

# 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.





# Prayer Corner

submitted by Jorun Meierding, Prayer Room Coordinator

## Pray for Laborers for the Harvest

As noted earlier in this column, there are only a few times in the Bible where Jesus instructs his followers to pray for something specific. In July we examined Jesus' admonition to pray for our persecutors. This month we will focus on praying for laborers for God's kingdom.

Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." [Matthew 9:37-38 NRSV]. Other translations of the Bible say to "pray earnestly" [ESV] or to "plead" [NASB] with the Lord of the harvest for laborers. Why is this necessary? Because, just like any farmer, God needs help to bring in the harvest of souls. Jesus observed that the harvest is plentiful, and the "fields are ripe for harvesting." [John 4:35].

This is as true in our day as it was then. Not all of God's children have been "safely gathered in," in the words of the great hymn, "Come Ye Thankful People, Come." According to a 2018 StarTribune article[1]:

- ELCA baptisms have plunged 40% since 2000;
- 1 in 5 Americans report no church membership;
- 1 in 4 ELCA congregations can no longer afford a pastor;
- Since 2010, 3,661 ELCA pastors have retired, and only 2,241 were ordained.

Have you prayed earnestly for the Lord of the harvest to send more workers into the harvest field? If not, I encourage you to start today. We need more pastors, yes, but we also need more on-fire apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers [Ephesians 4:11]. Isn't it possible that the reason we are short of pastors is that we have not been doing a very good job of making disciples? Every pastor either is raised in a church -or- is a new convert to the faith. The fewer people we have coming to faith in Christ, the fewer people we have to send to seminary.

God's harvest is ready. God's harvest is ripe for the picking. It is God's harvest, not ours, and God will provide the laborers, if only we will ask. Jesus commanded us to do this, so we should not neglect our responsibility. And while we are at it, let's not forget to thank God for the laborers he has already provided to us—our current pastors, teachers and other volunteers. They are carrying a heavy load right now while we wait for more laborers to come and join their ranks. Amen!

[1] Hopfensperger, J. (2018, August 19). Fewer people are entering the seminary as need declines, church budgets shrink. StarTribune.

## SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER ROOM VOLUNTEERS

### September 10th

8:15am  
Ann Stewart  
10:00am  
Marilyn Sarff

### September 17th

8:15am  
Dorothy Viker  
10:00am  
Sandy Smith

### September 24th

8:15am  
Kris Barnes  
10:00am  
Joann Nessler





### ANDREA BRINKMAN

Andrea is the Choir Director at Mankato East High School. She will be bringing her abundant energy and creativity to CTK as our new Contemporary Music Coordinator. Andrea is looking forward to discovering and utilizing the musical talents of the congregation. If you'd like to be a part of the contemporary services at 10am Sunday or Wednesday night, let her know!

# Renew - Refresh - Recharge



## WOMEN'S RETREAT SEPTEMBER 22 - 24 SHALOM HILL FARM

[CTKMANKATO.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/WOMENS-RETREAT](http://CTKMANKATO.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/WOMENS-RETREAT)



### JOIN THE CTK WORSHIP CHOIR!!



The CTK Worship Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, Sept. 6th, at 7:00 p.m. Rehearsals are from 6:45-7:45, except for our first rehearsal. The choir typically sings twice per month! Please contact Robin Hughes if you would like to be a new member. All are welcome!



[robinh@ctkmankato.org](mailto:robinh@ctkmankato.org)



## Bibles, Bagels & Brew

Women's Faith Group

### Schedule

- Saturday, September 23, 2023
- Saturday, October 14, 2023
- Saturday, November 18, 2023
- Saturday, December 9, 2023
- Saturday, January 13, 2024
- Saturday, February 10, 2024
- Saturday, March 16, 2024
- Saturday, April 13, 2024
- Saturday, May 18, 2024

# Faith

to move mountains

MATTHEW 17:20

## "COOL DOWN" SUNDAY SUPPERS



September 17th

4:00-6:00pm

Grace Lutheran Church



Winter isn't the only time that it is a tough time to be without housing! Are you interested in helping with a "cool down" for people in need of shelter? CTK is helping with Sunday "cool down" Suppers held at Grace Lutheran church. Two or more volunteers are needed to host, you would be responsible for greeting and connecting visitors with a meal (which will be there for you) and encouraging them to take respite from the elements for two hours. Sign up: [bit.ly/CoolDownSupper](http://bit.ly/CoolDownSupper)

## Fellowship Opportunities

### September 21st

- 1:00pm Caregiver Support Group
- 7:00pm Women's Book Study

### September 22-24

Women's Retreat

### September 25th

9:00am-3:00pm Quilters

### Tuesdays

- 9:00am Coffee & Conversation
- 10:30am Book Study

Learn More:

[ctkmankato.org/get-involved/adults](http://ctkmankato.org/get-involved/adults)

# Library Corner

Where did the summer season go; hopefully it was your time to relax and make a few special memories! **September** now means we must begin adjusting to shorter daylight hours; students returning to school studies and activities, our personal calendar filling with projects and events that took a hiatus during the summer. Hopeful now for break in the heat and humidity!

## GOOD READ BY MINNESOTA AUTHORS - [Use Code: Letters to find books]

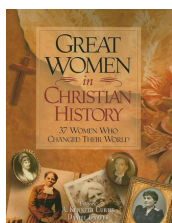
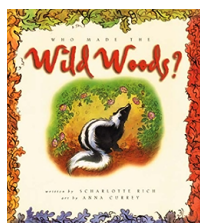
- "Feisty Lydia – Memoirs of a German War Bride" by Edna Thayer. "Read how Lydia used her feisty and optimistic personality to overcome the struggles of life in a new country and to create her Elysian Fields, a place of joy and tranquility, in the city of Elysian, Minnesota." (CODE: B Tha)
- "They Named Me Marjorie: The Brave Journey of an Orphan Train Rider" by Ann Zemke. "This is the true story of an orphan who was adopted and all the hardships she endured in her life including being returned to orphanage a second time. Finally at age 18 she started a new independent life and found happiness." (CODE:B Pet)
- "A Boy From C-11: Case #9164" by Harvey Ronglien. "The heart-wrenching account of one boy's struggles to overcome his difficult childhood in the Minnesota State Public School for Dependent and Neglected Children in Owatonna, Minnesota. The author was one of these boys and his latest commitment is to ensure that the children of the State School will not be forgotten." (CODE:B Ron)
- "Living Consciously, Dying Gracefully: A Journey with Cancer and Beyond" by Nancy Manahan & Becky Bohan. "A beautiful tribute to a loved one, Diane Manahan, who brings an enlightened hope and calming peace as she looks at her situation with an unusual perspective." (CODE:B Man)

## BOOKS IN CHILDREN'S 'READING NOOK' [Use Code: Letters to find books]

- "Can I Pray with My Eyes Open?" by Susan Taylor Brown. "In rhyming text, a child wonders how, when & where is the perfect way to say a prayer and realizes that there is NO wrong time or place." (Code: EB)
- "What Does It Mean to Be Kind?" by Rana DiOrio. "The book shows young children how easy it is to be kind through small acts and in simple ways." (Code:ED)
- "How Big is GOD's Love?" by David & Helen Haidle. "Beautifully illustrated book with pictures that have a multicultural approach depicting a variety of families sharing together the wonder of God's love." (Code:EH)

We hope that you will pay a visit and enjoy exploring the books available for your education and enjoyment! Remember you can also research the library resources by visiting [CTKmankato.org](http://CTKmankato.org) – (click on) Discover, then Library & Explore Titles.

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.

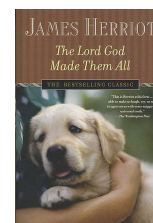
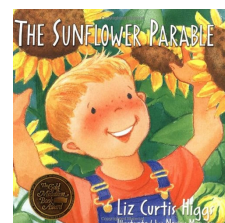


## Bonus Recommendations

From the current displays:

Adults - meditations, history, novels & caregiving.

Children - Bible stories and parables.



# CTK

kids

september

## 3-year-old Preschool Bible Milestone

If your child is 3 years-old by August 31, 2023, your child will receive a *Frolic Preschool Bible* on Wednesday, September 13th or Sunday, September 17th during the Worship Service. They are then able to begin their faith journey in the *Rainbow Room* at CTK!

Register Here



## Bibles & Bagels

### 3rd Grade Bible Faith Lab

#### Save the Date

Wednesday, September 13th at the 6PM Worship Service  
Followed by a class in the 5th/6th Grade Room

Sunday, September 17th at the 10:00AM Worship Service  
Followed by bagels & class in the Fireside Room

Register Here



Join us for our

## 0-3 year old class

in the Rainbow Room

Lesson: Hannah & Samuel

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

**Sunday**  
**October 1, 2023**  
**at 9:00AM**

Register Here



## First Communion Faith Lab

Sunday, October 8, 2023

1:00-3:00PM

- Paint a chalice and paten
- Baking Bread
- Grape Stomp
- Making wine



Register Here





# Faith Continuum

Greetings All,

We are back in action! Faith Continuum returns on Sunday Mornings beginning September 10th! We shall continue with our "as soon as practical after the completion of the 8:15 Service or 9:15 am whichever occurs first" starting time. We shall adjourn for the morning no later than 9:55 am. We have so much on our plate that I will highlight this month's and next month's presentations so you can mark them on your calendar. All of the Fall engagements are "etched in stone"!

09/10 - Marlin Spangrud and Jim Armbruster will provide an update on the Constitution Amendments. I will make a very, very short offering on what is upcoming in Faith Continuum.

09/17 - Kristin Odland is back and bringing International Students with her. They will be sharing on The "Friendship Family Program" at MSUM and our opportunity to connect with Students from abroad. If you wish to reach Kristin for more information ([www.mnsu.edu/international](http://www.mnsu.edu/international)) on connecting with a global student, email her at [kristin.odland@mnsu.edu](mailto:kristin.odland@mnsu.edu).

09/24 - Matt Norland and Paul Moosebrugger appear before us. Matt presents on our Endowment Fund and offering a legacy to Ctk. Paul, an area attorney with the Farish Firm, shows us how to document the Endowment Fund in our wills and trusts.

10/01 - Our Treasurer, David Krause leads a discussion on Stewardship of all variety. Too, he will help all in attendance read and understand the Treasurer's Report as we see it Monthly and Annually.

10/08 - Ctk Member and Retired Pastor Richard Salge takes us on a journey with slides through Martin Luther's Germany. It offers a perspective of Luther's locations where our Lutheran tradition began.

10/15 - Pastor Salge returns to introduce the "Confessing Church" that took on Nazism in Hitler's Germany.

10/22 - Pastor Salge provides intriguing perspective on two Pastors of the Confessing Church. One was martyred in April of 1945 (Dietrich Bonhoeffer) and the other is Mary Salge's father (Dr. Walter G. Tillmanns - 1913 - 1966).

10/29 - One of our favorite presenters returns to follow up Richard with a timely discussion on the rise of racism. Dr. Mark Tranvik offer's his expert perspective of Nazis/White Nationalists and Christianity.

Finally, I might remind you that all special offerings targeting Faith Continuum are greatly appreciated. Those monies help our Honorarium Fund. Also, if you want to challenge me again this year with such an offering, I accept. On October 21st I attempt the half-marathon during Mankato Marathon weekend. How about \$2.50 a mile towards our Faith Continuum fund for every mile I complete; or, an offering for straight up completion of the half? Remember, I have only run one official race in my life (last year's 10K) and I am battling bilateral plantar fasciitis. Too, my full time return to the teaching profession takes up a considerable amount of my energy. So, dig deep. Your contributions not only support this Ctk ministry; but, they spur me on toward that finish line.

One of over 2 billion of Christ's Ambassadors who are one in the Spirit, Todd





# *Kitchen Calamity on Campus!*

Students have returned to campus! Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministries is location just across the street from Minnesota State University, Mankato. The increased activity of students returning to campus has been exhilarating. Along with that has been an influx of students registering for use of the Campus Cupboard Food Pantry located at Crossroads and run by volunteers from area ELCA churches. The increased costs of tuition, books, rent, and utilities has resulted in increased food insecurity among university students. Campus Cupboard is available to students attending any campus in Mankato. Word has quickly spread about Campus Cupboard.

Campus Cupboard has recently relocated and expanded from the basement of Crossroads to the main level. Volunteers at Campus Cupboard are enjoying students' reactions to their new and improved shopping experience. We've enjoyed meeting and greeting students new to campus as well as our returning student shoppers. While doing so, we have made a discovery that we are sure you can impact.

The Justice and Peace Commission has learned from Campus Cupboard volunteer staff that international students don't arrive on campus with their families and a truckload of furnishing. Many times, they enter an empty apartment and slowly accumulate furnishings left behind when others move. It has come to our attention that while these students have Campus Cupboard to help defray the cost of groceries, they are without everyday essentials that are more difficult to acquire. Plates, cups, bowls, glasses, silverware, cutlery, kitchen utensils, and cookware are greatly needed. Do you or someone you know have a box containing dishes given by friends or relatives who no longer needed them? We would be happy to accept those donations and get them to students in need of them. We also have students who have asked if there might be kitchen tables and chairs available in the community to eat meals and to study.

The Justice and Peace Commission will be coordinating the effort to accumulate donations of this kind. Please let us know of your interest in donating items by using this link.

## *Looking Ahead at the lessons...*

**September 3rd**  
**14th Sunday**  
**after Pentecost**  
Exodus 3:1-15  
Romans 12:9-21  
Matthew 16:21-28

**September 10th**  
**15th Sunday**  
**after Pentecost**  
Exodus 12:1-14  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

**September 17th**  
**16th Sunday**  
**after Pentecost**  
Exodus 14:19-31  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

**September 24th**  
**17th Sunday**  
**after Pentecost**  
Exodus 16:2-15  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16



*Begins*



# Weekly Worship Schedule

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**Sundays:** 8:15 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.

**Wednesdays:** 6:00 P.M.

**Saturdays:** 5:30 P.M.  
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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

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, September 18th.

Please email to [andreap@ctkmankato.org](mailto:andreap@ctkmankato.org) or leave with front desk.