

ctk life

FALL 2026



FALL FOCUS

Learning to Look to the Holy Spirit

In the scriptures, in the world around us,
and in our personal lives

Help finish the harvest
at the CTK Farm
page 20



CHRIST THE KING
COMMUNITY CHURCH

How to get the most from CTK Life

Thanks for picking up (or downloading) the latest edition of CTK Life!

Inside you'll find just about everything we're offering this fall to help you connect, grow, and serve alongside the family here at Christ the King Community Church.

If you're reading the printed version, we've included tons of handy **QR codes throughout**. They'll take you directly to the sign-ups or websites mentioned in the text—just point your smartphone's camera at the code and tap the link that pops up.

If you're reading CTK Life online, you can tap or click on any orange **web link** you see, and you'll go right to that destination. And if you tap on email addresses in the text, your device will open up a new email already addressed to the recipient with the subject line filled out. You'll love how easy this makes it to connect and respond!

We'd love to hear your story.

Email stories@ctk.church



Scan the QR code to email us your story

A Note from Grant Fishbook LEAD TEACHING PASTOR



As another beautiful Pacific Northwest summer begins to give way to the crisp mornings, colorful trees, and the cool evenings of fall, I find myself filled

with anticipation for what God has in store for our church family in this next season. There is something about the changing of the seasons that reminds us that God is always at work. Just as he faithfully renews his creation year after year, he also delights in renewing our hearts, strengthening our faith, and inviting us into fresh experiences of his presence.

For me personally, this fall marks the conclusion of a very meaningful sabbatical. I will be returning in November deeply grateful for this strategic season of rest, renewal, and time with Jesus. Stepping away has only increased my love for our church family and my excitement for what lies ahead. I cannot wait to worship with you again, open God's Word together, and see what the Holy Spirit will do in and through our church in the months to come.

One of the things I am most excited about is launching a brand new teaching series centered on the Holy Spirit. Throughout church history, the Holy Spirit has often been one of the least understood members of the Trinity. For some, the Holy Spirit feels mysterious. For others, perhaps even a little intimidating. And for many, he represents the compelling promise that there is so much more to the Christian life than simply trying harder.

Our desire is simple: we want *all* that God has for us, and *all* of who he is.

Jesus promised that his followers would not be left alone. He promised his presence, his power, his guidance,

his comfort, and his transforming work through the Holy Spirit. This series will help us discover who the Holy Spirit is, what he does, and how we can live daily in the power that God has made available to every believer. My prayer is that this won't simply be a series that increases our knowledge, but one that deepens our dependence on God and unleashes his work in every area of our lives.

Then, as we turn the corner toward the Christmas season, we'll continue that journey with a brand new series called *A Spirit-filled Christmas*.

When most people think of Christmas, they naturally think of the birth of Jesus. Yet woven throughout the entire Christmas story is the beautiful and often overlooked work of the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit who brought about the miraculous conception of Jesus. It was the Holy Spirit who filled Elizabeth with joy, empowered Zechariah to prophesy, prompted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist, and led Simeon into the temple at just the right moment to recognize the promised Messiah. Quietly, faithfully, and powerfully, the Holy Spirit is present from beginning to end in the Christmas narrative.

Together, we'll rediscover the wonder of Christmas through the lens of the Spirit's work and be reminded that the same Holy Spirit who moved throughout the first Christmas is still moving today.

Church family, thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and your faithfulness during this season. It has meant more than you know. I am so excited to be back with you this fall, and I truly believe God has wonderful things ahead for Christ the King. I can't wait to see you soon!

Pastor Grant

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

Together • September 27, October 4, 11, 18 & 25

Power • November 8, 15, 22, 29

A Spirit-filled Christmas • December 6, 13, 20, 27 plus Christmas Eve

A Note from Melonie Kemp NETWORK EXECUTIVE PASTOR



Dear CTK Family,

As we step into a new season together, there is so much to look forward to. God continues to be at work among us – forming us, empowering us, and inviting us to participate in what he is doing.

Life will always hold some uncertainty, but we can be sure about who God is and what he has called us to. His character is consistent. His love is unwavering and his faithfulness remains through every season.

And we don't walk this journey alone. God is forming us not only as individuals, but as his people, to encourage one another, grow together, and pay attention together to where the Spirit is leading.

This fall we have many wonderful opportunities to experience community and grow spiritually together. I'm especially excited about our late-fall sermon series on the

Holy Spirit along with a class called *Knowing the Holy Spirit* that will give us the opportunity to go deeper into the purpose and power of the Holy Spirit than what we can explore together on Sunday mornings.

My hope in this next season is that we would hunger to know God more, lean into all that Jesus is teaching us, and become more aware of how and where the Spirit is leading. And as he changes us, I pray that we would increasingly see people more as he sees them – especially those who might otherwise be overlooked or may not yet know him – moving toward them with grace, bringing the hope and healing of Jesus.

This is who God is forming us to be: people who are growing in our love for him, growing in our love for one another, and joining him in his love for the world around us.

God is at work among us. Let's step into all he has for us, together.

Blessings to you,
Melonie

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Summer Throwback

Bubbles & Bounce Bonanza on July 18 was a huge hit with kids and parents! Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this fun community event possible.



PHOTOS: NOAH NELSEN



ON THE COVER

Pumpkin and squash harvest at the CTK Farm is always a fun, festive way for kids and families to serve.

PHOTO: FAITH WHALEY

for everyone

Be part of the big CTK family at these all-church happenings

FRI
NOV 20

Foster Family Holiday Party

Opening our hearts to those who open their homes



Volunteer Opportunity: Foster Family Holiday Party

Friday, November 20 • 6:00–8:00 PM in Base Camp

Looking for a meaningful way to bless families who open their hearts and homes to children in foster care? This November, CTK is partnering with an incredible organization called Foster Hearts to host a special holiday party for foster families.

Foster Hearts is dedicated to supporting underprivileged children and creating moments of joy for the families who care for them. This is a beautiful opportunity to come alongside these families to share love, encouragement, and holiday cheer.

Here's how you can get involved:

1. Donate items for gift baskets (now through Sunday, November 15)

Help us create a special gift for the parents & families attending the holiday party! We're putting together

themed baskets and would love your contributions. We are looking to make 40-50 baskets. Themes include:

- **Spa Night** (bath items, candles, massage or mani/pedi certificates, anything that pampers)
- **Family Game Night** (board games, card games, snacks, etc.)
- **Kitchen Essentials** (mugs & cocoa, marshmallows, cookies, pasta & sauce, oven mitts, olive oil, colander, etc.)
- **Meals on the Go** (Gift cards to restaurants, grocery stores, coffee shops, etc., for quick snacks/meals on those busy nights)

Please donate only new items.

Donations can be dropped off at the reception desk during open hours.

2. Volunteer at the Event

Come serve with us and help to create a fun, welcoming atmosphere for these amazing families. Volunteer opportunities include:

- Greeting families
- Assisting with food prep and serving
- Leading crafts and games
- Helping at the photo station
- Set-up and clean-up
- Assembling gift baskets
- Decorating room and tables
- Floater / Wherever needed

Please note: The last day to sign up to volunteer is Friday, November 6.



Sign up to volunteer by Friday, Nov. 6 at ctk.link/foster. Questions? Email Melanie (melaniec@ctk.church).



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
1:00–4:00 PM**

Indoors at CTK Bellingham

We're excited to once again welcome our community for a candy smorgasbord in a safe, dry, warm place with plenty of parking! We host events like this to help remove barriers or hesitations people might have about a church. When they feel welcomed by us in the fun things, they're often more open to checking us out during a Sunday service or bringing their kids to one of our youth programs.

Cordata Place Trick or Treat could be the first step in someone's faith journey, and it's not possible without you. We encourage you to help out in one of the following ways:

- **Sign up to volunteer.** It takes 75 volunteers to successfully host this event. You can help with setup, cleanup, or during the event itself. Watch info.ctk.church for sign-up details in October.
- **Donate candy.** We need lots of candy to give away. Bring a bag to the wheelbarrow in the Commons any Sunday in October, or drop it off at the church M–Th, 9 AM–4 PM. **Even easier, order through our Amazon Wishlist (ctk.link/candy)** and have it shipped directly to the church.

SUN
NOV 22



Thanksgiving Potluck

Sunday, November 22

Noon–2:00 PM in the Meeting Place

All throughout the Bible you read stories of people gathering around the table, building community and connection. On the Sunday before Thanksgiving, join us after the 11:00 service for a pre-Thanksgiving potluck! Bring your favorite dish to share and come ready to make new connections and talk about what you're grateful for this season.

People will be available at the Catering Room door to take your dish on your way into either service if that is helpful. Please be sure to label all your dishes. See you there!

No need to sign up, but please bring a dish to share! Questions? Email Jayne Doll (jayned@ctk.church).

- **Invite your friends and neighbors!**

We host this event so you'll have an easy invitation for the people in your life who aren't connected to a faith community. Make a goal to personally invite 2 or 3 families.

- **Donate toward expenses.** You can give to offset event costs: glow sticks, hot cocoa, and of course, more candy. No need to make a special designation, just add a little extra to your normal giving.

Questions? Email Jayne Doll (jayned@ctk.church).

THU
DEC 3



Advent Prayer & Worship Gathering

Advent Prayer & Worship Gathering

Thursday, December 3

6:00–7:30 PM in the Worship Center

Join us as we pause and wait with the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts for Advent, a 4-week season leading up to Christmas Day that anticipates the arrival—or “advent”—of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah and King. Through musical worship and guided prayer, we'll create space for the Holy Spirit to form in us the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings.

Whether Advent is a cherished tradition or a new practice for you, this night will help you slow down, listen for God's voice, and encounter Jesus in a deeper way this season.

Childcare will be provided for children 5 years and younger. Please RSVP for your child(ren) ahead of time at ctk.link/adventkids so we can make sure to have enough caregivers available.

Questions? Contact Pastor Carrie Butler (carrieb@ctk.church)



Scan for
Amazon
Wishlist



kids



Make an eternal difference—serve with CTK Kids

Are you looking for a meaningful way to live out your faith? CTK Kids invites you to join our vibrant ministry team. It's your opportunity to shape the next generation by helping children discover how much they matter to God.

CTK Kids wants every child to know our good God. He created each of them on purpose and for a purpose. He knows every child intimately, loves them deeply, and wants to lead them to an amazing future where they experience his wonderful plans.

Serving with CTK Kids is more than volunteering; it's a source of immense joy and personal satisfaction. There's nothing quite like watching a child's eyes light up as they understand God's love for the first time. Your could help build a lasting spiritual foundation and make a real difference in a child's life.

Whether you love creative activities, leading games, or greeting families, there's a place for your unique gifts here. Come be a part of what God is doing in CTK Kids!

To start a story of your own with CTK Kids, let us know you're interested at ctk.link/kids. Questions? Email Duane Weaver at duanew@ctk.church.



CTK Kids Sunday Mornings

Every Sunday during the 9:00 & 11:00 AM services

Every Sunday, there's a place for kids—from newborn to 6th grade—to have fun, make friends, and learn how much Jesus loves them (and how to love him back)!

Questions? Contact Pastor Duane Weaver (duanew@ctk.church or ext. 2236)

Nursery

Infants and toddlers up to 23 months

Your newest family members are very precious to you—and to us too. That's why we're intentional about creating a clean, safe environment where they will be loved and cared for while you attend the service. This is their first experience in God's house, so we focus on the love and joy of Jesus for these youngsters.

Adventureland

2-5 year-olds

Kids age 18 months to 5 years old are ready to move, worship, and learn in much more active ways. Adventureland helps them discover the love of Jesus through games, musical worship, and Bible lessons that come to life. During this curious stage of their lives we want to encourage them to explore and discover a God who delights in them!

Base Camp

Kindergarten-4th grade

Every adventurer needs a base to venture out from, and that's what Base Camp provides for K-5th graders. It's a place to grow and discover God's truths while learning to love others well. As kids develop their relationship with Jesus, they grow in their identity in Christ, learn to see for "God opportunities," and avoid pitfalls that can cause us to lose our way.



New to CTK? Pre-register kids anytime at ctk.link/ctk-kids.

SUMMIT FOR 5TH & 6TH GRADE

Every Sunday during both services
in the Meeting Place Alcove

Summit is back! Summit is a space for 5th and 6th graders to engage in community, learn about Jesus, and to bridge the gap between our elementary and middle school communities.

You'll find us in the Meeting Place Alcove during both services enjoying games, lesson time, group discussion, and snacks. We hope to see your 5th or 6th grader there!

Questions? Email Megan Peek (meganp@ctk.church).



visit kids.ctk.church for the latest information & events

Make a Massive Difference: Become a CTK Kids Buddy!

One-on-one Helpers Wanted During Sunday Services

Are you looking for a rewarding way to serve? CTK Kids strives to provide a welcoming place where children with diverse needs can experience Jesus' love. We're looking for volunteers aged 16 and older to serve as one-on-one buddies.

Often, a child simply needs a dedicated helper to feel safe in our classrooms. Some struggle because it is their first time at church and they need a safe person to navigate the new environment. Others have physical, mental, or social needs requiring extra support to succeed.

Being a buddy is incredibly rewarding. You ensure every child feels valued and connected to the community. If you have a heart for service, your time and care can make an eternal impact.

Let us know you're interested at ctk.link/kidsbuddy. Questions? Email [Duane Weaver \(duanew@ctk.church\)](mailto:duanew@ctk.church).



Children's Baptism Class

Sunday, October 11

6:00–7:30 PM in Room 210

Baptisms: Sunday, October 25 in both services

Has your child expressed interest in being baptized? Our kids' baptism class is the perfect next step. Parents are asked to attend with their child. In most cases, we suggest 3rd grade and older as a suitable age for kids to be baptized. The class will help you and your child determine their readiness to take this important step in their journey with Jesus.



Sign-up required—visit

ctk.link/kidsbaptism. Questions? Email Children's Discipleship Director [Melanie Cobb \(melaniec@ctk.church\)](mailto:melaniec@ctk.church).



See also...

Moms in Prayer page 17

Mamas & Kiddos Mornings page 18

Child Dedication page 18

Sacred Bonding page 18



Encounter Crews

Tuesdays, September 22–May 18

6:30–8:00 PM in Base Camp

\$25.00

We are so excited to be starting another year of Encounter Crews! Come join us on Tuesday nights as we help kids build a foundation of faith by digging into God's Word. We'll explore Bible stories about Abraham, Samuel, Peter, Paul, Silas, Abigail and Anna—how they lived by faith, and how we are called to do the same.

We'll learn each week through worship, prayer, fun games, and crafts, in both large and small group settings. Registration is just \$25 for the whole year.



Register anytime at ctk.link/ecrews. Questions? Email [Melanie Cobb \(melaniec@ctk.church\)](mailto:melaniec@ctk.church).

Help lead the crew!

Do you have a desire to help the next generation grow stronger in their faith and discover their true identity in Jesus? We have a place for you! Whether you're a teenager, an adult, or the parent of one of the kids in the crew, your time and experience with Jesus can make a difference.

Interested in volunteering or have questions? Email [Melanie Cobb \(melaniec@ctk.church\)](mailto:melaniec@ctk.church).

Meet Our Newest Next Gen Staff Members

Please join us in welcoming...



Matt Leavitt
Student Ministries Director

My wife Natalie and I were born and raised in Phoenix but always had a heart for the PNW. Moving up to Bellingham in 2022, we have fully embraced life outdoors with our two dogs.

Community is a big part of the Leavitt household, so we rarely have an empty home.

Whether that be game nights, sharing a meal around the table, or hosting movie nights, you will always find us with people. If we aren't at home we are most likely trying a new restaurant or hunting down live music to listen to.

I am beyond excited to see students encounter Jesus in their own lives and encourage them along the way. This next generation will be powerfully used by God throughout Whatcom county, and I cannot wait to cheer them on!



Kua Guevara
Next Gen Worship Pastor

I grew up in California, in the Bay Area, which I am very proud of. I moved to Bellingham in 2017 to work at CTK after going to college in San Diego. I met my wife, Ashley, while we were leaders at CTK United and led worship together at Ekklesia, our previous young adult ministry.

In my free time I love to write songs, play golf (even though I'm not great at it), hunt for Pokemon cards, and most of all, spend time with the people I love.

The thing I'm most excited about in this new role is seeing God transform the lives of the next generation through his Spirit. I want to see young people—from middle school to young adults—formed into the likeness of Jesus through living a life of worship in everything they think, do, and say.

So, how did Go Camp... go?

We had an incredible weekend out at Firwood for Go Camp on Labor Day weekend! Twenty students were baptized at the end of the weekend and we witnessed God moving in the lives of so many more. Go Camp would not be possible without you, our church family, investing in the next generation. Thank you for your donations, snacks, countless volunteer hours, and prayers. God is faithful!

PHOTOS: NOAH NELSEN
BAPTISM PHOTO: JOHNNY BRYANT



Weekly Student Ministry Gatherings

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School United

Every Tuesday through December 15
6:30–8:30 PM • Meeting Place Alcove

Not meeting Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving week)

Middle School United (MSU) meets every Tuesday evening for games, snacks, worship, a short message, and small group time. It's a fun, welcoming space for middle schoolers to build friendships and explore faith together. Everyone's invited—come hang out with us! Doors open at 6:15.

HIGH SCHOOL

High School United

Every Sunday through December 20
6:30–8:30 PM • Meeting Place Alcove

Not meeting Nov. 29 (Thanksgiving wknd.)

High School United (HSU) meets every Sunday for an evening of community, snacks, worship, teaching, and small group time. It's a space to have fun, grow in faith, and connect with friends. All high schoolers are welcome! Doors open at 6:15.

HSU Questions about High School United?
Email Katie O'Bray (katieh@ctk.church)

MSU Questions about Middle School United?
Email Megan Peek (meganp@ctk.church)



CTK UNITED
STUDENT MINISTRIES

High School Special Events



All-County Worship Night

Sunday, October 18
6:30–8:30 PM (Location TBD)

All high schoolers are invited to join us as we come together with youth groups from across Whatcom County to worship God, build community, and experience his presence. It's an incredible chance to unite as one body, remembering that we're not alone in following Jesus—we're part of something bigger. Let's gather, worship, and partner with others to see God's Kingdom grow in Whatcom County as it is in heaven.

Questions? Email Katie O'Bray
(katieh@ctk.church).

HSU Friendsgiving

Sunday, November 22
6:30–8:30 PM in the Meeting Place

High School United will be gathering in our community groups to celebrate Thanksgiving together! Join your friends for dinner and a fun night of community. If you are unsure of your small group, please email Katie for more information.

Questions? Email Katie O'Bray
(katieh@ctk.church).



FOR 5TH & 6TH GRADE

During Both Sunday Services
in the Meeting Place Alcove

Summit is back! Summit is a space for 5th and 6th graders to engage in community, learn about Jesus, and to bridge the gap between our elementary and middle school communities. You'll find us in the Alcove every Sunday during both services enjoying games, lesson time, group discussion, and snacks. We hope to see your 5th or 6th grader there!

Questions? Email Megan Peek
(meganp@ctk.church).

Stay connected!

Join our text groups

For weekly program reminders, text "HSU" for high school updates or "MSU" for middle school updates to **360-855-8683**.

Follow us on Instagram

@ctkunitedsu
for middle school

@ctkunitedsu
for high school



CTK Young Adults ministry brings together people age 18–30ish for community, discovery, discipleship, and sometimes just for fun! It's important to us to be integrated into the life of the greater church, so you'll find us along with everyone else at Sunday services, community service projects, all-church worship nights, and more. Whether you're single, dating, or married, have kids or don't, you're invited to come connect, grow, and serve with us. Follow us on Instagram [@ctk.young.adults](https://www.instagram.com/ctk.young.adults).



Young Adult Worship Nights

Monthly on selected Thursdays
Sep. 24, Oct. 15, Nov. 19
6:30–8:30 PM in the Meeting Place

We're seeing a growing hunger for the presence of God among young adults in Whatcom County, and we want to create space to pursue Jesus together. This is an invitation for 18 to 30-year-olds to gather, worship, and seek the Lord as we follow where he leads.

Each month, we'll make room to listen, respond, and learn how the Holy Spirit moves among his people. Through worship, prayer, and reflection, we'll grow in our understanding of God's presence and create space for him to speak and transform us.

Join us as we worship through music and take time to listen and respond to the Holy Spirit.

Please RSVP at ctk.link/events to help us prepare a space for you.



Questions? Email Pastor Jake Hruza (jakehruza@ctk.church).



RSVP by Thursday, October 1
at ctk.link/events.
Questions? Email Pastor Tyler Forney (tylerf@ctk.church).

Guys' Breakfast

Saturday, October 3
9:00–11:00 AM in the Meeting Place
\$5 donation appreciated

Many men want to know their identity in Christ and purposefully engage in the world around them, centered in the Spirit. Without intentional community, it's easy to end up isolated—lacking the support and friendships that make life richer.

That's why we're kicking off our men's ministry this fall with a free Guys' Breakfast. Over a great meal, you'll meet other guys, hear what's coming up this year, and discover your identity in Christ and the purpose God has for you, and engage with the Word as your whole self.

Men's 1-Day Retreat

MEN OF PURPOSE

Saturday, November 7
9:00 AM–2:00 PM in the Meeting Place
\$10.00, includes lunch and snacks

Be formed. Be filled. Be sent.

What does it mean to be a whole man in today's world? Many men want to follow Christ faithfully, but the pressures of life, work, and responsibility can leave us feeling disconnected, distracted, or uncertain of our purpose.

Join us for our next one-day men's retreat designed to help you grow deeper in your relationship with God, one another, and the world around you. Throughout the day, we'll explore our mission as men.

Through biblical teaching, worship, meaningful conversations, and time together, you'll be encouraged to embrace your identity in Christ, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and live with purpose wherever God has placed you. Come ready to be challenged, encouraged, and equipped to engage the world as the man God created you to be.

Open to age 18+. Lunch provided.



Register by Wednesday, November 4
at ctk.link/events. Questions? Email
Pastor Tyler Forney (tylerf@ctk.church).



prayer ministry

DAY OF PRAYER

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH



New to Day of Prayer? Sign up and choose your prayer hour at ctk.link/pray.



Find the monthly prayer guide at ctk.church/dayofprayer.

Day of Prayer

First Thursday of every month, 24 hrs. (Oct. 2, Nov. 5, Dec. 3)

Pray wherever you are

Prayer Room (214) is open 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Christ the King is part of a countywide prayer movement with one simple goal: to see every day of the month covered in prayer by churches across our community. Together in unity, we pray for the church, our neighborhoods, and the world, asking for God's kingdom to come.

At CTK Bellingham, our day is the first Thursday of each month. You're welcome to pray wherever you are or join us in the CTK Prayer Room between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM. Prayer guides, prompts, and themes will be available each month to help focus your prayers as we seek God's peace, restoration, and hope for our community and beyond.

Questions? Email Prayer Pastor Carrie Butler (carrieb@ctk.church).



Visit the Prayer Room

The Prayer Room (Room 214) is a space for individuals and our church family to encounter Jesus. You'll find places to sit or kneel, prompts to help you engage, and creative ways to express your prayers, but we encourage you to use it as you are led by the Holy Spirit.



Schedule your visit to the Prayer Room at ctk.link/prayer-room. You can also visit when the church is open on Sunday mornings.

If you have questions about the Prayer Room and its purpose, email Carrie Butler, our Network Prayer Pastor (carrieb@ctk.church).

24-7 Prayer

CTK has partnered with 24-7 Prayer, a global prayer movement that provides free prayer resources and guides for the Church. Our Prayer Room is one of 25,000 across 78 nations, all connected through this incredible movement of non-stop prayer.



To learn more about 24-7 Prayer or use some of their resources, go to 24-7prayer.com.



Join the Ministry Prayer Team

Praying for others is a powerful, meaningful, and tangible way to share Jesus' love with those who come forward on Sunday mornings and at other gatherings. If you have a passion for encouraging others through prayer, we'd love to have you join our Ministry Prayer Team.



To learn more and join the next training, sign up online at serve.ctk.church or email Pastor Carrie Butler (carrieb@ctk.church).

Advent Prayer & Worship Gathering

Thursday, December 3

6:00–7:30 PM in the Worship Center

Join us as we pause and wait with the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts for Advent, a 4-week season leading up to Christmas Day that anticipates the arrival—or “advent”—of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah and King. Through musical worship and guided prayer, we'll create space for the Holy Spirit to form in us the hope, peace, joy, and love that Christ brings.

Whether Advent is a cherished tradition or a new practice for you, this night will help you slow down, listen for God's voice, and encounter Jesus in a deeper way this season.

No need to sign up to attend!

Childcare will be provided for children 5 years and younger. Please RSVP for your child(ren) ahead of time so we can make sure to have enough caregivers available.



RSVP for childcare by Monday, Nov. 20 at ctk.church/events. Questions? Email Prayer Pastor Carrie Butler (carrieb@ctk.church).

all adults



PHOTO: SCOTT SAYERS

Baptism Classes

Sunday, October 11 • 6:00–7:30 PM
In Person in Room 216
Or online via Zoom

Jesus taught baptism as a way to publicly declare our decision to trust and follow him. If you've committed your life to Jesus and you're ready to take this important step, we'll be baptizing during both services on Sunday, October 25. To be included, come to our baptism class on Sunday evening, October 11, either in person or on Zoom. We look forward to hearing your story and explaining what baptism is all about.

Register by Friday, October 9
at baptism.ctk.church.



Questions? Contact Erin Drews
(erind@ctk.church or x2219).

For children 12 and younger who have expressed interest in being baptized, we teach a baptism class at the same time in Room 210.

In most cases, we suggest 3rd grade and older as a suitable age for kids to be baptized. The class will help you and your child determine their readiness to take this important step in their journey with Jesus.

Sign up at ctk.link/kidsbaptism.
Questions? Email Pastor Duane Weaver (duanew@ctk.church).



Alpha

8 Mondays, Sep. 21–Nov. 9
6:00–8:00 PM in the Meeting Place

Alpha is a series of eight relaxed evenings of free dinner and conversation where people of all backgrounds can get together to explore the big questions of life, Jesus, and faith. No pressure. No judgment. No charge. Just real conversations.

If you're exploring for the first time, rethinking, or are just plain curious, Alpha is for you.

Childcare is available; please register children separately with the link below.



Register by Sunday, September 20 at ctk.link/alpha and children at ctk.link/alphakids.

Questions? Contact Erin Drews
(erind@ctk.church).



Foundations: The Story of God

8 Mondays, Sep. 21–Nov. 9
6:00–8:00 PM in Room 216

Getting to know God takes time, and one of the best ways we come to know him is through his Word. The Bible tells one unified story of God's work in creation, the fall, redemption, and restoration.

Throughout this class, we'll journey through that story together, discovering what God reveals about himself, his purposes for the world, and his invitation for us to participate in his kingdom. As we grow in our understanding of Scripture, our hope is that we will spend more time with Jesus, become more like him, and do the things he is doing.

Note: If you've been part of Alpha in the last few years, this class is a great follow-up to what you learned.



Register by Sunday, Sep. 20 at ctk.link/events.

Free childcare is available by RSVP; please register children separately at ctk.link/MonChildcare.

Needlecraft Care Group

1st & 3rd Thursdays thru December
10:00 AM–Noon in Base Camp

Fall Dates: Sept. 17, October 1 & 15,
November 5 & 19, December 3 & 17

Join with others who knit or crochet to create shawls, blankets, hats, and scarves to give away to people dealing with a health crisis or difficult time in life. These items offer comfort and a reminder that the CTK family cares. The group meets to knit and pray on the 1st & 3rd Thursday mornings each month. You'll find great fellowship, various levels of experience, and always-helpful advice.

Don't knit or crochet? We can help! Let us know if you want to learn and we can get you connected to someone who can help! Also, donations of yarn are always welcome and can be dropped off at the front desk anytime the church is open.

If you'd like to participate or know someone who would appreciate a prayer shawl, email Pastor Julie Burleson (julieb@ctk.church).



Sunday Morning Growth Series

FOR ADULTS



Our new Sunday service schedule gives us extra time between services for adult growth classes. Now you can attend a Sunday service and one of these classes with just one trip to the church!



9 Weeks That Can Change Your Financial Future

9 Sundays, Sep. 20–Nov. 15
10:00–11:00 AM Room 212
\$100 per household

Money touches almost every part of life—but often it brings stress instead of peace. Maybe you're living paycheck to paycheck, wondering where your money went each month, carrying debt that's hard to escape, or wishing you could finally start saving for the future.

You don't have to stay stuck. Financial Peace University is a proven 9-week course that has helped millions of people replace financial anxiety with confidence. Through practical, biblical teaching and encouraging conversation, you'll learn how to create a budget that works, eliminate debt, build savings, and make wise financial decisions that last.

The average participating household pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in just 90 days. More importantly, many participants discover something even greater: the freedom that comes from having a plan—and the peace that comes from faithfully stewarding what God has entrusted to them. Whether you're just getting started, trying to get ahead, or looking to strengthen your financial foundation, this class will give you practical tools and lasting hope.

Register and prepay by Wed., Sep. 16 at



ctk.link/events.

Questions? Email Erin Drews
(erind@ctk.church).



KNOWING THE Holy Spirit

Knowing the Holy Spirit

4 Sundays, November 8, 15, 22, 29
10:00–11:00 AM in Room 216

Before Jesus returned to the Father, he promised that he would send the Holy Spirit to us as our advocate, helper, and comforter. Yet for many Christians, the Holy Spirit remains misunderstood, overlooked, or difficult to know.

In this 4-week class, we'll explore who the Holy Spirit is, his role throughout the story of Scripture, and how he continues to work in the lives of Jesus' followers today. Together, we'll develop a deeper biblical understanding of the Spirit and discover how he empowers, transforms, and leads God's people.



Register by Friday, November 6
at ctk.link/events. Questions?
Email Erin Drews (erind@ctk.church).

MAKING SPACE FOR Advent



Making Space for Advent

3 Sundays, December 6, 13 & 20
10:00–11:00 AM in Room 216

Advent is a 4-week period in the life of the Church that invites us to slow down and prepare our hearts for Christmas. Rooted in centuries of Christian tradition, Advent is marked by waiting—for the birth of Jesus and for his promised return.

We invite you to discover how Advent can shape the way you experience the Christmas season by joining a 3-week class with space for learning, reflection, conversation, and community as we explore the meaning and practices of Advent. Together, we'll consider what it means to wait with joy, hope, peace and love, and prepare for Christ's arrival.

This is an opportunity to slow down in a busy time of year, be present with others, and experience the season with greater intention and anticipation.



Register by Friday, December 4
at ctk.link/events. Questions?
Email Pastor Carrie Butler
(carrieb@ctk.church).

community groups

healing together



Community Group Interest Meeting

Sunday, September 27
10:00–11:00 AM in Room 216

We weren't meant to walk with Jesus on our own. At CTK, we believe that being part of a strong biblical community puts us in an ideal place to be transformed by Jesus. Join us for a brief introduction to what biblical community looks like here at CTK and the key rhythms of following Jesus together in a community group of 5 to 15 people.

If you're looking to build relationships with others who love Jesus and want to grow in following him, we'd love to connect with you and help you find your community here at CTK!



RSVP at ctk.link/events.
Questions? Contact Pastor Tyler Forney (tylerf@ctk.church).



Grief Support Group

Every Tuesday
6:00–7:30 PM in Room 213

Grief and loss can come in a variety of packages and stall us like nothing else. They can stem from the death of someone close, a sudden career change, health issues, or even a child making decisions we don't agree with. On top of the loss itself, we can shame ourselves for not "getting over it," never realizing just how stuck we are.

CTKers Brian and Stacy have seemingly seen it all and are masters at creating a safe space to share, listen, and heal in the arms of Jesus. If you need a safe space to process the burden you carry, come join this grief support group.

Come as often as you need to—no registration needed. Questions? Email Pastor Ryan Ervin (ryane@ctk.church).



Divorce Care for Men and Women

12 Tuesdays, Sep. 8–Nov. 24
6:30–8:30 PM in Room 212 • \$25.00

Divorce care is a 12-week, faith-based co-ed support group program designed to help individuals heal from the pain of separation or divorce through expert-driven videos, group discussion, and personal reflection. It provides a safe, confidential environment for men and women to navigate emotional challenges and find hope. Groups are led by people who have also experienced divorce and understand the journey to recovery. We hope you'll join us for mutual support and encouragement.



Register by Sunday, September 6 at ctk.link/events. Questions? Contact Pastor Sydel McKim (sydelm@ctk.church).

seniors



Seniors' Bible Study, Hymn Sing & Lunch

2nd Thursday of Every Month
Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10
10:30 AM–Noon in the Meeting Place

Join us for a warm, welcoming monthly gathering where seniors (age 55+) enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal, uplifting fellowship, singing hymns, and meaningful conversation centered on Jesus. It's a time to worship, learn together, and connect in a spirit of friendship and community. Whether you're a longtime CTKer or new to the area, there's a seat at the table for you.

No need to sign up—just show up!



\$2 donation for lunch is appreciated, but always free for newcomers!

Questions? Contact Pastor Tyler Forney (tylerf@ctk.church or 360-733-1337).

production team



Lights, camera, action!

The CTK Production Team is responsible for a lot of behind-the-scenes roles when it comes to running our services like filming, sound, lighting and graphics.

Did you know that most of our amazing volunteers had no previous training or experience when they started? Over time they've honed their skills to produce the beautiful, high quality worship services you enjoy.

If you're interested in joining the team, stop by the sound booth at the back of the auditorium after any Sunday service. On most weekends, our friendly production team staff or volunteers can help you start getting connected.

Or visit serve.ctk.church, choose the Bellingham campus, and click on AV Production Team to let us know you're interested.

Questions? Email Gabe Chartier (gabec@ctk.church).



hospitality

You are CTK!

Join the Connections Team

CTK's Connection Team works together to create environments where people feel not only welcomed, but wanted. We cannot be the church we mean to be without volunteers who make it happen. Whether it's greeting at the doors, serving coffee, hosting our online community, or helping at the Connection Point to make new people feel at ease, *you* are CTK.



And if you're willing to show hospitality but can't commit to an ongoing schedule, we'd love to add your name to our special event volunteer list. None of us can do everything, but all of us can do something. Be a part of making CTK a warm, welcoming church.

For more information, or to chat about ways you might be created to serve, contact our Welcome Team Director, Kobi Dorning (kobid@ctk.church or 360-733-1337).

weekly program

When you're looking for the most current information about events and other opportunities at CTK, look no further than our online weekly program at info.ctk.church. You'll find all the latest news and resources right at your fingertips—on your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

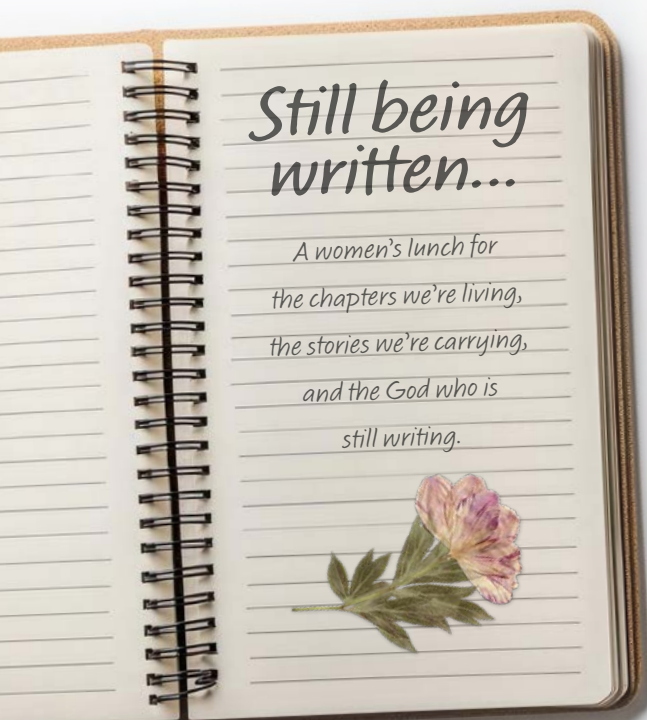
To get there quickly during services, just scan the QR code displayed on the seat or the screen in front of you and tap the link that pops up. It'll take you right there.

Updated every week, the online weekly program is loaded with **convenient clickable links** to help you easily...

- Sign up for events and classes
- Share a prayer request
- View sermon notes
- Fill out a Connection Card
- Give online
- See current CTK job listings
...and more!



Check it out today at
info.ctk.church



Women's Fall Lunch

Saturday, September 26

11:00 AM–2:00 PM in the Meeting Place

\$10.00

Women — you're invited to join us for a time of fellowship, encouragement, and renewal. Share the experience by inviting a friend as we gather around messages from Sydel McKim, Carrie Butler, and Kim Ryan, who will bring light to our stories and the ways God shows up in each of them.

Our time together will also include worship, a delicious catered lunch, and a creative art experience that we hope will be a sweet and meaningful part of our day together.

We can't wait to gather with you and see what God has in store for this next season!

Childcare is not available for this event.



Register by Wednesday, September 23 at ctk.link/events.

Questions? Contact Pastor Sydel McKim

(sydelm@ctk.church).

Fall Bible Studies for Women

Better: A Study of Hebrews

10 Mondays, September 14–November 16

6:00–8:00 PM in Room 215 • \$30.00



Discover the richness of the Book of Hebrews in this verse-by-verse study by Jen Wilkin. Together, we'll explore how every story, sacrifice, and promise in the Old Testament points to Jesus Christ—the One through whom God has provided “something better for us” (Hebrews 11:40). As we study Scripture in the context of the entire Bible, we'll gain a

deeper understanding of God's redemptive plan, strengthen our faith, and learn to place our hope in Christ alone.

Whether you're new to Bible study or have been studying God's Word for years, you'll be encouraged, challenged, and equipped to grow in your knowledge and love of Christ.

Childcare may be available for 5th grade and younger by RSVP only at ctk.link/MonChildcare.

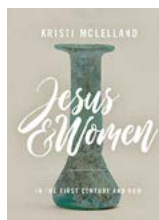


Register online at ctk.link/events. Questions? Contact Pastor Sydel McKim (sydelm@ctk.church).

Jesus & Women: In the First Century and Now

9 Wednesdays, September 23–November 18

10:00 AM–Noon in the Meeting Place • \$30.00



Jesus & Women is a powerful and thought-provoking 9-week study that explores the radical way Jesus honored, valued, and uplifted women within a deeply patriarchal culture. Through her rich cultural insights, biblical scholar Kristi McLelland brings to life the ways Jesus restored dignity, worth, and purpose to women—revealing a message

of equality and hope that transcends time. This study invites us to rediscover the heart of Jesus and the truth that every woman has a cherished place in God's kingdom—a truth that continues to resonate and transform lives today.

Childcare may be available for 5th grade and younger by RSVP only at ctk.link/WedChildcare.



Register online at ctk.link/events. Questions? Email Pastor Sydel McKim (sydelm@ctk.church).



Women's Monthly Prayer and Coffee

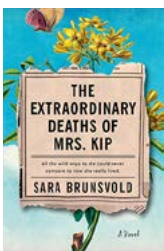
Monthly on selected Thursdays
Sep. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 19
9:30–10:45 AM in The Prayer Room

There's something special about gathering with other women to slow down, share our hearts, and bring them before the Lord together. One Thursday each month we'll take 45 minutes to pray for one another, our church, and our community. Afterward, for those who can stay another half hour, we'll head to the newly remodeled CTK Cafe for coffee to linger a little longer and share stories, laughter, and the kind of conversations that deepen friendships. We'd love to have you with us.

No need to register, just show up!
Questions? Contact Pastor Sydel McKim
(sydelm@ctk.church).

Women's Book Club

We're so excited to have launched a fresh, fun, and totally doable book club for 2026—full of stories, connection, and community. We're mixing things up with fiction, biography, inspiration, and seasonal reads that are warm, engaging, and perfect for real life. Whether you're



a big reader, a slow reader, or a "just want community" reader—you belong here.

No pressure, no homework... just a beautiful rhythm of women reading together every two months.



Moms in Prayer

Every Wednesday,
September 23–November 18
9:15–10:15 AM • Prayer Room (214)

There's incredible power in prayer—especially when we come together as moms, grandmas, moms at heart, and a caring community to lift up the children in our lives. No matter what challenges or joys our kids may be facing, praying alongside others brings renewed hope and strength. Join us any or every Wednesday morning as we gather to pray for our children, their teachers, and our schools, standing firm on the promises found in God's Word.

Together, we'll replace worries with hope and build meaningful connections with women who truly understand and support one another.

No need to sign up, just show up any Wednesday. Questions? Email Holly Pike
(hollyp@ctk.church).

How It Works

- We read one book every two months
- One casual meetup at the end of each cycle
- Come even if you didn't finish—you're always welcome
- Low-pressure, high-connection, full of warmth and laughter

Currently reading *The Extraordinary Deaths of Mrs. Kip* by Sara Brunsvold



Sign up today at ctk.link/bookclub. Questions? Contact Holly Pike
(hollyp@ctk.church).



The Widow's Table

2nd & 4th Thursdays thru Dec. 10
6:00–7:30 PM in Room 213
(not meeting on Thanksgiving)

The Widows' Table is a place for widows of all ages and seasons of loss to share the real parts of the journey—the confusing, the isolating, the unseen, and the hope found in the middle of it all.

This fall, we'll gather at CTK on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. These gatherings are a place to share stories, laugh, breathe a little, find encouragement, and spend time with others who understand the journey of loss.

To have your name added to the contact list for upcoming gatherings and details, contact Pastor Sydel McKim
(sydelm@ctk.church).





Mamas & Kiddos Mornings

2nd & 4th Tuesdays through Dec. 8
9:00–10:30 AM in Room 116

Whether you're expecting, snuggling a newborn, or chasing busy little ones, you're welcome here! Join us as we journey through GraceLaced by Ruth Chou Simons, encouraging one another to see God's faithfulness in every season of motherhood.

Your kiddos will stay with you as we gather, enjoying a light snack, simple activities, and little moments to discover God's love right alongside you. We'll keep the mornings relaxed and unhurried, creating space for conversation, encouragement, and genuine connection. Come as you are...we'd love to walk this season with you.

Questions? Email Bethany Pellerin
(bethanyp@ctk.church) or **Holly Pike**
(hollyp@ctk.church).



Child Dedication Class & Ceremony

Register by Sunday, October 11

Class: Sunday, October 25
9:00–10:00 AM in Room 210

Ceremony: Sunday, November 8
4:00–5:00 PM in Basecamp

There are numerous responsibilities involved in raising our children, but none is more valuable than pointing them to Jesus. At CTK, child dedication is about equipping and supporting you to do this vital work. If you are committed to raising your child to love and follow Jesus, we invite you to consider child dedication.

To get started, you'll complete a child dedication questionnaire, then join other families for a class that will prepare you to dedicate your child to God and encourage your Godly parenting.

Following the class, we'll gather for a dedication ceremony on Sunday, November 8, where family and friends are invited to support you in this commitment to your child.



Preregistration required; start by completing the Child Dedication Questionnaire by Sunday, October 11 at ctk.link/dedication. Questions? Email Duane Weaver (duanew@ctk.church).



Sacred Bonding

A Parenting Class for the Seasons of Family Life

**3 Wednesdays, October 7–October 21
6:30–8:00 PM in the Meeting Place
\$10.00**

Every parent hits seasons where connection feels harder than it should. It could be a toddler who won't settle, a middle schooler who's pulling away, or a grown child you're not sure how to reach anymore. You're not failing. You're parenting in a broken world, and healthy connection takes more than instinct. It takes understanding and practice.

Join Mike Black, LMFT, for a 3-week class on attachment, family patterns, and resilience, with content grounded in both counseling research and Scripture. Each week combines teaching, biblical framework, and small-group discussion so you leave with real tools, not just theory.

Walk away with:

- A clearer picture of your own attachment style and how it shapes your parenting
- A biblical framework for healing broken or strained family dynamics
- Practical tools for building resilience and repair at any stage of parenting



Register by Sunday, October 4 at ctk.link/events. Questions? Email Erin Drews (erind@ctk.church)

couples

community
partners

Date Night

WITH AUTHOR GARY THOMAS

Thursday, October 1
6:00–8:00 PM in the Meeting Place

\$75.00 per couple includes dinner

Every relationship is becoming something. The question isn't whether your relationship is changing but what it's changing into.

Join bestselling author Gary Thomas (*Sacred Marriage*) for a special date night that invites couples to rediscover God's design and purpose for their relationship. Rather than settling for simply getting along or finding temporary happiness, you'll explore a richer vision of what it means to pursue Christ together and build a relationship marked by love, grace, and intentionality.

You'll also enjoy a delicious dinner together, meaningful conversation, and an evening that will strengthen both your relationship and your walk with Christ.

Whether you've been together for a few years or for decades, you'll leave encouraged, challenged, and inspired to invest in the relationship God has entrusted to you.

Don't settle for simply sharing a life together. Discover what your relationship was created for.



Register by Sunday, September 27 at ctk.link/datenight.

Questions? Contact Pastor Ryan Ervin (ryane@ctk.church).

Learn more about a few of our community partners this fall at their special fundraising events.

September Fest for Be The One



Saturday, September 19
3–7 PM at Samson Estates Winery

Come out and support the largest youth mentoring program in Whatcom County at their fall fundraiser. For the last four years, CTK has partnered with Be the One, who provide one-on-one weekly mentors for students in Ferndale, Lynden, and Nooksack School Districts. This is a fun night and a chance to raise the basic costs of matching dozens of students with a caring, consistent adult.

For more info and to register, visit betheonetoday.org/septemberfest.

Harvest, Hops and Hope

Saturday, October 10
11:00 AM at Stemma West

Blue Skies for Children exists to raise hope and self-esteem in young hearts and minds by sponsoring enrichment programs and other essentials for homeless, low-income, and foster children. Join them at Stemma Brewing West for casual pumpkin carving plus kids' fun activities.



Tickets can be purchased at blueskiesforchildren.org.

The Heart of the Clinic

Friday, October 30
5:30 PM at Ferndale Event Center

It's the 35th Anniversary of the Whatcom Pregnancy Clinic! Join them for a complimentary buffet dinner and program describing the impactful work they do with women facing an unplanned pregnancy.



Register at whatcomclinic.com/events for an opportunity to donate to this life-saving, incredible work.

food share & farm

Come help us finish the harvest!

Summer is over, but believe it or not, there are still over 50,000 pounds of food to be harvested this fall! Our regular farm volunteers have put in thousands of hours to get us to this point. Will you help us finish the harvest? Here are some ways to get involved:



Pumpkin and Squash Harvest Sunday, September 20 • 2:00 PM

Head on out to the farm* and help us bring in all the pumpkins and squash for the season. This is a family-friendly event where we go on a scavenger hunt to find all the items hidden in the vines. And you get to take pumpkins home too! We're looking for 50 volunteers to get it done all in one day.



Fall Farm Workdays

Mondays and Thursdays, 9 AM–Noon

Regular farm workdays continue through the end of October, so come on out* and join us to finish getting all the fall crops out of the field!

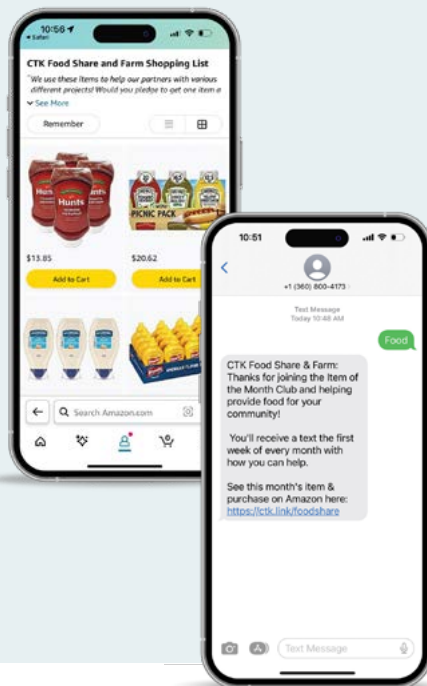


Find out more at
ctkserves.org/volunteer.
Questions? Email Faith Whaley
(faithw@ctk.church).

CTK Food Share Item of the Month Club

Our **Item of the Month Club** becomes a big part of our fall and winter work at the CTK Food Share ministry when we don't have farm-fresh food to offer. Joining the club is simple—just text FOOD to 360-800-4173 and you'll receive one monthly text message with a link to our Amazon wishlist. When you order there, and it's sent directly to the church! We ask that members purchase 1 or 2 times from the list each month. What a simple way to feed your neighbors!

**Text FOOD
to 360-800-4173**



SEPTEMBER

Canned Protein for Bellingham Food Bank

Bellingham Food Bank is the largest food bank in Washington, serving over 5,000 households each week!

OCTOBER

Peanut Butter for Lord's Table Food Bank

A local church has a food bank that helps support the Van Zandt area in east Whatcom County. They are unsupported by many of the usual food banking programs and rely on local donations to support their clients.

NOVEMBER

Cereal and Tuna Pouches for Mount Baker School District

Many students rely on school breakfast and lunches for their daily nutrition. But when school is closed for winter break, students lose access to those meals. With one of their schools running at a 90% free or reduced lunch rate, the boxes the district provides ensure that kids have enough food to eat.

DECEMBER

Canned Soup for Meals on Wheels

Seniors are often on a fixed income, and food becomes difficult to afford. Meals on Wheels helps by hosting daily meals at local senior centers and delivering meals to folks who are unable to get to those locations.

*Getting to the CTK Farm

The farm is located at the corner of Hannegan Road and E Hemmi Road (6069 Hannegan Road) on land donated for use by a local family. Enter from E Hemmi Road and park in the grassy area next to the first field.

response teams

With a little help from our friends...

As the old song goes, we get by with a little help from our friends (and our church family). This year we've seen an answer to the prayer, "God, we want Response Teams to serve our church family." And he has answered with abundant opportunity. We've tackled overgrown yards, repaired broken spigots, moved families into new homes, and more.



The beauty of the projects we do for CTKers is that they come in all shapes and sizes at different times. Some take a full Saturday with a team of a dozen,



while others take no more than an hour and a specialized individual who knows what they're doing.

We know it's not always easy to ask for help. Often it taps into lies we believe about ourself or others or even causes us to feel shame that we need support. But when we help one another, we grow in our capacity to give and receive love more deeply just as Jesus intended.

Many of our Response Team projects have come to our attention

through an advocate—a friend, a family member, a small group member, or an acquaintance met on a Sunday morning. These are examples of our church in action, seeking to lend a helping hand. Projects for our congregants are always popping up, and we know God has so much more in store for us.

If you or someone you know has a need, or knows of a member of the CTK family in need, email Nathan Ford (nathanf@ctk.church) to start a conversation and see if Response Teams can help.



DON'T MISS THE RESPONSE TEAMS SEASON FINALE!



Final Response Team Project of 2026

Saturday, October 3

9:00 AM–4:00 PM at Cascade Connections

Fall begins the natural slowdown for Response Teams projects. But even as the weather gets colder and less reliable, we want to end our season with fervor. Landscaping and home repair are the bread and butter of Response Teams.

Cascade Connections has been a CTK community partner for nine years, and since 1980, they have been providing services to people with disabilities that now include home care, residential programs, training, and vocational services.

Our goal is to serve and bless our friends at Cascade Connections by trimming branches, mowing the lawn, and taking care of some repairs like fixing siding and adding address signage. So lace up your closed-toed shoes and come ready to close out the Response Team season strong. All ages welcome!



**Sign up by Wednesday, September 30 at ctkserves.org/serve.
Questions? Email Nate Ford (nathanf@ctk.church).**



CTK Life... right in your mailbox!

The quarterly CTK Life, our online weekly program (info.ctk.church), our website (ctk.church), and Midweek Connection email every Wednesday are the main ways we communicate with our large and ever-shifting congregation.

CTK Life is the place we share an entire quarter's opportunities to connect, grow, and serve, in one publication. You can use it to find your next step in spiritual growth. Or as a prayer prompt to cover the CTK family and God's work here in our midst. Or you can use it to invite someone to a specific opportunity as the Holy Spirit leads. And if you know someone who's looking for a church, CTK Life can give them a sense of who we are and CTK's specific calling as a part of the larger body of Christ.

We've come to learn that some of you who primarily watch services online would appreciate a printed copy of CTK Life. That's easy enough! We'd be happy to mail you one each quarter so you can thumb through, mark up, pray over, and share it. Though we might not see you in person, we see you online and know that you are a part of our church family.

Just call the church and leave your name and mailing address for Daylee, or email her at dayleeh@ctk.church.

serving at ctk

Find Your Spot to Serve with CTK

Serving one another in the body of Christ is an essential component of growing up spiritually. You can't practice the one-another commands of Scripture alone. Whether you serve at one-time events, on a regular rhythm or choose to step into leadership, each opportunity gives you real-life practice at loving one another, encouraging one another, and bearing with one another.

It's also essential to the ministry God has called us to that we each play our unique part, using our particular gifts and abilities to build the kingdom of God. If you haven't yet found your way to contribute to the ministry of Jesus through CTK, here's a starting point and a brief list of our greatest current needs:

Start here to find your spot:

- **Visit serve.ctk.church** to explore the different ways to serve at CTK, partnering with God to help others meet Jesus and grow spiritually.
- **Visit ctkserves.org** to see current ways to make a difference in the community through our partners, for the vulnerable neighbors they serve, and for needs in our own church family.
- **Call CTK's office at 360-733-1337** and ask about serving. Kobi will talk you through some possibilities and get you connected to the right person to find out more.
- **Stop by the Connection Point** in the Commons before or after any Sunday service and we can begin a conversation to help you find a good fit.

Our greatest needs this fall:

- **CTK Kids:** Sunday helpers for 4th grade and younger (see page 6)
- **Summit:** 5th & 6th grade ministry during Sunday services starting September 13 (see page 6)
- **AV Production Team:** camera operators—no prior experience needed! (see page 15)
- **Cordata Place Trick or Treat:** all kinds of help with setup, hosting, candy distribution, cleanup, and more (see page 4)



What impression of Jesus does CTK give the community?

Communities are made of people in a particular place and time with a distinct shared culture and many subcultures, as well as the groups and institutions they create—businesses, schools, government, and churches. Have you ever stopped to think about what Christ the King Community Church adds to this community? What are we known for, or are we known at all? For someone who's never stepped foot in our doors, what is their impression of CTK? And if we ceased to exist next week, would our community miss us?

Back in 2016, we felt God's call to shift how we intentionally invest in Whatcom County. That's when our community partnerships began and our food bank transitioned to a food share ministry. We've spent 10 years learning how to make ourselves and our pooled resources available in ways that would bless our most vulnerable neighbors. Whether it's fresh produce at food banks, yard work for a hard-working nonprofit, or lending our building for everything from a back-

to-school store to a kids' speech and physical therapy clinic, all of the ways we volunteer and give as a church are intended to paint a picture of who God is and how much he cares.

Every effort, from the smallest act of individual kindness to the biggest endeavors that hundreds of CTKers tackle together, is an expression of the kind of Jesus followers we want to be. Our relationship with God necessarily impacts the way we see others. His love compels us to serve. His justice requires us to see and to move toward the disadvantaged.

And everything we do through the CTK Blessing requires volunteers and money to accomplish. The veggie van needs volunteer drivers and money to buy gas. The next Response Team project will need volunteers to bring their expertise and money to buy sheetrock, bark, and who knows what else. Both our time and money invested into our community shine the light of Jesus into Whatcom County through CTK.

Could you be the next Blessing Coordinator at CTK?

For 23 years, the CTK Blessing has been the way our large church family rallies to help when one of us goes through a job loss, an injury or illness, or other unforeseen circumstances leading to financial hardship. But it's more than the offering we take each November.

Time and time again, CTKers tell us how much it mattered in the midst of their crisis to have a person walk alongside them, look at things with fresh eyes, help connect them to our community's many resources and programs, to listen, brainstorm, and encourage them through the hard work of making a comeback. That person has been our Blessing Coordinator.

We have been looking for about 6 months for the next person to fill this unique case management role that works with people one-on-one in the areas of their finances, relational support system, spiritual health, and goal planning. They also coordinate workshops and support groups for learning and mutual support in rebuilding financial stability.

If you have a background in human services and can balance both compassion and discernment in decision-making, we would love to meet you! This is more than a job; it's a unique role in our church family—one that is both beautiful and hard. It's a chance to

Blessing Offering Breakdown

Every November we focus our "above-and-beyond" giving on funding the CTK Blessing for the coming year. Here is what it will take to continue investing in the lives of our church family and most vulnerable neighbors in 2027:

- \$60,000 CTKers in Financial Need
- \$20,000 Scholarships & Counseling Assistance
- \$50,000 Food Share & Farm
- \$30,000 Response Team Service Projects
- \$10,000 Administration & Training
- \$30,000 Community Partnerships

Total Giving Goal: \$200,000

All giving toward The Blessing is pooled in a single fund to be distributed among these needs at the discretion of the Blessing Team staff.



**NOW
HIRING!**

see God at work in people's lives during the most stressful, uncertain times and testify to his faithfulness.

Find full details and apply at
[**ctk.church/employment**](http://ctk.church/employment).

We're not alone!

Christ the King Community Church is a network of four Whatcom County churches with the same name, the same mission, and the same central services that help to organize our ministry and administrate our resources.

Though all our campuses share a lot in common, each location has its own unique flavor, shaped by its leadership team and the community it serves (Bellingham, Blaine, Ferndale, and Sudden Valley).

If you're ever looking for something a little different than the Bellingham campus offers, check out other campuses' Facebook pages or go visit another campus some Sunday!

More CTK Network Campuses



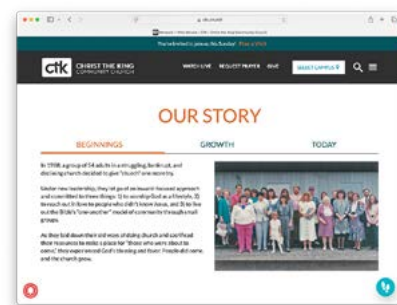
Blaine 674 Peace Portal Dr
Sundays, 10:00 AM
facebook.com/ctkblaine



Sudden Valley 8 Barn View Ct
Sundays, 10:00 AM
facebook.com/ctksuddenvalley



Ferndale 5627 3rd Ave
Sundays, 9:30 & 11:00 AM
facebook.com/ctkferndale



Learn more about our
campuses and our history at
ctk.church/bellingham/about

Explore the CTK Network

Checking in with Tommy Manay, CTK Global Director

God is moving around the world through CTK's Global Partners

Hello CTK family, it's Tommy Manay, all the way from the Philippines, and we have amazing reports and stories of what's been happening all around the world with CTK's Global Partners. When I was in Bellingham for Global Impact Month earlier this year, Pastor Grant was sharing about CTK's global impact. It's not just about a bunch of different ministries and a bunch of different leaders, but it's actually about our global family all sitting at the same table as if we were all eating a meal together — as one family in Christ.

And that's what I really want to share about — this table that God has set, where he has given CTK a global family with many different family members all over the world. And I'm happy to report that there are over seven countries that CTK is blessing with over 17 unique ministries that are impacting different spheres of society, from family to education to healthcare to drilling wells and providing water, and it's amazing to see what the Lord is doing.

One thing that I want to bring to your attention is what's happening in Belize. When you are dealing with prostitution, or redlight ministry as it's sometimes called, over 90% of the women that are being reached have a chance of not making it to freedom. Studies have shown that the only women who are actually making it out of prostitution are the ones who find a home. In other words, they have to find a family. They have to find a seat at the table where people won't see them as a project, but will actually take them in as a family member.

And I wanted to let all of you at CTK know that we are actually letting other people sit at our table in Belize that have been reached by ministries to prostitutes, and now they're able to build a home, build a family, be restored; and women are getting set free and remaining free



Tommy and Claudia Manay and family

because of our investment into their futures through the restoration home we funded some years back.

Another amazing ministry that I want to share about is taking place in Africa. As you look into all these different places where living on a dollar a day is a normal thing; where sickness is so common; where early death is so common; where young people being impacted by injustice and corruption is so common; what we're seeing is at the bottom of this ladder are women that are widowed. And if you look at the cultural structure of Africa, women are already seen as the lowest of the low. But a woman that is widowed is seen as almost exiled out the culture.

But because of our ministry partners that are in Kenya and Tanzania are working so vibrantly to restore these families. For example, one widow with four kids was having her house destroyed over and over again by a falling tree. But because of this rehabilitation and restoration home for widows, we're seeing them not just survive as victims, but rise up and become leaders over their families. In a place where God is redeeming that is even tougher than most people's situation because they're on the bottom of this social class ladder, which is an injustice. But because them

sitting at this table, we're able to see God's redemption as a solution to what's happening in the nation.

Another amazing story that's happening in Southeast Asia, is young men being transformed by sports. In so much of the world, soccer is the prominent sport. In Thailand, through Enoch Ministries with Laya Sirikul, we're seeing the soccer field become a place of transformation in one of the most unreached places in the world. Children and youth are encountering the Lord through one of their favorite sports. And that has built a bridge where kids can do what they love, encounter Jesus, be disciplined, and become part of a church that fosters a deeper relationship with God.

All these stories are just the tip of the iceberg. When it comes to numbers, here's some good news: 5 new wells are in progress in Honduras through Living Water International, so they can offer clean water where none was available and the living water of Jesus to satisfy spiritual thirst. 600 widows in Africa have been impacted by the ministry of our partners in Kenya and Tanzania. 700 orphaned children are being impacted. 2,500 salvations have been witnessed in one of the most persecuted places on the planet — regions that can't safely be spoken of. 9,600 villages have been reached with the gospel in another unreached territory of the world. More than 500,000 gospel pamphlets have been distributed in another persecuted place of the world.

So let's just rejoice in the Lord and everything that he's doing all around the planet, know that this is just the tip of the iceberg of what God is doing through the global partners CTK has teamed up with. Thank you for your involvement, thank you for your prayers and your partnership.

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www.rightnowmedia.org



RightNow Media is a great tool for taking the next small step in your spiritual growth. Like a Netflix of Christian Bible study, RightNow has more than 10,000 Bible study videos, sermons, and kid's videos online.

As a CTK attendee, you have unlimited access from your computer, mobile device, and most streaming devices including Apple TV, Roku, and Chromecast. Take advantage of RightNow Media for your personal study and growth or share with friends and family in small groups or one-on-one Bible study.



To get started, go to
ctk.church/rightnowmedia

online resources

from Pastor Grant & Laurel Fishbook



Continuing the Conversation with Grant & Laurel Fishbook

Everyone needs a safe place to talk. Pastor Grant and Laurel Fishbook are passionate about the messiness of authentic conversation. Fielding hard questions with sometimes difficult responses, they bring a lot of laughs, maybe some tears, and everything in between. Join them to gain understanding about yourself, others, and following Jesus.

Check out new podcast episodes with live questions from listeners and responses from Grant and Laurel. New episodes are available to watch live on the second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 AM at jesus.net/live or on the second Friday of every month at podcast.ctk.church.



Also, join Grant live every Wednesday at 10:00 AM at jesus.net/live for more live questions and responses.

Catch new episodes at
podcast.ctk.church
and
jesus.net/live



Pastor Grant's Devotional Audio Guides from jesus.net

Looking for some encouragement and challenge in your personal time with Jesus this fall? Join Pastor Grant for one or more of these 21-day devotional journeys using daily audio guides produced by jesus.net.

Sign up at the links provided to receive a daily email containing the audio devotional along with a link to a downloadable/printable guide. When you sign up, you'll have the option to donate to jesus.net or request free access.



Every Moment: A 21 Day Spiritual Reset for Your Past, Present and Future

Summary: Many times I wish life came with a reset button—for my past, present, and future. Yet Jesus calls us to live in every moment, as each one is a sacred moment from him.



Sign up at ctk.link/reset



Named & Chosen: A 21 Day Exploration of Your Identity in Christ

Summary: I have some old names in my heart that I have carried for far too long—failure, liar, fraud, and broken. Whether these names were true or not, I allowed them to become a part of me. Acknowledging the pain of that old label is the first step in letting it go,

and releasing the pain to God is an important part of healing. As a follower of Jesus, you have been made new! God does not see you with all the brokenness of your old life. He sees you as clean, whole, and restored.



Sign up at ctk.link/named



Restoring Calm: The Transformative Power of God's Promises

Summary: Strengthen your faith with this 21-day audio guide. Receive daily encouragement and learn how to claim God's promises in your life.



Sign up at ctk.link/restoringcalm



21 Days of Listening to God's Voice

Summary: Discover how God speaks and how you can grow in this intimacy with him to live in all that God has planned for you! In this 21-day journey narrated by Pastor Grant, you will learn how to practice actively listening to God and, little by little, to develop your spiritual ears. Written by David Thiery and narrated by Pastor Grant Fishbook.



Sign up at ctk.link/listening

service times

NEW SCHEDULE! IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Sundays at **9:00 & 11:00 AM**

Children's ministry for 6th grade and younger
available at both Sunday morning services

ONLINE-ONLY REBROADCAST

Sundays at 6:00 PM



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