

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

## Grace and Peace A message from Pastor Bryan

It's no secret that when summer comes along, many of our activity patterns change. Grills get fired up, pools open, and many of us are able to make and carry out plans for much anticipated, and perhaps, long overdue vacations. I will be the first to give witness to both the need, and the anticipation, of a nice, relaxing summer break.

It is a season that calls us not only to relax, but also to play and to be active; to bask in the regenerating splendor of the sun, and its life-giving growth. This time of year we expect crops and gardens to grow and in the coming weeks we will all be glad for the fresh vegetables and fruits. There is nothing like a fresh, vine-ripened tomato, an ear of corn, or a slice of juicy watermelon on a hot summer day!



Thinking of summer growth, how do you grow in your walk with Jesus during the various seasons of the year? If it is growth time in the vegetable garden, how do you plan to grow in the fruit of the Spirit this summer? Knowing we cannot afford to take a three-month sabbatical from being made into a disciple of Jesus, here are some ideas to keep the fire in your soul hot for the Lord this summer:

**Be Connected:** When we disconnect from one another, even for a season, our spiritual health is at risk. It just is. And yes, I will be the first to say a person can commune with Christ in solitude. Or on the beach. Or in the boat. Yes, it's entirely possible. But we make a tragic error when we assume solitude is all we need. The biblical directive to "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another" that we find in Hebrews 10:25, was not given to confine us, but to free us. To free us from the myth that we can make this journey alone. The longer we are disconnected from church during the summer (or any time) the easier it becomes to neglect the kind of soul-care and spiritual devotion we need to remain faithful. There is great strength in gathering together.



**Be formed:** We are never meant to stop growing. Our spiritual formation in Christ is a four-season journey. Sometimes we are tempted to think of our discipleship and growth as one more thing from which we need a break. But that's flawed thinking. Our Christian formation is not one more thing, it is the one necessary thing. So, read your Bible. I had a friend years ago who used to say, "I'm going fishing for a long weekend and I'm not taking my Bible." I never did ask him what his problem with mixing Bible reading and fishing was, but that was his statement. The Bible is meant to be mobile. The same is true of devotional resources and books that can become a source of continual growth and formation during the summer. There are plenty of free apps with several translations of the Bible. Many even come with multiple audio versions. Download one (I personally like the BibleGateway app) and listen to the bible as you fish, drive, sit by the campfire or wait in the airport.

**Be a Steward:** Regardless of where we are, or what we are doing this summer, make a commitment to faithfully support the ministries of Christ's church with your financial generosity. Prioritizing church ministries in your family budget is an act of faith. It will not only help to meet the needs of the Kingdom, but will adapt, shape, and discipline the spiritual health of your family in more ways than you can guess.



And make it consistent. We now have more ways than ever to give at Christ the King. More and more families are making the transition to online generosity. They are finding this tool to be an effective way to stay steady and consistent, in much the same way most of their other financial responsibilities are met.

Maybe you can add to the list of ideas. Regardless, there is a harvest coming. This time of year is a great season to grow in your understanding of God's wonderful work in your life. When Jesus gave the Great Commission to "...make disciples of all nations," he intended that to happen every day of every year.

My prayer for you is to enjoy this summer. Live fully and freely in it. And as you do, take these simple steps to remain fully, completely, and vibrantly engaged.

Grace and Peace to you.

## **Mission and Service**

## School Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Again this year we will collect items for LWR School Kits in July. July is a good month as "back to school" sales usually begin in July. Instead of asking you to buy all of the items for a complete kit, starting July 4, there will be a tree in the entry that will have decorations listing the items for you to purchase. Each school kit must contain:

- ✓ Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper, no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ✓ Five black/blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- ✓ Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- ✓ One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ✓ One pencil sharpener
- ✓ One eraser

Our goal is to assemble 30 complete Lutheran World Relief school kits. We ask for you to bring your items to church no later than August 15. Our Sunday School children will be assembling the kits as part of Rally Sunday.



# Youth and Family Events for specific age groups

## Vacation Bible School June 12 – 15 · 6:00pm – 7:30pm All Are Welcome!

VBS is going to look a little different than the craft centered programs we have had in the past. This year we won't be making little things to take home as we learn about what God has done in the lives of his people and in our lives today. Rather, we are going to be learning a few songs and producing some music videos to premier at worship on June 25 and for people to share with others to show the joy we share being God's people at Christ the King... a place where All Are Welcome. Our "crafts" are going to be t-shirts we wear in the videos and a banner/backdrop that will hang in the sanctuary and can be used as a photo booth backdrop for people to take pictures with friends and family on June 25 when we have our BBQ.

In the spirit of All Are Welcome, we aren't putting an artificial age limit on who can participate. If you want to sing some fun songs with our resident Guitar Girl (Katheryn) and have fun making music videos join us at VBS!

Dinner served until 6:15 and we will get started in the sanctuary at 6:20. We'll take a count for t-shirts on Monday, so if you have to miss that day you really need to let us know. If you can, Let us know if you are coming and if you are bringing friends so we have an idea how to prepare. To do so contact Angie Wicklander – angiewicklander@gmail.com 4022017817.

## **Property Opportunity**



#### Would you like to sign-up to mow?

If you'd like to take on the responsibility of mowing for a couple of weeks during the mowing season talk with Trent Daniels. It takes a team of two about 2 hours to get the job done. Driving the tractor is not super hard, but can be super fun! Congregational Life Events for the whole community

# **Mid-Month Breakfast**

Served 9:00am-10:30am

### June 10 and July 8

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

We have a new breakfast item for June! shhh... it's a secret. You'll have to come check it out!

### Congregational Lunch June 25 – following worship

Paul Dawkins is hosting a BBQ Party. Smoked Pork, Summer Corn Salad, Alex approved Mac-n-Cheese, Corn Bread Peg's Potato Salad and Marge's Cole Slaw.

Wash it down with a radler made with the apfelwein made from the garden tree.

#### AND INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN YOU!

Seriously, this is not a hard sell. It's the week after Father's Day, the weekend before Independence Day celebrations. "Hey, my church is doing a BBQ Lunch on June 25. This guy at church loves to smoke meat and it's kind of his excuse to have a party. The food is going to be great. Seriously. And our pastor even makes a German apple wine with apples from the tree that grows at church. Hey, if you go to church just once this year, this should be the day." This is NOT a fundraiser! This is us having great fellowship and provides an easy opportunity for you to invite someone to worship.

### July 30 – Following Worship Caring and Sharing Lunch

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!"

# News and Information from the Office

# **Our Church Directory is Online!**

View our church directory online or via the FREE mobile app today.

Our church directory is a great resource tool that allows you to get to know our church family better! To view the directory online, go to members.instantchurchdirectory.com and follow the prompts under "Sign In" to "Create a login now." Please remember, you must confirm your email address before you can sign in.



Simply go to the App Store, search for *Instant Church Directory* and download the FREE app to begin. *A hyperlink is on button if viewing this digitally.* You will use your email address listed in the directory to CREATE A LOGIN the first time you use the directory app. If you're not listed in the directory, OR if you have trouble logging into the app, please contact me at the church office.

Please check your information! On June 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a photo booth if you want to take a new picture, or send me an updated one! I'd like to print new paper **copies by the end of July.** Yes, I understand some people still like those. (All the information comes from what's online) Taylor Compton, Office Assistant



# News and Information from the Office



#### **Pray Without Ceasing.**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18* 

Even with the constant pressures of daily life, prayer is as vital as it has ever been to stay centered and connected to God. Echo helps integrate prayer into your daily routine, allowing you to stay in conversation with God in the midst of your busy life.

There are a number of features to use personally, but Christ the King has a "prayer feed" on the ECHO Prayer App that can help keep you better updated on the prayer needs for our community. This tool lets us connect in prayer and efficiently communicate prayer needs to you, our prayer network!

#### Follow our prayer feed:

#### echoprayerfeeds.com/christ-the-king-prayer-chain

Use this link to follow our feed or to download the free Echo Prayer app. (If you are a new user on Echo, you'll need to come back to the link above after you've signed up in the app). We are excited to see what God does as his people connect with him through prayer!



# Worship

#### The Prayer of a Nation July 2

A worship service for Independence Day weekend. Veterans and active duty Service Members will be recognized.



# The Commemoration of Heliga Birgitta

(Saint Bridget of Sweden)

#### July 23

You're at least curious aren't you?



# June and July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6pm Fitness Club	2	3
4 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	5 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	6	7 6pm Fitness Club	8 6pm Fitness Club	9	10 9am Mid-Month Breakfast
11 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	12 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club VBS 6-7:30pm	13 VBS 6-7:30pm	14 6pm Fitness Club VBS 6-7:30pm	15 6pm Fitness Club VBS 6-7:30pm	16	17
18 Father's Day 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	19 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	20 11:30am WELCA	21	22 6pm Fitness Club	23	24
25 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am BBQ PARTY	26 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	27	28 6pm Fitness Club	29 6pm Fitness Club	30	1
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30 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship <b>Don and Mille's</b>	31 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club					