September 2021 Scribe Newsletter

Contents

September 2021—Pastor Tim's Thoughts 2
"Cultivating Your Spirituality" 2
September 2021—Faith Formation 3
"Registration for the Youth Gathering Begins September 22nd!" 3
September 2021—CtK Youth 3
"Another School Year Has Begun!" 3
September 2021—By the Numbers 4
July 2021 Financials 4
August 1st --August 29th 2021 Attendance 4
September 2021 Worship Assistant Schedule 5
September 2021—Social Ministry News 5
Social Ministry Rally Day--Come One, Come All!! 5
September 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
September 2021—Fellowship Groups 7
CtK Piecemaker Quilters 7
CtK Book Club 7
September 2021—In Other News. 8
Summer (through September) Worship Information 8
News You Can Use 8
Save the Dates–September 10
September 2021—In Our Prayers 10
Military Prayer Requests 10
CtK family & friends in need of prayer… 11

September 2021—Pastor Tim's Thoughts

"Cultivating Your Spirituality"

Years ago, I led a group of people from Messiah Lutheran Church in Albuquerque on a Spiritual Growth Retreat. (As an aside, the retreat was held at a Bed & Breakfast in Durango, years before I was called as a pastor here.) Part of this retreat was to help the participants discern how they tend to their spiritual life. As I was looking for resources to lead this discussion, I stumbled upon a resource called the Spirituality Inventory. Little did I know how much this simple resource would help me to understand my own spirituality, too.

No one ever really taught me about how to tend to my spiritual life, or – at least – if they did, it didn't stick. As a result, I had this notion that spirituality needed to look and be expressed in a certain way: go to church; read the Bible; pray before meals and at bedtime, just as a few examples. I did these things all the time. And you know what happened? Nothing. My faith, my spiritual life, felt non-existent. I didn't feel spiritually fed, *especially* after I became a pastor and "going to church" turned into "lead a worship service." Spirituality suddenly felt like a job, not a life-giving gift.

It was with this simple Spirituality Inventory, though, that I began to understand spirituality as a beautiful and complex way of life, not a one-size-fits-all checklist. It validated the ways that my spirituality was fed, and it highlighted the ways in which my spiritual life could expand.

Once I found this resource, I eagerly sought out others like it to help me understand my particular spirituality, discern my unique gifts, and use them in a way that honors God and others. Over the years, then, I have continued to cultivate the things that I've learned: that my spirituality is often fed through Bible studies, book studies, and lectures or speeches; that my spirituality is often expressed best through writing, public speaking, and teaching; that places and periods of silent solitude are not just nice-to-have's, but *need-to-have's* for me to maintain and deepen my spiritual life; that advocacy and activism tend to deplete me and my energy, yet they can also be avenues for expanding my understanding of spirituality.

As I look forward to next summer and my renewal leave which will begin in June, I am already eagerly anticipating the gift of time to tend to my spirituality with more intention. Before I go, I will be leading sermon series on Expressing Spirituality, and you, too, will have the opportunity to learn about your spirituality through this simple inventory.

Until then, if you have questions or want to hear more about my experience, let me know! I'd love to talk with you about it.

Peace,
Pastor Tim

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"Registration for the Youth Gathering Begins September 22nd!"

We are thrilled to have 10 Youth attending from CtK this year, and with Jared and Mandy as chaperones, we need $1800 in registration deposit fees this month (total cost of "early bird" registration for 12 is $4200). The Youth have been fundraising for almost a year now, and you'll see more efforts this coming year as well.
If you are so inclined, you can click here to donate to individual Youth or to our costs in general. Thank you for considering – we're grateful for you!

Deacon Mandy

September 2021—CtK Youth

"Another School Year Has Begun!"

Sadly, that means we had to say goodbye – for now – to one of our Gathering-bound Youth. Garrett is off to school in Massachusetts! But don't worry, he'll be back on breaks, for the summer, AND for the Gathering.
Youth Group has moved its weekly meetings to Wednesdays from 6pm-8pm. We attend – and participate in – the regular *Behold!* worship service and we'd sure like to see all of you CtKers there, too. Don't worry, you can leave after worship if you don't want to join us for games and fun until 8pm. CtK's mascot cat, Ronald, joined us last night for a game of "Keep it Up", where we count to see how many hits we can make as a team to keep a ball in the air. Ronald used his head, but the ball went wild (and so did Ronald). Our highest count was 11, aided by a nice catch from a bush.

We hope to see you at *Behold!* next Wednesday at 6pm – in person (mask up please) or online.

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Social Ministry Rally Day--Come One, Come All!!

Please stop by the Social Ministry table on September 12th after the first service or after the second service to see what opportunities there may be for you to connect to serving others in our community and the world. Also, if you are a Thrivent member, we can connect you with some ways to use your Action Team dollars. As Pastor Tim's sermons have reminded us, the church needs YOU and there are so many ways to do one thing to be of service and connect with our members and the community. Please prayerfully consider what M-team might be calling you to service.

Jigger Staby
Social Ministry Team

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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.

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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.

The "regular password" is needed to access the meeting via Zoom. If you need the password, contact the church office at 970-247-5310. We gladly invite and welcome any and all to join the class. I look forward to seeing each of you!!!

Khuvara ("Circle of Friends")

The Khuvara Women's Group current book discussion focuses on "Book of Joy" by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Abrams. All women are encouraged and welcome to attend--- we gladly invite new members to join us. We meet each Thursday from 1:00pm-2:30pm outside in the CtK Columbarium. For more info, call Stella at 970-903-9327.

Spiritual Study Group (SSG)

Currently, the Spiritual Study Group meets from 3:00pm-4:30pm in the CtK Welcome Center. For more information, contact Aurora Rose.

September 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 in the CtK Community Hall. The quilters are currently working on new items for their upcoming sale on Oct. 10th & 17th. Items range in price from $7 – 100+ and include items such as home-sewn gifts/products pot holders, aprons, wall hangings, table runners, quilts and more! Come before and after services to help support this wonderful ministry. New members are warmly invited to join the quilters and help create these quilts for baptisms, graduations, pray quilts for those who are ill or homebound, long-term care residents (Four Corners and Mancos Nursing Homes), and for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) in Rock Point, AZ. If you need a sewing machine, two extra machines were donated to the group—you are welcome to use one. And, if quilting is a craft that has often interested you, but you don't know how to quilt, there are quilters who will gladly teach you. They will help ensure you that your creation will be one you can feel proud about giving to someone in need. So, do consider coming to our next meeting on September 22nd—you'll be surprised at what we do and the fun and camaraderie we all share.

For more information about the meetings and/or the quilt sale, please call Stella Welcher at 970-903-9327. We look forward to seeing you!

CtK Book Club

The CtK Book Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 3PM outside in the CtK Columbarium. On Thursday, September 9th, Stephanie Marie Thornton's "American Princess" will be our book focus. Then in October, on Thursday the 7th, we'll talk about Kristin Hannah's book, "Four Winds." "The Only Woman in the Room" is our book discussion for Thursday, November 11th, and we'll finish out the year on Thursday, December 9th, with a discussion of "Let Him Go" by Larry Watson.

You are invited to join us--anyone can attend one or more book discussions. If you are interested in attending, please *call Stella Welcher at 970-903-9327.*

September 2021—In Other News. . .

Summer (through September) Worship Information

Sunday, 9:00 AM – INDOOR-IN-PERSON and LIVE STREAMED from the CtK Sanctuary. Those who wish to join us for our IN-PERSON worship service in the Sanctuary *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 of your intent to be present. At this time, we can accommodate up to 50 people in the Sanctuary. Masks are not required if you are vaccinated; however, if you are not vaccinated, you are encouraged to wear a mask. We continue to practice physical distancing between households for all households.

Sunday, 10:30 AM – IN-PERSON, OUTDOOR (front lawn/parking lot)
Sign-up is not required; however, if you choose to sit on the front lawn and HAVE NOT been vaccinated, masks are strongly encouraged; and physical distancing between households is required for everyone.

Wednesday "Behold!" 6:00PM – IN-PERSON—CtK Community Hall + Zoom

Click **Here** to zoom-in. If you need the password, please contact Pastor Tim.

NOTE: For the time being, we will NOT be having dinner with our Behold! worship service.

Thank you for your help in making in-person worship a safe experience for all. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tim.

News You Can Use

CtK's Post-pandemic Opening

As CtK begins to open post-pandemic, we are calling on everyone to prayerfully consider how you might use your time and talents to help propel CtK forward in this new hybrid in-person/techno-based way of doing church. We have the technology. Now, we need *YOU*! Currently, we are seeking to fill ALL categories of worship volunteers: Altar Guild Assistants; Worship Assistants – ushers, readers, communion assistants, soundboard/camera operators, presentation computer operators ("clicking" slides/power points that are displayed on the screen during worship), and lastly, a NEW and exciting kind of volunteer position — an online church host. This person would be basically acting as a "virtual greeter/online chat person" for worship services. If you feel you might be interested in any of these volunteer positions and/or if you have any questions, please give Pastor Tim a call (970-247-5310) or touch base with him between Sunday services. Training will be provided for all volunteers. Thanks for your consideration. There will also be an opportunity to sign up for all of our volunteer spots during CtK's Rally Day — "God's Work. Our Hands." to be held on Sunday, September 12th. Stay tuned for further details.

* * * * *

Chancel Choir is once again filling the Sanctuary with their melodious voices. Please contact Jared Wright, Choir/Music Director if you would like to sing. Jared can be reached at 970-759-1834 or email chancelchoir@ctkdurango.org—all are welcome!

*** * * * ***

Thank You Everyone for Box Tops!

Thank you to everyone who has clipped and contributed General Mills Box Tops for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission at Rock Point Arizona! NELM receives contributions of box tops from around the country and cashes them in to purchase equipment and supplies for the mission's school. As time goes on there will be fewer box tops to physically clip and send. Instead, General Mills is asking that we go to their website to **SCAN IN** box tops for the organization of choice. Your box tops will still count for NELM. You will need to use your grocery receipt for this. In the meantime, if there are box tops to clip, we will keep sending them on to NELM! We have received numerous Betty Crocker points in the box top container. Unfortunately, they cannot be redeemed for charitable contributions. However, Betty Crocker points can be used to purchase items in their catalogue. But if the person who deposited those points would like to retrieve them, they are available at the church office.

Thank you,
Denise Dey

Rally Day Is Almost Here!!

Sunday, September 12th — get ready to learn all about the operations of CtK and the committees and the people who make the wheels run. There will be displays and sign-up sheets for the various volunteer positions available to you to help CtK "re-open." Prayerfully consider how you might take a more active role in your/our church to get it rolling again. So much energy is put forth by CtK's "M Teams" to make the activities of our church happen–energy that needs to come from you and me to make our church strong again. So please join and help us push forward to our "new normal." I'll be looking for you!

Beverly Dittmer
CtK Council Member & Membership Team Liaison

*** * * * ***

Save the Dates–September

*CtK's Noisy Offering designee for the month of September is the **Volunteers of America (VOA).***

Sunday, September 12th – CtK's Rally Day – "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday. This will take place between, and after, services that morning in the Columbarium. We will have volunteer sign-ups available for everyone that is interested, and we hope you'll join us! See you at Rally Day!

Looking Ahead

***Sunday, October 10th* & 17th** – The Piecemakers will be holding a sale before and after each service. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of new materials for new items to be made and donated. There will be items of all sizes ranging in price from under $10 to larger items for under $200.

Saturday, November 6th – CtK's Annual Art Gallery & Gala. The theme is "The Parables."

For all events and activities, please check the CtK website for the most current updates.

September 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 Jared)

- 1st Lt. Mitch Bugaj stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, GA—Nephew of Ronnie Zaday
- Major Ryan Bankhead—Brother of Eryn Orlowski
- 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 Jared)

- The Family of Tom Duft
- The Family of David Smith
- The Family of Ann Duft
- Pete Olson
- Dave Mitzlaff
- Stella Welcher
- Laura Stransky
- Roger Landgren
- Darlene Warring
- Bonnie Rossmiller
- Bev Brown
- Lori Lachelt
- Kayla Hefner
- Carol Gunderson
- 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 K-12 and college students, their families, and their educators as they begin the new school year in the midst of the Delta variant outbreak in our community.
- All the front-line workers who continue to keep Durango and our surrounding communities safe, healthy, fed, educated, and mentally and spiritually fulfilled during the Covid-19/Delta variant crisis. May God bless and protect EVERYONE!

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No one ever really taught me about how to tend to my spiritual life, or – at least – if they did, it didn't stick. As a result, I had this notion that spirituality needed to look and be expressed in a certain way: go to church; read the Bible; pray before meals and at bedtime, just as a few examples. I did these things all the time. And you know what happened? Nothing. My faith, my spiritual life, felt non-existent. I didn't feel spiritually fed, *especially* after I became a pastor and "going to church" turned into "lead a worship service." Spirituality suddenly felt like a job, not a life-giving gift.

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Wednesday "Behold!" 6:00PM – IN-PERSON—CtK Community Hall + Zoom

Click **Here** to zoom-in. If you need the password, please contact Pastor Tim.

NOTE: For the time being, we will NOT be having dinner with our Behold! worship service.

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As CtK begins to open post-pandemic, we are calling on everyone to prayerfully consider how you might use your time and talents to help propel CtK forward in this new hybrid in-person/techno-based way of doing church. We have the technology. Now, we need *YOU*! Currently, we are seeking to fill ALL categories of worship volunteers: Altar Guild Assistants; Worship Assistants – ushers, readers, communion assistants, soundboard/camera operators, presentation computer operators ("clicking" slides/power points that are displayed on the screen during worship), and lastly, a NEW and exciting kind of volunteer position — an online church host. This person would be basically acting as a "virtual greeter/online chat person" for worship services. If you feel you might be interested in any of these volunteer positions and/or if you have any questions, please give Pastor Tim a call (970-247-5310) or touch base with him between Sunday services. Training will be provided for all volunteers. Thanks for your consideration. There will also be an opportunity to sign up for all of our volunteer spots during CtK's Rally Day — "God's Work. Our Hands." to be held on Sunday, September 12th. Stay tuned for further details.

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Thank you,
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***Sunday, October 10th* & 17th** – The Piecemakers will be holding a sale before and after each service. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of new materials for new items to be made and donated. There will be items of all sizes ranging in price from under $10 to larger items for under $200.

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Please keep the following Military men and women in your prayers…
(To add or remove names from this list, please contact Jared)

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- Sgt. John Dee—Son in-law of Wendy Krull
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- Master Sargent Stephen Van Dover—Nephew of Nancy Van Dover

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- Stella Welcher
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- 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 K-12 and college students, their families, and their educators as they begin the new school year in the midst of the Delta variant outbreak in our community.
- All the front-line workers who continue to keep Durango and our surrounding communities safe, healthy, fed, educated, and mentally and spiritually fulfilled during the Covid-19/Delta variant crisis. May God bless and protect EVERYONE!

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Contents

September 2021—Pastor Tim's Thoughts 2
"Cultivating Your Spirituality" 2
September 2021—Faith Formation 3
"Registration for the Youth Gathering Begins September 22nd!" 3
September 2021—CtK Youth 3
"Another School Year Has Begun!" 3
September 2021—By the Numbers 4
July 2021 Financials 4
August 1st --August 29th 2021 Attendance 4
September 2021 Worship Assistant Schedule 5
September 2021—Social Ministry News 5
Social Ministry Rally Day--Come One, Come All!! 5
September 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
September 2021—Fellowship Groups 7
CtK Piecemaker Quilters 7
CtK Book Club 7
September 2021—In Other News. 8
Summer (through September) Worship Information 8
News You Can Use 8
Save the Dates–September 10
September 2021—In Our Prayers 10
Military Prayer Requests 10
CtK family & friends in need of prayer… 11

September 2021—Pastor Tim's Thoughts

"Cultivating Your Spirituality"

Years ago, I led a group of people from Messiah Lutheran Church in Albuquerque on a Spiritual Growth Retreat. (As an aside, the retreat was held at a Bed & Breakfast in Durango, years before I was called as a pastor here.) Part of this retreat was to help the participants discern how they tend to their spiritual life. As I was looking for resources to lead this discussion, I stumbled upon a resource called the Spirituality Inventory. Little did I know how much this simple resource would help me to understand my own spirituality, too.

No one ever really taught me about how to tend to my spiritual life, or – at least – if they did, it didn't stick. As a result, I had this notion that spirituality needed to look and be expressed in a certain way: go to church; read the Bible; pray before meals and at bedtime, just as a few examples. I did these things all the time. And you know what happened? Nothing. My faith, my spiritual life, felt non-existent. I didn't feel spiritually fed, *especially* after I became a pastor and "going to church" turned into "lead a worship service." Spirituality suddenly felt like a job, not a life-giving gift.

It was with this simple Spirituality Inventory, though, that I began to understand spirituality as a beautiful and complex way of life, not a one-size-fits-all checklist. It validated the ways that my spirituality was fed, and it highlighted the ways in which my spiritual life could expand.

Once I found this resource, I eagerly sought out others like it to help me understand my particular spirituality, discern my unique gifts, and use them in a way that honors God and others. Over the years, then, I have continued to cultivate the things that I've learned: that my spirituality is often fed through Bible studies, book studies, and lectures or speeches; that my spirituality is often expressed best through writing, public speaking, and teaching; that places and periods of silent solitude are not just nice-to-have's, but *need-to-have's* for me to maintain and deepen my spiritual life; that advocacy and activism tend to deplete me and my energy, yet they can also be avenues for expanding my understanding of spirituality.

As I look forward to next summer and my renewal leave which will begin in June, I am already eagerly anticipating the gift of time to tend to my spirituality with more intention. Before I go, I will be leading sermon series on Expressing Spirituality, and you, too, will have the opportunity to learn about your spirituality through this simple inventory.

Until then, if you have questions or want to hear more about my experience, let me know! I'd love to talk with you about it.

Peace,
Pastor Tim

September 2021—Faith Formation

"Registration for the Youth Gathering Begins September 22nd!"

We are thrilled to have 10 Youth attending from CtK this year, and with Jared and Mandy as chaperones, we need $1800 in registration deposit fees this month (total cost of "early bird" registration for 12 is $4200). The Youth have been fundraising for almost a year now, and you'll see more efforts this coming year as well.
If you are so inclined, you can click here to donate to individual Youth or to our costs in general. Thank you for considering – we're grateful for you!

Deacon Mandy

September 2021—CtK Youth

"Another School Year Has Begun!"

Sadly, that means we had to say goodbye – for now – to one of our Gathering-bound Youth. Garrett is off to school in Massachusetts! But don't worry, he'll be back on breaks, for the summer, AND for the Gathering.
Youth Group has moved its weekly meetings to Wednesdays from 6pm-8pm. We attend – and participate in – the regular *Behold!* worship service and we'd sure like to see all of you CtKers there, too. Don't worry, you can leave after worship if you don't want to join us for games and fun until 8pm. CtK's mascot cat, Ronald, joined us last night for a game of "Keep it Up", where we count to see how many hits we can make as a team to keep a ball in the air. Ronald used his head, but the ball went wild (and so did Ronald). Our highest count was 11, aided by a nice catch from a bush.

We hope to see you at *Behold!* next Wednesday at 6pm – in person (mask up please) or online.

September 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.*

July 2021 Financials

Our Gifts Blessing Others	**July**	**YTD 2021**
Synod	$ 1,868	$ 12,854
World Hunger	$ 3,793	$ 10,388
Social Ministry	$ 3,230	$ 14,044
Total Benevolence	**$ 8,891**	**$ 37,286**

Financial Update

Gifts Received	$ 27,083	$ 183,909
Facility Donations	--	$ 90
Rental Income	$ 833	$ 5,833
Expenses	$ 25,130	$ 188,048
Net Operating Income	$ 2,786	$ 1,785
Endowment Fund Balance		$ 198,388
Building Fund Balance		$ 12,344
Love Fund Balance		$ 25,958

August 1st --August 29th 2021 Attendance

Date	**Wed. 6:00 PM**	**Sunday, 9:00 AM**	**Sunday, 10:30 AM**
August 1		39 P + 34 D	28 P
August 4	5 P + 4 D		
August 8		38 P + 24 D	24 P
August 11	6 P + 4 D		
August 15		40 P + 27 D	39 P
August 18	6 P + 4 D		
August 22		38 P + 27 D	25 P
August 25	14 P + 2 D		
August 29		47 P + 28 D	42 P
GRAND TOTAL	**31 P + 14 D**	**202 P + 140 P**	**158 P**

Note: **P** = the number of **P**EOPLE attending in-person worship at CtK.
D = the number of **D**EVICES signed into Zoom or Livestream, NOT the number of INDIVIDUALS (since more than one person can watch service on a single device).

September 2021 Worship Assistant Schedule

Sunday Worship Assistants <u>**9:00 am Inside Sanctuary**</u> **unless otherwise noted.** ***<u>10:30 am</u> <u>Outside Front Lawn</u> unless otherwise noted.***	**Usher**	**Reader**
September 5 – 9:00 am	Gary Orlowski	Carol Orlowski
September 5 – 10:30 am	*John Condie*	*Eryn Orlowski*
September 12 – 9:00 am	David Smith	Barb Wirsching
September 12 – 10:30 am	*Catherine Hawk*	*Karen Rosenberger*
September 19 – 9:00 am	Carla Gonneville	Molly Bodewes
September 19 – 10:30 am	*John Condie*	*Eryn Orlowski*
September 26 – 9:00 am	Gary Orlowski	Carol Orlowski
September 26 – 10:30 am	*Catherine Hawk*	*Eryn Orlowski*

September 2021—Social Ministry News

Social Ministry Rally Day--Come One, Come All!!

Please stop by the Social Ministry table on September 12th after the first service or after the second service to see what opportunities there may be for you to connect to serving others in our community and the world. Also, if you are a Thrivent member, we can connect you with some ways to use your Action Team dollars. As Pastor Tim's sermons have reminded us, the church needs YOU and there are so many ways to do one thing to be of service and connect with our members and the community. Please prayerfully consider what M-team might be calling you to service.

Jigger Staby
Social Ministry Team

September 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 and discussing the topic, "Rooted: Our Christian Heritage." Attendees can choose to meet for class in-person OR via Zoom. The link to access these meetings via Zoom is:

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.

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September 2021—By the Numbers 4
July 2021 Financials 4
August 1st --August 29th 2021 Attendance 4
September 2021 Worship Assistant Schedule 5
September 2021—Social Ministry News 5
Social Ministry Rally Day--Come One, Come All!! 5
September 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
September 2021—Fellowship Groups 7
CtK Piecemaker Quilters 7
CtK Book Club 7
September 2021—In Other News. 8
Summer (through September) Worship Information 8
News You Can Use 8
Save the Dates–September 10
September 2021—In Our Prayers 10
Military Prayer Requests 10
CtK family & friends in need of prayer… 11

September 2021—Pastor Tim's Thoughts

"Cultivating Your Spirituality"

Years ago, I led a group of people from Messiah Lutheran Church in Albuquerque on a Spiritual Growth Retreat. (As an aside, the retreat was held at a Bed & Breakfast in Durango, years before I was called as a pastor here.) Part of this retreat was to help the participants discern how they tend to their spiritual life. As I was looking for resources to lead this discussion, I stumbled upon a resource called the Spirituality Inventory. Little did I know how much this simple resource would help me to understand my own spirituality, too.

No one ever really taught me about how to tend to my spiritual life, or – at least – if they did, it didn't stick. As a result, I had this notion that spirituality needed to look and be expressed in a certain way: go to church; read the Bible; pray before meals and at bedtime, just as a few examples. I did these things all the time. And you know what happened? Nothing. My faith, my spiritual life, felt non-existent. I didn't feel spiritually fed, *especially* after I became a pastor and "going to church" turned into "lead a worship service." Spirituality suddenly felt like a job, not a life-giving gift.

It was with this simple Spirituality Inventory, though, that I began to understand spirituality as a beautiful and complex way of life, not a one-size-fits-all checklist. It validated the ways that my spirituality was fed, and it highlighted the ways in which my spiritual life could expand.

Once I found this resource, I eagerly sought out others like it to help me understand my particular spirituality, discern my unique gifts, and use them in a way that honors God and others. Over the years, then, I have continued to cultivate the things that I've learned: that my spirituality is often fed through Bible studies, book studies, and lectures or speeches; that my spirituality is often expressed best through writing, public speaking, and teaching; that places and periods of silent solitude are not just nice-to-have's, but *need-to-have's* for me to maintain and deepen my spiritual life; that advocacy and activism tend to deplete me and my energy, yet they can also be avenues for expanding my understanding of spirituality.

As I look forward to next summer and my renewal leave which will begin in June, I am already eagerly anticipating the gift of time to tend to my spirituality with more intention. Before I go, I will be leading sermon series on Expressing Spirituality, and you, too, will have the opportunity to learn about your spirituality through this simple inventory.

Until then, if you have questions or want to hear more about my experience, let me know! I'd love to talk with you about it.

Peace,
Pastor Tim

September 2021—Faith Formation

"Registration for the Youth Gathering Begins September 22nd!"

We are thrilled to have 10 Youth attending from CtK this year, and with Jared and Mandy as chaperones, we need $1800 in registration deposit fees this month (total cost of "early bird" registration for 12 is $4200). The Youth have been fundraising for almost a year now, and you'll see more efforts this coming year as well.
If you are so inclined, you can click here to donate to individual Youth or to our costs in general. Thank you for considering – we're grateful for you!

Deacon Mandy

September 2021—CtK Youth

"Another School Year Has Begun!"

Sadly, that means we had to say goodbye – for now – to one of our Gathering-bound Youth. Garrett is off to school in Massachusetts! But don't worry, he'll be back on breaks, for the summer, AND for the Gathering.
Youth Group has moved its weekly meetings to Wednesdays from 6pm-8pm. We attend – and participate in – the regular *Behold!* worship service and we'd sure like to see all of you CtKers there, too. Don't worry, you can leave after worship if you don't want to join us for games and fun until 8pm. CtK's mascot cat, Ronald, joined us last night for a game of "Keep it Up", where we count to see how many hits we can make as a team to keep a ball in the air. Ronald used his head, but the ball went wild (and so did Ronald). Our highest count was 11, aided by a nice catch from a bush.

We hope to see you at *Behold!* next Wednesday at 6pm – in person (mask up please) or online.

September 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.*

July 2021 Financials

Our Gifts Blessing Others	**July**	**YTD 2021**
Synod	$ 1,868	$ 12,854
World Hunger	$ 3,793	$ 10,388
Social Ministry	$ 3,230	$ 14,044
Total Benevolence	**$ 8,891**	**$ 37,286**

Financial Update

Gifts Received	$ 27,083	$ 183,909
Facility Donations	--	$ 90
Rental Income	$ 833	$ 5,833
Expenses	$ 25,130	$ 188,048
Net Operating Income	$ 2,786	$ 1,785
Endowment Fund Balance		$ 198,388
Building Fund Balance		$ 12,344
Love Fund Balance		$ 25,958

August 1st --August 29th 2021 Attendance

Date	**Wed. 6:00 PM**	**Sunday, 9:00 AM**	**Sunday, 10:30 AM**
August 1		39 P + 34 D	28 P
August 4	5 P + 4 D		
August 8		38 P + 24 D	24 P
August 11	6 P + 4 D		
August 15		40 P + 27 D	39 P
August 18	6 P + 4 D		
August 22		38 P + 27 D	25 P
August 25	14 P + 2 D		
August 29		47 P + 28 D	42 P
GRAND TOTAL	**31 P + 14 D**	**202 P + 140 P**	**158 P**

Note: **P** = the number of **P**EOPLE attending in-person worship at CtK.
D = the number of **D**EVICES signed into Zoom or Livestream, NOT the number of INDIVIDUALS (since more than one person can watch service on a single device).

September 2021 Worship Assistant Schedule

Sunday Worship Assistants <u>**9:00 am Inside Sanctuary**</u> **unless otherwise noted.** ***<u>10:30 am</u> <u>Outside Front Lawn</u> unless otherwise noted.***	**Usher**	**Reader**
September 5 – 9:00 am	Gary Orlowski	Carol Orlowski
September 5 – 10:30 am	*John Condie*	*Eryn Orlowski*
September 12 – 9:00 am	David Smith	Barb Wirsching
September 12 – 10:30 am	*Catherine Hawk*	*Karen Rosenberger*
September 19 – 9:00 am	Carla Gonneville	Molly Bodewes
September 19 – 10:30 am	*John Condie*	*Eryn Orlowski*
September 26 – 9:00 am	Gary Orlowski	Carol Orlowski
September 26 – 10:30 am	*Catherine Hawk*	*Eryn Orlowski*

September 2021—Social Ministry News

Social Ministry Rally Day--Come One, Come All!!

Please stop by the Social Ministry table on September 12th after the first service or after the second service to see what opportunities there may be for you to connect to serving others in our community and the world. Also, if you are a Thrivent member, we can connect you with some ways to use your Action Team dollars. As Pastor Tim's sermons have reminded us, the church needs YOU and there are so many ways to do one thing to be of service and connect with our members and the community. Please prayerfully consider what M-team might be calling you to service.

Jigger Staby
Social Ministry Team

September 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 and discussing the topic, "Rooted: Our Christian Heritage." Attendees can choose to meet for class in-person OR via Zoom. The link to access these meetings via Zoom is:

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.

The "regular password" is needed to access the meeting via Zoom. If you need the password, contact the church office at 970-247-5310. We gladly invite and welcome any and all to join the class. I look forward to seeing each of you!!!

Khuvara ("Circle of Friends")

The Khuvara Women's Group current book discussion focuses on "Book of Joy" by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, and Douglas Abrams. All women are encouraged and welcome to attend--- we gladly invite new members to join us. We meet each Thursday from 1:00pm-2:30pm outside in the CtK Columbarium. For more info, call Stella at 970-903-9327.

Spiritual Study Group (SSG)

Currently, the Spiritual Study Group meets from 3:00pm-4:30pm in the CtK Welcome Center. For more information, contact Aurora Rose.

September 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 in the CtK Community Hall. The quilters are currently working on new items for their upcoming sale on Oct. 10th & 17th. Items range in price from $7 – 100+ and include items such as home-sewn gifts/products pot holders, aprons, wall hangings, table runners, quilts and more! Come before and after services to help support this wonderful ministry. New members are warmly invited to join the quilters and help create these quilts for baptisms, graduations, pray quilts for those who are ill or homebound, long-term care residents (Four Corners and Mancos Nursing Homes), and for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission (NELM) in Rock Point, AZ. If you need a sewing machine, two extra machines were donated to the group—you are welcome to use one. And, if quilting is a craft that has often interested you, but you don't know how to quilt, there are quilters who will gladly teach you. They will help ensure you that your creation will be one you can feel proud about giving to someone in need. So, do consider coming to our next meeting on September 22nd—you'll be surprised at what we do and the fun and camaraderie we all share.

For more information about the meetings and/or the quilt sale, please call Stella Welcher at 970-903-9327. We look forward to seeing you!

CtK Book Club

The CtK Book Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at 3PM outside in the CtK Columbarium. On Thursday, September 9th, Stephanie Marie Thornton's "American Princess" will be our book focus. Then in October, on Thursday the 7th, we'll talk about Kristin Hannah's book, "Four Winds." "The Only Woman in the Room" is our book discussion for Thursday, November 11th, and we'll finish out the year on Thursday, December 9th, with a discussion of "Let Him Go" by Larry Watson.

You are invited to join us--anyone can attend one or more book discussions. If you are interested in attending, please *call Stella Welcher at 970-903-9327.*

September 2021—In Other News. . .

Summer (through September) Worship Information

Sunday, 9:00 AM – INDOOR-IN-PERSON and LIVE STREAMED from the CtK Sanctuary. Those who wish to join us for our IN-PERSON worship service in the Sanctuary *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 of your intent to be present. At this time, we can accommodate up to 50 people in the Sanctuary. Masks are not required if you are vaccinated; however, if you are not vaccinated, you are encouraged to wear a mask. We continue to practice physical distancing between households for all households.

Sunday, 10:30 AM – IN-PERSON, OUTDOOR (front lawn/parking lot)
Sign-up is not required; however, if you choose to sit on the front lawn and HAVE NOT been vaccinated, masks are strongly encouraged; and physical distancing between households is required for everyone.

Wednesday "Behold!" 6:00PM – IN-PERSON—CtK Community Hall + Zoom

Click **Here** to zoom-in. If you need the password, please contact Pastor Tim.

NOTE: For the time being, we will NOT be having dinner with our Behold! worship service.

Thank you for your help in making in-person worship a safe experience for all. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tim.

News You Can Use

CtK's Post-pandemic Opening

As CtK begins to open post-pandemic, we are calling on everyone to prayerfully consider how you might use your time and talents to help propel CtK forward in this new hybrid in-person/techno-based way of doing church. We have the technology. Now, we need *YOU*! Currently, we are seeking to fill ALL categories of worship volunteers: Altar Guild Assistants; Worship Assistants – ushers, readers, communion assistants, soundboard/camera operators, presentation computer operators ("clicking" slides/power points that are displayed on the screen during worship), and lastly, a NEW and exciting kind of volunteer position — an online church host. This person would be basically acting as a "virtual greeter/online chat person" for worship services. If you feel you might be interested in any of these volunteer positions and/or if you have any questions, please give Pastor Tim a call (970-247-5310) or touch base with him between Sunday services. Training will be provided for all volunteers. Thanks for your consideration. There will also be an opportunity to sign up for all of our volunteer spots during CtK's Rally Day — "God's Work. Our Hands." to be held on Sunday, September 12th. Stay tuned for further details.

* * * * *

Chancel Choir is once again filling the Sanctuary with their melodious voices. Please contact Jared Wright, Choir/Music Director if you would like to sing. Jared can be reached at 970-759-1834 or email chancelchoir@ctkdurango.org—all are welcome!

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Thank You Everyone for Box Tops!

Thank you to everyone who has clipped and contributed General Mills Box Tops for the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission at Rock Point Arizona! NELM receives contributions of box tops from around the country and cashes them in to purchase equipment and supplies for the mission's school. As time goes on there will be fewer box tops to physically clip and send. Instead, General Mills is asking that we go to their website to **SCAN IN** box tops for the organization of choice. Your box tops will still count for NELM. You will need to use your grocery receipt for this. In the meantime, if there are box tops to clip, we will keep sending them on to NELM! We have received numerous Betty Crocker points in the box top container. Unfortunately, they cannot be redeemed for charitable contributions. However, Betty Crocker points can be used to purchase items in their catalogue. But if the person who deposited those points would like to retrieve them, they are available at the church office.

Thank you,
Denise Dey

Rally Day Is Almost Here!!

Sunday, September 12th — get ready to learn all about the operations of CtK and the committees and the people who make the wheels run. There will be displays and sign-up sheets for the various volunteer positions available to you to help CtK "re-open." Prayerfully consider how you might take a more active role in your/our church to get it rolling again. So much energy is put forth by CtK's "M Teams" to make the activities of our church happen–energy that needs to come from you and me to make our church strong again. So please join and help us push forward to our "new normal." I'll be looking for you!

Beverly Dittmer
CtK Council Member & Membership Team Liaison

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Save the Dates–September

*CtK's Noisy Offering designee for the month of September is the **Volunteers of America (VOA).***

Sunday, September 12th – CtK's Rally Day – "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday. This will take place between, and after, services that morning in the Columbarium. We will have volunteer sign-ups available for everyone that is interested, and we hope you'll join us! See you at Rally Day!

Looking Ahead

***Sunday, October 10th* & 17th** – The Piecemakers will be holding a sale before and after each service. All proceeds will go towards the purchase of new materials for new items to be made and donated. There will be items of all sizes ranging in price from under $10 to larger items for under $200.

Saturday, November 6th – CtK's Annual Art Gallery & Gala. The theme is "The Parables."

For all events and activities, please check the CtK website for the most current updates.

September 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 Jared)

- 1st Lt. Mitch Bugaj stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, GA—Nephew of Ronnie Zaday
- Major Ryan Bankhead—Brother of Eryn Orlowski
- 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 Jared)

- The Family of Tom Duft
- The Family of David Smith
- The Family of Ann Duft
- Pete Olson
- Dave Mitzlaff
- Stella Welcher
- Laura Stransky
- Roger Landgren
- Darlene Warring
- Bonnie Rossmiller
- Bev Brown
- Lori Lachelt
- Kayla Hefner
- Carol Gunderson
- 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 K-12 and college students, their families, and their educators as they begin the new school year in the midst of the Delta variant outbreak in our community.
- All the front-line workers who continue to keep Durango and our surrounding communities safe, healthy, fed, educated, and mentally and spiritually fulfilled during the Covid-19/Delta variant crisis. May God bless and protect EVERYONE!

To add or remove names from this list, email Jared in the Church office or call: 970-247-5310.