

PASTOR'S CORNER

[Jesus] said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

– Matthew 22:37-38

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Jesus boils down the commandments two these two sentences, essentially saying "Love God and love your neighbor as yourself." Everything comes down to love – love for God and love for your neighbor. Love. Jesus keeps it pretty simple, which means that we might be able to hear what he is telling us to do. Love.

In just a couple days this November, you have a chance to show your love for your neighbor by voting. As we consider all the options on the ballot – both on the top of the ballot and the very bottom with all the local elections. Jesus is inviting us into considering how our vote might be a way that we demonstrate our love for our neighbor. I encourage you to do your research into the different candidates. I know that it can be challenging to find information about all of the smaller local elections. (I was challenged to learn about the different candidates on the ballot for the various judge positions!) As you learn about these candidates and their positions on the issues, consider how they align with your own values as well as the values that Jesus lifts up.

How are these candidates showing their love for our neighbors? And when we think of How are these candidates showing their love for our neighbors? And when we think of neighbors, are we include everyone or just certain groups of neighbors? Jesus defines neighbor pretty widely, expanding the definition of neighbor beyond just the people who live in close proximity to you. Neighbor really is expanded to include everyone in the world! And as Christians, we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, which means considering our neighbors' needs just as much as our own.

As you prepare to vote this November or await the election results, I encourage you to use a version of this prayer:

Holy Spirit, guide us in our decision making as we elect leaders for our nation, state, and local communities. Give those elected discernment to include all people in their decision making. Grant them compassion, justice, and a commitment to the well-being of all people and communities. Amen.

Blessings in your discernment this fall and may your voting reflect your faith and love for your neighbors.

Peace, Pastor Rebecca



JOIN US

PLEASE JOIN US IN PERSON, WATCH US VIAL LIVESTREAM OR WATCH A RECORDING LATER AT CTKWBL.ONLINE.CHURCH. YOU CAN ACCESS THE BULLETIN BY CLICKING AT THE TOP OF THE LIVESTREAM PAGE.

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

NOVEMBER 10

Twenty-Fifth Sunday

After Pentecost

1 Kings 17:8-16

Psalm 146

Mark 12:38-44

"Take my life,

that I may be."

9am Worship

KHB / Communion

NOVEMBER 3

All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 24 John11:32-44

"Give Thanks for Saints"

9am Worship Organ / Communion

NOVEMBER 24

Christ the King Sunday

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93 John 18:33-37

> "Jesus shall reign."

9am Worship KHB / Communion



NOVEMBER 17

Christ Recovery Center Sing Along Sunday

> Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Mark 13:1-8

"All who love and serve your city."

9am Worship

Organ / Communion

THURSDAY

NOVEMBER 21

Women's Bible Study

This fall, the study is titled "Receiving Grace: A Study of Ephesians" and our emphasis for November is "Living as children of the Light."

9:30am in the library.



	AV	ALTAR GUILD	LAM	READER	USHERS	COMMUNION	ACOLYTE
11.3	Joe / Mike	Karen / Becky	Bea	Cyndi	Carol / Mike	Wendy / Ann	Abby
11.10	Jason / Brianna	Connie / Peggy	Thomas	Bea	Scott / Michele	Howard / Trip	
11.17	Joe / Mike	Ann	N/A	N/A	Michele / Scott	Peggy / Kathy	Levi
11.24	Janelle / Craig	Cathy / Stephanie	Michele	Mike	Mike / Howard	Wayne / Polly	

Hospitality: Wayne & Kathy Langstraat, Mike & Sandy Nollan

If you are faced with a conflict, please attempt to trade with one another and let the office know. Thank you!

DEVOTION

Professing Our Faith

In my seminary class, I recently studied the Apostles and Nicene Creeds. I wanted to share some of my takeaways from that unit of study: It's only through faith, internalized, that we can believe and live in God's fidelity and promises. We can depend on God. The life lived in faith becomes one of hope and timelessness – it's an ongoing journey of growing and manifesting God's righteousness and mercy, in a reliable, trustworthy world God promises. Past-presentfuture manifests in our embodied faith. We are hardwired for harmony, yet we live in a world of discord. Our faith is a resistance to despair, through which we can bodily reflect the paradoxical mercy of God. God's blessings always reflect an abundance, "grace upon grace," no matter what the world can force on us. We can still overflow, daresay we are "urged" to overflow, with that "entrusted" message of "reconciliation" as Christ's disciples as Paul says. As those baptized in the promise incarnate, in Christ Jesus, we "become" embodied in the holy, in the promise, in the kingdom of God, in the body of Christ, and we're urged to carry it forward as disciples of Christ, so concretely, faithfully, and passionately professed in the faith of the Apostles and Nicene Creeds.

Prayerfully in Christ, Michael Stepan

CTK LIFE



CTK Youth

We had a fun October even though we only met two times for youth group! Our first meeting we played kickball in the dark after we did some final touch ups on the youth's skit for youth-led worship. We brought a flood light and the youth used their flashlights and it was a lot of fun! On October 30th we met for a special Halloween session where we wore costumes, enjoyed some candy, and learned about zombies, skeletons, mummies, ghosts, and more in the Bible!



Looking forward to November we have a Youth Group and Confirmation combined Lock-In! We will be learning about the Bible and playing some games the night of November 1st.

November 13th we will have our regularly scheduled youth group, plans TBD pending youth discussion and ideas.

I'm so glad to have gotten to know the youth and all of you over the past two months and I'm looking forward to getting to know you all more!

Hannah

All are welcome to attend youth group. You can always invite friends! Blessings to our confirmands Nathali and Mallory!

It was such a great day for you both to affirm your baptism on Reformation Sunday, October 27!





COMING SOON

HOSPITALITY

Christ Recovery Center Worship



We welcome the worship band from the Christ Recovery Center on **Sunday**, **November 17.** They will lead us in song and current residents will share testimony about the impact of their faith and trust in God in the recovery process.

CTK will also be hosting a breakfast during fellowship time to thank the Christ Recovery Center band and residents for leading worship. Your help is needed to provide a tasty meal! Sign up in the narthex to bring egg bake, muffins, fruit, juice, and breakfast sausage. Volunteers to help set-up and clean-up are also needed.

STEWARDSHIP

Grace in Action

'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.' + Luke 10:36-37

Over the last three weeks, we've been exploring what "Grace in Action" looks like, for God and for us. We've considered God's generosity in building the home of creation, and our call to be world-builders and homemakers, too. We've thought about God's prodigal, neverending welcome, and about our own hospitality and celebration.

As we approach Giving Sunday on November 10, we'd like to ask you to reflect on the grace that appears when we least expect it.

That's what Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan is all about, since Jews and Samaritans didn't get along in those days: imagining someone from the "other side" – of the aisle, of the debate, of the conflict – whose actions beautifully reflect the grace of God. And then to go and do likewise.

When the image of God shines brightest through our lives, we find ourselves building bridges, showing and receiving mercy, and learning from supposed "enemies." Through our support of Lutheran World Relief, Seeds for Ukraine, and our partner congregation in Masisiwe, we've been a part of God's merciful work of justice and reconciliation.

Finally, be sure to join us on November 10 for Giving Sunday, when we'll celebrate and reflect on all the ways God's "Grace in Action"

has shaped our community – as well as all the ways we seek to be more gracious in our lives and work together.



UPDATES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Corner

Council initiatives update:

- 1. One-to-one conversations this initiative was completed in mid-October. Thank you to those who participated. We are assembling the information from the conversations to help us assess our vision and mission.
- 2. Sound System Council representatives met with Excel AV Group to get a quote for the components and labor to improve both the on-line and in-person sound. The quote should be available for our November meeting.

3. Message Map – Presentation of the message map was completed in October. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the presentations of the message map and are proud of the missions and ministries of CTK. The message map highlights 40 of the ways that CTK members are performing God's work and spreading God's grace. This is another tool we'll use to assess our vision and mission.

Finally, the property team is finishing its window inspections and assessment. The good news is that for the most part, the windows are in good shape. However, there are several windows with signs of rot. The team is working on determining the best way to address the rot.

In Christ's Service Scott Tradup

September Financial Report

ADMIN & FINANCE

Envelope and online offerings monthly comparison:

01/01/24 through 09/30/24 = \$2132,619 01/01/23 through 09/30/23 = \$186,136

Expenses Year-To-Date: 01/01/24 through 09/30/24 = \$203,243

01/01/23 through 09/30/23 = \$193,722

Cash account balances as of September 30, 2024 North Start Bank: Checking = \$7,338 Savings = \$52,107 Memorial Savings = \$30,826 ELCA Mission Investment Fund = \$55,903 Endowment Fund = \$93,047 Mortgage Balance = \$115,663

CONGREGATION

One-To-One Conversation Updates

The Council and other volunteers have completed their one-to-one conversations. We are in the process of gathering all the data collected and analyzing the results for commonalities. **Would you like to help interpret the data and discern where God is leading us as a congregation?** Let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested in participating in this process. The group will start meeting in November to look at the data and develop recommendations to go to Council.



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
					6-10pm	7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am
					Youth Lock-In	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
All Saints Worship 9am Sunday School			Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:45pm			7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am
10:15-11:00	6:30pm WMA		7-8:30 Confirmation	7pm Property Team		кнвуат
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Worship 9am						7am Bread Ministry
Sunday School 10:15-11:00			Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:45pm			KHB 9am
		7pm Admin Team	7-8:30 Youth Group			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
CRC Band Worship 9am Sunday School	Trumpet Deadline		Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:45pm			7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am
10:15-11:00		7pm Church Council	7-8:30	9:30am Women's Bible Study		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Worship 9am		555		Happy Thanksgiving		7am Bread Ministry
Sunday School 10:15-11:00		4:30pm Family Shelter Meal	Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:45pm			KHB 9am