to change dramatically, we continue to do our best to stay in touch with as many of you as possible, especially those who are going through particularly challenging times during the pandemic. Initially after the stay at home order was given, we attempted to reach out to all members either through a phone call or email. As you can imagine, in a congregation the size of Christ the King we were not 100% successful in reaching every single member.

Families who have been impacted by the loss of a loved-one during this time have had to delay making funeral arrangements and have not been able to gather with all their family members or friends and that has made their feeling of loss even more significant. On behalf of Pastor Audrey, Pastor Tim, Deacon Billie Jo and the members of the Visitation Ministry Team, I want to assure you that we are available in whatever way is appropriate at this time to provide whatever pastoral care you may need. If you, or someone you know could use a phone call from one of us, please contact any of us individually, or call the church office at 345-5056.

Congrats to the Graduates! From, Deacon Billie Jo

Christ the King is happy to celebrate our 2020 High School Graduates this spring. Thirty-six high school seniors are associated with CTK from six different schools. As a special social-distant surprise, CTK member Kate Hansen of Blue Sun Designs worked with Deacon Billie Jo to create personalized yard signs for each of our 2020 grads that were delivered by Pastor Audrey, Pastor Tim and myself. The CTK quilters were hard at work making sure we had a lovely array of quilts for the graduates to select from. Graduates were invited in to select a quilt of their choice from a display set-up in the community room where we could maintain social-distancing. Our worship service on Sunday, June 7th will honor our graduates and include a slideshow highlighting each of them. Congratulations, Class of 2020! We wish you well and pray God’s blessings on your future. CTK 2020 graduates include...

Aaron Brennan
Abby Weiler
Alison Brunmeier
Allie Wiens
Andrew Flowers
Benjamin Maes
Brandon Schendel
Brody Lucas
Carter Dahl
Cassie Thompson
Claire Hemstock
Desiree Aguillon
Elizabeth Boswell
Emily Eckheart
Freya Gordon
Griffin Gartzke
Hannah Danks
Isaac Turner
Ivy Fossen
Jacob Busch
Jett Oachs
Katelynne Kratz
Katie Roberts
Kaylee Oachs
Kiera Froehlich
Kylie Andresen
Macy Sisco
Magen Dittbenner
Matthew Warnke
Mikayla Grunst
Noah Fields
Payton Pendergast
Rachel Sievers
Sophie Boswell
Teegan Jass
William Bergs

Church Council Seeks New Leaders...
Now is a great time to jump in!

A Message from Shannon Sinning, Council President

We have four Council members with terms expiring at the end of June. If you have interest in helping lead CTK out of this pandemic and on a new journey with (hopefully) a new senior pastor in the next few months, please email me. You don’t need previous experience on a Board or Council. We just need people with passion! This is an exciting time for Christ the King and we’d love for you to be part of mapping it out! Please send me an email if you or someone you know has interest in serving on our Council or one of the various Commissions. We’d love to have you, and are also open to your nominations!
Call Committee Update

Dear Congregants,

Greetings from your Senior Pastor Call Committee. We pray that this message finds you in good health as we look forward to the time when we can see you all at church.

Please consider this the fifth of our updates which will continue to be monthly at a minimum. With our ability to gather in person still hindered, please feel free to contact us at our email addresses if you have any comments and/or questions. Remember while we will do our best to make all aware "where we are" and "where we shall be going", some matters must remain confidential.

We reviewed the Rostered Minister Profiles submitted to us by the Synod and interviewed those candidates we believed the Spirit has call us to do so. In preparation thereof, we watched sermons, read what is happening at their present congregations and reviewed additional information submitted by the candidates. God has chosen for us to wait for that Gentle Shepherd as no candidate remains after completion of the above process.

We move forward to find that Gentle Shepherd who the congregation has said meets our needs at this time. To that end we wait on new names to be submitted by to Synod. Further, WE INVITE YOU ONCE AGAIN TO SUBMIT CANDIDATES. PLEASE USE THE SYNOD NOMINATION FORM THAT CAN BE FOUND HERE OR, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY PHONE OR WRITTEN FORM. CONGREGATION NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN THROUGH JUNE 15th.

Your Call Committee continues to "meet" by way of email, text and google. This work is just foundation for our weekly meetings on Thursdays by Zoom. If you are not aware of Zoom, it affords us the opportunity to "video" conference as a substitute for our in person meetings.

We ask all for your prayers as we enter this phase of the Call process. The Call Committee prays that you all will be safe and healthy,

Todd Lundquist, Chairperson
Andrea Petzel, Vice Chairperson
Kate Hansen, Secretary
Amy Baack
Darcie Jacobs
Tyler Maas
Dan Rickbeil
Jim Hatleli, Alternate
Di Storvick, Alternate
Nancy Patterson, Council Liaison

Cultivating Resilience June Topics

You are invited to join the last few weeks of Pastor Audrey’s forum on Cultivating Resilience. This Zoom offering will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Topics for the these last few classes are listed below. Sign up online here.

6/1 Acceptance  6/8 Purpose and Meaning  6/15 Forgiveness  6/22 Play  6/29 Prayer & Meditation

Operation Stockings Are Hung Personal Hygiene Drive

Our personal hygiene drive initiative for our Christmas Stocking 2020 project was put on hold this spring due to COVID-19 and physical distancing, but we have come up with a creative way for you to still contribute without leaving your home! Simply visit the CTKmankato.org and click on the link for the personal hygiene drive to be connected to an Amazon Wish List. There you will find suggestions for shampoos, toothbrushes, and other personal care items that you can purchase and have shipped directly to CTK. Of course if you already have items to donate or choose to pick some up locally with your grocery order, we will happy to have you drop them off after our stay-at-home order expires.

Have you heard of Amazon Smile? Go to AmazonSmile.com and shop Amazon as you usually would. When you check out, select Christ the King Lutheran Church in Mankato and we’ll receive 5% of your order, every time you shop... free for you, money for us. It’s a win win! All proceeds received before December 1st will go toward Operation “Stockings Are Hung”.
With Christ in the School of Prayer, by Pastor Donohue

With Christ in the School of Prayer – Fifteenth Lesson – by Andrew Murray (pages 107-122)

If two agree or The Power of United Prayer

“Again I say to you, That if two shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:19-20

One of the first lessons of our Lord in His school of prayer was, not to be seen of others. Enter your inner chamber; be alone with the Father. When He has thus taught us that the meaning of prayer is personal individual contact with God, He comes with a second lesson: You have need not only of secret solitary, but also of public united prayer. And He gives us a very special promise for the united prayer of two or three who agree in what they ask. As a tree has its roots hidden in the ground and its stem growing up into the sunlight, so prayer needs equally for its full development the hidden secrecy in which the soul meets God alone, and the public fellowship with those who find in the name of Jesus their common meeting place. (Add’l note from Pastor Don: Prayer can never be shut down by the government, the Devil or any other power on earth. It is an open invitation to those willing to use it. This pandemic imposed isolation is an excellent time to discover the broad dimensions of prayer.)

Property Committee Resurrected

Over 10 members have signed up to assist in the re-creation of a property committee here at Christ the King. They are in the process of identifying key areas in and outside the church building that needs some attention, many projects that can be accomplished by volunteers. Please watch the CTK web page as the projects will be posted and see how you might volunteer.

Pastoral Care Ministry Practices at CTK

Christ the King Lutheran Church is blessed to have 3 pastors and 1 deacon who have been invited to provide pastoral care to its members and their loved ones. Pastors and Deacons are called to be reminders of God’s presence with the people they serve. We are humbled by the trust that is shared when we are invited to walk with you along your journey in life and officiate at sacred rituals and sacraments offered by church, i.e. baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

As we become aware of a pastoral care need here at Christ the King, the pastoral care team (Pastor Audrey, Pastor Tim, Pastor John, and Deacon Billie Jo), will collaborate, review team member’s availability, and determine who will take the primary role to ensure your pastoral care needs are met. Funerals and weddings will normally be rotated within the pastoral care team. Baptisms are conducted during the worship setting, with the presiding pastor performing the baptism. Funeral services will normally include two members of the pastoral care team when services are held again at the church. Again, thank you for the opportunity to walk with you as you navigate the joys and challenges encountered all through life.

Parish News

We congratulate Tenley Jo Block, daughter of Joe and Emily, who was baptized on Pentecost Sunday, May 31st.

Sincere Christian Sympathy to…

- Jodi Maas and family upon the death of her father, Les Eager, who passed away on April 16th.
- Marjorie Schmidt and family upon the death of her brother, Allen Kewitsch, who passed away on March 30th.
- The family of Leon Depuydt who passed away on May 2nd.
- Larry & Pam Anderson and family upon the death of her brother, who passed away on May 10th.
- Margo Ferley and family upon the death of her husband, Gaylen, who passed away on May 14th.
- Craig and Christie Johnson & family upon the death of Craig’s dad Ben Johnson, who passed away May 24th.

Bruce Iverson served as a part-time youth worker at Christ the King from 1977-1979. Members of Christ the King who were here at that time and remember Bruce, are encouraged to send him retirement greetings after serving 35 years as a pastor. He was ordained at Christ the King on July 21, 1985. Greetings and memories may be sent to him at 226 22nd St. N, La Crosse, WI 54601. Due to the pandemic, a proper send off was cancelled.
Father’s Day Dignity Drive for the Echo Food Shelf

Thank you to everyone who donated to the May ECHO Food Shelf Dignity Drive. We filled the truck with 342 pounds of personal care supplies and $105 in cash donations that were delivered the next morning. :)

Our next Fill the Truck event is Father’s Day, Sunday June 21, from 10:30am-2pm at the Pfau Street Entrance. In case of rain, we’ll pull the truck under the car port on McConnell St.

If you are a son or daughter, say "thank you" to your dad with a donation to ECHO in his name this Father’s Day. If you are a dad, here’s a great opportunity to be an example for your kids. Spend some time with them selecting personal care items as a Father’s Day gift for dads who needs them. When you drop them off at the church, there will be an Honor Wall where you or your kids can add Dad’s name and the number of items donated in his honor. The bins and cards for the Honor Wall will be available at the Pfau Street entrance from 9am-noon Mon – Fri beginning June 1st.

Here is the list of items that ECHO dads could use:
- Bar soap
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Deodorant/Antiperspirant
- Hand Soap
- Hand Sanitizer

Baptisms at Christ the King

During this time of physical distancing and uncertainty, we have been working hard find ways connect with our members and friends and meet the needs of our people. Knowing that many baptisms have been put on hold until we can gather again, but yet uncertain of when we may be able to gather again, we have come up with a plan for those interested in having their child baptized.

Option 1-continue to wait out the pandemic and plan to schedule a baptism at a later date when we can once again gather face-to-face for worship
Option 2-physical distance baptism with community recognition of baptism at a later date

We will be holding physical baptisms on the last Sunday of each month this summer and were pleased to first welcome Tenley Jo Block to the family of God on Sunday, May 31st. If you would like more details on a physically distance baptism, please contact Deacon Billie Jo for more information.

It is our joy and duty to walk this faith journey with parents and all members of our faith community. Together we celebrate new life! We want to support and lift up our families in any way we can.

Walking with you,
Deacon Billie Jo Wicks
Pastor Audrey Lukasak
Pastor Timothy Bowman

Attention: Our Summer Kids Musical has been cancelled due to the pandemic. See you at Christmas!

This—N—that

- Did you know? You can join any of our Zoom meetings by calling a phone number? Maybe you’d like to attend Coffee & Conversation on Tuesdays, or Pastor Audrey’s Five Wishes-Advance Care planning highlighted on page 2? Contact Amy in the church office and she’ll get you set up.
- Our May Red Cross blood drive collected 32 pints of blood! Great job! Mark your calendars for our next drive on Monday, July 13th.
- Pub Theology is taking a summer hiatus.
- The July/August/September issue of Christ in our Home and June issues of “Taking Faith Home” are now available at the Pfau St. entrance of the church.
- Thanks to all who joined our Sunday Coffee Fellowship Zoom in April and May. We are now breaking for the summer.
- VBS—see Wendy’s CTK Kids Page for exciting news about the Amazing Race VBS, the social distance version. We’re going family style!
VIRTUAL Weekly Worship Schedule
Wednesdays
6:00pm
Sundays
9:30am
Virtual Communion
1st & 3rd Sundays
Worship services are broadcast on
Charter channel 181
and
Consolidated Communications channel 7
Sundays at 3:00pm and Tuesdays at 10:00am

Contact the Staff

Christ the King’s Phone Number: 507-345-5056
Pastor Audrey Lukasak: ext. 23
Pastor Timothy Bowman: ext. 26
Pastor John Petersen: ext. 24
Billie Jo Wicks, Deacon of Faith Formation: ext. 19
Accounting Office: ext. 22
Al Lee, Technology Arts Director: ext. 36
Amy Olsen, Communications Director: ext. 21
Chuck Hoogland, Organist: ext. 25
Garrett Steinberg, Music Director: ext. 37
Ingrid Winkler, Ministry Support Assistant: ext. 1
Wendy Paulson, Director of Children’s Ministries: ext. 20

★ Deadline for Newsletter Articles Next Month: Monday, June 22nd ★
As of June 1, we do planning on having some form of Wacky-Doodle. It will look different, but will it be just as fun??? Oh, yeah!!! Mark your calendars and stay tuned!

August 31-Sept 3 / Times to be determined

Amazing adventures for kids in grades 5-7
CTK YOUTH

Some Highlights for Youth Grades 6-12

CLUB sessions may be out for the summer, but youth in (& around) grades 7, 8, &9 are invited to join us each Wednesday at 7 pm for CLUB Youth Group! Log into our zoom group for fun and fellowship. Together we have played virtual escape rooms, enjoyed a variety of Jack Box games, shared MANY laughs, bonded over our highs and lows, and prayed for ourselves, our families, our community and our world. https://tinyurl.com/ybc38lav

(VIRTUAL) VBS 2020

We are working on plans for social distant VBS and are looking for youth to help us make it possible. Please contact Deacon Billie Jo if you are interested in participating.

Sunday Night Young Adults at 8 pm
Group meets every other week and is geared toward high school & college students. June dates are Sundays the 14th and 28th
https://tinyurl.com/ydh6th2c

It is with a heavy heart that I announce that Mission: Mankato is postponed so it can be re-imagined for our current pandemic world. Look for more details in our July newsletter about a potential August or fall event.

MISSION: MANKATO
3 DAYS OF YOUTH-LED SERVICE IN THE MANKATO AREA