

Stronger Together

SUMMER 2024

HIGHLIGHTS INSIDE

- Pastor's Column "Christian Unity in a Divided Society"
- Feed My Starving Children
- Outreach for Hope
- 2024 Synod Assembly
- A Word on Stewardship
- Lighthouse Update
- Faith Snapshots
- Vacation Bible School
- Joint Worship & Family Fun Day on June 30

LIVING HOPE
Lutheran Church ELCA



Christ the King
Lutheran Church



Christian Unity in a Divided Society

This November, our nation will elect a president. Whoever this new president is, they will appeal to a nation to come together after a divisive election. There will be protests. There will be lawsuits. Perhaps there will be recounts.

Our nation is undeniably polarized right now. In a recent CBS poll, the top answer people gave when asked to describe the state of our country was “divided.”

In the next few weeks, the rhetoric will become even more intense. With one political party holding a convention just down the road from us, and another convention following a few weeks later, with criminal convictions of candidates and their family members, with hundreds of millions of dollars being spent, of course we feel divided. Ad after ad and speech after speech tell us how terrible the other candidate or the other party are and how they’re going to destroy our country.

I wonder, what is the good news we as Christians have to proclaim in this climate of conflict? How does our faith resonate in a polarized society? Let me be clear: I’m not here to tell you who to vote for. As a citizen of this nation, I obviously have my opinions, but I know we have faithful people in our congregations on different sides of many issues. We have people within our own families who disagree on the best candidates.

Voting was not an issue Jesus spoke or taught about. He did not live in a democracy or a republic; he lived and died under the oppression of the Roman Empire. And yet, Jesus certainly has something to say to our present situation. He prayed that his followers would be one. He prayed that we would be a people who are known by love. He called us to love our neighbor. Not just our neighbors who agree with us or vote for the same candidates, not just some of our neighbors, but all who are created in the image of God.

Throughout July, we’re going to be focusing on the theme of Christian unity in a divided society in a worship and sermon series I’m calling, “Together.” As God’s people, we are *Stronger Together*. Our task is to *Serve Together*. We are *Created Together*. And God calls us to do *Justice Together*.

I hope you’ll join me this month in exploring what we have in common as children of God and the ways our faith calls us to engage in the public sphere. We share a mission and a calling. We share a common Creator. And we share with so many in our nation and world a desire for liberty, peace, and justice for all. I pray that in this divisive season, the Body of Christ will stand as an alternative to the anger, hatred, and fear that dominate so much of our society’s public rhetoric, and instead model God’s way of love revealed in Jesus Christ.

See you in worship!

—Pastor Daniel

**P.S. Mark your calendar!
Sunday, August 18, join us for a joint
10:00 am worship service at
Upper Lake Park in Port Washington!**



Christian unity

Packing Meals for Feed My Starving Children

Thank you so much to everyone who helped pack meals on Saturday for Feed My Starving Children! During our shift, we and the other volunteers packed enough food to feed 46 kids for a whole year! What a great way to put our faith into action and share God's love in a tangible way. [#GodsWorkOurHands](#)



**OUTREACH
FOR HOPE**

2024 FAMILY RIDE RUN WALK
Raising Hope Together

Save the Date: Saturday, September 21 17th Annual Outreach for Hope Family Ride Run Walk

Together, let's raise \$150K for grants to ministries serving communities experiencing material poverty in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA.

- You can bike, walk, or run
- Enjoy a picnic lunch and fellowship with friends from other churches
- Celebrate progress towards our \$150K goal
- Hear stories of impact from Ministry Partner leaders
- Visit outreachforhope.org to learn more



2024 Synod Assembly

Our congregations are 2 of the 114 congregations that make up the Greater Milwaukee Synod. On May 17-18, 301 voting delegates gathered to conduct the annual business of the synod, including: elections, budget, and resolutions. Living Hope and Christ the King were represented by Ralph & Patti Luedtke, Robin Honish, Vicky Lidicker, and Pastor Daniel, as well as Laura Coleman, who serves as one of 17 members of Synod Council. Robin says, "I'm grateful for the opportunity to attend the Synod Assembly in May. It is wonderful to put faces and voices with the names and pictures of everyone in our Synod and a reminder of how much is being done and the diversity we have."



This year's keynote speaker was Vance Blackfox, ELCA Director for Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation, he shared his experience of growing up in the Lutheran Church on a reservation. Ralph says, "This year the Synod Assembly embraced the beliefs and contributions of the Indigenous People who are members of our Lutheran faith. The comments from Vance Blackfox should make us all reflect on how government and churches have tried to eliminate native culture in the name of our God and Jesus. And how we must be more open, understanding and acceptable in the future."

Offerings received at worship raised \$6,093.46 to support Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit in Milwaukee, an indigenous ministry whose redevelopment our synod and the ELCA Churchwide Organization have committed to fund for the next three years. Patti says, "I was very moved by the Friday evening worship service. I enjoyed the inclusion of the indigenous traditions and prayers...I so appreciated the willingness to share their Christian faith along with their indigenous traditions." Laura adds, "The focus on Native American/indigenous people was also appreciated. The keynote speaker and the Friday evening service were blessings for all of us."

Our synod continues to work towards authentic diversity in all our congregations and ministries, emphasizing that God's inclusive love extends beyond human boundaries and categories. This year, the assembly passed a strategic plan to continue authentic diversity work. Laura writes, "I was impressed with the focused attention the Synod is taking on LGBTQIA+ and anti-racism which includes education and training for church members." Next year's synod assembly will be May 30-31. Learn more about assembly and all our synod's work together at milwaukee-synod.org.

A Word on Stewardship

"All too often we regard stewardship simply as a matter of our giving to God, but this aspect is secondary. Before we can give, we must possess, and before we possess we must receive. Therefore, stewardship is, in the first place, receiving God's good and bounteous gifts. And once received, those gifts are not to be used solely for our own good. They must also be used for the benefit of others, and ultimately for the glory of God the giver. The steward needs an open hand to receive from God and then an active hand to give to God and to others." —Murray J. Harris, Seminary Professor

*Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.
Turn my heart to your decrees,
and not to selfish gain.
Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways.*
—Psalm 119:35-37



2024 Year to Date

General Offering Goal: \$54,270
General Offering Actual: \$58,113
Expenses Budgeted: \$61,583
Expenses Actual: \$53,634



LIGHTHOUSE

YOUTH MINISTRY

Get Your Summer On!

School has ended, summer has arrived, and what an awesome program year we have to celebrate! Some highlights from the last few months include a crazy "Chopped" style cooking competition, assembling Easter baskets for local kids through Family Promise and offering our 2nd "Egg My Yard" fundraiser, a bowling night, and partnering with CTK's Stone Soup ministry to assemble 116 pints of chicken noodle soup. We ended the school year with an awesome overnight lock-in packed full of games, snacks, and a service project packing 80 sack lunches for the Milwaukee Rescue Mission!

We are so grateful for all of your prayers and continued financial support that help make all of our events throughout the year possible. As we look back on the 2023-2024 school year, it was wonderful to see so many students involved - having fun, serving their neighbors, and growing in faith. We had 33 students participate in at least one event during this past program year, and we always look forward to welcoming more! We've got a couple of fun things planned for the summer (see below!) and a lot of great opportunities on the horizon come fall, so if you have kids or grandkids in grades 5-12, please encourage them to check us out!



116 pints of homemade chicken soup, most of which were donated to the Ozaukee Food Alliance.



As part of our late night lock-in fun we assembled 80 sack lunches for Milwaukee Rescue Mission.



July 11th - Day Trip to Lifest

Lifest is a 4-day annual Christian music festival in Oshkosh. We will be taking a group up for the day on Thursday when the headlining artists include Ryan Stevenson, Katy Nichole, Newsboys, and We the Kingdom. We will leave from Lighthouse at 12:30 pm and be back around midnight. Lighthouse will cover the cost of tickets. Students should plan to bring their own money for food, activities, and souvenirs. Please also bring your own camping chair. RSVP to Christin by July 1st if you plan to attend.



July 14th-17th - Service Trip

We have an awesome team of 7 youth and 3 adults heading to Madison with Serve Boldly for a mini-week of service, learning, and lots of fun! Please keep this group in your prayers throughout this week that we may have safe travels, open hearts and minds, and that God would be at work in and through us as we serve our neighbors in Madison.



@WACKY OLYMPICS

Sunday, August 11th
(Time TBD)

Wacky Olympics

Who's excited for the 2024 Olympic games in Paris? Grab a friend and join us for a fun afternoon of crazy games and friendly competition as we host our own version of this exciting world event. More details coming soon!



Faith Snapshots

What's your story of God's love? 1 Peter 3:15 invites us to "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." If someone were to ask you why you go to the effort of serving your neighbors, why you give money to a church, or why you take the time to come to worship week after week, how would you answer?

You're invited to practice proclaiming our faith and hope in Christ in both word and deed by participating in our congregations' "Faith Snapshot" project, sharing a piece of your story—your testimony—either live in worship, on a pre-recorded video, or in writing. Together, our testimonies illustrate what the Holy Spirit is up to among and through us.

Sharing your testimony might feel intimidating, but your testimony is not about you; it's the story of what God has done and is doing in your life, and it includes discussing questions like: Who has influenced your faith? How do you come to be a part of this church? Where do you see God at work in the world or in your life? **To participate, reach out to Pastor Daniel** to set up a time for a conversation, and let's explore what God is doing in and through you.



Vacation Bible School



Joint Family Fun Day Service

Vacation Bible School is back! After several years off due to the pandemic, our churches are hosting a joint VBS June 24-27 at Living Hope. Nearly 50 children from Here We Grow and our community will spend four mornings learning that they are children of God and like All God's Creatures, they are *CREATED GOOD!*

Thank you to Christin Flucke for planning and organizing, and to all our volunteers and donors who are helping make this awesome week happen. Please pray for all the kids and volunteers involved to experience God's love in a special way through VBS.

Whether you were involved in VBS or not, **you are invited to a special combined Sunday worship service on June 30, at 10:00 am at Living Hope.** After getting a taste of what VBS was like during worship, plan to stick around for a free lunch including hot dogs and ice cream sundaes. We'll also be offering a variety of fun, family activities from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm like a bounce house, some petting zoo animals, yard games, and more!

This is a great day to invite a friend or neighbor to join us for worship and lunch, especially if they weren't able to be part of VBS this year. See you there!

60 for 60 Update

We have REACHED OUR GOAL for the 60 for 60 campaign! Our goal as a congregation was to raise \$60,000. We started with a \$30,000 matching donation and we raised \$30,902.75. That cuts our building mortgage debt in half, allowing more of our money to be put towards our ministry of loving our neighbors and doing God's work, instead of just paying the bank. A portion of the funds raised will also be tithed to wider church ministries through our synod. This was an ambitious goal when we set it but we did it! \$60,000 for our 60th year!

Thank You
**TO EVERYONE
WHO DONATED!**

Pride Parade



Seven members of Christ the King were among the 100+ walkers from the Greater Milwaukee Synod who marched Milwaukee Pride Parade at Walker's Point on June 9 proclaiming God's love for all. This year's theme for the Synod float was "Baptized and Set Free".

Represent Christ the King at Fish Days Parade on July 20

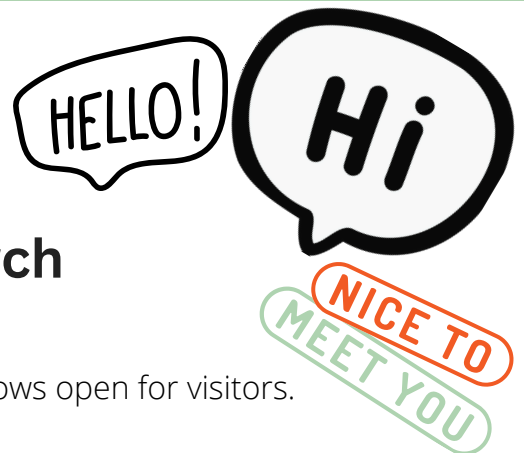


Christ the King will be participating in the Port Washington Fish Days Parade on July 20 and we need your help! We can use some extra hands to help assemble goodie bags to pass out, as well as people to represent our church by walking along the route and distributing handouts. We will have a flatbed trailer for sitting if you don't want to walk. We are also in need of a pickup truck and helpers to decorate the trailer and truck on July 19th, as well as early on July 20th before the parade steps off. Please contact Paul Hoffmann if you can lend a hand with this community outreach project.



Tips for Being a Friendly Church

1. Talk to newcomers first, before talking with friends.
2. Move to the middle of the row, leaving aisle seats and back rows open for visitors.
3. Wear a name tag each week in worship.
4. Have conversations in an open circle so others can join.
5. Introduce yourself and welcome people you don't recognize. Invite them to join you for fellowship time.





Christ the King
Lutheran Church
 420 W. Whitefish Rd
 Port Washington, WI 53074

Return Service Requested



CONTACT US	WORSHIP WITH US
PHONE: 262-284-5411 EMAIL: OFFICE@CHRISTKINGPORT.ORG WEB: CTKPORT.ORG	YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM FOLLOWED BY COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

JOINT WORSHIP & FAMILY FUN DAY

FREE

FOR AGES: 1-100

**WHEN: JUNE 30
10 AM SERVICE**

**11 AM - 1 PM
ACTIVITIES & LUNCH**

**WHERE:
LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
851 W. DEKORA ST (HWY 33)
SAUKVILLE, WI**

ACTIVITIES:
 BOUNCE HOUSE
 PETTING ZOO
 GAMES & TATTOOS
 HOT DOGS & CHIPS
 SUNDAES

Event Hosted by:
LIVING HOPE
 Lutheran Church ELCA

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Christ the King
 Lutheran Church