



MARCH 2025

THE KING'S MESSENGER

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMPHIS, TN

“For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand; it is I who says to you. ‘Fear not, I am the one who helps you.’ Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you,” declares the Lord. “Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.” Isaiah 41:13-14

Greetings, CTK family! I pray everyone has had a good start to this new year. One thing I remember the Seminary professors telling us was how quickly our first year in ministry would fly by. They certainly were right about that! Christmas has come and gone; the season of Epiphany has done the same. Now the church is moving to the season of Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday, March 5. This year our Lenten theme is “The Hand of the Lord.”

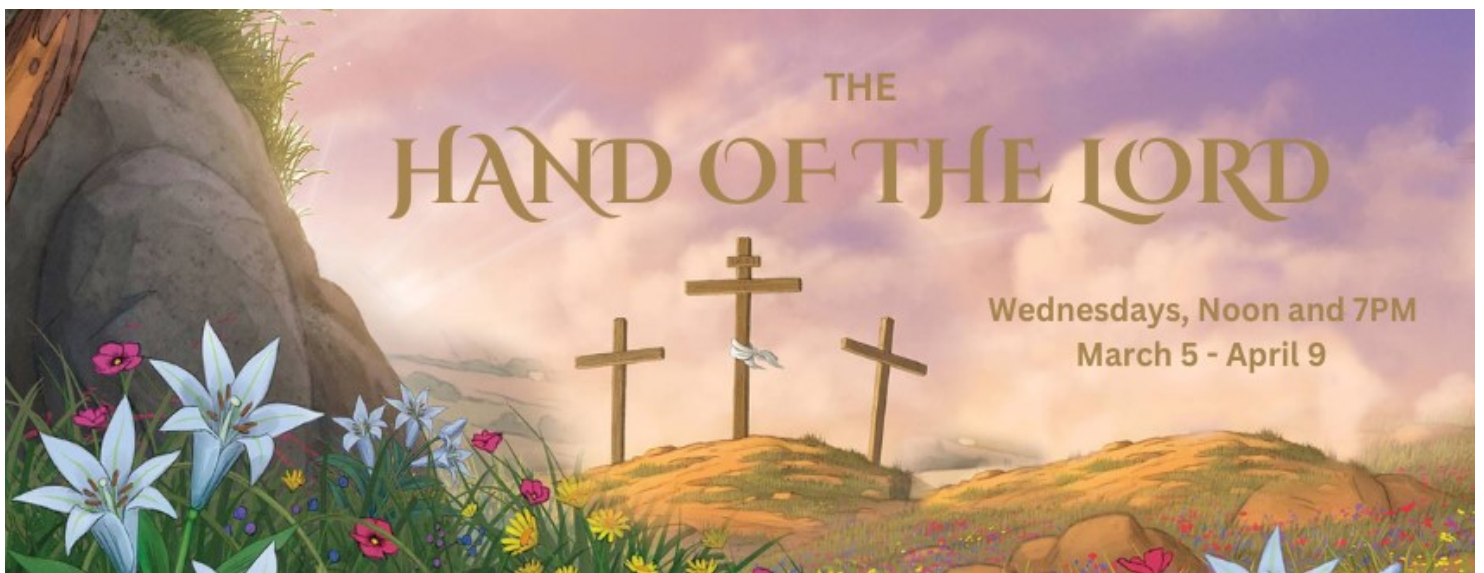
What a fitting theme for the season of Lent! The Bible is full of passages that speak to how God uses His hands, whether in forming and shaping Adam and Eve in the Garden or us in our mothers’ wombs. From His comforting words in Isaiah “I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand,” to David in the Psalms, “...with a strong hand and an outstretched arm, for his steadfast love endures forever,” God uses His hands to shape, form, and mold all things to His will and for the betterment of us His people. Nowhere is this seen more clearly than in our Lord Jesus Christ, who used His hands to heal the sick, cast out demons, and even feed 5,000 people! But the hands of Jesus would go on to do much more, and this is what the entire season of Lent points us to: the day that our Lord’s hands would be stretched out on wood and pierced by nails. The day that our Lord’s hands would be scarred forever. The day when He would set us free from sin forever. You see, this is the power of God’s righteous hand. Not only to create and to perform miracles, but to save us from our sins, to forgive our sins, and to lead us to everlasting life.

During this season of Lent, I encourage you to meditate and reflect on what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us leading up to His death on the cross but also to what He continues to do now for us each and every day. See how the hand of the Lord has worked in your own life and the lives of those around you. There will be times when the hand of God can feel heavy and burdensome but do not fear it. As Saint Peter tells us, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time, He may exalt you.” Lent is the perfect time to try this. As we humble ourselves under God’s hand, we know that Lent does not last forever. Just as our Lord Jesus did not stay dead forever but rose again on that Easter morning, so, too, will we by the power of God’s hand be raised up with Him forever. Amen.

I pray that you all have a great month of March and hopefully there will be some warmer weather soon! I’ll close with this important reminder: our Lenten services will be held at Noon and 7PM every Wednesday in Lent, March 5–April 9. On Ash Wednesday, March 5, we will offer the Imposition of Ashes at both Noon and 7PM, and the service at 7PM will also include the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Pastor Mark and I hope to see you all there.

Blessings,

Pastor Matt



ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 HANDS THAT FREELY GIVE
NOON & 7PM: IMPOSITION OF ASHES; 7PM HOLY COMMUNION

WEEK 1, MARCH 12 HANDS THAT CREATE AND SAVE

WEEK 2, MARCH 19 HANDS THAT CAST OUT DEMONS

WEEK 3, MARCH 26 HANDS THAT HEAL THE SICK

WEEK 4, APRIL 2 HANDS THAT RAISE THE DEAD

WEEK 5, APRIL 9 HANDS THAT HOLD ALL THINGS

MAUNDY THURSDAY HANDS THAT SERVE AND FEED US
APRIL 17, 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY HANDS THAT WERE PIERCED FOR US
APRIL 18, 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY HANDS THAT HAVE RISEN FROM THE DEAD
APRIL 20, 7:00, 8:30, 11:00AM

Please note: During the Season of Lent, the Adult Choir will rehearse at 7:45PM on Wednesday evenings, beginning March 12. Join us!



MARCH is NAMETAG MONTH! If you faithfully wear your CTK nametag every Sunday, thank you! If you have misplaced yours or simply need to retrieve it from your car or purse, now is the time to grab it and get in the habit of wearing it weekly. Studies have shown that visitors feel more comfortable when they can visually identify you by name. And it helps the Pastors, too! If you are a member in need of a replacement nametag, please add your name to the clipboard at the Information Desk.

UPCOMING SMALL GROUP DATES

***Tuesday, March 11 & 25, 7PM** — Michael Salzgeber and Lisa Bough
“Church History in Plain Language” michael.salzgeber@sylvamo.com

***Tuesday, March 11 & 25, 7PM** — Steven & Jennifer Andrews
“Limping with God: Jacob and the Old Testament” drewcrewe@yahoo.com

***Saturday, March 22, 7PM** — Billy & Carol Kutteh cckutteh@yahoo.com

***Every Thursday, 7PM** — Jim Devan “Woodworking” j_devan@bellsouth.net

***Pastor Matt’s Group** for 20’s and 30’s pastormatt@ctkmemphis.com

***Robyn Byrum “Crafting Moms”** For moms of teens and college-age kids. Devotion, crafts, sharing of struggles and joys of parenting. 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

Job's Journal

Cold weather did not deter Job Comfort Dog and his faithful handlers from making their regular visits in February. He brought warmth and smiles to Culpepper Place of Olive Branch (shown below), to Storypoint and The Pointe at Kirby Gate, to Methodist Germantown and Rainbow Rehab, to Ciel and American House, to SomerOaks and NHC Somerville, to Goldton and Summit, to Sutherland Cardiology and Jordan River.

Special visits were also made to Farmington Elementary and the Lucius Burch Library in Collierville (see below). Job's visits to Room in the Inn are especially welcome among the children. He also helped CTK school students celebrate their summer birthdays! As you can tell from the places he visits, Job's winning wags of his fluffy tail are huge hits with both young and old(er). We are all blessed by his ministry among us.



Job's bi-monthly visits with handler Cheryl Lockhart to Culpepper Place of Olive Branch are always a time of cheer and loving snuggles.



Job stopped by the practice of Person & Darlington Family & Cosmetic Dentistry to say thank you for their support in fundraising for the Comfort Dog Ministry.



With handler Debbi Foshee, Job visited Farmington Elementary and the Lucius Burch Library in Collierville.



From the Future Comfort Dog Ministry



Currently, Christ the King's Comfort Dog Ministry consists of one dog, our beloved Job. Almost two years ago, CTK submitted an application to Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) for a second Comfort Dog in order to carry on this important work in our community. In order for an application to be considered, the applicant (CTK) must go through a two-year waiting period AND must have a complete team in place, including the role of Caregiver. The Future Dog team needs more handlers, but most importantly, the role of Caregiver **must** be filled. LCC will not move forward on our application until a Caregiver is in place. Job will turn 10 on June 1, and although he is in good health, he is beginning to slow down. This ministry's goal to have the second dog at CTK in time for Job to serve as mentor.

The Future Comfort Dog team, along with Job's team, will host an exciting **“Golden Opportunity”** event from March 2—June 1, 2025, highlighting the significance of the Comfort Dog Ministry to CTK and our community. Please visit the display in the Rotunda often as it will be changing throughout the coming months.

Our goal is to introduce the entire Future Comfort Dog team during Job's 10th Birthday Celebration on June 1. There are still roles to fill to keep the ministry in place at Christ the King. Please contact Dianna Garner at diannagarner@comcast.net for more information. Thank you for your support of the Comfort Dog ministry.



Sunday, March 2, is Mite Box Sunday! Please drop your Mighty Mites in the box located in the church Narthex! Thank you.



Christine Acomb, Mid-South-Western LWML TN Zone President, presented an LWML Mite Grant to Cindy Jurgensen for the Tanzania Deaconess Ministry. This Mighty Mite Grant check for \$6,386 will be used to help Albino ladies learn marketable skills to support their families. The Tanzania Mission teams from CTK have helped support these young ladies in the past.

LWML Meeting on Thursday, March 20, 5:30-7:00PM, Room 201! Join us as we meet to discuss our next mission project for our Homebound congregants — “Easter Baskets!” Our homebound members love our Easter Baskets and we enjoy visiting with them when we deliver them. Looking forward to seeing everyone in March!

Christ the King's Faith in Action Upcoming Events



THURSDAY
MAY 8, 2025



5:45PM - 7:30PM

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH OUR UPCOMING DINNER AND PRESENTATION OF HOUSE-WARMING CROSSES FOR NEW GRADUATES OF THE HABITAT HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAM WHO WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE THEIR FIRST HOME, PLEASE SIGN UP TO SERVE!

DINNER AND CEREMONY AT HABITAT STORE ON WINCHESTER

Sign Up in the Rotunda

CONTACT STACY DAVIS /FIA /CTK FOR MORE INFORMATION

SAVE THE DATE! Faith in Action invites you to help on May 8 in the Dinner and Presentation of House-Warming Crosses for new graduates of the Habitat Home Ownership Program.

Please sign up to serve! This is a joyful celebration of accomplishments and Faith in Action is always pleased to make it even more meaningful with a Cross for each family. Contact Stacy Davis for more information.

HELP US create comfort kits for **ONE MORE CHILD**, an organization that provides help to victims of trafficking in Memphis. Faith in Action will purchase backpacks, Bibles, and blankets. You can add: *re-useable water bottles, hygiene items, travel-size hair products, toothpaste, notebooks, adult coloring books, devotionals, and other items.* A collection bin will be in the rotunda. For more information, contact **Caroline Johnson** or **Patti Higginbotham**.

**Next Faith in Action Meeting:
Monday, Mar. 10, 5:45PM, at
Panera Bread in Germantown.**

ONE MORE CHILD COMFORT KITS

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Help us create comfort kits for **One More Child**, an organization that provides help to victims of trafficking here in Memphis. Or join us on **SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH, at 12 Noon**, for lunch, and hear our guest speakers talk about this mission while we create the kits. RSVP at bit.ly/onemorechild25 or in person in the rotunda.



COLLECTING
NOW



- 1 or 2 re-useable water bottles
- a blank notebook or journal
- pens
- adult coloring book
- colored pencils or washable markers
- a devotional of some sort
- Hygiene items /New & Unused Travel Size
- hand sanitizer
- shampoo
- conditioner
- lotion
- vaseline
- wipes
- 2-3 travel toothpaste
- 2-3 toothbrushes

bit.ly/onemorechild25



Come join us in the Nursery!

Our Nursery Coordinator Linda Ritter has served for many years and continues to do a steady job of coordinating volunteers, maintaining a healthy, engaging environment. She, along with her daughter Lucy, enjoy offering their time during worship services while providing love to our littlest members and friends. Sara Kelly continues as a steady, loving presence during the Sunday School hour, for which we are very grateful. Linda is eternally grateful for each volunteer who has given of their church time in the Nursery for our children. Volunteers are the life-blood a well-run Nursery.

Have you volunteered in the Nursery lately? If your children currently enjoy the Nursery, or if you have had children in the Nursery in the past, or if you are simply looking for a fun way to serve the Lord, His Church, and your fellow members, please take a moment to add your name to the volunteer schedule. It's easy, fun, and a wonderful blessing to others.

Sign up here — bit.ly/NurseryVolunteers — and get ready to have as much fun as these folks!



DURING THE SEASON OF LENT, EVERY 7PM WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE IS PRECEDED BY A SOUP SUPPER AT 6:00PM. A HOST GROUP IS STILL NEEDED FOR MARCH 12 AND APRIL 2. THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED: LWML, CTK FACULTY, JOB COMFORT DOG TEAM, AND THE YOUTH ATTENDING THE YOUTH GATHERING. CONTACT GENIE SWAN AT GSWAN@CTKMEMPHIS.COM TO VOLUNTEER.

URGENTLY NEEDED: WILLING HANDS!

Faith in Action needs your help in putting together Comfort Kits for One More Child. We will meet on **Sunday, April 6**, after late service for lunch and completing the kits to help victims of trafficking here in Memphis. (See flyer for items you can donate.) We need willing hands to actually compile the kits! Sign up in the rotunda to let us know you are coming. The more the merrier!

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

The congregation assembled and voted on February 9 to form a Call Committee to begin the call process for a Director of Youth and Family Ministry (YFM). The YFM Call Committee met two days later and formulated a plan and a schedule to locate candidates to present to the congregation for approval.

The Call Committee members appointed by Head Elder David Swan are: John Behnke (Chair), Elders Kyle Brown, Nathan Eldridge, and Billy Kutteh, and lay members Kristen Bettin, Katey Himebook, Kitty Kosman, and Emily Smith.

Candidates are desired from and will first be targeted from upcoming graduates in a DCE or DCM degree program within the Concordia University system. Simultaneously, we will be searching the national LCMS database for existing qualified individuals.

The Ministry Description, which specifies our job requirements, was finalized at the first meeting. Other documents needed for the Call candidate were assigned and since completed. Three members have contacted Concordias in Irvine, St. Paul, and Mequon and informed them of our YFM position and are working through their respective protocols.

Although aggressive, our goal is to have a YFM candidate presented, approved, and in place prior to the Lutheran Youth Gathering this summer. *Johnny Behnke, Chair*

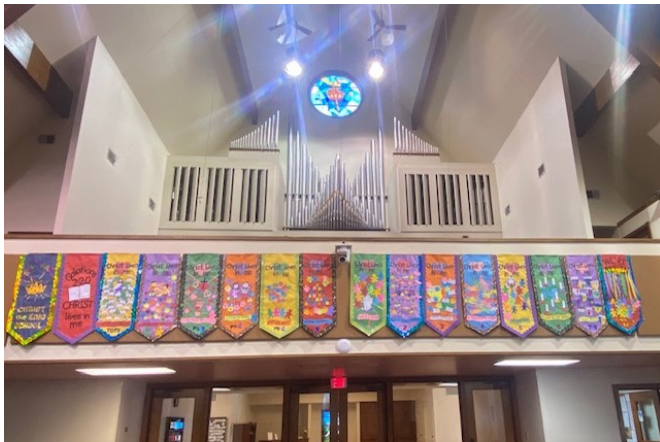
CTK SCHOOL NEWS

We kicked off the celebration of CTK School Week with students from Kindergarten through 6th grade singing in Sunday worship. The school families were invited to join the Monthly Church Potluck and enjoyed food, fellowship, and a special welcome.

Two beloved traditions returned — Class Banners and the Faculty-7th/8th grade Basketball Game! The banners, lovingly made by Mrs. Cissy Welch (ably assisted by Mrs. Sue Rogalski) carried out the theme of the school year and hung in the sanctuary for all to enjoy.

The Basketball Game between the students and faculty/staff made history — for the first time in 30 years, the STUDENTS WON! There was great rejoicing among the students!

Thank you to all who participated and helped make this week of celebration a very special one.



News Flash! As of this writing, our 4/5 and 6/7 boys basketball teams will play in an exciting basketball tournament the weekend of Feb. 22. They are currently #1 in both age groups! Final game will be played Tuesday, Feb. 25. Prayers go up for safety and big wins!

You're **INVITED!**

On Sunday, March 30, **Easter Invitation Cards** will be available to all members to share with friends and family, inviting them to worship with us on Easter Sunday. Similar to our Christmas Invitation Cards, these will have a QR code for more information and an opportunity for visitors to check in on our website to let us know they are coming so we can be sure to make them feel welcome and at home.



WORSHIP WITH US
Easter Sunday
APRIL 20
7:00, 8:30, 11:00am
All are welcome!
www.ctkmemphis.com



Help us get ready for Easter! If you are interested in sharing your gift of hospitality by joining the **Connections Team**, please email Genie at gswan@ctkmemphis.com. You can serve in one of two ways (or both!):

1. Staff the Information Desk before or after worship to answer questions and give new visitors a welcome gift;
2. Be prepared to meet visitors, introduce them to the Pastors, show them where to find coffee, the nursery, and other points of interest, and even offer to sit with them, if they like. Treat them like visitors to your home!

If you feel this is a way in which you could share your love for CTK and the Lord with visitors, email gswan@ctkmemphis.com! Thank you!

YOUTH MIN @ CTK

MARCH 2025

HIGH SCHOOL

High Schoolers meet in the youth room of the ADMIIN building each Sunday morning at 9:45am. Join Mr. Leborious as he leads a study on the book of John and how it applies to our lives amidst a plethora of distractions!!



The countdown is on for Lutheran Youth Gathering 2025 in New Orleans. We continue to get updates and information from the gathering leadership in St. Louis and we are awaiting more information on our hotel and getting the AMTRAK tickets secured. Keep your eyes on all forms of communication/social media to see the what, where, and when regarding the Youth Gathering 2025!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

CTK children's SS students continue to discover through the study of Old Testament prophets and kings, how the people of Israel are not so different than people of today. Like us, the Israelites had a way of becoming distracted and not keeping their eyes on God! As hard as the good Kings (Solomon, Hezekiah, David and Josiah) tried and the prophets forewarned, the people kept going back to false gods and idols (see if your kids can come up with some modern day idols) and turning away from the one true God.,

During the season of Lent, we will take a look at the grace and mercy of God to his people through the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



CTK VBS is taking a ROAD TRIP with GOD. Check your calendar and volunteer to help make this a spirit filled week for our kids!

JUNE 16-20

SCOUT (the dog) has lots of adventures planned to teach, enlighten and guide our passengers on this journey and you won't want to miss out!

STOP BY THE TABLE IN THE ROTUNDA FOR DETAILS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND GET TO KNOW OUR CTK KIDS

KEEP WATCH!
Middle Schoolers
News Coming Soon

Voters' Meeting Update

The Voters met on Sunday, February 9, to consider two motions regarding new positions at Christ the King. The two motions that were brought to the congregation were:

1) Approve the formation of a Call Committee to secure the services of a Director of Youth and Family Ministry.

2) Agree to Call Steven Andrews as a part-time Specific Ministry Pastor after he has successfully completed all requirements of the program at the end of two years.

We give thanks to God that both motions passed unanimously.

CONGRATULATIONS,
GRADUATES!



Calling all high school and college graduates! On Sunday, April 27, we will observe Graduate Recognition Sunday at the 11:00am service. We will celebrate with you, honoring your hard work. Please contact Genie Swan at gswan@ctkmemphis.com to find out what information we need for the bulletin and youtube video recognition.



Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 23, at 12:15pm, for our next Monthly Potluck! Bring a friend and enjoy fellowship and some great home cooking (like Liam's meatballs and Jim's green beans!). Bring a main dish plus a salad or dessert. Sign up at bit.ly/CTKPotluck today! RSVP and/or volunteer!



SAVE THE DATE!

Men of CTK, plus sons, fathers, friends—mark your calendars for Saturday, March 29, for our next Men's Ministry Breakfast. More details will follow but clear your calendar to join us. For more information, contact Gary Osing at garyosing@gmail.com.



CHRIST THE KING
LUTHERAN SCHOOL



OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH
9-10:30AM

Join us for coffee and pastries with our Head of School before touring our campus and seeing what makes our Christ-centered education unique!



Equipping Children for Christian Leadership

RSVP: 901-644-3524  jaycie.hart@ctkschool.com  5296 Park Avenue