



JUNE/JULY 2025

THE KING'S MESSENGER

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMPHIS, TN

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. For many of you, the school year has ended, as it has here at Christ the King, and you're making plans for the summer.

Wherever you go, be sure you invite the Lord to join you.

Thank you for your love and support of this ministry. Christ the King would not be what it is without each of you. I also want to thank the church staff, our school and ECC staff, and Charlie Parsons and David Joffre for all they do every day. Christ the King is not a small operation and your service is indispensable to any and all success we have.

Speaking of "thank you's" — Thanks be to God for Nate and Katie Eldridge, who stepped up to take on the role of Caregivers for the Future Comfort Dog. The Comfort Dog Ministry has become a flagship ministry at CTK and it's in very capable hands with the team that has been assembled for the Future Dog. Job's Team and the Future Dog Team look forward to working together in the years to come.

To date, we have held three information meetings regarding the proposed upgrades and repairs to our school building and the sanctuary. I want to thank Jim Devan for leading these. Jim has been very thorough as well as objective. Your questions and input have been important to this process. We will attempt to hold more of these meetings in the future. If you haven't attended one, please try to do so, and let me know your thoughts. Your voice and opinion matter. While no final decisions have been made, I am sensing a general agreement forming on what needs to be done; things are getting narrowed down. Please pray with me that the Holy Spirit lead and bless these important efforts. As your pastor, I want there to be as much agreement about what we are going to do as possible. This isn't my church; it's the Lord's, yours, and those who come after us.

*I don't often write about personal experiences in this forum but I want to share this with you hoping to offer a little inspiration. On Memorial Day I stopped in to see Mr. Roy Young who is in a rehab unit. Roy, a Vietnam veteran who saw combat, is in his eighties, married to the love of his life Billie, and has been a member at CTK for as long as I can remember. Salt of the earth man. When I walked into his room, Roy lit up with a big smile, with arms open waiting for an embrace. He had made a remarkable recovery. Roy went on and on about his progress, smiling, amazed at God's goodness. Roy thanked me for coming and I then offered to pray but Roy stopped me and said, "I want to pray for **you**." He took my hand and offered a beautiful prayer. Needless to say, I struggled to speak as I thanked him. Such a powerful moment of the Spirit's presence and work — some of it, I believe, happened through Christ the King.*

I hope your summer goes well and you get some rest and relaxation. May our good and gracious God bless you and your loved ones. See you in church.

Pastor Mark

Job's Journal

Job Comfort Dog says “Thank You!” for the wonderful birthday party on June 1! The Future Dog Team hosted an amazing event and Job’s team is truly grateful for all the love and support shown by the entire congregation. A large box of toys, supplies, and gift cards was transported to the Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County in honor of Job’s birthday, thanks to your generosity. Pastor Chuck’s song “What I Like About Job” was a huge hit and made us all hooooowl! The kids loved the craft table,

the décor was so clever, and the food was delicious. Many thanks go to the Fish Fry Team of Jim Hofer and Kevin Baskette, and to the Grill Team of Liam Haggerty, Steven Andrews, and Eddie Lockhart.

Special guests all the way from Connecticut to Arkansas to Oklahoma, as well as those whom Job has visited locally, were a delight to see. Visit CTK’s Facebook page to see more photos of the celebration, taken by Caroline Johnson. Thank you, everyone, for making our Job one very happy pup!



Job's Team was so happy to acknowledge the almost one-year anniversary of Pastor Matt's ministry at Christ the King with a collage of special moments from his first year. We love you, Pastor Matt!

WOW! Sunday, June 1, was a day of thanksgiving and celebration! Not only did we celebrate Job's 10th birthday, we also acknowledged Pastor Matt's oneyear anniversary — what a blessing he has been to CTK and to the Comfort Dog ministry.

The Golden Opportunity campaign began on March 2, with the following goals:

- ♦ **Acknowledging Job's importance to the community and our CTK family through the "Tree Rooted in Christ"**
- ♦ **A fundraiser for the Future Comfort Dog with an unrealistic goal of \$10,000**
- ♦ **A teambuilding event for our Team**
- ♦ **The introduction of team members and caregivers for the Future Comfort Dog**

Most of these goals were completed before June 1. But as we approached the end of the campaign, the fundraising goal and the role of Caregivers had not been met. BUT GOD...answered all of our prayers. Just days before Job's birthday, the Caregiver role was filled! As the Future Team's Top Dog, I was honored to introduce Nate and Katie Eldridge as the Future Dog's Caregivers who, along with daughters Audrey and Josie, will give excellent care to our future golden retriever. The goal of raising \$10,000 was met as of June 2, including a generous \$1,000 donation from CTK's Faith in Action. All of these goals could not have been met without each and every one of you. I left one team member out on Sunday, please forgive me. That team member is YOU, the entire CTK family. I thank God daily for all of you and your support of the Comfort Dog ministry.

Job is NOT retiring! When will we get our new dog??? Not for a while. Now that we have Caregivers in place, work continues on completing our application. Upon completion, CTK will be added to the list to receive a Second Comfort Dog.

P.S. Is God calling you to be a handler? If your answer is YES, there's room for you on our team!

**Dianna Garner, Top Dog, Future Dog Team
Future Comfort Dog Team**



Dianna Garner, Top Dog for the Future Dog Team, introduces Nate and Katie Eldridge as Caregivers, to wild applause.



The "Tree Rooted in Christ" serves as a powerful visual of the impact Job and the Comfort Dog ministry has had on the congregation of CTK.

COMING IN JULY
FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
DATE—TBD



YOUTH MIN @ CTK

June/July 2025



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

CTK youth, chaperones, and Pastor Matt will take the train to New Orleans in July for an amazing gathering of over 10,000 LCMS young people from across the US and

abroad! Please lift our group in prayer as they finish their preparations for this amazing event. A HUGE THANK YOU to the congregation for all the financial support, LCMS gatherings happen every 3 years with the cost of slightly over \$27,000.00 It would not be possible to attend without you!!

Please pray for travel safety for all and that this gathering would shine the light of Jesus Christ in New Orleans, as well as have a profound impact on the faith journey of each youth participant and all leaders!

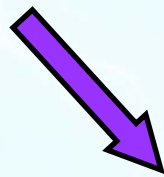
SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children who have completed PK4 through 6th grade will meet in the SS opening room each Sunday as we explore some of the characters in the Old and New Testaments. During June we will see how God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things in His name.

During the month of July, our summer SS journey will guide the students back to basics as we discover some of the names used to describe Jesus in the Bible. Why is Jesus referred to as the Wonderful Counselor or Prince of Peace or Savior and Lord? We will take a look at Bible passages that give us some clarity into why and help the kids become more comfortable using their Bibles to look up answers to these and other questions.

June Youth Activity Dates:

- June 10—Youth Service Event ~ 10:00am
- June 12 ~ Middle School Mini Golf ~ 5:00pm
- June 24 ~ HS Mini Golf ~ 5:00p,
- June 27 ~ Middle School Movie Night ~ 6:00pm
- June 29 ~ HS Movie Night ~ 5:00pm



VBS June 16 - June 20



SCOUT is ready to meet our VBSers and take them on a **ROAD TRIP** adventure. With an awesome group of adult volunteers and a bunch of energetic teens, we can't wait to see what and where God will lead the kids on their faith journey. **Joshua 1:9** tells us **"THE LORD YOUR GOD IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."** So, wherever we go and whatever

we feel like, God is with us ... even when we go off course, get a bit lost and confused, or feel lonely, God is there to lead the way, guide our path, and get us back on the right course!!



Congratulations to the Confirmation Class of 2025!

As part of their path to completing Confirmation instruction, the students were asked to write a “Statement of Faith” to include their thoughts on the importance of Confirmation, two concepts that stood out to them, and an expression of gratitude for those who have helped them along the way. The following are excerpts from their essays:

Davis Byrum — “The Doctrine of Real Presence states that the body and blood of Jesus is present in, with, and under the bread and wine...Lutherans believe that we eat the bread and drink the wine along with Jesus’ true body and blood through a sacramental union.”

Elayna Smith — “Confirmation Class used to just be a class I had to take for my church, but now it means a lot more to me. It is a class that not only helps strengthen my own beliefs, it also prepares me to control the reins of my faith as I grow older and transition from middle school to high school.”

Eowyn White — “The Ten Commandments remind me to follow God’s Law and that it’s important to obey His will....And when I break a Commandment, I know to repent of my sins and ask God for forgiveness.”

Luca Calhoun Williams — “Christians understand that our faith in God is what truly makes the Holy Spirit live in our souls to lead us in Christ’s path.”

Ali Schmidt — “One of the most important things I have learned is that nothing I have done, am doing, or will ever do can change what Jesus did for me....no matter what I ever try, I cannot earn my salvation. Jesus already did that for me.”

Audrey Eldridge — “One thing I learned is that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. This reminds me that although I am unable to save myself, there is nothing that I can do to separate me from God’s love.”

ROOM IN THE INN

Summer Hosting for Room in the Inn Continues Through September

A heartfelt "THANK YOU" to everyone who served on May 20 as we welcomed 13 guests, including nine children ranging in age from 8 months to 17 years. Your kindness made a real difference. During the summer months, fewer churches are able to host, which means **your help is more important than ever**. Just **3 short hours a month** can provide shelter, comfort, and hope to our brothers and sisters in Christ who are truly in need. Let's continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Here are all the links for summer hosting:

bit.ly/RITIJUN17

bit.ly/RITIJUL15

bit.ly/RITIAUG19

bit.ly/RITISEP16

Sign up today! And stay tuned for our next "Undies Sunday" coming soon!

UPCOMING SMALL GROUP DATES

***Tuesday, June 17, July 8 & 22, 7PM** — Michael & Lisa Salzgeber
"Church History in Plain Language" michael.salzgeber@sylvamo.com

***Wednesday, June 18, July 9 & 23, 7PM** — Steven & Jennifer Andrews
"Limping with God: Jacob and the Old Testament" drewcrewe@yahoo.com

***Pastor Matt's group for 20's and 30's** Watch for the next meeting dates
pastormatt@ctkmemphis.com

***Saturday, June 21, 7PM** — Study of Galatians and Cookout!
Billy & Carol Kutteh Various leaders — cckutteh@yahoo.com
(July — no meeting, study on your own)

***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.*

NEWS FROM LWML



Sunday, July 6, is Mite Box Sunday! Please drop your Mighty Mites in the box located in the Church Narthex.



No LWML MEETING in June. We look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting, Thursday, July 6, 5:30PM!

The background of the entire poster is a warm, textured orange-brown color. It is decorated with various autumn-themed illustrations, including several large and small maple leaves in shades of red, orange, and brown, as well as some sprigs of berries. The text is arranged in several rectangular boxes that blend into the background.

CELEBRATING AUTUMN

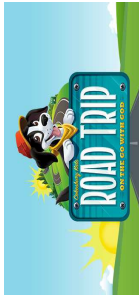
save the date!

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025
12PM - 4PM

CHILI AUCTION

A CHILI CONTEST, SILENT AUCTION
AND ENTERTAINMENT EVENT TO
RAISE FUNDS FOR OUR SCHOOL IN
HAITI AND LOCAL MISSIONS OF
CTK'S FAITH IN ACTION TEAM


DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS
BEING ACCEPTED NOW
CONTACT CAROLINE AT
NMTRMUTTI@GMAIL.COM



CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00a Worship 11:15a Congregation Fish Fry	2	3 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah's	4 6:30p Choral Rehearsal 7:00p Sm Group-Andrews	5 7:00p Sm.Grp.-Woodworking	6	7
8 Pentecost 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 9:50a Connect Class 11:00a Worship	9	10 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Youth Service Event 8:00a Nehemiah's 6:30p Bd of Elders	11 6:30p Choir Rehearsal	12 5:00p Mid. School Mini Golf 5:45p District Dinner 7:30p District Conv. Worship	13	14 10:00a Future Comfort Dog Mtg.
15 Fathers' Day 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 9:50a Adult Study 9:50a Connect Class 11:00a Worship 5:00p HS Youth Night	16 	17 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah's 5:00p Room in the Inn 7:00p Sm. Group-Salzgeber	18 7:00p Sm Group-Andrew	19 7:00p Sm.Grp.-Woodworking	20	21 10:30a Job Handlers Mtg. 7:00p Sm Group-Kutteh
22 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 9:50a Adult Study 11:00a Worship	23 6:00p Bd. of Ed	24 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah's 5:00p HS Mini Golf	25	26 6:00p FIA DSAM Art Night 7:00p Sm.Grp.-Woodworking	27 6:00p Middle School Movie Night	28
29 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 9:50a Adult Study 11:00a Worship 5:00p HS Movie Night	30					