

Christ the King Episcopal Church
6400 North Socrum Loop
Lakeland, FL 33809
863-858-1948

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1176, Kathleen, FL 33849-1176

Are you Serving this Sunday? Please check the listing below:

Serving TODAY Sunday 10/10

Acolyte—Mitchell Parrish
OT— Terri Yearicks
NT— Nathaniel Heist
POP—Steven Toalster
Ushers— Jessica Beck, Jo Ann Tatlian, Jason Biggs
Altar Guild— Carolyn Bonzack, Dianne Esdale, \ Kate Yotter
Children's Chapel—Deacon Ed

Our **Prayer Team** continues to pray for the needs of our church. Please be in touch with Joy Parker should you, a friend or family member need to have prayers during this time of pandemic. Please feel free to send an email to Dr. Joy Parker at: greatgg26@gmail.com. OR 863-712-5594



Children's Chapel will NOT take place on October 17th. NEXT SUNDAY Deacon Kate Yotter will be leading us in Morning Prayer that Sunday, and it would be wonderful to have our children in church to participate in this alterate worship service.



Guy's Night Out has been scheduled for October 21st, 6:00 p.m. we will be going to Cracker Barrel, 4343 Lakeland Park Drive, Lakeland, FL . There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway.



Ladies Night Out has been scheduled for October 21st, 6:00 p.m. we will be going to Shells Restaurant, 5125 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL A sign-up sheet is in the hallway. Since Shells Restaurant is on the south side, if you need a ride—please indicate that on the sign up sheet. Arrangements will be made for carpooling which would leave church at 5:15 p.m.



October 31st is a busy Sunday –

We are planning the following :
5th Sunday Dinner -Fish Fry, Anniversaries and Birthdays AND
Trunk or Treat,
more information on these events will be published.



The **Whisper**

October 7th , 2021

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Jim Aldridge, Francine Anforth, Ginny Bagge, Josh Beck, Jessie Beck, Joey Beck, John Beck, Mother Carolyn Biggs, David Biggs, Jason Biggs, Angela Biggs Patrick Biggs, Donovan Biggs, Kaylee Biggs, Jenna Biggs, Lisa Birkner, Carolyn Bonzack, Dwain Borden, Andrea Borden, Liam Borden, Clive Borden, Alice Bradshaw, Bob Bradshaw, Karen Brown, Paul Brown.

People on Christ the Kings prayer list:

Those on Christ the Kings prayer list: Chris, Christina, Brian, Christopher, Connie, Kevin and Tammy, Kim, David, Alex, Laurie, Edna and Gordon., Carolyn, Brad , Ines, Kim, Kevin, Mackensie, Mary, Sandy. All those effected by Covid 19, those who have committed suicide and the families they have left behind, and those who have been affected by disasters.



October is Clergy Appreciation Month

As you are aware we have in the past collected donations to go into a purse for Mother Carolyn and Deacon Ed.

This year we will have two giving trees in the hallway—if you would like to donate a gift card it can be put on the tree, if they get full—there will be a basket with the trees for gifts to be left in. If you would like to give a cash/check donation, please make it out to the church put it in an envelope with your name on it. This way we can give you credit on your giving statements.



We are looking for help, should we need it, with putting up the window guards here at church. Obviously this would only be done should Lakeland be in the path of a storm.

However we would like to be prepared, so we would like to develop list of volunteers should we need them installed. Cliff Greene has a sign up sheet in the hallway.



If you know of anyone who is having challenges and could use a prayer shawl to wrap them in prayers, please e-mail or call Betty Phillips. Or stop by the office during office hours and ask for one of our lovely shawls. You can choose the one you think they would like. What a great way to spend your time!

OCTOBER IS CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH
SUNDAY—OCTOBER 10TH, 2021

Bible Study—9:00 a.m.
Praise Team—9:00 a.m.
Worship—10:00 a.m.
Stewardship Meeting—following the service

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 20th- Vestry Meeting – at 7:00 p.m.
October 21st— Ladies Night Out—Shell's Restaurant
Guys Night Out—Cracker Barrel
October 24th— Stewardship Meeting—following the service
October 31st- Stewardship Kick Off
Trunk or Treat, 5th Sunday Dinner and

Birthdays and

Anniversaries
Monthly Activities-

EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND
Study Groups—

Sunday Morning Bible Study—9:00 a.m.

Tuesday Bible Study—Every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Praise Team Rehearsals—Every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Study Group- 1st and 3rd Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Please note the loose Sunday Offering is designated for
1st Sunday Mission; and the
3rd Sunday Discretionary Funds

This week's
Anniversaries or
Birthday's

Sarah & Philip Williams, 10/10; Pat & Mike Ebersole, 10/12

Kevin Parrish, 10/14

Given to the Glory of God—
General Fund Offering
Last week—**\$3,203.00**
Expenses—**\$2,108.43**

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Hope House—Is looking for people who would be willing to supply lunch for this group on Monday. Our congregation does food one Monday a month, the 3rd Monday of the month. Requirements are, you would need to cook a meal (at home), along with supplying drinks, desert, for about 15-20 people. It can be whatever you are comfortable or love to make. If you feel you could help on a team that could be put together or you want more information, Please talk to Marilyn Springthorpe, Diane



Over Eaters Anonymous—will begin meeting again here at church on

Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

If you need more information please call Laurie at
386-837-1206



**TAKE OFF POUNDS
SENSIBLY**

T.O.P.S.- (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)—
meets here at Christ the King Episcopal Church,
EVERY Thursday morning at 8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m.
For more information please call Diane Davis at 863-370-3103

The Readings for 20th Sunday in Pentecost, October 10th, 2021

Old Testament—Amos 5:6-7,10-15

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore, because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Psalm 90:12-17—Domine, refugium

12 So teach us to number our days * that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

13 Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? * be gracious to your servants.

14 Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; * so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

15 Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us * and the years in which we suffered adversity.

16 Show your servants your works * and your splendor to their children.

17 May the graciousness of the LORD our God be upon us; * prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

The Epistle—Hebrews 4:12-16

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Gospel—Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

Sunday, October 10

Jeremiah 36:1-10 *“I am banned from going to the house of the Lord, so you are to go...”* (vv.5-6 ESV)

Last year, a black student at the University of Virginia told white students to leave a multi-cultural center because there were too many of them around. The internet message site Twitter has banned conservative accounts without notice or explanation. A gay candidate running for the presidential nomination in the USA said Christians who didn't support his political position were hypocrites.

Such efforts to exclude uncomfortable critics are not new. The prophet Jeremiah faced similar attempts to silence his voice at the temple itself. He didn't stop. He found a way to proclaim God's message to the nation anyway. Christ's disciples faced beatings for their message. Jesus was crucified.

Christian witnesses don't seek out hostile reactions. But we mustn't be discouraged by them. They're not new. God's purpose in sending us to shine His light in darkness remains unshaken. And His concern doesn't stop with our tongues. God even makes the feet of His messengers beautiful! (Romans 10:15)

Psalms 146, 147; Acts 14:8-18; Luke 7:36-50

Monday, October 11

Matthew 10:5-15 *“Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans...”* (v.5)

I was being considered for a job to manage a company I liked. I had worked for the company many years and knew the people. I had held similar positions at other companies. Still, I was turned down. Twice.

It was years before I became able to see that God closing that door had nudged me toward other doors that led me to unexpected and better opportunities. (Meanwhile, the company that had turned me down soon went out of business. My hoped-for future there would have been short.)

King David wanted to build God a temple. God said no. Paul wanted to take his mission work East. God said no. Peter wanted to know what Jesus had in store for John. Jesus said it was none of his business. But in each case, God did have further direction and purpose for each of these servants.

If you hear God's "No" or even His "Wait..." this week, remember it's because He already has a better plan for you.

Jeremiah 36:11-26; Psalms 1, 2, 3; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Tuesday, October 12

Matthew 10:16-23 *“Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves.”* (v.16)

Melanie and I watch wildlife documentaries. Some of the most fascinating and dramatic scenes show the precautions the zoologists take approaching dangerous, large, wounded animals in order to care for them. Steps are taken to protect the human workers from panicked, frightened animals who habitually try to avoid being approached at all. The humans are there to help, but face danger from the animals they try to rescue.

Last year there were sad stories of medical personnel who got infected while dealing with victims of the Coronavirus outbreak. The sick people were a danger to the ones trying to help them, even if they didn't intend to be so. Sometimes the threat is in the circumstance and misunderstanding, not the heart.

It might seem odd that Jesus wanted to send his own followers to face danger and hostility in the world. But sometimes in order to help, you have to get close first, regardless of danger. That's what Jesus did.

Jeremiah 36:27—37:2; Psalms 5, 6; 1 Corinthians 14:1-12

Wednesday, October 13

Psalms 119:1-24 *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.* (v.11)

As a writer, I have slowly built up a vocabulary to give me an assortment of words to express myself with. This plethora of morphemes enables me to avoid tedious, boring, long-winded repetitions. But to write the various words properly I have to know how to spell them. I don't always remember. My computer catches some errors (but not if I have typed the wrong word correctly). I often have to check a dictionary. Sometimes, in an overconfident hurry, I look at the word's proper spelling once, then forget it again when I try to typo it down.

That doesn't work in writing. It doesn't work in trying to live a life pleasing to the Lord, either. I need to

consult the Book, over and over. The more I commit it to heart, the longer I can go without stumbling. There are no errors in the Book. I want my life like that.

Jeremiah 37:3-21; 1 Corinthians 14:13-25; Matthew 10:24-33

Thursday, October 14

Jeremiah 38:1-13 *So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern of Malchiah, the king's son, which was in the court of the guard, letting Jeremiah down by ropes. And there was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank in the mud.* (v.6)

Did you ever notice the people in beauty product advertisements or clothing catalogs? They're always head-turning knockouts. Movie stars are usually the same. These people earn money because the rest of us are willing to turn over every dollar we can if their products will only help us become as attractive and admired as they are. Advertisers are counting on that desire in us as they try to entice us to buy from them.

On the other hand, God lets some of His best representatives get covered in mud and ridicule and scorn. He allowed His own Son to die naked in public. Why would anyone want to be like them?

Perhaps the intended message is that the mud and scorn, definitely unpleasant for the moment, are actually worth it in the long run. Perhaps the messengers know something after all? What's that they're singing? "Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say 'It is well...'"

Psalms 18:1-20; 1 Corinthians 14:26-33a, 37-40; Matthew 10:34-42

Friday, October 15

Psalms 16 *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.* (v.11)

Where would 20th century American song writers, musical stars and singers, and recording companies be without love songs? Before rap swept the pop music scene, romantic love themes appeared in 4 out of 5 hit song lyrics. Their popularity reflected our fascination with that strange awareness, the unexpected attraction that people sometimes felt upon meeting a new friend. What seemed so strange about such moments was that often the other person wasn't doing anything other than *being there*.

The feeling of wanting the company of someone else is a reflection of God's image, the one in which we are made. God as a Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lives in the joy of each other's presence. That surprising and inexplicable joy is part of why we, too, feel such intrigue and interest in knowing more about God. He first loved us. We come to enjoy His Presence even when it surprises us and we can't explain it.

Jeremiah 38:14-28; Psalms 17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Matthew 11:1-6

Saturday, October 16

Matthew 11:7-15 *As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? He who has ears to hear, let him hear."* (vv.7, 15)

I enjoy watching mysteries and magicians on TV. Both show you things and try to draw your attention to things. The goal is to draw attention away from something else, in order to conceal facts that would give away the tricky solution. The most confident magicians don't say a word while setting a trick. They tap a glass with their wand, expecting viewers to draw the conclusion that it is a simple, solid, normal glass. They poke and wave the wand inside a box, expecting you to conclude it is empty. All the time, the glass or box have nothing to do with the trick. You've been distracted from looking where the secret is hiding.

We trust our eyes, thinking they are the most important tool we have to direct our thinking. Jesus pointed instead to our ears, the tools that allow us to hear words of direction and instruction, even when we can't see where we are going. The trick is to choose to give our attention to the right tool.

2 Kings 25:8-12, 22-26; Psalms 20, 21; 1 Corinthians 15:12-29

by Rick Hoover

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