



CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

402-733-3294

ctklc-bellevue.org

7308 South 42nd Street, Bellevue, NE 68147

ALL ARE WELCOME

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

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar!

**Christ the King's Annual Meeting is scheduled for
January 28, 2024 at 11:15am**

In case of inclement weather the meeting will be postponed to February 4, 2024.

Grace and Peace

A message from Pastor Bryan

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:18-23



God? With us?

I know that I'm not worthy. Inadequate? Yes. Undeserving? Absolutely.

And, yet, there God is, made flesh, wrapped in swaddling cloths, laid in a manger... for me, for you.

Jesus was born amid upheaval and historical change and among people who seemed powerless and hopeless. Today, as Ukraine beats back Russia, as Hamas and Israel seek to erase one another, as hearts are broken and communities ravaged, as inflation squeezes families, and as we are torn apart by politics and derision, Christ's promise comes to us again. When the world feels hopeless, Advent reminds us God is with us.

In chaos, God is with us.

In suffering, God is with us.

In uncertainty, God is with us.

In whatever our family and our community endures, God is always with us.

That God is always with us not only gives us the courage to take stock of the world, but to navigate it in the way that Jesus calls us. That is, to go boldly through this world loving others, stewarding creation, and trying to make the world a better place because we know God is with us and God is our power.

I invite you this Advent to take some intentional time and reflect on the world around you, take stock of the world Christ comes into and notice the areas in which you need God most. What in your world needs more love, more compassion, more reminders that God is with you? How might Christ be coming into this world through you? How might God be using you to make this world a more loving and compassionate place? Advent is a process, not an instant realization. I pray that this process can be full of love and God's presence—a reminder that you are not alone and that God is pointing us to a more loving and peaceful world.

May God bless you in all things,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bryan' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mission and Service

Reaching out in the community

Giving Tree

This year our giving tree collection will be disinfecting wipes that will go to the food Pantry at Iglesia San Andreas in South Omaha. San Andreas' food pantry is well run by Pastor Omar and the volunteers of this Nebraska Synod ministry.

Please pick up a few packages as you do your shopping and bring them with you to worship. Its an easy thing to do and will go a long way to help this ministry thrive.



Youth and Family

Events for specific age groups

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 17, 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 22nd Street. Get with Jocelyn for the details. There is a white elephant exchange so look for the details soon.



Youth *Grades 6-12*

Christmas Gathering – December 9, 5:00 pm

Food and games at the Rice's! 13503 South 22nd Street. We'll even take a stab at making a Christmas candy! Join us and we'll be sure to have a good time together!



Elementary *Grades PreK – 4*

Epiphany Party – January 6, 10am

Pastor Bryan was under the weather for the Annual St. Nicholas Party, but as luck would have it Epiphany, the day we celebrate the arrival of the Magi, happens to fall on a Saturday!

There will be games, a really cool epiphany candle craft, stories; we might even dip pretzels! This is always a great time!



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 is \$11 per plant. Elaine Vaag is taking orders after Sunday morning services and online at office@ctklc-bellevue.org thru December 17.

Please let us know if you want your poinsettias designated for a special memorial or remembrance of someone.



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17, 2023



The Children's Christmas Program will be presented Sunday, December 17 during worship. We have a really cute song and several skits to bring the message.

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 16 and
January 13

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

Chili Bowl Qualifier

11:15am January 14, 2024

- 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.



Chili Bowl 2024



Congregational Lunch

January 28, following worship

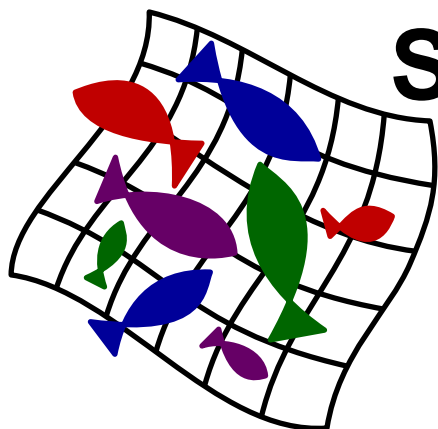
Join us after worship for a Congregational Lunch featuring a Pasta and Salad Bar. A variety of toppings and sauces will be available for a variety of palates including our little ones who haven't made the jump to an adult meal.

December 31, 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!"



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 10

December 17

January 7

January 21

Sunday School

Jesus is Born

KIDS LEAD WORSHIP!

Jesus the Teacher

Jesus the Healer

Confirmation

David

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 2024 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 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 2023 & January 2024

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