



# CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

402-733-3294

[ctklc-bellevue.org](http://ctklc-bellevue.org)

7308 South 42nd Street, Bellevue, NE 68147

ALL ARE WELCOME

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Christ the King Lutheran Church  
7308 South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Bellevue, Nebraska 68147  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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# Grace and Peace

*A message from Pastor Bryan*

We often hear that Christmas is stressful for some, lonely for others, and a spending mania for most. It doesn't have to be. Christmas is also a time when we look beyond ourselves and know deep down we want only the best for those closest to us and for all who are in need in our world. It is a time to hear again the familiar story of the birth of Jesus Christ; a time when we long for peace on earth and goodwill toward all people.

But Christmas is more than simply the celebration of the birth of a baby. The story takes us beyond the glitter and the garland and the lights to something much deeper.

Most of us experience a sense of awe and wonder when we stand at the foot of a crib and gaze on a newly born baby. When we see the manger scenes in the centers of our towns, we are once again moved by the memory of that experience. And as we feel it, we are invited to look beyond the baby, to catch a glimpse of God whose gift is hope; the hope of peace and goodwill, of beauty and love. We are invited to look beyond what we see, however bleak it might seem, to discover signs of goodness and beauty, of hope, and of joy wherever people are trying to do their best.

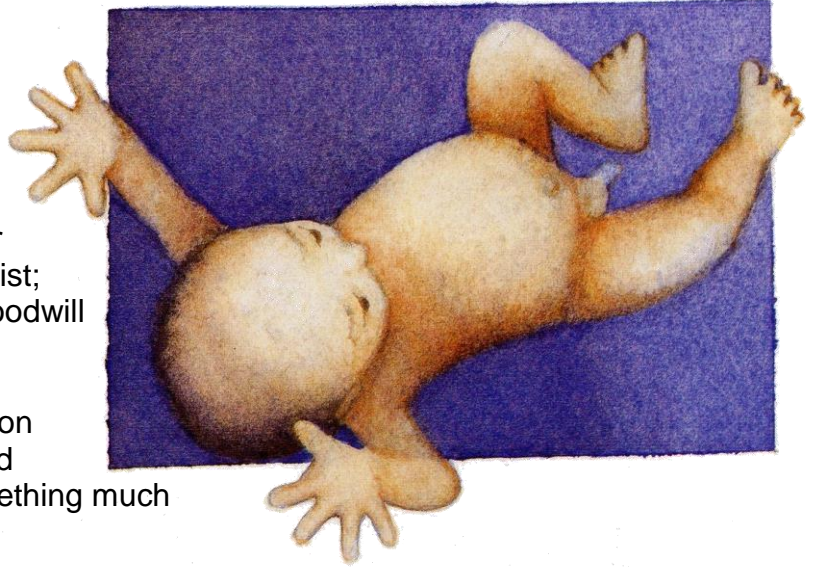
The Christmas story tells us about people trying to do their best in a pretty bleak situation--a couple forced to go to another town for a census, a man doing his best for the woman to whom he was engaged and who was very pregnant, but not by him--and an inn keeper trying to do his best for the couple when every room in town was filled to capacity. And, in this very human drama, the birth of a baby.

Then there is the astonishing invitation to the shepherds, an invitation to all of us, to go and see in the new-born child - the message of hope for all the earth - to see love and joy and goodness and beauty, the signs of God's presence on earth and the gift of hope for peace and goodwill for all people.

At times it is hard not to feel distressed when our best does not seem good enough: when things go wrong with our relationships despite our best intentions; when tragedy hits families or communities both near and far; when so much of our news is about violence, and about abusing others, and our environment.

Christmas is a time for looking beyond these hurts to see goodness and beauty in those around us; to look at tragedy and see the stories of kindness and compassion that carry with them the hope of life beyond the darkness; to look at the violence and see the efforts made to change these patterns and see in them signals of hope for a safer world; to look at our environment and see the beauty that is there and to hear the call for sound alternatives as signals of hope for our planet.

When we accept the invitation to look beyond the surface, we become open to signals of hope for ourselves, our families and our world. This is part of God's gift that is celebrated at Christmas, but it does not stop there. God invites us to look beyond.



# Grace and Peace *continued*

We must not let Christmas just be a passing day. Live in the spirit of Christmas each day. Reflect upon how to better treasure this gift each day by making prayer a critical part of your day, by continuing to read Scripture and the teachings of our Church, by having a stronger devotion to worship, by regularly making a self-examination of conscience, and looking out for those entrusted to our care and for those in need. May such reflection of the gift of Christmas, move us by God's grace to an even more intimate relationship with our Lord this coming year. May our souls be like the stable in Bethlehem where Christ first made his dwelling among us.

Lastly, as your pastor, I treasure the gift of you and the dedication, sacrifices, and hard work you have shown to make this congregation a fount of Christ's love. In particular, I thank those who serve in the various ministries of Christ the King. I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas! Please be assured of my prayers for your good health, and for God's abundant peace, joy, and love to be present in your lives each day of the New Year.

May God bless you in all things,



# Mission and Service *Reaching out in the community*

## Giving Tree

Humble and Kind is a new Bellevue non-profit created in June 2021 which evolved from a community closet project started by one of the teachers at Omaha South High School. The organization is committed to helping others during their times of need by providing clothing, food, furniture and household item assistance.

Consider taking an ornament from the tree in the entryway which lists items they most need.



# HUMBLE & KIND

# Annual Meeting

**Mark your calendar!**

**Christ the King's Annual Meeting is scheduled for  
January 22, 2023 at 11:15am**

*In case of inclement weather the meeting will be postponed to January 29, 2023.*

# Worship

## Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

It is once again time to place our orders for Christmas Poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. The price will be \$10 per plant. Elaine Vaag will be taking orders after Sunday morning services and online at [office@ctklc-bellevue.org](mailto:office@ctklc-bellevue.org) thru December 18. Please let us know if you want them designated for a special memorial or remembrance of someone.



## Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18, 2022



The Children's Christmas Program will be presented on Sunday, December 18 during worship. The picture to the left is a throwback from before the pandemic. Expect a traditional program this year.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

December 24  
5:00pm and 11:00pm



This is Christmas, after you hit the mall and deck the halls, join us at Christ the King to refresh your soul with a special service that will remind us all of the simple, profound and life-changing story of Christmas – the story of Jesus. The message of God's grace truly gives us reason to celebrate this season. Join us for a spiritually uplifting service.



## Mid-Month Breakfasts

Served 9am-10:30am  
December 10 and  
January 14

Start your weekend off with a nice breakfast and conversation with some friends at church. There is always hot coffee and good conversation.

## Chili Bowl Qualifier

11:15am January 15, 2023

- Each entrant will make a crockpot of chili.
- Judges will pick one winner from the following categories: "Mild", "Hot", and "Unusual".
- A "People's Choice" winner will be selected by those present. "Voting" will be done by people placing money into a voting receptacle for each entrant. There is no limit to the amount of money one may use to influence the outcome of the election.
- In the Chili Bowl the winners for each category will compete head to head; people's choice winners may be considered for any category.



## Congregational Lunch

January 22, following worship

Join us after worship for a Congregational Lunch featuring a Pasta and Salad Bar. A variety of toppings and sauces will be available for a variety of palates including our little ones who haven't made the jump to an adult meal.

January 29, 2023  
Following worship

Join us for a Fellowship Lunch at Don and Millie's after worship. We get a portion of the receipts to put toward the Capital Fund, so tell all your friends to go to Don and Millie's and say, "I'm with Christ the King!"



# Youth and Family

*Events for specific age*

If you have a young person in your life please encourage them to participate.  
We promise a welcoming space for all.

## Young Adults

*Post-High School*

### Christmas Gathering – December 18, 6pm

Take a break from the hectic time that is being a young adult and have some Christmas fun. Food and games at the Rice's! 13503 South 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. Get with Jocelyn for the details. There is a white elephant exchange so look for the details soon.



## Youth

*Grades 8-12 (2022-2023)*

### Lunch, Quilting and Games

#### December 31, 12:00 pm

12 hours before we cheer in the New Year join your friends at church for lunch and a little service and fun!

This is a group we really want to help grow together. We attend different schools but having people outside of school to help you grow your faith can be a huge asset. Just ask any of the people in the young adult group. We'd love to plan a summer trip for 2023 and it will be way more fun if we already enjoy being with one another.



## Intermediate

*Grades 5-7 (2022-2023)*

### St. Nicholas Party – December 3, 10am

We absolutely need some help with the younger ones at the party, but this will be a good time for everyone. We won't have you with the little ones all the time and it will be good to have some fun together.



## Elementary

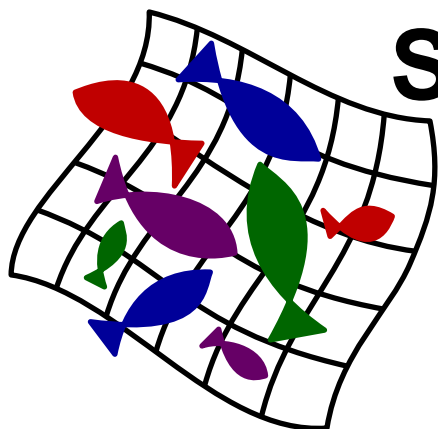
*Grades PreK – 4 (2022-2023)*

### St. Nicholas Party – December 3, 10am

There will be games, crafts, stories, Christmas songs, We'll be dipping pretzels! This is always a great time!



# Faith Formation *Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible Study*



## Sunday School and Confirmation

**Check the dates because they are a little different due to Christmas, New Year, and the Annual Meeting.**

We'll begin in the Sanctuary all together, then move to groups. For Sunday School ages kids, there is a Bible lesson, music, and an activity that reinforces the lesson. Confirmation this year will take us through Luther's Small Catechism.

### Date

December 11

**December 18**

January 8

November 27

### Sunday School

Jesus is Born

**KIDS LEAD WORSHIP!**

Fruits of the Spirit

How did Jesus Worship?

### Confirmation

The Apostles Creed

The Apostles Creed

## News and Information *from the Office*

### Electronic Giving

**Open your heart without opening your checkbook**

*Electronic Giving (Direct Debit)* is the term used to describe automatic methods for making contributions on a regular basis without the need to write checks, carry cash or prepare envelopes.

Christ the King offers the ability to give electronically. You can choose to give weekly, bi-monthly, monthly or in any way the Lord leads you. Many of our members enjoy the convenience of making utility or other payments electronically; why not give to the Church electronically?

If you have a bill paying feature on your checking account at your bank you can ask your bank to send your contribution in the same way they pay your bills. Or, if you don't, the church has a service that is simple, secure, and easy to set up.

This will help us in our giving when we miss a Sunday and help us to prioritize the Church in our finances and be good stewards of what God has entrusted us. It will also help us in being consistent and obedient in keeping with our commitments that we have made to the Lord.

Three benefits to *Electronic Giving*:

- 1) You are taking a step of faith – When you sign up to give electronically, you are deciding in advance to faithfully give.
- 2) You will simplify your life – You won't have to remember whether you gave this month or need to send in an offering by mail when you are on a trip.
- 3) You will be helping the church – Every person who gives through electronic giving makes our record keeping much easier and saves us from paying check deposit fees and it evens out cash flow.

# News and Information from the Office

## Have you made your PLEDGE for 2023 yet?

All good gifts ultimately come from God! All that we have comes from God's bountiful hand. It is so easy to forget that all-encompassing truth. Sometimes, we come to the place in our lives where we begin to believe that we are responsible for the things that we enjoy, that somehow the blessings which come into our lives "just happen" or come from nowhere. The Bible tells us that God owns everything and God provides gifts to all. According to the Scripture, God gives the seed, rain, health, life, strength, riches, grace and eternal life. God even gives us the ability to acquire wealth and the ability to enjoy it as special gifts.

As Christmas approaches and you think of all God has done for you, would you please prayerfully consider your participation in funding the regular operating expenses of the congregation? No, we can't match God's good gifts to us, but we can give to him who has so graciously given to us because we love him and because we want others to come to know him through this ministry.

We will be submitting a report to the council on our stewardship efforts in December so if you have any questions or would like to discuss your pledge, please email Laurel Wiegand at [lwiegand65@hotmail.com](mailto:lwiegand65@hotmail.com) or call 402-547-7978. We need your loving, generous, prayerful support.

## ECHO Prayer app

The Echo Prayer Manager is an app available for both Android and iPhone users. It is both cost and ad free. A simple explanation is that it is a closed group social media app. You are only connected to people in a group you are asked to join... not to the world. Christ the King has a "feed" that once you join you will have all of the up to date prayers of the congregation and you will be able to reach out to those requesting prayer through the comment option.



We are aware that not everyone has a smart phone and that not everyone who does will want to use this app. We will be sending out a weekly email to those who have asked to be on the "prayerchain" email list. If you would like more information on either the app or getting on the email list please contact Taylor in the office.

We want to emphasize that NOTHING replaces sharing joys and sorrows with friends with words you speak. Encouraging words spoken during the peace, at fellowship or other congregational events, and phone calls are vital to our spiritual life together. The goal is to connect more of us in prayer and in so doing, help us connect to God.

## Church Calendar

The church calendar for beyond what is published in the newsletter is available on the congregation website - <https://ctklc-bellevue.org/calendar/>. Here you will see congregational events (green) and community use of our building (red). Hall rentals are not listed here.

If would like to subscribe to the Congregational Events calendar on your iCalendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/ctklcbellevue%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

If would like to subscribe to the Congregational Events calendar on your personal Google calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ctklcbellevue%40gmail.com&ctz=America%2FChicago>



# December 2022 & January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6pm Fitness Club	2	3 10am St. Nicholas Party
4 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	5 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	6 9am Quilting	7 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	8 6pm Fitness Club	9	10 9am Mid-Month Breakfast
11 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education 5:30pm Council	12 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	13	14 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	15 6pm Fitness Club	16	17
18 9am Adult Study 10am <b>Children's Christmas Worship</b> 11:15am Fellowship <b>6pm CTKYA Xmas Gathering</b>	19 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	20 11:30am WELCA	21 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	22	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> 5pm Worship 11pm Worship
25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 10am Worship	26 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	27 Ordinary Day with Jesus	28 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	29 5:30 – 7:30pm Plan Auditions	30 5:30 – 7:30pm Plan Auditions	31 12pm Youth Lunch, Quilting and Games
1 <b>New Year's Day</b> 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	2 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	3 9am Quilting	4 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	5 6pm Fitness Club	6	7 2-4pm PLAN
8 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education 2-4pm PLAN	9 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	10	11 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	12 6pm Fitness Club	13	14 9am Mid-Month Breakfast 2-4pm PLAN 5:30pm Council (ZOOM)
15 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship <b>Chili Cook off</b> 2-4pm PLAN	16 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	17 9am Quilting 11:30am WELCA	18 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	19 6pm Fitness Club	20	21 2-4pm PLAN
22 <b>Annual Meeting</b> 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Cong. Mtg. 2-4pm PLAN	23 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	24	25 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	26 6pm Fitness Club	27	28 2-4pm PLAN
29 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education 2-4pm PLAN <b>Don and Mille's</b>	30 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	31				