

April 2021 Scribe Newsletter

Contents

April 2021—Pastor Tim’s Thoughts	2
Discipleship.....	2
April 2021—Faith Formation	3
Ordination & Installation of Deacon Amanda Gardner	3
April 2021—CtK Youth	3
Holy Week	3
April 2021—By the Numbers	4
February 2021 Financials.....	4
March 2021 Attendance (all worship via Zoom unless otherwise noted)	4
April 2021 Worship Assistant Schedule	5
April 2021—Social Ministry News	5
ELCA World Hunger Lenten Challenge—March Update.....	5
April 2021—Bible Studies.....	6
Circle of Contemplative Prayer	6
Great Ol’ Broads of God (GoBoGs).....	6
Midweek (Thursday) Bible Study led by Pastor Tim	6
Khuvara (“Circle of Friends”)	6
Spiritual Study Group (SSG)	7
April 2021—Fellowship Groups.....	7
CtK Piecemaker Quilters	7
CtK Book Club	7
April 2021—In Other News. . .	7
Limited In-person Worship Sundays at 9:15 AM--Please Sign-Up	7
Mission Endowment Fund Announcement.....	8
Save the Dates—April	9
April 2021—In Our Prayers.....	9
Military Prayer Requests.....	9
CtK family & friends in need of prayer... ..	10

April 2021—Pastor Tim's Thoughts

Discipleship

“If you make disciples, you always get the church. But if you make a church, you rarely get disciples.” So says pastor and author Mike Breen in his book *Building a Discipleship Culture*. That thought has stuck with me since I first read this book almost ten years ago. The point he was driving at was that churches – in their panic about what to do about dwindling membership at the global and local levels – found some refuge in becoming marketing machines. Churches found that they could attract some people with programs of all sorts – children’s and youth ministries, parenting classes, financial strategy courses, prayer circles, men’s Bible studies, and the like. To be clear, Breen didn’t say that these things were bad. They all serve a good purpose! His issue with these things is that they were born from the wrong premise. These programs were designed to grow *a church*, not in order to *make disciples*. As such, the church became more administrative, focused more on the technical nature of how to sustain these programs. As such, the people who came for these programs tended to stay and affiliate with the church insofar as the program existed. But when the program finished, or when they “aged out” in terms of youth groups, then the people just walked away without any second thought. So, Breen asks, what if, instead, the church focused less on the programs and more on the people? What if the church just distilled its programmatic ministry to the single task of making disciples – equipping them for a life of faith in a challenging, ever-changing world? What if the church spent its time and energy on helping people to listen for God in their everyday lives, and encouraged people to respond to God’s gracious voice? What if the church made disciples that understood the invitation and challenge associated with a life of faith and who strove every day to meet that challenge with the assurance of God’s mercy? This isn’t programmatic ministry. It’s just ministry. Beginning with questions like these brings our focus more to relationships, mentoring, teaching, and role-modeling, and less to checking worship or a church meeting off of our To-Do List. Make disciples, he says, and you will always get the church. It just may not look like what you thought it would.

I bring this up because earlier this week, a report from Gallup was released that showed that religious membership in the United States has dipped below 50% for the first time in its 80-year history of asking these questions. This is significant, but not surprising. Membership in churches along with other religious organizations has been decreasing for decades, and this is a trend that the church needs to pay attention to. Still, my reaction to this report was not so much panic as it was sorrow. Because it seems to indicate that we – the church – have done a poor job of making disciples. And reports like this one will probably trigger another surge of gimmicky programs instead of doing the harder, more necessary work of making disciples.

As Christ the King Lutheran Church and I both prepare for my upcoming Renewal Leave in the summer of 2022 we will be focusing on what discipleship looks like. We will be discovering what our individual spirituality types might mean for our life of faith. We will be revisiting and relearning about some of our religious roots and tending to them so that our faith might flourish.

(continued on the next page →)

We will focus on building you and others up as disciples, as people who love and want to follow Jesus. I, for one, am excited to see how this kind of intentional focus might bear fruit in the years to come.

If you have any questions about my upcoming Renewal Leave, please feel free to reach out to me. I'd love to chat with you about it.

Peace,
Pastor Tim

April 2021—Faith Formation

Ordination & Installation of Deacon Amanda Gardner

Save the Date!! Ordination & Installation is scheduled to Livestream on **May 23rd at 2pm!**
More information to follow!

April 2021—CtK Youth

Holy Week

Hi CtK!

We, the Youth, have been working behind the scenes these past almost 40 days to build the the visual responses to the Solemn Reproaches for this year's Good Friday worship service. Each week we have had our own phrase that we read, researched, and reacted to as a group. We have used lots of different media to create our own take on each phrase. We've done a lot of biblical research for each one as well, research that sometimes takes us down a few "rabbit holes" (what is going on with the fig tree in Mark 11:12-25??). We hope when you see each display, along with hearing the Solemn Reproach, that you understand where we're coming from. If you don't: ask us! We'll be around, helping throughout Easter weekend. Contact Mandy at 970-247-5310 for more information.

April 2021—By the Numbers

Please note: CtK contribution statements are emailed quarterly from fin.sec@ctkdurango.org. Email churchadmin@ctkdurango.org with questions, corrections or if you need a paper statement mailed.

February 2021 Financials

Our Gifts Blessing Others	February	YTD 2021
Synod	\$ 2,088	\$ 3,335
World Hunger	\$ 415	\$ 2,830
Social Ministry	\$ 900	\$ 3,932
Total Benevolence	\$ 3,403	\$ 10,097

Financial Update

Gifts Received	\$ 30,144	\$ 48,200
Facility Donations	---	\$ ---
Rental Income	833	\$ 1,667
Expenses	\$ 26,878	\$ 53,221
Net Operating Income	\$ 4,100	\$ (3,354)
Endowment Fund Balance		\$ 187,997
Building Fund Balance		\$ 11,596
Love Fund Balance		\$ 23,290

March 2021 Attendance (all worship via Zoom unless otherwise noted)

Date	Wed. 6:00 PM	Sun. 9:15 AM	Total
March 3	9		9
March 7		77	77
March 10	6		6
March 14		45	45
March 17	4		4
March 21		61	61
March 24	3		3
March 28 <i>Palm Sunday</i>		66	66
GRAND TOTAL	22	249	271

Note: These numbers reflect the number of DEVICES signed into Zoom or Livestream, NOT the number of PEOPLE (since more than one person can watch service on a single device).

April 2021 Worship Assistant Schedule

Sunday Worship Assistants <i>Inside Sanctuary @ 9:15am unless otherwise noted.</i>	Usher	Reader
April 4th – Easter Sunday 9:15 am <i>Inside--Sanctuary</i>	David Smith	Carol Orlowski
April 4th – Easter Sunday 11:00 am <i>Outside—Front Lawn</i>	David Smith	John Condie
April 11	Catherine Hawk	Carol Orlowski
April 18	Catherine Hawk	David Smith
April 25	David Smith	Amy Wendland

April 2021—Social Ministry News

ELCA World Hunger Lenten Challenge—March Update

As I am confident you remember from last month, the Social Ministry Committee set a goal of \$5000 to donate to ELCA World Hunger. So far, the church has responded amazingly. As of the middle of March, we had raised \$3990! With a little Easter push, we should easily meet our goal. If you wonder what ELCA World Hunger does with our money, visit <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger> for descriptions of their domestic and international approaches to addressing hunger issues. If you wonder why the church feels this is necessary work, look in last month's Scribe for statistics cribbed from the ELCS World Hunger website.

As you attend church this Easter, reflect on all the blessings God has bestowed on you and share some of those blessings with those in the world who are less fortunate.

Thank you for your awesome generosity.

John Condie and the Social Ministry Committee

April 2021—Bible Studies

Circle of Contemplative Prayer

The Circle of Contemplative Prayer meets each Monday from 5:30pm-7:00pm. Silent meditation and prayer sessions are followed by a book discussion. Currently, the discussion topics delve into the ways the contemplative path calls us to connect our inner search for transformational growth with the external realities of how we live and act, what we eat and wear, etc.

NOTE: Meetings are currently being held via Zoom. For the Zoom link and other pertinent information, please text Sharyn Butler at 970-759-6355. Thank you.

Great Ol' Broads of God (GoBoGs)

GoBoGs invites you to join them in study and fellowship each Monday from 4:00-5:30 pm. Share the Care, GoBoGs' outreach mission, is addressed upon requests. They are currently finishing a study based on "The Book of Longings" by Sue Monk Kidd. The next study will focus on the book, "You Are Loved and Free" by Micah Ruth. Also, during the Lenten Season, they are discussing contemporary reflection questions relating to this season's Gospel scriptures, as posed by Father Kevin.

NOTE: During the health crisis, they are conferencing via Zoom at 592-847-8387; the password for this meeting is *Testify*. The Zoom meeting ID is 966-5642-4190. Please join them for study sessions that are deeply rewarding. For more information, contact Kayla Hefner at 970-759-1636.

Midweek (Thursday) Bible Study led by Pastor Tim

Bible Study class meets on Thursdays from 12:00-1:15 PM. We are studying the Petrine Epistles (1 & 2 Peter) and currently reading the first chapter of 1 Peter. Invite others to join us if you would like! The link to access these meetings via Zoom is located below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83113251991>

If you ever misplace this link, you can also find it on our website at <https://www.ctkdurang.org/worship>. You will need the password to access the meeting. Contact the church office at 970-247-5310.

I look forward to seeing you all!!!

Khuvara ("Circle of Friends")

The Khuvara Women's Group is starting a new book for discussion entitled, "Everyone's Normal till You Get to Know Them" by John Ortberg. All women are welcome, and we gladly invite new members to join us. For meeting time/place during Covid, please call Stella at 970-903-9327.

Spiritual Study Group (SSG)

Currently, the Spiritual Study Group meetings are suspended until further notice due to Covid-19. For more information, contact Aurora Rose.

April 2021—Fellowship Groups

CtK Piecemaker Quilters

The Piecemaker Quilters continue to meet regularly on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 10 am until 2 pm. Everyone is welcomed to join us. For more meeting information, please call Stella Welcher at 970-903-9327. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

CtK Book Club

The CtK Book Club currently meets on the second Thursday of each month at 3PM via Zoom. This month, on Thursday, April 8th, we will be discussing "The Vanishing Half" by Britt Bennett. During our May 13th meeting, a book by Susan Wiggs, "The Lost and Found Bookshop" will be discussed. Our last book discussion for this season will be a book by Charlotte McConaghy, "Migrations," on Thursday, June 10th. We will take a break for the summer months and return to meet again in September, 2021.

We hope you will join us -- anyone can attend one or more book discussions. If you are interested in attending, please *call Stella Welcher at 970-903-9327 to get the Zoom link information.*

April 2021—In Other News. . .

Limited In-person Worship Sundays at 9:15 AM--Please Sign-Up

Those who wish to join us for our worship service at 9:15am on Sunday mornings *must* sign up in advance. You can do so by navigating to our sign-up hub on our website (<https://www.ctkdurango.org/signup/>). If you do not have access to a computer, tablet or smartphone to sign up on your own, please notify Pastor Tim or the Church Office. At this time, we can accommodate up to 30 people in the Sanctuary. Masks are required to be worn at all times, and physical distancing between households is required.

Thank you for your help in making this a safe experience for all. If you have any questions, please contact [Pastor Tim](#).

Mission Endowment Fund Announcement

Our mission: *To love and serve God by proclaiming Christ's gospel, strengthening worship, deepening discipleship, and serving our congregation, community and world.*

As we hope you know, written into the charter of the Mission Endowment Fund is the requirement that each year 5% of its assets are made available for small grants to people and organizations whose activities fulfill our mission. The grants are made to the congregation, the community, and the world. This year, we had \$9,470 available. The board would like to announce, somewhat belatedly, the recipients of the grants for 2021:

Congregation:

Kathleen Duft

Christ the King Lutheran Church Youth Group
La Plata Family Center Coalition

Community:

Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Durango Derailers Cycling Team
Community Compassion Outreach
American Heritage Girls troop CO2517
Navajo Electrification Project
The Gideons

World/International:

Young Adults in Global Mission
St. Andrews Anglican Church
Sheppard Foundation for Hope
La Esperanza Granada
ELCA World Hunger
Feed My Starving Children

One last thing. If you are interested in running for a seat on the MEF board, please contact us at mef@ctkdurango.org. Please do it promptly, as elections take place at the May semiannual meeting. Terms are two years, and involve 3-4 meetings each year, concentrated from November to January.

Submitted to the congregation by the MEF board:

Wendy Gonzales (chair), Lynn Mitzlaff, Gary Rollstin, John Condie, Megan Reid

Save These DATES

Save the Dates—April

*CtK's Noisy Offering designee for the month
of April is ELCA World Hunger.*

Thursday, April 1st – Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 2nd – Good Friday

Saturday, April 3rd – Easter Eve Immersive Worship

For more Holy Week Info.,
→ call the Church Office
at 970-247-5310

*Sunday, April 4th – Easter Sunday “Sonrise” Service at Greenmount Cemetery beginning
At 6:30am (sunrise is at 6:52am). It's often COLD, so dress in layers.*

Sunday, April 4th – Easter Sunday Worship

6:30am at [Greenmount Cemetery](#) (no prior sign-up necessary)

9:15am [Livestream](#) and [In-Person Worship \(sign-up required\)](#)

11:00am [Outdoor In-Person Worship \(sign-up required\)](#)

Looking Ahead

Sunday, May 23rd – Ordination and Installation of Deacon Amanda Gardner; Livestream
at 2:00pm. Stay tuned for further details. . .

Saturday/Sunday, July 31st-August 1st – CtK's Annual Campout at Chris Park/Haviland
Lake. Stay tuned for details. . .

For all events and activities, please check the [CtK website](#) for updates.

April 2021—In Our Prayers

Military Prayer Requests

Please keep the following Military men and women in your prayers...

(To add or remove names from this list, please [contact Linda](#))

- 1st Lt. Mitch Bugaj stationed in Germany—Nephew of Ronnie Zaday
- Major Ryan Bankhead—Brother of Eryn Orłowski
- Sgt. John Dee—Son in-law of Wendy Krull

- Sgt. Chris Gomez—Nephew of BJ and Danny Pierce
- Staff Sergeant (SSgt.) Airman Paul Herr—Nephew of Gary & Carol Orlowski
- Hugh Jones, Jr. Sailor—Son of Rick & Janeann Jones
- Sgt. Brandon Minser —Son in-law of Wendy Krull
- LCDR Andy Schaaf—Son of Merilee and Mark Fleming
- Major Clayton Stransky—Nephew of Kip and Laura Stransky
- Master Sargent Stephen Van Dover—Nephew of Nancy Van Dover

CtK family & friends in need of prayer...

(To add or remove names from this list, please [contact Linda](#))

- The Family of Julie McCallister
- The Family of LuLu Mae (Sue) Hess
- The Family of Mary Southworth
- Stella Welcher
- Carol Orlowski
- Roger Landgren
- Julie Williams
- Laura Stransky
- Darlene Warring
- Bonnie Rossmiller
- Bev Brown
- Lori Lachelt
- Kayla Hefner
- Carol Gunderson
- Deacon Mandy Gardner as she begins her new call and ministries at CtK.
- CtK's ministry and partnership with both the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, AZ and San Juan Bautista Lutheran Church in Zaculeu, Guatemala.
- CtK's Homebound Ministry and all those who serve our homebound members through this ministry.
- All those battling mental illness and addictions.
- Each person in our CtK church family.
- All the front-line workers striving to keep Durango and our surrounding communities safe, healthy, fed, educated, and mentally and spiritually fulfilled during the Covid-19 crisis. May God bless and protect EVERYONE!

To add or remove names from this list, email [Linda](#) in the Church office or call: 970-247-5310.
