

# 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.





# Message from Pastor Melanie

It is popular in churches these days to say that being the church is "all about relationships". What holds up that idea? Two biblical and theological concepts come to mind. One is from Genesis that in the creation, humanity is made in the image of God—a God who is generous and connects with each human.

The other concept is the body of Christ from the writings of Paul, implying that the church is a group of people that relates together and is connected by the body of Christ—through baptism, communion, and the way we relate to God, each other, and the world around us.

Because God's love is so grand, sometimes we overthink these concepts and think what we do as the church has to be complicated. At Christ the King, we are working together to find simple and joyful ways to connect relationally and creatively in congregational life. I believe these activities are faithful to what we are taught in scripture, tangible acts that reflect love of God and neighbor with creative and joyful flair.

Look for the following CTK Social activities:

Painting in January (see next page)

Wow Zone in February

Board Games in March

Cooking with Chef Clayton in April

CTK Social is designed specially to help adults get to know other adults of the congregation in a relaxed setting. It's a great way to help new members get to know others and/or someone you haven't seen in awhile. Hope to see you at a CTK Social in the New Year!!!

## Fellowship Opportunities

### Tuesdays

9:00am Coffee & Conversation

10:15am Book Study

### January 13th

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

### January 16th

1:00pm: Ruth Circle Bible Study

### January 22nd

6:30pm: Women's Bible Study

### January 24th & 31st

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

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

## Thank you for Supporting Fair Trade at the CTK Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar



Vendors at the December 10th Fair Trade Christmas Bazaar, 10,000 Villages and New Ulm's Own, were impressed by the level of support you showed for the global artisans whose creations now grace your home or became gifts for others. Until next year's Christmas Bazaar, you can further support Fair Trade at your favorite grocery store. Look for the Fair Trade logo on the product packaging.



# PAINTING CLASS

## CTK SOCIAL

SPONSORED BY FAITHFUL PEOPLE

DATE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 20  
TIME: 3:00PM  
LOCATION: CTK FIRESIDE ROOM  
COST: \$30



REGISTER:



REGISTER WITH A FRIEND AND THEY ATTEND FREE!  
NURSERY WILL BE AVAILABLE

<https://bit.ly/ctksocialpaint>

# Bibles, Bagels & Brew

## Women's Faith Group

Saturday, January 13  
9:00am  
Fireside Room

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."*

— Colossians 3:17

Stop in to fill your bucket with a light breakfast and wholesome conversation.

We will be talking about New Year's resolutions and how we can better set ourselves up to follow God's plan.

My GOALS 2024

The Friendship Family Program  
presents:

# A Warm Welcome

Thurs, Jan 4  
6-7:30pm  
Hosanna  
Highland Church

Free winter gear,  
blankets,  
cocoa, & treats!



## January 2nd - 6th

Volunteers are needed  
for CTK's week at Connections

Meal preparers drop the food off at the shelter, ready to serve at 5:45pm. You can choose to drop off the food or sign up to stay and serve! The serving shift goes from 5:45-7:30pm.

Please plan food for about 35 people.



[bit.ly/ShelterSignUp](https://bit.ly/ShelterSignUp)



# Prayer Corner

submitted by Jorun Meierding, Prayer Room Coordinator

## Praying the Psalms

Welcome to a new year—2024! This year we are going to focus our study on “praying the Psalms.” The book of Psalms, sometimes called the “Psalter,” is included in the Old Testament of the Bible and contains 150 chapters or individual psalms. The word “psalm” means a song recited to the accompaniment of a stringed instrument. It is believed that psalms were used in corporate worship in the ancient church, as they are today. The Psalms have been called the “prayer book of the Bible.” Thus, we are wise to study and apply them in our life of prayer.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian, who was imprisoned and executed by the Nazis in April of 1945, just days before the end of World War II. He is the author of *Psalms: the Prayer Book of the Bible*, which will provide a framework for our study this year. Bonhoeffer prayed the Psalms and teaches us to do the same:

“The child learns to speak because his father speaks to him. He learns the speech of his father. So we must learn to speak to God because God has spoken to us and speaks to us. By means of the speech of the Father in heaven, his children learn to speak with him. Repeating God's own words after him, we begin to pray to him. We ought to speak to God and he wants to hear us, not in the false and confused speech of our heart, but in the clear and pure speech which God has spoken to us in Jesus Christ.” From Bonhoeffer, D. (1970). *Psalms: the Prayer Book of the Bible*, Augsburg Publishing House, p. 11.

Jesus also prayed the Psalms, as have many believers down through the ages. Martin Luther, John Wesley, C.S. Lewis and others all knew and prayed the Psalms. Monastic orders regularly recite the Psalms, which become deeply etched into their minds and memories.

This year, I challenge you to incorporate the Psalms into your prayer life. One method is to read and pray one Psalm each day, beginning with Psalm 1 and working your way to Psalm 150. If you do this, you will pray through the entire Psalter twice this year! You will also learn new ways of talking to God, and you will broaden your prayers to include topics you may not otherwise have considered. In coming months in this column, we will examine various types of Psalms as categorized by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

*Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.  
Psalm 55:17 (NKJV)*

# Parish News

## Prayers of Comfort for:

- Ruth & Tom McNamara in the death of Ruth's mother, Ramona Christensen, who died on October 26th

## Prayers of Celebration for:

- Baptism of Colin Jeffrey Nessler, son of Scott and Katie on December 30
- Baptism of Colin Bode Thompson Kall, son of Brett and Becca on December 30



# Thank you from Crossroads

We can't believe that we're already at the end of Fall Term at MSU-Mankato! We are beyond blessed to have Christ the King Lutheran Church and your volunteers as partners in our ministry to feed the Lord's sheep through our Lunch For-a-Buck program. We were pleased to welcome your volunteers on three separate Tuesdays during Fall Term when they fed a total of 179 people while collecting \$158.01 in donations. In all, five area ELCA congregations combined to serve Lunch For-a-Buck on 15 Tuesdays during the term, feeding a total of 828 people and collecting \$820.84 in donations. This is a substantial increase over 2022, when 448 individuals were served lunch during Fall Term and \$514.81 in donations was collected.

We look forward to seeing you at your next Lunch For-a-Buck following winter break on January 9, 2024. God bless you for your generosity and for supporting the students and our ministry at Crossroads.

Crossroads Campus Ministry

# Faith Continuum

## "non nobis solum, sed omnibus"

Happy New Year All,

Faith Continuum has a full slate of engagements for all 18 years of age and older CTK members and guests. We return on January 7th after the first Service in the Fireside Room with a 6 Sunday series on "Race in America". This series is a continuation of Race studies we started with the Third Reich's view of the world in October. We now take a deeper dive into a topic that is relevant to America's climate today on which our Synod has taken a stand.



We will be led by Dr. Sarah Ruble who authored this series. On the 7th we begin with Race and Slavery in the Atlantic World and Colonial Virginia. On the following five Sundays topics include Christians Race and Nation in New Republic (The Awakening of 1840s), Slavery Debates and the Bible (Fight leading to Civil War), Reconstruction and American Redemption, Civil Rights – Myth and Reality and finally a perspective of where we are today. We look forward to seeing you there.

Peace, Todd

# Treasurer's Report

11/30/2023

	Nov 2023	MTD Budget	Variance	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance	Nov 2022	Variance	Prior YTD	Variance
Total Operational Income	\$ 72,227	\$ 73,330	\$ (1,103)	\$ 328,330	\$ 366,651	\$ (38,321)	\$ 61,035	\$ 11,192	\$ 308,184	\$ 20,146
Total Operational Expenses	\$ (69,905)	\$ (73,830)	\$ 3,925	\$ (337,473)	\$ (369,151)	\$ 31,678	\$ (72,283)	\$ 2,378	\$ (453,569)	\$ 116,096
Other Income	\$	\$ 500	\$ (500)	\$ 8,227	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,727	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,768	\$ 459
Other Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ 2,322	\$ -	\$ 2,322	\$ (916)	\$ -	\$ (916)	\$ (11,248)	\$ 13,570	\$ (137,617)	\$ 136,701

Submitted by CTK Treasurer, David Krause



# Library Corner

Month of **January** brings a new year for all of us. As we say goodbye to 2023, it is certain that many have experienced great joys as well as perhaps significant sadness and challenges during the year. Yet we know that blessings abound as we prepare our lives for activities and unknown events ahead in 2024! Hope you might now find time to relax & enjoy a good book.

## ADULT GOOD READ NEW BOOKS:

- "The Apple Orchard" by Susan Wiggs. "A powerful story of love, loss, hope and redemption. If you don't believe memories are worth more than money, perhaps you have not made the right kind of memories. Author takes the reader from present to Denmark during WWII to tell story of family ties both old and new." (CODE: F-WIG)
- "The Book of Lost Names" by Kristin Harmel. "Inspired by an astonishing true story from WWII, a young woman with a talent for forgery helps hundreds of Jewish children flee the Nazis in this historical novel. Question is, after 60-years, can children be identified for families?" (CODE: F HAR )
- "The Invisible Wall" by Harry Bernstein. "Memoir written by author at age 93. The 'invisible wall' down center of a narrow Street divided Jewish from Christian families. A story of working class life and religious boundaries that can be overcome by love." (Code: B BER)
- "Sweetbriar Cottage" by Denise Hunter. "Story is full of emotional tension, true to life characters, high stakes, and powerful chemistry blend to tell an emotional story of reconciliation." (CODE: F HUN)
- "The Refuge" by Ann H. Gabhart. "Young couple join Shaker village during a cholera epidemic to stay healthy. With tragic death, pregnant wife has no choice but to stay in this celibate community. Author explores power of love and the bond of family." (CODE: F GAB)
- "The Hideaway" by Lauren K. Denton. "When her grandmother Mags' will wrenches Sara back to her small hometown of Sweet Bay, Alabama, she must face family secrets and difficult choices. The Hideaway is a ramshackle B&B she has been charged to renovate with many surprising challenges." (Code: F DEN)
- "Friendship in the Age of Loneliness" by Adam Smiley Poswolsky. "After months of social distancing and lockdown during COVID, it is clearer than ever that our friendships and social bonds are vital to our health & happiness. Today's digital age reminds us the importance of nurturing old & new friendships." (Code: 248.8 POS)

## BOOKS FOR CHILDREN: [Returns next month- - hope you will still explore]

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

Space has recently been provided for the RIC committee to display informational materials in CTK library on shelf just inside door. No check out needed as these are not part of the CTK library book database inventory.





FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES PARTNERS

# January Collection

FOCP provides meals & snacks to area youth struggling with food-insecurity. Specific items are needed to stock pantries at local schools. Donations can be placed in the box in the Narthex.



**Chicken Pouch:** Swanson, Great Value, small individual cans or packages



**Crackers:** Any flavor, any brand, individual packs



**Rice a Roni:** Individual cups, rice or pasta



**Rice Packets:** Great Value, Bens Original, Minute, Knorr, etc. Preferably Individual microwavable bags



**Peanut Butter:** Jif, Skippy, Good & Gather, Great Value, etc. Preferably smaller jars or individual cups



**Easy Mac and Cheese Cups:** kraft, Annies, any store brand



**Hamburger Helper:** Any flavor and brand



**Cereal Cups:** Any kind, any brand, individual boxes or cups



**Instant Mashed Potatoes:** Any flavor and brand, preferably individual microwavable cups



**Fruit Cups:** Individual cups, any fruit and brand.



**Granola Bars:** Chewy, Sunbelt, Nature Valley, Nutri Grain, KIND, etc.



**Soup:** Bear Creek Mix, canned soup, any brand and flavor



**Jerky:** Jack Links, CHOMPS, etc. Small bags or individual wrapped sticks.



**Ramen Noodles:** Any flavor and brand



**Syrup:** Smaller bottles, any brand



**Muffin Mix:** Betty Crocker, Great Value, Hy-vee, Pillsbury, etc. any flavor



**Pancake Mix:** Smaller bags or boxes, any brand



**Noodles:** Any style noddle and any brand



**Pasta Sauce:** Prego, Great Value, Ragu, Hy-vee, etc. any flavor



**Alfredo Sauce:** Prego, Great Value, Hy-vee, Ragu, etc.

## Faith Formation, Confirmation & Youth Group will be packaging "Snack Packs" in February.

# CTK JANUARY

*kids*

Join us for our

*0-3 year old class*

in the Rainbow Room

**Lesson: Jesus Calls Disciples**

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



**Register Here**

Sunday

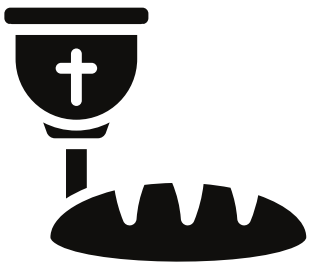
**January 7, 2024**

**at 9:00AM**

**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**



**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



## 7-8-9 Confirmation

Meets: Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Time: 6:45-7:30 PM

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

## Supper Servers

1/3	Dino Nuggets (7)
1/10	Flying Chickens (7)
1/17	Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies (8)
1/24	Speedy Turtles (8)
1/31	Treehouse Burger Group #1 (9)

## 10-11-12 Youth Group

Meets: Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Time: 6:45-7:30 PM



Lunch!  
Jan. 10  
1:45-3:00  
Jimmy Johns



## Lunch & Movie

Date: Monday, January 15

Time: 11 AM-Late Afternoon

Grades: 6th-12th Invite your friends!

Cost: \$20 (lunch, movie ticket, popcorn & beverage)

Register by 1/13

<https://bit.ly/lunchandmovie>



# Weekly Worship Schedule

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

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

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

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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, January 15  
Please email to [andreap@ctkmankato.org](mailto:andreap@ctkmankato.org) or leave with front desk.