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[www.ctkmankato.org](http://www.ctkmankato.org)

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Mankato, MN 56001

MARCH

## March Community Meal Menu

### March 4:

Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Chips and Rice Krispie Bar

### March 11:

Corn Dogs, Tator Tots, Tossed Salad, Cupcakes,

### March 18:

Stroganoff, Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Cherry Crisp

### March 25:

Baked Chicken, Rice, Broccoli and Cauliflower, Pudding

# 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.



This Lent, we invite you to join us each Wednesday evening for our Holden Evening Service as we reflect on the good news God is speaking into our lives. We are blessed to welcome guest speakers:

***"The good news is...so good it catches us by surprise."***

2/25/26 with Chris Ward

***"The good news is...is great love for God & neighbor."***

3/4/26 with John Branstad

***"The good news is...together, the impossible is possible."***

3/11/26 with Jess Smasal

***"The good news is...protection & care for the vulnerable."***

3/18/26 with Jodi Meerbeek

***"The good news is...rooted in justice, mercy, & faithfulness."***

3/25/26 with Kari Fletcher

Our speakers will share their stories, insights, and encouragement throughout the season. Come and be renewed as we journey together through Lent, listening for the good news God is sharing in, among and through us.

# PRAYER CORNER

by Jorun Meierding, Prayer Room Coordinator

## HANNAH PRAYS FOR A SON AND PRAISES

### THE GOD OF REVERSALS

*1 Samuel 1 & 2*

Hannah was married to Elkanah, a righteous and prosperous man who lived in the village of Ramah. Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had several children, but Hannah was barren because “the Lord had closed her womb.” [1 Samuel 1:5]. Peninnah provoked Hannah over this until Hannah wept and stopped eating. The family made an annual pilgrimage to the temple at Shiloh, to worship and sacrifice to God. While there, Hannah poured out her soul to the Lord, promising that if he would give her a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord as a “Nazarite,” that is, as one separated or consecrated. The priest, Eli, saw Hannah praying and told her, “Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.” [1:17]. In due time, Hannah conceived and bore a son, whom she named “Samuel.” [1:20]. When Samuel was weaned, Hannah brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh, and handed him over to Eli, saying, “For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore, I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.” [1:27-28].

Imagine leaving your small child in the care of a stranger, far away from home. For most parents it would be unthinkable, but Hannah considered it a victory! Her prayer, called “The Song of Hannah,” is recorded in the first ten verses of 1 Samuel Chapter 2, beginning, “My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory.” [1 Samuel 2:1]. Again, Hannah poured out her soul to God, this time in thanks and praise. I encourage you to read the entire prayer in your own Bible.

# PARISH NEWS

## Prayers of Celebration

Theodore Francis Steinborn, son of Andrew Steinborn & Laura Templin-Steinborn, was baptized on January 18<sup>th</sup>. (Correction)

## Prayers of Comfort

Nancy Patterson in the death of her husband, Phil, on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

## 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

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**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, March 23, 2026  
Please email to [communications@ctkmankato.org](mailto:communications@ctkmankato.org) or leave with front desk.



# Meet Your Council Member:

*Karen Moritz*

## **How Long Have You Been at CTK?**

Joined in 2009

## **Tell Us About Yourself**

I am happily retired from a long career as a nurse. The last 35 years were primarily in the field of community health with the last 20 years as a County Public Health Director. I am married to Randy, we have 3 adult children, Leann, Landon & Carlton and 4 grandchildren. I enjoy traveling with my husband and friends, exploring and hiking state and national parks, fitness classes, & spending time with friends, family, and our English Springer Spaniel.

## **What is your Favorite Memory of Church (past or present)?**

I currently enjoy time in outreach activities at CTK specifically Connections Homeless Shelter and home visitation. I very much appreciate the worship & music, Christian education, & fellowship opportunities available.

## **What is one piece of advice you would give to a new member at CTK?**

Get involved in any or many of the activities for individuals and families. It allows you to get to know other members and be involved in the mission of our church.

## **What board do you represent and what do they do within CTK?**

I am the liaison to the Servant Outreach Board. This board coordinates and supports outreach activities such as food prep and serving at the Connections Shelter, Lunch for a Buck at MSU & the Christmas Sharing Tree. We also identify organizations in the community that align with the mission of CTK to distribute the budgeted benevolence dollars to.

In this prayer, Hannah identified several attributes of God's character. She declared God to be holy, a "Rock," a "God of knowledge," and a judge who weighs actions. [2:2-3]. But Hannah also described God as a God of reversals: he takes strength from the mighty and gives it to the feeble; he takes food from the "full" and gives it to the hungry; he gives children to the barren, but not to those who have many children; he reverses death and life, poor and rich, and low and high status; he will not allow his adversaries—the wicked—to prevail. [2:4-9]. Hannah credits God with reversing her status from that of a barren woman to an esteemed mother. Indeed, she went on to have five more children [2:21] and Samuel grew up to become an important prophet, judge and priest in Israel.

This is one of many stories of reversal found in the Bible. Consider Joseph, who was sold into slavery by his own brothers, yet rose to become the second most powerful man in Egypt [Genesis 41], or David the shepherd boy, who killed the mighty Goliath with just a sling and a stone, and was anointed by God to become King of Israel [1 Samuel 16 and 17], or Lazarus, who had been dead for four days before Jesus brought him back to life [John 11]. It seems that God likes to reverse the fortunes of his people. What needs reversing in your life? Be encouraged by Hannah's example that God can and does reverse the status quo. Like Hannah, pour out your soul to the Lord and then stand back and watch God go to work. God delights in reversing the fortunes of his people, and there is nothing that our God cannot do [Mark 10:27]. "My heart exults in the Lord . . . because I rejoice in my victory." [1 Samuel 2:1].

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**Please see the "Let's Connect" insert in your bulletin. Here you will find easy access to pastoral care requests, prayer requests, and volunteer opportunities. Each week, you may fill out your requests and put into the offering plate. These will be updated weekly. Any questions can be directed to the Pastors or Carly in the office.**



# NEWS @ CTK



Christ the King invites you to donate an Easter flower in honor or in memory of a loved one. Names of those honored or memorialized will be noted during Easter Sunday worship. You are invited to take a plant home with you after the final Easter service.

Please use QR code and make payment or bring payment to the church office no later than **Wednesday, March 11.**



If you are unable to bring your form/payment in, please contact Carly in the office:507-345-5056

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**VITERBO**  
UNIVERSITY

**Friday, March 6 at 7PM**  
**Christ the King performance**

Join Viterbo University's Concert Choir and 9th Street Singers as they embark on their spring tour through Western Wisconsin and Minnesota. Viterbo University has a rich history of excellent Choral music spanning over a century back to the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, who founded Viterbo as a normal school to support immigrants in the community and started the music program. Singing has remained a cornerstone of the institution, largely through degree programs and productions in the Conservatory of the Performing Arts.

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CTK will be serving dinner Sunday March 8, 2026 - Saturday March 14, 2026 at Connections Homeless Shelter located at 220 E Hickory St. Mankato Mn. (The First Presbyterian Church).



**Congregational Life Presents: "COMPETE AND EAT"**  
**March 22 at 5 PM**

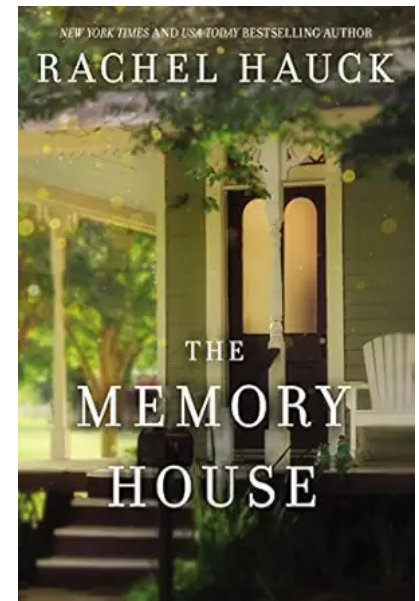


**Calling all cooks - dig out those favorite MN hotdish recipes! Please bring your favorite, ready to eat, (along with the recipe) for tasting and voting by all participants. Prizes will be awarded!**

# LIBRARY CORNER

March is a month that we can experience all kinds of weather conditions and we know that a new season and springtime will soon arrive. We celebrate several important events – St. Patrick’s Day, longer daylight hours, the season of Lent and Easter! This is also national read a book month.

- “*Spirit Crossing*” by Kent Krueger [F KRU]  
“Disappearance of politician’s daughter in Minnesota news and Young Ojibwe women’s body is found in search that uncovers clue to missing teen.”
- “*Twice*” by Mitch Albom [F ALB] “8-year-old discovers ability to get second chances to undo any moment and live it again. But one catch, must accept second try.”
- “*I’ll Be Seeing You*” by Robin Hatcher [F HAT]  
“Will family’s secret haunt generations to come?”
- “*Like the Wind*” by Robin Hatcher [F HAT]  
“Mother & Daughter in desperate need of connection. A discovered diary – story of hope and Inspiration.”
- “*Who I’m With You*” by Robin Hatcher [F HAT Leg01] ‘God’s healing in new legacy of faith.’
- “*The Museum of Lost Quilts*” by Jennifer Chiaverini [F CHI ELM22] “Warm and deeply moving story studying quilts.”
- “*The Memory House*” by Rachel Hauck [F HAU]  
“Two women whose lives have been destroyed find healing in a special house.”
- “*The Silence of the Loons*” by MN Premier Crime Writers [F MCW LOG] “13-Tales of mystery.”
- “*15-Tales of Murder, Mayhem & Malice*” by MN Writers [F MCW VAR] “From the land of MN”.
- “*Perfectly You*” by Mariana Atencio [B ATE]  
“Fresh, compelling voice resonates on cultural topics, immigration and global poverty.”



There are also many more new titles in our library.  
Stop in and check them out!

# FAITH

CONTINUUM

Greetings Christ's Ambassadors All,

Please join us for a compelling study every Sunday in March. We will be looking at the Gospel of Mark. This overview is the inspiration of Pastor Brittany and the bookend presenter is CTK's very own member and retired Pastor Gerry Giese.

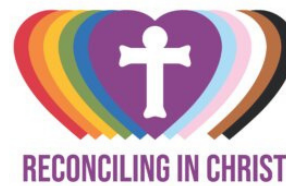
Gerry will present on March 1st and 29th. He will lead us off with an introduction into the Gospel of Mark and conclude this enriching series on Palm Sunday with a miracle "sandwich story". In between we have two fascinating guest speakers.

On March 8th Gustavus Professor Casey Elledge shares on Mark 5:21-43. Professor Elledge joins Faith Continuum for the first time. We appreciate his sharing his expertise as a New Testament professor as we walk through Jarius' request of Jesus and the woman healed by touching his robe as Jesus walks to Jarius' home to see Jarius' daughter.

He is followed by two Sundays with occasional Faith Continuum guest, Luther Seminary Professor Mark Tranvik. Mark will tackle the Sandwich stories from Mark 14:1-11 and 14:53-77. Professor Tranvik will lead us as we approach Holy week with the that passages frame the events leading to Jesus' crucifixion, highlighting betrayal and denial.

We hope this Lenten season is one of spiritual growth for you,

Todd Lundquist



## **CTK Members -**

**Thank you to everyone who participated in our first straw poll vote on a potential new welcome statement and if CTK should make the commitment to become an RIC church. We are especially grateful for those who took the time to write additional comments to let us know what you are still looking for in this journey. This entire journey is focused on you, as members of CTK. We want your involvement throughout the entire process.**

**We want to make sure that everyone has a clear understanding of what the Reconciling in Works process looks like and why it's important. We have added a page to the website that will house more information so that members can view it at any time. You can find our information on the website under the "Discover" tab. It provides a brief history about RIC, what it takes to become an RIC church, information that we as a task force have gathered, and different resources.**

**It also provides a place for you to submit comments or questions about the RIC journey or specific topics.**

**We also had some questions about how the task force was created and what sort of authority the task force holds. The RIC task force was first proposed by the Justice & Peace Board. The idea was taken before the Congregational Council where a few things happened next. Several members from Justice and Peace Board and a few members from Congregational Council took an online training about Building an Inclusive Church. This provides the toolkit for the RIC journey. Then the entire council took a faith community assessment test which helps determine the church's overall temperament when considering starting the RIC journey. After more discussion the council approved the creation of an RIC Task Force. Applications were opened to all members and based on those applications received, a task force was formed and all names were again approved by the Council.**

**To become a recognized RIC church, the congregation must take an official vote, under the direction of the Council, to approve a new Welcome Statement and agree to four commitments:**

- Your community explicitly states a welcome to people of "all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions" or "LGBTQIA+ people" and names its commitment to "racial equity" or "anti-racism" in its welcome statement.**
- Open to calling an LGBTQIA+ and Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Roster Leader.**
- Will allow community space/sanctuary to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.**
- Will make a meaningful contribution annually to support the national RIC program.**

**We look forward to continuing this conversation with all of you. Please never hesitate to reach out to any member of the task force.**

**Liz Zaruba, Julie Hatleli, Jodie Wallschlaeger, Kris Barnes and Becky Menk**

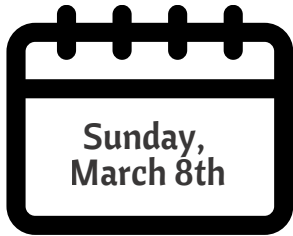
# TCTK

# March

Children, Youth & Family



## 0-3 year old class in the Rainbow Room



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



## SKATING AT ALL SEASONS ARENA



Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

3:30-5PM

FREE WILL DONATION



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### RAINFOREST FALLS

EXPLORING THE NATURE OF GOD

DATE: JUNE 22-26

TIME: 8:30-11:30AM

COST: \$25 FOR 1 KID OR \$40 PER IMMEDIATE FAMILY

SIGN UP →



## Christ the King Lutheran Church Summer Musical

### LIFE IS GOOD

"In this world you will have trouble.  
But take heart! I have overcome the world."  
-John 16:33

Date: August 10-14, 2026  
Time: 9:00AM-12:30PM  
Cost: \$30

SIGN UP →



Performance Dates: August 15 at 5:30PM and August 16 at 9:30AM  
Directed by: Chuck Hoogland and Jim Hatleli

# TCTK March

Children, Youth & Family

## Youth Fundraiser: Pie Day!

Support our fundraiser by donating toward the staff member you want to see pied in the face!

The staff member with the most money by 3/11 gets pied that evening.  
**Join us on 3/11 for pie, fun, and the big reveal!**



Pastor Melanie



Pastor Brittany



Kristi Regnier  
Chef



Kirsten Elliott  
Children's Ministry



Al Lee  
Tech



Robin Hughes  
Choir Director