



Christ the King Episcopal Church

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The Reverend Dr. Edward A. Weiss OSB, APC, Rector

# THE MESSENGER

JULY, 2020

***From the office of your Rector...*** Monthly Administrative publication for more information to Christ the King's Family of Faith.

***From the Rector, Fr Edward:***

***Dear Family of Faith of Christ the King Parish***

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has caused us ALL to face situations that we have not had to face before, including our form of corporate worship, The Lord HAS provided wonderfully for us, has not abandoned, nor deserted us, but through His Holy Spirit, sustained us.

I have shared devotions and Words of Encouragement with you continually, and our Staff has kept in touch with ALL likewise. Thanks to the efforts of the dedicated servants in this community of faith, we KNOW and are EXAMPLES of His ever present Holy Spirit at work in and among us.

Although the Diocesan plan encouraged us to try to CAUTIOUSLY move forward towards full worship in our facilities, according to specific guidelines for phase I, and then phase 2, as issued by our Bishop & Staff, the CDC, and the local governmental rubrics planned for July 5th, unfortunately, severe changes in the COVID 19 status in Orange County these past weeks, has caused us to re-evaluate and restructure this opening date. SAFETY FIRST, is the condition to be met.

Please know that the Administrative Committee of the Parish is working diligently to be in compliance with the latest directives. You will be informed of a proposed date shortly, and of ALL of the efforts currently in process. We ARE moving forward! It WILL happen!

Please continue to proffer your prayers and engage in activities of service to others as has been the task given us. Be NOT AFRAID, nor DISCOURAGED, He IS with us.

Pax Christi, Edward+



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**From the Sr Warden, Michele Keyser:** ...and Jesus said, "Follow me..." and the disciples did. Through imprisonments, harsh treatments, hatred and challenges from the Devil himself, they followed, they learned and they led. Nothing kept them down. They knew who they were doing this work for.

We are doing the same thing. God's church is closed but not for long. So many people have been harmed with illness, many with death, many leaving loved ones far too soon but the rest of us continue to climb, to learn, to share, to plan and do what God wants us to do. God wants us to open our doors but not at the cost of harming anyone. So, we follow his lead and learn everything we can to prevent harm, to keep his children safe and to tell the devil that he won't have us!

Welcome to the expansion of our announcements. This will be similar to sitting in church on Sunday and listening to your Senior Warden try to keep all the events straight so they can be presented in the best way possible. This is a little different though.

I want to be able to encourage you, lift your heart strings, work with God and do what He wants us to do. Have you ever been told it really doesn't matter *where* you pray, as long as you pray? Right now, we can't attend our beloved church but we can still attend our service. If you have a computer or a smart phone or I-pad or something along that nature, follow our service online. If you don't have something like that, do you know someone who does? Maybe this is the time to invite someone to join you while you watch the service; a neighbor, a friend or a family member.

Many of our ministries are still functioning. Read on and find out what many of them are doing. The food pantry is one and raising money to purchase school supplies for children is another. Daughters of the King pray every day and will never stop. The committee to reopen our doors meets every week. There are a few from the congregation and from JdN looking at everything that we need to open our doors and keep everyone safe.

The Live Streaming is still a work in progress. If you haven't met Scott Anderson, make certain he is one of the people you meet when you return to church. He and his wife are moving here from Jacksonville, he is studying to become a Priest and they are expecting their first child. He works with recording and the Live Streaming at the church and is really good at it. He and his family will be a part of Christ the King when they move here in August. In the meantime, every weekend he travels to Orlando to help with the Live Streaming. Give him a big smile and welcome when you meet him. He's also looking to train a few people on the Live Streaming, too, if you're interested. Jade Baker is learning this right now.

I'm told we will also have our projector back up and running by the time our doors open. So, we will have recording and Live Streaming every Sunday morning even when our doors open and when you return we will have the projector working to follow along with the service.

In another issue I will give more details on what to expect when we reopen and by then we should also have an approximate date.

God bless every one of you. Continue to pray, to learn, to love and to lead.

Michele Keyser

Senior Warden



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**From DOK Hannah Chapter ... Who We Are...** Daughters of the King are women and girls between the ages of seven and one hundred and seven who desire a closer walk with the Lord. We are Christian women, both lay and ordained, who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life, and supported through the companionship of our sisters. We are all at different stages of our Christian journey – some have just begun and some have been on this path for a long time. But no matter where we are on our sacred journeys, our primary goal is the same – to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others.

Membership in The Order is open to women at every stage of life. The diversity of different ages strengthens and enriches our adult, or senior, Daughters of the King chapters. Younger women benefit from the discipleship of experienced spiritual mentors, and older women are invigorated by the fresh faith and energy of youth. Many senior chapters help spread the Kingdom to the next generation by sponsoring and supporting a Junior Daughters of the King chapter at their churches.

### **Prayer, Service, and Evangelism**

Reaffirming the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of **prayer, service and evangelism**. She receives support in this commitment from a Worldwide community of like-minded women.

In solidarity with one another, all Daughters everywhere make the same promises upon their admission to The Order:

To obey the two Rules of The Order: the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.

To offer at all times loyal aid to our clergy and parish to spread Christ's kingdom.

To wear faithfully the cross of The Order.

To work for the purposes of The Order as God may give us the opportunity.

The Order of the Daughters of the King™

"O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

A Prayer for the Human Family Book of Common Prayer





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**From Healing Hunger Food Pantry/Laurie Schoomaker:** If you've been reading your Sunday bulletin announcements, you're aware of how the monthly food giveaway has exploded because of the tremendous need for food in our community. We quickly went from a walk-through client choice pantry to a pre-bag drive-thru beginning in April. Our July giveaway turnout was even greater with 257 families representing 1,067 people being served. The line went down Willow and wrapped around down Dogwood! Second Harvest delivered 2 pallets of no-touch produce around 9:30, Praise God, because we had just run out of meat! There was a constant flow of traffic and finally, we realized we would disappoint a lot of people if we didn't do something. At around 10, we drove down to the end of the line to put a sign on the back windshield "last car".

Because the church office has also been closed, we were missing the calls for emergency food. Ever heard of Google phone? Me neither... too high techy, techy for me. But, Fr. Jose knew and asked Scott Anderson to set-up a Google phone number for the pantry. When someone calls the number, Google sends me an email with a transcription of the voicemail that was left and the phone number it came from. Pretty cool, huh? We get an average of 2-3 calls per week.

The latest major development for the pantry is that we have just been accepted into TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) with Second Harvest. It requires a sign-up once a year and it started in July... another reason the line got sooo looong! This is a program meant to supplement our current distribution with USDA free product to eligible families in Orange County. For instance, in July we received 60-5 lb. chickens free! Since Second Harvest will be paying our monthly balances through the end of the year, the hope is that TEFAP will help stretch the pantry budget into 2021.

This ministry needs a village of support to function and I'm so thankful for all your faithfulness. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as God continues to guide our steps.

Stay safe! Blessings, Laurie

### **From Sharon Jones, Parish Life Coordinator...Back To School Help Needed**

Dear CTK Family.. "What a crazy year." Covid-19 has completely annihilated the calendar events my PL Committee spent so much time putting together to include any Fundraising events.

One thing we are still going to do, is give out school supplies. Times are hard and parents need help for their children. To keep volunteers and recipients safe, this will be done as a drive-through just like the food giveaway layout.

**We are in desperate need of Funds.** To keep everyone safely out of stores, keep costs down and have exact amounts of supplies to fill the bags we use, it was decided to purchase all supplies in bulk.

The on-line giving **is Not** set up to accept funds for this event, so **Please write a check directly to Christ the King**, put BTSB or school supplies on the memo line, and mail to the church at 26 Willow Dr, Orlando, 32807. Anything you can spare will be gratefully accepted.

Help us help our community. Please Give.

In God's Love

Sharon Jones



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**From the Treasurer, Tom Hinson:** *One tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord and must be set apart to him as holy! LEV. 27:30*

Once I heard someone say that everyone spends their income on something, but the wise people give the first 10% of their money to God to honor Him and thank Him for meeting the needs in their life. That's a good rule to follow. Just think about what happens when you get money. Almost immediately, it begins to flow out. Sometimes it flows out faster than it comes in! But the wise person makes sure that the first tenth—or more—of their financial blessings flow back to support God's work. This doesn't happen accidentally, it happens intentionally. And the best way to do this intentionally is to "put aside" money for your giving to the work of the Lord.

Do you have a plan to intentionally label money to give to God? Some people put money in an envelope earmarked for God's work. Some use cookie tins or mason jars, still others set up separate bank accounts for the Lord's money. The important thing is to set up a plan for faithful giving so you are sure to give God what's right, not what is leftover!

Over the last several months, we have looked at ways to give. We probably always knew that we could Give Cheerfully, as we recall the scripture about God loving a cheerful giver.\* You most likely can figure out that you can Give Systematically, Give Reverently, Give Joyfully and Give Generously – that all kind of makes sense. But did you know that you can Give Radically? The woman in the Bible that gave all that she had—two coins—**Gave Radically** and the Bible tells us that she was richly blessed by God and praised by Jesus! Did you know that you can Give Expectantly? After all, God tells us to **wait** – and pray - in expectation—with that excited feeling that something good is about to happen! It is not selfish to take God's promises and expect their fulfillment.

What other ways do you know to give to God? Over the next few weeks, we will show through scripture readings that it is God's desire for us to learn to give in other ways such as to Give Eternally, Fervently or Proportionally – **all while seeking His direction and His will for your life.**

At Christ the King, we use the gifts we receive to cover operating costs and administrative expenses and are privileged to be able to share from our storehouse with those in need. We make it easy for you to give to the works and ministries of Christ the King by clicking the Online Giving button on our emails and website or by mailing an offering to Christ the King Episcopal, 26 Willow Dr., Orlando Florida, 32807.

And through your giving may you be blessed by the personal transformation that comes from giving and take hold of what is truly good – **a life as God intended it.**

**\* 2 Corinthians 9:7**

**Online Giving—While we are not gathering for Sunday Services for the foreseeable future, the Church still needs your continued support. We have recently signed up for online giving so you can continue to pledge from the comfort of your home. Of course, you can still mail your check directly to the church.**





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**From Marketing...A TIME OF AWAKENING . . . A TIME OF BLESSING** As I look back on the end of 2019 and early 2020, I recall feeling prepared to tackle the Marketing and Communications needs of Christ the King for 2020 – *or so I thought!* After all, we were on track to begin the livestream broadcast of our services in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year and that was very exciting. Our services would be broadcast so members, friends and visitors could experience church with us and know what we know – *just how special our congregation and our church really is!* In fact, the plans for communication and marketing were well laid out for all 4 quarters of 2020. We were pretty proud of ourselves for being so organized and forward-thinking! We had a newsletter slated for release in March and a Prayer-Changes-Things campaign scheduled to launch at about the same time. In fact, we had already gotten interest and support from prayer warriors who heard what we were planning. Life was good, a plan was mapped – and we were working it. And then . . . mid-March 2020, a pandemic is realized, life changed in an instant and so did everything that we were doing. The newsletter fast became 2 issues a week of emails with messages, announcements, bulletins and links to services on our website. And **Prayer Changes Things** became our sentinel statement as we prayed fervently and constantly for change.

And so it began – the time that altered everything and by which future crises will be defined. And in the midst of this has been a time of amazement, wonder and opportunity. Amazement at how quickly we moved into this “New World Order.” Wonder at how fast we responded to a new need – to inform, engage and encourage members and visitors in a time that has been characterized by more questions than answers. Opportunity – because it was all new – the technology, the systems and set-up, the information channels – with an immense learning curve, high expectations and aggressive needs – to reach and touch members and bring constancy and normalcy to an anything-but-normal time.

And so we began broadcasting services in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, not the 4<sup>th</sup>, we prayed ever harder and much of what we did was charged with pure adrenaline wrapped in pure faith – **producing pure blessings!**

Yes, blessings. That is what we have seen and felt as all of us worked together to deliver meaningful messages of hope and the constancy of God in all times, but especially troubled times. The opportunity to craft messaging for Saturday emails with snippets about what to look for in Sunday’s sermon – with links to Fr. Edward’s teaching – yielded a chance to view intimately his thoughts about what matters most in that Sunday’s readings and to learn from his insights. The shift to the livestream broadcast of the sermon brought a new challenge – how to express in only 1 or 2 sentences the salient points of the writings for that day. The task of finding ways to illustrate the messages of the readings or extracting scripture verse to make key points is almost never simple, but the blessings that have been realized are unparalleled in my experience and undoubtedly that of the marketing team. We are confident that the challenge of arranging opportunities for online prayer and Bible study will be more than matched by the knowledge that participants gain as they connect with scripture. The chance to watch God at work in messaging to His people is an exciting thing to be part of and a privilege to be close to.

Over the past 4 months, we have arranged, re-arranged and then re-positioned lighting, video, cameras, audio, computers, people, music, a band, instruments – and all to help **Christ the King navigate the biggest, most comprehensive communications shift in 500 years.**

There have been bumps on the road – and there will continue to be – but overall the reach of our church has been advanced as more people find us on the internet and connect with a steadfast message of Encouragement, God’s Grace and His presence with us at all times and in all things.

In the midst of crisis, we continue our vital ministry. Jesus tells us, *“I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18)*. God promises us that nothing will overcome the Church because it rests on Jesus.

In Philippians 4:6, the Bible tells us, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” The Church is here to minister to the bitter, confused, frightened, and doubtful. The virus will keep us away from church for a while, but through prayer, online services and communication, we can keep and strengthen our connections – with God and each other. And so we are in a Time of Awakening to a new and changing world. Prayer does change things – but first of all it changes us. May we receive this as a Time of Blessing for all of us and may we reflect to the world the light and the hope that God wants us to be.