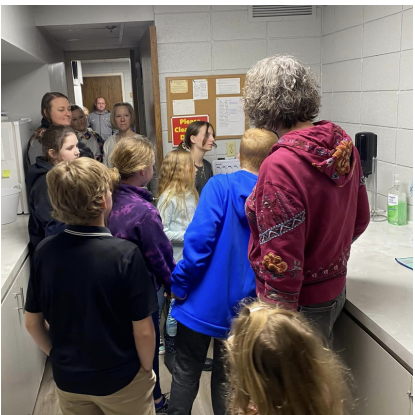


# The King's Messenger

Christ the King Lutheran Church is a caring community committed to empower all people to know Christ and to make Christ known.





# Pastor's Post

## Welcoming the Cruz Family & Pastor Eric Shafer

The Cruz family has settled into their new home, thanks to CTK and the partner ELCA congregations who all are part of the "Welcome Team" sponsoring the Cruz family. The collection of essential household supplies occurred in what felt like record time. In fact, we ended up collect more than the family could use, so our Welcome Team is looking for somewhere to store the extra items. If you have space available, please call the office, 507-345-5056, and let us know.

The Cruz family will visit every supporting congregation as an expression of their gratitude. The Cruz family will be at all worship services at CTK on Sunday, April 16th and at Community Dinner and worship on Wednesday, April 19th. The family includes Ariac, Andrea, Randy, and Kamil. Please see the Messenger insert about the Cruz family to learn more about their story.

The Cruz family coincides with a visit from the pastor in residence for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS). Pastor Eric Shafer will both preach and present at Faith Continuum on the weekend of April 15/16. Pastor Shafer is a retired ELCA pastor who was appointed to the volunteer ministry role of LIRS' pastor in residence in August 2022. Pastor Shafer travels to Lutheran congregations for the purpose of reinforcing LIRS' Lutheran identity by connecting the plight of contemporary refugees to historic Lutheran values.

I am proud of generous and outpouring of support for refugees through CTK. Please join me as we learn the stories of how God has been at work through our shared ministry in these efforts.

# Parish News

## Prayers of Comfort

- For the family of Virginia "Ginger" Kipp, who died on February 26th and whose service was held on March 6th

## Prayers of Celebration

- For the baptism of Baker Lee , son of Paige and Mark Milbrandt, on March 12th





# From the Faith Continuum Coordinator

Spring Greetings,

As we enter Holy week, we end our excursion through "Roots of Our Faith" with Leonard Hummell leading our conversation on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. This will be his second offering with "Luther's theology of Consolation for the Suffering". You may recall that Dr. Hummell is presently a Chaplain to Allina Hospice at the New Ulm Medical Center. He is a Pastor in our Synod and Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology at United Lutheran Seminary of Gettysburg and Philadelphia. He is an Editor and Author who has lectured extensively as far away as South Africa and now here with us for a second impressive presentation.

There will be no Faith Continuum on "He is risen" Sunday. We return on April 16th with Eric Shafer of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS). Please check out Pastor Melanie's conversation elsewhere in this Messenger for details of his contributions.

For the 23rd of April BRING YOUR LAPTOPS, TABLETS AND/OR CELL PHONES. Andrea Petzel, our Communications Coordinator will take us through Elexio AKA MyCTK, and if time permits, our web site. This will be your opportunity to learn all you need to use MyCTK to find everything you might need. Andrea will also be sticking around after her presentation to help troubleshoot issues, one-on-one, with those who need assistance. We welcome the Church Council back on April 30th for an update on what is happening with Ctk.

Remember that Faith Continuum begins in the Fireside Room after the first Service. If you cannot attend in person, you may always check in on Facebook or our web page.

One of over 2 billion of Christ's ambassadors who are one in the Spirit, Todd

## Looking Ahead at the lessons...

<b>April 2nd</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66	<b>April 6th</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35	<b>April 7th</b> <b>Good Friday</b> Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42	<b>April 8th</b> <b>Vigil of Easter</b> Romans 6:3-11 Matthew 28:1-10	<b>April 9th</b> <b>Resurrection of Our Lord</b> Acts 10:34-43 Colossians 3:1-4 Matthew 28:1-10
	<b>April 16th</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31	<b>April 23rd</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 2:14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	<b>April 30th</b> <b>4th Sunday of Easter</b> Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10	



# Financial Update

submitted by David Krause, Treasurer

Christ the King Lutheran Church  
2/28/2023

	Feb 2023	MTD Budget	Variance	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance	Feb 2022	Variance	Prior Year	Variance
Total Operational Income	\$ 59,506	\$ 54,380	\$ 5,126	\$ 555,108	\$ 626,480	\$ (71,372)	\$ 50,114	\$ 9,392	\$ 588,430	\$ (33,322)
Total Operational Expenses	\$ (70,549)	\$ (69,996)	\$ (553)	\$ (689,952)	\$ (560,017)	\$ (129,935)	\$ (55,154)	\$ (15,395)	\$ (531,618)	\$ (158,334)
Other Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,871	\$ (1,871)	\$ 76,472	\$ (76,472)
Other Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Endowment Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,371	\$ -	\$ 11,371	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 883	\$ 10,488
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (11,043)	\$ (15,616)	\$ 4,573	\$ (123,473)	\$ 66,463	\$ (189,936)	\$ (3,169)	\$ (7,874)	\$ 134,167	\$ (257,640)

# Community Supper

Wednesdays, 5-6pm

April 5: Orange chicken over rice

April 12: Sloppy Joes

April 19: Pasta salad, muffins and fruit

April 26: Baked penne pasta and marinara

\*Menu subject to change due to product availability

# Lunch - for - a - buck Thanks

Thank you to Christ the King Lutheran Church for providing Lunch for-a-Buck at Crossroads Campus Ministry on Tuesday, March 14. Cindy Kehoe, Armin Schull, Dean Brudwick, and Jerry Bodelson served a mouth-watering lunch of hot beef sandwiches, broccoli & cheese soup, chips and homemade banana bars and brownies to 30 hungry lunch goers on this first Tuesday after Spring Break. They also collected \$24.90 in donations that will help us fund the continued purchase of the lettuce salad, beverages and table supplies for future lunches. Students really look forward to these weekly hot lunches to help them get through the day. For some, it's their only meal of the day. Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support of the students and our ministry at Crossroads.

# Birthday Cards

We are looking for unused birthday cards. If you have any you'd like to contribute, please bring them to the front desk of the church office Monday - Thursday, 9:00am - 3:00pm.



# Prayer Corner

submitted by Jorun Meierding, Prayer Room Coordinator

## Our Prayers Should Be Persistent

Jesus wanted to teach his disciples “about their need to pray always and not to lose heart” (Luke 18:1 NRSV). So he told them two parables, one about a persistent friend (Luke 11:5-8 KJV) and the other about a persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8). The persistent friend came at midnight to ask his friend for bread, which the sleepy friend eventually got up and gave to him because of his importunity. “Importunity” is like persistence, but with a heightened sense of urgency, a shameless boldness, an insistence on having the thing you want. Likewise, the persistent widow repeatedly appeared before an unjust judge, “who neither feared God nor had respect for people,” to request justice. The judge initially refused to grant the widow’s petition, but later relented because she kept bothering him and wearing him out. Jesus suggested that God will quickly grant justice to his people who “cry to him day and night” (Luke 18:7).

This is the nature of true prayer—to boldly cry out to God for what we need, or for what others need, and to never give up. Such prayer persists in asking even if the thing seems hopeless or impossible. Such prayer is rooted in faith that God hears, God cares, and God is able to do what we ask.

But why, if God intends to answer our prayers, does he sometimes delay? If we pray with faith and confidence the first time, why do we have to repeat ourselves, sometimes for years before an answer comes? Perhaps it is because God wants to cultivate in us the kind of faith that can wait with patience and not become discouraged, that is able to trust God and wait until the time is right. The Bible says that, for God, “a thousand years . . . are like a day that has just gone by” (Psalm 90:4 NIV). Yesterday, today and tomorrow are all the same to God, so from God’s perspective, there is no delay in answering our prayers—just the perfect time.

Whatever you are asking from God, persevere and do not give up! Do not lose heart or grow weary no matter how impossible it may seem. Our God is faithful. He has promised to answer persistent prayer, and he does not lie or forget or change his mind (1 Samuel 15:29; Numbers 23:19). We can trust that God will keep his promises to us.

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.  
Romans 12:12*

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

## SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER ROOM VOLUNTEERS

April 2nd	April 16th	April 23rd	April 30th
8:15am Jeneane Quame	8:15am Lonnie Reemer	8:15am Phyllis Spangrud	8:15am Lavonne Rohn
10:00am Kathy Sallstrom	10:00am Jorun Meierding	10:00am Sue Moore	10:00am Marilyn Sarff





# Library Corner

In the northern hemisphere **APRIL** is the most confusing month; rainy and wet one day, the next full of a warm promise of green growth to come! The month is full of surprises and contradictions, prized for rebirth and endings. You must love April, it is just like life!

## **NEW ADULT BOOKS –THANK YOU FOR RECENT DONATIONS TO CTK LIBRARY**

- "I Am Malala" The Girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban by Malala Yousafzai with Christina Lamb. "This internationally acclaimed memoir by the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize is a first person account of Malala's journey through global terrorism, her brave, encouraging parents, and her own right for girls' education."
- "Begin Again" by Eddie S. Glaude Jr. "The author's endeavor is to lay bare the tangled web of race, trauma, and memory, and a powerful interrogation of what we all must ask of ourselves in order to call forth a new America."
- "A Good Time For The Truth" (Race in Minnesota) Edited by Sun Yung Shin. "These essays fuel our imaginations, encourage us to reflect on our values, and challenge our biases. The authors' lived experiences strike a deep cord, resonating with current events and sounding a clarion call to advancing racial justice."
- "The Sins of Scripture" by John Shelby Spong. "The Bible contains many passages that believers and nonbelievers alike would reject as appalling theology. Whether these texts are used to discriminate, oppress, or condemn, they distort the truth of Christianity and the love of God. The author addresses these passages, shattering our misconceptions and delivering a new vision of how Christians can use the Bible today."
- "The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels" by Jon Meacham. "Author helps us understand the present moment in America by looking back at critical times in our history when hope overcame division and fear; giving a reason to believe the soul of America is ultimately one of kindness and caring, not rancor & paranoia."

The library puzzles collection continues to expand for your enjoyment. Thank you to the users and donors that continue to participate.

We hope that you have perhaps taken time to explore the CTK Library as books continue to be added for you to explore and enjoy. The library committee does have a policy and review procedure regarding accepting new/used books. Donations will be accepted based on the condition of the books (no yellowing or staining of the pages, no underlining, highlighting or marking in the pages, no broken spines), copyright date, appropriate topics, author and subject. Also, we do not accept duplication of books. Any books donations with the above conditions that we cannot accept will be returned or donated.

Suggestions for book/author ideas, contact a Committee Member: Kathy Bruss, Linda Eisenbeis, Emmy Geppert, Marilyn Mathiason, Kris Norland, Ellen Petersen, Ann Stewart or Dorothy Viker.





## Opportunities to Serve

<https://ctkmankato.org/get-involved/volunteer>

### **Wednesday Nights**

*CTK Community Dinner*

Community Dinner needs a couple of semi-regular volunteers who will work alongside weekly confirmation groups. There is a need for someone who knows (or can learn) how to run the dishwasher and someone who can help serve. Call 507-345-5056 ext 21 to volunteer or learn more.

### **Third Sunday of the Month**

*Shelter Church Meal Service*

Servers meet at CTK at 3:45 to prepare the meal and transport the meal to Grace Lutheran where they serve it from 4:30-5:00. Sign up at

[ctkmankato.org/get-involved/volunteer](https://ctkmankato.org/get-involved/volunteer)

## Book & Bible Studies

### **April 12th, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room**

*Bible Study*

Join the Altar Guild for coffee, dessert and a Bible Study using the Gather Magazine. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Any questions, call Jan Meier at 507-388-5014.

### **Tuesdays, 9:00 am, Fireside Room**

*Coffee & Conversation*

Each week, Pastor John digs into the three lessons assigned for the coming week's worship with: conversation and coffee!

### **April 18th, 1:00 pm, Room 7**

*Bible Study*

Join the Ruth Circle for the September to May calendar schedule. The Study Guide is selected by attendees. New members are welcome to join at anytime for monthly meetings. If you are interested or have any questions If you are interested or have any questions, please call Ann 625-5251 or Diane 625-7766.

### **April 20th, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room**

*Women's Book Study*

### **Wednesdays, 11:00 am, Conference Room**

*Book Study*

This group meets to read and discuss books that focus on history. This year (2022-2023) we are reading The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line.



# Fellowship Opportunities

## April 20th, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room

### *Caregivers Support Group*

For those who take care of others, whether as parents, children, or loved ones to connect and support each other.

## April 26th, 9am - 3pm, Fireside Room

### *Quilters*

The quilters group has an open invitation to anyone, you DO NOT need to be an accomplished quilter! You are welcome to come for part or all of the day.



## May 2nd, 6-8pm, Artifact

### *Ladies Night!*

Select and pay for your own pottery, prices starting at \$10. Bring a friend and your own beverage! Snacks will be provided.

## 1st Saturday of the month

## 9am - 12pm, Fireside Room

### *Bibles, Bagels & Brew*

Faith-filled, get-together for ladies of all ages includes a new theme each month. Light brunch is served, and the time is filled with meaningful conversation. March 4th is hosted by Women's Retreat planning committee. Let them know you're coming:

[ctkmankato.org/get-involved/adults](http://ctkmankato.org/get-involved/adults)



## STORAGE SPACE NEEDED!

If you have space available that could be used to store household items, please contact the office.



## Save the Date!

# SENIOR RECOGNITION

Class of 2023  
May 24th



Are you bored? Too much time on your hands? We might have a solution! As the CTK quilters, we are pleased to have furnished quilts, locally, and worldwide. We could really use your help. We meet once a month – usually the 4th Wednesday – but you could even work from home, cutting blocks, sewing them together all from the comfort of your home. Many hands make light work. Contact Emmy Geppert or Ann Stewart or the church office for more information.

## IT'S COFFEE TIME!

2nd & 4th Sundays  
Before & After 10 AM Worship





THE WOOD  
"He carried His cross."



THE CIRCLE

Reminds us, like a halo, that Christ's suffering on the cross was an act of divine intervention. The cruciform, a cross of equal arms, was first used by Christians in their early Church plans. Jesus, our Savior and King, is eternal, who came to earth "in the fullness of time" for man. Finally, the circle is the symbol of a crown, for Christ is our King.

THE CROSS

Without the circle, it becomes the cross of Jerusalem. So the sign denotes not only the symbol of Christ's death but, also, denotes, his beloved city.



THE 12 IRON BANDS  
The 12 apostles were faithful in the proclamation of the good news, and the faithful have carried and proclaimed the redemptive message down through the centuries. Herein lies the cohesiveness of the Christian Church.



CROWN OF THORNS

"They put a crown of thorns on His head."



ROBE AND DICE

"They cast lots for His belongings."



MONEY BAGS AND COINS

"Judas betrayed Him for 30 pieces of silver."



FIVE WOUNDS OF CHRIST

"They pierced His hands and feet...and thrust a sword into his side."

# +CTK kids



## 0-3 year-old class in the Rainbow Room

- 20 minutes of free play
- Circle Time
- Story and Songs

Sunday, April 2nd  
11:00-11:30AM



## Skating with CTK

All Seasons Arena

Sunday, April 2, 2023

2:30-4:00PM



SPONSORED BY FAITHFUL PEOPLE COMMISSION  
FREE WILL DONATION AT THE DOOR

# Vacation Bible School

Christ the King | Messiah | Epiphany

Ingham +  
Okobojo  
Lutheran Bible Camps



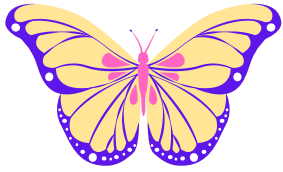
Uncovering the  
Truth

of who God is  
and who we are

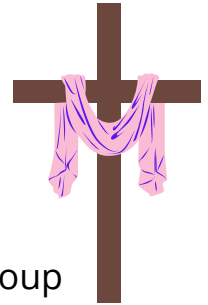


DATES June 19-22  
TIME 12:30-5 PM  
LOCATION Christ the King  
222 Pfau St, Mankato  
COST \$20/Child  
Cash/check on June 19

Register  
by May 15



# CONFIRMATION (7-8-9)



Dates: Apr. 12, 19, 26  
Class meets from 6:45-7:30 PM

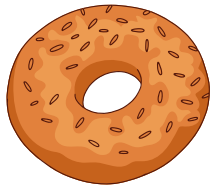
### Supper Servers

4/12: Little Big Group  
4/19: Best of the Midwest  
4/26: Boney Billieys



## HIGH SCHOOL

### Breakfast & Devotion



7:45-8:30 AM

4/4 @ Tandem  
4/13 @ Tandem

### Youth Group (10-11-12)

6:45-7:30 PM

Apr. 12, 19, 26  
Meet in the Youth Room



**No programs April 5 & 9**



**LADIES NIGHT**  **NIGHT**  
**ARTIFACT**  
 — PAINT YOUR OWN POTTERY STUDIO —  
**MAY 2, 2023 @ 6-8 PM**  
 SELECT AND PAY FOR YOUR OWN POTTERY, PRICES STARTING AT \$10. BYOB. SNACKS WILL BE PROVIDED.




**Confirmation Retreat**  
 **SHETEK**  
 LUTHERAN MINISTRIES  
**Fri, April 28 @ 4 PM to Sat, April 29 @ 8 PM**  
**\$50**  
*Register by April 11*





# Welcome team

Bethlehem • Calvary • Christ the King • Grace • Messiah  
Welcoming Everyone with Love and Compassion; Our Mission: Embracing discipleship

## Meet the Cruz Family

Extreme instability propelled this young family to risk everything in a harrowing journey from Nicaragua to the United States. Meet Ariac and Andrea Cruz and their young sons, Randy and Kamil.

While Mankato families slept peacefully, cocooned in their beds completely unaware of the brutal cold and record breaking snow to which they would soon awake, Shellee Hintz sat in her living room anxiously awaiting the middle-of-night arrival of her refugee guests. As the hours passed, she wondered, "Am I ready for them? Do I have the right food? Will they be scared? Will we be able to communicate?"

Her special guests had endured a very long and horrific journey from their home country of Nicaragua to America. Promised housing with a family member who had already settled in the United States, the family was devastated when the invitation was withdrawn. Now what? What will happen to us? Where will we go? Who can help us?

Frantic, they realized that they were literally stranded in an unfamiliar country. The terror of their situation was palpable. It seemed that nobody could help them until they met a kind and gentle social worker. This border employee, on hearing their story, laid the groundwork for them to travel to Minnesota where Shellee and countless other volunteers from five Mankato-based ELCA churches stood ready to help.



At 3 AM, the doorbell rang and in tumbled the exhausted Cruz family.

Cruz Family  
comes to  
Christ the King  
April 16 & 19





In the months since the family arrived, there have been many first-time experiences. They have gone sledding in Spring Lake Park and been swimming at the Y. Special family friends took Randy, age 7, to Underwater World at the Mall of America. Dinner at “King Burger” otherwise known as Burger King, has been a big a hit! They marveled at the Kiwanis Christmas lights and absolutely love the snow! Dishwashers, washing machines, furnaces, vacuum cleaners and garage doors mesmerize them! Andrea, of course, wanted to help out in the kitchen but her unfamiliarity with canned goods resulted in a supper of tuna blended with marinara sauce! As Shellee said, “It made for an interesting supper!”

Randy has already started school. He can hardly wait to meet his friends on the playground every morning before school starts. Excited for his very first Valentine’s party, he sat at the kitchen table for hours proudly writing out, in Spanish, heart-shaped cards for his classmates. Luckily, the English language is coming easily for him.

The couple found an apartment and Ariac helped the landlord with some renovation work and the painting of the interior walls and ceilings. After looking at several possibilities, they chose this home because Andrea was particularly excited about the huge backyard with lots of space for a garden. They have now moved into their new home.

There are many hurdles that must be overcome before this family can be entirely self-sufficient. The parents need to learn oral and written English, earn their GED’s and find employment that brings them joy as well as a livable salary.

A partnership representing Bethlehem, Calvary, Christ the King, Grace and Messiah has pledged to support the Cruz family. As a part of this partnership, we know that you’ll want to help and one of the ways to help is financially. In fact, we need your help as our five churches are paying for rent, utilities, food and general day to day living expenses for this family of four until they become self-sufficient. Your prayers, your in-kind and cash donations, your friendship and your support will propel this family to independence. We sincerely thank you.

**Please complete this form and return it to our church office**

We/I will pledge (circle amount)  
**\$50** a month      **\$25** a month      **\$10** a month      one-time gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks should be made out to Christ the King with IMMIGRATION in the Memo line. Give online by visiting [www.cktmanakato.org/give](http://www.cktmanakato.org/give) or scanning the QR code on the front of this flyer.*

# Weekly Worship Schedule

.....  
**Sundays:** 8:15 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.

**Wednesdays:** 6:00 P.M.

**Saturdays:** 5:30 P.M.  
.....

Worship services are broadcast on Spectrum channel 181 and  
Consolidated Communications channel 7  
Sundays at 3:00pm and Tuesdays at 10:00am

## Contact the Staff

Christ the King's Phone Number: 507-345-5056

Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger: ext. 23

Pastor John Petersen: ext. 24

Al Lee, Technology Arts Director: ext. 36

Alyssa Herrig, Director of Youth Ministries: ext. 19

Amy Olsen, Financial Assistant

Andrea Petzel, Communications & Event Coordinator

Carl Riese, Property Manager: ext. 11

Carolyn Krause, Front-desk

Dede Amundson; Front-desk

Garrett Steinberg, Music Director: ext. 37

Jodi Maas, Faith Engagement Coordinator: ext. 25

Kirsten Elliott, Director of Children's Ministries: ext. 20

Mark Thompson, Custodian

Morgan Corona, Office Administrator

Robin Hughes, Choir Director

Todd Lundquist, Faith Continuum Coordinator: ext. 25

**Office Hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm M - TH, or by appt**

Deadline for Next Issue Newsletter Articles: Monday, March 20th

Please email to [andreap@ctkmankato.org](mailto:andreap@ctkmankato.org) or leave with front desk.