



# CHRIST THE KING

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Matthew Byrd

November 22, 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Christ the King,

Grace, mercy, and peace in the name of Jesus who binds us together in one body called the church.

There are two excerpts from our Constitution and Bylaws [March, 2009], that we would like to share with you:

“The powers of this congregation are those necessary to fulfill its purpose.”

“Only such authority as is delegated to the Church Council or other organizational units in this congregation’s governing documents is recognized. All remaining authority is retained by the congregation.”

Our primary purpose at Christ the King is to proclaim the Gospel. The congregation has the sole power to decide how the gospel is proclaimed at Christ the King in our ministry context in West Chester and the surrounding areas. Our Vision Statement and Core Values proclaimed in our handbook are the guide we use to determine how ministry is embodied at Christ the King. The ministries we participate in and create always follow these Core Values.

We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. There have been recent resolutions and memorials passed by the Church Wide Synod Assembly that have created anxiety in our community. Some of our members have announced their disagreement with the Church Wide body and are leaving the ELCA and Christ the King. This is very sad. We want them to know we appreciate their service and fellowship and that they are always welcome here.

It is important to remember that the ELCA and Christ the King are diverse bodies with differing viewpoints. Disagreeing with the ELCA and with each other is perfectly acceptable. We do not expect uniformity of thought in the church, but we do expect unity in the Gospel. Christ remains first and foremost in all we do.

The Vision, Core Values and Purpose of Christ the King in West Chester have not changed. In fact, even with all of the resolutions passed in the 41 year history of the ELCA, nothing has changed at Christ the King. We will continue as a congregation to decide on the best way for us to participate in the ministry of Christ Jesus as we have done in the last 50 years.

In response to the Sanctuary Memorial, some of you have asked, “Are we going to be doing anything illegal?” Let us reassure you as your congregational council that the church wide body of the ELCA is

not asking us or directing us to do anything that is illegal. Christ the King will not be participating in nor will we be asking anyone to perform illegal acts. That is not embodied in the core values of Christ the King. We are not equipped to provide housing or shelter to people outside of designated programs that we intentionally support, such as Family Promise.

God has plans for us at Christ the King and we are excited to see where the Holy Spirit leads us as we use the training we have received through the Collaborative to help our congregation focus on the needs and ministry opportunities presented by the surrounding community. Your prayer, support and participation are crucial to our ability to make decisions moving forward on how we embody ministry together as a congregation.

We hope that you continue to be in dialogue and prayer with Pastor, Council and each other as we continue to grow in faith, here together as one body in Christ Jesus.

Our Vision Statement:

*“Christ the King invites people into a loving, life-giving, transformational relationship with God, one another, and the world of daily life. This relationship is the essence of the Kingdom of God. The congregation proclaims the gospel, fosters hope, and lives among others as members of god’s family.”*

Our Core Values:

*“We share a common life with one another and in Christ through the liturgy, the Word, the Sacraments, Worship, music and the arts.*

*We serve and care for those within and outside our walls as we face life’s challenges together.*

*We grow in faith and community through prayer, the study of the scripture, dialogue, fellowship and stewardship of all which God has entrusted to our care.*

*We cherish all of creation and welcome its diversity with humility and respect.*

*We create an atmosphere where intergenerational bonds flourish.”*

Peace and blessings to you,  
Your Pastor and Church Council,

Rev. Matt Byrd, Pastor  
Sheila Lilly, President  
Don Jenkins, Acting Vice-President  
Nancy Brinker, Secretary  
Betsy Slone, Treasurer  
Eric Montes, Financial Secretary  
Marsha Korth, Congregational Life Elder  
Susan Fox, Outreach Elder  
Mark Albertin, Property Elder  
Jeff Perdew, Stewardship Elder