

  
**CHRIST**  
*the* **KING**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
222 Pfau Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: 507-345-5056  
Fax: 507-345-6115

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Visit us online!  
[www.ckmankato.org](http://www.ckmankato.org)

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Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 252

Mankato, MN 56001

December

## December Community Meal Menu

### December 3

Goulash, Garlic Toast,  
Green Beans and Cookie

### December 10

Ham, Mashed Potatoes,  
Corn, Dinner Roll, Assorted Pies

### December 17

Ham and Potato Soup, Coleslaw,  
Biscuit, Cupcake

# 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 Eve

*Services*

December 24th

12 pm- Traditional Service with Communion

2 pm- Blended Service

4 pm- Blended Service

10 pm- Traditional Service with Communion

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH CANTATA

## A THRILL OF HOPE: THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES!

FEATURING:

WORSHIP CHOIR

HANDBELL CHOIR

INSTRUMENTALISTS



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

5:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

10:00 A.M.

# NEWS @ CTK



## CTK GIVING TREE

### Sponsor a Kid from ISD 77 or CTK

1. PICK A TAG FROM THE GIVING TREE IN THE NARTHEX
2. BUY A GIFT FOR THE CHILD LISTED ON THE TAG
3. WRAP THE GIFT
4. ATTACH THE TAG TO THE WRAPPED GIFT
5. DROP IT OFF IN THE OFFICE BY DECEMBER 17
6. IF YOU KNOW OF A CHILD IN NEED HERE WITHIN CTK, PLEASE CONTACT KIRSTEN DIRECTLY.



## *Mankato Area Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar* *Sunday December 14, 2025, from 8-11:30am*

We will have vendors in Fair Trade who will have merchandise available for purchase on this day. These purchases will help to support global communities in their efforts to be self-sufficient in providing schools, clean water, electricity, medical care, and infrastructure.



## *Volunteers Needed*

We are looking for Worship Assistants to help with our services for the month of December, January and Christmas Eve services. Please scan the QR codes to sign up or you may also find this on our website under the "WORSHIP" tab.

December



January



# PARISH NEWS

## Prayers of Comfort

Karen & Chad Courier in the death of Chad's mother, Karen Courier on November 6<sup>th</sup>  
Marilyn Bigbee & family in the death of Kent Bigbee on November 10<sup>th</sup>  
The family of Jim Borseth who died on November 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Prayers of Celebration

The baptism of Beau David on November 16th, Beau is the son of Paige & Mark Milbrandt

## **Weekly Worship Times @CTK**

**Wednesdays:** 6:00pm

**Saturdays:** 5:30pm

**Sundays:** 8:00am and 10:00am

Worship services are streamed live on Saturday and Sunday at  
[facebook.com/CTKChurchMankato](https://facebook.com/CTKChurchMankato) and [youtube.com/@ctkmankato/streams](https://youtube.com/@ctkmankato/streams)

## ***Christ the King Staff***

**CTK Main Phone Number:** 507-345-5056

**Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger**, Senior Pastor: ext. 23, [melaniew@ctkmankato.org](mailto:melaniew@ctkmankato.org)

**Pastor Brittany Mailleue**; ext 37, [brittanym@ctkmankato.org](mailto:brittanym@ctkmankato.org)

**Carly Ballman**, Office Administrator: [communications@ctkmankato.org](mailto:communications@ctkmankato.org)

**Al Lee**, Technology Arts Director: [all@ctkmankato.org](mailto:all@ctkmankato.org)

**Amy Olsen**, Financial Assistant: [amyo@ctkmankato.org](mailto:amyo@ctkmankato.org)

**Ariac Cruz**, Custodial & Property Staff

**Bri Bergstrom**, Contemporary Music Coordinator: [brib@ctkmankato.org](mailto:brib@ctkmankato.org)

**Kirsten Elliott**, Director of Children's Ministries: ext. 20, [kirstene@ctkmankato.org](mailto:kirstene@ctkmankato.org)

**Kristi Regnier**, Chef: [kristir@ctkmankato.org](mailto:kristir@ctkmankato.org)

**Mark Thompson**, Custodian: ext.11, [markt@ctkmankato.org](mailto:markt@ctkmankato.org)

**Robin Hughes**, Choir and Hand Bell Director: [robinh@ctkmankato.org](mailto:robinh@ctkmankato.org)

**Todd Lundquist**, Faith Continuum Coordinator: [toddl@ctkmankato.org](mailto:toddl@ctkmankato.org)

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

Deadline for Next Issue Newsletter Articles: Monday, November 17, 2025

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





**WE ARE GRATEFUL** for your generous response to our Stewardship & Capital Campaign! As of DATE:

- Pledges for our annual ministry budget in 2026 total \$332,435
- Initial Gifts and 3 Year Pledges for our Capital Campaign total: \$991,560

We will continue to follow up to increase participation in this exciting effort!


**YOUR GIFTS MATTER!** As we approach the last month of 2025, we need your support to close the gap in our giving. We are excited to now have two full time pastors serving Christ the King! January 2026 we will begin a new fiscal year, with our new increased annual ministry budget. Please give generously as the year ends so we can enter the New Year in a strong financial position.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEAR END GIVING!** Christ the King Lutheran Church documents year-end gifts in accordance with IRS regulations. This means that any contributions you'd like to deduct for tax purposes in 2025 must be received by the Church office before the office closes at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 31. Contributions sent via mail must be postmarked by 12/31/2025.

As you make your gifts, be sure to indicate the amounts designated for:

- 2025 annual ministry support
- Gifts for our Covering Our Church in Love Capital Campaign

If you plan to, or have recently made, a stock transfer or qualified charitable gift, please contact Amy Olson at [amyo@ctkmankato.org](mailto:amyo@ctkmankato.org), for details on how these gifts can be transferred directly to CTK.



Students continue to join us for Lunch For-a-Buck every Tuesday, and they are always so polite and go out of their way to thank volunteers and staff for the delicious, hot meals. We are thankful and blessed to have Christ the King Lutheran Church and your volunteers as partners in our ministry to feed students through our Lunch For-a-Buck program. On Tuesday, November 11th, faithful servants Jim Hatleli, Cindy Kehoe, Armin Schull, and Dean Brudwick served a delicious luncheon of pasta fagioli soup, tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, salad, brownies, and cookies to 42 hungry lunch-goers. They also collected \$38.25 in donations that will be used to purchase the salad supplies, beverages, dinnerware, and other items for lunches during the school year.

God bless you for your generosity and for supporting the students and our ministry at Crossroads. We look forward to seeing you again on Tuesday, December 9. We couldn't do what we do without you!!

Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry




## Faith Continuum

So many Advent and Christmas events call our attention to the fact that this season, as one of our Faith Continuum presenter's proclaimed, is all about Christ.

With the Senior Choir's Cantata and the Youth Christmas program coming, we have two scheduled Sundays, December 7th and 14th. On the 7th, we will be examining our new year pre-Lent study of the book of Acts. It will be a prequel of the early new year 6 week event.

On December 14th there will be Faith Continuum with our very own Garrett Steinberg sharing the meaning of "O Antiphons" within all three verses of "O come O come Emmanuel".



CTK is looking for food and servers for the week of January 4-10, 2026 at Connections Shelter. Please use QR code to sign up to be a volunteer.





SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

# Beer and Carols

Join us for a cozy evening of holiday cheer, live caroling, and locally brewed beers at Paddlefish Brewery in St. Peter.

Monday, December 15 from 6-8 PM

Bring your friends, your singing voice, and your holiday spirit.

## Advent Music Series

Join us every Tuesday night at 7 pm as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with a different musical performance. Prior to each concert, gather for fellowship with cider and cookies, presented by the Congregational Life Board.

**December 2: MN Riverbend Brass Choir**

**December 9: Aliya Mukamuri**

**December 23: Garrett Steinberg and Friends**





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To the Friends of Christ the King Lutheran Church,

As we approach the last month of 2025, we write with gratitude for the many ways you support our shared ministry. This has been a year filled with blessings, growth, and faithful service. At the same time, we need your support to close a gap in our giving. We are currently behind last year's giving by \$40,584.15, even though our budget calls for a 6% increase over 2024. Your gifts are essential to sustaining the ministries, programs, and outreach through which we strive to know Christ and make Christ known.

We are excited to now have two full-time pastors serving Christ the King! As we enter a new fiscal year in January 2026—with an expanded ministry budget that reflects both our needs and our hopes—we ask you to please give generously as the 2025 year ends so we can enter the New Year in a strong financial position.

Thank you for your faithful year-end giving. Christ the King Lutheran Church documents gifts in accordance with IRS regulations. For contributions to be deductible for tax purposes in 2025, they must be received in the Church office by 3:00 PM on Wednesday, December 31, or postmarked by 12/31/2025 if mailed.

We are grateful for your response to our Stewardship and Capital Campaigns! As of November 19, 2025:

- Pledges for the 2026 annual ministry budget total \$332,435
- Initial gifts and 3-year pledges for the Capital Campaign total \$991,560

Your participation is a testament to the strength and faithfulness of this congregation, and we will continue reaching out to invite even more members to join in this important work.

As you make your gifts, please indicate the amounts designated for:

- 2025 annual ministry support
- 2026 Covering Our Church in Love annual stewardship campaign.
- Covering Our Church in Love Capital Campaign gifts

Let us make this year-end appeal every bit as meaningful and successful as our Capital Campaign and 2026 Stewardship Campaign efforts.

Thank you for your continued generosity, faithfulness, and partnership in ministry. We are truly blessed by this congregation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbie Roessler".

Barbie Roessler  
President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J Svien".

Jennifer Svien  
Treasurer

# PRAYER CORNER

by Jorun Meierding, Prayer Room Coordinator

## DOXOLOGY, A WORD OF GLORY!

If you are Lutheran, any time is a good time to sing the Doxology! But it seems especially appropriate now, at the end of the year, as we reflect on the challenges and blessings of 2025.

"Doxology" comes from the Latin word *doxologia*, which in turn comes from the ancient Greek *logos*, meaning "word," and *doxa*, meaning "glory." Therefore, a doxology is literally a word of glory. Let's end the year by singing a word of praise and glory to God:

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.*

[ELW #884 and #885]. This hymn was written in 1674 by Thomas Ken, an Anglican bishop and royal chaplain.

These four simple lines have resounded throughout church halls and sanctuaries for more than 350 years, making it one of the most universally sung hymns in the English-speaking world. It has been said that it is "likely the single best-known verse of all Christian hymnology and poetry."

1 Indeed, many people do not even need a hymnal to sing it, so ingrained it is in their minds and memories.

The need to praise and worship God is universal. God made us for doxology. God made us for praise. God created a world where "*the heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork*" [Psalm 19:1], just as we experienced in the recent awesome display of Aurora Borealis—the Northern Lights. Jesus said that if his followers were silent, "*the very stones would cry out*" in praise to God. [Luke 19:40]. We glorify God in our heartfelt expressions of praise. The simple yet profound words of the Doxology allow us to praise and worship God, both individually and corporately, as we lift our voices to the One who deserves all our devotion.

*I will praise You, O Lord my God,  
with all my heart,  
And I will glorify Your name  
forevermore.*

Psalm 86:12 [NKJV]

1 [www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-best-known-hymn-in-history](http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-best-known-hymn-in-history)  
paragraph text



# +CTK

Children, Youth & Family

December

GOOD EARTH VILLAGE

AUGUST 2-5, 2026

Registration December 7<sup>th</sup>

More information to come!

3-5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sportstastic Camp is perfect for kids who love to move, play, and compete in a positive, faith-filled environment.

6th-10<sup>th</sup> Grade

Confirmation Camp takes learning beyond the classroom-into the woods, around the campfire, and beside friends growing in faith.



## CTK YOUTH EVENT

7-12 Grade

# Paint & Sip

(Dirty Soda's & Hot Cocoa/Cider)



Date: Friday, December 12, 2025

Time: 7:00-9:00PM

Location: CTK Community Room

Gift Exchange: "Re-Gift a Treasure" –  
Bring something you already own  
and would love to pass along!



## Youth Led Bible Study

Date: Sunday, December 14 & 28

Time: 6:30PM

Location: Youth Room

Contact Maya Kopp for more information!



# COOKIES AND CAROLS

Sweet Treats and Sweet Tunes

Join us December 6 from 3-5 PM as  
we decorate Christmas Cookies and  
Sing carols to our CTK neighbors



## Children's Christmas Play

*All About This Baby*

Performances on:  
Wednesday December 17 at 6pm  
Sunday December 21 at 10am



0-3 year old class in the Rainbow Room

Sunday  
December 7th  
9AM

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



# LIBRARY CORNER



December means busy days ahead and enjoying time with family and friends. It is a wonderful time of the year as we look forward to once again preparing and celebrating the special Advent Season. The theme for books this month is a focus on the many joys and stories of Christmas. Look for many books for all ages in our library with a 'Christmas Tree Sticker' on the book binding edge for your enjoyment. Happy Holiday Season from the CTK Library Committee!

## ADULT BOOK SELECTIONS for Advent Season!

*"A Cup of Christmas Tea"* by Tom Hegg [811 HEG]. "A holiday classic story of young man's reluctant visit to an elderly aunt at Christmastime."



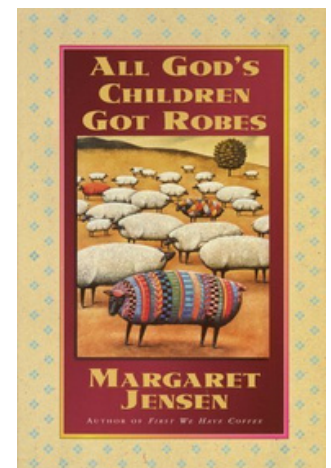
*"Miles To Go Before I Sleep"* by Jackie Nink Pflug [B Pfl]. (November 1985) "My grateful journey back from the hijacking of EgyptAir Flight #648. Jackie was shot in the head at point-blank range, pushed out of the plane, left for dead on the tarmac and dragged to van headed for the morgue. She survived and in the midst of her long healing, grief and loss she learned what life is really about."

*"They Named Me Marjorie"* by Ann Zemke. (Granddaughter of Marjorie Peterson) [B Pet] "A brave journey of an Orphan Train Rider in 1906, Marjorie was indentured by a family in Minnesota and survived a lifetime of personal challenges, yet her spirit allowed her to make significant person contributions to the world. Author shares this heartwarming narrative plus information about a special quilt she made in her grandmother's memory."



*"A Man Called Norman"* by his neighbor Mike Adkins. [B Cor] "The unforgettable story of an uncommon Friendship. God used Norman to teach Mike what it means to Love your neighbor as yourself and a simple trust in the Lord that would change the course of his life."

*"All God's Children Got Robes"* by Margaret Jensen. [B Jen] "A poignant, sometimes humorous account based on author's personal journal about loss, cancer and joy. Take courage for our road ahead, and remember we do not walk alone. Our times are in God's hands."



BOOKS IN CHILDREN'S 'READING NOOK' –

Many on Display and on the Shelves for Advent Season!