

# 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.

## Sliding into summer @ Faith & Fellowship

Faith and Fellowship events for 2025 kicked off on Wednesday, May 28, on the grounds at Christ the King Lutheran Church. Even though the temperatures were a little on the chilly side (low 60s with a breeze), enthusiasm was high with an inflatable playground, games, face painting, temporary tattoos, and crafting. Etta Bergstrom (right) loved the bounce house. Fair-style summer favorites were served for dinner with corn dogs, French fries, watermelon, and mini donuts. Check out the June menu on page 12. You can also volunteer to serve meals for future Wednesdays on page 6.



Elias Haugh (left) enjoyed the climbing wall/slide inflatable. Upcoming Faith & Fellowship Wednesdays offer opportunities for busy young humans (and pets) some freedom to move about. Come to Bike Night at Trail Creek Park June 11 and Ruby Ranch on June 18. Remember to bring your outdoor chair if you have one! Dinner is served at 5:15pm, then 6pm worship, with usually a dessert/activity after worship. A full Faith & Fellowship schedule can be found on page 6.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Prayer Corner--Page 3  
Library Corner--Page 4  
Senior Recognition--Page 6

Volunteer for Vacation Bible School!--Page 8  
Interview with Pr. Brittany--Page 9  
Staff directory--Page 11



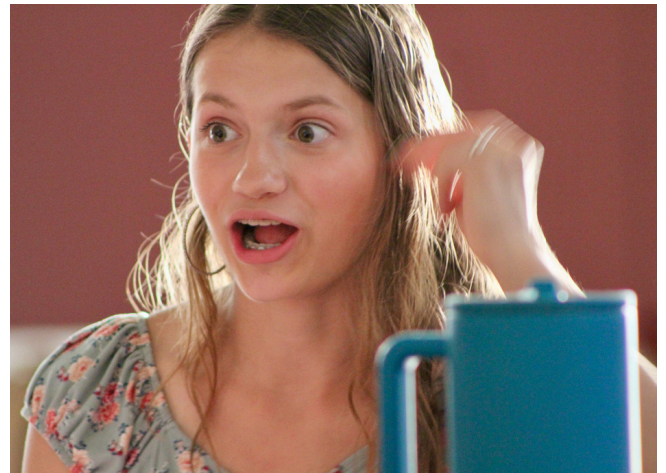
# FAITH FORMATION AT WORK

## Confirmation wraps up for the school year

*Discussion groups & s'mores on the last day*



Confirmation classes wrapped up for 2024-2025 on Wednesday, May 14. Pastor Jenna led with a lesson, and adult Confirmation guides (like Rob Wempen, above) led discussion groups. During the past few months, students and guides have been studying the New Testament. The evening closed with Pastor Jenna praying for the youth, then the group gathered outside in the CTK courtyard for making s'mores over a fire. Confirmation returns for the 2025-2026 school year in September. Pastor Melanie and Pastor Brittany will be making plans for the new year of Confirmation during the summer.



# PRAYER CORNER

by Jorun Meierding, Prayer Room Coordinator

## Gospel acclamation prepares worshipers to hear the Good News

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 focus on the “Gospel Acclamation” that is sung just prior to the reading of the Gospel:

**“Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.”**

[ELW, Setting Four, p. 151.]

According to Merriam-Webster’s, an “acclamation” is a loud eager expression of approval, praise or assent. We sing this Acclamation before the reading of the Gospel in order to focus attention on hearing the good news of God’s Word. As with all liturgy, the Acclamation points us beyond ourselves to what God has done and is doing.

“Alleluia” is the Greek form of the Hebrew word “Hallelujah,” which means “Praise the Lord,” and is used to convey adoration, worship, and thanksgiving to God. “Hallelujah” appears primarily in the Psalms, and is prominently featured in the “Hallelujah Psalms” [Psalms 106, 111-113, 135 and 146-150], all of which begin or end with “Hallelujah!” or its translation, “Praise the Lord!” [Biblehub.com.] In the New Testament, “Hallelujah” is found only in Chapter 19 of the book of Revelation, where it is used to describe heavenly worship.

The remainder of the Acclamation comes from John 6, where Jesus teaches his disciples that he is the “bread of life” and that they must eat his flesh and drink his blood if they want eternal life. This was a hard teaching and many fell away after hearing it.

Jesus asked his 12 disciples if they also wanted to go away. Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come



*Singing prepares us to hear God’s Word.*

to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” [John 6:69.] Peter recognized that no matter how hard it can be to hear Jesus’ words, they were true. No one else who would speak the truth to them and lead them to eternal life.

So it is with us. As Christ-followers, we have come to the same conclusion as Peter, that Christ alone has the words of eternal life. That is why we sing a resounding “Alleluia” before the reading (and hearing) of the Gospel. We praise God that his Word is true and that it is full of life. Remember this the next time you read God’s Word on your own. Before you begin, raise a “Hallelujah” and praise God for the gift of Scripture, for the truths contained there, and for the privilege of being able to freely read and study it. Ask God to reveal those truths to you, then read expectantly!

***Every word of God proves true. ~Proverbs 30:5***

***Jesus prayed, “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth”. ~John 17:17***

***Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” ~John 14:6***



# LIBRARY CORNER

The month of June brings schedule changes: school ends--graduations, weddings, and family celebrations happen. Outdoor activities abound like fishing, boating, golfing, ball games, picnics, travel, vacation time, and household projects. Hopefully you can find time to relax and enjoy reading some good books!

## Books for Adult Readers *(On display and on the shelves)*

There are many favorite author's books to in CTK Library and some new authors for you to consider. This month will feature two authors for you to consider.

[Note: There are more books on the shelf by these listed authors.]

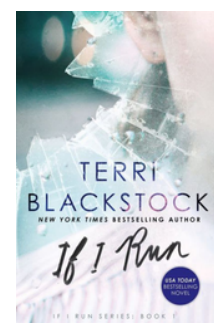
Terri Blackstock began her career with romance novels then switched to Christian fiction, suspense novels, and series. Lisa Tawn Bergren is a rare talent in historical fiction, writing with exquisite style as she immerses readers in the emotions of her full-bodied characters.

### Three by Terri Blackstock

**"If I Run"** "Casey Cox's DNA is all over the crime scene. She has to flee before she's arrested because the truth doesn't matter anymore." (F BLA)

**"If I'm Found"** "Casey Cox is still on the run and stumbles on another unbearable injustice: an abused child and a suicidal man who has also been falsely accused." (F BLA If02)

**"If I Live"** "Casey Cox is still on the run and the investigator who once hunted her, is now her only hope." (F BLA If03)



### Three by Lisa Tawn Bergeren

**"The Captain's Bride"** "Author skillfully entwined the lives of Norwegian immigrants as they face opportunity and disaster in their adopted country of America." (F Ber Nor1)

**"Deep Harbor"** "Experience an epic saga of perseverance, pain, faith and calling in this book #2 in Northern Lights series." (F Ber Nor2)

**"Midnight Sun"** "Witness the glorious conclusion of the Northern Lights family saga as four longtime friends who journey out of the shadow of their darkest days into the bright future awaiting them." (F Ber Nor3)



## Books for Children *(On display & check Kid's Korner for more)*

**"Plant It! Grow It, Eat It"** by Safran & Skwish

**"My Adventure Island"** by Timothy Knapman

**"The Icky Bug Alphabet Book"** by Jerry Pallotta

**"It's Hard to Hurry When You Are A Snail"** by Dorothy Stewart

**"Ladybug Girl and Bingo"** by David Soma

**"What's Wrong with Timmy?"** by Maria Shriver

(A must read for adults and to share with their children)





# NEWS @ CTK

## 2025 Senior recognition celebrates 34 grads

Graduating high school seniors attended a senior recognition gathering at CTK on May 21. Those who attended shared a dinner with family and friends, announced future plans, and received a blessing with a tangible reminder of that blessing of a handmade quilt from the CTK quilters. This years CTK graduating seniors include (in alphabetical order): Kaia Austin, Amanda Boles, Jackson Ecker, Kylie Flowers, Max Frentz, Mika Haessly, Rylie Hansen, Jack Hansen, Abigail Harpestad, Jakob Hermanson, Lydia Huelsnitz, Hudson Jacobs, Madelyn Janzen, Carter Kamphoff, Chase Kijenski, Megan Lewandowski, Axel Lorenz, Brandon Maes, Evan Maes, Avery Matejcek, Elyse McCabe, Peyton McCormick, Brooklyn Morgan, Cory Much, Max Nessler, Ella Olson, Landon Pederson, Matt Peterson, Sophia Post,



*Class of 2025 CTK seniors wrapped in quilts made by CTK quilters,*

Abby Satre, Parker Sinning, Ashling Smith, Brooklyn Warnke, Jaeger Zimmerman.

## Pastor Jenna sent to new venture with a blessing



Pastor Jenna Couch (center) was blessed by Past President Jessica Ehrich (left), Pastor Melanie, and the CTK congregation on Wednesday, May 14 during worship. May 14 was Pastor Jenna's last day serving at CTK. Pastor Jenna will begin a ministry tenure at Calvary Lutheran Church in Rapidan, as well as continuing her service at Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU-Mankato. Pastor Jenna and her family will remain members; she will also help lead the youth trip to California in July.

## CTK quilters invite quilters of all skill levels to participate in ministry

The quilters at Christ the King gather the 4th and 5th Wednesdays of each month from 9am-3pm in the Fireside Room to sew Quilts of LOVE for "our neighbors." Who are these neighbors? They are international students at MSU Mankato, CTK graduating seniors, CADA House residents, Lutheran World Relief and three ELCA Bible Camps are just a few supported areas.

The quilts are made of cotton fabric and polyester batting. The batting is shipped in large rolls and cut to size. We appreciate and accept cotton fabric, thread and monetary donations. The cost to make one quilt is approximately \$40. An average of 100 quilts are made each year. Your support is appreciated and needed for this important CTK quilting ministry program.

You are invited to join us, no quilting or sewing skills required. There is a job for everyone. We enjoy wonderful fellowship as we work, and of course, as good Lutherans, plenty of coffee and treats! If interested or have questions contact the church office or any member of the quilting group.



Amanda Boles (left) and Ashling Smith show off the CTK quilters' handiwork

# Faith & Fellowship rolls on throughout the summer

## Summer Schedule

(weather permitting)

Purple=@CTK Green=off campus

**JUNE 4**

**Pet Blessing @ CTK**

**JUNE 11**

**Bike Night @ Trail Creek Park**

**JUNE 18**

**Ruby Ranch**

**JUNE 25**

**Vacation Bible School @ CTK**

**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**

## Gathering on Wednesday evenings this summer

**5:15pm dinner,**

**6pm worship**



**SERVERS NEEDED FOR  
FAITH & FELLOWSHIP MEALS!  
SCAN QR CODE ABOVE TO  
SIGN UP FOR HELPING**



# Family Night brings the fun for CTK community



Participants in the kickoff for Faith and Fellowship 2025 found joy in many places at the event. Ace Elliott (upper left) feasts on the good stuff--a blue raspberry slushie, a corn dog, and fries. Quin Curry (lower left) handles percussion at worship, Kenzie Wempen (right) tries her hand at one of the skill games. If you would like to order a Faith and Fellowship 2025 t-shirt, scan the QR code on the lower right. The purple and white shirt also serves as a wearable Wednesday summer schedule. Order as soon as you can!



## Faith & Fellowship Shirt Order



Purple Shirt with  
White Lettering

# Gearing up for VBS @ CTK

## Vacation Bible School

Christ the King Lutheran Church

Monday, June 23 - Thursday, June 26

8:00AM-12:30PM

1st- 6th Grade

\$25 per child

Register Online



SCAN  
HERE!



CONTACT KIRSTEN FOR SCHOLARSHIP AND PRE-K AVAILABILITY

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MONDAY, JUNE 23 - THURSDAY, JUNE 26

8:00AM-12:30PM

7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE- ADULT



SCAN ME!



## HELP FEED THE VBS STAFF

- COOK A MEAL AT YOUR HOME
- GIFT CARDS
- BRING A MEAL TO CHURCH
- DONATE MONEY



SCAN HERE!





# MEET THE PEOPLE OF CTK

## Pr. Brittany sees ministry excitement at CTK



*Pastor Brittany (left), Rob Wempen (upper right) watch bounce house climbers at Family Night May 28*

Pastor Brittany Maillieu loves living in Minnesota because “it’s easy to stay active” with her husband, Sam (Pastor at First Lutheran Church in LeSueur), and their two sons, Malcolm (11) and Ian (9). The boys are heavily involved in soccer. They enjoy hiking at the Ney Center in Henderson and Seven Mile Creek Park in St. Peter, as well as disc golf and pickleball. “How can you not love pickleball,” she said.

An active church community was also important to Pastor Brittany as she discerned her calling after finishing her coursework at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary this spring. As she spoke with people from the Call Committee, Pastor Brittany saw many engaged and busy social ministries—“ministries aligned with how I think about ministry,” she said. She admires the work of Christ the King with refugee families, RIC (Reconciled in Christ), and the free community supper, to name a few. The enthusiasm congregation-wide for social ministries was a draw to Pastor Brittany, “It’s easy to serve when people are excited [about doing ministry],” she said.

Pastor Brittany was born in Fort Stewart, Georgia when her father was in the U.S. Army: “I’m an Army brat AND a PK (Pastor’s Kid),” she said. She claims her roots in Lincolnton, North Carolina, just northwest of Charlotte. “It’s the boring part [of North Carolina]. Not the

mountains, not the coast.” Her hometown makes Christmas especially attractive with lights and garland along the main downtown street leading to the Lincoln County Courthouse. “It’s just beautiful,” she said.

The path that brought Pastor Brittany and her family to Minnesota has been far from smooth. Even though both her father (United Church of Christ) and maternal grandfather (Southern Baptist) are both pastors (now retired), it wasn’t a foregone conclusion that she would end up in ordained ministry. Her earliest memory of church came from time spent on Sundays with her maternal grandparents’ congregation in Huntersville, North Carolina (due north of Charlotte). Grandma had Big Red gum, and her Grandfather Robert Redding was well known for his kid sermons that employed object lessons using a Where’s Waldo lunchbox.

While childhood church memories are connected to her family time in the Southern Baptist tradition, Pastor Brittany’s faith was forged with the help of German Lutherans on her Father’s side of the family at Daniels Lutheran Church in Lincolnton (which celebrated its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024). She learned to be an acolyte and studied the Catechism. The influence of the Southern Baptist tradition still influenced her. A call to ministry wasn’t considered an option. Pastor Brittany held a variety of jobs while Pastor Sam completed his theological education and began his ordained ministry. She worked at Aldi, managed an organic grocery store, and held various odd jobs, including photography (she earned a B.S. in photography from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh).

Originally, Pastor Brittany considered becoming a deacon. In sorting out her faith story and sense of call, becoming an ordained pastor was the right direction, even though she had to “make a sacrifice to follow the call.” The Southern Baptist tradition does not ordain women. “It’s not something we discuss (with her mother’s side of the family).”

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

# Pastor Brittany looks forward to collaborative ministry efforts

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

When discussing her theological education, Pastor Brittany loved her church history courses with Dr. McCarver. The history courses both shook and strengthened her faith in that she looked “at all the [awful things] humanity has done in the name of God, and God still loves us and wants us.”

Pastor Brittany likes collaborative, team efforts. She is looking forward to working with the people of Christ the King on their ministry efforts and the excitement that brings. That collaborative effort is also growing in her family time. She discussed a new shared hobby with her husband and sons, Dungeons and Dragons. Malcolm and Ian would play every day if they had the opportunity, but it's usually once or



Pastor Brittany prays during Kid Talk.

twice per week. Pastor Brittany is trying to teach her sons that part of the fun of the game is the camaraderie between players, “It’s a group thing,” she tells her sons. “We’re on a team!”

## CTK seeks full-time (32 hrs/wk) Office Administrator



If you're interested in working in office administration in the Christ the King Lutheran Church office, please contact Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger at [melaniew@ctkmankato.org](mailto:melaniew@ctkmankato.org) for a copy of the job description or to answer any questions you have about the position.

## Mankato Fair Trade Afternoon Tea June 28

The CTK community is invited to attend the **Mankato Fair Trade Afternoon Tea** on Saturday, June 28 at 1pm at First Congregational UCC (150 Stadium Ct., Mankato). Tickets are \$15 (\$5 for children 5 and under) proceeds will benefit Mankato Fair Trade. The CTK Justice & Peace Commission is supporting this effort. Tickets will be made available for purchase at CTK through **Diane Zempel**, she can be reached at: [dianezempel@gmail.com](mailto:dianezempel@gmail.com).



## PARISH NEWS

### Prayers of peace and comfort for the families of:

Marilyn Hagge, who died on May 5  
Debbie Luebke, who died on May 21

### Prayers of joy and celebration for the families of:

Juliana Jean Heller (daughter of Johanna Heller), who was baptized May 10  
Allie Wiens & Ben Graupman, who were joined in marriage on May 31



# 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)

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

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

Joe Smith, Interim Communications Coordinator, [communications@ctkmankato.org](mailto:communications@ctkmankato.org)

Ariac Cruz, Custodial & Property Staff

Bri Bergstrom, Contemporary Music Coordinator

Carolyn Krause, Front-desk: ext. 21, [carolynk@ctkmankato.org](mailto:carolynk@ctkmankato.org)

Dede Amundson, Front-desk: ext. 21, [denisea@ctkmankato.org](mailto:denisea@ctkmankato.org)

Jodi Maas, Faith Engagement 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: Tuesday, June 24  
Please email to [communications@ctk.org](mailto:communications@ctk.org) or leave with front desk.



222 Pfau Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: 507-345-5056

Fax: 507-345-6115

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

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 252

Mankato, MN 56001



## June Menu Faith & Fellowship

**June 4**

Hamburgers w/fixings  
Chips, Italian Pasta Salad,  
Assorted Desserts

**June 11**

Bratwurst, Kraut, Potato Salad,  
Watermelon, Brownie

**June 18**

Hot Dogs, French Fries,  
Cucumber/Tomato Salad, Ice Cream

**June 25**

Wraps, Assorted Chips,  
Cole Slaw, Cookie