



MAY 2025

THE KING'S MESSENGER

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMPHIS, TN

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness." - Isaiah 61:10

Greetings, CTK family! I hope everyone had a very blessed Easter; I know I certainly did! All of our Holy Week and Easter services were beautiful, and I want to say thank you to everyone who helped and served in them. It was truly a great way for us to give praises to our God for His Son and all the things He does for us each day.

I always found the month of May to be strange when it come to what's going on in the church year. We have all this build-up during the season of Lent which culminates in Holy Week and Easter, then it seems to quiet down for a few weeks as we approach Confirmation Day and Ascension, both of which may be easy to forget about in the aftermath of the Easter celebration. Many secular things in our lives come up to make May a very busy month, however. College students are finishing up the school year, high school graduations are being planned, preparations for Mother's Day are underway, not to mention that the month of May is one of the most popular wedding months (I'm in two!). There are all sorts of things in our lives that keep us busy in the month of May. Sometimes it's difficult to see where church and God fit into all of this.

One thing that is easy to forget is that Easter is not just a single Sunday in April. Easter is actually an entire season in the church year, seven weeks to be exact! We get to celebrate our Lord's triumphant victory over sin and death for the entire month of May, also. Now this may not seem to mean all that much to our busy lives but reflect on what the Lord's Resurrection means for us. Not only does His promise of forgiveness and everlasting life give us hope but it also means that Jesus is alive Himself. He promises that He is with us to the very end of the age and that includes you! That means for all of these events in our lives, Jesus is with us. Whether it's here at CTK or whether it's finishing another year of school, graduation, Mother's Day, or whatever else may be going on in your life, Jesus is with you. He's there to guide, support, and celebrate with you, most of all to remind you of His grace and love.

Really, the seven weeks of Easter are a reminder of this new reality. And it's not just during these seven weeks that Jesus goes with you. No, it's every day of your life; the good and the bad times. What happened on Easter Day means you and God are no longer separated. He shares in your life as your heavenly Father. As Isaiah the Prophet says, God has clothed us with His righteousness. That is the robe you are wearing now. What comfort and joy this is for us whose lives are very busy outside of church, lives filled with ups and downs as we await out Lord's return. I think this can serve as a good reminder for us as we continue though the season of Easter. Don't view your life and church as two separate things; God cares about you too much to only pay attention one day a week. Rather, see your life as one in which you are walking with God in all things. When the time comes to celebrate with each other, celebrate with God, too. When the time comes to mourn with each other, mourn with God, too. He promises to be with you in this life and in the next. I pray all of you will have a blessed Easter season as we look forward to Summer!

Pastor Matt

ASCENSION SERVICE

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Mark your calendars to make sure you don't miss Christ the King's beautiful Ascension service on Thursday, May 29, at 7PM.

We observe the Feast of the Ascension to commemorate Jesus' ascending into heaven on the 40th day after Easter. The Pascal candle is extinguished, to be re-lit ten days later at Pentecost, when the apostles experienced an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Christian Church is acknowledged.

CTK's Ascension Service has always been marked by an inspiring message and beautiful music.

Pastor Chuck will preach at this service of Word and Sacrament.



INFORMATION MEETING

On Sunday, May 11, after the late service, Jim Devan and I will be in the Fellowship Hall to talk about future building needs and goals for both our school and sanctuary. These plans were approved and set in motion following the voters meeting in June of last year. There will be a few drawings on hand for reference. This is an information meeting only; there will be no vote on anything presented or discussed at that time. As with any organization, planning for future needs is important and necessary and we also remember that it is a blessing to be in a position such that we are moving forward. We hope to see you on the 11th.

Pastor Mark

P.S. Don't miss the Voters Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, in the Fellowship Hall.

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2025



On Sunday, May 18, at the 11:00 service, we will observe the Rite of Confirmation for six young people who have completed instruction by the Pastors and are ready to confirm the baptismal vows taken on their behalf before the congregation.

Please keep the following confirmands in your prayers: that they remain faithful to their Lutheran confession, that they are able to boldly proclaim their faith in their everyday lives, and that they continue to serve the Lord with gladness wherever they go.

Davis Byrum

Luca Calhoun-Williams

Audrey Eldridge

Ali Schmitt

Elayna Smith

Eowyn White

The Confirmation Class wishes to thank Mrs. Lorraine Ellard for the beautiful Confirmation banners she so lovingly has handcrafted as a remembrance of their Confirmation Day.

Soli Deo Gloria



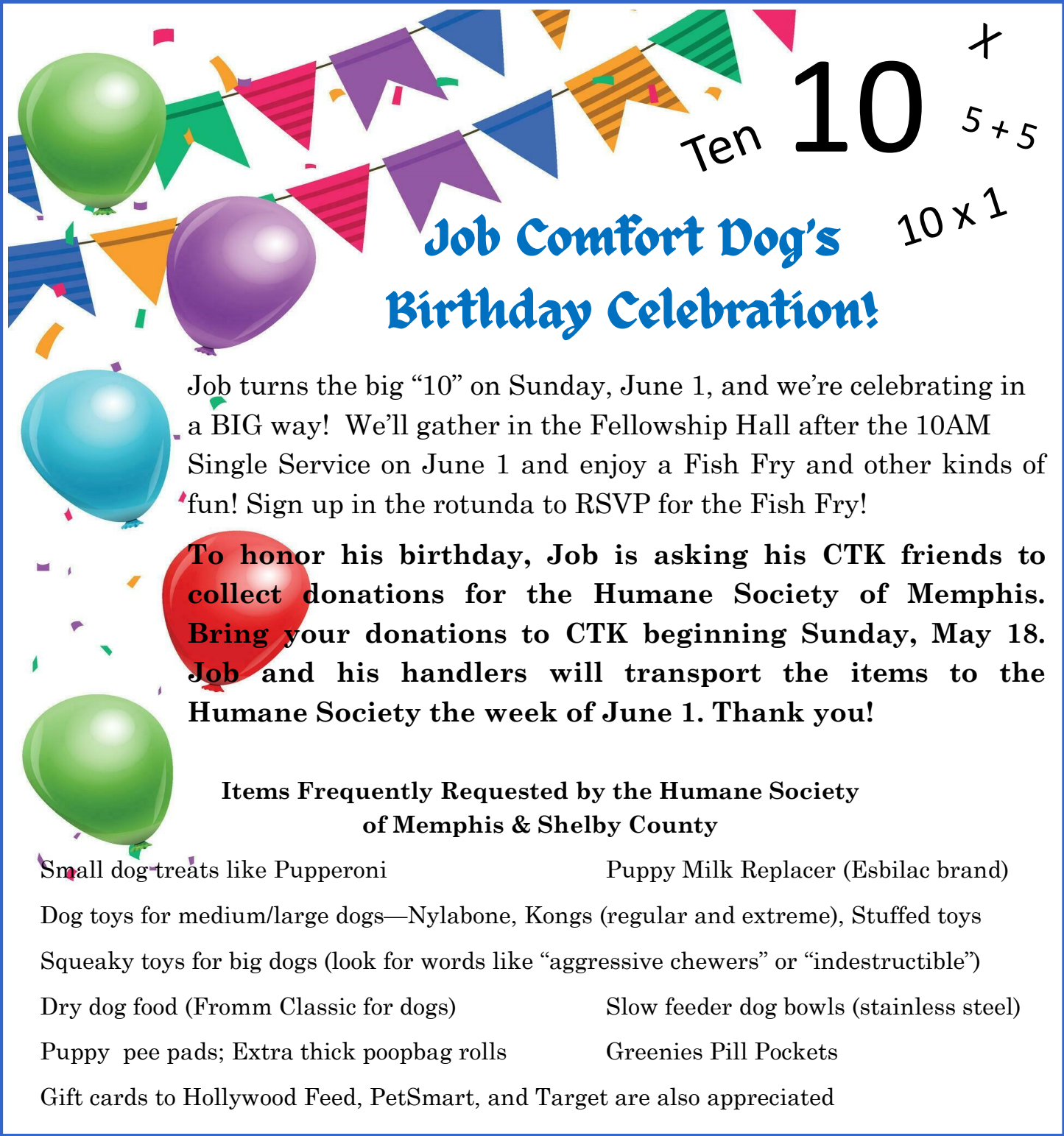
On **Sunday, June 1**, our CTK family will join in a **Single-Service Sunday**, with worship at 10AM. Before summer vacations begin, let's gather in worship and celebrate through Word and Sacrament our shared ministry.

Lunch follows in the Fellowship Hall with a **FISH FRY** served up by Kevin Baskette and friends.

Let's gather to celebrate:

- ♦ **Job Comfort Dog's 10th Birthday!** See details on the next page on how you can make this his best birthday ever! We'll have several very special guests—one with a fluffy tail! Can you guess who it is???
- ♦ The almost **one-year mark of Pastor Matt's ministry** among us! It's hard to believe it's only been a year!
- ♦ The **Future Comfort Dog Team!** We'll introduce the Future Dog Team and spread the excitement of this "Golden Opportunity" as they wrap up their fundraiser.

RSVP for the **FISH FRY** in the rotunda or at bit.ly/JobIs10! (Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available.) We hope to see our entire CTK family on June 1!



Job Comfort Dog's Birthday Celebration!

Job turns the big “10” on Sunday, June 1, and we’re celebrating in a BIG way! We’ll gather in the Fellowship Hall after the 10AM Single Service on June 1 and enjoy a Fish Fry and other kinds of fun! Sign up in the rotunda to RSVP for the Fish Fry!

To honor his birthday, Job is asking his CTK friends to collect donations for the Humane Society of Memphis. Bring your donations to CTK beginning Sunday, May 18. Job and his handlers will transport the items to the Humane Society the week of June 1. Thank you!

Items Frequently Requested by the Humane Society of Memphis & Shelby County

- Small dog treats like Pupperoni
- Puppy Milk Replacer (Esbilac brand)
- Dog toys for medium/large dogs—Nylabone, Kongs (regular and extreme), Stuffed toys
- Squeaky toys for big dogs (look for words like “aggressive chewers” or “indestructible”)
- Dry dog food (Fromm Classic for dogs)
- Slow feeder dog bowls (stainless steel)
- Puppy pee pads; Extra thick poopbag rolls
- Greenies Pill Pockets
- Gift cards to Hollywood Feed, PetSmart, and Target are also appreciated

IN THE NEWS! Job Comfort Dog has been in the news! “Broadcaster,” the magazine published by Worship Anew, an RSO of the LCMS based at Fort Wayne Seminary, featured Job and other LCC Comfort Dogs who spend a good deal of time working with the elderly. Copies are available at the Information Desk in the narthex. Two of Job’s handlers, Cheryl Lockhart and Dianna Garner, were quoted in the article.

Memphis Voyager, an online publication highlighting those entities who bring a special “something” to the community, included an interview with Job’s Top Dog and some great photos of Job at work. Visit the link below to read about Job’s community impact and view the photos. memphisvoyager.com/interview/meet-job-comfort-dog-of-east-memphis



CTK's beautiful brass handbells are turning 43 years old this year. The sounds of their ringing have been heard in worship at so many Christ the King occasions: Sunday services, Christmas programs, weddings, baptisms, children's chapels, and in the processional for the dedication celebration of our current sanctuary. What a joyful day that was! However, the bells have aged and need cleaning, tuning, and **major repairs** before being played again. We are currently getting estimates from several companies and believe the cost of refurbishment will be around \$6,000. A generous gift from a former member will cover half that amount. If you would like to help the bells ring again, please place your donation in the Offering plate marked "Handbells" or bring your gift to the church office. Thank you for your part in making joyous music ring out in our sanctuary!

UPCOMING SMALL GROUP DATES

- ***Tuesday, May 13 & 27, 7PM** — Michael Salzgeber and Lisa Bough
"Church History in Plain Language" michael.salzgeber@sylvamo.com
- ***Wednesday, May 14 & 28, 7PM** — Steven & Jennifer Andrews
"Limping with God: Jacob and the Old Testament" drewcrewe@yahoo.com
- ***Thursday, May 15**—Pastor Matt's group for 20's and 30's
pastormatt@ctkmemphis.com
- ***Saturday, May 24, 7PM** — Study of Galatians, Billy & Carol Kutteh
Various leaders — cckutteh@yahoo.com
- ***Every Thursday, 7PM** — Jim Devan "Woodworking" j_devan@bellsouth.net
- ***Robyn Byrum "Crafting Moms"** For moms of teens and college-age kids.
Stay tuned for the next meeting date! robynbyrum2@gmail.com

It's never too late to join a Small Group! Contact the leader for more information on time and location. "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

1 Thess. 5:11



COMING SOON! CTK's "Connect Class," a class designed for new and prospective members will be offered on June 8 and 15 during the Bible Class hour. Covering a brief history of Christ the King, its current mission, and how you can become involved with events and ministries that match your talents and goals, the class will give you an opportunity to meet ministry leaders, ask questions, and find your niche! **RSVP** to Genie Swan at gswan@ctkmemphis.com, or sign up at bit.ly/ConnectClass2025.

Also for prospective members — Pastor Mark and Pastor Matt will take turns leading an Adult Instruction Class beginning Sunday, June 22, at 9:50am. Contact Pastor Mark at markgoble@comcast.net to let him know you are interested.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Christ the King is hosting the Opening Service for the Mid-South District Convention, Thursday, June 12. This service will be preceded by a dinner at 5:45PM in the Fellowship Hall for 300+ people. Volunteers are needed to help serve at the dinner.

If you are interested in serving in this way, seeing lots of fellow Lutherans and acting as a host and representative of our church, sign up in the rotunda or contact Ann Laury at ann.laury@ctkschool.com. Thank you!

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CHOIR

You are invited to join the **Lutheran Community Choir** for the Opening Worship Service of the Mid-South District Convention, Thursday, June 12, at 7:30PM. Directed by CTK's Chris Cardona, this choir will draw Lutheran singers from the greater Memphis area in one voice to enhance the worship service for those in attendance, including Convention delegates, Pastors, and the Lutheran community. Contact Chris to let him know you are interested at ccardona@ctkmemphis.com. Rehearsals are May 28, June 4, and June 11 at 6:30PM in CTK's choir loft.



Christ the King Lutheran School is bidding farewell to two of our teachers — Mrs. Debbie Albertini, who is retiring after 36 years of teaching, 23 of which have been at CTK; and Mr. Ben Kuefner, who is beginning his studies at Concordia Seminary in June. We wish for a wonderful and exciting retirement for Mrs. Albertini,



and an equally exciting time of study for Mr. Kuefner as he prepares to enter the ministry as a Called Pastor. Thank you both for the love and commitment you have shown to our students. God bless you!

YOUTH MIN @ CTK

MAY 2025 ☉

HIGH SCHOOL

Join Mr. Nathan Leborious in the Youth Room each Sunday at 9:45am for Bible study and fellowship. We are currently taking a look at the book of John and discussing how it is relevant to your everyday life.



THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION FOR YOUR financial support at the Youth sponsored Lenten Dinner and Easter Breakfast. Your generosity will help cover the cost of the hotel while we are in New Orleans for the LCMS YOUTH GATHERING in July 2025!

~ DATES TO REMEMBER ~

- HS Youth Night - May 4 - 5-6:30 - Youth Room
- End of Year Party - May 10 - 5-6:30 - Youth Room
- HS Youth Night - May 18 - 5-8 - Youth Room

~ SUNDAY SCHOOL ~

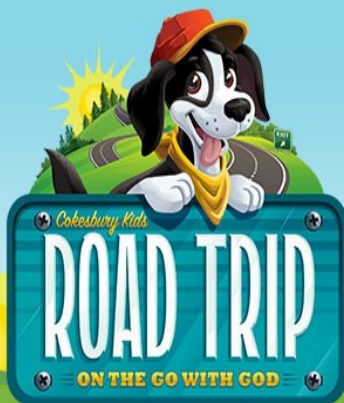
Students completed an in-depth study of Holy Week following the journey of Jesus Christ to the Cross and Resurrection. They all know exactly how to respond when they hear someone say —“ALLELUIA, Christ is Risen”, and they do it with firm conviction. The series finished with a look at Thomas and the realization that we are not so different.

Sometimes, we, too, need to see things before our doubts are taken away, but God is ALWAYS with us and will help us keep our faith strong even as we question. During May the kids will complete the Old Testament Enduring Faith lessons to see how God continues to bring His people back and prepare them for the coming of Jesus! Names like Esther, Nehemiah, Ezra, Haggai, Malachi and Joshua will take the stage over the next month!

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS—Mark your calendar for our May get together

MAY 16 - 6-9pm - Youth Room

SCOUT WANTS YOU!



ROAD TRIP (VBS 2025)

June 16—June 20 ~ 9:00—11:45am

is rapidly approaching, Check your schedule and head to the table in the ROTUNDA to add your name to the Road Trip Crew! There are a variety places to serve our kids and help them learn, that no matter where they go, **GOD GOES WITH THEM!** SIGN UP SUNDAY!!

Travelers (kids) Registration forms are there too!!



Join CTK's Faith in Action team on Thursday, May 15, at the Habitat Store on Winchester as they provide dinner and house-warming crosses for new graduates of the Habitat Home Ownership Program.

Those who have completed this program will be given an opportunity to purchase their first home.

FIA serves a delicious dinner and presents each family with a cross to hang on the wall of their new home. What a joyous occasion! To sign up to help, contact Stacy Davis at davis68154@gmail.com or 314-920-7338.

Lutheran Children's Camp is coming up soon, June 16-20, at Camp Clark Williamson in Humboldt, TN! Register today for this week-long camp for those who have completed 3rd through 7th grades. This camp, popular among CTK children for decades, gives kids a chance to experience God's Word through nature with Christian counselors and friends. Visit this link to register now!
<https://www.lutheranchildrenscamp.com/register>

Parking Lot Striping—On May 27, weather permitting, the west parking lot will be re-striped. If you visit the church campus that day, please park in the east lot. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Also, **please note:** at that time, for safety purposes, we will be making a change back to **one entrance-only driveway** (the one closest to the church) and **one exit-only driveway** (closest to Park Valley). Please keep an eye out for the new parking markings and signage. Drive safely! Thank you.



CALVARY RESCUE MISSION MEMORIAL CHAPEL GIFT



Christ the King volunteers for Calvary Rescue Mission invite you to join them in raising funds to purchase a pew for the Betty Hatcher Memorial Chapel. Each pew costs \$2100 and we are halfway there! This would be a wonderful way to acknowledge the outstanding services offered to our homeless neighbors through Calvary Rescue Mission. Please place an envelope in the offering plate marked "Calvary Rescue Memorial Chapel" or bring your donation by the church office or hand to Gary Osing or Mike or Cindy Jurgensen. Thank you! And join us on the third Sunday of every month as we serve dinner to those gathered to eat and hear the Word of God. Contact Gary at garyosing@gmail.com for more information on how you can participate.

NEWS FROM LWML



Sunday, May 4, is Mite Box Sunday! Please drop your Mighty Mites in the box located in the Church Narthex.



LWML Prayer Service will be held on Sunday, May 10, Concordia Jackson Lutheran Church at 10AM.



Thank you LWML members, for making 29 Easter Baskets for our Homebound! Our congregation members loved them! Some baskets were hand-delivered and many “thank you’s” were spoken!



LWML MEETING on Thursday, May 15, at 5:30—7:00PM. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting!

Thank You...

Faith in Action would like to thank everyone in the congregation who donated items for our Comfort Kits that we put together on April 7th! With your help, we were able to create 40 backpacks filled with basic needs items that will help One More Child in Memphis reach victims who have survived sex trafficking or are in great danger of becoming a victim. With their mobile unit, they are able to reach out to anyone in need. These backpack kits are given as a means to help meet some of their basic needs so that they can focus on healing from their circumstances. We thank everyone who came out and put together the kits and listened to how this organization works to reach those in need in our greater Memphis area. We very much appreciate that Claire Jagers, LMSW, Director of Anti-Trafficking for Tennessee and North Carolina, was able to be present and to give such a great presentation. If you have questions about One More child, please feel free to reach out and we can provide you with more information. Stay tuned for our 3rd Annual Drive next year!

***Your Faith in
Action Team***





The Board of Worship wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the many volunteers and staff who worked together to make our Holy Week and Easter services so outstanding. The music — offered by a variety of musicians including instrumentalists, choir, and soloists — was beautifully done and enhanced each service. A large number of Acolytes, Torchbearers, and Crucifers performed their tasks reverently. Greeters, Ushers, Nursery volunteers, and Altar Guild members made everything flow smoothly

before, during, and after the services. The Sound and Live-Streaming technicians made sure all could see and hear, both in the sanctuary and at home. The bulletin stuffers and counters gave invaluable help, as always. And the Pines kept the coffee flowing! In all, God was glorified and those gathered to worship were led to focus on Christ our Risen and Living Lord! Happy Easter to all!

On Sunday, April 26, a group of CTK members who regularly volunteer with Room in the Inn were guests of the RITI facility on Ayers, enjoying a thank-you lunch and a tour conducted by RITI director Lisa Anderson. The group was amazed at the incredible scope of services that RITI provides to those in need, including helping families to transition to housing, assistance to those seeking employment, and recuperative care for people who need a place to rest and recuperate after being released from the hospital or while undergoing cancer treatment. Director Anderson offered tours at any time to groups or individuals desiring to see what great work is accomplished at RITI. Thank you, CTK, for your part in this ministry.

