

# 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.

## Scenes from VBS 2025 @ Christ the King

Vacation Bible School is a long-standing summer tradition at Christ the King. The energy of the kids fills the entire church. Songs and games, Bible lessons and art, snacks and giggles fill Christ the King for four days. Your support of this tradition is appreciated! Your support fulfills baptismal promises. Thank you to all the volunteers and leaders that facilitated a memorable experience--connections with God and others.



## IN THIS ISSUE

Coffee & Conversation--Page 2  
Upcoming Faith & Fellowship Schedule--Page 3  
Prayer Corner--Page 5

WELCOME Team update--Page 7  
Meet Office Administrator Carly Ballman--Page 9  
RIC ready to listen--Page 11



# FAITH FORMATION AT WORK

## Friendship & Bible study poured out at Coffee & Conversation



*Coffee and Conversation is a Bible study that meets weekly on Tuesday mornings at 9am for ten months of the year. Bible lessons are based on the readings for the upcoming weekend worship. There are always treats, coffee, laughter, and friendship. Regulars and newcomers join in laughter, reading, and questions. Jim Armbruster (upper left) enjoys his turn reading a passage. Jane Maas (upper right) and Elaine Pestka (upper right background) catch up with other attendees. Pastor Melanie follows along with online participant Barb Lindenberg (lower left). Jerry Bodelson (lower right) fills his coffee cup before the study begins. The Bible study is currently on hiatus, but will reconvene at a time to be announced.*



# Gather with God, friends, and neighbors



## Remaining Faith & Fellowship Schedule

Purple=@CTK Green=off campus

**JULY 2**

Amy Manette Band @ CTK

**JULY 9**

Arboretum @ Gustavus Adolphus

**JULY 16**

YWCA @ CTK

**JULY 23**

Jim & Dave @ CTK

**JULY 30**

Chankaska Creek

Community Conversations

**AUGUST 6**

Pool Night

@ Spring Lake Park

**AUGUST 13**

Camp Patterson

**AUGUST 20**

Karaoke Night @ CTK

**AUGUST 27**

Javens Winery

**SEPTEMBER 3**

Rally Night @ CTK



# LIBRARY CORNER

This month we celebrate liberty and freedom - HAPPY JULY 4th! The month brings changes in our calendar along with longer daylight hours, sports, some special family time, and picnics. Perhaps you are hoping to read a book or two in the weeks ahead. To help you with that goal, listed are a variety of new books that have been purchased for adults & children and are on display in library. . . Happy Reading!

## Books for Adult Readers

*(On display and on the shelves)*

**“Who’s Who & Where’s Where in Bible”** by Stephen Miller. [R 220.3]

**“Circle of Grace”** by Penelope Stokes. [F STO]

**“The Memory Book”** by Penelope Stokes. [F STO]

**“The Treasure Box”** by Penelope Stokes. [F STO] (This author’s writing is strong, not afraid to ask hard questions about faith.)

**“Crossing Oceans”** by Gina Holmes. [F HOL]

**Riverbend Gaps”** by Denise Hunter. [F HUNRIV]

**“Tending Roses”** by Lisa Wingate. [F WIN]

**“A Thousand Voices”** by Lisa Wingate. [F WIN]

**“Drenched In Light”** by Lisa Wingate. [F WIN]

**“Minnesota Quilts”** – Creating Connections with our Past. [746 KEL]

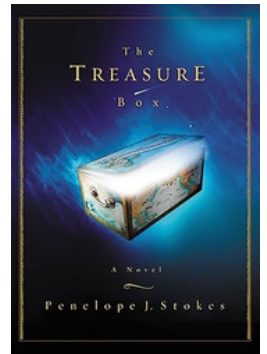
**“Beyond That, The Sea”** by Laura Spence-Ash. [F SPE]

**“The Heirloom Garden”** by Viola Shipman. [F SHI]

**“Famous In A Small Town”** by Viola Shipman. [F SHI]

**“The Hope Chest”** by Viola Shipman. [F SHI] (Listed author is a pen name for award-winning memoirist Wade Rouse who was inspired by his grandmother, Viola Shipman’s memory and heirlooms.)

**“It’s Taken Years to Get This Old”** by Karen O’Connor. [248.8 O’CO]



## Books for Children

*(On display & check Kid’s Korner for more)*

**“Let There Be Peace On Earth”** by Jill Jackson & Sy Miller. [EJ]

**“Always Together”** by Patricia Kreiser. [EK]

**“Wish Upon A Dream”** by Margaret Brown. [EB]

(Wrote ‘Good Nite Moon’)

**“Thoughtfull” Discovering Unique Gifts** by Dorena Williamson. [EW]

**“The Gift”** by Robert Morneau. [EM]

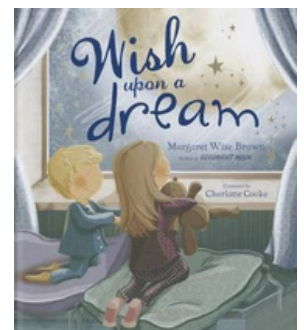
**“The Story of Noah and the Ark”** according to Book of Genesis. [EB]

**“Good Night Racism”** by Ibram Kendi. [EK]

**“Stay This Way Forever”** by Linsey Davis. [ED]

**“To Shy for Show & Tell”** by Beth Bracken. [EB]

**“I Love A Book”** by Joe Rhatigan. [ER]



# PRAYER CORNER

by Jorun Meierding, Prayer Room Coordinator

## Offering and offertory inspire God's transformation

In this Prayer Corner, we are examining various parts of the Lutheran liturgy and how we can incorporate them into our personal prayer life. This month we will consider the Offering and the Offertory, which are two separate parts of the liturgy. During the Offering, ushers pass the plates to worshipers, collect gifts of money, and place those gifts upon the altar. Including the Offering as part of the worship service allows us to acknowledge that everything we have comes from God and ultimately belongs to God. Offering some of what we have back to God is an act of worship and thankfulness.



Immediately following the Offering we sing an offertory. Although there are many options, probably the best-known Lutheran Offertory is this one:

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

*Cast me not away from your presence; and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore unto me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

[See ELW pp. 185 – 188].

These words come from Psalm 51:10-12, which is a prayer for forgiveness attributed to King David after his sin with Bathsheba. Why do we sing this prayer after the Offering? What does sin and repentance and God's forgiveness have to do with the Offering? There may be a clue hidden a few verses later in Psalm 51, where we read, "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." [Psalm 51:17].

This verse emphasizes that God values inner transformation over offerings, even sacrificial offerings. We cannot outgive God and we can never repay God for everything he has done for us. What God really wants from us, more than our money, is for us to be in right relationship with him. By asking God to "create in me a clean heart," we are really asking God to change us and make us holy, so that we can enjoy being in God's presence. Offering to God our broken and contrite hearts is a sacrifice more valuable than any monetary gift we can give.

In your prayer time this month, read and reflect on the words of Psalm 51, and consider what you are offering to God.

***Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;  
bring an offering, and come before him.  
Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
tremble before him, all the earth.  
~1 Chronicles 16:29~***

# NEWS @ CTK

## Faith Continuum encourages support of Crossroads Campus Ministry @ MSU

We are about 10 weeks from the first fall Faith Continuum! The schedule is filling nicely. We will start the year with some old and new friends. Individual presentations and series are in the works. It is an exciting time to be the coordinator and watch how the Spirit leads us to learn of more opportunities to serve his kingdom here.

Speaking of serving, many of you are aware that Crossroads Campus Ministry is in dire financial straits. Some may have received an urgent message from the Crossroads board about the need to raise significant funds this summer:

“... we’ve launched a bold “Keep the Lights On” campaign, with a goal of raising \$100,000 to stabilize Crossroads and ensure we can keep showing up for students long-term. Our first immediate need is \$30,000 by August 1 to sustain us through the summer months...”

From the conversations Faith Continuum attendees have had with Pastor Jenna and Becky Menk, we learned how important



this ministry is for feeding food insecure students. Becky mentioned there are 900 or so students who receive food stuffs each month. This ministry continues during the summer as most international students do not return home.

If you would like to help, please contact Pastor Jenna at [pastorjenna@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjenna@gmail.com), or Ian Heseltine at [ian.heseltine@alumni.augsburg.edu](mailto:ian.heseltine@alumni.augsburg.edu) or check out this site: [https://secure.qgiv.com/for/crossroadscampusministry-mankato?blm\\_aid=19496](https://secure.qgiv.com/for/crossroadscampusministry-mankato?blm_aid=19496). In addition, [crossroadsatmnsu.org/](http://crossroadsatmnsu.org/) provides a contribution link.

## CTK quilters send quilts close to home and across the globe

The CTK Quilters meet monthly in the Fireside Room, the 4th and 5th Wednesday of from 9am to 3pm. The group sews Quilts Of LOVE for neighbors in our community and around the world. So far in 2025, 12 quilts were given to MSU-Mankato international students, 24 to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul, 24 to CTK graduating seniors and 7 to CADA House in Mankato. You are invited to quilt, no sewing skills required. There is a job for everyone. Come and enjoy fellowship! If you are interested in joining the group or sewing quilt tops at home, contact the church office and they will put you in contact with a CTK quilter.



# Summer WELCOME Team update; funds raised

WELCOME stands for Welcoming Everyone with Love and Compassion; Our Mission: Embracing discipleship. The team includes members from Mankato Area ELCA Lutheran churches: Bethlehem, Calvary, Christ the King, Grace, and Messiah. Since December 2022, we have supported a family seeking asylum. Team members are Bethlehem Pastor Jacie Richmond, Christ the King Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger, Grace Pastor John Odegard, Messiah Pastor LaDonna Thomas, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry Katy Chatelaine, Amy Haigh, Ben Geer, Georgia Holmes, Oliver P Stow, Shellee Hintz, Mary Jost, Steve Jones, Kathy Sallstrom, Penny Banwart, Carrol Meyers-Dobler, Judy Stow, Janet Jones, Barb Heller, Beth Krusemark, and Amy Boles. Feel free to reach out to any team member if you have questions.

Our recent Grateful Gathering: Fiesta of Joy raised \$11,234.30 to support this family and these efforts. Thank you to everyone who supported the event. Your sustaining efforts are appreciated. Please continue to contribute through your congregation, indicating that funds go to WELCOME and/or the refugee family.



## CTK solar panel data: June 30, 2025

Summary between 6/1/2025 12:00am and now		
Energy Used	0.00 Wh	(approx. \$0.00 used)
Energy Generated	2.53 MWh	(approx. \$151.84 saved)
Net	2.53 MWh sold	(approx. \$151.84 earned)

Summary between 1/1/2025 12:00am and now		
Energy Used	0.00 Wh	(approx. \$0.00 used)
Energy Generated	16.4 MWh	(approx. \$982.87 saved)
Net	16.4 MWh sold	(approx. \$982.87 earned)



**American Red Cross  
Blood Drive  
CTK Fireside Room  
Mon., July 7, 2025 12:30pm  
to 6:30pm  
visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) to  
make an appointment to  
give blood,  
enter CTKMANKATO**



**YOUTH MENTAL  
HEALTH FIRST AID  
TRAINING**

**5/10, 6/18, 6/26, 9/19, 9/27, 10/25, 11/20**  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, Location TBD

**Learn How to:**

This training equips parents, teachers, caregivers, and community members with the knowledge and skills to:

- ✓ Recognize signs of mental health struggles
- ✓ Provide support
- ✓ Connect young people with appropriate resources

**eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca**



**FREE**  
Thanks to a generous grant from the City of Mankato's Opioid Remediation Community Grant!

**Register Now!**



For More Info visit [ywcamankato.org/ymhfa](http://ywcamankato.org/ymhfa)


## Support available for widows in Mankato

**Compassionate Community Center**  
523 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (Emy Frentz Building) Mankato

**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 10:00am**  
**Starting June 20th**

Feel free to drop by,  
all widows are welcome.

*~ finding the new normal in widowhood ~*





# MEET THE PEOPLE OF CTK

## Meet Carly Ballman, new Office Administrator at CTK

Marshall native drawn to the ministry of the church for years



Carly Ballman has worked in property management and at a staffing agency, but she keeps coming back to church. “I enjoy how nice people can be [in a church],” she said. “People have been welcoming and accepting.”

Carly is the new full-time Office Administrator at Christ the King. She has also worked as a youth coordinator for many years. When the opportunity at Christ the King opened last month, she was quick to apply. “I [already] know a lot of people here,” she said. “I admire the abundance of ministries [at CTK].” People have been stopping by the office and introducing themselves.

Growing up in Marshall, Minnesota in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) tradition, Carly was connected to the church and school, so church has usually been a big part of her life. When she moved to St. Peter as an adult, she and her daughter Savannah were learning the church landscape and got involved at

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) in St. Peter. Accustomed to being involved in congregational life, Carly volunteered to work with the youth. She started as a confirmation leader, eventually transitioning into a paid position as Youth Coordinator at Trinity. Carly served in that role for over a decade.

Carly currently lives in St. Peter with her two dogs: Lars is a German shepherd/husky mix and Kai is a border collie/Australian shepherd mix. Daughter Savannah was recently married and currently lives in Mankato, though she will be moving to the Denver area in October. This will be a big change for Carly—but she has thrown herself into the work at CTK. She appreciates the energy of volunteers working with the staff. “People want to be here,” she said.

With her free time, Carly loves caring for her dogs and spending time gardening with her plants. “I’m a gardener!”



# RIC invites exploration of radical welcome



Hello CTK Community. As Chair of the RIC task force, I am excited to share about the process of our RIC journey at CTK. After conversations with multiple congregation members\*, we identified a handful of themes that were consistent across the conversations. From there, we established a centralized theme for our RIC journey for the next few months.

## **Laying down the framework for spiritual growth & a radical welcome.**

At the center is Christ the King, a place where we empower all people to know Christ and to make Christ known. Each side of the frame is anchored with a word that symbolizes the core values that we uphold during this commitment to becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation: Community. Inclusivity. Belonging.

Authentic Faith is on the bottom as it symbolizes the foundation of who we are - or work to be - as Christians.

We invite you to join us in the coming months during this next part of our journey. Our hope is that we can lay down the framework for CTK to grow spiritually and be ready for a radical welcome when it comes time to vote on becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

This journey is all of ours, so we want you to be engaged. If at any point you have questions or comments, please feel free to reach out to a member of the RIC task force. Thank you and let's get working!

\*If you did not have an opportunity to have a One-on-One conversation with an RIC task force member and would still like to do so, please email Liz at [liz.reedstrom@gmail.com](mailto:liz.reedstrom@gmail.com). Thank you! --Liz Zaruba



ReconcilingWorks

## Debate rages on: ....goose? or ...grey duck?



During VBS, when game time began, the famous kids' game was played and discussion ensued.

What do you call it?  
Duck Duck Goose, or  
Duck Duck Grey Duck?





# PARISH NEWS

## **Prayers of peace & comfort for the families of:**

June Borseth, who died on June 8th

## **Prayers of joy & celebration for the families of:**

Peyton Ann Schlichte, daughter of Ryan & Brooklyn Schlichte, baptized on June 4

Danielle Senn & Jeremy Ellanson, joined in marriage on June 21

Elaina Lavada Schroeder, daughter of Brian and Alissa Schroeder, baptized on June 22

Emmett James Leiffring, son of Sarah and Garrett Lieffring, baptized on June 29

## **Weekly Worship Times @CTK**

**Wednesdays:** 6:00pm

**Saturdays:** 5:30pm

**Sundays:** 9:30am (through August 31)

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, [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

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

Kristi Regnier, Chef

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

Robin Hughes, Choir Director

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: Thursday, July 24  
Please email to [communications@ctk.org](mailto:communications@ctk.org) or leave with front desk.

**CHRIST**  
the **KING**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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Mankato, MN 56001

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Fax: 507-345-6115

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

Non-Profit Organization  
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## July Menu Faith & Fellowship

### July 2

Chicken Strips, Tater Tots  
Fresh Fruit, Cupcakes

### July 9

Sub Sandwiches, Chips,  
Macaroni Salad, Seven Layer Bars

### July 16

Sloppy Joes, Chips, Pickles,  
Baked Beans, Ice Cream Treat

### July 23

Chicken Caesar Salad,  
Cold Veggies, Garlic Bread,  
Angel Food Cake w/Fruit