

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.



Christmas Worship

DECEMBER 24TH

10:00AM (NO 8:15AM)
Advent 4 Traditional Worship

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

12:00PM
Jazz Worship with Communion

2:00PM
Blended worship led by band & organ

4:00PM
Blended worship led by band & organ
with candlelight

10:00PM
Traditional worship
with communion & candlelight





Prayer Corner

submitted by Jorun Meierding, Prayer Room Coordinator

The Glory of God is Revealed in Jesus

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" [Luke 2:8-14 NRSV.]

Terrified? Why would these shepherds, whose jobs required them to be rugged and brave, be "terrified" at the sight of an angel and news of a baby's birth? Most likely, it was because "the glory of the Lord shone around them." The glory of God is really the presence of God. It is God, our heavenly father, manifesting his holiness, his beauty, his truth, his very character, in a tangible way here on earth.

One effect of God's glory is to bring humans to their knees. After King Solomon had completed the temple and dedicated it with prayer, "fire came down from heaven . . . and the glory of the Lord filled the temple." [2 Chronicles 7:1.] And when all the people of Israel saw it, "they bowed down on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord." [2 Chronicles 7:3.] Prior to his conversion, the Apostle Paul was traveling to Damascus when "suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him" and he fell to the ground. [Acts 9:3-4.] Indeed, no one can witness God's majesty without being completely undone. No wonder the shepherds were terrified!

Ultimately, God's glory was revealed through his son, Jesus. "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." [John 1:14.] The shepherds "went with haste" to find this long-awaited Messiah. [Luke 2:16.] Not surprisingly, after meeting the baby Jesus, the shepherds "returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen . . ." [Luke 2:20.] After meeting Jesus, their terror turned to worship! This Christmas, may our worship truly honor him and bring the glory to his name that it so richly deserves.

*Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ~ Isaiah 40:5 ~*

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER ROOM VOLUNTEERS

December 10th

8:15am

Jorun Meierding

10:00am

Kathy Sallstrom

December 17th

8:15am

Lonnie Reemer

10:00am

Becky Moe

December 3rd

8:15am

Tammy Fienen

10:00am

Sandy Smith

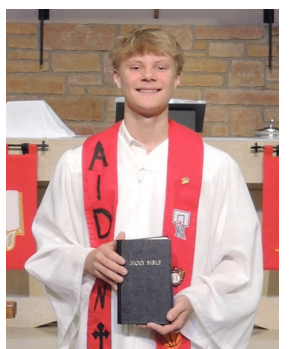
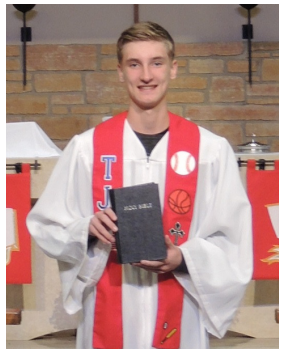
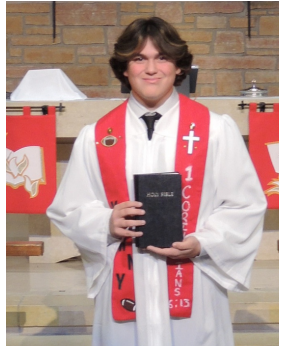
December 31

10:00am

Jerry & Kathy

Bodelson







Mankato Area Churches are Hosting

Christmas Fair Trade Bazaars

Sunday, December 10, 9:00-11:30

You, too, can visit *Fair Trade* vendors in CTK's narthex.

Fair Trade is an arrangement between distributors and producers that requires an exchange for a value worthy of the product. At Fair Trade Bazaars, it may mean coffee, chocolate, hand-crafted clothing, or wares. This arrangement allows small farm cooperatives to exist successfully and prosperously. It means children can afford to attend school. Cooperatives can invest collectively in clean water, medical care, electricity, infrastructure, housing, and a school for their community.

Without Fair Trade arrangements, the alternative for many is to succumb to working for conglomerates who pay poorly, leaving workers in extreme poverty, and making child labor a reality. The Christmas Fair Trade Bazaar is one way to give you the opportunity to support Fair Trade farmers and talented craftspeople. By shopping for Fair Trade items, you are supporting those in their cooperatives who earn fair compensation for their efforts, making self-sufficiency possible and leaving poverty behind. Locally, Mankato Area Fair Trade goes much farther. You can find Fair Trade products at any number of stores where you already shop. You just need to know where to look.

Stay tuned to future Fair Trade news from your Justice & Peace Board.

Message from Pastor Melanie

How does a weary world rejoice?

The song, "O Holy Night" has a line where it says, "the thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices." The lyrics were written by a French poet who was an atheist and the music by a Jewish composer. An American Unitarian minister eventually translated the song to English. It became popular among Christian abolitionists because of justice language that resonates with Mary's song of Luke 1, in which she sings that God "has cast the mighty down from their thrones, lifted up the lowly" and "filled the hungry with good things." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian, once said Mary's song, "is the oldest Advent hymn. It is at once the most passionate, the wildest, one might say even the most revolutionary Advent hymn ever sung." In Guatemala, India, and Argentina, Mary's words were considered so dangerous, they were banned from public.

This Advent, we will explore themes of related to how "a weary world rejoices." While we hear of ongoing crisis and war in the Middle East and the Ukraine, we may wonder how we can rejoice. Yet, when we think of all that Mary endured to bear Christ into the world, we know Jesus was born in a dangerous world amid where violence and tyranny were rampant. All kinds of difficult emotions must have been present – such as fear, loneliness, and weariness. Joy comes not in the absence of difficult emotions, but often amid such emotions. Joy comes from knowing we belong; Christmas offers us the greatest sense of belonging--God-with-us. I hope and pray that each of us will experience the "thrill of hope" as we once again welcome Christ into our hearts and homes.





Kiwanis Lights

Head on down to Sibley Park to check out the CTK Christmas tree at the Kiwanis Holiday Lights. It is free and open to the public. Cash and non-perishable food donations are accepted.

Sunday–Thursday 5:00–9:00 PM
Friday & Saturday 5:00–10:00 PM

Learn more at: kiwanisholidaylights.com



USHERS & COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED FOR DECEMBER 24TH!

Call the Office, 507-345-5056 or sign up at <https://bit.ly/XmasUsher>



New Lights in the Courtyard

They will remain up throughout the year.

Donated "in memory of our parents" by Carol Hayes & Linda Myron & Families



CHILDREN'S BULLETIN With your parent or caregiver, add color to the story as you learn about each character!

How does a weary world rejoice? *We make room*

MAIN IDEA
God makes room for everyone.



Christmas Eve | Luke 2:1-20 | The Holy Family

[Sanctified Art](http://SanctifiedArt.com) @sanctifiedart | sanctifiedart.org

PRAY Dear God, thank you for making room for all of us. Help us to make room for others, too, so nobody is left out. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.





Faith Continuum

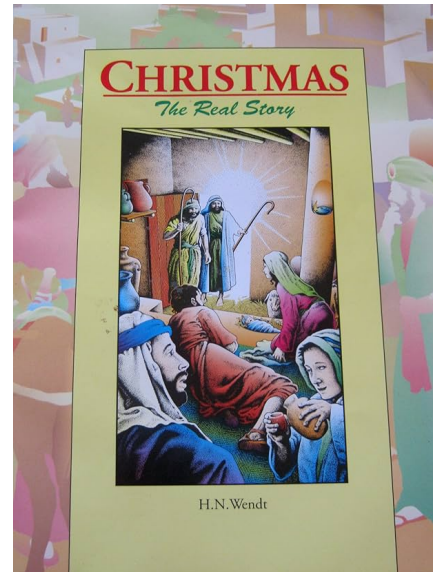
Advent Greetings,

As I write this we have yet to start the new church year. It is in the 50s outside and no snow in the immediate forecast. As we wait for the coming of Christ, Faith Continuum will continue with Gerry Giese leading our review of "Christmas the Real Story". This study will occur on December's 3rd and 10th in the Fireside Room after the first Service.

Faith Continuum has not been scheduled for December 17th. We will not meet then if there is no weather postponement on the 3rd or 10th. We look forward to the morning celebration of "Straight Outta Bethlehem".

Faith Continuum returns the first Sunday of January when Dr. Sarah Ruble leads us at the beginning of our 6 Sunday study of "Race and Christianity".

Christmas blessings to you all, Todd



Thank you from Crossroads

We can't believe that we're already three weeks away from the end of Fall Term at MSU-Mankato! We feel blessed to have Christ the King Lutheran Church and your volunteers as partners in our ministry to feed hungry students through our Lunch-For-a-Buck program. We were pleased to welcome your volunteers on Tuesday, November 14, when Cindy Kehoe, Armin Schull, and Jerry Bodelson combined forces to provide a college favorite lunch of pizza, cheese manicotti, and homemade bars to 65 hungry lunch-goers. They also collected \$43.22 in donations that will be used to purchase the lettuce, fixings, beverages, paper plates, dinnerware, and other supplies for future lunches. God bless you for your generosity and for supporting the students and our ministry at Crossroads.

Parish News

Prayers of Comfort for:

- Audrey Radel in the death of her husband, Vern, October 14th
- The family of Beverly Sorenson, who died on October 24th
- Ruth & Tom McNamara in the death of Tom's mother, Ramona Christensen, who died on October 26th
- Donna Else whose sister Eleanora Larson died on November 25th

Prayers of Celebration for:

- 23 youth who Affirmed their Baptism on Sunday, October 29th
- 11 youth who celebrated their First Communion on Thanksgiving Eve
- Joel & Tammy Fienen who renewed their vows in celebration of 25 years of marriage on October 29th
- Baptism of McKenna Jones, daughter of Matthew & Jessica Jones on October 1st





Bri, Issac, Eli & Etta
Bergstrom

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS



Jason, Leah & Vaeda
Rasmussen



Jen & Brandon Fogarty



Leah, Dave, Raina, Roland
& Petra Zarrett



Barb & Bill Manske



Alex & Megan Denhof



Taylor, Abby, Vayda &
Hudson Barlament

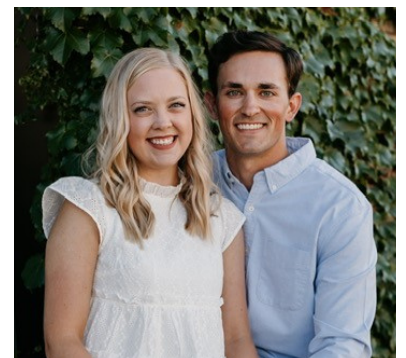


Joyce Weitzenkamp



Ken & Eileen Block

Not Pictured
Kelsey Kneeland
Isabella Pacheco
Nora Tahtinen



Brett & Morgan Taylor



Library Corner

Month of **December** is best known for Christmas and New Year's Eve, but it's also full of other special reasons to celebrate. Perhaps you will see or be communicating with family & friends near and far, giving time and talents to a good cause and perhaps giving an extra hug to someone special. It marks the end of the year and perhaps a time for end-of-year reflections too!

The theme for books this month is the Advent Season. More books can be found throughout the library by looking for a Christmas Tree Sticker on the Book Binding Edge.

ADULT GOOD READ BOOKS

- "Stories Behind the Great Traditions of Christmas" by Ace Collins. "Ever wonder where some of our unique and meaningful Christmas traditions come from? This book reveals the people, places and events that shaped the best-loved customs of holiday and how they all point to Christ." (CODE: 394 COL)
- "A Treasury of Christmas Miracles" by Karen Kingsbury. "True stories of God's Presence Today." CODE: 242 KIN)
- "A Cup of Christmas Tea" by Tom Hegg. "The story of a young man's reluctant visit to an elderly aunt at Christmastime, and the unexpected joy it brings. A holiday classic book!" (CODE: 811 HEG)
- "The Christmas Box Miracle" by Richard Paul Evans. "A spiritual journey of destiny, healing and hope! Unforgettable Christmas classic story that has touched the hearts of millions of readers around the world by its magic." (CODE: B EVA)



BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

- "One Baby Jesus: A new Twelve Days of Christmas" by Patricia Pingy. "The birth of Jesus is presented in the pattern of familiar 12-Days of Christmas." (Code: EP)
- "The Gifts of the Animals: A Christmas Tale" by Carole Gerber. "A poem about the miraculous offering the humble animals in the manger give to the baby". (Code: EG)
- "The Littlest Christmas Tree: A tale of Growing & Becoming" by Janie Jasin. "As a smallest tree seedling grows, it thinks about all the future possibilities even if not chosen to be a Christmas tree." (Code: EJ)

You can also research the library resources by visiting Church website.

CTKmankato.org – (click on) Discover, then Library & Explore Titles.

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.

Rejoice!

YOUR LIGHT HAS COME!

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF JESUS — THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

ANNUAL CANTATA FEATURING:

Christ the King Worship Choir
Handbell Choir
Instrumentalists
Students from Dance Express

10 | **13**
December | December
10:00 AM | 06:00 PM

CHRIST
the KING
LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH *Christmas Program*



A Christmas Story— Inspired Musical

Save the Date **DECEMBER 17TH AT 10AM AND DECEMBER 20TH AT 6PM**

Fellowship Opportunities

December 9th

9:00am: Bibles, Bagels, & Brew
Women's Faith Group

December 19th

10:30am: Loss of Spouse Grief Group
1:00pm: Ruth Circle Bible Study

Tuesdays

9:00am Coffee & Conversation
10:15am Book Study

December 27th

9:00am-3:00pm Quilters
no experience needed

Learn More: ctkmankato.org/get-involved/adults

Save the Date!

Tuesday, December 5th

Advent Music Series ~ 7:00pm
Carol Sing Along
led by Garrett Steinberg

Sunday, December 10th

Cantata Worship ~ 10:00am

Tuesday, December 12th

Advent Music Series ~ 7:00pm
Jim Hatleli & Dave DeJonge

Wednesday, December 13th

Cantata Worship ~ 6:00pm

Sunday, December 17th

Christmas Program ~ 10:00am

Tuesday, December 19th

Advent Music Series ~ 7:00pm
Garrett Steinberg & Friends

Wednesday, December 20th

Christmas Program ~ 6:00pm

Saturday, December 23rd

Advent 4 Traditional Service ~ 5:30pm

Sunday, December 24th

Advent 4 Traditional Service ~ 10:00am

Wednesday, December 27th

NO WORSHIP OR
COMMUNITY SUPPER

New Year's Weekend

Saturday, December 30th ~ 5:30pm
Worship

Sunday, December 31st ~ 10:00am
Worship

CTK

kids



DECEMBER

Join us for our

0-3 year old class

in the Rainbow Room

Lesson: Jonah

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



Register Here

Sunday

December 3, 2023

at 9:00AM

Christmas Program

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

Save the Date

DECEMBER 17TH AT 10AM AND DECEMBER 20TH AT 6PM



Christ the King Lutheran Church First Communion Faith Lab

Sunday, February 4, 2024

3-5PM



**First Communion Service will be
Maundy Thursday March 28, 2024**

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 10-13, 2024

CTK SUMMER MUSICAL IS BACK!

**THE ROCK SLINGER
AND HIS GREATEST HIT**



DATE: AUGUST 19-23, 2024

TIME: 1:00-4:30PM

GRADES: 1ST-12TH GRADE (COMPLETED)

COST: \$30 PER CHILD (SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE)

PERFORMANCE DATES: SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH 5:30PM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH AT 9:30AM



YOUTH

7th-12th Registration



We are partnering with ISD 77 for the 2023 Giving Tree! District Social Workers have identified families who are in need of Christmas love and blessing. Please see the sheet for sponsorship information. If you have any questions, please reach out to alyssah@ctkmankato.org.



<https://bit.ly/ctkgivingtree>

Confirmation⁷⁻⁸⁻⁹

Meets: Dec. 6, 13

Time: 6:45-7:30 PM

Worship Response Form, Supper Serving Schedule, Small Group Guide Sign-Up, Handbook:
ctkmankato.org/get-involved/youth

Supper Servers

12/6	Treehouse Burger Group #1 (9)
12/13	Best of the Midwest (9)
12/20	Treehouse Burger Group #2 (9)

Youth Group¹⁰⁻¹¹⁻¹²

Meets: Dec. 6, 13

Time: 6:45-7:30 PM



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 Brinkman, Contemporary Music Coordinator

Andrea Petzel, Communications & Event Coordinator

Carolyn Krause, Front-desk

Dede Amundson; Front-desk

Jodi Maas, Faith Engagement Coordinator: ext. 25

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

Mark Thompson, Custodian

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, December. 18
Please email to andreap@ctkmankato.org or leave with front desk.