

January 2019

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

“I just don’t have time for prayer.”

“I don’t know how to pray.”

“It feels selfish praying to God to ask for things for myself.”

“I am uncomfortable praying.”

“I don’t have the right words to use.”

“I am scared I might get what I ask for.”

“I get bored easily and my mind wanders, so I am no good at prayer.”



We all have heard and used these excuses. There is no shame in admitting that we do not always pray. We become so focused on the busyness of life and our own cares and worries that we become preoccupied with our ability to solve problems and forget to ask for God to guide us and walk alongside us. Is it any wonder that we struggle with what life brings to us?

Prayer is important to our spiritual and faith life. But don't get confused and expect that prayer is all talking all the time. Prayer is a dialogue. Dialogue requires speaking and listening. It is perfectly acceptable to sit in silence and to listen.

And when we don't know what words to say, we can be assured that the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf with sighs too deep for words.

The most important thing about prayer is to do it. We make so many other things a priority that we fall out of the practice of making prayer a regular part of our routine. Prayer takes practice just like any other skills we may want to learn like playing an instrument or studying a trade. The more we pray the better we get at praying. Practice makes for comfort and skill.

Talking to God and listening to the leading of the Holy Spirit allow us to be aware of God's at presence and work in our lives.

To that end I am asking everyone to join me as we pray together to start out the new year. We will have paper prayer journey calendars available in the Gathering Area, as well as, an interactive calendar on the church website at ctkluth.org. Each day will have a bible verse to read and a prayer prompt which will allow us to be thinking and praying together all throughout the month of January.

Wishing you a happy and blessed new year in prayer.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Matt

WORSHIP

Worship Schedule

Saturday @ 5 pm

Sunday @ 11 am

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 5 & 6

The star of Bethlehem leads the Wise Men to Jesus.

Baptism of Our Lord

January 12 & 13

Jesus is baptized by the prophet John in the River Jordan. The Thanksgiving for Baptism liturgy will be used.

Special guest preacher at both services will be Rev. Bob Abrams, Assistant to the Bishop, ELCA Southern Ohio Synod.

SNAC (*Something Nice After Church*) will follow the Sunday service.

Cottingham Worship

Sunday, January 13 @ 2:00 pm

Cottingham Retirement Community
(3995 Cottingham Dr.)

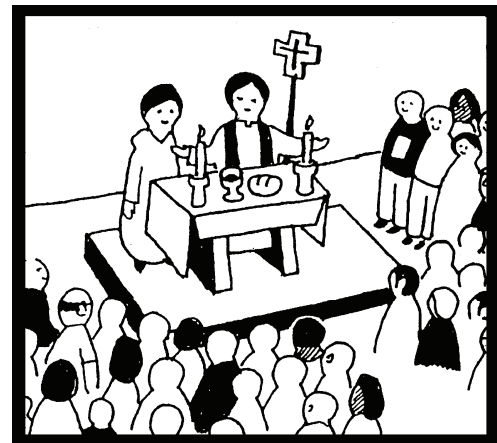
CtK leads worship the second Sunday of each month. Additional voices for singing, praying, and fellowship always enhance the experience for both residents and those of us who attend. Help is needed in handing out bulletins and serving communion. Christ the King is the only church who regularly brings Holy Communion to the residents for their Protestant worship.

Contact [Denise](#)

CtK Choir Schedule for January

No rehearsal on Jan 3

Regular rehearsals will resume
January 10 @ 7:00-8:30 pm



Worship Leader Training

Saturday, January 26

- For those currently serving—important updates and gratitude!
- For those considering serving—an opportunity to find out if it's a good fit for you!

9:00-10:00 am Readers

You Have the Words of Eternal Life

That's right. You.

Peter said it about Jesus. But now Jesus says it about you. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, . . . teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:19-20) are the words with which our Lord commissions all of his disciples. When we read the words of scripture during the service we are sharing the words of eternal life. The redeemed life. The new life in Christ. The life that lasts—eternally.

It is no small task. While it may be true that anybody can read, not every reading is riveting. But we might also agree that the words of eternal life ought to, need to, and certainly can engage our imaginations, help us understand the law's demands, and assure us of God's grace.

Attend the training day from 9:00-10:00 am, and we will explore many ways and means to improve our reading of scripture aloud in worship. If you are currently among the rotation of readers, or would be willing to give some thought to reading for the assembly on Sunday mornings, this one's for you.

After all, we have the words of eternal life . . . and we want to sound like it!

10:00-11:00 am Communion Assistants

Have you ever thought about serving as one of our communion assistants? We would love to have you participate in this important ministry. The training is simple. Anyone who receives communion in this congregation and is old enough to confidently handle and serve the bread and wine is encouraged to attend the training day from 10:00-11:00am. No degree or certification needed. Full theological understanding of holy communion not required or possible. Only prerequisite is to love Christ and Christ's church.

9:00-11:00 am Assisting Ministers

We want to share with the congregation what the Assisting Minister role is, why it exists, and how one does it. When we know this together, as a whole community, we can share the responsibility for raising up leaders for this role and receive and support their leadership as they assist in worship.

The assisting minister role, to describe it briefly, has deep roots in Christian history. In the early church the deacons were initially chosen to take extra food from the offering at holy communion to those in need. As that role expanded, they came to serve as assisting ministers in worship: praying for the needs of the world, receiving and giving thanks for the offering, setting the table with bread and wine, assisting the presiding minister at the table, serving the people, and sending the people forth to love and serve their neighbor. This ancient role has its own dignity and centrality within worship and, along with the presiding minister, offers continuity of leadership throughout the worship service.

We hope this abbreviated description of the role of assisting minister will encourage you to suggest people who might be good candidates for this important position—maybe yourself! We invite you to consider attending the worship training day from 9:00-11:00 am to learn more. You'll be training alongside readers and communion assistants to see how the roles interact.

Contact [Denise](#)

Weekly Lectionary Podcast

You're invited to tune in to a new podcast which is devoted to reading the weekly lectionary. Steve published the first episode a few weeks ago and it can now be found on iTunes, Stitcher and Google Play. Look for "The Weekly Lectionary"

www.weeklylectionary.com

Contact [Steve](#)

Mark Your Calendar- Dixieland Worship & Fat Saturday Dinner

Saturday, March 2

5:00 pm service

6:00 pm dinner



Readings for January

LECTIONARY YEAR C—LUKE

January 5/6 - Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

January 12/13 - Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 19/20 – 2nd after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Luke 4:14-21

January 26/27 – 3rd after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
John 2:1-11

EDUCATION

Mid-week Lectionary Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 10:00 am

The Mid-week Lectionary Bible study returns to its regular weekly schedule on January 8. Join Pastor Matt in studying the readings for the upcoming weekend's worship.

Contact [Pastor Matt](#)

Creative Connections

Sundays @ 9:30-10:30 am

New session begins January 13

Creative Connections will take an out-of-the-box look at the Gospel lessons during Epiphany. All ages and abilities are welcome.

Contact [Pastor Matt](#)

Lutheranism 101

Sunday, January 20 @ 12:30 pm

"Mary and Jesus"

Come and look deeper into our understanding of the Christian faith as Lutherans. This class meets monthly through April. All ages are welcome!

Contact [Pastor Matt](#)



PRAYER MINISTRY

First Friday Prayer Vigil

Friday, January 4 @ 11:00 am-3:00 pm

The sanctuary will be open for anyone to come for quiet prayer and meditation. Names of those on our prayer lists will be made available, so that you can lift up their names. **Please sign up for a time-slot on the Gathering Area kiosk.**

OUTREACH

Family Promise Update

Thanks to the many Family Promise volunteers who helped during 2018 with all the facets of support and welcome! It is heartwarming and humbling to talk to our guests and hear their stories of faith, entrepreneurial plans, leaving behind struggles, and encouraging others in the midst of their own hardships! Christ the King will host families again in March. You are invited to join the group and be uplifted by the experience.



Support Family Promise

Please consider making a special gift to Family Promise. All the great work they do to help local homeless families get back on their feet is possible because of generous donations; they receive no government funding. Recently their transportation van's catalytic converter was stolen. The van was repaired with funds they had just received from their annual fundraising effort. It is a blessing that they were able to quickly fix the essential-to-the-program van, but now they find themselves in need of additional funding for 2019. If you would like to make a contribution, go online to

www.familypromisebutlercounty.com

or mail a check to

Family Promise of Butler County

P.O. Box 95

Hamilton, OH 45011

Thank You!

Dear friends,

Thank you for allowing NEST the opportunity to share what we're doing with at-risk kids (at your Music with a Mission Concert). Thank you for your donation of \$414. We cannot continue our work without support like yours. We can't wait to see what God does in our communities!

Blessings,

Van and the team at NEST

MEMBER CARE

Support for Home Meals, Transportation, and Funerals

CtK is using the online organizational tools on the “Lotsa Helping Hands” website to coordinate providing meals and transportation for members in need, as well as, preparing meals for funerals. Each of these 3 ministry areas is organized in a different “community”. If you would like to participate in preparing home meals, providing transportation, or preparing funeral meals, follow these steps:

1. Go to www.LotsaHelpingHands.com
2. Click on “Join a Community” and enter “Christ the King” into the community name search. You should see a listing of 3 communities.
3. Join the ministry communities you would like participate in by selecting “join” and follow the sign-in directions.
4. You will be notified by email when a need arises.

Contact [Kathy](#) or [Laura](#)

YOUTH

Youth Group Meeting

Sunday, January 13 @ 12:30 pm

The CtK Youth Group will meet after worship for lunch, fellowship, and discussion about upcoming events.

Contact [Donna](#)

EVANGELISM

On Saturday, December 8, Helping Hands Health Care, a local home health care provider, used CtK’s Gathering Area, kitchen, and sanctuary overflow area for their Christmas party. Over 200 people of all ages were in our building sharing food (including red and green pancakes) and hospitality. They really enjoyed our spaces, our welcome, and are talking about maybe making visits to CtK an annual thing (bi-annual? Easter egg events?). Space sharing and welcome — an important ministry at CtK.

THE COLLABORATIVE

Welcome to The Collaborative!

This is a 2-year journey for Christ the King to experience the depth and breadth of God's love in worship, prayer, study of scripture, and sharing of faith as we discern the presence and will of God in our midst.

We'll explore questions to uncover God's purpose :

- What is God doing in our lives and our congregation?
- Where is the Holy Spirit leading us?
- What are we being called to do?



We'll respond in faith by:

- Trusting that the Holy Spirit will lead us to discern/discover the path that we are to take
- Sharing the good news of Jesus
- Telling our faith stories

First Steps—Prayer

The first step in this process is to discover through prayer what God is doing in our lives and in our congregation.

Throughout the month of January the entire congregation (and anyone in the community who would like to join us) will spend 10-15 minutes in prayer each day.

You may use the verse and prayer prompts on the [January Prayer Calendar](#) as inspiration. Copies are found in the Gathering Area and online at www.ctkluth.org.

There is no right or wrong way to pray. Just find a quiet space and talk with God. **You are also invited to post on the prayer wall in the sanctuary—How have you seen the Holy Spirit at work in your life? In the life of CtK? How have your prayers been answered?**

Save the dates for listening posts to discuss our month of prayer.

- Sunday, February 3 @ 12:30 pm
- Tuesday, February 5 @ 10:00 am
- Wednesday, February 6 @ 7:00 pm

Contact [Laura](#)

WELCA (WOMEN OF THE ELCA)

Mary Martha Circle

Tuesday, January 8 & 22 @ 11:30 am

Mary Martha Circle meets in the Ark the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. The group does not meet during the summer and in December, they just have a luncheon. The schedule looks like they take a lot of time off, but they do "turn out the quilts" for Lutheran World Relief and for local needs.

The Circle has an enjoyable time doing this project and anyone who is interested can come and join them in putting these quilts together. Bring a sack lunch; dessert is provided.

Contact [Ruby](#)

Rachel Circle

Tuesday, January 15 @ 7:00 pm

All women are invited and welcome to join in study, fellowship, and service. Judy Bremanis will lead the Bible study from the January *Gather Magazine*. The project will be to bring items from the after-Christmas sales to be used in next November's Christmas gift baskets.

Contact [Mary](#)

FELLOWSHIP

Lunch with Pastor Matt

Thursday, January 3 @ 11:30 am

The Wooden Barrel (9303 Cincinnati Columbus Rd)
Grab something to eat and join Pastor Matt for lunch.

Contact [Pastor Matt](#)

SNAC (Something Nice After Church)

Sunday, January 13 @ 12:30 pm

Please plan to stay after worship for a light lunch. Soup and beverages will be provided. You are asked to bring a veggie tray or light dessert to share.

Sign-up on the Gathering Area kiosk.

Contact [Kathy](#)

Grapevine

Friday, January 18 @ 6:00 pm

Everyone age 50+ is invited to come for a fun evening of food and games. The hosts will supply drinks and desserts. You are asked to bring a side dish to share. All are welcome!

Contact [Jeanine](#)

Thank You!

WELCA's Advent Brunch 2018 is now a fond memory for the 95 or so attendees, but it would not have been nearly as wonderful an event without the help of many people. Sincere thanks goes to:

- Those who came on Friday night, including some spouses, to set up the sanctuary as the banquet hall and the Gathering Area with buffet tables (it took only about 1 ½ hours)—Thank you!
- Those who brought casseroles, pastries, salads and fruit—Thank you!
- Those acting as servers during the brunch and those who stayed to tear down and clean up (with many hands, including some spouses, it took only about 1 hour)—Thank you!
- Those who donated hats, scarves, and mittens to help keep Cincinnati area school children warm on their way to and from school this winter—Thank you!
- Those who came to the brunch, including representatives from neighboring churches and other guests; we were honored by your presence with us—Thank you!

And, specifically:

- The angel of an angel-maker, Tom—Thank you!
- The wonderful vocalists—Malinda, Jill, Kathryn, Betsy and Denise—Thank you!
- The flutist Stella—Thank you!
- The harpist and inspiration for this wonderful program, Lin—Thank you!

Thank you all, again—See you next year!

Coffee with Pastor

Tuesday, January 22 @ 7:00 pm

Coffee Beans & Brew (7051 Yankee Rd.)

Join Pastor Matt for relaxed conversation and fellowship.

Contact [Pastor Matt](#)

Book Club

Tuesday, February 5 @ 6:30 pm

The Book Club will not be meeting in January. Join them in February as they discuss *A Spark of Light* by Jody Picoult.

All are welcome. Feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. Book club is a great way to get to know fellow CtK members. Happy reading!

Contact [Donna](#)

OFFICE

Cancellations Due to Bad Weather

This is the time of year when weather conditions can make traveling dangerous. If cancellations are necessary, you can look to the following sources for information: the office voice mail (777-4370), the website (www.ctkluth.org), the Facebook page, and on TV channel 12 (WKRC.) When in doubt, always use your best judgement.

COMMUNITY

Live the Dream

Unity March & Program

Monday, January 21, 2019 @ 10:30 am

Christ the King is participating in the West Chester community march and program on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There will be a walk on West Chester Square, program with community choir, and free lunch. Plan to join us!

The community choir will rehearse Thursday, January 17 @ 6:30 pm at Christ the King. All are welcome.

Follow on Facebook @ *Live The DreamWCL* and www.livethedreamwcl.weebly.com



For the Good of the Church

Thanks to...

- Darcy for serving as Kitchen Custodian
- Lin, Denise, Malinda, Kathryn, Betsy, and Stella for performing at the Advent Brunch.
- Susan and Kathy for coordinating the Advent Brunch and to all who worked to make it a success.
- Donna for guiding with the youth and working on the Monarch Butterfly project.

CHURCH COUNCIL

A Note from the Council President

I'm excited about and looking forward to working with our Collaborative team. In January, we will begin our journey with prayer. Many of us have seen the power of prayer at work or at times when our prayers are answered. Maybe the answer is not just the way we asked for it. There are times when we don't understand why our prayers aren't answered or answered soon enough.

As we all begin our prayer journey, we will start to post our prayer experiences on the sanctuary wall. It will be interesting to see how the Holy Spirit works amidst us. I have a friend who had been through quite a rough patch of life that culminated in losing the first good roommate he had ever found to a terrible car crash. Feeling quite low, he decided to turn to God and created his own prayer room in the former roommate's walk-in closet. He prayed for many things. He began to put his prayer thoughts and requests on post-it notes and placed them on the wall of the closet. After a few weeks, he went back over the oldest of notes. He discovered that some of them had actually come to fruition! He clearly discovered the power of prayer. He has been telling his powerful story to as many as he can and he has found a new level of happiness in his life.

Who knows where our prayer journey will take us, as one family in Christ? Let's pray and see where we go – together.

Peace, Sheila

VEIL (VIDA ETERNA IGLESIA LUTERANA)

VEIL is ...

Vida Eterna Iglesia Luterana
(Eternal Life Lutheran Church),
a local and Synodical ELCA
Latino Ministry.



Worship Services

Sundays @ 4:15 pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church (6329 Tylersville Rd.)

You are invited to join VEIL for bilingual service of the Word and Sacrament.

Three Kings Epiphany Celebration

Saturday, January 5 @ 6:00 pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church (6329 Tylersville Rd.)

Join VEIL for an evening of food and fun! A multi-cultural meal will be shared and the Good Shepherd Puppeteers will tell the story of the Magi. There will be a game with gifts. The evening ends with German and Latin Epiphany traditions - the Rosca de Reyes/ King's Sweet Bread, Pinatas, and Christmas Tree Burning. The VEIL community invites everyone to a wonderful evening of hospitality. Bring a dish to share and freewill offering.

Homework Fellowship Program

Sundays @ 2:00-4:00 pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church (6329 Tylersville Rd.)

The Homework Fellowship Program will take a holiday break until January 13.

Additional adult and high school tutors are needed on January 13 - February 3 because the regular tutors from Miami and Xavier Universities will be on break. Come as you are able, and work with elementary age children who need assistance with reading and basic math. There is no need to speak Spanish. Sign up online if you are able to help at <http://bit.ly/2Lxh2Df>

Contact [Susan](#)

Advent Season at VEIL

Vida Eterna had a wonderful Advent season!

- December 9— The VEIL community celebrated Christ's birth with Lord of Life in the first Las Posadas Christmas Pageant. The Nativity Story was told through the traditional Latino telling of the journey of Mary and Joseph searching for an Inn (posada) to welcome Jesus' birth.
- December 15—Good Shepherd Lutheran Church treated the VEIL youth to a Christmas shopping trip to purchase gifts for parents and family members. Lunch was provided by VEIL moms.
- December 23—Prince of Peace Lutheran Church became Christmas Angels to the children of Vida Eterna. As part of the Christmas Eve Worship celebration, they left presents under the Christmas trees for the VEIL children.

Kroger Community Rewards

A very easy way to help support VEIL is to sign up (either online or at the Customer Service Desk) with Kroger's Community Rewards program and choose VEIL as the group you'd like to support. The new group number is YG489 . A percentage of all that you spend at Kroger is sent to VEIL.

Donations

Many thanks to the CtK members who donated snacks for the Homework Fellowship Program and diapers and feminine hygiene products for Mothers' Ministry! ;Gracias, gracias!

The follow items are needed:

- Thin feminine pads (overnight or regular)
- Pantliners
- 100% juice boxes/pouches
- Healthy, shelf stable snacks

Please place your items in the VEIL basket in the Gathering Area. Thank you!

JANUARY CALENDAR

Wed 2

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Thurs 3

11:30 am Lunch with Pastor @ The Wooden Barrel

Fri 4

11:00 am Prayer Vigil

Sat 5

7:30 am Men's Breakfast @ IHOP, Cox Ln

5:00 pm Worship

Sun 6

11:00 am Worship

Mon 7

3:00 pm Music Lessons

Tues 8

10:00 am Lectionary Bible Study

11:30 am Mary Martha Circle

4:30 pm Stepping Forward Dinner

Wed 9

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Thurs 10

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat 12

7:30 am Men's Breakfast @ IHOP, Cox Ln

9:00 am Council Meeting

5:00 pm Worship

Sun 13

9:30 am Creative Connections

11:00 am Worship

12:30 pm SNAC

12:30 pm Youth Group Meeting

2:00 pm Cottingham Worship

Mon 14

3:00 pm Music Lessons

Tues 15

10:00 am Lectionary Bible Study

5:30 pm Collaborative Team Meeting

7:00 pm Rachel Circle

Wed 16

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Thurs 17

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri 18

6:00 pm Grapevine

Sat 19

7:30 am Men's Breakfast @ IHOP, Cox Ln

5:00 pm Worship

Sun 20

9:30 am Creative Connections

11:00 am Worship

12:30pm Lutheranism 101

Mon 21

3:00 pm Music Lessons

Tues 22

10:00 am Lectionary Bible Study

11:30 am Mary Martha Circle

7:00 pm Coffee with Pastor @ Coffee Beans & Brew

Wed 23

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Thurs 24

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Sat 26

7:30 am Men's Breakfast @ IHOP, Cox Ln

9:00 am Worship Leader Training

5:00 pm Worship

Sun 27

9:30 am Creative Connections

11:00 am Worship

Mon 28

3:00 pm Music Lessons

Tues 29

10:00 am Lectionary Bible Study

Wed 30

10:30 am Staff Meeting

Thurs 31

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Christ the King Lutheran Church
7393 Dimmick Rd.
West Chester, OH 45069



eNEWSLETTER

January 2019