

# Stronger Together

FALL 2025



LIVING HOPE  
Lutheran Church ELCA



Christ the King  
Lutheran Church

## **HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:**

- ✦ New Sermon Series!
- ✦ Invitation to Visioning Conversation!
- ✦ Lighthouse Kicks Off Fall with Youth Events!
- ✦ ELCA Elects New Presiding Bishop!



# Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith

*"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted." -Matthew 28:16-17*

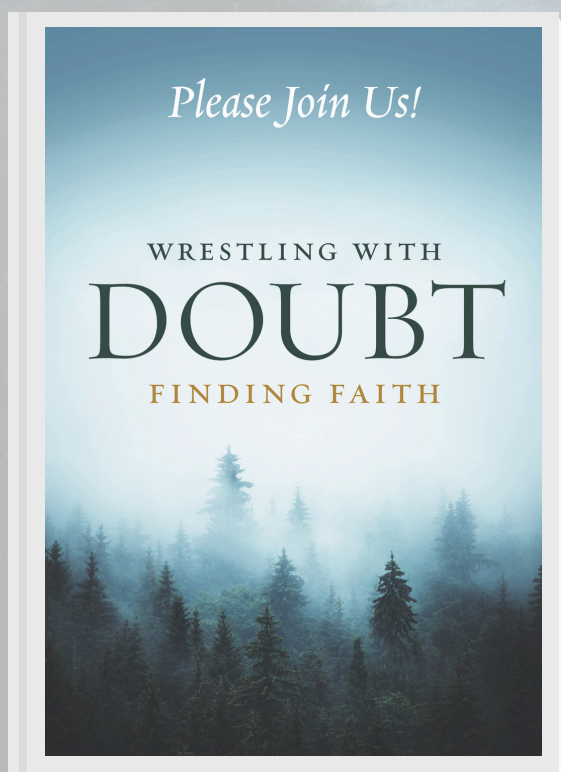


Do you wrestle with doubt? We may not admit it or talk about it very often, but I suspect we all have doubts and questions about faith. Even as Christians, we look around at the hurt and brokenness in this world, and we wonder where God is. We read the violence, patriarchy, and exclusion in the Bible, and wonder how all this can be God's word. We see the radically different opinions and views held by Christians, and wonder at the church's claim to be Christ's body.

It's important to know that having doubts does not imply a lack of faith. Rather, doubt is part of faith, because doubt means you're wrestling with faith. Doubt is a sign faith matters. United Methodist Pastor Adam Hamilton writes, "Doubt is not only natural, it is healthy, provided it spurs us on to further reflection and a search for what is true." Faith should be wrestled with, and we should question—and let's bring our questions to the One we trust to have the answers. One of my favorite sentences in the Bible is in Mark 9:24, where a father seeking healing for his son cries out, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

Often, I think when we're faced with big questions, questions about God's existence, about Jesus' resurrection, about the afterlife, we assume everyone else must have the answers. But the reality is we all are wrestling with these big questions of faith. Yet in church—in the exact community where we should feel safe digging in—we can just take them for granted.

This fall, we're going to spend six weeks beginning September 14 looking at big questions of faith like Is there a God? Is Heaven Real? The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible, and more, in a sermon series called *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, based on the book of the same title by Adam Hamilton.



These might not be the most comfortable questions to wrestle with (honestly, I'm a little nervous about preaching on some of these topics!), but I think they're honest questions. As Christians and as a church, we don't need to be afraid to honestly engage with tough topics. Instead of avoiding the big questions of life, instead of assuming everyone else must have it all figured out, let's wrestle with our doubts and questions together.

For some of these questions, there may not be a definitive answer for us to reach. The best we can do might be to accept that it's a mystery. But as we wrestle together, we can grow together. Questions and doubt are not the enemy of faith. They're the path to a deeper faith. I'm excited to go on this journey with you. See you in worship!

In Christ,

—Pastor Daniel





# A Joyful Day of Ecumenical Worship in the Park

We were blessed with a beautiful day of worship and community on Sunday, July 27, at Kolbach Park, as we gathered with our ecumenical friends from Grand Avenue UMC, First Congregational UCC, and Living Hope ELCA. Though the day was warm, the Spirit was even warmer—moving among us as we lifted our voices in prayer and praise and shared a delicious potluck picnic.

Heartfelt thanks to all who helped plan this special gathering, and to everyone who joined us in celebrating our shared faith and fellowship. An offering was collected as well for the The Food Pantry, Inc. in Port Washington. It was truly a day to remember!







As a new school year begins, we are excited to kick off a new year of programming at Lighthouse as well! We had a great summer including a middle school service night in Milwaukee, a fun evening of worship at Lifest in Oshkosh, and of course, our week-long service trip to St. Louis!



The middle schoolers traveled to Milwaukee to serve dinner at the Guest House, which is a men's shelter. We assembled fruit and veggie cups and we took those with us to serve alongside pizza, soda, and desserts to the guests staying there. The boys worked hard and had a great time helping out, and afterwards we enjoyed the opportunity to tour the facility and learn more about the work they do to help those experiencing homelessness in Milwaukee.

In July, our small but mighty team of three high school youth and adults set off for St. Louis where we had the chance to partner with seven different service organizations in the community including food banks, a thrift store, an organic farm school, a child development center, and a furniture warehouse. We also had opportunities to learn more about some systemic issues in St. Louis such as racial inequality and socioeconomic divides in various neighborhoods that further exacerbate issues of poverty. In addition, we took time each day for worship and devotions and had time to explore the city and have some fun together as well at places like the City Museum, Union Station, and the Gateway Arch. It was an incredible trip, and be on the lookout this fall for the opportunity to see pictures and hear more stories from the trip participants during/after worship coming soon!

With a new program year just around the corner, I'm excited for what the year will bring as we continue to welcome, empower, and equip students to be all that God creates them to be. New faces are always welcome so if you have kids or grandkids in grades 5-12, please encourage them to check us out by attending any of the events listed here or contacting me or one of the Lighthouse board members with any questions (CTK: Deb Bruns and Becki Hill, LH: Tera and Jennings Rogers and Lindsay Nelson).



## EVENTS



### Sept 7 | 6-7pm | Fall Kickoff

Brats, burgers, ice cream, and yard games, oh my! All students and their families are invited.

### Sept 14 | 6:30-8pm | Lighthouse Life Night

Lighthouse Life Nights will be offered once a month and will be a mix of games, conversation, and activities centered around a particular theme from the Bible each night.

### Sept 21 | 3-5pm | Service Project

Helping out at the New Port Food Pantry  
Drop off/pick up at 1777 State Hwy 33 between Port Washington and Saukville.

### Sept 28 | 3-6:30pm | Fall Fun Day

A trip to a corn maze, pumpkin carving/decorating, and dinner together.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**December 2 - Giving Tuesday Event**



# Looking Ahead Together

Christ the King started our mission and goals journey by holding three meetings for members to attend during a week in June: one in the morning, one at night and one on a Saturday morning. I also met individually with a few people who were unable to make one of the scheduled events. We were blessed with high attendance at the meetings. Thirty-six individuals gave their input on 5 questions: What brought you to CTK? What encouraged you to stay? What is most important to you about our congregation? What do you worry about most about CTK? What does CTK look like in 5 years? 10 years? And if you could wave a magic wand, what would you like to see at CTK?

Additionally, I spoke with the principal of the high school, a vice-principal at the junior high school, and the Director at Family Promise. I also attended an event at the Senior Center with the Mayor where I heard what citizens were saying as well as the concerns of the Mayor. Paul Hoffman talked with the police department.

Through this process, we have gathered a lot of information which will help us as a congregation to develop a new Mission Statement and goals for the next three years. The council has scheduled a **Visioning Conversation on September 13 from 9 am to 3 pm.** (We'll wrap up earlier if we complete our planning!) It is especially important for everyone in our congregation to give input and help with the development of our mission and goals--we're in this together! We will provide donuts in the morning and a lunch. Please RSVP with the QR code below.

Thank you for taking part in the first half of this journey. I look forward to working with everyone on the second half. Christ the King is an amazing congregation!

--Submitted by  
Laura Coleman, Council President



*Sign up*



## Financial Summary

Through August, an income vs expense balance of -\$6,995 is due to \$7,696 in expenses for the accessible door (you might remember we received a grant for this in fall 2024) and \$4,990 for our new lawn mower.

The current general fund balance is \$41,578, and our mortgage balance is \$52,832. A major individual donation in June made up for offerings through May running below budgeted. Expenses have been significantly below budget.



### 2025 Year to Date (Jan.-Aug.)

General Offering Goal: \$80,000

General Offering Actual: \$83,249

Expenses Budgeted: \$109,136

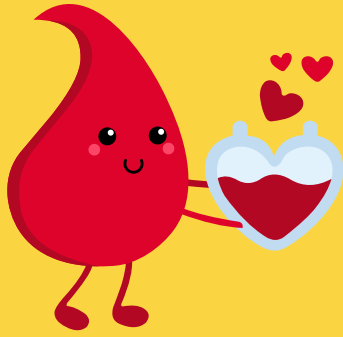
Expenses Actual: \$90,244

The 2025 budget projected a \$34,265 deficit for the year, and our current track looks to be around a \$10-12K deficit.

Thank you for your generous support of CTK!

-- Submitted by Paul Hoffmann, Treasurer





# DONATE BLOOD



There is an upcoming blood drive on Tuesday, September 16, from 11am to 4pm at Living Hope. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church communities to come together and make a difference in the lives of others. By donating blood, you have the power to save up to 3 lives and make a positive impact on someone's health. We encourage all eligible donors to sign up ahead of time. To sign up, please visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org) or use the QR code above. Thank you for your support! There will be a second drive on November 18.

## Yehiel Curry Elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly has elected Rev. Yehiel Curry as the next Presiding Bishop of the ELCA on July 30. He will serve a six year term. You can read more at [ctkport.org/newbishop/](https://ctkport.org/newbishop/)

Please keep him in your prayers. "Ever-living God, strengthen and sustain Bishop-elect Curry, that with patience and understanding he may love and care for your people. Grant that together we may follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen."



ELCA  
CHURCHWIDE  
ASSEMBLY



*The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop-elect of the ELCA*

## God's work. Our hands.



### September 7, 2025

Join us on Sunday, September 7 for God's Work. Our Hands., a special ELCA day of service. We invite you to stay after worship service for about an hour to take part in a meaningful service project—designed to be simple, impactful, and accessible to people of all ages and abilities. It's a great opportunity to serve others, grow in fellowship, and live out our faith together. We'd love for you to be part of it!



# Stone Soup

In one of the most well-known stories in Scripture, Jesus miraculously feeds a crowd of over 5,000 people with just five loaves and two fish. All four gospel writers tell this amazing story, but only John recounts where Jesus got the five loaves and two fish—from a little boy who was willing to offer his lunch to Jesus. As that story demonstrates, God can do amazing things when we offer even a little bit of what we have.

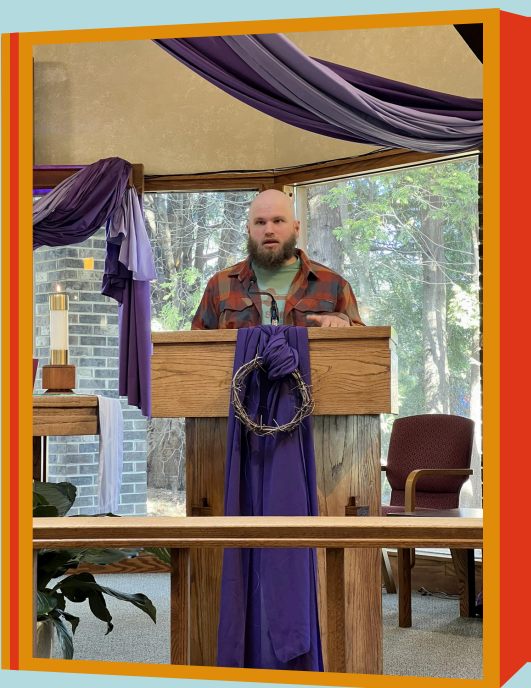
Our church feeds our neighbors by making Stone Soup. A few ingredients, some faithful volunteers, and God uses what we offer to make a difference in our community. Stone Soup is made every other Saturday (see [ctkport.org/makestonesoup/](http://ctkport.org/makestonesoup/) for dates) by whoever shows up, and then distributed to our neighbors through The Food Pantry and Ozaukee Food Alliance.



**You don't need to be a chef; just have a ❤️ to serve—  
come join us in sharing God's love through soup!**

## Monthly Ministry

Christ the King is a generous congregation! This year, we've worked to focus our impact as a church by featuring one ministry each month. No one is expected to give to all of them, but our hope is that each person in our church will find something they're passionate about and willing to support.



For our monthly ministries so far this year, we've had guest speakers from ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission, Breaking the Chains Prison Congregation, Crossways Camping Ministries, and the Mount Meru Coffee Project share with us in worship. We've supported local families in need through Lighthouse's Family Promise birthday kit project and school supplies for Ozaukee Food Alliance, provided donations and supplies for Vacation Bible School, and given money for disaster relief and world hunger.

Together, CTK has already given away well over \$3,000 in money and items this year! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to help us make a difference for our neighbors near and far. Coming up, we'll have a guest with us on September 14 from Outreach for Hope, learn more about Lutheran World Relief in October, and collect diapers and wipes for the Ozaukee Baby Bank in November. God is doing great things through your generosity!





# Christ the King Lutheran Church

420 W. WHITEFISH ROAD  
PORT WASHINGTON, WI 53074

place  
stamp  
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**Return Service Requested**

## CONTACT US

PHONE: 262-284-5411  
EMAIL: [OFFICE@CHRISTKINGPORT.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@CHRISTKINGPORT.ORG)  
WEB: [CTKPORT.ORG](http://CTKPORT.ORG)

## WORSHIP WITH US

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

Need  
prayers?



If you are in need of  
prayer, we've got you!  
Use the QR code to  
share your personal  
prayer request and help  
us pray for others.