## Stronger Together SPRING 2023

LIVING HOPE





#### STRONGER TOGETHER

SPRING 2023



## **Pastor's Column**



Throughout the season of Lent, we've been exploring the theme "Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith." Lent is a season for wandering through wilderness, exploring, wondering, and questioning. At the end of our Lenten journey is the Good Friday story of the cross, the place where we see God's love most fully revealed as Jesus lays down his life for our sake.

And then comes Easter. Easter is the ultimate answer to all the questions we've asked. Easter is the climax of the story, the moment when we see the proof that Jesus is who he is. It's the proof of death's defeat. The empty tomb declares that the cross was God's moment of triumph, rather than the defeat it appeared to be. We gather together to sing in celebration, joyfully proclaiming, "Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

And yet, Easter brings up another question: So what? What do we do with the news that Jesus is alive? Where do we go from here? How do we respond to the promise that death has been defeated, the promise that God's kingdom has broken into our world?

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Siblings in Christ, this is our question to answer. As individual believers and as a community of faith, how will we react to Easter? Will we allow the good news of the resurrection to shape the way we live? Will we respond to the grace God has given us by inviting others to know the hope we have, sharing the gospel, and loving our neighbors in Jesus' name?

May the Holy Spirit move us to action as we live out our faith. See you in church!

In Christ, Pastor Daniel



# FROM THE COUNCILS

#### Council members from both churches were asked "Finish this sentence... 'One thing I love about my church is:""

### and here are their responses:



#### from Jen Eason:

"belonging to a community of faith, rooted in the love of Jesus."





#### from Paul Hoffmann:

"its ability to strengthen my living through Christ in mission and the ministry of music.."



#### from Patti Luedtke:

"the feeling that I am worshipping with family."



#### from Ellen Smith:

"our people: We are very supportive of each other and generous with our time (great volunteers) and donations (LWR, etc.) when someone asks for help with a project."



#### from Deb Bruns:

*"how welcoming and friendly everyone is!"* 



#### from Gary Myrah:

"our resiliency. Throughout our growth from the very first service, the message is 'the church' is not a building, it is the people that gather to hear the message and develop traditions, and through all of our ups and downs, the spirit of resiliency has endured."



#### from Joe Georgeson:

"the culture of the church. It includes the people but is more than that. It is the feeling while being at church sharing fellowship or a common mission of the church."



#### from Fred Walls:

"how dedicated its members are. There are always helping hands when things need to be done."



#### from Chris Lear:

"our many faith practices. Our worship is meaningful and touches my heart. We have many, sincere fellow members who contribute for worship."



#### from Brad LeDuc:

"the many people here willing to be involved and help out and the young families that extend the age ranges of our church family to reflect all of life from birth and on."

## **Summer Camp Opportunities**

Refresh your faith while playing in God's amazing creation! Did you know our congregation is located near four ELCA camps? Both Lutherdale and the three sites of Crossways Camps offer fun and faith-filled programs for elementary, middle school, and high school students, as well as adult retreats, quilting and crafting weekends, and family camps. Crossways even offers a four-day "Grandkid Camp" August 6-9 at Pine Lake Camp for grandparents and kids!



Summer camp is an awesome experience of playing games, going swimming, doing crafts, strengthening relationships, and best of all, learning more about Jesus. For older students, a variety of specialty camps like backpacking, STEAM, and Leadership Training are available. Visit <a href="https://www.crosswayscamps.org">www.lutherdale.org</a> for more information.



## Updates from



The past few months have been full of winter fun for the Lighthouse youth!



We kicked off the new year with a game night and assembled birthday kits for the local food pantries. In February, a group of 7 students (6 of whom are members at Living Hope and Christ the King) and 3 adults attended the Quake youth retreat in the WI Dells. This was an awesome weekend of worship, workshops, a meal-packing service project, and of course, some waterpark fun! A group of 15 also spent a February afternoon skiing and tubing at Sunburst. In March, we enjoyed a movie night at Lighthouse and have been busy preparing for 2 big Easter projects - the Easter baskets for Family Promise and our "Egg My Yard' fundraiser.



We continue to be so grateful to all of our congregations and members who support Lighthouse through prayer as well as financial contributions! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to collect supplies for more than 150 birthday kits to donate to our local food pantries, as well as create some awesome Easter baskets for 25 kids in Ozaukee County through Family Promise. In addition to these special service projects, the ongoing congregational support makes it possible to offer all our fun events to serve our church and community youth. So far this school year, 30 different students have participated in at least one Lighthouse event!

THANK YOU for supporting Lighthouse, and we ask for your continued prayers as we work to offer a safe place where all youth are welcomed, empowered, and equipped to serve!



Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others." —St. Augustine of Hippo (354-430)



"We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? —1 John 3:16-17



## Equipping the Saints Mission Appeal

The ELCA's Greater Milwaukee Synod, of which our congregation is a part, is in the midst of a 3 year campaign to raise \$2.3 million dollars. This campaign expresses confidence that God is at work in the congregations and mission starts of our synod, even as life in the church changes. In partnership with congregations across our synod, we embrace that change and are preparing to lead through becoming more innovative while working together. We seek to raise up and strengthen leaders. We do all of this to make each local congregation more vibrant and vital.

This campaign focuses on 2 activity areas. First, Innovation and Collaboration. This area includes innovation grants to congregations and strengthening Outreach for Hope for a long-term future. Second, Leadership. This includes critical work to invest in racial equity, campus ministry, and our rostered leaders. Finally, in a demonstration that God is a God of abundance and that we can strengthen ourselves and care for others at the same time, both areas include missional tithes for including Lutheran partner ministries churches in El Salvador and Tanzania, Lutheran Social Services, and the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Visit www.<u>equippingthesaintsgms</u>.org to learn more about the campaign's goals and the work in which our synod is engaged. Donations can be made directly to the synod or through the offering here at Christ the King.



Mark your calendar. Christ the King is entering a new decade. Join us to celebrate with a message from Bishop Erickson in worship on Sunday, November 19. Watch for more details to come.

## Welcome to New Members

On Sunday, March 26 Christ the King welcomed new members, Ruth Bauer and Patrick Couillard. Welcome to our faith family, we look forward to sharing the journey with you both!

## How Can I Get Involved?

There are many opportunities to find the rewards of being involved in church. Some of these roles are volunteering to help at worship. We are always seeking folks to serve as ushers/greeters, readers, communion assistants, helping with altar care, and service coffee and snacks at our felllowship time following service. If you are interested, please contact the church office at office@christkingport.org.



### **Family Promise**

Christ the King has joined the efforts to support those suffering from homelessness

and housing insecurity by providing meals to the guests at the Family Promise Homeless Shelter right here in Port. Look for more information coming out this spring on how you can help with the preparation and serving meals.



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CONTACT US

PHONE: 262-284-5411 EMAIL: OFFICE@CHRISTKINGPORT.ORG WEB: CTKPORT.ORG

JOURNEY

THROUGH

HOLY

WEEK

#### WORSHIP WITH US YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM FOLLOWED BY COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

Palm Sunday—April 2nd 8:30am Worship Service at Christ the King 10:30am Worship Service at Living Hope

Maundy Thursday—April 6th 7:00pm Joint Worship Service at Christ the King

Good Friday—April 7th 7:00pm Joint Worship Service at Living Hope )

Easter Sunday—April 9th 8:30am Worship Service at Christ the King, followed by Easter breakfast 10:30am Worship Service at Living Hope, preceded by Easter breakfast at 9:00am \*\*Please sign up to bring a dish to share or to volunteer\*\*

JOIN US DURING HOLY WEEK AND THEN CELEBRATE CHRIST'S RESURRECTION ON EASTER.

JS.