



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 will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. *John 16:22*

We are people of resurrection. May we never forget: this is not a tame worldview. It defies what we might consider “normal.” Because in God’s economy, dead things come back to life. After three days in the tomb, Jesus took a breath, then another, and forevermore. Christ is risen! Alleluia! Death was not just defeated; it was put in its place. Which is why, as the Gospel of John tells us, Jesus neatly folded his burial linens. And then the holy mischief of Easter was loosed upon the world. We are not living in a tragedy, but in a comedy, the good news of great joy.

The Church calendar trains us to live this way; to celebrate the resurrection from Easter Sunday through Pentecost. The emotional heartbeat, the language of this season, is joy – death-defying joy.

In the Upper Room, on the night before his crucifixion, Jesus spoke at length about this very joy:

“I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”

“You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy... and no one will take away your joy.”

“Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.”

“I say these things... so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.”

Did you catch it? We are people who live with the promise of *complete joy*.

Not a fragile joy.

Not a circumstantial joy.

But a joy that no one can take away.

And here is the wonder of it: the promise is not simply that *our* joy will grow, inch by inch, until it is finally enough. No—the promise is far better. Our joy is made complete by *his* joy dwelling in us. Stop and consider that. The joy of Christ—in you.

Which means joy is no longer dependent on the shifting ground of circumstance. I was reminded of that in my last conversation with Ann Jordan. We were talking about Paul's call to the Philippians...to rejoice in all circumstances, to pray with thanksgiving, to trust that God's peace would come, and that he would give strength to endure all things. And there she was, in a hospital bed, just days from going home to her Savior, speaking not of fear or loss, but of gratitude... deep, abiding gratitude... for the blessings of her life, and especially for the people with whom she had shared it.

Joy in the Lord... in all circumstances... not as something manufactured, but as a gift. Joy always comes to us this way; as gift. As a longing that births life. When we feel it, we want it to stay, to linger just a little longer. Because joy has a way of infusing the world with truth and meaning and beauty. And yet, even as it fills us, it also awakens an ache... a sense that there is more. That ache is not a flaw. It is a signpost.

Our smaller joys are always pointing us toward our *complete* joy in Christ. And when those joys begin to mingle, when the laughter around a table, the beauty of a sunrise, the comfort of a friend, and the quiet assurance of Christ's presence all begin to hold hands; we start to taste something deeper. Something whole.

This does not diminish our everyday joys; it transfigures them. When we are in Christ, his joy illuminates and amplifies all our joys. Every small delight and every great celebration becomes a gift of grace, an invitation into the fullness of life, an onramp into thanksgiving, a reason to rejoice in the God who is himself joy.

And yet, if we are honest, we know how easily we forget. We drift. We fall back into disenchantment. Despair and cynicism creep in, and we find ourselves living as though dead things stay dead. Do you know that tension?

This is why the season of Easter calls us, not just to believe in joy, but to *practice* it. To cultivate lives that are awake to it. Because we are not people grasping for joy; we are people standing on the edge of it, promised crowns of everlasting joy that no one can take away.

Joy rises, like the dawn. And gratitude becomes the pathway, an onramp into that joy, as we give thanks to God. So in this season, I refuse to divide the world into "earthly" and "heavenly" joys, as though some matter and others do not. No, the Spirit speaks in the language of joy, and every true joy is a gift from God, drawing us closer to his heart. Because God is joyful.

And in the Upper Room, Jesus tells us that through prayer we enter into that joy. He even prays for us, that we would know the full measure of it.

So what if we took him at his word? What if we opened ourselves to the real possibility that when Jesus asks, the Father answers... and when Jesus promises, he keeps it? After all, he said he would rise from the dead, and he did. Alleluia.

So here is the invitation:
Ask. Receive. Rejoice.

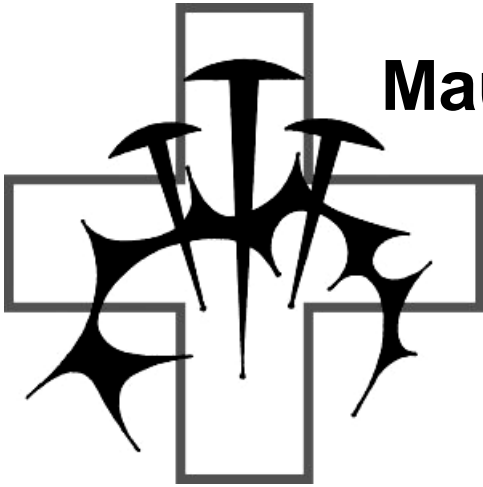
Not because life is easy, but because Christ is risen.
Not because grief is gone, but because grief does not get the last word.
Not because our joy is complete, but because *his* joy is already given.
And that joy, his joy, now lives in you. Alleluia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'L.B.' followed by a flourish.

Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 2 at 7:00pm



Good Friday Worship

April 3 at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday Celebrations

April 5 at 7:30am and 10:00am

Breakfast Served 8:30am - 9:30am

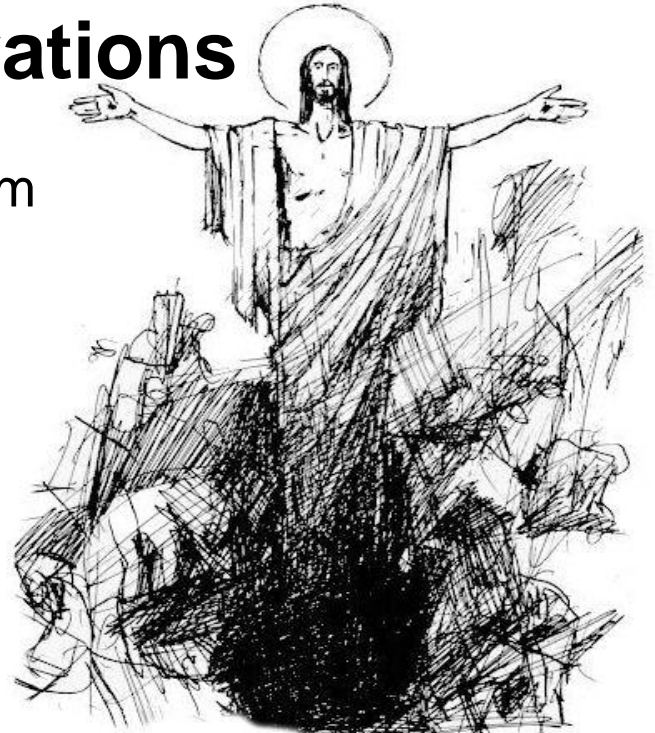
Egg Hunt 11:15am

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!



Saturday Breakfast

Served 9am-10:30am

April 11
and May 9

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



CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Celebration Sunday Lunch May 3 after Worship

May 3 our youth and children will be leading worship. Afterwards we will have lunch in the Fellowship Hall. (Meatball Subs, chips, salads) You don't need to bring anything! But, if you'd like... maybe you have an amazing salad or dessert you'd like to contribute, talk to Judy Taylor.(402-320-2765)



May 10 is Mother's Day

Hold the chocolate and flowers.

Hold the brunch reservations.

What mom may really want for Mother's Day is for you to be in church with her.

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.

Firepit Fellowship!

Family Campfire!

May 17, 6pm

Celebrate the coming of warmer weather with your friends from church at the fire ring for s'mores, chili, hot dogs, and chips! We have a fun game to play too!



News and Information *from the Office*



Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's fish frys such a wonderful success. From those who planned and organized, to those who cooked, served, cleaned, and simply showed up with willing hands and joyful spirits—your efforts were a true reflection of our life together in Christ.

Through your generosity and hard work, we raised over \$2,900. This is an incredible blessing and will support the ministry and mission we share as a congregation.

Just as meaningful as the funds raised was the spirit of fellowship that filled each evening. It was a joy to see so many from our church family working side by side, and to welcome members of the community who joined us around the table. These gatherings were not only about food, but about connection, hospitality, and the quiet witness of Christ's love made visible among us.

Thank you for giving your time, your energy, and your care. It is a gift to serve together in this way.

April and May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	2 Maundy Thursday 12pm Fitness Club 7pm Worship	3 Good Friday 7pm Worship	4
5 Easter 7:30am Sunrise Ser. 8:30am Breakfast 10am Worship 11:15am Egg Hunt	6 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	7 9am Quilting	8 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	9 12pm Fitness Club	10	11 9am Mid-Month Breakfast
12 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education	13 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	14 9am Quilting 11:30am WELCA	15 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	16 12pm Fitness Club	17	18
19 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	20 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	21	22 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	23 12pm Fitness Club	24	25
26 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education	27 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	28 9am Quilting	29 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	30 12pm Fitness Club	1	2
3 9am Adult Study 10am Kids lead Worship 11:15am Fellowship	4 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 12pm Fitness Club	5	6 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	7 12pm Fitness Club	8	9 9am Mid-Month Breakfast
10 Mother's Day 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	11 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	12 9am Quilting 11:30am WELCA	13 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	14 12pm Fitness Club	15	16
17 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 6pm Family Campfire	18 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	19	20 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	21 12pm Fitness Club	22	23
24 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	25 Memorial Day OFFICE CLOSED 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	26	27 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	28 12pm Fitness Club	29	30
31 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Don and Mille's						