

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

Grace and Peace A message from Pastor Bryan

"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." *Romans 5:6-8*

Guys, here's your friendly reminder: Valentine's Day is coming!

Do you have plans? This year, I invite you to try something a little different. Bring your beloved to Christ the King. Walk with them down the center aisle of the sanctuary. And hear me remind your beloved and you that you are dust and will return to dust, even as I smear ash on your forehead.



Wait... what?!?

This is one of those strange years where the calendar brings together two observances that seem to have little in common. On one hand, there is Valentine's Day, where couples everywhere honor one another with cards, flowers, chocolate, and a nice meal in celebration of their love. On the other hand, there is Ash Wednesday, the day where we as the church come together to remind ourselves of our well-deserved mortality and to begin a season of repentance and reflection on Christ's suffering and death. Roses and ashes. Love and death. What a strange combination!

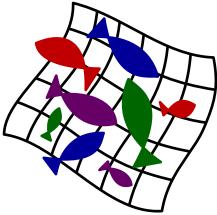
And yet, for those of us who know the Bible's story, perhaps the combination isn't so impossibly strange. For love finds its greatest expression when one is willing to lay down his or her life for another – this is precisely what Jesus said in John 15:13. Even more important, this is how God loved us through Jesus. He did not wait until we were lovely to love us. He did not wait until we made ourselves people worth dying for before he died for us. Instead, he loved us when we were unlovely – weak, ungodly, sinners – and made us beautiful by his love.

Jesus came to save a world full of people destined for the dusty ugliness of the grave, and he loved us and saved us by joining us in the dust. All so that the ending of the story might be rewritten. "Dust you are, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) is no longer the definitive word spoken over you. The Love of your life has destroyed the power of the grave, he has joined himself to you in the water of baptism, and he holds your hand today. Moreover, he promises his bride, the church, a gift that surpasses 1000 Valentine's Day celebrations: a dream wedding at the end of this present age, and life together with him in his kingdom forever.

May God bless your Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday observance.

Rejoice in the One who loves you!

Faith Formation Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible Study

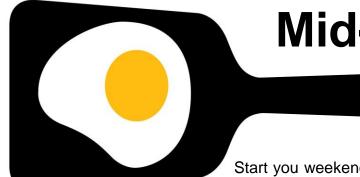


Check the dates because they changed just a bit from what was announced at the beginning of the year.

We'll begin in the Sanctuary all together and then move to groups. For Sunday School ages kids, there is a Bible lesson, music, and an activity that reinforces the lesson.

February 11	Jesus – Son of God	(First Communion Sunday)
February 25	Who do you say that I	am?
March 10	Last Supper	
March 24	Crucifixion	

Congregational Life Events for the whole community



Mid-Month Breakfast

Served 9am-10:30am February 10

No breakfast in March

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

Friday March 8 and Friday March 15 4:30pm – 7:00pm

Fish will Fry again this year and it's still better than them other guys!

We will have 2 fish frys this year – March 8 and 15! We will be frying, serving and eating fish. AND IF YOU THINK JUST TWO ISNT ENOUGH, YOU'LL HAVE ONE MORE CHANCE

Paul and Pastor Bryan are helping raise funds with Beta Sigma (the Lutheran Fraternity @UNL) at the Lutheran Student Center in Lincoln. FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024

Invite your friends and neighbors!

Worship

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, a day when we are encouraged take the time to repent. The actual date of Ash Wednesday is calculated by counting backward from Easter Sunday. As Easter Sunday always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after equinox, like Easter. the spring Ash Wednesday moves around a bit. This year Ash Wednesday is February 14 and at Christ the King we will continue our practice of Midweek Worship. We will also have our Soup Suppers before worship, this year that will include Ash Wednesday.





February 14 6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Worship With Holy Communion

February 21 – March 20

6:00pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Evening Prayer

Lent lasts 40 days and is a symbolic representation of the 40 years the people of Israel spent in the desert with Moses. It also symbolizes the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert before beginning his public ministry. These evenings will combine the story of God's rescue of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt, with Jesus' rescue of us from our slavery to sin and death, and how that great rescue is presented to us in parts of our regular worship liturgy. These services are typically shorter than Sunday. Expect about 40-45 minutes.

Do you make good soup? We will have at least two varieties of soup each evening along with bread, crackers, salad, and dessert. If you'd like to help with making soup, please contact Judy Taylor 402-320-2765.



Worship



Easter Sunday Celebrations

March 31 at 7:30am and 10:00am Breakfast Served 8:15am - 9:30am Egg Hunt 11:15am

7:30am Sunrise Celebration

Sunrise will be a festival liturgical worship celebration in the sanctuary to include Holy Communion.

10:00am Resurrection Celebration

Come for a Celebration of the Hope of Easter. This would be an excellent opportunity to invite a family to come to worship with you! Breakfast, uplifting worship, and an egg hunt for kids—it's the complete experience!

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

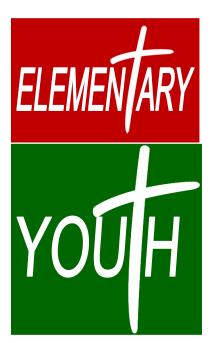
Trackside in Waverly – February 18, 6pm

Let's meet at Trackside Grill in Waverly 13901 Guildford St # H, Waverly, NE 68462 for a check-in. Take exit 409. Waverly is between Lincoln and Omaha and easy to get to. The food is good! All we need to have a good time is you!

Elementary and Youth Saints in the Kitchen – February 3, 10am

Jesus gathered people around the table and taught them about the Kingdom of God. His last few hours with the disciples were marked by the Passover meal. Martin Luther's home was busy with activity as many came to his table for theological conversation. At Christ the King we too understand that a great deal of what the church is about happens around tables... the Table in the Sanctuary and the tables in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be celebrating with some of our young people their First Communion on a Sunday that works for the families involved. To prepare for this we will take time on this Saturday morning to talk about ministry at the table and THE Table. We will prepare a lunch for some of our friends at church and hear about how Jesus prepares his Table for us each week in worship. Consider bringing a friend and maybe inviting some people for us to serve at 12:00.



First Communion?

Communion is a Sacrament that people celebrate for the rest of their lives. It has been the common practice of Christ the King to invite young people, <u>who have received instruction</u>, <u>are at least in the second grade</u>, and <u>whose parents feel they are ready</u>, to receive communion as a regular part of their worship experience. We will be talking about Communion on February 3 during "Saints in the Kitchen" (see above).

If you have a young person in your life who is ready to celebrate communion for the first time, please plan on bringing them February 3 and reach out to Pastor Bryan 402-618-7847. *voice or text*

February and March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6pm Fitness Club	2	3 10am Saints in the Kitchen 2-4pm PLAN
4 Scout Sunday 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 2-4pm PLAN	5 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	6 9am Quilting	7 6pm Fitness Club	8 6pm Fitness Club	9	10 9am Mid-Month Breakfast 10:30am Council (@CTK) 2-4pm PLAN
11 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education 2-4pm PLAN	12 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	13	14 Ash Wednesday 12 pm Worship 6pm Lenten Meal 6pm Fitness Club 7pm Worship	15 6pm Fitness Club	16	17
18 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 7pm CTKYA Trackside	19 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	20 9am Quilting 11:30am WELCA	21 6pm Lenten Meal 6pm Fitness Club 7pm Lenten Worship	22 6pm Fitness Club 6:30pm PLAN Dress Rehearsal	23 7pm PLAN PLAY	24 7pm PLAN PLAY
25 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education	26 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	27	28 6pm Lenten Meal 6pm Fitness Club 7pm Lenten Worship	29 6pm Fitness Club	1 Fish Fry @ Lutheran Student Center UNL	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 Lenten Meal 6pm Fitness Club 7pm Lenten Worship	7 6pm Fitness Club	8 Fish Fry 4:30 – 7pm	9
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24 Palm Sunday 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education	25 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	26	27 6pm Fitness Club	28 Maundy Thursday 6pm Fitness Club 7pm Worship	29 Good Friday 7pm Worship	
31 Easter 7:30am Sunise Ser. 8:30am Breakfast 10am Worship 11:15am Egg Hunt						