



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

Stewardship 2027

A message from Laurel Wiegand, Treasurer

It seems like we just had the Annual Meeting, but here we are at the start of a new stewardship season! This year the congregation should have "Financial Focus" for 2027. The management of the church assets is undergoing change this year. I will be moving out of the area in the spring so not only will we have a new council, but the treasurer will also be new. This is the time to dig in and make some positive changes.

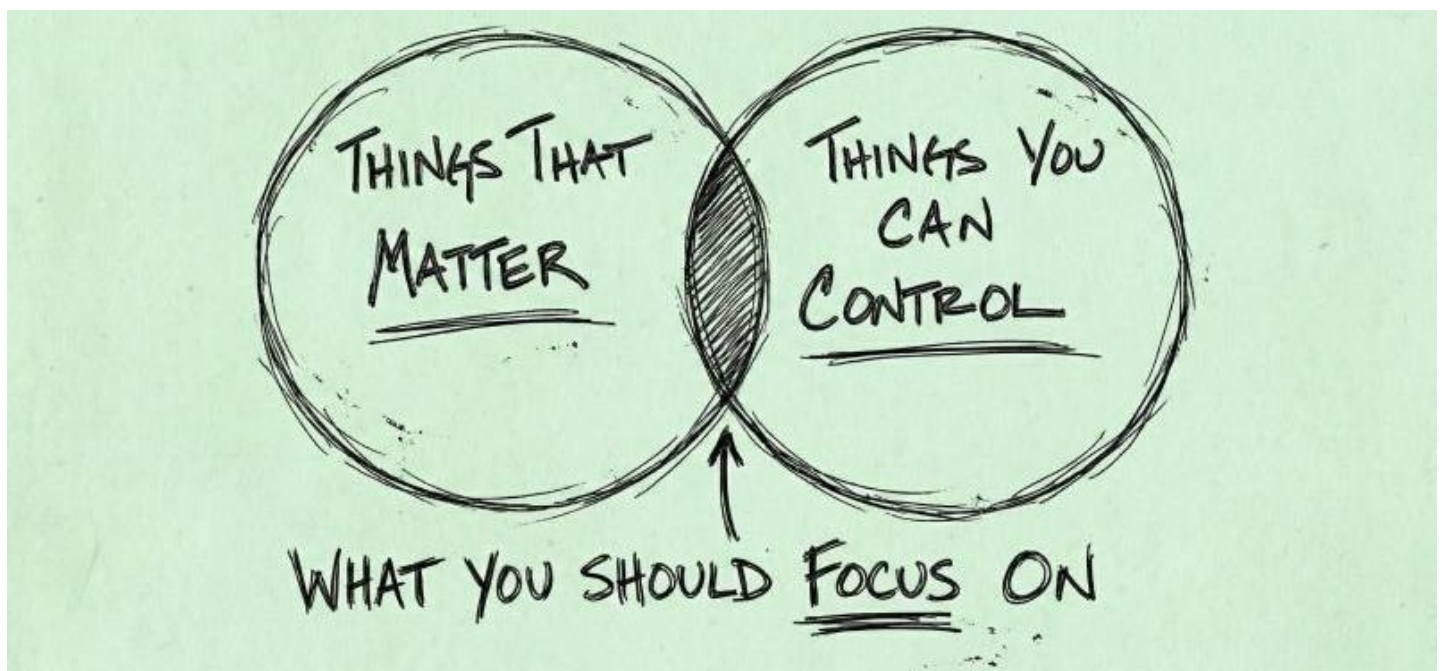
Over my six years as treasurer the finance committee has dwindled leaving me to make most of the decisions. While I am thankful the congregation has entrusted me with the finances of the church, it is a lot of responsibility. There needs to be more oversight of the finances. Not down in the details, but an awareness of how the finances run. The finances need to be understood by more than one person otherwise it is a single point of failure.

Over the past six years we weathered a scary time during COVID and came through strong. We have had a few good years financially, but where costs were creeping up, they are going to leap up. The cost of insurance is going to go up again. Our MUD and OPPD bills have been steady for the past two years, but with the price of oil on the rise, I expect to see an increase. The finance team is going to have to make some decisions about how the finances are nurtured.

As we enter the stewardship season consider how we all contribute to the financial stability of the church. We need to do more than just put our financial offering in the plate. Consider signing up to count. Counting takes very little time but allows the treasurer time to interact with members of the congregation and show how the finances are accounted for. Your presence provides oversight to the finance process.

Last year several people stepped up and offered to do the annual audit. If you were one, thank-you, and everyone consider volunteering this year. The oversight helps the treasurer feel secure by openly relaying how the finances were handled and showing the congregation continues to put trust in the treasurer and finance team but, verifies the process.

For 2027 the congregation should have "Financial Focus". Consider spending time with the Treasurer as part of the finance team, volunteering to count, or volunteer to do the audit. Christ the King has a strong financial position right now, let's focus as we enter the next year to manage our resources together.



Grace and Peace

A message from Pastor Bryan

As we begin another stewardship season at Christ the King, there is a good deal of change taking place in the life of our congregation. Some familiar faces will be stepping away from particular leadership responsibilities, while others will be taking on new roles. We will have a new treasurer, a new council president, and several new members of our church council.

Change like this can sometimes make us a little nervous. We may wonder how things will work when someone who has handled a responsibility for several years is no longer the person doing it. But there is also something very ordinary, and very healthy, about this kind of transition in the life of a congregation. None of us serves in a particular role forever. We serve for a season, and then someone else takes up that responsibility. That is one reason I appreciate the biblical language of **stewardship**.



*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift you have received." 1 Peter 4:10*

A steward is someone who has been entrusted with something that belongs to someone else. A steward does not own the master's household. The steward is responsible for caring for what has been entrusted to him or her. That is a helpful way to think about the church.

Christ the King does not belong to the pastor. It does not belong to the church council, the treasurer, or any other individual. It doesn't even belong to the particular generation of people who happen to be sitting in the pews today. **Christ the King belongs to Christ.** And we have been entrusted with its care for a time.

That includes our financial resources, of course. We have buildings to maintain, ministries to support, bills to pay, and opportunities to serve our community. Good stewardship means paying attention to those things and managing them responsibly. As Laurel points out elsewhere in this newsletter, that responsibility is best shared by more than one person. But Christian stewardship is bigger than money.

We have also been entrusted with our time. We have been given abilities and experiences that can be used to serve others. We have been given relationships within this congregation. We have been given children and young people to teach and encourage. We have been given neighbors who need to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. We have been given a congregation with a history, a building, a ministry, and a place in this community. And we have been entrusted with the gospel itself.

Those are gifts we did not create and cannot ultimately claim as our own. We receive them, care for them, use them, and eventually hand them on to someone else. That is part of what makes the changes coming to our church council this year an opportunity rather than something to fear. There will certainly be a learning curve. New people will need to learn how things work, ask questions, and become familiar with responsibilities they have not carried before.

That is how stewardship works. One person plants, another waters, someone else may harvest; and through it all, God gives the growth. The goal isn't for one person to know everything. The goal is for the people of God to serve together faithfully.

That means stewardship sometimes looks like putting an offering in the plate. Sometimes it looks like setting up a regular gift so that the congregation can plan responsibly. Sometimes it looks like volunteering to count the offering, helping with an audit, serving on a committee, teaching a child, preparing a meal, attending a council meeting, or simply being willing to learn something new.

Sometimes stewardship looks like giving money.

Sometimes it looks like giving your time.

Sometimes it looks like saying, "I've never done that before, but I'm willing to learn."

And sometimes stewardship simply means recognizing that something important has been entrusted to us and deciding to take good care of it.

As we enter this new season at Christ the King, I am thankful for the people who have served faithfully in the past, and I am thankful for those who are willing to step into new responsibilities. We don't need every person to do everything. We do need each of us to consider what God has placed in our hands and how we might use those gifts in service to others.

Peter doesn't say that everyone has received the same gift. He says, "whatever gift you have received." The gifts are different, the responsibilities are different, and the seasons of service are different. But the calling is the same: **be faithful with what has been entrusted to you.**

We don't know everything that the coming years will bring for Christ the King. We don't have to. Our calling is not to control the future of the church. Our calling is to be faithful with what God has placed in our care today. And then, when our season of service comes to an end, we can hand those gifts on to the next person with the confidence that the church has never ultimately depended upon any one of us.

It belongs to Christ.

And what a gift it is to have the opportunity, for a little while, to help care for what belongs to him.



As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.

We give in thanksgiving for all God has given us

Worship

Pet Blessing **DURING WORSHIP!** October 4

October 4th is the festival of Saint Francis of Assisi and once again we will be having our animal blessing during worship.

This is a great opportunity for you to invite someone to worship. Pets of all kinds are welcome; horses, dogs, cats, birds, mice, guinea pigs, spiders, turtles, snakes, and other reptiles. If you have a bird and squirrel feeder, bring your feeder for a blessing as well.

Prayers to keep raccoons and opossums away seem largely ineffective.

There will also be a time to remember our animal friends who have passed away.

We even have collar tags to give away, so if your pet is anti-social, come anyway and we will bless the tag and you can take the blessing home.



Reformation Sunday **WEAR RED!**

October 25



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.

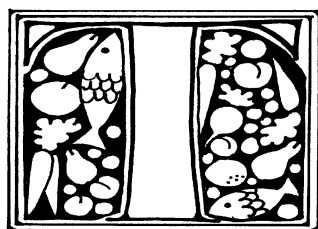
This day is a celebration of the Holy Spirit that continues to move us toward the grace and mercy of God even today.

November 1

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*



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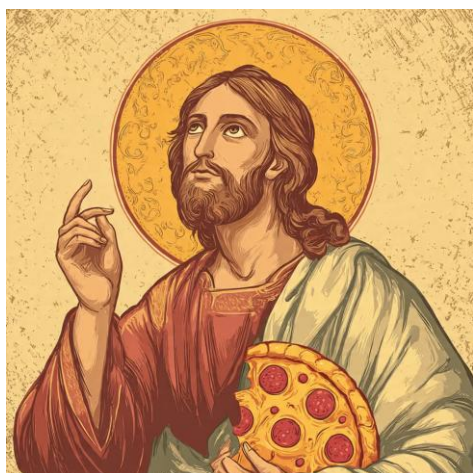
November 25

*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 at 7pm 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!

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.



Pizza with Jesus!

October 25, 4:30pm Youth *(Middle and High school)*

If you're looking to read in advance it's going to be about the Time when King Josiah finds the scripture (which were lost) in 2 Kings 22-23.

November 8, 6-8pm Post High School

We'll do a dive into the book of Job. Readings will be sent out in advance... but you could just read the whole thing.

Fall Family Campfire

October 23, 6pm-8pm

Come TOGETHER FOR JOY Friday, October 23 from 6pm-8pm at the fire ring for s'mores, chili, hot dogs, and chips!

We'll also have some fun with the t-shirt cannons!



Congregational Life

Events for the whole community



Mid-Month Breakfasts

Served 9am-10:30am

October 10

November 8

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

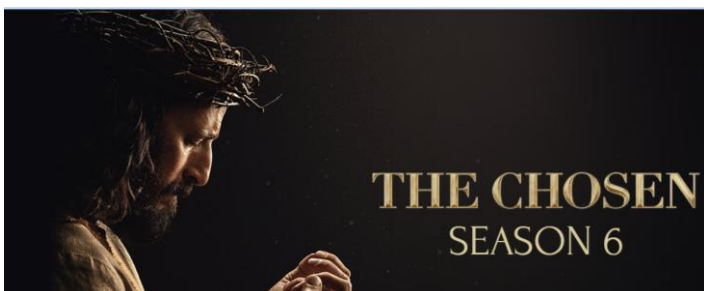
November 1 **Following Worship**

Join us after worship for a congregational lunch featuring lasagnas, pasta (marinara and alfredo), salad and garlic bread



November 29, 2022
Immediately following worship

Join us for a Fellowship Lunch at Don and Millie's after worship. We get a portion of the receipts to put toward the Capital Fund, so tell all your friends to go to Don and Millie's and say, "I'm with Christ the King!"



For the past several years, we've enjoyed gathering together in October to watch *The Chosen*. We'll have to wait a little longer this year, since Season 6 won't be released until November 15, 2026. But that gives us something to look forward to! We're planning to gather sometime after the new year to watch the new season together. Stay tuned for more details. We hope you'll join us!

News and Information *from the Office*

As the days get shorter, the nights longer and the temperature cools it is time for us to consider our financial support for Christ the King. These days there are many ways to set up regular giving so I will describe several, but there are more.



First, the traditional offering plate is a way many of us grew up. The plate was passed down the pews during the service and placed on the altar. During COVID we began setting the plate by the entry so people could place the offering in on the way in or out of the service. No more digging through pockets during the service, or people feeling judged as to whether they put something in or not. We have adapted to the times, but cash or checks can still be placed in the plate, and it will be counted and used to support the church.

Second, an offering can be made directly from a personal bank account into the church bank account using ACH through a company called VANCO. The treasurer uses your bank routing and account number to link to the church account and the money moves electronically. The offering can be for any amount and moved at any frequency. The usual is a monthly offering. You don't have to remember your check book, or be at the service, your offering is delivered on time so the bills can be paid on time.

Third, Christ the King has a PayPal account. If you use PayPal you can use it to make your offering. You can give once or set up a recurring payment. This allows you to control when the offering flows and if you want to adjust the amount or timing you do it on your own, the treasurer is not involved. The church does pay a small fee for the transaction, but it is very convenient.

Fourth, PayPal has a charitable giving site. You can use it to send your offering to the church. PayPal collects the offering all month and then transfers it to the church account at the end of the month. This is not automated; you need to login each month and contribute. There is no fee to use this site.

Fifth, you can use your bank's automatic bill pay option. The bank sends a check to the church. Banks used to use automatic transfer, but now they mail checks. Although it is convenient for you as the offering is automatically withdrawn from your account, delivery to the church is not electronic. A paper check is sent through the US postal service. Some banks include your name and information, and some do not. The treasurer must collect the check from the mailbox and process it.

As I mentioned there are many ways to set up regular giving, these are a few. Regular giving allows the treasurer to have a steady cash flow all year to cover recurring bills and payroll. If you choose an automated method you won't worry over vacation or bad weather if you missed an offering, it's done for you. Please talk to me or Nick if you want more information about any of these options. Please consider setting up a method of regular giving, it's a wonderful habit that keeps Christ the King alive.

Thank-you!
Laurel, Treasurer

Make a Contribution

Make a Pledge

News and Information from the Office

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 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12pm Fitness Club	2	3
4 9am Adult Study 10am Worship Pet Blessing 11:15am Fellowship	5 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	6	7 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	8 12pm Fitness Club	9	10 9am Mid-Month Breakfast
11 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education	12 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	13	14 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	15 12pm Fitness Club	16	17
18 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 6pm CTKYA Bowling	19 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	20 11:30am WELCA	21 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	22 12pm Fitness Club	23 6pm - Family Campfire	24
25 Reformation 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education 4:30 Youth Pizza with Jesus	26 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	27	28 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	29 12pm Fitness Club	30	31
1 All Saints 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Fellowship Meal	2 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	3	4 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	5 12pm Fitness Club	6	7
8 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:20am Christian Education 6pm CTKYA Pizza with Jesus	9 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.	10	11 9am San Andreas Pantry Set-up	12 12pm Fitness Club	13	14 9am Mid-Month Breakfast
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29 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Don and Mille's	30 12pm Fitness Club 5:30pm T.O.P.S.					