

The Open Door

"Open wide the doors for Christ."—St. John Paul the Great

VOLUME I, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2017

"We exist to joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit."

Mission Statement of Christ the King

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Loving people to Christ

"The greatest of these is love."

—I Corinthians 13:13

An Olympic runner, a boomerang expert, and an Annie Oakley impersonator—what could these three people possibly have in common? They are among the 272 people who are attending the Alpha Course at Christ the King this fall. Each week they gather to have a good meal, watch an inspiring teaching, and have an open and honest discussion about the issues that weigh on their hearts.

For the past six months CTK parishioners have been hearing about the Alpha launch at Christ the King. At every Sunday Mass, they have prayed for the people who are attending Alpha and have reached out to those around them and invited them to attend Alpha. That willingness to look



outward is beginning to bear fruit.

Of the guests who are attending Alpha (and who are not part of Life Teen), 55% are not parishioners at Christ the King. Many are fallen-away Catholics who are coming to Alpha and considering returning to the Church. Atheists are coming and, through God's grace and the patient efforts of the table hosts, beginning to come to belief in God. Guests are beginning to pray for the first time in their lives. In sum, Alpha is providing

a safe place for people to come near and experience God's love through those who are serving on the Alpha Team.

Launching Alpha this fall has been a huge undertaking and has involved the help of many parishioners. We have almost 150 people involved in running Alpha this fall. At Christ the King we are blessed to have so many people who have a heart for service. They are stepping out of their comfort zone to welcome those who are

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My greatest objection to the term is that "missionary disciple" should be seen as redundant!



Fr. Ed Fride is Pastor of Christ the King.

Being a "Missionary Disciple"?

May the peace of the Lord Jesus be with you, my friends! As you know, the parish's Senior Leadership Team decided to do Alpha as a way of helping Christ the King to be even more a parish of intentional disciples, as well as satisfying Bishop Earl's mandate that at least twice a year all parishes provide an encounter opportunity for people to more deeply experience the Lord Jesus. As we discussed this and prayed about it, we saw the incredible potential that Alpha has for revitalizing our relationships with the Lord lesus as individuals, as families, and as a parish as a whole.

We have many who are intentional disciples, but what does that mean? In the first instance, it refers to people who have made a conscious choice to live as a committed follower of the Lord Jesus, to be a disciple of His. But what are the components of being a disciple?

Recently, several of the staff attended ParishSoft's Users' Conference. Besides workshops on the software, there were several excellent talks on

other subjects. Al Kresta gave a great talk on evangelization, which included the rather sobering assessment that we as a Church have catastrophically failed to evangelize. When we look around and see the direction that society is going in, we ought to recognize that a significant contributor to that collapse is our failure to bring more people to a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Several talks used the expression "missionary disciples." In reflecting on that, I realized that I object to the phrase. I object because it creates the impression that there is such a thing as a "nonmissionary" disciple, i.e., some people are called to be disciples and others are called to be missionary disciples.

My greatest objection to the term is that "missionary disciple" should be seen as redundant! Certainly the teachings of the popes especially from Blessed Pope Paul VI's *To Proclaim* the Gospel to Pope St. John Paul the Great's call for the New Evangelization, right up to Pope Francis' *The Joy of the Gospel*—have been making the same point: followers of the Lord Jesus have a responsibility to share the Gospel with others, obeying the Lord Jesus' command to "go and make disciples."

How we do that, given the differences in our personalities, lifestyles, responsibilities, etc., will vary from person to person. Part of our task is to prayerfully discern how each of us should respond to this call.

We also, as always, need to give room to others to respond in different ways. Some may make the public proclamation of the Gospel their whole life. Others may be led at this point in time to see their own families as the primary object of their evangelization. Our responses will be as varied as our life situations. But the goal is the same: to live as intentional disciples of the Lord Jesus, using our words and our lives to proclaim to the world that lesus is Lord!—Fr. Ed Fride

Loving people to Christ...

Continued from page I

coming and love them with the love of Jesus. They are taking to heart the words of St. Paul that "if I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal." (I Cor. 13:1) The Alpha Team is practicing a radical hospitality that is based on love. This love is what provides an environment in which those who come to Alpha can experience belonging and share their thoughts and their struggles.

What can you do to help support Alpha at Christ the King?

When I was praying about what the Lord wanted to do with Alpha at Christ the King, I felt that He led me to this passage from Ephesians 3:4-21:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

I invited all of those on the Alpha Team to pray this passage every day and to trust that through the "power that is at work within us," God will do more than we could possibly imagine in the hearts of those who are attending Alpha. I invite all of you to pray that prayer along with the Alpha Team and to also pray that God will fill your hearts with love for the lost. It is that love that is attracting those attending Alpha to Christ.

We want everyone who attends Alpha, and then comes to Christ the King, to experience love and belonging. Be willing to reach out to the person next to you in the pew who is clearly coming to Mass for the first time. Welcome the stranger with a warm smile and greet those who you do not know. Be prepared for God to use you and to do more than you could possibly imagine!

—Aimée Godfrey



Aimée Godfrey is Alpha Coordinator at Christ the King.

Alpha returns in January!



Alpha will return to Christ the King beginning the week of January 7, 2018. Start praying now about who the Lord Jesus might want you to reach out to and invite to Alpha!

For specific dates and times and more information, go to www.ctkcc.net/alpha.

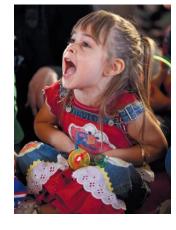
Songs of Belonging

What's in a Song?

I have a musician friend who wrote a great song. It's called "Don't Leave Me, Colorado," and it's a really catchy song. I can prove it.

One day, after having listened to that song in the car with my kids on the way home from the water park, I heard my daughter Lucy (then about 8 years old) singing at the top of her lungs in the shower. As I surreptitiously creeped up to the doorway, I took a short video of the closed door, including the unmistakable notes of the chorus, "Don't leave meeeee, Colorado! I've been sailing away for too looooong!..." I sent the video to my friend with the caption, "You've made it, my friend! Small children are singing your songs." He was blown away.

Up until the dawn of digital or even recorded music, Lucy's behavior was the measure of a song's worth. If people kept singing it, then it must be good. In ancient cultures, the real measure of a



hero's deeds was that they were enshrined in songs. They knew their feats were immortalized and would not fade as long as the story, in song, was told over and over again. story of our lives, with God as the author and protagonist. Our songs of praise should spur us to our feet, giving voice to the root of our relationship with God, allowing us a link to another reality that exists all around us, connecting us to it and calling us to linger there in the awareness of His presence.

God's deeds are greater than any human hero, and His love more than any poet could express. Let us lift our voices with joy when we come to

When we come to worship the Lord, the songs we sing should remind us of a story. They should invoke in us thoughts and images, telling the great story of our lives, with God as the author and protagonist.

What's my point? I think that we need to recapture that idea again.
When we come to worship the Lord, the songs we sing should remind us of a story. They should evoke in us thoughts and images, telling the great

praise Him at Mass and realize that the reason you know most of the songs is not just because they sound good, but because God is good.—

Martin Doman



Martin Doman is Director of Worship at Christ the King.

Being a Witness to Hope

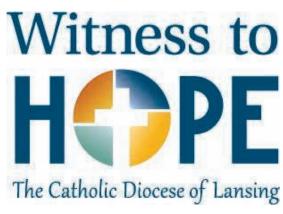
In 2016 the Diocese of Lansing launched its first-ever Diocesan-wide capital campaign, "Witness to Hope." The campaign has been rolled out to the parishes in three phases. Christ the King is part of the final phase, which is taking place this fall.

Bishop Earl Boyea calls the Witness to Hope campaign "a complement to our evange-lization program *Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord*. This campaign will ensure that we have the facilities, programs, and resources required to increase the involvement of those in our parish, to welcome back those who have been away, and to greet new members of the faith."

Fulfilling Our Shared Mission

A portion of the funds raised will go toward projects that are shared by all the parishes of the Diocese. These include

- Establishing or increasing existing endowments and funds for Catholic School Financial Aid, Seminary Education and Formation, Priest Pensions, and New Evangelization initiatives.
- Supporting the five Catholic Charities agencies in our Diocese.
- Providing for necessary physical improvements to St. Mary Cathedral.



- Assisting parishes with additional funds for religious education and parental faith formation.
- Sustaining Diocesan programs normally funded by the DSA.

Bill Pressprich, who serves on the Diocesan advisory council for the Witness to Hope campaign, points out that "our gifts to the Witness to Hope campaign supporting the Priests Pension Fund will reflect our appreciation for their years of humble service." His wife Cindy adds, "As we care for the old, we must also prepare for the new. Providing for the education of those who hear God's invitation to priesthood is vital."

Supporting Our Parish Mission

In the past year, Christ the King has become more intentional in our call to fulfill our parish mission: "To joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit."

Our pastor, Fr. Ed, sees the Witness to Hope campaign as "an opportunity as a parish to ... continue to serve those that the Lord is sending to us." With our portion of the funds, CTK hopes to

- Expand the narthex to provide a larger, more welcoming gathering space
- Finish the Church Lower Level to provide event and conference room space, as well as a kitchen
- Add parking space and complete related site work

Christ the King's campaign goal is \$4 million, of which more than \$3 million will be returned to the parish to fund these projects. Please pray about the part that the Lord Jesus would have you play in this campaign.

To learn more, or to pledge online, please go to www.witnesstohope.net.

—Theresa Hofer

The Witness to
Hope campaign
is "a complement to our
evangelization
program Go
and Announce
the Gospel of
the Lord."
Bp. Earl Boyea



Theresa Hofer is Editor of The Open Door.

"Pursue Love and Strive for the Spiritual Gifts"

With these words, St. Paul begins I Corinthians 14. He has just written about both love and spiritual gifts in I Corinthians 12-13, concluding, "And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." (I Cor 13:13)

Love is the heart of the spiritual life, but the spiritual life is not complete without putting that love into action. We're called to "strive" for the spiritual gifts because they are ways that God gives us to put it in action. How will

Praying in tongues often feels like an overflow of out of one's heart in a new language.

people experience our love if we don't show it? love that pours gifts—with which

The Holy Spirit gives us countless ways—countless to love others. Hospitality, service, music, admin-

istration, crafts-

manship, encour-

agement, teaching, prophecy, healing, and many more are given to us to bring other people to Christ.

The gift of praying in tongues is considered a "gateway gift" because it is often the first charismatic gift received and because it prepares peo-

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Healing Service coming Sunday, Nov. 26

Paco **Gavrilides**



Christ the King's Upper Room Ministry will be holding a special Healing Service on Sunday, Nov.

26, 7-9pm in the Church Worship Space. The evening will be led by Paco Gavrilides, longtime CTK parishioner and participant in the Charismatic Renewal.

The evening will include Praise & Worship, as well as time for prayer for healing. Be sure to invite friends who need the healing touch of the Lord to this great event!

"Pursue Love and Strive ..."

Continued from page 6

ple to receive other gifts. Praying in tongues often feels like an overflow of love that pours out of one's heart in a new language. The Holy Spirit gives us the words to pray in a real human or angelic language (1 Cor 13:1).

When we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our prayer, our hearts are drawn into closer union with God. We become attuned to Him, able to hear His voice and to allow Him to direct our actions. Tongues is the only gift that is primarily for the good of the recipient, instead of for other people.

Praying in tongues makes it easier to praise God.

We focus our attention on Jesus, desire to worship Him, and let the words flow out of our mouths.

But because it attunes us to God, we then become more capable of using the other spiritual gifts.

Praying in tongues also makes it easier to praise God. We focus our attention on Jesus, desire to worship Him, and let the words flow out of our mouths. It helps us to pray for others as well. Because the Spirit is giving us the words, we can

know that we're praying in accord with His will. There is great joy in praying in tongues!—Christy Whiting



Christy
Whiting is
Upper Room
Director at
Christ the
King.

Learn more about the gift of tongues on Nov. 17

Would you like to receive the gift of tongues?

Or have you received it, but want to grow in it?

Then you are invited to a special Praise & Worship on Friday, Nov. 17. Dr. Mary Healy will speak about the

gift of tongues, and you'll have the opportunity to pray to receive tongues. This event will be in the Parish Center Gym (not the Church Worship Space) from 7:45-9:15pm. All are welcome!



Dr. Mary Healy

Ministry Spotlight: Alpha KidMinistry

The Nathan and Miriam Everts Family

"For the faithful who have understood the meaning of what they have done, the **Eucharistic** celebration does not stop at the church door." St. John Paul the Great, Dies Domini, para. 45



Colleen Vermeulen is Assistant to the DRE at Christ the King



KidMin (short for KidMinistry) is childcare and kids activities offered by CTK to facilitate parent attendance, service, and participation in the full life of the parish. We sat down with Miriam Everts, the Alpha Sunday KidMin Team Leader, to find out how she serves the parish through this ministry.

What motivated you to serve with KidMin during Alpha?

As a mom with multiple young children, I sometimes feel like I'm limited in what I can do to be a part of something like Alpha, but if I can bring my kids with me, I can serve. For our family, a way to serve at the same

time as Confirmation was key.

Some of our kids serve with me, while my husband visits my grandma in assisted living with our other kids at the same time. I also like being behind the scenes, knowing that I'm giving others the chance to do something that might not be possible because they have children.

And you experienced what this meant yourself during a Life in the Spirit Seminar, right?

Yes. The Sunday night Life in the Spirit Seminar earlier this year included KidMin childcare. This was huge for us as a family. Without KidMin, we wouldn't have attended. It was great to have that time with my husband, Nathan, for the talks and small groups.

What are the hidden blessings of this ministry?

It's just so encouraging to see the wide range of volunteers who come and serve, even just for one Sunday. We've had a young married couple, Maria and Michael Best; young adults like Stephanie Bishop and Alyse Paquin; other parents like Tricia Blake; and parents of grown children, Don Kopinski and Anne Harman.

As the Sunday Team
Leader, I appreciate how
punctual, responsible,
and caring they all are
with the kids. The rest of
the Alpha Team is amazing, too. They check in
on us and offer food, and
even coffee--it's really
caring, and I wouldn't
have necessarily
expected it!

-Colleen Vermeulen

Parishioner Profile: Bob & Chris George

Bob and Chris George joined CTK in January 2016. They have been married 47 years and have five adult children, ages 46-32.

Tell us a little of your faith background.

We were Catholics, regular churchgoers, but not much more than that. But we knew that there must be more and we were hungry for that "more."

In 1977, a friend of Bob, who had been working in Alaska, called. It was clear when Chris talked to him that something had changed. He had had an encounter with Jesus through an evangelical Protestant coworker in Alaska. He invited us to come over to talk, and before we left that evening, he had led us in a prayer of surrendering our lives to the Lord. It was life-changing.

Then two weeks later he called again. He had just heard about being "baptized in the Holy Spirit" and wanted to share that with us. We went back to his house, got prayed with that night, and both received the gift of tongues.

How did you hear about Christ the King?

We knew about the parish, but we thought that it was

still for members of one of the covenant communities in Ann Arbor. However, our daughter Diana began coming here, and she would tell us, "You should go to Christ the King."

Then one weekend when Bob was out deer hunting, Diana invited Chris to go with her to CTK. When she got home from Mass, Chris called Bob and said, "We have to go to this church."

Why did you join CTK?

It felt like home. And people were very welcoming.

How did you get involved with the Alpha team?

We were very involved with Alpha at our former parish, but we didn't want to force ourselves into anything here. So we were attending different groups, trying to find out where the Lord wanted us to be.

At one of those meetings, we met Gary Morgan, who invited us to go out to eat, where we told him more of our story. He told Barbara, who then told Aimée Godfrey [CTK's Alpha Coordinator]. Aimée called us and said, "Barbara Morgan says I need to talk to you!"

What is your favorite part about Alpha?

Chris: The love that pours



Bob & Chris George

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out from it and the connection that you get with the people coming through Alpha.

Bob: I like working with the team and watching God work through that. There's nothing sweeter than being part of a team, watching it come together, cooperating with the Holy Spirit, working through our weaknesses, to bring about something wonderful for Him.

You're both retired. What do you do with your time besides Alpha?

One thing we've had more time for is prayer together. We've experienced the power of interceding together for our children, their friends, and seeing answers to prayer, which encourages us to pray and intercede more.

Chris: Praying together is so sweet and powerful.

Bob: It's the highlight of my day.

"[Christ the King] felt like home.
And people were very welcoming."

Are you interested in serving on Alpha?
Contact Aimée
Godfrey at
agodfrey@ctkcc.net,
or go to ctkcc.net/
alpha4ctkmembers
for more information.

Christ the King Financial Update

Christ the King Catholic Church Financial Reports for the year ending June 30, 2017

\$ in thousands

Balance Sheet				Income & Expenses	Ac	tual	Buc	lget	Ac	tual
	201	6	2017		20	016	20	17	20	017
Assets				Income						
Cash and savings with Diocese	\$1,11	14	\$810	Regular collections		,271	\$1,2	275	\$1,	,232
Other assets	44 -		- I	Other unrestricted income		75		127		148
Total Assets	\$1,158		\$810	Faith formation revenue		30		27		23
			- 18	Revenues with donor restrictions		60		46		70
Liabilities				Total income	1	,436	1,4	475	1,	,473
Accounts payable	\$ 5	56	\$ 93							
Mortgage payable to Diocese	46	31	-	Operating expenses						
Total Liabilities	51	17	93	Parish operations		406	4	452		450
			-	Faith formation		170	1	289		297
Net Assets				Parish facilities		202	1	263		284
With donor restrictions	28	32	345	Liturgy		207	2.	193		207
Without donor restrictions	35	59	372	Tuition assistance	181 183		183		179	
Total Net Assets	64	11	717	Capital expenditures (facilities)		249		-	3	
			921	Other		21		41		44
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,15	58	\$810	Total operating expenses	1	,436	1,4	421	1,	,464
				Net income over expenses	\$	·	\$	54	\$	9

Notes

These are the condensed financial statements for the parish for our fiscal year end June 30, 2017. More details are available upon request from the Business/Operations Manager, Ken Bogan.

Balance Sheet

The mortgage was paid off, so the parish is now debt free.

Donor retricted assets include monies contributed for space needs and benevolent activities, and grew by \$63,000. Assets without donor restrictions, which are monies that can be used for regular parish operations grew by \$13,000.

Operations

Regular (Sunday and Holy day) giving is down about 3%. Recent collections continue to reflect a downward trend. The capital expenditure in 2016 was for the purchase of the house on Earhardt PI. immediately south of the rectory.

Ken Bogan is
Business/Operations
Manager at
Christ the King.
He can be
reached at
kbogan@ctkcc.net.



Schedule of Major Events

- I: All Saints Day
 Holy Day of Obligation
- 2: All Souls Day
- 3, 10, 17, 12/1: Upper Room Praise & Worship
- 4: Memorial Mass for Pregnancy& Newborn Loss
- 23 & 24: Thanksgiving Weekend, offices closed
- 25 & 26: Olive Wood sale after Masses
- 26: Healing Service
- 29: Fr. Ed's 31st Ordination Anniversary.
 Happy Anniversary, Fr. Ed!

For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to www.ctkcc.net and click on the "Calendar" tab.

MAJOR EVENTS—NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
29	30	31	Nov. 1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	Dec. 1	2	

Save the Dates!

Encounter Conference 2018

Thursday evening, January 4 through Saturday, January 6, 2018. Christ the King is serving as host site for this powerful conference featuring Fr. Mathias Thelen, Fr. John Riccardo, Patrick Reis (Fearless movie), and others. Sponsored by Encounter Ministries. For details, go to encounterministries.us/encounter2018.

Keeping Your Kids Catholic: Help and Hope for Catholic Parents and Grandparents, Saturday, January 13, 2018 at Christ the King. Workshop presented by Dave Mangan, father, grandfather, educator, and



Every Day in Love,
Saturdays, February 10 & 17
and March 3 & 10,
9am-noon. Equipping and
empowering married couples to experience being
passionately in love amid all
the stresses of everyday life.
Great Living in Love
refresher!



Check future bulletins for more details about these great events!



Christ the King Catholic Church

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Pete Cooney Katie Perrotta

Christian Fenton Greg Stout

Nuala Holowicki Colleen Vermeulen

Betty Meredith

Coming in future issues...

- · Welcoming and Hospitality
- Discipleship
- Alpha testimonies
- · Parishioner and ministry profiles

Look for this and more in future issues of

The Open Door

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to Theresa Hofer at thofer@ctkcc.net.

The Open Door is the monthly newsletter of Christ the King Catholic Church.



Coming to the Diocese of Lansing

December 6, 2017 to January 7, 2018

We'll leave the light on for you.