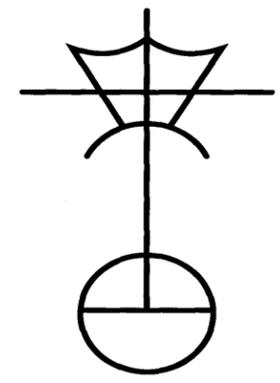


Christ the King Lutheran Church

1230 North 18th Street
Escanaba, Michigan 49829



The King's Herald

April 2020

We're on the Web!
www.ctk-escanaba.org

This issue of the King's Herald is given in loving memory of James P. & Jame A. Stasewich by Gayle Stoykovich

KING'S HERALD April 2020

CHURCH OFFICE786-7400

PASTOR
Rev. Bethany Rutten-Kempees(605) 203-0331
e-mail address: PastorChristTheKing@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Arlene Cody.....786-5949
e-mail address: c.lutheran@att.net Website: www.ctk-escanaba.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: (Services are canceled until further notice)
Saturday—5:00 p.m. Worship
Sunday— 9:00 a.m. Youth Faith Formation; 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour; 10:30 Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated at every Saturday and Sunday service. At the 10:30 a.m. service communion will be distributed using continuous communion.

Christ the King Lutheran Church
"Where We Are About God's Grace For God's People"

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Corner	2
In the Parish Family	3
A Community in Prayer	3
Birthdays	4
Faithful Giving	5
A Message from Bishop Finegan	6
Devotionals	7

We continue to recognize the recommended action to practice social distancing until given the all clear. Therefore it is uncertain as to when we will be able to resume our normal worship schedule.

A Time To Pray

Pray for medical professionals, caregivers, and researchers responsible for fighting the new coronavirus.

God, as more people get sick, healthcare workers and first responders are working longer hours with fewer supplies and with more risk of contracting the new coronavirus themselves. Renew their energy and sustain them on long shifts. Bring Your protection upon them as they work with patients. Multiply their supplies so they have the protective items needed to stay safe on the job.



Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. —Psalm 23:4 (NRSV)

Pray for families adjusting to new ways of life.

Holy Spirit, as families adjust to everyone being home as businesses and schools close, we ask that You guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all You have created and continue learning.

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by. —Psalm 57:1 (NRSV)

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When talking about what is going on in the world today I have heard it said often lately "this is weird".

I must say that this has been a weird way to start my ministry at Christ the King. First it was just super busy with starting at a new church, figuring out the church and the town, and Lent and getting all of that ready, then BAM! we suddenly have to cancel every gathering and isolate ourselves physically from others. This has definitely been weird and not anything that any of us had been prepared for as most of us haven't really had anything like this in our lifetimes.



But instead of focusing this letter on "the virus" and "social distancing" and the unknowns, which seems to be all everyone talks about lately; I'd like to instead take this time to say Thank You!

I would like to say Thank You everyone who has helped with my transition to Christ the King and Escanaba. To all those who helped with the improvements that were done and who helped keep the parsonage going while the parsonage was vacant. To all who helped me get going in the parsonage and the church. To all those who got me up to speed and prepared the weekend and Lent services. To all the people I've been fortunate enough to meet on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays and greeted me with a warm smile, a friendly chat, or a simple 'Hello'. Thank you.

And I'd like to especially say thank you to all those who I have not been able to meet in person yet. Thank you for your patience and understanding. I look forward to the time when we can once again get together in person and I can finally see you face to face. Thank you.

Thank you to all of you for your love and support in this weird time in our life as we all figure out our new normal. And I pray that soon we will get to go back to some of our old normal together.

My peace and patience be with us all in this time of weirdness.

God's Blessings to you,
Pastor Bethany Rutten-Kempees

It will be alright. Grace abounds.

It is good that we miss, that is, that we notice the absence of, what is so important. But in the meantime, we will stay connected, through prayer and phone calls, through online devotions and our own personal meditations. And hopefully, at least for a time, we will still be able to gather for worship that may or may not celebrate the Eucharist or include sharing a hug or a handshake of Christ's peace.

Please hear again what the angels say throughout scripture, because they know us all too well... Do not be afraid.

And as people of faith, we will watch as the light of resurrection breaks forth with the Easter dawn, and all is made new. It will be alright. Whether we can gather in worship on Easter or not, Jesus still lives! And another day will come, when we will together celebrate God's answer to our cry for help, the answer that comes in the one who died and rose again, the answer that is Jesus the Christ.

Yours in Christ,

WinSome Women Retreats

Come to the spring 2020 WinSome Women retreats. Enjoy enriching speakers, uplifting worship, and the ambiance of the Grand Hotel on beautiful Mackinac Island. Hear award-winning musician Lynda Randle and dynamic international speaker Carol Kent. Come with your friends, be encouraged by gifted Bible teacher Michael Card and worship leader and speaker Sarah Schieber. Register at wswretreats.org for inspiration, fellowship and fun.

Christ In Our Home Devotionals

The current edition (April-June) of the devotional "Christ In The Home" are available for pick up. A supply of them have been placed on the bench between the double doors of the church. As you are able stop by and pick up a copy. Otherwise call Arlene at 786-5949 and she can have one mailed to you.

Memorials

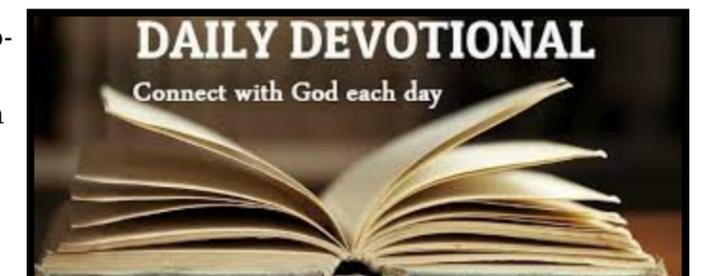
The following memorial were given to the Memorial Fund in memory of ...

Ron LaCasse by Greg & Diane Besse, Leigh & Connie Schmidt

John Herlik by Leigh & Connie Schmidt

Jim Anderson by Leigh & Connie Schmidt

Tom Vanlerberghe, Jr. by Tom & Judy Vanlerberghe



A Message From Bishop Finegan



"Is not this the fast that I choose:...let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am." ~Isaiah 58:6ff

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this, governors and health officials are releasing statements regarding how best to slow the advancement of COVID-19, the current pandemic. Included in these statements is encouragement to practice "social distancing." Schools are cancelling classes or going to online learning. Events have been postponed. Professional hockey and basketball games are canceled, and people are encouraged NOT to

gather – for sporting events, workshops, conferences, classes, and....worship.

And worship, of course, includes practices that the health department warns against... physical contact, shaking hands, close proximity to other people, even breaking bread together, maybe even sharing a cup, or dipping bread (and maybe fingers?) into a common cup. It may be that by the time you read this, many congregations will have suspended having worship and cancelled all events where people gather.

We have been forced into a fast...a Lenten fast... of Christian fellowship, community worship and prayer, and the joy of being together with Christ in our midst.

Usually my Lenten fast has been more in the direction of giving up pizza, ice cream, or chocolate. It is a strange thing to give up community, gathering, and the joy of worship. It is not a fast that I would choose. And yet it is the fast that we have been given.

And yet, even in this, even in this loss, this fast, God will raise up something new. Perhaps in the absence of what we have taken for granted and being bereft of community, we will value more deeply the gift that God gives us in each other.

Perhaps when worship is cancelled, we will miss it more. In this season of uncertainty and our efforts to prevent virus spread, I hear an underlying irony, or at the very least, I observe an aspect of human nature: the minute we are told we cannot do something is when suddenly we want to.

There is blessing in the absence of God, for it is then that we seek God more fiercely. It is when darkness feels heavy that we pray with greater desperation. And it is when we are bereft and in the midst of loss or crisis that scripture speaks with greater meaning and resonates with the soul that is suffering.

So we will, independently but together, fast from community, and gatherings, and very possibly, worship and all that we receive at the Lord's table....for a time, a season, a moment of history.

In the Parish Family

Our heartfelt sympathy to the family of John Herlik as they mourn his recent passing. Not only was John the husband to Sandy, father to Linda Gafner and Kevin Herlik, he also was a grandfather, and a friend to so many here at Christ the King. Services are to be held at a time yet to be determined. Please remember his family and friends in your prayers as they await the day that they can come together to celebrate John's life.

Home from the nursing home – Following a brief stay at Christian Park while gaining strength and mobility Estelle Henderson is now at home. We pray that she continues to enjoy her independence of being in her own home.

During this time of social distancing the church office is closed until further notice. Both Pastor Bethany and Arlene are conducting business from home and are available to serve your needs. You may leave an email at c.lutheran@att.net for Arlene and one for Pastor Bethany at PastorChristTheKing@gmail.com. To contact them by phone you may call Arlene at 786-5949 and Pastor at 1-605-203-0331. The mail and phone messages are checked routinely each week.

Coming Together As A Community In Prayer

On Wednesday night at 9pm we are going to have what we hope is the LARGEST community prayer time our community has ever seen! How do we do this under the STAY HOME order? Easy...

At 9pm you go out to your car and start it. You turn on your LIGHTS & FLASHERS and pray in your car. Take a picture or short video and post it on the event page. What if block after block had cars flashing with people praying inside of them? You live out a bit? That's ok, take a picture or video and post it too. Let's get hundreds praying on Wednesday night!

Let's pray for over this COVID-19 pandemic. Let's pray for our Leaders. Let's pray for our CNA's, NURSES, DOCTORS, etc who are on the front lines. Let's pray for our first responders and those doing jobs that are essential during this time. Let's pray for our TRUCKERS all over the roads delivering goods.

Let's pray for healing over our community, state, and nation. Let's pray for our eyes to be open to how we can help each other.

Let's do this!



Offerings & Worship Attendance For March

<u>Date</u>	<u>5 P.M.</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Total</u>
March 7/ 8	38	57	95
March 14/15	35	43	78

Average attendance for March: 87

Offerings For March

March 7/ 8	\$4,188.61
March 14/15	\$3,236.00

Year-To-Date Income: \$33,454.09
 Year-To-Date Needed: \$36,096.70
 Difference: - \$2,642.61

DEBT RETIREMENT

Loan Balance: \$11,164.44

Let Us Pray For Those Celebrating Birthdays On:

April 12: Jeff Way
 April 13: Evans Burroughs
 April 14: Kirk Alexander
 April 15: Becky Lehman, Amy Swanson
 April 16: Tammy Jensen
 April 18: Haylee Trombley
 April 22: Ian Burroughs, Landen Hughes
 April 24: Hailey MacBride
 April 25: Kyle Mattson
 April 27: Jim Bonifas, Lin VanEffen, Tom Vanlerberghe
 April 29: Kim Burroughs
 April 30: Dave Heath, Louise Nault



Please Note: If we have your birthday or your family members birthday listed incorrectly or if it isn't listed at all please let the office know. One of the goals during this time of transition is to see to it that our members personal information is correctly listed.

Stewardship Concerns

A virus – an invisible enemy – is an unwelcome guest in our midst. We hear it over and over – “Stay home and wash your hands!” Even our church doors are locked. But, while the doors may be temporarily locked, the work and operations of the church must continue. Pastor Bethany is now with us and can provide appropriate pastoral care and guidance. The church office staff continue to maintain the operations of the church. And, we know that our Father is walking with us during this time of trial and loss. Several congregational members have asked about how to continue giving their offering during this time – God Bless them for their gifts to the church! Remember that Christ the King continues to have many of their fixed costs and bills that still have to be paid. So, you can continue to provide your offering gifts in the following ways:

Mail the offering to the church office;

Put the offering in the church mailbox located in the entry way by the double doors;

Consider on-line giving – electronic giving – if you are not already using this convenient way to provide your offering. Give the office a call and they can help assist you in setting this up;

We are sure that there are other ways to give but remember to not mail, or leave, cash – give a check;

You may not be able to visit face to face but remember that this is a great time to contact members by phone to see how they are doing and provide companionship. Especially, remember our elderly members who are alone and confined to their homes;

Finally, most of all we need your gifts of prayer for the church and for all of us. Pray for the Church Council and Pastor Bethany during this difficult time – we know they will appreciate it.

Closing words to comfort and support all of us:

“When fear knocks on your door, send Faith to answer”

Peace – Stewardship Committee

Please notify the staff, or a member of the church council from the church if you have needs to be met. We have a number of members willing to help with basic needs (grocery shopping, prescription pick up, etc.). We'll do our best to help you through these tough times.