

*Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight,  
and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood... 1 Peter 2: 4*



# The Living Stone



November 25, 2015

The Season of Advent, the time we as Christians prepare for the birth of Jesus, begins this Sunday!

Please note that the Church Office will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 in observance of Thanksgiving. The Staff at Christ the King wishes everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!



In His Service,  
Susan Van Valkenburgh  
Communications Specialist

## In This Issue

### A Time for Thanksgiving



As we reflect on all we have to be thankful for, both personally as well as for our Church, I want to ask you to consider your "wants and needs" and do so reflecting on what you give to CTK.

For 2015, giving to CTK is 8%, or about \$30,000, behind our budgeted level for receipts through the end of October and the trend is continuing through November. Unfortunately, while efforts have been made to reduce expenses as a result of the shortfall in giving, our spending is just 4%, or \$17,000, below budget. This means that we have had to "dip" into our reserve funds to meet our actual expenditures for about \$13,000.

As a congregation, we are indeed thankful to have reserves to help us

Council Corner  
Sunday School  
Sundays in Advent  
Wednesdays in Advent  
2015 Angel Tree  
1st Annual Ornament  
Exchange  
Babysitting  
Christmas Eve  
1st Sunday of Christmas  
Scrip Program  
God's Global Barnyard  
Poinsettias  
Cookie Sale  
Ruth/Ruby Dinner  
Women's Retreat

## Ministry Quick

through this period when our expenses are exceeding our revenues, but as your Finance Director, I want to take this opportunity to ask you to review your giving to CTK for 2015. Can we respond to where God is calling us to serve by reaching down and giving a bit extra as we finish out this calendar year? If your pledge is not current, are you able to bring it current? If your pledge is current, are you able to give a bit more? If you don't pledge, but feel called to give, will you please do so?

What are we spending on our personal "wants" (vs. needs) that could be directed to helping the ministries of CTK? Prayerfully consider making a special gift to CTK between now and the end of the year. Let's see if we can meet our budgeted revenues - not just to meet the budget, but so we can increase our service to others by having the resources to do so. This will enable us to position ourselves well as we plan for our service to others going into 2016.

I am thankful to have served on the Long Range Planning Committee. We have some exciting goals that were recommended to Church Council for their review. The focus for the future, based significantly on input you provided, is to continue to grow our ministries and to look to reduce the mortgage obligation, currently with a balance due of just under \$800,000. To do so, we all need to continue to ask for God's guidance. Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit to lead us to respond to serving others before serving ourselves.

Finally, thank you for your support - in giving of yourselves as well as your treasure this past year, 2015! We are blessed to have an excellent Pastor and Staff that continue to excel at their duties and service to us and the community we serve.

May God bless you and give you Peace during this Advent and Christmas seasons!

Ron Larson  
Finance Director  
Church Council Member



**Sunday School**  
**Sundays, 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.**

As the church prepares to enter the season of Advent, please note the class schedule for the youth and children of the church:

**Sunday, November 29:** All classes will meet as usual.

## Links

### Calendar



### Pastor

Rev. J. Erik Allen

### Program Staff

Deborah Scarazzo,  
*Christian Education  
Coordinator*

Kristine Macauley,  
*Youth Coordinator*

### Music Staff

Dr. John Broman,  
*Chancel Choir Director*

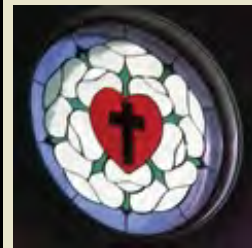
Sandra Lutters,  
*Music Minister*

### Administrative Staff

Kathy Voerg,  
*Business Manager*

John Spencer,  
*Administrative Assistant*

David & Susan Van  
Valkenburgh,  
*Communications  
Specialists*



### Christ the King Preschool

Jakima McCall,  
*Preschool Director*

**Sunday, December 6:** All classes will meet as usual.

**Sunday, December 13:** Rehearsal for the Youth & Children's program for participants. All other classes will meet as usual.

**Sunday, December 20:** Rehearsal for the Youth & Children's program for participants. All other classes will meet as usual.

**Sunday, December 27:** No Sunday school classes. There will only be ONE Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. that morning.



## **Sundays in Advent 2015**

**Sunday Morning Worship November 29  
and December 6, 13 and 20**

**8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.**

Advent is a time of anticipation. All are welcome to join us as we prepare for the anticipated arrival of the Christ child.

### **Chancel Choir Cantata Sunday**

**December 13 at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.**

The program presented by the Chancel Choir will consist of six choral selections and one men's quartet piece. Pastor Allen will be putting together a script for the occasion based on the texts found in the seven selections. The quartet will consist of Dr. Jack Broman, Rev. Erik Allen, Rich Grimshaw, and Dr. Mark Spraker. The program will be accompanied by Sandra Lutters.

### **Youth & Children Program Sunday**

**December 20 at 11:00 a.m.**

This year's Advent Program begins with preparing for the coming of the Christ child and concludes with us worshiping Christ with all our talents each and every day. The short musical portrays the Advent story with readings from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew and Advent songs. Please join the Children & Youth of Christ the King as they prepare us for the coming of the Christ child this Advent season.

### **Potluck following the Children's Program**

**December 20 at Noon**

Ruby/Ruth Circles will be hosting a Saint Lucia Potluck for the congregation honor of our Youth and Children directly following the children's Christmas musical at 11:00 a.m. Families are asked to bring entrees, appetizers, and side dishes to share. The Ruby/Ruth Circles will be providing children-friendly entrees and treats. Please email Wendy at [wendy@kraby.com](mailto:wendy@kraby.com) if you have any questions or would like to help.



## **Wednesdays During Advent**

**December 2, 9, and 16**

### **6:00 p.m. Advent Meal**

Join us for a time of fellowship prior to Advent services on Wednesday nights. Simple meals of soup and sandwich will be sponsored by the various ministries of the church. Come and meet some of your fellow worshippers!

### **7:00 p.m. Advent Service - Evening Prayer Reflections**

Join us as we use The Holden Evening Prayer service setting to prepare ourselves for the birth of Jesus.



## **2015 Angel Tree**

The Angel Tree is up in the narthex. This year the emphasis is on clothing but there are non-clothing options as well. We are sponsoring 51 children that would not otherwise be likely to receive Christmas gifts. This year we will not be bundling several Angels representing several items of clothing as we have for the past two years.

1) To provide a gift, please pull white Angel(s) specifying the item(s) as labeled on the Angel(s), purchase the item(s), return them unwrapped with receipts and the Angels, and place them under the tree.

2) White Angels are for the gifts for children. Each child will receive three gifts from our Angel Tree as well as a \$25 gift card to either Target or Walmart. You can purchase the gift cards at the Scrip Table in the fellowship hall.

Please return the gifts unwrapped with the Angels and receipts attached to them as well as the \$25 gift cards by Sunday, December 20. You can place the gift cards in the wrapped box under the tree.

You can also support Outreach efforts for 2016 by donating Publix gift cards, which support families in need, or checks/cash as specified on the green Angels. The Publix gift cards can also be purchased at the scrip table. You can place these donations in the box under the tree.

Thank you for your support of Angel Tree over the years and please consider providing Christmas gifts for needy children during this holiday

season.



## **Save the Date: 1st Annual Ornament Exchange!**

On Saturday December 5th, 2015, from 2 - 4 p.m., the Fellowship Team invites you to the 1st Annual Ornament Exchange!

Bring the whole family and join us for

- \* Ornament exchange for older kids, youth and adults
- \* Arts and Crafts for the younger kids (coloring and ornament making)
- \* Finger Foods
- \* Warm Beverages (hot apple cider, hot cocoa, tea, and coffee)
- \* Various varieties of Christmas music

Mark your calendars for this fun event!



## **Kids Play While You Shop Away!**

Saturday, Dec 5 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Do your Christmas shopping on Saturday, December 5 and let Christ the King Youth Group and parents give your children a fun day of holiday activities! You can drop off anytime between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. We will play games, watch cartoons and seasonal

movies, have snack time and other fun activities. Click [here](#) for the form to fill out. Either email it to Kristine Macauley at [kristine@ctklutheran.com](mailto:kristine@ctklutheran.com) or drop it off at the church office.

## **CALLING ALL YOUTH!!!**

Sign up and tell us when you are able to help on Saturday, December 5, to play with the kids. Volunteers are needed from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parents of youth are also invited to help. Please contact Kristine if you are able to help.

**Christmas Eve 2015**

**Thursday, December 24**





### **6:00 p.m. Family Service**

Bring the whole family!

Scripture, Carols, Holy Communion

*Nursery care available for children under the age of 3.*

### **8:00 p.m. Candlelight Service**

Special music begins at 7:30 p.m.

Scripture, Carols, Candlelight, Holy Communion

*Nursery provided for children under the age of 3.*

### **10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service**

Special music begins at 9:30 p.m.

Scripture, Carols, Candlelight, Holy Communion



## **First Sunday of Christmas**

**Sunday, December 27 10:00 a.m. Service ONLY**

Carol Sing with Holy Communion. Pick and sing your favorite Christmas carols from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)



## **The Scrip Program at CTK - What is it?**

Since September 2009, Christ the King has been selling gift cards. The church is able to buy the cards at a discount from many sources. Members buy the cards at

their face value to purchase anything from groceries to gas to a night out. The profit made by Christ the King is then used to reduce the principal on the mortgage on the church. This Christmas Season why not help us pay down our mortgage by using gift cards to not only give as gifts, but to also purchase the gifts you are going to give. Together we can make help pay down in our mortgage.

For more information or to volunteer to help with the program, please contact Scott Younghouse at [scotttn\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:scotttn_1@hotmail.com).



## God's Global Barnyard

Again this year Christ the King will be providing families with pigs and cows, ducks and chicks! This year your donations can again change lives: a chick for eggs, a cow for milk, a sheep for wool. With God's Global Barnyard, you may choose an animal or make a donation that will help to go for an animal

with other donations. You are welcome to donate an animal in memory and/or honor of an individual, ministry or organization. Please write Global Barnyard on the memo portion of the check and place with the flyer in the offering plate. This year make a difference that will last into the future of the lives of the people that receive this precious gift. If you would like more information on God's Global Barnyard, please see the flyer on the Welcome Desk in the narthex.



## Poinsettias

Order forms for poinsettias for the chancel area are available in your bulletin or on the Welcome Desk in the narthex. Please submit your orders by December 13. Poinsettias will be used to decorate

the chancel area on Christmas Eve and the First Sunday of Christmas. Donors are asked to pick their flowers up after the service on Sunday, December 27.



## Save the Date - Christmas Cookie Sale!

The annual Christmas Cookie Sale will be here Saturday, December 12th!!

For those new to the congregation, the Christmas Cookie Sale is an annual fundraiser benefiting the women's ministry. Bakers in the congregation donate delicious cookies, candies and individual homemade treats; the women's group decorates and sets everything up for the event in the fellowship hall.

Christ the King members and the general public are invited to attend and

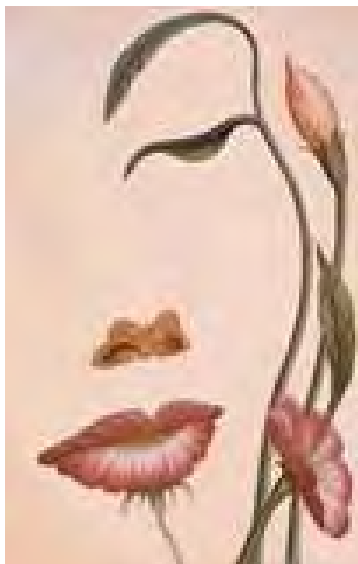
purchase the delicious treats. When you arrive you'll pick up a box to hold your goodies and set off to tour the trays to select whatever catches your eye. The boxes are weighed at the end and you pay the cashier accordingly. There are many who wait for the sale to purchase a special gift for teachers, neighbors, co-workers and family. The beauty of the Cookie Sale is the wide variety of items from which to select. Certainly more than most of us would make at home! There are also some special categories such as no nuts, sugar free and egg/gluten free.

The best selection is Saturday. If you cannot join us at the sale we will pack up any remaining cookies into 1-pound variety boxes. These will be available for sale between services the next day. Previous years' items have included traditional frosted sugar cookies, biscotti, buckeyes, pecan tassies, peanut brittle, church mice, thin mint cookies, meringues, Swedish cookies, gingerbread men, Mexican wedding cookies and others too numerous to list. You just need to come see for yourself!

To all you wonderful, dedicated bakers - more details will be published soon and I'm looking forward to seeing all the offerings. (Hint: Pizza boxes are a great way to transport your cookies to the church!)

Cookie sign-up sheet and drop-off forms for donations will be posted on the bulletin board next to mailboxes.

For questions, contact June Wolsin 770-889-0908



## Ruth/Ruby Circle

### What is Ruby and Ruth Circle?

This is a group open to ALL women (of all ages) in the church to get to know each other and support each other under the love of God. We meet once a month for either dinners out, enrichment meetings or for service to the church. Come whenever you can!

### Here is our schedule for the year:

**Sunday, Dec. 20:** We host a St. Lucia reception for all the kids of the church. (Amy B. hosts)

**January (TBA):** Dinner OUT (Amy B. hosts)

**February (TBA):** Craft Night OUT (Sue H hosts)

**March 4-2-5:** WOMEN's RETREAT in N. Georgia Mountains

April Sunday (TBA): Write to Military Members of the church with the children

**May (TBA):** Hike up Sawnee Mountain

**June (TBA):** Taco Night at Vacation Bible School



**July (TBA):** Dinner out (Planning Meeting)

**September (TBA):** Fall kick-off

Have questions or ideas?

Wendy Kraby, [wendy@kraby.com](mailto:wendy@kraby.com)

Amy Barish, [amybarish@comcast.net](mailto:amybarish@comcast.net)

Ruby/Ruth CIRCLE

*A virtuous woman who can find? For her price is far above rubies.*

Proverbs 31:10

*Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.*

Ruth 1:16



## **20th Annual Women's Retreat Save the Date!**

March 4 - March 6, 2016

Location: Tanglewood Lodge

Helen, GA

Come Thursday, March 3, 2016 and stay for free.

Stay the weekend or just come Saturday for the study!

Scholarships are available.

(This will not apply to single bed registration.)

### Changes Coming for 2016:

Limited availability of a single bed at an additional cost.

The study will begin on Friday night.

Registration will open December 2015

Questions please contact:

Stephanie Boylan

[Stephanie.L.Boylan@gmail.com](mailto:Stephanie.L.Boylan@gmail.com) or 404-906-6560.

## **Calendar of the Week at Christ the King**

Date	Day	Time	Event
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29-Nov	Sunday		<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>
		8:00 - 9:00	Early Holy Communion
		8:30 - 11:15	Scrip On Sale
		9:00 - 10:00	Alternative/Contemporary Holy Communion
		9:50 - 10:00	Fellowship Time
		10:00 - 10:45	Sunday School/Discipleship Hour
		11:00 - 12:00	Holy Communion
		12:15 - 1:15	Children's Choir & Hand chimes
		12:15 - 1:15	Nominating Committee Meeting
30-Nov	Monday	7:00 - 8:00	Handbells Rehearsal
1-Dec	Tuesday	10:00 - 11:00	Christians In Action (CIA) Bible Study
		1:00 - 3:00	Lydia Circle
2-Dec	Wednesday	10:30 - 11:30	Staff Meeting
		1:00 - 4:00	Mahjongg
		6:00 - 7:00	<b>Advent Meal</b>
		7:00 - 7:30	<b>Advent Service</b>
		7:30 - 8:30	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
		7:00 - 8:30	Praise Band Rehearsal
3-Dec	Thursday	6:00 - 8:00	Girl Scout Troop 11809
4-Dec	Friday	10:00 - 5:00	Youth Babysitting While You Shop
		2:00 - 4:00	Ornament Exchange Party
6-Dec	Sunday		<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
		8:00 - 9:00	Early Holy Communion
		8:30 - 11:15	Scrip On Sale
		9:00 - 10:00	Alternative/Contemporary Holy Communion
		9:50 - 10:00	Fellowship Time
		10:00 - 10:45	Sunday School/Discipleship Hour
		11:00 - 12:00	Holy Communion
		12:15 - 1:15	Children's Choir & Hand chimes