

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.



PARISH NEWS

Prayers of Joy & Celebration

We celebrate the baptisms of:

- Iver Adam Sharpsteen, son of Dan and Becca Sharpsteen, on September 12.
- Ginny Rae Sharpsteen, daughter of Dan and Becca Sharpsteen, on September 12.

Prayers of Comfort

Our prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to the following families:

- Leroy "Fred" Lindall Jr. passed into eternal glory July 7, 2026 . Please hold his wife Jan Lindall and family in prayer during this time of grief.
- The family and loved ones of Marilyn Bigbee, who passed into eternal glory on August 29, 2026.
- Karen Dennis entered eternal glory on September 2. Please keep her daughter, Amy Luethmers, and their family in your prayers during this time of loss and grief.
- The family and friends of Roger Jespersen, who entered eternal life on September 15, 2026. His funeral service was held at Christ the King on September 24, with Pastor Melanie officiating.

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 and youtube.com/@ctkmankato/streams

Deadline for Next Issue Newsletter Articles: Monday, November 19, 2026
Please email to communications@ctkmankato.org or leave with front desk.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Christ the King Lutheran Church
8/31/2026

	Aug-26	MTD Budget	Variance	YTD	YTD Budget	Variance	Aug-25	Variance	Prior YTD	Variance
Total Operational Income	\$ 54,807	\$ 74,050	\$ (19,243)	\$ 510,527	\$ 592,402	\$ (81,875)	\$ 51,611	\$ 3,196	\$ 105,855	\$ (404,672)
Total Operational Expenses	\$ (67,802)	\$ (73,434)	\$ 5,632	\$ (552,091)	\$ (587,475)	\$ 35,383	\$ (75,402)	\$ 7,600	\$ (132,995)	\$ 419,096
Other Income			\$ -	\$ 5,010		\$ 5,010		\$ -		\$ (5,010)
Special Events Income			\$ -	\$ 265		\$ 265		\$ -		\$ (265)
Rent Income	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ -	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000	\$ -	\$ 7,000	\$ (3,500)	\$ 7,000	\$ (21,000)
Other Expenses			\$ -			\$ -		\$ -		\$ -
Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (9,495)	\$ 4,116	\$ (13,611)	\$ (8,290)	\$ 32,927	\$ (41,217)	\$ (16,791)	\$ 7,296	\$ (20,140)	\$ (11,850)

PRAYER CORNER

by Jorun Meierding, Prayer Room Coordinator

EZRA'S PRAYER OF REPENTENCE Nehemiah 9:6-38

Ezra is a significant figure in the Bible. He was a Jewish scribe and priest who was born during the Babylonian exile. He is known for leading a group of exiles from Babylon back to Jerusalem (around 458 BCE) and playing a key role in the spiritual reconstruction, or revival, of Judaism following their captivity. Ezra's story is found in the biblical books of Ezra and Nehemiah, which detail his efforts to rebuild not just the physical structures like the temple, but also the spiritual foundations of the Jewish community. His leadership had a lasting impact, helping to form Jewish identity and religious practice for future generations.

One of the things Ezra did was to read the Torah—the word of God—aloud to the people, and call them to repentance. Following the reading, Ezra offered a prayer, found in Nehemiah Chapter 9. I encourage you to read this prayer in your own Bible, as it is too lengthy to include here. In his prayer, Ezra recited the long history of Israel's disobedience to God, contrasted with God's steadfast love and faithfulness to Israel, over many centuries. Ezra prayed, "you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." [Nehemiah 9:17]. Finally, Ezra and the Israelite nation dared to call on God's patience and steadfast love yet again, because of God's long history of forgiving them:

"Now therefore, our God—the great and mighty and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love—do not treat lightly all the hardship that has come upon us, upon our kings, our officials, our priests, our prophets, our ancestors, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until today. You have been just in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly; our kings, our officials, our priests, and our ancestors have not kept your law or heeded the commandments and the warnings that you gave them."

[Nehemiah 9:32-34 NRSV]. Then, to emphasize its desire to repent of this "wickedness," the Israelite community bound itself in obedience to God and God's laws by signing a written pledge. [Nehemiah 9:38; 10:28-29]. They wanted to be faithful to God, in the same way that God had demonstrated faithfulness to them.

These words Ezra used to describe God, as "gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love," are familiar to us and are found many times in the Bible. [See Exodus 34:6, Numbers 14:18, 2 Chronicles 30:9, Psalm 86:15, Psalm 103:8, Psalm 111:4, Psalm 145:8, Joel 2:13, Jonah 4:2 and Nahum 1:3]. Ezra verifies the truth of these words by citing specific examples of God showing grace and mercy to the Israelites, even when they did not deserve it. Since God's nature does not change, it follows that God remains "gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" towards us. May we respond like the Israelites, with a heartfelt desire to repent and be obedient to God.

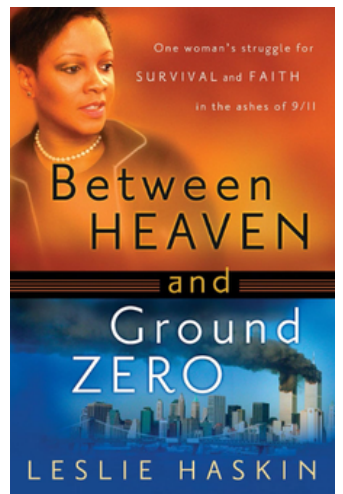
The Lord is slow to anger but great in power, and the Lord will by no means clear the guilty.
His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.
Nahum 1:3

LIBRARY CORNER

October has arrived, it is the time of year that some call Autumn and others call Fall. Temperatures drop and daylight hours are shorter. It's a wonderful time to enjoy outdoor activities, colorful leaves and be reminded of how nature's cycles are mirrored in our lives.

This past month we have been reminded of the Tragedy of 9-11-2001 in our country and lives lost. Perhaps you observed or heard some of the coverage of the 25th Anniversary and listened to some of the survivors or families of this terrible historic event. The suggested reads this month were selected with a survival and/or military focus from the library.

"Between Heaven and Ground Zero" by Leslie Haskin [B Has] "One woman's struggle for Survival and Faith in the Ashes of 9/11."



"A Prayer for Our Country" by Senate Chaplain Barry Black [EB Bla] "Words to Unite and Inspire Hope."

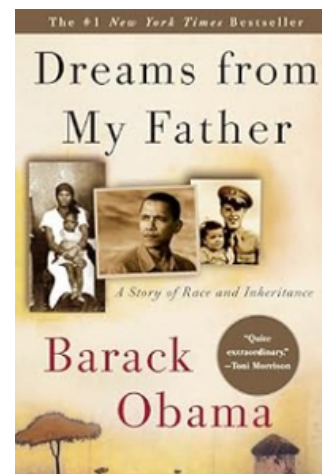
"Don't Forget Our Troops" by Jill Biden [EB Bid] "This memoir takes on the task of chronicling grief and guilt and the agony of learning a new way to love and live. Author describes how tragedy can bend but not break a relationship."

"Under His Wings" by Emily Compagno [920 Com] "How Faith on the Front Lines has protected American Troops".

"A Table in the Presence" by Lt. Carey Cash [956 Cas] "The dramatic account of how a U.S. Marine Battalion experienced GOD's presence amidst the chaos of the War in Iraq".

"Soldier Stories" by Joe Wheeler [355 Whe] "True tales of courage, honor and sacrifice from the Frontlines."

"ENRIQUE's Journey" by Sonia Nazario [B Naz] "The true 2006 story of a Honduran boy who braves unimaginable hardships in his dangerous odyssey to reunite with his mother in America."



"Dreams from My Father" by Barack Obama [B Oba] "A story of Race and Inheritance".

The CTK Library Committee requests that when you are checking out books, please Print your Name and also include your contact phone number on the sign-out card that is inside the book front cover.

This information is necessary when we might need to locate a book.

Thank you!

Library Committee: Kathy Bruss, Linda Eisenbeis, Emmy Geppert, Denise Kuehner, Ellen Petersen, Ann Stewart, Tara Thompson, Kathy Wenner and Jeannine Wills.



RIC TASK FORCE

From the Reconciling in Christ Task Force (RIC)

The Reconciling in Christ task force is once again sharing our updated draft of a potential welcome statement. Updates were made after reviewing comments from the straw poll vote in January.

Updated Welcome Statement Draft:

Christ the King Lutheran Church welcomes you to our community of faith.

We believe every person is a beloved child of God, made by God's Holy design (Jeremiah 1:5).

God designed every skin color, mental or physical ability, gender identity or gender expression, language, age, ethnicity, economic status or sexual orientation. Each brings unique gifts to enrich the full life & ministry of our church. We recognize, celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse talents each one of us brings.

We work towards healing and wholeness against racism, gender-based harm and all other forms of injustice. We stand against the actions of those who would strip basic human rights from any person.

You are welcome wherever you are in your faith journey and in the fullness of who you are. We hold that discrimination is incompatible with the gospel of Jesus Christ. You are welcome because you are a child of God.

John 13:34 says, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." This verse is a commandment from Jesus to his disciples, instructing them to love each other in the same way that he has loved them.

As a reminder, to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) church, we must commit to the following public commitments:

1. Clearly state a welcome to people of "all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions" or "LGBTQIA+" and name its commitment to "racial equity" or "anti-racism" in a Welcome Statement.
2. Be open to calling LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC (Black, Brown, Indigenous, Person of Color) Rostered Leaders.
3. Allow sanctuary/community space to be used for LGBTQIA+ weddings and blessings.
4. Make a meaningful contribution annual to support the national RIC program.

The Congregational Council has decided that the official vote will be held on Wednesday, October 28th, immediately after the 6pm Wednesday service.

Copies of In Our Own Words continue to be available for pickup in the Narthex, along with other reading materials in the library. You can also see more information about our RIC journey online at <https://ctkmankato.org/learning-growing/reconciling-in-christ-ric>. You are also invited to join the RIC Task Force in a panel discussion before the official vote. Members from the task force will be available at Faith Continuum on Sunday, October 11th to answer any questions.

+CTK Children, Youth & Family

Christ the King -Bakers Square Pie Fundraiser- Support our Youth Trips



Orders Due: October 28

Order Pickup:

Pick up your orders on Saturday, November 22, or
Sunday, November 23, during church services

All Pies
\$20



Apple
Reduced Sugar Apple Pie
Peach
Cherry
Strawberry Rhubarb
Triple Berry

Pumpkin
Pecan
French Silk
Lemon Meringue
Lemon Supreme

ORDER
HERE



YOUTH FUNDRAISER!

2027 ELCA
Youth Gathering



Support CTK Youth by purchasing Scrip gift cards!
Contact Kirsten or Brittany to purchase gift cards,
or stop by the church office Monday–Thursday
from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Proceeds from your
gift card purchases help support CTK Youth trips
and ministry opportunities. Payment may be made
by scanning the QR code or by cash or check.

KWIK TRIP

5 Ultimate Car Washes
at Kwik Trip for \$40



Reach out to Kirsten or Brittany
to purchase car wash cards!



ELCA Youth Gathering
Location: Minneapolis, MN
Dates: June 28-July 2, 2027

Interested?
**SCAN
ME!**



First Communion Faith Lab
Sunday, October 4, 2026
Time: 11:00AM



REGISTER HERE >

+CTK Children, Youth & Family



TRUNK OR TREAT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

CTK PARKING LOT

4:30-5:30PM

WE NEED TRUNKS & TREATS
SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!



Hosted by Children Youth & Family Board & Congregational Life Board

LEFSE YOUTH FUNDRAIDER



Join Pastor Melanie and Al Lee on Saturday, November 14 at 10AM-12PM or 12-2PM for a fun and meaningful event where you'll learn how to make traditional lefse—and help raise funds for youth summer trips!

- Learn to Make Lefse
- Support the Youth
- Lefse will be sold for \$2 per round

SIGN UP →



Whether you're young or young at heart, we'd love for you to join us! Sign up to help make lefse, purchase some, or both!

SAVE THE DATE

Christmas Cookies & Carols
Saturday, December 5
4:00-6:00PM

Hosted by Children Youth & Family Board



SAVE THE DATE

Kids Night Out Event

Friday, January 29, 2026

- Little Kids= 3 Years- Kindergarten
- Kids=1st-6th Grade
- Youth= 7th-12th Grade

Hosted by Children Youth & Family Board

GET INVOLVED

WOMEN'S RUTH CIRCLE

A time for Fellowship, Bible Study & Treats!
Begins again on Tuesday September 15th.
The study continues with "Prayer and Listening" Study
guide. Group meets 3rd Tuesday of month
(September thru May) at CTK in Room #7.
All are welcome to join this education opportunity!

For Information contact church office or one of
following:

Diane Brekke dmb7248@gmail.com
Ann Stewart acstewart40@outlook.com

Adopt-A-Highway

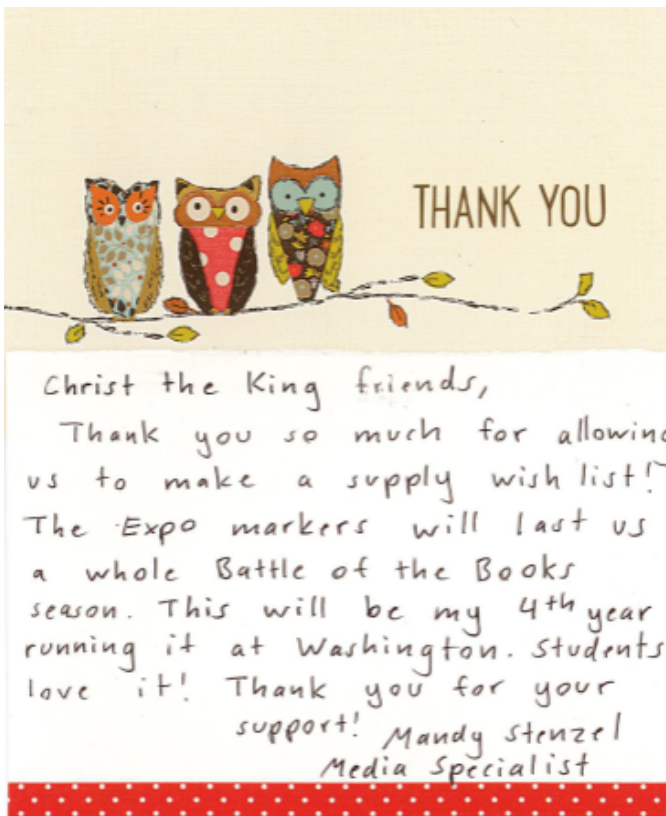
Highway Clean-Up
Sunday, October 4 at 12:00PM
Note: Rain date- October 11th

- Meet in the Pfau Street Parking Lot to plan carpooling
- Wear good, sturdy shoes
- Bring gloves (if you have them)



Washington Elementary School Outreach

Thanks to the generosity of our Christ the King congregation, we were able to help provide school supplies for students at Washington Elementary as they begin the new school year. We have received thank-you notes from the school expressing their appreciation for this support. Your donations and willingness to help make a difference in the lives of local students and families are a wonderful example of Christ's love in action. Thank you to everyone who donated supplies, contributed financially, or helped make this outreach effort a success. Your generosity is truly appreciated!



Sep 2026

Dear Christ the King parishioners~
wow! Sometimes that's about
all one can say... wow! Thank
you for all the AMAZING donations
you made to the Staff & Students
at Washington Elementary! We are
so very thankful for the partnership!!!
With much THANKS,
Ann Haggerty, Principal

GET INVOLVED

October

WORSHIP ASSISTANT SIGN-UP

SIGN UP →



MEAL SERVERS



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING A SMALL GROUP?

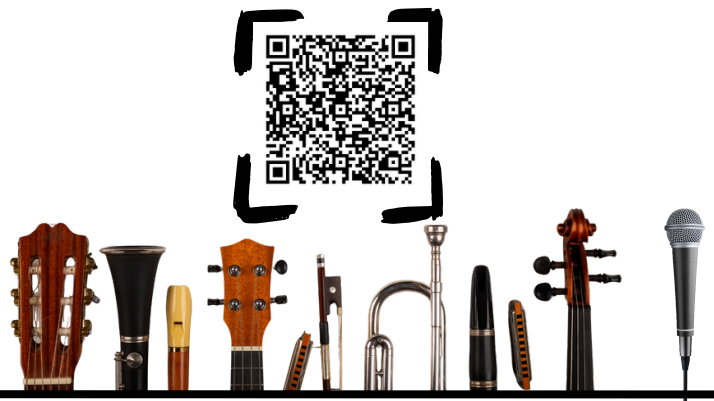
Small Groups are intentional gatherings for Bible study, prayer, support and community

PLEASE TAKE SURVEY



DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT OR SING?

Please consider participating in the CTK Worship Band!



My Pace Mile- Team CTK

Join Team CTK for the MY Pace Mile,
a one-mile walk/run supporting Mankato Youth Place.

- 17 Saturday, October 10
- 1315 Stadium Road, Mankato
- Registration: 9:30 AM
- Walk/Run Begins: 10:00 AM
- \$30 per person (\$10 team discount available)

*Register
Now*



Mankato Youth Place
**MY
Pace
Mile**
Running MY Pace for MY Place

presented by Wealth Enhancement Group

Special CTK Offer:
The registration fee covered by
the Servant Outreach Board.

FAITH CONTINUUM FALL 2026

October 4: Erin Simmons
October 11: RIC Task Force
October 18: TBD
October 25: Pastor Paul Meierding PhD
November 1: Pastor Paul Meierding PhD
November 8: Pastor Paul Meierding PhD

Sunday, October 4

Join **Erin Simmons, Executive Director of My Place**, shares about the organization's important work serving children and youth in our community. Erin's passion for this ministry is rooted in her own childhood experiences and has shaped her commitment to helping young people thrive. Her visit comes at a meaningful time, as CTK will be supporting My Place through a team participating in the My Pace Mile fundraiser in October and a supply drive in November. We invite you to learn more about this valuable community partnership and the difference it makes in the lives of local youth.

Sunday, October 11

Join the **RIC Task Force Panel** on for a discussion before the official vote takes place October 28th. We will talk about the RIC journey so far, possible next steps and answer any questions there might be. We look forward to talking with you all soon!

Sunday, October 25, November 1 & November 8

"The Psalms as a Book of Prayer"

Led by Pastor Paul Meierding PhD

Pastor Paul Meierding PhD will help us explore the Psalms. This is the Old Testament book most often quoted in the New Testament. In a sense it is both the prayer book and the hymn book of the Bible. Psalms were originally prayed and sung during ancient Israelite worship, just as we pray and sing hymns in worship today. Emotions in the Psalms range from desperate laments to exuberant expressions of praise. Psalmists use timeless metaphors to describe these emotions. We can learn from the Psalms how to better pray and worship.

Walter Brueggemann in *The Psalms and the Life of Faith* writes, "Human experience includes those dangerous and difficult times of dislocation and disorientation when the sky does fall . . . The times of disorientation are those when persons are driven to the extremities of emotion. . . I propose that the sequence of orientation-disorientation-reorientation is a helpful way to understand the use and function of the Psalms" (pp. 8-9). Martin Luther was immersed in the Psalms, as he helped lead the church to Reformation (reorientation). Immersing ourselves in the Psalms today may again lead to new growth and new life!

Menu



OCTOBER 7

Vegetable Beef Stew, Biscuits, Garden Salad, Seven-Layer Bar

OCTOBER 14

Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rice Pudding

OCTOBER 21

Chicken & Wild Rice Casserole, Peas, Garden Salad, Jello with Fruit & Whipped Cream

OCTOBER 28

Chili, Sour Cream, Cheese, Corn Bread, Crackers, Carrots & Celery Sticks, Chocolate Cake with Cherries

OTHER MINISTRY MATTERS



GIVE THANKS BY GIVING BACK

The Congregational Life Committee will be sponsoring a community donation drive this fall. Donation bins will be available in the Narthex beginning in late October. All donated items, as well as any cash contributions or gift cards, will be collected and delivered to My Place Mankato at the end of November.

A list of suggested donation items will be provided soon. Thank you for your generosity and support of our community!



The Servant Outreach Board is coordinating CTK's support of the Connections Shelter during the weeks of November 8-14, January 10-16, and March 7-13. Volunteer sign-up information, will be available in the Weekly Welcome and the November newsletter.

Thank you for joining us in serving our neighbors through this meaningful outreach opportunity.

The Welcome Family is looking for an affordable second vehicle to help with transportation to and from work, with a budget of approximately \$3,000-\$3,500.

If you know of a reliable car available within this price range, please contact the church office. Thank you for helping support this family and their transportation needs.



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Mankato, MN 56001

Phone: 507-345-5056
Fax: 507-345-6115

Visit us online!
www.ctkmankato.org

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 252

Mankato, MN 56001

Christ the King Staff

CTK Main Phone Number: 507-345-5056

Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger, Senior Pastor: ext. 23, melaniew@ctkmankato.org

Pastor Brittany Maillieu, Associate Pastor; ext 37, brittany@ctkmankato.org

Pam Bartelt, Office Administrator: communications@ctkmankato.org

Kirsten Elliott, Director of Children's Ministries: ext. 20, kirstene@ctkmankato.org

Mark Thompson, Custodian: ext.11, markt@ctkmankato.org

Ariac Cruz, Custodial & Property Staff

Al Lee, Technology Arts Director: all@ctkmankato.org

Amy Olsen, Financial Assistant: amyo@ctkmankato.org

Bri Bergstrom, Contemporary Music Coordinator: brib@ctkmankato.org

Kristi Regnier, Chef: kristir@ctkmankato.org

Robin Hughes, Choir and Hand Bell Director: robinh@ctkmankato.org

Office Hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm M - TH, or by appt