



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

This summer our Vacation Bible School theme is “Rooted in Faith, Growing in Care.” We will spend the week talking with children about creation — not simply the seven days of creation as a timeline, but creation as a living gift entrusted to us by God. Theologically we call this the “Creation Mandate”. We will explore plants and animals, soil and seeds, pollinators and birds, and the beautiful mystery that God’s world is far more intricate and interconnected than we often notice.

Before Jesus gave the Great Commission, God gave humanity the Creation Mandate: be fruitful, fill the earth, and care for creation. That calling has never been revoked. It still echoes through ordinary days and ordinary tasks, giving purpose to everything from raising children to planting flowers, from feeding birds to mowing the lawn. God's work is not only found in sanctuaries and mission fields; it is also found in gardens, neighborhoods, and backyards. To fulfill this calling requires attentiveness—to the wonder of creation, to the needs around us, and to the gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps that is one of the greatest spiritual disciplines of summer: paying attention to the world God loves and remembering that we are part of it.

Over the last year, I have found myself learning more and more about the rhythms of creation. I have been experimenting with growing trees from seed; learning about stratification, germination, patience, and timing. Some seeds need cold before they can awaken. Some need months before any sign of life appears at all. Gary Hunter has generously shared some of the seedlings he has been nurturing, and it has been fascinating to watch tiny beginnings slowly become something sturdy and alive. I have also been trying my hand at air layering, encouraging roots to form on branches before they are ever separated from the parent plant. We will see how successful that turns out to be.

Of course, there are also the bees. Watching a hive work is to witness a kind of holy choreography — thousands of creatures each carrying out their small part in something much larger than themselves. And then there are the birds. Earlier this spring, a robin built her nest beneath my deck. I watched the eggs hatch, listened to the hungry chirping, and one day stood nearby as the final young bird took flight just moments after the mother returned with a worm. It was as though the little bird suddenly realized, “Oh... I guess I’m made for the sky.”

Moments like that feel sacramental to me. Not because nature itself replaces God, but because creation so often points beyond itself. Scripture says, “The heavens declare the glory of God.” Sometimes that declaration comes in grand mountain vistas or dramatic sunsets. Sometimes it comes in a tiny sprout pushing through soil, the hum of bees in clover, or a fledgling robin discovering its wings.

What strikes me most is how much of creation depends on care, patience, and trust. Gardens do not bloom overnight. Trees grow slowly. Pollinators quietly sustain entire ecosystems. And much of God’s work happens hidden from sight long before fruit appears.

Maybe that is true in faith as well.

As we move into these summer months, I encourage you to spend some time noticing creation again. Sit outside a little longer. Watch what grows. Listen for birdsong in the morning. Pay attention to the insects moving from flower to flower. Plant something. Water something. Care for something alive. And perhaps in doing so, we may remember that we too are part of God’s creation — rooted in faith, and still growing in care.

Grace and peace,



Youth and Family

Events for specific age groups

Vacation Bible School

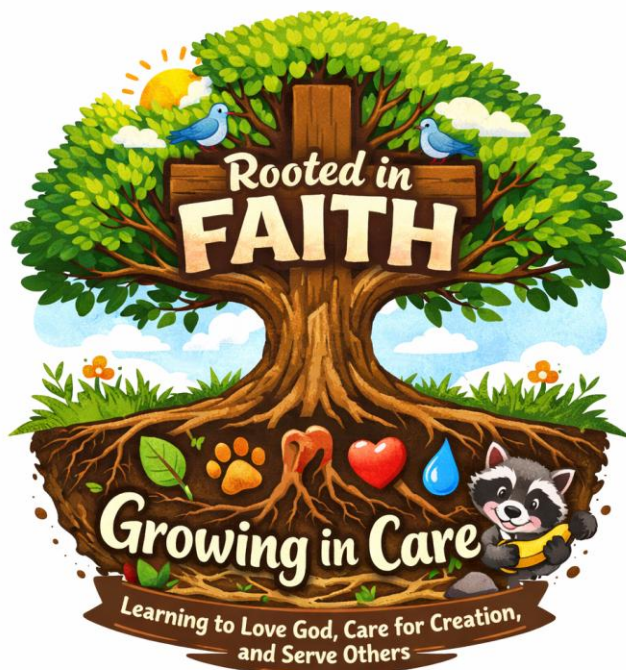
June 15 – 17

6:00pm – 7:30pm

**This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Psalm 118:24

Bushes and trees are filled with chattering squirrels, chirping birds, buzzing bees, and racoons that sneak around our houses at night. This summer kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God — their Creator, All-Knowing, their Refuge, Love, and Forever Hope.



There will be games, music, crafts, snacks, and stories that help kids see how God's presence in their lives changes everything. Whether it's your child's first VBS or their favorite part of summer, this is one adventure they won't want to miss! BRING A FRIEND! Let's make this summer a celebration of the unstoppable goodness of God!

Dinner served until 6:15. We will get started in the sanctuary at 6:20. If you can, let us know if you are coming and if you are bringing friends so we have an idea how to prepare. To do so contact Angie Wicklander – angiewicklander@gmail.com or 402-201-7817.

Want to help out with the lesson? Come share the joy, love, and power of Christ with the next generation. Contact Meema (Caroline Rice) at 402-297-4263

Praise Team

Last year we gathered people interested in leading a contemporary pattern for worship while kids were off doing some hands-on exploration of lessons from the Bible. The team led worship about three times after that. We are looking to get the team back together and expand it. Do you sing or play an instrument? Would you be interested in being part of the team? If you have any questions, call or text Katheryn at 402-708-5214.



We're going to close out the week with a pool party at Meema's house on Thursday. Same time, but the location is 18202 Nicholas Rd. Plattsmouth, NE 68048.

Youth and Family

Events for specific age groups

Middle & High School

Game Night

June 27, 4:30pm-6pm

Join your friends from church for games, pizza and other party food at the Pastor's house. (13503 South 22nd Street). 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.



Young Adults

Post-High School

Top Golf – June 14, 6pm

Start the summer with your friends from church at Top Golf! Only \$10. RSVP with Pastor Bryan 402-618-7847 by June 11!

Mission and Service

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits:

Building Personal Care Kits for People around the World

Each summer we have collected items for LWR School Kits. This year, because Mardelle has been recovering from surgery and has not been able to make the school kit bags, we will be collecting items for personal care kits. This simple effort provides dignity and hope in the direst situations and expresses love to our neighbors in need. Like the school kits we'll place item ornaments on the tree in the entryway so we can reach out as Christ's healing hands in the world.



The items we need most are:

- Light-weight bath-size towels (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- Metal nail clippers
- Adult size toothbrushes in original packaging
- Study combs

Our goal is to assemble 60 complete Lutheran World Relief school kits. We ask for you to bring your items to church no later than August 9. Our Sunday School children will be assembling the kits as part of their lesson activity during their first unit.

Worship

Prayer of a Nation July 5

A worship service for Independence Day weekend.
Veterans and active-duty service members will be recognized.



Congregational Life

Events for the whole community



Mid-Month Breakfast

Served
9:00am-10:30am

June 13 and July 11

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

Congregational Lunch

June 28 – following worship

Paul Dawkins is hosting a BBQ Party.

Fried Fish and Chicken,
Summer Corn, Pasta and Potato Salads,
Cole Slaw, and Corn Bread



INVITE A FRIEND TO JOIN YOU!

Seriously, this is not a hard sell. "Hey, my church is doing a BBQ Lunch on June 28. We have people at church love to cook and it's kind of their excuse to have a party. The food is going to be great. Seriously." This is NOT a fundraiser! This is us having great fellowship and it provides an easy opportunity for you to invite someone to worship.

June and July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	2	3	4 12pm Fitness Club	5	6
7 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	8 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	9	10 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	11 12pm Fitness Club	12	13 9am Mid-Month Breakfast
14 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 6pm Post-HS at Top Golf	15 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S. VBS 6-7:30pm	16 11:30am WELCA VBS 6-7:30pm	17 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up VBS 6-7:30pm	18 12pm Fitness Club Pool Party 6pm Meema's House 18202 Nicholas Rd	19	20
21 Father's Day 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	22 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	23	24 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	25 12pm Fitness Club	26	27 4:30pm Youth Game Night
28 9am Adult Study 10am Worship Midsummer BBQ after worship	29 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	30	1 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	2 12pm Fitness Club	3	4
5 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	6 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	7	8 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	9 12pm Fitness Club	10	11 9am Mid-Month Breakfast
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