

A Time of Reflection & Renewal

Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of the Congregation Council, thank you for empowering us to serve the congregation at this time. It is our privilege and we do so only with your support and the Holy Spirit's guidance. It seems fitting that we met for the first time as a new council just before the start of Lent; a time of reflection and renewal. While the word change gives me pause, as change is constant and healthy, it seems like Christ the King is perhaps also in the midst of a time of reflection and more importantly, renewal.

As I thought about how to connect our story to the Bible, I stumbled across Isaiah 43. At the start, we find the prophet speaking to the Israelites in exile. He begins by reminding the people of God's power and might, their salvation from Egypt, and their journey to the Promised Land. I imagine Isaiah's descriptions of the "origin story," if you will, of the Israelites serves as a way to lighten the mood considering their current situation. The good ole' days, ya know? But he continues from verse 18 with the divine admonition: "Forget about what's happened; don't keep going over old history. Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new." It's here that God obliges us to stop lamenting the loss of things past but rather, use our past to look unafraid at the future, trusting that God will create new paths.

Earlier this month, we gathered in fellowship on a Saturday afternoon ready to lean in and listen to who God is calling us to be at CtK. It quickly became clear that the next step in our renewal journey is to reinvigorate our mission statement and the values statements that accompany it. Equipped with invaluable knowledge from the recently held listening circles, we have spent the time since delving into who we have all said we are as a community. Here's what you've told us:

We are individuals united by our belief in Jesus Christ.

We have all made CtK our home, no matter the paths taken to get here.

We value music and its power to transcend barriers.

We cherish children and youth and all they have to teach us.

We hold high tradition but are open to making new ones.

We strive to exemplify strength in diversity.

We **are** all these things and as your Council, we promise to continue to listen and to lead by example. Looking forward, it is our intention to carry on creating concrete values statements and a new mission statement based on the input you have provided both in the listening circles and directly since then. We will be presenting these statements to the congregation at our Annual Meeting: Part 2 on June 2, 2019 where we hope you will vote in favor of adopting in anticipation of a Rally Day rollout in the fall.

Christ the King is on a journey. Proud of the work we have done, we are humbled by the work yet to come. As we grow in our practice of listening to one another, let us remember what God tells us through the prophet Isaiah: "Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new."

In peace,

Isaac Warner, *President*

Darin Zielsdorf, *Treasurer*

Brett Kosec, *President-Elect*

Jill Loegering, *Secretary*

Cheri Aldridge

Abby Morphew

Gladys Alvarez

Danny Reinschmidt

Nancy Burton

Diane Shallue

Karen Hillerman

Peachu Yates