



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

Grace and Peace

A message from Pastor Bryan

I am now in my second year of bee keeping. It's been educational and challenging. There is a lot of information to learn and even more when it comes to knowing how to respond when the bees don't do what the books and classes said they should. Honestly it's a lot like going to seminary and then trying to lead a congregation. I have become convinced that it was not simply boredom during Covid, but a leading of the Spirit that I undertook this hobby. I live every day looking at everything I do through the lens of faith and so it is impossible for me to participate in God's creation in some way and not sense that the Creator is trying to show me something; teach me something.



Honeybees have been domesticated for over 4000 years. There are wild bees, but any honeybees that exist outside of a kept colony are “feral” rather than wild. They are remarkable creatures, not only for their pollination work, but also for their extraordinary ability to carefully manage the resources of the hive. In a bee colony every member plays a critical role in ensuring the survival of the hive, especially during challenging times like a dearth (a period of food scarcity... like right now in Nebraska) and winter. To maintain stability, bees implement what might be called *economic strategies* to allocate food, nurture brood, and care for their queen. These actions highlight a delicate balance of resource management that not only seeks to ensure the colony's survival, but further its purpose as well.

We've all seen bees on flowers collecting nectar from flowers, which is transformed into honey through a process of regurgitation, dehydration, and storage in wax cells. This honey serves as the main energy source for the hive. Bees also gather pollen, which provides the protein essential for larval development. Bees are continually eating honey, but they are also careful to store it.

In times of abundance, bees are highly productive, collecting and storing large amounts of nectar and pollen. The foragers, who are responsible for gathering these resources, work tirelessly, filling the hive's honeycomb cells with honey reserves. Bees don't consume all the nectar and pollen they gather immediately. Instead, they anticipate the coming dearth or winter by using only what they need to sustain themselves (you won't find overweight honeybees) and strategically storing their surplus. By capping the honey cells with beeswax, they ensure that these resources remain preserved for future use, particularly when foraging is no longer possible.

A dearth occurs when nectar and pollen sources become scarce. During this period, the hive's focus shifts from active resource accumulation to efficient management of existing stores. The worker bees become vigilant in guarding the hive's resources. If they don't, the hive could be robbed out by vandals from another colony. (Sadly, this just happened to one of my hives and now they are no more. Unfortunately it was another of my hives that did it. I suppose that would be a lesson for a bishop, but I digress.) The colony, in essence, prepares itself to tighten its budget, so to speak, ensuring that the remaining honey and pollen stores last through the period when resources are hard to come by.

Despite the need for careful resource use, the colony prioritizes the nourishment of the queen and the brood (when present) since both are critical to the hive's future. The queen essentially gives the colony a purpose, a reason to be. She is the sole egg layer, and attending to her mission – to produce more bees – ensures a productive hive. Attending to this mission ensures that the colony can continue to function, replenish itself with new workers and even propagate new colonies.

Winter though poses the most significant challenge for a bee colony. With no flowers to forage from, the hive is entirely dependent on the food stores collected during the spring and summer months. Before winter, bees form a winter cluster around the queen, maintaining warmth by vibrating their flight muscles. This clustering behavior requires energy, which is derived from the honey they stored earlier in the year. The bees gradually consume their honey reserves, working together to ensure the survival of the hive until warmer weather returns.

The colony's food stores must be sufficient to last throughout the winter months – about 4 months here in Nebraska. Worker bees ration their consumption carefully, ensuring that enough honey remains for late winter when temperatures begin to rise but foraging is still limited. Believe it or not, most colonies that don't make it to spring actually starve out in March just before the dandelions emerge. They make it through the coldest of times, but just didn't adequately prepare for the last few weeks. Bees die during winter even in a healthy colony, but the goal is to keep enough bees and the queen alive to rebuild the colony in the spring.

You probably could guess where I was heading with this if you managed to read this far. October is the month of our annual stewardship emphasis. This year the messages in worship will make some comparisons between the stewarding of congregational finances and the stewarding of resources that happen in a honey bee colony. We will talk about our Capital Fund which was nearly depleted when we replaced the HVAC system for the Fellowship Hall, we will talk about our current expenses, but most importantly we will talk about our mission, our reason to be.

Honeybees demonstrate an extraordinary ability to manage their resources with foresight and efficiency. By accumulating and storing honey and pollen during times of abundance, sensible consumption throughout the nectar flow, rationing food during a dearth, and prioritizing the care of the queen and brood, honeybees ensure the survival of the colony during periods of scarcity. To honeybees honey is a resource to be used – not wasted or hoarded, but used in service of a mission. This careful resource management is a testament to the social complexity and resilience of the hive, demonstrating how bees navigate the delicate balance between nourishment, survival, and renewal in the face of environmental challenges. Congregations would do well to keep a similar focus.



HURRICANE RELIEF...

In late September, Hurricane Helene hit the coast of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane, dropping heavy rains on the southeastern United States and leaving millions of people without power. As the storm has moved inland, it has caused dangerous flooding and landslides, as well as downed trees and power lines.

Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

There are a couple of ways you can make financial contributions to Lutheran Disaster Response. To give through the congregation, make checks payable to your congregation indicating **Lutheran Disaster Response** (with **Hurricane Response** in the memo line) and place your gift in the offering plate. Or you can give on line at [Hurricane Response](#). Either way gifts will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes, until the response is complete.

Worship

DEEP Joy

October 6

Matt Wiegand is guest preaching again,
the praise team is leading worship,
there's a baptism... and lunch after worship!



Reformation Sunday **WEAR RED!**

October 27



Was ist das?!?! Uhh... what?!?!
Why would I wear red?!?!

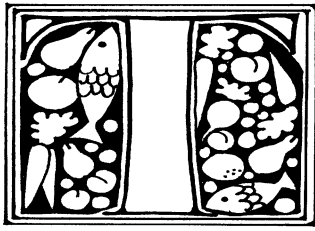
Many Lutheran churches have a tradition of wearing red on Reformation Sunday because red is the liturgical color of the Holy Spirit and Luther believed the Reformation was born from the moving of the Holy Spirit. This day is a celebration of the Holy Spirit that continues to move us toward the grace and mercy of God even today.

All Saints Sunday

November 5

Historically, the Church has confessed a belief in the "communion of the saints," which includes not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we experience the communion of saints, feasting with believers past, present and future. The author of Hebrews 12 reminds us that these saints, a "great cloud of witnesses," surrounds us and cheers us on. On All Saints Sunday, we publicly remember and honor those who have passed away and call the names of those lost in the previous year as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on us.

Worship continued



S E R V I C E

Thanks- giving

November 27, 7:00pm

*Thank the Lord
and sing his praise;
tell everyone what
he has done.*

Giving thanks is an inherent part of worship, and the Thanksgiving Eve worship service enables us to be especially deliberate and purposeful in expressing our thanks to our Heavenly Father, who has provided us with such abundance in our lives. This service will be a time of reflection, gratitude, and worship as we prepare our hearts for the Thanksgiving holiday. Whether you're attending with family, friends, or by yourself, all are welcome!

Congregational Life Events for the whole community

Mid-Month Breakfasts

Served 9am-10:30am

October 19 and

November 9

SNIFF, SNIFF* Do you smell pumpkin spice?!?!?!

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



Congregational Appreciation and Gratitude Lunch

**October 6
Following
Worship**

Join us
after worship for a
congregational lunch
featuring roast beef,
au gratin potatoes,
and green beans.



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 – October 27, 7pm

Its been a while since we got together. Let's meet up at Trackside Grill in Waverly 13901 Guildford St # H, Waverly, NE 68462. We've met here before and decided it was a great place for a check-in. Take exit 409. Waverly is between Lincoln and Omaha and easy to get to and the food is good!

Youth

Prehistoric Putt – October 20, 12:30pm

Join your friends at church for lunch after worship and then we'll head to Prehistoric Putt (11134 Q Street) – an indoor miniature golf course unlike anything you've played on before: 2 warped walls, a half-pipe, plinko, volcanos, and many more. You can even try to divert your opponents shot on the "foosball" obstacle.

This is a group we really want to help grow together. We attend different schools. 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.

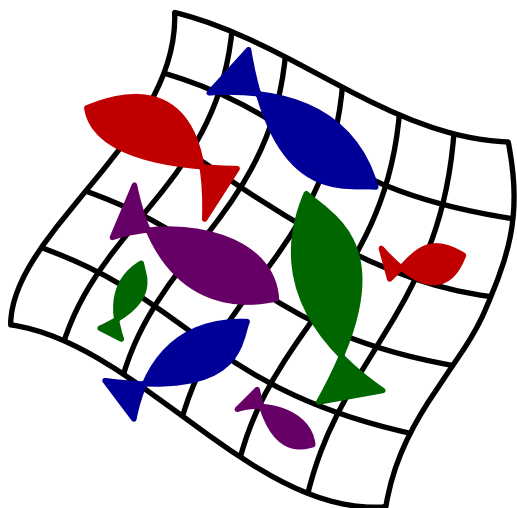


Fall Family Campfire

October 25, 6pm-8pm

Come TOGETHER FOR JOY Friday, October 25 from 6pm-8pm at the fire ring for s'mores, chili, hot dogs, and chips!





Sunday School and Confirmation

The academic year began on Rally Sunday August 14, but that doesn't mean if you have yet to join us you have missed out for the year! Bring your young person and maybe even a guest. We always have a great time. Generally speaking, we have lessons on the second and fourth Sundays from 11:20 – 12:30. We'll begin together, then move to groups. For Sunday School age kids, there is a Bible lesson, music, and an activity that reinforces the lesson. Confirmation this year will take us through the entire Bible!

Important dates this month!

October 6 KIDS SING IN WORSHIP!

REGULAR LESSON DATES

October 13 and 27

November 10 and November 24

Discussion and Watch Party

**October 16, 23 and 30
and November 6
11:30am-2:00pm**



The Chosen is the first-ever-multi-season TV show about the life of Jesus. Created outside of the Hollywood system, *The Chosen* allows us to see Jesus through the eyes of those who knew him. No matter where you are at in your journey with Jesus Christ, this TV show is for you.

The Chosen takes the freedom to describe the background narrative of some individuals with creative vision and conversation as they first encounter Jesus. This is Biblical fiction, not merely acting out of scripture, though scripture forms the foundation of the narrative.

We have already watched all of Seasons 1, 2 and 3 so now we're moving on to Season 4. If you missed earlier seasons, there is plenty of time to catch up as it is free to watch with an app for either google or iOs devices.

We will start with lunch and then watch 2 episodes each afternoon taking a break for discussion.

News and Information *from the Office*

Each year when the season of fall begins, I reflect on the previous year. I start to recall the many reasons I am thankful. I am thankful for time with my sister, my brother, and his family. Also, for time with my husband's family. My husband's grandmother passed away in July just shy of her 100th birthday. I am thankful for the many years I shared summers and holidays with her.



I continue to be thankful for our church home at Christ the King. I love sharing the ups and downs of life with our congregation. I am thankful for the traditions we share, and the activities that bring us together across generations. I find peace in the traditions and joy in the multigenerational activities. I think many of you do as well.

This is the time of year we think about our commitment to the church for the coming year. We think about volunteering time, activities, and financial giving. I am thankful for the commitment the congregation has made to consistent giving. Some give weekly, some monthly, some annually and some when they can. Offerings arrive through bill pay, PayPal, VANCO, checks or cash. If you are over 70 you can direct a portion of your mandatory distributions directly to the church as a charitable donation and you might lower your taxable income. Talk to your financial advisor. All the offerings add up to financial stability for the church.

If you have not made a financial pledge to the church in the past, consider making one this year. It does not need to be large, consider starting with \$10 a month. The \$120 total offering covers 2 months of trash removal or the plowing after a major snowstorm! The small contributions add up, every bit helps cover the cost of keeping our congregation and building in good standing.

Thank-you!
Laurel, Treasurer

Make a Contribution Make a Pledge

Counting

The Finance team is looking for people to help count the offering after church on Sundays. Counting take only about 20 minutes right after service on Sunday. If you can read, know the denominations of United States Currency, and use a calculator we could really use your help! If you just completed Confirmation class and are looking for a way to be involved helping at church this is for you! Each week we need two people to separate, count and record the generous offering from the congregation. This usually takes 20 minutes or less working in a team of two. If you want to know more ask Laurel, Nick, Beth, Kathryn Heldt, Sheli Rice, Lauren McCarville or Elijah Christy. Look for a sign-up sheet in the entry way.

The Finance Team

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.

Some other ways to give...

Gifts of Stock

Stocks that have appreciated are subject to capital gains taxes. However, if you donate stock rather than selling it, capital gains taxes no longer apply. As a 501(c)(3) organization, Christ the King is able to accept your stock through our account set up specifically for this purpose. We did this at the request of a Member who chose to give this way. This way of giving puts the full value of the stock toward the mission of the church. This way, neither you nor the congregation pays a capital gains tax, and you can still deduct as a charitable contribution the value of the stock at the time it was transferred.

IRA Distribution Option

Our needs at Christ the King are real, and there are many ways to help meet those needs. We are strengthening our community of faith for the people of today and tomorrow. One way some donors may consider fully fulfilling their pledge, while receiving a tax break, is by withdrawing funds from their IRA. Donors age 70½ and older may give up to \$100,000 directly to a nonprofit from an IRA without paying taxes on the distribution. This option was signed into law permanently in 2015. As we approach the end of the year, consider utilizing this payment option!

Consult with your financial professional before making a decision on either of these alternative ways to make a contribution.

For more information or to set up *Electronic Giving* contact
Laurel Wiegand at 402-547-7978

October and November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9am Quilting	2	3 12pm Fitness Club	4	5
6 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Fellowship Meal	7 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	8	9	10 12pm Fitness Club	11	12
13 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education	14 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	15 9am Quilting 11:30am WELCA	16 12pm The Chosen Lunch, Watch and Discussion	17 12pm Fitness Club	18	19 9am Mid-Month Breakfast
20 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 12:30 Youth Prehistoric Putt	21 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	22	23 12pm The Chosen Lunch, Watch and Discussion	24 12pm Fitness Club	25 6pm - Family Campfire	26
27 Reformation 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education 7pm CTKYA Trackside in Waverly	28 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	29 9am Quilting	30 12pm The Chosen Lunch, Watch and Discussion	31 12pm Fitness Club	1	2
3 All Saints 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	4 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	5	6 12pm The Chosen Lunch, Watch and Discussion	7 12pm Fitness Club	8	9 9am Mid-Month Breakfast
10 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education	11 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	12 9am Quilting 11:30am WELCA	13	14 12pm Fitness Club	15	16
17 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	18 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	19	20 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	21 Thanksgiving OFFICE CLOSED	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education	25 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	26	27	28 12pm Fitness Club	29	30