



OCTOBER 2025

THE KING'S MESSENGER

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMPHIS, TN

I don't know if it's because I recently turned sixty-one but I have found myself re-evaluating a few things in my life, priorities, perhaps. When Kim and I had the three children in the home, it seemed like it was a hundred miles per hour. Two parents working full-time jobs, three children in school with various activities. There seemed little time to relax. We had to lay out the weekly schedule, make sure both cars had full tanks of gas, and then dive in. Now that the children are grown and gone, and we're getting older, life is a little different. Maybe some of you can relate to this.

Now things are a little slower, more deliberate, you could say. Each day begins with a greeting of the Lord, literally. I wake up and say "Good morning, Lord." I'll have a brief prayer using Bonhoeffer's outline, and I'll listen to Psalm 19, one of my favorites. Sometimes I'll take a cup of coffee and sit in my chair outside, look at my phone (of course), and send the kids a few greetings. I'll look at a few headlines — as much as I can stomach. Afterward, I'll finish my cup, go back inside, write Kim a note, and head to the place I love, Christ the King. Each day is a gift, my friends. Please never take things like family, friends, a good church home, health, and some moments of joy for granted. Age has made me wise unto these things, thankfully.

So, too, have current events. When I was a young man, I used to be very tuned in to politics. When I was very young, I even considered it as a potential career path. Thank goodness I didn't try that! Each week it seems we are forced to confront another tragedy. I feel myself getting numb to headlines and I'm not sure this is a good thing. One response I have noticed in myself when reading or hearing about the latest round of bad news is that I all the more cherish my time with God and the forms it takes. I love Sunday morning. Worship is a top priority for me as a pastor — providing you with the balm and strength you need to lead your families, provide for your children and perform well at your work. I also make more time to sit quietly, getting away from the clamor and noise. The peace of Christ isn't just a pithy saying, it's a reality I've pursued more the older I get.

I walk at least four, maybe five times a week, and I do this for exercise but I also do it because God always provides a moment of joy in those walks. It's good to clear one's mind with some fresh air. I've always thought that Jesus didn't walk only because He didn't have a car.

There are a lot of demands made on you and many things coming at you that seek to distract and discourage. When these things happen, consider them opportunities to be with God; to be in His Word if only briefly; to pray; to reflect on the good things from His hands. Someone once said: each day should include taking in a moment of beauty, sharing a smile and speaking a kind word. Good advice. Good "Christian" advice.

May God in His goodness surround you with His love and peace and among the changes of the world, may His love and mercy toward you always be new and cherished. It's a privilege to be your pastor.

Pastor Mark

OCTOBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH

“God’s Faithful Servants”

And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, “Master, you delivered to me five talents; Here, I have made five talents more.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.” Matt. 25:20-21

Stewardship Sunday is October 26



REFORMATION SUNDAY

OCTOBER 26, 2025

****Single Service Sunday****

Stewardship Sunday

Worship at 10AM

Sunday School 9AM

Reformation Potluck, 12:15PM



REFORMATION POTLUCK

Join us for a Reformation Potluck on Oct. 26 at 11:15AM in the Fellowship Hall!

We'll offer brats and sauerkraut (hot dogs, too) and you bring the sides and desserts! German fare is welcome but we'll eat anything! RSVP by signing up in the rotund or by visiting bit.ly/CTKPotluck and let us know what you're bringing. (Just don't bring sauerkraut — we've got that covered!)

Guten Appetit!



PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY



Sunday, October 19, is **Pastor Appreciation Sunday!** Of course we love Pastor Mark and Pastor Matt all year

long, but we set aside this special day to offer our tangible expressions of thanks to them for the care and compassion that they show their congregation. Baskets will be available in the narthex for you to leave your cards of well wishes

Time and Talent Sunday — As you know “Stewardship” involves more than just your treasure. It also focuses on how you spend your time and talent, and how you can use them to further God’s Kingdom to His glory. At Christ the King, we have an amazing number of vibrant ministries that offer opportunities for each member to find his or her niche. Fellowship and service combine to make your membership a richer experience as you share your faith with others in words and deeds.

On **October 12**, we will make available to every member family a copy of CTK’s Ministry Handbook which describes in detail what each ministry entails. Then, on **October 19**, designated as “**Time and Talent Sunday**,” members will complete the Time and Talent Survey, letting us know what common interests they might share with others. Get your copy of the CTK Ministry Handbook and dive on in and find your place!



CHRIST THE KING
LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES

As God's forgiven family, we grow in faith through Word and
Sacrament to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Revised: September 2025

SIPFEST FIRST

Saturday
10.4.25
11_a-2_p

FREE EVENT sponsored by Sea Isle Park Neighborhood Association

Save the Date and Volunteer! Our neighborhood festival — SIPFest — is right around the corner on October 4, 11am—2pm! We are looking for volunteers to grill burgers and hot dogs, as well as friendly people to staff our booth, greet festival-goers, and invite neighbors to visit Christ the King. Contact Steven Andrews to volunteer at skandrews24@gmail.com.

UPCOMING SMALL GROUP DATES

- *Tuesday, October 21 & 28** — Michael & Lisa Salzgeber
“Church History in Plain Language” michael.salzgeber@sylvamo.com
- *Tuesdays, October 7 & 21** — Steven & Jennifer Andrews - “Hitchhiking with Prophets” by Chad Bird drewkrewe@yahoo.com
- *Friday, October 17, 6PM** — Pastor Matt’s group for 20’s and 30’s
pastormatt@ctkmemphis.com (at the Dennings’ home)
- *Saturday, October 25, 7PM** — Billy & Carol Kutteh
Study of Galatians with 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



Rise and Shine

MEN'S MINISTRY

BREAKFAST

Saturday, October 11
9:00AM in the Fellowship Hall

Panel to answer questions on
retirement topics

SIGN UP IN THE ROTUNDA OR AT
[BIT.LY/MENSBREAKFAST10-11-25](https://bit.ly/mensbreakfast10-11-25)

On Saturday, Sept. 27, **thirty CTK Ministry Leaders** met to plan future activities for the months ahead, brainstorming on inter-ministry and inter-generational events, offering ideas on welcoming visitors, and spending time in fellowship and exploring common problems and objectives. It was a fruitful meeting, led by President Johnny Behnke, Vice President Kyle Brown, and staff member Genie Swan, with an opening devotion by Pastor Mark and a closing prayer by Pastor Matt. It was a wonderful group of active, energetic leaders whose commitment to their many duties revealed their love for the Lord and their church. We thank God for their leadership and pray blessings on their ministries.



Top: CTK Vice President Kyle Brown leads the group in sharing feedback from Small Group Question and Answer time.

From left to right: Breaking into small groups brought different ministries together, including Dianna Garner (Comfort Dog) and Ashley Baskette (High School Youth); Pastor Matt and President Johnny Behnke; and Clarice Hunt (Room in the Inn) and Caroline Johnson (Faith in Action). Some innovative suggestions came from the collaborations.

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated in or volunteered at our **11th Annual Chili Auction**, to all who donated wine, bourbon, or other items, brought chili, desserts, or contributed in any way to help with everything and who said yes when asked to help! We could not have done this without each of you helping to make this a successful event.

Our Chili Winners:

BEEF/ 1st—Tammy Madden / 2nd—Matt Zielsdorf / 3rd—Ken Johnson

CHICKEN/ 1st—Ashley Baskette / 2nd—Paula Walter

OVERALL POPULAR VOTE: Kevin Moyer



Chili Coordinator

Mandy Magness

Chili Transfer & Set Up

Jeff Jungkans

Mandy Magness

Patti Higginbotham

Parker Magness

Kristin Bettin

Pam Winter

Registration/Volunteer Check-In

Jackie Brochner

Judges

Pastor Matt Lynch

Ryan Johnson

Hannah Baskette

Ross Butler

Jeff Jungkans

Wine Pull

Carol Kutteh

Billy Kutteh

Cameron Laury

Servers/Auction Closers

& Monitors/Set Up/ Breakdown

Pat Oxford

Kirstin Bettin

Pam Winter

Patti Higginbotham

Genie Swan

Mandy Magness

Parker Magness

Barb Pine

Pam Winter

Nolan Johnson

Ken Johnson

Dave Swan

Jim Devan & the Nehemiahs

Gretchen Eisenhart

Centerpieces

Robyn Byrum

Davis Byrum

Finance/Check Out

Carol Kutteh

Cameron Laury

The Amazing CTK Beatles

Hollis Prince

Pastor Chuck Neugebauer

Michael Salzgeber

Pastor Matt Lynch

Lisa Salzgeber, Sound

Special thanks to Nolan Johnson for endless lifting and organizing over several months, Ken Johnson for putting up with my crazy hours, The Nehemiahs for never failing us at set-up, to volunteers who stepped up last minute during the event, to all those who cooked chili and made desserts! Thank you to our dedicated Faith in Action Team members Patti Higginbotham, Stacy Davis, Mandy Magness, Barb Pine, and Brooke Moore, who spent many hours recruiting or making auction items, donated to, created baskets, organized bid sheets, and worked countless hours for this event. To Carol Kutteh for cashiering and Cameron Laury, who stepped in to help throughout the event. To our amazing CTK Beatles Band, THANK YOU for always having a great act and group of musicians, and to Hollis Prince for organizing them again this year! Also, a very huge thank you everyone who brought in bottles or cases of wine for the Wine Pull, gave us bourbon for the Battle of the Bourbons, and to anyone else who helped and may have been inadvertently left out! We could definitely not do any of this without the enormous help from our congregation. We hope to see you next year for our 12th Annual Chili Auction!

Caroline Johnson, 2025 Chili Auction Chair

YOUTH MIN @CTK

OCTOBER 2025

OCTOBER DATES

~ Middle School (7th & 8th) ~

Confirmation Class ~ Sunday 9:45 am

Oct. 11 10:00 am ~ Servant Event @ Shelby Farms

Oct. 17 6:00 pm ~ Party—Youth Room

~ High School ~

Sunday School 9:45am ~ Youth Room

Oct 12 6:30p ~ Haunted Corn Maze @ Agricenter

Oct. 26 5:00p ~ Baskette Boo Bash & Hayride

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

After two years of Old Testament, stories about how the Israelites struggled to remain faithful to God, our CTK children's SS began Unit 7 of CPH's Enduring Faith Curriculum with the New Testament.

Among many other things, the students are learning how busy the angel Gabriel was prior to and following the birth of Jesus. We are working on memorizing the New Testament books of the Bible and continue to recite Luther's Morning Prayer, the Apostle's Creed and the Lord's prayer. Our SS ministry team, Sharon Hyde, Pat Oxford, Linda Smiley, Kim Britt, Christy Murphy, Linda Ritter, Bill Kuykendall, Nick Tieman, and Kitty Kosman, are dedicated to working in partnership with parents guiding our children on their faith journey!

A big THANK YOU to all!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL MEET
AT 9:00AM ON OCTOBER 26...
WORSHIP AT 10:00AM



SATURDAY ~ OCTOBER 25~ 3:30PM —6:30PM

Christ the King Children & Family Ministry invites you to join us for fun, fellowship, & food at our annual CTK Trunk or Treat!

Decorate your trunk & Sign up to reserve your trunk spot—
martihuebner@gmail.com

Put on your bakers hat, and add your name to the list to bring a sweet treat or two for the ever popular cake walk.

Bounce Houses, cake walk, games, face painters, pumpkin patch & more



2026 TANZANIA MISSION

To communicate to the people of Tanzania the life-changing power of Jesus Christ in a practical and understanding way; to develop them into responsible, productive, successful Christians, and equip them for their ministry in the church and like mission in the world.

We have had a great response to the 2026 Tanzania Mission meetings during the summer! There is still time to join the team and learn more about the missions CTK has been involved with at the SELV (SouthEast of Lake Victoria Diocese) since 2005. Team members will go door-to-door in villages to spread the Word of God and the wonderful news of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. The team will also be accompanied by local ministers and lay persons who will act as guides and translators. We will use simple techniques such as an Evangecube and Bible storytelling. So, if you can share a 4th grade level Sunday School lesson in your own words, **you are qualified!**

On Sunday, October 12, we will have our next mission meeting to continue to discuss the date of mission, cost, daily activities, past experience, Visas, Passports, and Immunizations. You can pick up an information packet in the Tanzania Mailbox which is located in the Church Office.

Please contact Mike or Cindy Jurgensen at 901-848-0447 or Cindy at c3jurgen@gmail.com. If you have questions, we would be glad to answer them!

Mike and Cindy Jurgensen



We celebrate the accomplishments of our CTK youth in their artistic pursuits!

+++ Miss Natalie Tieman, 5th grader, daughter of Nicholas & Ashley Tieman, will be playing First Violin with the Memphis Youth Symphony Program this year. MYSY has four concerts, all on Sunday afternoons at the University of Memphis's Scheidt Family Performing Arts Center. Dates are November 2, December 14, March 8, and May 10. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

+++ Cooper Smith will appear in New Day Children's Theatre's upcoming production of "Crazy for You." Dates are October 23-26, and November 1-2. Tickets can be purchased at newdaytheatre.org. All performances are at the Harrell Theatre in Collierville. Break a leg, Cooper!

Pastor Mark's gone viral! On CTK's Facebook page, followers will often see video clips or still graphics featuring winsome quotes from the previous Sunday's sermon. The video clips will garner an average of 60 "likes" and around 800 views. But Facebook's algorithms must have been feeling the Holy Spirit after Pastor Mark's sermon of Sept. 14. As of this writing, the clip from Pastor Mark's sermon has over 300 likes and a whopping **10,000+** views! And as a result, CTK's Facebook page is tantalizingly close to 1,000 followers! If you don't currently follow Christ the King Memphis on Facebook, do it now!

You can watch this and any of our sermons on CTK's App, YouTube channel, or archived on the website. There is also a weekly Sermon Meditation Guide available on the App for a deeper dive. We're grateful for the technology that can bring God's Word to those who may not otherwise hear it. We know what a valuable resource we have in our pastors and thank God for them.





Over time, our beautiful handbells had fallen into a state of disrepair. Thanks to a generous donation from a former member in honor of the Day sisters, Sherrie, Cissy, and Genie, we were able to engage a bell technician who visited our campus for two days and meticulously refurbished the bells, replaced broken parts, and polished them to a proud sheen. We are looking forward to hearing them in worship soon, when they will be re-dedicated to the Lord's glory. We know you will enjoy hearing them ring out once

again in praise and thanksgiving. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

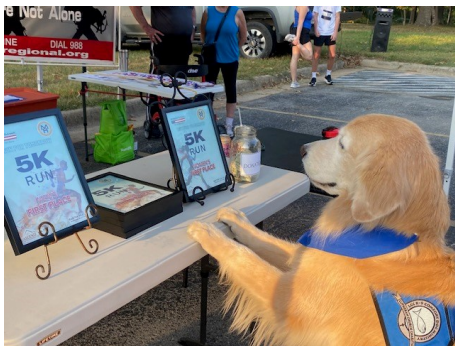


Job's Journal

Job Comfort Dog and his handlers Dave and Genie Swan recently returned from a re-visit to Mountain Home, AR (that's Arkansas, not Arizona). Job and his Comfort Dog friend Persis of Tulsa, OK, had been deployed to Mountain Home last spring after a high school student had lost her life through suicide. They were invited to return to participate in a 5K to raise awareness for Suicide Prevention. Over 300 people were present, and Job and Persis were ready to comfort, snuggle, anything but actually run in the 5K! While in town, they visited an assisted living

facility and the National Guard Armory where Job was very popular with the men in uniform. The handlers also gave a presentation during the Bible Class hour at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Job and Persis were glad to see their Mountain Home friends.

Job also loves to see his Sunday morning friends! Don't forget to stop by Job's spot in the narthex and give him an extra loving pet and hug. We are celebrating during the month of October as we acknowledge the 9th anniversary of Job's coming to CTK! We thank the Lord for Job Comfort Dog!



LWML'S PURPLE ENVELOPE CAMPAIGN

For the past several years, the congregation of CTK, working through our Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has aided men attending seminary. Last year's generous donation through the **"LWML Purple Envelope Campaign,"** enabled us to support eight seminary and deaconess students. **The shortage of pastors is critical, so we are asking you to join us again in 2025 with our CTK LWML Purple Envelope Campaign to raise funds in support of Lutheran seminarians.** One of the men or women we help now could become a Christ the King pastor or deaconess in the future!

A big hurdle faced by men entering the ministry is finances. Many are married, some with children, and almost all struggling to balance their studies, meet living expenses, and spend time with their families. The goal through our purple envelope campaign is to help to relieve some of the pressure these students face. On LWML Sunday, you will find purple offering envelopes in the bulletin and narthex. Please talk with your family, pray about it, and place your contribution in the purple envelope in the collection plate. If you choose to use the online option, go to My Vanco on the CTK website and select **LWML AAS Program** in the drop-down menu. The "Purple Envelope Campaign" will be open **until October 26**. While LWML supports many worthwhile missions, every dollar placed into a purple envelope goes directly to our adopted students through Concordia Seminary.

The students share their thanks, progress, joys, and prayer requests with us and our society sends the students notes and cards of encouragement throughout the year.

Our Christ the King pastors have been and continue to be a tremendous blessing to our congregation. Consider, how, in addition to bringing the Good New of Salvation, they have touched your life in a positive way. Help us to bring this joy and comfort to future generations of Lutheran Christians by donating to CTK's LWML campaign to sponsor seminarians!

CTK LWML thanks you for your ongoing support!



CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWS

Stay Informed. Stay Inspired.

- ★ Calling ALL CTK Alumni — we are revitalizing our Alumni group! Check out our CTK Alumni page on Facebook and watch for a survey link. We love connecting with former students!
- ★ *On October 23, we will host a special Kindergarten preview for children entering Kindergarten in Fall of 2026. Be on the lookout in the bulletin for specific times.*
- ★ We are currently searching for a part-time staff member for Admissions. If you are interested, please reach out to Ann Laury at ann.laury@ctkschool.com for more details and an application.
- ★ *Go Team Go (formerly Go Jim Go) was on our campus in September. Be sure to check out our school Facebook page to see our pictures as we raise money for LeBonheur.*
- ★ Students in grades K-8 Basketball signups are coming soon. If you are interested in playing, please contact our Athletic Director at the following address: hugh.jackson@ctkschool.com.
- ★ *Thank you to everyone for supporting our Prayer Angel program. We had over 90 envelopes and every one was taken by the congregants. Thank you for your prayers!*
- ★ Veterans—make your plans to join us on November 11 for our annual tradition of Veterans Day Chapel.
- ★ *Lastly, did you know our school turns 65 this year? We are planning a big celebration in January and would love for you to join us! Information coming soon!*

In the name of...



Jesus!