

*Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight,  
and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood... 1 Peter 2: 4*



# The Living Stone



July 31, 2015

## Greetings,

It's that time again! And while it's not quite the picturesque fall scene we have to the right, school is back in session and schedules are back to being packed. And so is the schedule at Christ the King! This week is the Human Trafficking video presentation and next weekend is Rally Day, celebrating the start of Sunday School - Circus-style! So get your calendars ready and read on for all the details below. From the looks of things it's going to be a great year!



In His Service,

Susan Van Valkenburgh

Communications Specialist

## In This Issue

Telling the Story  
God's work. Our hands.  
We're Building a Well  
Human Trafficking Video  
Presentation  
Join the Chancel Choir  
Rally Day August 9th  
Prayer Sister Event  
Pet Blessing



## Telling the Story

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since I began at CTK. In that time, we've had the opportunity to be together Listening, Loving & Learning as our core values suggest. In fact, some of you may remember that a year ago I promised to be intentional in listening to you and your stories, thoughtful in learning about our gracious God with you, and deliberate in loving the people of God both at Christ the King and beyond. To the best of my abilities I've tried to carry out these tasks and have had a great time in the process.

But none of these are tasks that I can do alone. You've shared your stories with me as you've invited me into your lives for celebrations ranging from births to graduations to weddings and everything in between; and, in more difficult times, you have shared your stories and those of your loved ones in the hospital and at the graveside. Likewise, you have both educated me about the movement of God in our community and joined me in the journey of seeking to learn more about how God is calling us to respond to needs in our community and beyond. Together, we've begun to explore difficult topics such as human trafficking, homelessness, and racism, while at the same time, celebrating and living into the love of God for us and our neighbors in the midst of even these difficult truths. Indeed, this love has been, for me, at the heart of all that we've done and continue to do together. Together, we have grown and continue to grow into a family of faith.

Yet, God's family does not end at our church doors. For this reason, already, you have seen some changes as we updated our church welcome area. So too we continue to welcome community children at our VBS and to engage in outreach activities benefitting our neighbors far and near. But the welcome cannot end even there. For our story is really God's story and to hear it in all of its richness we must listen not only to one another, but also to the many voices in our community that can help us understand both how God is moving in and among us and where God is calling us to serve. Likewise, as the Body of Christ, we are called to learn and love among the entire community of God's children.

This is a task that, in the coming year, we must continue to intentionally engage. But like the continued task of Listening, Loving, & Learning together as a congregation, this broader task is one that no one can tackle alone. And so, as we enter another "school year," I ask you to join me in reaching our mission out beyond our church doors. Listen to your neighbors who don't attend our church-not with the goal of responding or proving any point, but listen in order to truly understand. To let God speak to you through them, and, perhaps, to let God speak to them through you as well. Show your love for your neighbors and our community by giving back. Invite a friend to the August 9th Rally Day and backpack blessing. Sign up to participate in God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 13, 2015. And, finally, learn by challenging yourself to attend the 10 AM

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Lifeline Preventive Screenings

Live Webcast with Bishop Eaton

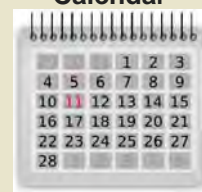
Eighth Annual Heroes of Hope

Thrivent Night at the Braves

Lutheran Campus Ministries

## Ministry Quick Links

### Calendar



### Pastor

Rev. J. Erik Allen

### Program Staff

Deborah Scarazzo,  
*Christian Education Coordinator*

Kristine Macauley,  
*Youth Coordinator*

### Music Staff

Dr. John Broman,  
*Chancel Choir Director*

Sandra Lutters,  
*Music Minister*

### Administrative Staff

Kathy Voerg,  
*Business Manager*

John Spencer,  
*Administrative Assistant*

David & Susan Van Valkenburgh,  
*Communications Specialists*

Discipleship hour on Sunday mornings, the 10 AM Tuesday morning Christians in Action Bible Study, participating in the seasonal Stewardship enrichments (materials are in the library), or even committing to a personal daily devotional practice among other things.

It really is hard to believe it's been a year-the time has flown! What's not hard to believe is the power of the story we have to tell. Together let us focus this upcoming year on telling the story to all those who need to hear it!

Grace and Peace,  
Pr. Erik



**Christ the King  
Preschool**  
Jakima McCall,  
Preschool Director

**God's work.  
Our hands.**

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday,  
September 13, 2015**

*Service is the rent each of us pay for living. It  
is...not something you do in your spare time.*

~Marian Wright Edleman

These words have the opportunity to ring true for us in new ways on September 13, 2015, as the ELCA will celebrate "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. Joining other Lutheran congregations across the country we will remember that service for us is not relegated to our spare time, but at the very heart of what it means to live in Christ. Together we will be going out into our communities, cleaning up neighborhoods, collecting supplies, serving those who long for hope when the world has all but forgotten them.

You may have already read about this opportunity in our newsletter, and hopefully you've "saved the date" on your calendar. Now the time has come for us to begin our work together in preparation! Members of Christ the King will have the opportunity to work with The Place of Forsyth County, our local social service agency, in their endeavors to eliminate poverty in the county in one of three ways:

1. Be part of a group working at The Place between 10 AM -1 PM to help with volunteer projects including light/moderate physical activity such as upkeep, beautification of grounds and restocking/organizing shelves.
2. Be part of a group assisting with preparations for the Open Bowl fundraiser to be held later in the week at Christ the King, celebrating The Place's 40th anniversary this year.
3. Be part of a group that stays at CTK and learns more about poverty in our county while participating in hands on work to support the work of the Place. This work will be particularly suited for those children and older adults who have a more difficult time traveling off site.

If you plan to participate onsite or hope to participate but are as yet unable to commit, there will be time to sign up or jump into help along the way. However, if you plan to join one of the groups going off site to work or are willing to step forward to help lead one of the projects at Christ the King, we need to hear from you now in order to make necessary arrangements.

As such, we are asking that you [respond](#) by Wednesday, August 5, indicating the names and ages of all the people in your work party, your e-mail address, which project you would like to work with, and what t-shirt size(s) you wear. You will receive more information as the date approaches.

On this day and beyond, we have the opportunity to be a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work! I sincerely hope that you will consider sharing a couple of hours of your time as we join together and express our gratitude for God's grace in Christ Jesus right here in Cumming!

Grace and Peace,  
*Pr. Erik*



### **We're Building a Well**

The Stewardship Team invites everyone to join us in our stewardship of creation and the environment this season. Help us reach our goal of \$2500 to provide a well for a village in

a third world country. Each brick for the well represents a \$10.00 donation. For more information, [click here](#). Current donations: \$1,042.50.



### **"A Very Ugly Crime Against Children"**

**Human Trafficking Video Presentation  
THIS Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

For those who were not able to attend the evening presentation in June, Outreach will present this video **this Sunday** in the Fellowship Hall.

This Video:

- Tells the whole story
- Is up to date
- Imparts knowledge
- Will empower you to help

We will have copies of the video on DVD available free of charge so that you can help to spread the word to friends, neighbors, and groups.

Paper copies of the presentation and other materials will also be available for you.

If this subject is a passion, or curiosity of yours or disturbs you, please plan to attend.  
Let's help to stop this

**"Very Ugly Crime Against Children".**



### **Join the Chancel Choir - Rehearsals Start August 5th**

The Chancel Choir at Christ the King Lutheran will resume rehearsals next Wednesday, August 5, at 7:00 p.m. and we would like to invite all interested singers to join us. The choir normally provides special music at the late service (11:00 a.m.) as well as on special occasions during the course of the church year - a Christmas program in December and an annual Church Choir Festival the last Sunday in February are several such occasions, to name a few. Please feel free to "spread the word" as we would like to increase our membership. I would be happy to answer any questions about our church choir.

Thank you very much.

*Dr. Jack Broman*  
Chancel Choir Director  
john.broman@ung.edu  
770-531-7962



### **Join Us Sunday, August 9, for Rally Day at the Circus!**

During the 10:00 a.m. hour join us for some circus fun in the fellowship hall as we kick off Sunday School for the next year. There will be singing, popcorn, face painting, games, prizes and more, including some yummy food! Later in the hour plan to find your classroom, meet your teachers and visit the treasure box. So whether you are a toddler or a senior, join us for some circus fun! Everyone is invited!





### **The Women of Christ the King Present: You Are My Sunshine**

The Women of the ELCA at Christ the King cordially invite you to their annual Prayer Sister Event to be held on August 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

We will be having a brunch at the church and all ladies are invited. **The signup sheet is on the bulletin board. Please sign up so we know how many to prepare for.**

We welcome everyone whether they are in the Prayer Sister Program or not. It is a time of fun and fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

If you are interested in the Prayer Sister Program for next year, please complete a form and return it to Barbara Ayres by August 9, 2015. The forms are on the bulletin board next to the mailboxes.

**COME JOIN US AND ENJOY THE COMPANY OF NEW AND OLD FRIENDS**



### **First Annual Pet Blessing**

On Sunday, October 4, 2015, the CTK Fellowship Ministry invites you to bring the four legged members of your family to celebrate with us the Feast Day of St. Francis, the patron saint of animals. We will meet at CTK at the outdoor chapel at 4:00 p.m. for a blessing.



### **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

Are you a Thrivent Financial member with the ability to direct Choice Dollars? In the past 5 years, Thrivent members have designated over \$26,000 to CTK to support our mission to ***Glorify God, Spread the Word and Love One Another.*** If you have not already done so, please join your fellow Thrivent

members in designating your Choice Dollars. You can check your current Choice Dollars status, and direct Choice Dollars to CTK, by logging into your Thrivent account online at Thrivent.com. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Voerg at [ctk1125@ctklutheran.com](mailto:ctk1125@ctklutheran.com) or 770-889-5328.

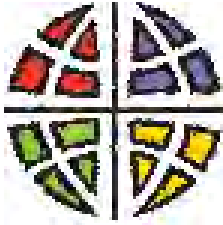


## Lifeline Preventive Screening

Christ the King Lutheran Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at the church on 8/20/2015 from 9am to 5pm. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Life Line Screening is working with us to provide our members a \$10 discount off of the package members choose. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount) or only the 4 vascular tests from \$139 (\$129 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Also, we are happy to announce that **in addition** to the \$10 off, Lifeline will make a \$10 donation to Christ the King Lutheran Church for each appointment made in one of three ways:

**You must sign up on either the provided registration sheet (available on flyers inserted into weekly bulletins) or by calling the special Helping Hands registration number, which is 1-800-324-9458, or visit the exclusive Helping Hands website:**

**[www.helpinghandsforhealth.com](http://www.helpinghandsforhealth.com). You must sign up one of these three ways in order to get both the \$10 discount as well as the \$10 donation for our organization.**



## Live Webcast With Bishop Eaton

A couple of weeks ago, members of Christ the King were invited to participate in conversations on racism. The assigned readings while difficult gave many of us different perspectives from which to view the subject. To continue this conversation and have this conversation lead to action, we encourage those who seek harmony among all peoples to take advantage of an opportunity on August 6 to participate in a live webcast conversation between presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the ELCA and William B. Horne II, a lay leader and member of the ELCA church council. For more information on the webcast and how to participate please [click here](#) for the letter from Bishop Eaton. Only through discussion that leads to action will we as a community begin to heal the mistrust and biases built up over our nation's history. Together, with God's help, let us further live into the call to be instruments of God's peace and reconciliation.



## 8th Annual Heroes of Hope

Save the date for Lutheran Services of Georgia's 8th Annual Heroes of Hope!

**Thursday, September 17, 2015  
6:30pm-9:30pm**

**Historic DeKalb Courthouse  
Decatur, GA  
Tickets: \$125**

Heroes of Hope is a time to honor a few of the many individuals and organizations that exemplify our mission to serve those in need in our community. All proceeds benefit the programs of Lutheran Services of Georgia.

Please plan to join us for this annual fundraiser. Your support is essential to our work to bring restored hope, transformed lives, and healthy tomorrows to people in need throughout Georgia. Thank you for your commitment to the community.

To purchase tickets today, please visit [bit.ly/LSGheroes](http://bit.ly/LSGheroes). For more information, contact Allison Hood at [ahood@lsga.org](mailto:ahood@lsga.org) or 404-591-7067.





## Thrivent Night at the Braves

**SATURDAY, SEPT 12 vs NEW YORK  
METS @ 7:10 PM**

OUTFIELD PAVILION - \$27 | UPPER BOX  
- \$17 | CAR PARKING - \$10

Please join us for our Annual Thrivent Financial Night at Turner Field, sponsored by The Thrivent Member Network!

The first 500 Thrivent Benefit Members will receive Braves Bucks at the Thrivent table before the game in Monument Park. The Braves Bucks can be redeemed at all the concessions in the stadium. Proof of membership must be given by presenting your Thrivent Membership Card at the Thrivent Table on game day. [Click here](#) for more information.



## Lutheran Campus Ministry Low Country Boil

It's a Low Country Boil for Lutheran Campus Ministry Atlanta, and we need your support! LCM serves GA Tech, Georgia State, Emory and Agnes Scott.

Please come to our fun event on Saturday, August 22nd, at Living Grace Lutheran Church in Tucker (1812 Cooledge Rd.) at 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$50/person, and anyone under 21 is admitted free!

Tickets are available online at the LCM Atlanta webpage ([www.gracepeople.org](http://www.gracepeople.org)).

Can you donate an auction item for the silent auction? Any questions, please contact Evelyn Cannon ([epcmail@bellsouth.net](mailto:epcmail@bellsouth.net)).

## Calendar of the Week at Christ the King

Date	Day	Time	Event
2-Aug	Sunday	8:00 - 9:00	<b>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</b> Early Holy Communion

		8:30 - 11:15	Scrip On Sale
		9:00 - 10:00	Alternative/Contemporary Holy Communion
		9:45 - 11:00	Fellowship Hour
		11:00 - 12:00	Holy Communion
3-Aug	Monday	7:00 - 8:00	Handbells Rehearsal
4-Aug	Tuesday	10:00 - 11:00	Christians In Action (CIA) Bible Study
		1:00 - 3:00	Lydia Circle
		7:00 - 8:00	Nostalgia
5-Aug	Wednesday	10:00 - 11:00	Staff Meeting
		1:00 - 4:00	Mahjongg
		7:00 - 8:30	Long Range Planning Meeting
		7:00 - 8:30	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
6-Aug	Thursday	7:00 - 8:30	Praise Band Rehearsal
9-Aug	Sunday		<b>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</b>
		8:00 - 9:00	Early Holy Communion
		8:30 - 11:15	Scrip On Sale
		9:00 - 10:00	Alternative/Contemporary Holy Communion
		10:00 - 10:45	<b>Rally Day - Welcome to the Circus!</b>
		11:00 - 12:00	Holy Communion