



CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

402-733-3294

ctklc-bellevue.org

7308 South 42nd Street, Bellevue, NE 68147

ALL ARE WELCOME

Annual Meeting of the Congregation Sunday January 28, 2024

Call to Order

Prayer

Distribution of Materials

Approval of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Congregation (p2)

Action on the Proposed Agenda (p1)

Ministry Reports

Pastor (p3)

President (p4)

Vice President (p4)

Worship and Music (p4)

Mission & Service (p4)

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Consideration of the Mission Plan (p7)

Reports of Boards and Organizations of the Congregation

Women of the ELCA (p7)

Mission Endowment Fund Board (p8)

Unfinished Business

New Business (p9)

Elections

Nominating Committee (p10)

Presentation of the Ballot (p10)

Floor Nominations

Voting

Adjournment

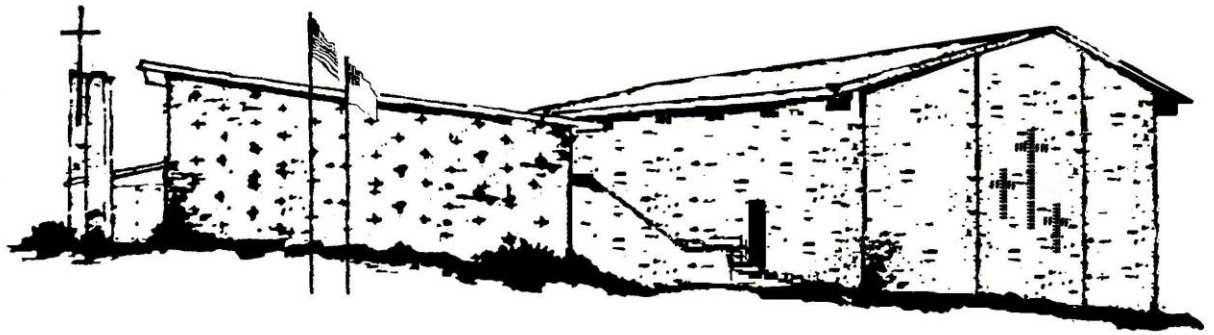
Prayer for the Meal and Benediction

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
Christ the King Lutheran Church
January 22, 2023

- Council Treasurer, Laurel Wiegand, called the meeting to order at 10:55 AM and confirmed a quorum of CTK members present to conduct business.
- Pastor Bryan opened the meeting with a short prayer
- Laurel asked for approval of the minutes from last year, Dave Johnson proposed and Jodi Keating seconded. Laurel then recommended everyone can read the ministry reports on their own, and if anyone wanted to add to their report, they were welcome.
- Pastor spoke on the State/Health of the church. The new NE Synod Bishop, Scott Johnson, has a goal to visit, but has had to reschedule twice now. Our hope is to welcome him in February, perhaps a Tuesday with the women's group and enjoy some cookies and conversation. Pastor knows a concern is the issue of mobility to stop. There has been a lot of movements of pastors. Changes are hard on the clergy, and there has been a lot of changes. People, by nature, do not like change. To be a living and healthy congregation we must accept change. Pastor commented that Christ the King is in wonderful shape, and he thanks us for that.
- Laurel spoke on the Treasurer's Report. She was thankful to get through 2022. It was even more complex than our time during the pandemic. She thanked the congregation for their support. We all realize that costs have gone up. 2023 will be more challenging, but we will get through it. She also mentioned that we received Thank Yous from the Bellevue Food Pantry and PLAN thanked us for the use of our space. The Pantry received about \$1,000 from us. This was loose change donations during food related activities like the chili feed.
- The mission plan recommended the budget for next year to be approved. Then our Reports of Boards and Organizations had a motion to be approved by Dave Wiegand and was seconded by Ann Hunter.
- For Old Business Pastor commented on our newly patched area of the parking lot outside of the hall.
- For New Business we were reminded that there will be no big capital campaign or major projects/expenses that we are seeking to incur outside of the budget. There was some discussion about the hall or kitchen since it adds about \$30,000 to our income through rentals. Everything seems fine, there have been no complaints from renters. We will be adding snow removal as a new cost that we will support.
- Lastly, Ann Hunter proposed a motion to accept the slate of candidates on the 2023 ballot. Mardelle Gocek seconded and the vote passed.
- Laurel adjourned the meeting at 11:18 AM, and Pastor offered a closing prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Cline, Secretary

MINISTRY REPORTS



Pastor – Pastor Bryan Rice

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Isaiah 43:1-2

The world has changed. It always does, and unlike the little changes that accumulate over time until after a decade or so the difference is quite noticeable, it seems we all have had to change all at once, and it still often feels chaotic. But Isaiah 43 reminds us God is still at work. It says “See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

Too often we see change, struggles, disagreements, and other chaos as negative. They certainly can be. Change often means we have to face the changing needs of the world (and the church) and, in turn, we must see change among God’s people. These changes come about through financial responsibility and changing needs of Christ the King. In those changes we acknowledge the grief we experience. That’s ok. It’s ok to grieve, to ask questions and to process the situation. That doesn’t mean, however, that our congregation is in decline or the sky is falling. Far from it. We have amazing members, leadership and gifts to serve one another and our own little corner of this the kingdom in God’s name!

Over the last few years we have had to adapt as a congregation, sometimes leading in the darkness, sometimes on a lake with only one paddle. However you want to describe it, we were in uncharted territory. Your council, along with myself, worked hard to keep creating space for people to grow in faith. And that has been hard work, even if it was necessary.

As we walk into 2024, there may be some nervousness about what’s going to happen next. It is an election year and there is sure to be anxiety. There are a couple of wars going on that continue to effect the news cycle. I am sure there will be something else too. While being a pastor does not make me a fortune teller, I can assure you of this: God will continue to walk with us as we continue to serve God and our community in love and care. We trust God will guide us through the mix of anxiousness and hope as we continue to meet for worship, service, learning, and shared community.

Our prayers for the future include closing the financial gap, praying for our friends and neighbors, being present in worship, teaching our youth the joy of Christ in their lives in Sunday School and Confirmation, and keeping our eyes open as God reveals the kingdom to us in each of those adventures, maybe even adventures we have yet to see!

Thank you for being part of Christ the King, for walking this rough, unprecedented road, and for remaining part of the amazing work we do in God’s name. Peace to you and I look forward to adventuring with you for another year.

President – Nick Christy

As we begin a new year, I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve another year at Christ the King. It has been amazing to witness continued support, attendance, service and giving from our members. Our efforts have made a difference in our community and each member made a special contribution, a true testament of practical Lutheran faith.

Our congregation is faced with new challenges each year, we find new ways to be proactive, to look ahead and we find new ways to grow. 2023 was a time of adjustment and conservation, putting a premium on our stewardship.

We have many new members that stepped up and served, new members that joined our council and a very wide range of assisting ministers. We saw more participation for skits, singing, the fish fry, mowing, shoveling and a variety of other duties. Despite personal trials and tribulations, our congregation is healthy, and each year we close with thankfulness and appreciation.

I was thankful to serve and continue to serve as Council President and I'm still learning a lot! I continued to assist Laurel and Jerry with finance committee duties and was able to jump in a few Sundays as assisting minister. I even had the opportunity to let Elijah drive the mower, which he enjoyed.

I look forward to continuing to serve at Christ the King and grateful to call Christ the King Lutheran my spiritual home. This has been a great opportunity for growth with some great people and it's always appreciated.

Thank you!

Congregational Life – Judy Taylor

Meals are an important part of fellowship. We were able to resume Lenten soup supers, mid-month breakfasts and meals celebrating special days in the church calendar. We are looking forward to having more meals together in the year 2024.

There were two **Fish Frys** this year, **Lenten Soup Suppers** continued the practice we started last year with a volunteer making a half roaster of soup rather than have people bring soups pot luck style. The **Summer BBQ** was a great time and we look forward to having it again. It was a great event to invite a friend. **Mid-Month Breakfasts** continue to be well attended. **The All Saints Sunday Lunch** was a nice way to close out the stewardship season. Jocelyn Heldt has been the convener of our **Older Youth** about once a month. This has been a good way to keep our older youth together.

Worship and Music – Debbie Cline

A big thank you to all who have helped out this past year with church services. We have added to our roster of assisting ministers. Thank you to members and families that helped with preparing communion. Thank you also to those who helped decorate the sanctuary. We very much appreciate our accompanists, Mindy and Crystal, for providing music every Sunday.

Mission and Service – Deb Marx

Cleaning Wipe Drive:

We collected cleaning wipes for the food pantry at Iglesia Luterana San Andreas.

Food Pantries

Christ the King participated in one Mobile Food pantry this last year in May. We have seen a decline in effective leadership at the Food Bank for the Heartland which provides all the food. It was disappointing but we decided to end our relationship with them after the May food pantry came (first) a week early and then on the proper weekend with food that was not distributable due to spoilage.

Christian Education – Angie Wicklander

Sunday School and Confirmation meet bimonthly from August to May.

Fellowship and additional learning activities for 3 different age groups meet every 6-8 weeks.

First Communion happened in February.

Vacation Bible School met during the summer.

The children led a Christmas worship Service in December.

Property – Trent Daniels

Thank you to everyone who signed up to mow this summer. We really got to see just how much work it was for the Hunters for the many years they took on that task themselves.

We decided that as snow fall was minimal, we did not hold the lottery sign-up for this season. That might have been a mistake as back to back snow events made clearing challenging and less fun.

Just before Christmas Eve, we had an issue with our lighting in the sanctuary. It has been repaired with minimal cost; however we did discover that our 50 year old system is considered “vintage” and extensive repair would not be inexpensive. It isn’t something we need to replace, however should that become a consideration we know that it will be more than a trip to Menards.

Finance – Jerry Wahlert

At the 2022 Annual Meeting I was elected to the position of Finance Chair. Over the past year I have worked with other Church Council members, particularly Nick Christy and Laurel Wiegand to administer the accounting functions of Christ the King. As a relatively new member to CtK, I have been blessed to get better acquainted with the many members who contribute time and talents to the ministry and mission which we have undertaken, with the help of God, to serve this community.

In particular, I have helped to oversee the weekly offerings and with Nick and Laurel have made sure that we properly record your financial contributions and review the expenditures in accordance with good accounting practices. It is with great joy that I humbly report that we are on sound financial footing, with all bills paid and no outstanding debts. We have some reserves, but rely primarily on your regular contributions to meet the monthly bills.

Through God’s gracious blessings, each of us have the ability to contribute, in unique ways, to the successful operations of our congregation and the various ministries we have collectively agreed to undertake. I have witnessed a wide variety of ways people have chosen to show the ability to respond – thus the “*responsibility*” to share those blessings. Much of my career has been in Financial Service work with a variety of financial organizations. Over the years it has amazed me to see how many opportunities we have – and the various ways people have responded – to the needs of others.

At this time of the year, most of us are reviewing our personal finances and considering our personal income and expenses – as part of that reviewing and planning process please consider the appropriate ways in which you can respond to God’s blessing in your life. Many of our expenses are increasing and if you are able, please consider appropriate increases in whatever ways you choose to contribute.

God gives each of us a calling, some form of ministry to perform, I look forward to the ministry of helping with the responsible administration of the collective financial affairs of Christ the King in the coming year. I would be glad to respond to any questions or concerns you might have.

*We give thee but thine own, what ‘er the gift may be.
For all we have is thine alone, A trust O Lord, from Thee.*

Treasurer – Laurel Wiegand

The tough economics of the past couple years have caught up with us, Christ the King is operating at a loss. We have a cushion built up from previous years which can be used to offset our expenses for 2024. Finance has invested some of the cushion in CDs to generate a small amount of return, but not nearly enough to cover the deficit. Increases in utilities, insurance, and general price increases are outpacing our annual income to the general fund. Christ the King remains in good financial standing with all bills paid, no debt, and a cushion of investments, however we need to change financial direction.

11 families increased their pledge for 2024, and yet it's not enough to cover our expenses.

Number of Families with Offering numbers (59)
Number of Families Pledge giving per month (30)
New/increased pledge (11)

\$1000+ (2)
\$700-\$1000 (2)
\$500-\$700 (3)
\$300-\$500 (5)
\$120-\$300 (11)
\$0-\$120 (7)

The finance committee will look to use another portion of our cushion to make interest, but that still won't generate enough to cover the deficit. We need those that have not pledged to make a commitment, and everyone to consider giving more financially. The church and congregation are valuable, please prayerful consider your commitment to Christ the King.

Operating Income/Expenses	
Hall rental income	\$31,000.00
Loose income	\$3,000.00
Envelope income	\$138,320.00
TOTAL	\$172,320.00
Expenses	
Payroll/benefits	\$137,000.00
Utilities	\$15,000.00
Insurance	\$8,000.00
Other (includes cleaning)	\$17,550.00
Synod	\$2,640.00
TOTAL	\$180,190.00
Overall	(\$7870.00)

CONSIDERATION OF THE MISSION PLAN

Be it resolved that the Congregation of Christ the King Lutheran Church approve the recommendation of the Council and adopt the Mission Plan for calendar year 2024 in the amount of \$180,190.

*This is a Council resolution approved to be forwarded to the congregation at the December Council Meeting and therefore does not require a motion or second.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

Women of the ELCA – Mardelle E. Gocek, Coordinator – CTKLC Women of the ELCA

The women of the ELCA Bible Study group met each month for fellowship and Bible study. In June we held our annual picnic at the church because of hot weather. In December our annual Christmas potluck luncheon was postponed until January 2 due to Jean Grob's Funeral. We continue to use the Bible study in *Gather* magazine.

The Nebraska Synod Women of the ELCA sponsored a winter retreat in Grand Island on January 14. The NSWOW sponsored two "Saved to Serve" events. One was at Camp Carol Joy Holling; the second was at MOSAIC, at Bephage Village in Axtell.

Metro East Spring Gathering was held April 1 at Saint Michael Lutheran Church in Omaha. Tangible offering was collected for Youth Emergency Services. Two women from Christ the King attended.

Our Lutheran World Relief Quilt group was active again under the leadership of Phyllis Carlson. Thank you to Phyllis for your dedication to this project. Thank you to everyone who donated fabric and other items to the quilt project. Thank you to everyone who helped to assemble the quilts. Fifty-nine quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief in November. CTKLC also donated thirty school kits to LWR. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies for the school kits.

We continued to collect cancelled postage stamps, greeting cards, calendars, grocery bags, and bingo prizes for various service organizations.

We donated two quilts to the quilt auction at camp Carol Joy Holling in July

Financial Report

On Hand 1/1/09	1,751.62
Income: Circle Offerings	127.54
Thank Offering	<u>110.00</u>
Total Offering	137.54
Expenses: NWELCA Spring Gathering	25.00
Paper Statement	49.00
WELCA Katie's Fund	110.00
NWELCA	<u>20.00</u>
Total Expenses	224.00
Balance on Hand Jan. 1, 2024	\$1,665.16

Phyllis Carlson, Treasurer

Mission Endowment Fund – Beth Christy

The Christ the King Endowment Fund has been in existence since 2002. All of the monies are invested in a mutual fund managed by American Funds headquartered in Indianapolis, IN. The Mission Endowment Fund was established to support scholarships, new ministries, and community projects. The Endowment Fund Board meets quarterly to discuss the status and future plans for this fund. There are five directors on the Board who have been elected by the congregation, and serve terms of five years. The majority of the contributions to this fund have been memorials for friends and loved ones. It is not a requirement that memorials go to this fund and only memorial funds that are designated for the Mission Endowment Fund are deposited in the fund. Donations in celebration of a special event such as a birthday, anniversary, and new grandchild are also great opportunities to make a contribution that has lasting significance. When considering charitable donations in your will, the CTK Endowment Fund would be an appropriate place to continue God's work in the community.

- \$350 went to NLOM for scholarships for Christ the King youth.
- \$250 went to the Foodbank for the Heartland.
- \$300 went to the Salvation Army Winter Assistance Fund.
- \$300 went to Lutheran World Relief. One of LWR's flagship programs – started in 1945 and continuing today – is its Quilt and Kit Ministry. Each year Lutherans across the United States assemble and donate LWR Mission Quilts, as well as several kinds of care kits to assist people living in poverty in times of emergency or great need.
- \$350 went to Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministries (NeLCM). NeLCM is an agency of the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that facilitates and manages campus ministry across Nebraska. Its mission is to invite people in academic settings more deeply into Jesus Christ and the community that bears his name, so they can discover and fulfill their vocation as disciples. Its vision is to be the presence of Christ and the invitation of Christ to the entire academic setting. With members of our congregation attending two campuses with a NeLCM presence we are grateful for the efforts of this serving arm of our Synod.
- We also allocated \$250.00 to go to Pastor for a year-end bonus in 2023.

New Business

What are Christ the King's Constitution and Bylaws? What is their purpose? Why should we amend them?

The Constitution and Bylaws govern our organizational definition and standards as a congregation. They provide structure and parameters for our leadership and practices. The Constitution defines our organization. The Bylaws provide direction for our ongoing operation.

As a congregation of the Body of Christ, we are ultimately governed by Jesus as the head of the church (Colossians 1:18) and his word (Hebrews 1:3). The Constitution and Bylaws are written by people and are subject to change. The Constitution and Bylaws are a tool for our good as a congregation, so they should be changed when a change is appropriate. The process for changing (amending) the Constitution and Bylaws is defined in the documents themselves. Christ the King's Constitution and Bylaws were last revised in 2012.

The pandemic brought to light several challenges in the way organizations like congregations function and people began to address these challenges using technologies previously unavailable or not in widespread use. Use of these technologies was helpful and, at the time, allowed as "exceptional use". Since then, congregations have been updating their Constitution and Bylaws to allow for these technologies to be put into regular use. Generally, it seems wise to update sections of our governing documents at this time to more accurately reflect our current situation and help us be faithful to our calling as a congregation.

The other area we will be considering for change is the leadership structure of the Council. Christ the King is one of the few congregations who still elects its Officer's separately from Council Members. In the last revision of the Constitution and Bylaws, we moved from having Officers who held no ministry responsibility to electing Officers with oversight of a ministry area. We would like to complete the transition to a structure where the Council is elected and then the President and Secretary of the Council are elected by Council Members, thus eliminating the need for Officers to be elected every year for a one year term at the Annual Meeting. This would be the same structure as The Bellevue City Council. (Paul Cook was elected to represent Ward 3 and has been elected President of the Council by the Council the last two years.)

Most likely we will take several months to work through the suggested changes. We will begin with the Model Constitution supplied by the ELCA and tailor it to our needs. This is the same process we used in 2012. As such, we will "amend by substitution". When ready, we will submit the new Constitution and Bylaws for review and will have a special meeting for their consideration. It is possible we will do this in conjunction with our Summer BBQ Party but it could possibly be later (Back to Church Sunday, etc.).

ELECTIONS

Nominating Committee – Jodi Keating

If after nominations from the floor, an uncontested election is held at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation (all candidates are running unopposed), it is the suggestion of the Nominating Committee that the Congregation proceed with a voice vote as allowed by our Rules of Order. (RROR4; 66, 46:3)

2023 Church Council

emboldened positions will have elections this year

Council President	Nick Christy (2nd term)
Council Vice President	Judy Taylor (Congregational Life) (1st term)
Council Secretary	Debbie Cline (Worship & Music 1st term)
Ministry Coordinators	Angie Wicklander (Christian Education – 1 st term ends January 2025) Jerry Wahlert (Finance – 1st term ends January 2024) Trent Daniels (Property – 1 st term ends January 2025) Deb Marx (Mission and Service – 2 nd term ends January 2025)

2023 Endowment Fund Board

emboldened positions will have elections this year

Julie Junker	1st term ends January 2024
Jocelyn Heldt	1 st term ends January 2025
Beth Christy	2 nd term ends January 2026
Aaron Schmidt	2 nd term ends January 2027
Janiece Huddleson	1 st term ends January 2028

Ballot for 2024 Elections

President	Nick Christy (Finance)	(1 year term)
Vice President	Judy Taylor (Congregational Life)	(1 year term)
Secretary	Debbie Cline (Worship and Music)	(1 year term)
Endowment Fund Board	Julie Junker	(5 year term)
Nominating Committee	Jodi Keating	(1 year term)

**For the nominations from the floor, please write in the name of each candidate nominated.
When voting, circle the name of the candidate for whom you are voting.**