

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.





Pastor's Post

Ask

Our Lenten theme for 2023 is "Ask." The Bible is full of questions. Some questions are rhetorical in nature: "My help comes from the Lord, From where is my help to come?" (Psalm 121). Other questions are inquiries into Jesus' identity and ministry.

This Lent, Pastor Melanie will focus her weekend preaching on questions raised in Lenten scripture readings. On Wednesday, we will have faith reflections on questions from a variety of CTK members, including:

March 1 – Amy Lorenz
March 8 – Kristin Krusemark
March 15 – Eileen Campbell
March 22 – Adrian Lo
March 29 – Spencer Quiram

This Lenten series is designed to help us identify our own questions. It is also written to help us grow more comfortable with knowing that questions are a natural and even necessary part of our faith practices. The New Testament alone has approximately 980 questions, most of which are in the gospels. Questions were asked almost constantly throughout Jesus' life and ministry. We often find that our questions change as we encounter different life stages. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel once declared, "We are closer to God when we are asking questions than when we think we have the answers." May we grow a little closer to God as we delve into our questions of faith.

Parish News

Prayers of Comfort

- For the family of Dorothy Dahn, who died on January 25th
- For Julie & Jim Hatleli in the death of Julie's mother, June Nelson, on February 2nd
- For the family of Nelly Jane Masica who died on February 4th (memorial service on March 18th)
- For Diane Zempel and family in the death of her mother, Marie E. Eilers on February 7th
- For Debbie Luebke & family in the death of her mother, Maxine Perendy, on February 8th
- For the family of Matthew Young (Anna, Katelyn and Meg) who died on February 9th
- For Jean & Tim Bye, in the death of Jean's mother, Polly Marshall, on February 11th
- For Kris Norland and family in the death of Kris's mother Eunice Thompson on February 17th
- For Ellen & John Petersen in the death of Ellen's sister-in-law, Jan Erickson, on February 21st
- For the Dan & Kathy Sallstrom family in the death of Dan's mother, Margaret Ann Sallstrom, on December 31





From the Faith Continuum Coordinator

Lenten Greetings,

At this time of year we take time for self-reflection. "Roots of Our Faith" offers us the opportunity to meditate on the very foundations of our faith. This year Drs Darrell Jodock, Mark Tranvik and Leonard Hummell lead our conversations every Sunday of Lent in the Fireside Room right after the first Service.

You may recall Dr. Jodock from last Spring Lenten series. He was with us in January. Darrell is a Professor Emeritus of Gustavas.

We were privileged to spend 2 Sundays last Lenten season with Dr. Tranvik. Mark is currently a Professor at Luther Seminary.

New to us this Lent is Dr. Leonard Hummell. Dr. Hummel is a Chaplain for Allina Hospice at the New Ulm Medical Center. He is a Pastor in our Synod and Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology at United Lutheran Seminary of Gettysburg and Philadelphia. In addition to United Seminary Leonard has a teaching history that includes stints at Augustana University and the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. He is an Editor and Author who has lectured extensively as far away as South Africa and now here with us. Dr. Hummel has an undergraduate degree from Haverford College that was followed up with a Masters from Yale Divinity School and a Ph. D. from Boston University in Religious and Theological Studies.

We started this series on Sunday February 26th with Dr. Jodock leading a 2 Sunday review of the Augsburg Confession. This document is the primary confession of faith of our Lutheran Tradition. Written in 1530 CE, it is one of the most important documents of the Reformation. The second Sunday of this study is upon us on March 5th.

On March 12th and 19th, Dr. Tranvik advances a study of Luther's teachings on the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper and how those teachings of Luther apply for to our life and faith today.

Finally, Dr. Hummell appears at Faith Continuum with the study of Luther's Theology of Consolation for the Suffering. On March 26th the review will be on the theory of Luther's Theology. On Palm Sunday, Dr. Hummell turns our attention to the practice of Luther's Theology.

These will be fascinating deliberations for all at this time of contemplation, Todd

Looking Ahead at the lessons...

March 5th
2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 12th
3rd Sunday in Lent


Exodus 17:1-7
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

March 19th
4th Sunday in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41

March 26th
5th Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45



Financial Update

submitted by David Krause, Treasurer

Christ the King Lutheran Church
1/31/2023

	Jan 2023	MTD Budget	Variance	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance	Jan 2022	Variance	Prior Year	Variance
Total Operational Income	\$ 66,013	\$ 94,630	\$ (28,617)	\$ 495,602	\$ 572,100	\$ (76,498)	\$ 89,683	\$ (23,670)	\$ 538,316	\$ (42,700)
Total Operational Expenses	\$ (78,359)	\$ (69,996)	\$ (8,363)	\$ (619,403)	\$ (490,021)	\$ (129,382)	\$ (72,026)	\$ (6,333)	\$ (476,464)	\$ (142,900)
Other Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,736	\$ (1,736)	\$ 74,601	\$ (74,601)
Other Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Endowment Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,371	\$ -	\$ 11,371	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 883	\$ 10,488
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (12,346)	\$ 24,634	\$ (36,980)	\$ (112,430)	\$ 82,079	\$ (194,509)	\$ 19,393	\$ (31,739)	\$ 137,336	\$ (249,700)

Community Supper

Wednesdays, 5-6pm

March 1: BBQ Chicken

March 8: Shredded Beef Sandwich

March 15: Chicken & dumplings

March 22: Corn dogs, chips and potato salad

March 29: Glorified Mac & cheese

*Menu subject to change due to product availability

Fellowship Opportunities

March 16th, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room

Caregivers Support Group

For those who take care of others, whether as parents, children, or loved ones to connect and support each other.

March 22nd, 9am - 3pm, Fireside Room

Quilters

The quilters group has an open invitation to anyone, you DO NOT need to be an accomplished quilter! You are welcome to come for part or all of the day.



April 2nd, 2:30-4pm, All Seasons Arena

Skating with CTK

All skill levels are welcome to join in the fun at All Seasons arena. The price of admission is a free-will donation.

1st Saturday of the month

9am - 12pm, Fireside Room

Bibles, Bagels & Brew

Faith-filled, get-together for ladies of all ages includes a new theme each month. Light brunch is served, and the time is filled with meaningful conversation. March 4th is hosted by Women's Retreat planning committee. Let them know you're coming:

ctkmankato.org/get-involved/adults



Book & Bible Studies

March 8th, 1:00 pm, Fireside Room

Bible Study

Join the Altar Guild for coffee, dessert and a Bible Study using the Gather Magazine. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Any questions, call Jan Meier at 507-388-5014.

Tuesdays, 9:00 am, Fireside Room

Coffee & Conversation

Each week, Pastor John digs into the three lessons assigned for the coming week's worship with: conversation and coffee!

March 21st, 1:00 pm, Room 7

Bible Study

Join the Ruth Circle for the September to May calendar schedule. The Study Guide is selected by attendees. New members are welcome to join at anytime for monthly meetings. If you are interested or have any questions If you are interested or have any questions, please call Ann 625-5251 or Diane 625-7766.

March 16th, 7:00 pm, Fireside Room

Women's Book Study

Opportunities to Serve

Wednesday Nights

CTK Community Dinner

Community Dinner needs a couple of semi-regular volunteers who will work alongside weekly confirmation groups. There is a need for someone who knows (or can learn) how to run the dishwasher and someone who can help serve. Call 507-345-5056 ext 21 to volunteer or learn more.

March 13th - 19th

Connections Shelter

Serve at the shelter by welcoming guests, provide food or serve the meal. Sign up at ctkmankato.org/get-involved/volunteer

Third Sunday of the Month

Shelter Church Meal Service

Servers meet at CTK at 3:45 to prepare the meal and transport the meal to Grace Lutheran where they serve it from 4:30-5:00. Sign up at

ctkmankato.org/get-involved/volunteer

During Worship Services

A/V Team

Learn how to run the sound system-project the words on the screen and run the lights! See how we send our services to Facebook and YouTube. It's a great ministry for the whole family. We can use 3-4 people at each service. Talk to Al Lee or Carolyn Lee, or call 507-345-5056 ext 36



Prayer Corner

submitted by Jorun Meierding, Prayer Room Coordinator

Our Prayers Should be Definite

As [Jesus] approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God. [Luke 18:35-43; see also Mark 10:46-52].


Even before the blind man approached him, Jesus knew that he was blind. And even before the blind man cried out for mercy, Jesus knew what he needed. Yet Jesus did not immediately heal the man and restore his sight. Rather, Jesus asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" Only then did the blind man articulate exactly what he wanted—to see again. Jesus wanted to hear from his own lips, not just a general petition for mercy, but a specific prayer for healing. Why?

It is easy to believe in God's mercy. In crying out for Jesus to "have mercy on me," the blind man appealed to God's nature as loving and merciful. But did the blind man really believe that God's mercy extended to healing his vision? Jesus needed to know. When the blind man specifically asked Jesus to restore his eyesight, he publicly declared his faith in Jesus' power and ability to heal, and he was healed, causing all the people to praise and glorify God. Everyone could see that the blind man's prayer had been answered, because it was definite and measurable.

Like the blind man, we are oftentimes too timid in prayer. Instead of asking God for healing, we ask for peace and comfort to endure our illness. We throw up general prayers for world peace, but do not target specific strongholds of evil that are causing unrest. We ask God to provide for our needs, but neglect to mention the unforeseen medical bill we don't know how to pay. Doesn't God already know what we need? Won't God answer these prayers if it is his will to do so? Maybe, but it seems that God wants us to exercise our faith and be more definite when we pray—to go "out on a limb" so to speak. God needs to know that we believe he is able to do the impossible [Matthew 19:26]. If we don't, maybe we should first ask God for more faith so that we can believe.

Sunday Morning Prayer Room Volunteers

<u>March 5th</u>	<u>March 12th</u>	<u>March 19th</u>	<u>March 26th</u>
8:15	8:15am	8:15am	8:15am
June Borseth	Jerry & Kathy Bodelson	Margo Brudwick	Tammy Fienen
10:00	10:00am	10:00am	10:00am
Becky Moe	Kathy Bruss	Joann Nessler	Todd Lundquist



Library Corner

March comes **'in like a lion, out like a lamb'** however we Minnesotans know Snowstorms are NOT uncommon into next month! Need more reasons to love MARCH? Daylight Saving Time begins (3/12), St. Patrick's Day (3/17), Vernal Equinox beginning of spring (3/20) and Pothole Repair continues!

ADDITION OF NEW ADULT BOOKS FOR READING PLEASURE

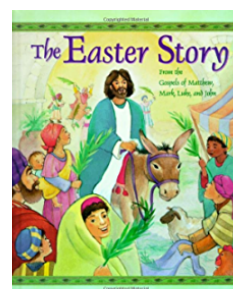
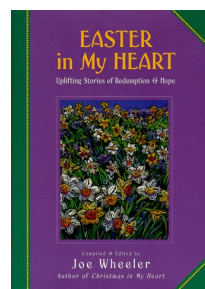
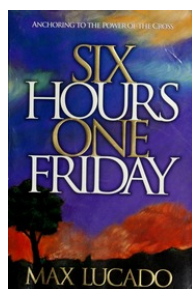
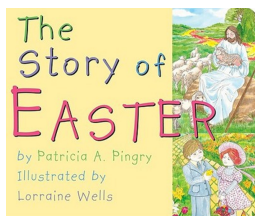
- **"Girl Talk"** by Carolyn Mahaney & Nicole Mahaney Whitacre - "A mother is her daughter's first role model, teacher and friend. She carries the responsibility of passing on to her daughter a legacy of womanhood. Learn insights on how to talk to each other. Tips & study questions make it easy for moms, pre-teen and teenage daughters to read, share, discuss and grow. "
- **"Portraits From the Prairie"** by Mike Larson who was Free Press editor, professor of journalism at MSU Mankato and artist. "In this inspirational collection of word portraits, the author weaves incredible stories about real people, leading us on a fascinating – sometimes sad, sometimes exhilarating – journey through each of the seasons. These powerful portraits of some incredible people, the author helps us discover anew what's really most important in all of our lives."

FEATURED BOOKS IN CHILDREN'S 'READING NOOK'

We hope parents explore the church library and check out book resources to share with your kids.

- **"God Gave Us You"** by Lisa Tawn Berger - When a charming polar bear cub climbs into bed one night, she ask her mama a very important question – one that little 'human cubs' often wonder about too: "Where did I come from? "Mama Bear tells little cub their Birth was a Gift from God!
- **"God Gave Us Two"** by Lisa Tawn Berger - Now that Mama polar bear has another baby in her tummy, Little Cub is bursting with curiosity. "Why do we need a new baby? If we don't like the new baby, can we send it back? Will you forget me when the new baby comes? " Mama's reply, God gave us you. Now he's given us two! (Books affirm child's uniqueness and place in the family and help little ones accept, appreciate and love their new siblings.)

Easter books
available for adults
and children to share:



The library committee continues to make some positive changes in the library with an additional book shelf that will be called **"Memories of Christ the King Church"**. Notebooks of photos, church directories, etc have been moved to this area. Additional historic church information to be displayed in this area as it is updated for viewing. If any questions/suggestions, contact Ann Stewart or committee member.

PUZZLES AVAILABLE IN THE CTK LIBRARY: Come enjoy setup puzzle in CTK Library or taking one home, then return, during these months ahead!

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.

Connections Shelter

CTK is hosting Connections Shelter Monday March 13 – Sunday March 19. The server volunteer positions are full for the week but we are still in need of meals. Please take a look and see if you can help! You can sign up for meals at ctkmankato.org/get-involved/volunteer In addition to meals, there is always a need for pre-packaged snacks and drinks (coffee and lemonade). If you are able to provide those, you can drop them off at our church during office hours labeled for Connections. It has been a busy year at the shelter, with it being full most weeks at 35 – 40 guest capacity. There are continued talks with the city and state for financing to create a permanent location for a shelter in Mankato hopefully as soon as 2024, but they are always in need of financial support to cover the costs of staff and rent. They have a fantastic fundraiser scheduled at the end of March, Kato Sleep Out 2023. Check it out here: connectionsshelter.org/kato-sleep-out-2023. Consider putting a team together. As always, you can contact the church office or Nancy Patterson with any questions.

Presented by
Justice and Peace

MOVIE NIGHT

Tuesday, March 28th at 6:30pm

You are all invited to a showing of the movie **TILL**. This award winning movie is based on the true story of Mamie Till-Bradley, an educator and activist who pursued justice after the murder of her 14-year-old son Emmett in 1955. It is rated PG-13 and receives a 98% on Rotten Tomatoes.

We will provide popcorn but please bring your own beverage and snacks if you want. There will be a short discussion to follow the showing. Please register at CTKmankato.org/get-involved/events so we know how many to expect.

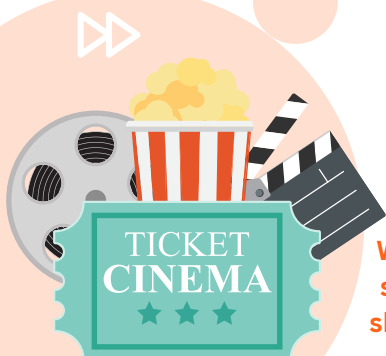
Childcare will be available - please indicate need when registering.

Tuesday March 28th, 2023
6:30 pm
CTK Theater (unless noted)

MOVIE NIGHT



TICKET: ADMIT ONE



Lunch - for - a - buck Thanks

Thank you to Christ the King Lutheran Church for providing Lunch for-a-Buck at Crossroads Campus Ministry on Tuesday, February 14. Jerry Bodelson, Armin Schull, and Jim Hatleli served a delicious feast of barbeque chicken sandwiches, garlic mashed potatoes, chicken & rice hotdish, vegetarian Mexican rice casserole, and cherry cobbler bars & monster cookies to a record 57 hungry lunch goers during this Valentine's Day. Thanks also to Cindy Kehoe for making the Mexican rice casserole and desserts. Jerry, Armin and Jim also collected \$48.60 in donations that will help us fund the continued purchase of the lettuce salad, beverages and table supplies for future lunches. Students look forward to these weekly hot lunches to help them get through the day. Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support of the students and our ministry at Crossroads.

Reconciling in Christ Task Force



Greeting Members of Christ the King,

Over a year ago, the Justice and Peace Commission asked the church council if we could begin the discussion about becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. We had one-on-one conversations with council members and church staff and discussed opportunities to be more welcoming and inclusive of more people. We hear often that Christ the King "is welcoming" and "it feels like home!" And yet, there are people who visit CTK on a Sunday or Wednesday or for another event, but they don't come back. We are a large church but we look very homogeneous. Is there something we could learn that might help this special place feel "like home" to more people?

Justice and Peace thinks that we can do this by beginning the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is the designation that Lutheran churches might seek to help communicate their desire to welcome and fully include the LGBTQ+ community in their Christian community. RIC is part of the organization called ReconcilingWorks, which is an independent Lutheran organization that works collaboratively with the ELCA. While many people in the LGBTQ+ community seek this designation when looking for a church home, we've learned that this designation can communicate a broader message to people of other marginalized groups: YOU ARE welcome here.

The RIC process includes congregational dialogue and learning, which Justice and Peace feels can only improve our church community and inform us of other ways we can continue to "know Christ and make Christ known."

We are now at the point where we feel we can begin looking for people to help lead the congregation through the RIC journey. If you are interested in becoming a part of this task force, the simple application link is <https://forms.gle/P81nWRbnecmkqfvJ8> If you have any questions, please connect with either Liz Zaruba liz.reedstrom@gmail.com, or Di Storvick, distorvick@gmail.com.

We know that there will be questions and once the taskforce is formed we will work mindfully to address them all. Below is a page from the materials that the task force will be working with that can be found at reconcilingworks.org/ric/becomeric/whysays0 There will be more information like this to come but if you want more information now you can go to reconcilingworks.org

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of and participation in this process!

Di Storvick and Liz Zaruba
RIC Task Force Co-chairs

Birthday Cards

We are looking for unused birthday cards. If you have any you'd like to contribute, please bring them to the front desk of the church office Monday - Thursday, 9:00am - 3:00pm.

CTK

kids



Sunday

0-3 year-old Class in the Rainbow Room

**March 5, 2023
9:30-10AM**

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

FIRST COMMUNION FAITH LAB

Sunday, March 5th from 1:00-4:00PM
First Communion Worship Service
April 6th at 6PM.

**SIGN-UP
NOW**



Skating with CTK

All Seasons Arena

**Sunday, April 2, 2023
2:30-4:00PM**



FREE WILL DONATION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Christ the King Lutheran Church

Date: June 19-22, 2023

12:30-5PM

Cost: \$20 per child





Confirmation (7-8-9)



Dates: Mar.1,8,15,29
Class meets from 6:45-7:30 PM

Supper Servers

- 3/1: Rubber Duckies (7)
- 3/8: Spicy Avocados (9)
- 3/15: Fire Duckies (9)
- 3/22: Speedy Turtles (7)
- 3/29: Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies



High School



Breakfast & Devotion

7:45-8:30 AM

3/7 @ Tandem

3/16 @ Coffee Hag

Youth Group (10-11-12)

6:45-7:30 PM

Mar. 1,8,15,29

Meet in the Youth Room



No programs March 22 & 26



F O C P
FEEDING OUR COMMUNITIES PARTNERS

Food Packing

March 6

4 PM



Confirmation Retreat



S H E T E K
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

Fri, April 28 @ 4 PM to

Sat, April 29 @ 8 PM

\$50

Register by April 11



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 Petzel, Communications & Event Coordinator

Carl Riese, Property Manager: ext. 11

Carolyn Krause, Front-desk

Dede Amundson; Front-desk

Garrett Steinberg, Music Director: ext. 37

Jodi Maas, Faith Engagement Coordinator: ext. 25

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

Mark Thompson, Custodian

Morgan Corona, Office Administrator

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, March 20th

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