

# ctk life

FALL 2022

make a  
fresh start



**CHRIST THE KING**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

# A great season to start fresh.

**FALL IS UPON US**, bringing cooler days, earlier sunsets, and a return to more regular rhythms of life.

The freshness in the air is a great reminder that it's never too late for a fresh start in your relationship with God and your pursuit of community with others.

In these pages, you'll find many options to connect, grow, and serve. So be bold and courageous, and ask for God's help to cross the line from *I want to* to *I will!* We're always here to help you put your faith into action and take your next step of growth.

**We'd love to hear your story.**

Email [stories@ctk.church](mailto:stories@ctk.church)



Scan the QR code to email us your story

## A Note from Grant Fishbook LEAD TEACHING PASTOR



**In every wedding I officiate**, there's a strategically planned moment when the tension in the room goes up dramatically. This moment occurs as

the bride and groom face each other and I say to the groom,

"I'm going to ask you a question. If you get the answer to the question wrong, I'm going to leave, and you will have to find someone else to do your wedding. And in case you're wondering, I am not kidding. I need to know your answer to this question. The bride's father needs to know your answer to this question, and most importantly, God needs to hear your answer to this question. No pressure. Here's my question. If it came down to a choice between your life and your bride's life, would you die for her?"

I've heard some amazing answers to that question over the years and in pretty much every case, when the groom whispers, "I would," the bride cries, her father cries, both moms cry, *I cry*, and it's beautiful.

A well-placed question can change the direction of a moment and a life.

Jesus was a master of asking strategic questions. His conversations were full of questions that made people stop, ponder, and respond. Sometimes his questions provoked anger and frustration. Sometimes his questions forced people to look deep within their own soul. This fall, we're going to hear the questions of Jesus, and then we'll stop, ponder, and respond. Because I believe the questions Jesus asked thousands of years ago are questions he's waiting for each of us to answer today.

### Jesus asked...

"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?"

"Do you believe I am able to do this?"

"Who do you say that I am?"

"Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

"Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do the things that I say?"

"Are you going to leave me too?"

These are just a few of the questions we'll face together this fall at Christ the King Community Church. I can't wait to see what God does as we bravely respond together!

Excited for fall!

Pastor Grant





**Fall marks the start of a new ministry season at CTK.** I just love watching the seasons change, and autumn, with all its changing colors, is one of my favorites.

Even though January is traditionally the month for new beginnings, September feels like the start of something new—a season with lots to look forward to. It's a season full of hope and excitement where you know that at the end, Christmas and New Year's awaits. I think most of us are feeling hopeful that life is getting back to normal, even if that's a new normal. Fall is a great time to look forward and focus on the opportunities the season brings. We have been busy planning for this season!

We've been dreaming and planning all summer and are so excited about all we have for you. There are ways for you to grow deeper in your relationship with Jesus and opportunities to reconnect or connect for the first time with a community of people who are figuring out life just like you are. We also have opportunities for you to serve others both inside the church and in the very community God puts you in. Many of you are already doing this.

Some of you will volunteer in your kid's classroom or coach a sports team this fall. Some of you will volunteer at a non-profit as a mentor, show up at a service project or serve in children's ministries. Many of you will donate food, bring a neighbor a meal, help a loved one or friend in need. Because this is who you are. Many of you will reconnect in small groups and attend Bible studies. Some of you will re-enter the church building for the first time in months or years. If you're looking for ways to grow, connect and serve, we are here to help! If you're new to this experience, take a risk and connect with others for the first time. We're a pretty OK bunch!

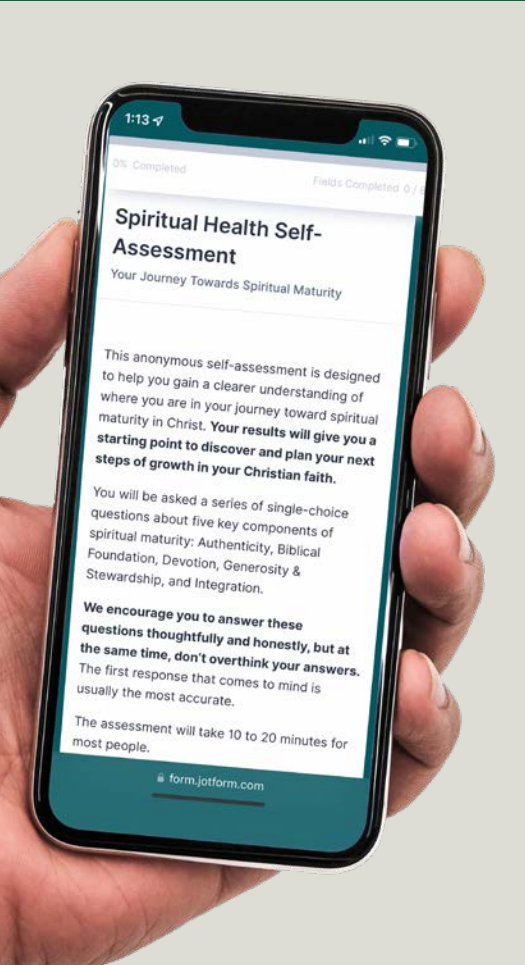
This edition of CTK Life is full of opportunities to do all these things. A church on mission is a group of believers who choose to involve themselves in each other's lives and challenge each other to take those next steps of faith. It includes believers both mature and young, mentors and peers, and it's a place where those who don't know Jesus yet are welcomed and wanted. This is a place where we intentionally grow, connect, and serve together.

Blessings,  
Melonie

# what's inside

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## Where is God inviting you to grow?

Growing in our faith requires action, but how do we find that next step God is inviting us to take?

**If you're feeling stagnant, stuck or even bored in your spiritual growth**, the Spiritual Health Self-Assessment serves as a tool to help you identify where you are right now and discover the next good thing God is inviting you into. If you already know what God is asking you to do, just keep doing that! This tool was never meant to be another religious “to-do” list. Rather than distract you from the Holy Spirit’s whisper, our hope is that this series of introspective questions magnifies his leading and prompting.

Once you’ve finished the assessment, there are many next steps you can take—anywhere, at any time. You’ll find those at [ctk.church/shsa/nextsteps](https://www.ctk.church/shsa/nextsteps).

There are other next steps you can take with us right here at CTK. Here are some upcoming opportunities to help you move forward in a particular area of spiritual health:

- **Authenticity**  
Stand Firm for Men (page 16)
- **Biblical Foundation**  
Starting Your Journey With the Bible (page 17)
- **Devotion**  
The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry women’s study (page 14)
- **Generosity & Stewardship**  
Starting Your Journey with Serving (page 17)
- **Integration**  
Small Group Experience (page 16)

To get started, talk to another trusted believer and see if they’d be willing to meet with you after you take the assessment. Then go to [grow.ctk.church](https://www.grow.ctk.church) to take the assessment (about 15 minutes) and have it emailed to your discussion partner. If you are looking for someone to have this conversation with, you can also call the church and ask for a 30-minute next steps session with the pastor on call that week.

## Do you know what’s holding you back?

Self-assessment leads to new discoveries and tangible growth for a CTK attendee

BY J CHAVES



The Spiritual Health Self-Assessment opened my eyes to all the different areas of my faith. It showed me where in my life I tend to run away or not pay attention as much.

One area the assessment measures is integration. I noticed that bottling up my feelings impacted my faith because

I would just throw them at God one day and be angry at him, rather than walking with God and others as I go. Instead of confronting others, I would confront God. I was unaware that my feelings and relationships with others actually have a direct impact on how I understand God.

Having God reveal these areas to me helped me recenter and push myself to grow more in my faith! As a result, I have been communicating with others

and opening up more. I’m being honest with my feelings rather than bottling them up and keeping things inside until I explode.

It makes me feel very vulnerable at times, but I know God is calling me to it and it is growing my trust in him as he guides me through moments of discomfort. I think if I were to take the assessment in a few months my answers would be different—because I know I am growing!

# community resources

## You are not alone.

Many of us carry family burdens that others don't see — burdens that seem ours to bear alone.

But support and resources are available in our community, and we want to share some of those trusted resources with you.



### Parents of Addicted Loved Ones [palgroup.org](http://palgroup.org)

Parents of an adult child dealing with substance use disorder (either drugs or alcohol) can find hope and support through Parents of Addicted Loved Ones (PAL). PAL meetings help you find others who can walk with you. It's not an easy journey, but you don't have to go it alone.

A PAL group meets regularly in Blaine, and they invite you reach out for support. Contact Bev or David for more info at [wamillards@comcast.net](mailto:wamillards@comcast.net)



### Dementia Support Northwest [dementiasupportnw.org](http://dementiasupportnw.org)

Since 1983, Dementia Support Northwest (formerly known as the Alzheimer Society of Washington) has served Whatcom County as an organization of volunteers, family, and friends of persons affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related illnesses. Their mission is to educate people about dementia-related diseases by supporting people with dementia and their caregivers, families, and friends. Dementia Support NW offers education, support groups, memory screenings, dementia training, and more.

Find out more at [www.dementiasupportnw.org](http://www.dementiasupportnw.org).  
Email [alz@dementiasupportnw.org](mailto:alz@dementiasupportnw.org) or call 360-671-3316.



### NW Regional Council Aging and Disability Resource Center

Since 1978, the Northwest Regional Council Senior Information & Assistance program has been helping seniors and their families access a wide range of public and private resources. Their goal is to support the independence, dignity, and health of older adults and people with disabilities. Their services are free of charge to adults age 60 and over, people with disabilities, and friends and family members on their behalf. These include connection to needed resources for long or short-term care, caregiver support, housing, and more.

Contact the Northwest Regional Council at (360) 676-6749 or visit [www.nwrcwa.org/aging-and-disability-resources-adr](http://www.nwrcwa.org/aging-and-disability-resources-adr)



# coming soon

## Red Letter Questions



FALL SERMON SERIES

### Red Letter Questions

Every Sunday in October and November we'll explore some of the questions Jesus asked during his time here among us. Though he asked them more than 2000 years ago, every one of Jesus' questions is just as relevant for you today—whether you're a devoted follower of Jesus, new to faith, or just exploring what it means to follow him.

GET CONNECTED THIS FALL

### Fall Connection

Sunday, November 20  
After both services  
in the Meeting Place

After either service on November 20th, head over to the Meeting Place for a mini fall festival. Enjoy the tastes and smells of a cozy fall afternoon, snap a picture in the photo booth, and—most importantly—connect with your church family. We'd love to get to know you!



## CANCELED FOR 2022

We hope to offer this next year!

*All is Bright!*

WALK-THROUGH  
CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAY

SAVE THE DATE

### All Is Bright

Wednesday through Sunday,  
December 7 through 11 • Various Times

Don't miss the Christmas event that booked up completely last year! Plan now to invite your friends & family to attend All Is Bright, a free indoor walk-through light display. And if you love Christmas, don't just attend the display, help create it!

For more information about how you can be a part creating this dazzling display of lights, contact Angel Finsrud ([angelf@ctk.church](mailto:angelf@ctk.church) or ext. 2241).

# Let's light up neighborhoods this Halloween with **CTK GLOW STATIONS!**



See you in the neighborhood on **MONDAY, OCTOBER 31!**

For more than a decade, CTK has hosted Glow Stations all over the county, where kids and their parents can stop for glow bracelets, a friendly interaction, and of course, candy! A fun way to “love where you live,” Glow Stations have proven to start conversations and connect neighbors year after year.

### **3 Ways to Participate**

- 1. Go and Glow.** If you live in a neighborhood visited by lots of trick-or-treaters on Halloween, we would love to equip you to host a Glow Station right in your neighborhood. Sign up at [ctk.link/glow](https://ctk.link/glow) so we can provide you with candy, glow bracelets, and a sign.
- 2. Stock the Sweets.** Donate bags of candy at the wheelbarrow in the Commons between October 9th and 26th.
- 3. Give to the Glow.** Donate funds to help us supply each station with glow bracelets. Just choose Glow Stations when you give online or write Glow Stations on your check.

**Sign up online to host a station by Wednesday, October 26!**

For more information, visit [ctk.church/glowstations](https://ctk.church/glowstations) or contact Missy Matteson ([missym@ctk.church](mailto:missym@ctk.church)).

# community partners

“NOT ALL OF US HAVE THE LOVING SUPPORT of a strong network of close family and friends. God calls us to help fill in those cracks in our community when and where we can.

The overflow shelter is one of those cracks or spaces where we can provide love and support in a meaningful and tangible way to those who need it.

Everyone has a story, and I appreciate that I've been able to share stories and experiences with many of the guests and volunteers at the overflow shelter. We've made connections, and this is real evidence of God's Holy Spirit moving and working among us.”

—Winter Shelter Volunteer

## Winter Shelter Orientation

### IN-PERSON

Sunday, November 20  
6:30–8:30 PM at the Shelter  
1013 West Holly Street

### ONLINE

Wednesday, November 16  
6:30–8:30 PM via Zoom

Our economy, job market, cost of living, housing market, childcare shortage, and mental health crisis...all of these big



issues are forcing more and more people and families onto the streets of our community. Don't stand by in despair or frustration. Be part of the solution!

Again this winter, CTK will be hosting a winter shelter for up to 40 men who need a warm place to sleep between December 1st and February 29th. Year after year, volunteers tell us how thankful they are to have participated, to have their perspective shaped by the experience, and to be part of making a life-and-death difference for some of the most vulnerable in Whatcom County.

**If you join our volunteer team, we'll make sure you are well-equipped and comfortable serving at the shelter by asking that you:**

- **Complete an interest form** that helps us get to know you and your skills and experience
- Attend a team orientation on Sunday evening, November 20 at the shelter or Wednesday, November 16 via Zoom

We also recommend you attend a tour of the Lighthouse Mission (Oct 11, 15, 18 — see next page for details).

For more information, visit [ctkserves.org/shelter](https://ctkserves.org/shelter)



# YES CARDS FOR EDUCATORS

**Are you a CTK'er who works in education?** Whether you're a teacher, custodian, superintendent, or any other role, you are touching the lives of kids. As you gear up for a new school year, your church wants to support you in the important work you are doing! We recognize that your school is your mission field and we are here to equip you for the ministry you are doing. Where can we help you meet a need in your school?

- Are you a teacher who could use stickers, craft supplies, or books?

- Are you a support staff who's aware of a student who needs a new coat or pair of shoes?
- Are you an administrator who would like to bless your staff with lunch sometime?

These are just a few of the ways we could help you meet the needs that you see—up to \$250.

To apply for a YES Card, visit us at [ctk.church/blessing](https://ctk.church/blessing) and click on CTK'ers in Education.



**Not sure if the need you see fits? Fill out the form and let's have a conversation!**



# ctk food share



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LIGHTHOUSE MISSION MINISTRIES

## Lighthouse Mission Base Camp Tours

As this community's primary low-barrier shelter, Lighthouse Mission Ministries runs at or near capacity year round serving 200+ individuals experiencing homelessness at their Base Camp location on Cornwall. Have you ever wondered how they do it, and what the experience is like behind their doors?

With the recent approval to build a new shelter on their current location in Old Town, it's a perfect time to come see the current facility for yourself! This tour of Base Camp, paired with information on all their programs, will be hosted by their knowledgeable, huge-hearted staff. We are so excited for them to share how the Lighthouse Mission offers a continuum of care to



those at all stages of recovery and rebuilding their lives.

### Choose from three dates:

- Tuesday, October 11 at Noon
- Saturday, October 15 at 10:00 am
- Tuesday, October 18 at 5:00 pm

Lighthouse Mission Base Camp  
1530 Cornwall Ave in Bellingham

Reserve your spot on a tour at  
[ctkserves.org/serve](https://ctkserves.org/serve).



## Partner with us to feed kids!

Grab a few extra items next time you're at the grocery store to help us fill the bellies of kids that rely on school meals to not go hungry.

Each year, CTK's Food Share Ministry partners with Mt. Baker School District and provides 180 tuna packets and 200 boxes of cereal so that students have food to eat during winter break when they're not receiving food at school. We also collect granola bars and cans of chicken noodle soup for Open Hands ministry which gives 800 kids from 3 different school districts bags of food to eat on the weekends.

You can donate the items below in the bin at the church or check out our Amazon wish list found at [ctkserves.org/food-share-farm/donate](https://ctkserves.org/food-share-farm/donate).



### ITEMS OF THE MONTH



**SEPTEMBER**  
Granola Bars

**OCTOBER**  
Cereal



**NOVEMBER**  
Tuna Pouches

**DECEMBER**  
Chicken Noodle Soup



# kids



## We're growing!

### Children's ministry is growing again... come grow with us!

We would love to include you on our team of volunteers who are making a difference. Without volunteers willing to serve, we won't be able to accommodate all the kids. We have opportunities to serve with children from nursery to 5th grade at either Sunday morning service, but especially at 11:15. We'll set up a schedule that works for you—even if you can help at just one service a month. Put your faith in action and make a lasting impact!

To get started, fill out an interest form at [serve.ctk.church](https://serve.ctk.church) or contact Angel Finsrud ([angelf@ctk.church](mailto:angelf@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337 x2241).



Scan QR code to explore opportunities

## CTK Kids Sunday Mornings

Every Sunday during the 9:30 & 11:15 AM services

Every Sunday, there's a place for kids—from newborn to 5th grade—to have fun, make friends, and learn how much Jesus loves them (and how to love him back)!

Questions? Contact Angel Finsrud ([angelf@ctk.church](mailto:angelf@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337 ext. 2241)

### Nursery

Infants and Toddlers up to 23 mo

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 church experience so we focus on the love and joy of Jesus for these youngsters.

### Adventureland

Preschool

Kids ages 2–5 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–5th 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 will grow in their identity in Christ and learn to look out for "God opportunities" and avoid pitfalls that can cause us to lose our way.



Our kids ministry team is currently under construction. As past team members have transitioned to new opportunities, new team members are joining our team!

Construction can be exciting as we anticipate stepping into a bright new future. Construction is also often time-consuming. So, while things may be a little quieter in kids and family ministries this fall, please rest assured—it's only because we're building a new team that's energized and excited to walk alongside you and your kids in the months and years to come.

In the meantime, our team is here to worship and grow with you each weekend. Be sure to check out our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages (*CTK Kids Bellingham*) for fun ideas on how to grow together in your faith as a family.

visit

[kids.ctk.church](https://kids.ctk.church)

for the latest information, events, and opportunities to get connected



# students



## NEW THIS FALL!

## SUNDAY STUDENTS SECTION

Every Sunday at the 11:15 Service

This year we're inviting all middle and high schoolers to join us at the 11:15 service in a reserved student section. If you're in 6th through 12th grade, look for the roped off seats in the front left section of the auditorium and grab a seat with other students and UNITED leaders! We look forward to gathering as a community on Sunday mornings and worshipping together with our whole church family.

## WEEKLY GATHERINGS

### MIDDLE SCHOOL 6TH-8TH GRADE

#### Middle School United (MSU)

Every Tuesday Night  
6:30-8:30 PM in the Meeting Place

Middle school UNITED is back every Tuesday at a new time — 6:30-8:30 pm! We're also excited to announce the start of **Super Tuesdays** — fun outings on the last Tuesday of every month. We might go bowling, have a scavenger hunt, or go to the arcade. Whatever we do, we'll have a blast! Middle schoolers, come join our community as we follow Jesus together.

**No need to sign up — just drop off your students on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm at the side entrance facing DSHS.**

### HIGH SCHOOL 9TH-12TH GRADE

#### High School United (HSU)

Every Sunday Night  
6:30-8:30 PM in the Meeting Place

High school UNITED is back with a brand new time, 6:30-8:30 PM! Also, check out the info about our new Sunday Students Section at the 11:15 AM services (see left). Come join our community as we follow Jesus together!

**No need to sign up — just show up Sunday at 6:30 pm. Use the side entrance facing DSHS.**

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS

### Parents and Family Meet & Greet

Tuesday, October 4  
6:30-8:30 PM in Room 216

Parents of middle schoolers: come meet the MSU staff and leaders, and get to know what's happening with Middle School UNITED this year. We want to partner with you in discipling your students, so please join us!

**No need to sign up—just show up!**  
For more information, email Student Ministries Director Josh Lease ([joshl@ctk.church](mailto:joshl@ctk.church)).

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### UNITED Friendsgivings

High School: Sunday, November 20  
Middle School: Tuesday, November 22  
6:30-8:30 PM in the Meeting Place



Believe it or not, Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and we are celebrating together with Friendsgiving! Get ready for tons of fun and family style dinner... and plenty of pumpkin pie!

### UNITED Christmas Parties

Middle School: Tuesday, December 13  
High School: Sunday, December 18  
6:30-8:30 PM in the Meeting Place



Come celebrate Jesus and have fun at our UNITED Christmas parties during our normal weekly gathering times. Come get a huge dose of Christmas spirit and save room for goodies!



CTK UNITED  
STUDENT MINISTRIES

visit

[ctk.church/bellingham/students](http://ctk.church/bellingham/students)

to meet the student ministry staff, keep up with events,  
and explore student-focused devotional guides



# families



## Family Growth Challenge

Let's face it, when it comes to helping our kids develop their most deeply held values and beliefs, we have so many good intentions and so little time. We want our kids to have the kind of hope, faith, and trust that will help them navigate life, but we aren't sure where to start. That's why we have created the Family Growth Challenge.

Each week we provide you with something to think about, a related scripture, and simple suggestions to make that topic come to life in your family. These aren't complicated family devotions, and you don't have to be a Bible expert to lead it. In fact, your whole family can grow together at the same time. We have designed these challenges to be easily completed on the way to soccer, at the dinner table, or in a few minutes on the weekend.

Let us help you move from *I want to* to *I will*—one simple step at a time.

Like and follow our social media pages (CTK Families) and subscribe to our text group to have the content right in the palm of your hands. Scan the QR code below or Contact Missy Matteson for more information ([missym@ctk.church](mailto:missym@ctk.church)).



Join the CTK Families text group

## Moms in Prayer

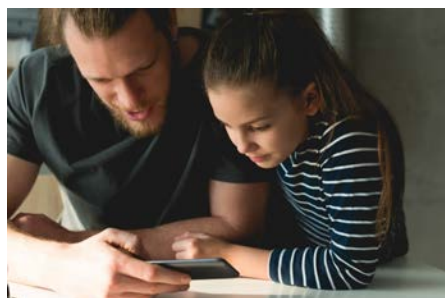
Tuesday Mornings thru December 13  
9:30–10:30 AM in Room 214

Raising kids is not easy. But James 5:16 reminds us that prayer is powerful. And while we want to pray for our kids, we don't always do it as often as we wish we did. We pray in the midst of crisis and confusion but we miss opportunities to pray for the good we hope our kids experience.



Moms in Prayer is an opportunity to gather with other moms and pray intentionally for our kids, their teachers, and our schools. By adding Moms In Prayer to your calendar, you can be sure prayer doesn't end up lost in a crowded schedule. We know that time spent in prayer for our kids is powerful and effective plus, you'll get to connect with other moms who are on this parenting journey too.

No need to sign up, just show up any Tuesday. For more information, contact Angel ([angelf@ctk.church](mailto:angelf@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337)



## Helping our Kids Bounce Back

Sunday, October 23  
11:00 AM–12:15 PM in Room 216

Our kids have been through so much in the last two years — a pandemic, changes to the way they learn and play, and unprecedented division. And that's just what's going on in the world. In their own life they may have experienced loss, disappointment, high levels of frustration, or even failure.



Getting knocked down in life is inevitable, but how do we help our kids bounce back? Join local counselor Mike Black for this 1-hour workshop that will equip you with tools to help the kids in your life increase their resiliency and navigate setbacks with more hope and confidence.

Register at [ctk.church/bellingham/events](https://ctk.church/bellingham/events) or email Missy Matteson ([missym@ctk.church](mailto:missym@ctk.church)).



Register today!

## Follow CTK Families on Social Media

Stay in the know with CTK Families on Facebook ([CTK Families](https://www.facebook.com/CTK Families)) and Instagram ([@ctkfamilies](https://www.instagram.com/ctkfamilies)). Find encouragement, connection, and practical support for the parenting journey. Plus stay up-to-date on great opportunities for your family to connect, serve, grow, and play together!

rightnow  
media

rightnow MEDIA

CTK's Bible study library is now digital...

AND GIGANTIC.

Over 20,000 discipleship videos for  
kids, youth, and adults.

android chromecast iPhone & iPad Roku Apple TV fireTV

[www.rightnowmedia.org](http://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 even newer Apple TVs. 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](http://ctk.church/rightnowmedia)**  
or ask at Reception for assistance.



# women

## Childcare During Wednesday Women's Classes

Planning to attend a Wednesday morning women's class? We offer free child care for ages 5 and younger. Pre-registration is required. Registration may close prior to the deadline if childcare classes fill up.

Register for childcare online along with your own registration.

FALL WOMEN'S STUDY

**BEST NEXT STEP  
DEVOTION**

## The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry

Choose from:

5 Monday Evenings starting October 3  
6:30-8:30 PM in Room 215 **or**

5 Wednesday Mornings starting Oct. 5  
10:00 AM-Noon in the Meeting Place

\$25 • Childcare on Wednesdays only



Our busyness can feel productive, but it's a toxic distraction, sapping our spiritual, physical, and emotional vitality. It may seem like we have no choice but to live at a

frantic pace, but God has a better path for us. Jesus offers us a new rhythm of life overflowing with grace, peace, and beauty. This 5-part series addresses one of the greatest threats to our spiritual lives: **hurry**.

Register and find out more on the women's page at [ctk.church](http://ctk.church). Questions? Contact Pastor Stacy Koning ([stacyk@ctk.church](mailto:stacyk@ctk.church) or x2257).

PRE-CHRISTMAS BIBLE STUDY

## The Wonder of Advent

Choose from:

5 Monday Evenings starting Nov. 14  
6:30-8:30 PM in Room 215 **or**

5 Wednesday Mornings starting Nov. 16  
10:00 AM-Noon in the Meeting Place

\$25 • Childcare on Wednesdays only



The Advent season gives us the opportunity to delight in the promises we celebrate at Christmas: the **hope** that Jesus will return and make all things new; the **joy** that comes from worshiping him now and for eternity; the **peace** we experience with God and long for the world to experience; and the **love** of God who sacrificed his own son to be in relationship with us. Join us for this 4-session Bible study that will enrich your experience of the Christmas season ahead.

Register and find out more on the women's page at [ctk.church](http://ctk.church). Questions? Contact Pastor Stacy Koning ([stacyk@ctk.church](mailto:stacyk@ctk.church) or x2257).



## Days for Girls

4 Tuesday Mornings this Fall  
Sep 27 • Oct 11 • Oct 25 • Nov 8  
9:30-11:00 AM in Room 216

Imagine... What if not having sanitary supplies meant days without school, days without income, days without leaving the house? In many regions around the world, girls miss up to 2 months of school every year for lack of feminine hygiene supplies. Solving this issue is key to social change for women all over the world. The poverty cycle can be broken when girls stay in school.

### What is Days for Girls?

Days for Girls is an international nonprofit that helps girls gain access to quality sustainable feminine hygiene and awareness by directly distributing sustainable feminine hygiene kits.

The women of CTK are coming together for just 4 Tuesday mornings to make these feminine hygiene kits. We have plenty of ways to help, so if this issue tugs at your heart, please come serve with us—even if you don't sew!

### Donations are always needed!

If you can't make it but still want to help, you can donate thin, colorful washcloths, Fruit of Loom panties (sizes 12-16 and no white), and new fabric (100% cotton and double-brushed flannel). Simply leave your donation at the reception desk.

No need to sign up — just show up!  
Questions? Contact Stacy Koning ([stacyk@ctk.church](mailto:stacyk@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337)

SAVE THE DATE  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

reflection  
Women's Christmas Event

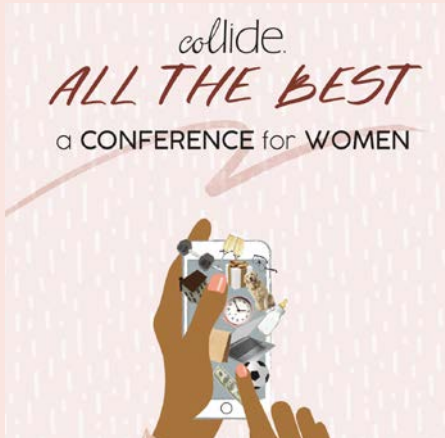
6:00-8:00 PM in the Meeting Place • \$10

In the midst of an often frantic season, we've created an evening for you to pause and reflect on the birth of Jesus and what that means for us today. Come celebrate the truth that he came to be our advocate, our atonement, and our anticipation!

Light snacks & beverages will be served • Sorry, no childcare available

Register online at [ctk.church](http://ctk.church) or contact Jayne Doll ([jayned@ctk.church](mailto:jayned@ctk.church)) for more information.

# men



COLLIDE WOMEN'S EVENT

## All the Best with Special Guest Bob Goff

Friday, November 4  
6:00–9:00 PM in the Worship Center  
\$65 Early Bird by Sept. 30; \$75 after

There are so many experiences calling our name, so many opportunities we could say yes to, so many dreams to chase, so many relationships to invest in. It's so easy as women to feel distracted, pulled in a hundred directions, and even frantic at times. We try to be amazing in so many endeavors and responsible with so many commitments that we often end up feeling like we're failing at all of it.



Come spend an evening being inspired and equipped to choose all the best things so we can experience all the best of life. Guest speaker Bob Goff is a New York Times best-selling author and speaker who loves helping people pursue their big dreams

For more details and tickets, visit [www.wecollide.net/events/allthebest](http://www.wecollide.net/events/allthebest)



## Men's Biblical Deep Dive

MONDAYS, 7:00–8:00 AM  
at CTK Bellingham

TUESDAYS, 6:30–7:30 AM  
at Muljat Group Real Estate

WEDNESDAYS, 4:30–5:30 PM  
at Barkley Woods

and Noon–1 PM **Online** via Zoom

If you want a thriving life of faith with Jesus, the spiritual practice of Bible reading is key. But is your busy calendar getting in the way?

We know the challenge too well. That's why we've created The Biblical Deep Dive to fit within your workweek. We'll use an ancient Jewish practice called *midrash* to "seek with care" practical wisdom from scripture and apply it to our lives today. Each session has three parts: 1) reading 3 chapters of the Bible, 2) open discussion to find meaning together, and 3) applying wisdom to crucial areas of work and home life. Sessions last one hour and start/end on time to easily work into your schedule.

This is an ongoing experience and you're welcome to join any time.

Register and see newly added sessions at [ctk.church/bellingham/adults](http://ctk.church/bellingham/adults). Questions? Contact Brian Steele ([brians@ctk.church](mailto:brians@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337)



Learn more and sign up

## Stand Firm

**BEST NEXT STEP**  
AUTHENTICITY

13 Tuesdays starting September 20  
6:30–8:30 PM in Room 211 • \$25

Men, are you struggling with poor personal choices that are damaging your relationships and your life? If you're stuck in a self-destructive sexual compulsion or battling any addictive behavior, come gain the understanding, skills, and support you need to find freedom from it.

Stand Firm provides a safe, confidential experience that will help you understand the root causes of destructive behaviors, then help you find God's grace and strength to change and grow and become the man God wants you to be.

Register at [ctk.church/bellingham/events](http://ctk.church/bellingham/events). Questions? Contact Ryan Ervin ([ryane@ctk.church](mailto:ryane@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337)



## NEW: Men's Adventure Morning

Saturday, October 22  
8:00 AM–1:00 PM  
Departs from CTK Bellingham • \$5

Come spend a morning adventuring with other CTK men (hiking, mountain biking, or road biking) and then enjoy lunch with the whole crew. Provide your own gear and we'll provide the food. All skill levels are welcome, and feel free to bring your kids or grandkids!

We'll meet at CTK at 8:00 AM, head out for your chosen adventure and come back together at noon for BBQ lunch. Questions about activities or skill levels? Contact Ryan Ervin (details below).

Register at [ctk.church/bellingham/events](http://ctk.church/bellingham/events). Questions? Contact Ryan Ervin ([ryane@ctk.church](mailto:ryane@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337)

# all adults



PHOTO: SCOTT SAYERS

## Baptism Classes

### In Person

Sunday, October 30 after either service (10:40 AM or 12:30 PM) in Room 211 • 1 hour class

### Online via Zoom

Tuesday, November 1 at 7:00 PM  
Visit [baptism.ctlk.church](https://baptism.ctlk.church) for link

Baptism is a way Jesus taught to publicly declare our decision to trust and follow him. If you're ready to take this important step, we'll be baptizing during both services on Sunday, November 6. To be included, come to one of our in-person baptism classes after any service on October 30 or join the online baptism class November 1. We look forward to hearing your story and explaining what baptism is all about.

**No need to register, just show up! Questions? Contact Pastor Brian Steele ([brians@ctlk.church](mailto:brians@ctlk.church) or x2228).**

*For children 12 and under, please contact our children's team at 360-733-1337.*



Baptism  
web page

## BEST NEXT STEP INTEGRATION

## Small Group Experience

3 Sundays, October 2, 9 & 16  
11:15 AM-12:15 PM in Room 215

Are you looking for a way to grow closer to God and to connect with other people who want to grow closer to him as well? Join our Small Group Experience to find a small group and start meeting this fall.

Over 3 Sunday mornings in October, you'll get to know other people and see what being in authentic Christian community is all about. At the end of the three weeks, you'll have the opportunity to start with a new small group that works for your schedule.

**REGISTER at [groups.ctlk.church](https://groups.ctlk.church) by Sunday, September 25 or contact Julie Burleson ([julieb@ctlk.church](mailto:julieb@ctlk.church) or 360-733-1337).**



## Senior's Lunch

2nd Thursday of Every Month  
10:30 AM-Noon in the Meeting Place

Seniors meet monthly for fun, fellowship, and to enjoy lunch together. Invite a friend (50+) and join us. We will meet on September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8. \$2 donation for lunch is appreciated.

**Questions? Contact Stacy Koning ([stacyk@ctlk.church](mailto:stacyk@ctlk.church) or 360-733-1337).**

## Safe People

10 Mondays starting October 3  
6:15-8:00 PM in Room 216 • \$20  
*Not meeting on October 31*

Too many of us have invested in relationships that have gone wrong. Maybe you've been judged, manipulated, or controlled. Or maybe you've trusted the wrong people in the past. It's easy to make the same mistakes of judgment over and over—or, worse, to give up



on trying to have great, authentic relationships again. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Using the book and video series *Safe People* by Drs. Henry Cloud and John

Townsend, we'll discover that we can surround ourselves with accepting, honest, and safe people who will draw us closer to being the person God intended each of us to be.

**REGISTER at [ctlk.church/bellingham/events](https://ctlk.church/bellingham/events) by Monday, September 26 contact Julie Burleson ([julieb@ctlk.church](mailto:julieb@ctlk.church) or 360-733-1337).**



## Lamentation

7 Wednesdays starting October 5  
6:30-8:30 PM in Room 216

Lamentation is a 7-session class that addresses loss due to the death of a loved one. Grief from loss is significant and can change individuals and families in their search for relief and healing. This class provides a safe and supportive environment where you can grieve in community and experience hope and healing together. Dr. Dale Pollard is the author of *Lamentation* and has extensive experience coming alongside people on the journey of grief, both as a pastor and as a funeral director.

**REGISTER online at [ctlk.church/bellingham/events](https://ctlk.church/bellingham/events) or contact Pastor Ryan Ervin ([ryane@ctlk.church](mailto:ryane@ctlk.church) or 360-733-1337).**





## NOT SURE WHERE TO START?

### Relationship Foundations

FOR COUPLES

9 Wednesdays, starting October 5  
6:30–8:00 PM, On-site and Off-site  
\$40 per couple

Ever wondered what it takes to thrive in your relationship? Where do you start, and how do you build a strong marriage? How does faith factor in? In this 9-session experience, married or engaged couples will be placed in groups with a facilitator. Together, you'll walk through a biblical framework and research-based practices that foster healthy boundaries and loving relationships in every facet of life. Along with off-site get-togethers, there will be three all-participant gatherings at CTK on Wednesdays October 5, October 26th, and November 16th.

REGISTER online at  
[ctk.church/bellingham/events](https://ctk.church/bellingham/events)  
or contact Pastor Ryan Ervin  
([ryane@ctk.church](mailto:ryane@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337).



BEST NEXT STEP  
BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

### Starting Your Journey With the Bible

4 Tuesdays, starting October 25  
7:00–8:30 PM Online via Zoom • \$10

Has the Bible seemed like a closed book to you? Do you get lost easily or even have a tough time knowing where to begin with the spiritual practice of Bible reading? You're not alone! We all start there, and we'd be happy to walk the road of faith with you. Join this interactive 4-session **online** "Bible basics" class to begin understanding and applying the Bible like never before. You'll learn simple principles that will empower your journey with Jesus.

REGISTER online at  
[ctk.church/bellingham/events](https://ctk.church/bellingham/events)  
or contact Pastor Brian Steele  
([brians@ctk.church](mailto:brians@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337).



### Identify Your Next Spiritual Step

Tuesday, September 27 • 6:30–8:00 PM in Room 212

When it comes to "growing in your faith," you've probably heard prayer and Bible reading listed as the main way. While this is absolutely true, there are many other ways to grow spiritually. As Jesus followers, we're called to grow towards full maturity in Christ, but what does that mean, and what does it look like? Join us for this 1-evening workshop to learn different ways to engage and grow spiritually and identify a specific next step in your walk with God. **No need to sign up—just show up!**



## CALLING ALL PARTY LOVERS!

CTK's Connection Team is looking to assemble a group of people who love to throw parties. As part of our party prep team, we'll rely on you to help bring the ideas to life. Whether it's the food, the décor, or the guest experience that excites you, we have ways for you to get involved. The Party Planning Team will serve as needed to help with ministry events that also happen to be a whole lot of fun.

To learn more, contact Angel Finsrud ([angelf@ctk.church](mailto:angelf@ctk.church) or x2241)

### Faith & Finances

12 Tuesdays starting November 8  
6:00–8:00 PM in Room 212

Have you ever wondered if God cares about your financial struggles? We believe the healing power of Jesus affects all parts of our lives, including our finances. Faith & Finances is a great option if you are struggling to make ends meet, stressed or even hopeless about your family's financial future, or unsure how to navigate your current financial situation. Over the course of 12 weeks, you'll learn practical financial tools to help you in everyday life—like setting realistic goals, expense tracking, creating a spending plan, and managing debt.

The small group format creates a safe environment to explore this area of life in community. So come share a meal with us as we discover the path toward financial stability and freedom with us!

REGISTER online at  
[ctk.church/bellingham/events](https://ctk.church/bellingham/events)  
or contact Keri Allen  
([keria@ctk.church](mailto:keria@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337).



BEST NEXT STEP  
GENEROSITY & STEWARDSHIP

### Starting Your Journey With Serving

Sunday, November 13  
5:30–7:30 PM in Room 211

Jesus calls all his followers to love and to serve others, but it can be so hard to get started on that path. Our lives are busy, finances are tight, and it feels like there's too much brokenness around us (and in us) to make any kind of difference.

Despite all those obstacles, you have something to offer, and we want to help you say yes to Jesus's invitation to sacrifice for the good of others. If you'll join us for this 2-hour workshop, we'll help you explore who God made you to be, pair you with a one-on-one mentor, and give you the tools you need to put your faith into action. We *can* change the world! Will you join us?

REGISTER by Wednesday, November 9  
at [ctk.church/bellingham/events](https://ctk.church/bellingham/events)  
or contact Molly Martin  
([mollym@ctk.church](mailto:mollym@ctk.church) or 360-733-1337).



## A passion for the imprisoned

CTK volunteer brings spiritual refreshment to men who are thirsty for the Living Water

BY KARL NIELSEN



**M**Y NAME IS KARL NIELSEN, and I love to serve in the church and in the community. Over the last 10 years, Jesus opened surprising doors for me to use my gifts to connect with people and share my faith. I have served here in CTK with baptisms and led a Men's Biblical Deep Dive group. I try to jump at pretty much any opportunity to serve. But there have been some big obstacles to my biggest passion.

In the beginning of COVID I needed to move for my job. Once arriving in Tehachapi, CA, I lived 4500 feet up a mountain above a supermax prison. This is where the Holy Spirit talked to me and ministered to me. The calling I felt was to serve those in prison who need Jesus in their lives. I patiently waited for the time I could serve. But while waiting I was transferred back to Washington. That was quite a curve

ball. Why didn't God have me serving in the prison literally below my feet in California?

I looked into jail ministry here in Whatcom County. Scared at first, I made my way into the jail for the first time with a chaplain coworker. What I found there were men who were thirsty for the living water. I have been going to the jail every Thursday night with great excitement to hold a Bible study with these men—men whom I call gentlemen.

Serving in this capacity has brought me closer with the Lord and has renewed my faith in the direction of serving those who turn toward Jesus and ask to be forgiven and redeemed. We have a faithful group of gentlemen who come every Thursday night and ask for prayer for multitudes of reasons. They also invite the Holy Spirit into their hearts. We bring study notes and Bibles to the men, and we pray for them during the week. We let them know that they are on our minds and hearts.

The greatest gift of serving in this way is to have a front row seat to watch

God work in the hearts of his children. To see the physical transformation of some of the men has been breathtaking. A sense of calm and peace washes over them. You see weight gain in healthy ways. Their whole presence becomes more inviting.

But as COVID cases have increased, we've been unable to serve in-person at the jail. That's another huge challenge. So we pray for those in jail, their families, and the crime victims. It is not just the inmates who are ministered to. It's also me and my ministry partner. As we get to know and talk with these men, we're reminded of a valuable lesson—"it's OK to not be OK."

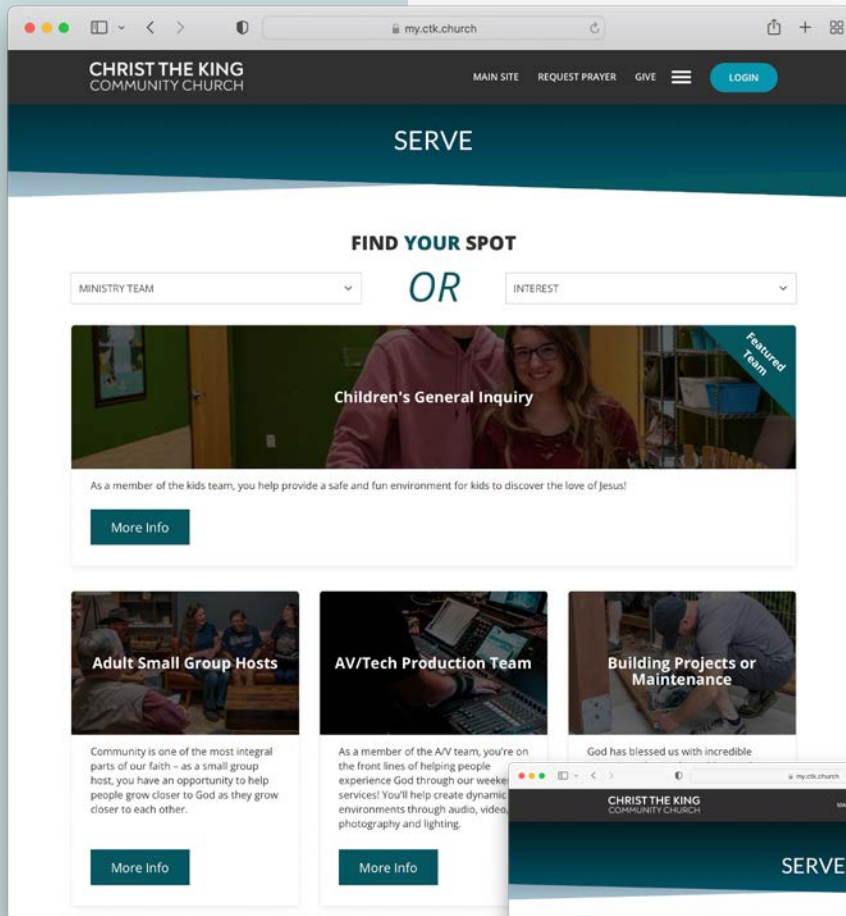
Jesus has blessed me with this ministry. I love to reach out to those who are unchurched and bring God's word to them. Despite the challenges, I love prison ministry. It fulfills my calling to love God and love others. The journey has definitely not been easy, but it has been so good.

**Have your own story to share?**  
Email it to [stories@ctk.church](mailto:stories@ctk.church)



# volunteer at ctk

## Explore our all-new volunteer portal!



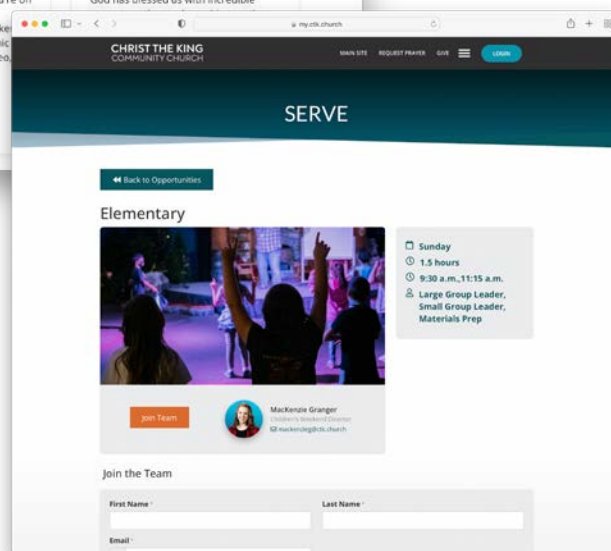
Browse available roles and click for more info, or search opportunities by ministry team or your area of interest

**SERVING OTHERS** is a spiritual practice that can fast-track your spiritual growth like nothing else!

And when it comes to serving our here at Christ the King Church, [serve.ctk.church](https://serve.ctk.church) is your hub to explore current ways to serve your church family.

Stop by and learn how you can get involved in a specific ministry area, or search by either “behind the scenes” or “relational” opportunities.

Find your spot at  
[serve.ctk.church!](https://serve.ctk.church)



See role descriptions, time commitments required, and fill out an interest form

# service times

## IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Sundays at 9:30 & 11:15 AM

## ONLINE-ONLY REBROADCAST

Sundays at 6:00 PM

Children's program for 5th grade and younger  
offered at both Sunday morning services



**CHRIST THE KING**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

## BELLINGHAM CAMPUS

4173 Meridian St • Bellingham, WA 98226

360-733-1337 [www.ctlc.church](http://www.ctlc.church)

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