CTK Church Council Newsletter 3/26

Greetings friends in Christ,

The Church Council has been meeting online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how we can best serve our members during this difficult time.

With the current shelter in place order from the Governor and our concern for your well-being, access and use of the Church building will be very limited. We have disabled key card access to the building. Staffing has also been reduced to only those essential to maintain our limited operations during this shut down. Rest assured, these are both temporary measures and when it is safe, we look forward to restoring things to “normal.”

God is present in our lives and we are working on ways to stay in touch with each other without physically meeting.

**Access to the Church facility**

With concern for your well-being, we encourage you to ‘shelter in place’ and limit our physical contact. If you feel that you require access to the building please contact christtheking@ctksnohomish.org Our work as a Church Community continues. Out of concern for you and our staff we encourage you to reach out by phone or email but please refrain from dropping by the Church.

**Pastor’s Report**

During this unusual season, our hope to develop a campaign to support clean water in a place that currently does not have easy access to clean water has been put on hold.  We look to the time when it can be taken up again.  In the meantime, we remember to pray for all those whose health is more at risk in daily life than our own.

Christ the King still looks to fulfill the mission that God has given to us, even as the building is closed.  Watch for opportunities to participate in making calls to one another, and to join a prayer team.  Thank you for your support of all that we are doing together, even as we are in our own homes.  Pray for those without a home or the love and support of others.

**Online giving option**

 We understand that during this time, you may be concerned about your financial situation and may need to reduce your normal giving. The regular financial commitments of the Church remain, so if you are able to continue to give, we have created an easy online giving tool

  Go to <https://www.ctksnohomish.org/give>

Click on Give.

You may need to create an account to log in.

Editors note: It’s easy, I just did it! If I can do it -just about anyone can. Please give it a try.

This is a secure site, you may choose to direct deposit or charge your gift.

Choose whether this will be a one-time gift or a repeating gift.

You can still give by “snail mail”, of course. Send your offering via the U.S. mail.

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 1305 Pine Avenue, Snohomish WA 98290.

**CTK Zoom account availability**

Connection and fellowship will be vital during this time. Even though we are physically isolated, we need to stay emotionally and spiritually connected. The Church Council will continue to meet regularly via Zoom and keep you updated with bi-weekly communications. We encourage any other groups that want to keep meeting to use this tool and have set up a Church Zoom account. If you would like access to Zoom for a bible study, prayer circle, committee meeting, etc., please reach out to Kerri at christtheking@ctksnohomish.org. She will give the password and account number to set up so you can schedule your meetings.

Only one zoom meeting can occur on this account during a given date and time slot, so some coordination may be required. Kerri Rundle has sent out emails to people who were known to be involved with church activities. However, if you were not contacted please reach out to her, so your effort to do the work of the church can continue.

Editors note: The use of the account gets easier with practice. Compose a message of the purpose of the meeting and include the date and time for the meeting prior to sending it out to the invitees. Remember that adaptation is a learning process. Be patient with yourself and one another as we learn to work through this new medium.

**Refinancing of the church mortgage**

The effort of reaching out to financial institutions to update the mortgage terms continues although slowed by the pandemic. No news to report on proposed new terms.

**Monthly Financial status**

Monthly giving is about $ 23,000 for the months of February and March. This is about $10,000 below budgeted monthly giving. Fortunately, expenses have also been below budget. The council voted to continue current compensation to salaried staff for the time being. We will review the status on a monthly basis to ensure income is adequate to cover staff salaries and required monthly expenses.

**Communication Plan**

The Council approved a plan to send out communications to the congregation twice per month going forward during the Church shut down for the Covid 19 pandemic. This is the first of those messages. Our intent is to have the messages sent out by email and to have them posted at [www.ctksnohomish.org](http://www.ctksnohomish.org) . We hope that you are all well and encourage you to reach out to any of us if you have questions, concerns or ideas on how we can better serve our congregation.

God Bless you and keep you safe,

The Christ the King Lutheran Church Council
Merideth Stephens, Tom Paulson, Bruce Olsen, Sam Britton, Alyson Harkins, Diane Decker-Ihle, Al Butler, Simon Bidne, Celeste Barner, Robyn Cypher, Penny Lefavour, LaRae McCurry, and Pastor Doug Stensby