



October 1, 2020

Dear Friends at Christ the King,

It has been over six months now since a global pandemic disrupted our ministry. Since that time, so much has changed for us at CTK. We have not been able to worship together in our sanctuary. Pastoral care visits are mostly done over the phone. Meetings take place on Zoom, or outdoors in circles of distanced lawn chairs. We've missed being together for holidays like Easter and Pentecost, as well as other special occasions like Confirmation, Music Sunday, and Rally Day. We miss sharing in holy communion as a faith community. We miss singing together and hearing from our awesome choir and other music groups. Perhaps more than anything, we miss each other.

This disruption has also meant big changes to our ministry budget, as we have had to adapt to the realities of the world around us. Thankfully, our financial position has remained relatively strong, with overall income outpacing expenses since the Covid-19 "shut down." CTK members have been exceptionally generous, with some fulfilling their pledge early, and others increasing their giving well beyond the pledged amount. A forgivable loan secured through the Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) brought salary stability for our entire staff through the end of the second quarter. Reduced expenses in these past six months have further helped us remain in a healthy financial position. Christ the King/Cristo Rey members contributed more than \$12,000 above their pledged offerings for a *Covid-19 Relief Fund*, which was further supplemented by \$4,000 in matching funds offered by the Christ the King Foundation. Such financial strength has allowed us to continue to provide essential ministry which lives out our shared values: *engaging worship, nurturing faith, growing compassion and building community.*

We may be apart for now, but we are together for good.

For nearly sixty years, this congregation has worked together to be witnesses to God's goodness and mercy, to God's unconditional love, and to God's wide welcome to all people. This year, perhaps more than ever, we are struck by the need to be flexible in responding to changes in the world around us. It's hard to imagine what additional changes we may be called to faithfully undertake next, given that this pandemic shows no signs of ending anytime soon. We can't fully know what exactly this next year may look like in terms of our ministry; at the same time, we need to continue praying about, planning for, and funding the ministry God is calling us to do together in the coming year. We need to be sure that we are equipped to respond to these new realities—both foreseen and unforeseen—as we faithfully enter another year of ministry together.

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During this time of physical separation, we continue to count on your support as part of the CtK faith community. We rely on your offerings to provide ministry which responds appropriately and ministers faithfully to our entire congregation. As we look ahead to 2021, this likely means additional innovation and flexibility as we continue to record and livestream worship; to offer confirmation, Bible study, discussion groups, and committee meetings over Zoom; and to care for one another primarily through calls, emails, and physically-distanced visits. This year, perhaps more than ever, we need to hear from all of our members in order to create a realistic ministry budget for the coming year.

Enclosed is your **2021 Pledge Card**. In the coming days, I invite you and your family to:

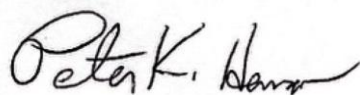
- **Pray for CtK's ministries**, considering the ways we may have to continue to modify our ministries as the COVID-19 pandemic and economic crisis continue;
- **Consider how God is calling you to generously support those ministries this year**, and all the good we are able to do together, even when we are apart.
- **Complete your enclosed Pledge Card** for the 2021 CtK Ministry Budget;
- **Mail it to the church office in the enclosed envelope**, if possible, by November 8.

If you haven't already, I also strongly encourage you to consider setting up an on-going electronic transfer through *Simply Giving*, which allows CtK members to give offerings regularly, consistently, and securely. Electronic giving allows us to process your offering quickly while reducing administrative costs, assuring that more of every dollar given can be used to fund the ministry we are called to do as a congregation. The authorization form is enclosed and can be sent in the same return envelope as your pledge card.

I am grateful for the generosity so many of you have shown even during this time of global pandemic and general uncertainty. I am confident that together and by God's grace, we will continue to provide ministry which responds to the needs of our community, even during these unprecedented times. I invite you to reflect on ways God has abundantly blessed you, and I encourage your generosity as you prayerfully discern your financial commitment to Christ the King's ministry for the coming year.

We may be apart for now, but we are together for good.

In Christ,



Pastor Peter Hanson

