

This Week at Christ the King Church

Advent 1: Sunday, November 30

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave
9:00 a.m. Kings Krewe Breakfast, RVC courtyard
9:30 a.m. Las Posadas Rehearsal, RVC Music Suite
9:45 a.m. Advent Wreath Workshop, RVC courtyard
10:20 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, RVC nave
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave
12:15 p.m. Luther League Meeting, RVC 2nd floor youth room

Monday, December 1

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home
12:00 p.m. Lectio Divina, online

Tuesday, December 2

7:30 a.m. Executive Committee Meeting, online
8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer at home
10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting, RVC
6:30 p.m. D&D Meeting, offsite

Wednesday, December 3

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home
10:00 a.m. Bible Study, Memorial Drive, Luther Room
6:15 p.m. Brass Choir Rehearsal, RVC Music Ste
7:00 p.m. Advent Vespers, RVC nave
7:00 p.m. Brass Quintet Rehearsal, RVC parish hall
7:00 p.m. Prayers Shawl Knitters, online
7:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, music suite
7:30 p.m. Advent Talks, RVC 2nd floor youth room
7:30 p.m. Advent Skating, offsite

Thursday, December 4

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home
5:45 p.m. Houston Boychoir Rehearsal, RVC music suite & nave

Friday, December 5

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home
10:00 a.m. Bible Study, RVC in person, 2nd floor youth room and online

Saturday, December 6

1:00 p.m. Online Yoga
6:00 p.m. Contemplative Holy Communion, RVC nave

Advent 2: Sunday, December 7

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave
9:00 a.m. Kings Krewe Breakfast, RVC courtyard
9:45 a.m. Music Gathering, Sunday School, Confirmation Class, RVC
9:45 a.m. Sunday Forum, parish hall
10:20 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, RVC nave
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave
12:15 p.m. Decorate the Christmas Tree Event, narthex

Monday, December 8

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home
12:00 p.m. Lectio Divina, online
12:00 p.m. Women in Transitions' Christmas Potluck, offsite

King's Breakfast Krewe Enjoy Breakfast every Sunday morning, beginning at 9:00 a.m., between the services. Scan the QR code to volunteer to help out the King's Breakfast Krewe. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Oliver Doolin or Ron Siemers.



Sunday Forum at 9:45 a.m. We invite you to grab some breakfast from our Breakfast Krewe and join us in the parish hall for meaningful and fun forums and events.

Upcoming Topics:

November 30: Advent Wreath Workshop, Courtyard

December 7: Advent Talk with Pastor Mandy (Saints)

December 14: Las Posadas, courtyard

Advent Wreath Workshop: Sunday, November 30 at 9:45 a.m.

Our Altar Guild will once again host their annual wreath making in the courtyard. Materials are provided. A donation of \$20 is suggested to cover the costs. All ages are invited to join in this communal craft activity to begin the Advent season in your homes. If you already have a wreath that you would like to decorate, please bring it, and join the fun.

Christmas Flower Donations - Deadline December 14

You may contribute toward decorating the Rice Village Campus nave for our Christmas services by donating \$20 per poinsettia and greenery. Please email Cheryl at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org. Please note whether your gift is in honor or memory of a loved one. You may write a check or pay online at ctkelc.org/give and designate "Christmas flowers." The deadline is Sunday, December 14.

Advent Vespers: Wednesdays December 3, 10, 17 at 7 p.m.

Take a break from the busy season and join us for a time of reflection, a time to breath, and setting aside to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and to anticipate his return. We will be using *Holden Evening Prayer Service*.

Advent Fellowship Gatherings: Wednesdays December 3, 10, 17 at 7:30 p.m.

After our Advent Vespers, we have two opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Pastor Mandy Derr will have Advent Conversations in the 2nd floor youth room to discuss themes and traditions of the Advent/Christmas season and Deacon Ben Remmert invites children, youth, and adults to go ice skating in Rice Village; a new tradition Rice Village is offering this season. Cost of ice skating is \$20 for ice skate rental.

Advent Devotionals at Christ the King Church!

We encourage all our members to use these devotions to help enrich your Advent journey this year. Hard copies are found in the narthex.

1. **Humble and Holy:** suggested donation, \$3.00

The writers of this resource bring their unique voices and pastoral wisdom to these texts and offer the voices of other witnesses in the quotations they have chosen in the "To ponder" sections. The devotional also provides household blessings and prayers to enrich your preparations and celebrations during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

2. **The Will to Dream Family Devotional**

In a time when trust feels fragile and divisions run deep, The Will to Dream calls us into holy longing—a sacred desire for a world made whole. Rooted in prophetic imagination, this Advent–Epiphany series helps communities confront despair, embody justice, and claim hope as a radical act. Together, we learn to dream not as escape, but as spiritual resistance.

The Annual Norwegian Christmas Market at Memorial Drive

Norwegian Seaman's Church Christmas Market at Memorial Drive will be open to all December 3-7 and December 10-13 from 12p.m. to 5p.m. each day. We hope everyone will take time to support our ministry partners and celebrate their move to the Memorial Drive Campus while drinking some Glog and tasting Christmas Treats.

- All are invited to sing-along with the CTK Choir on December 6 at the Norwegian Seaman's Church Christmas Market at the Memorial Drive Campus. Those who wish to join the choir for

this event should arrive at 1:30 for a short rehearsal. Others are encouraged to support the choir with the public visitors and Norwegian friends. Contact Alicia Goodrow at agoodrow@live.com for more information.

Jingle Bell Express 2025:

Since 1980, Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) has spread holiday cheer through Jingle Bell Express. With your support, 2,500 underserved children (newborn through 15 years) will receive new toys and books. Families will also receive a grocery gift card. Here's how you can help!

- **Donate** New, unwrapped and nonviolent toys are needed (no stocking stuffers, please)
 - Deliver toys and books to CCSC by Dec. 5 or to Bellaire United Methodist Church on Dec. 8 at 9 a.m.
 - Shop our Amazon Wish List by Dec. 1 for our most requested toys:
<http://bit.ly/46xXpEW>
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Volunteers must sign up in advance at <http://bit.ly/3Vv4alG>
 - Dec. 9: Toy & Book Sorting (ages 8+)
 - Dec. 10-12: Gift Bag Assembly (ages 10+)
 - Dec. 12-13: Drive-Thru Community Event (ages 15+)

Freewheels Houston Service Day: December 13 from 9 a.m. - noon

Join us for a time of cleaning and repairing donated bicycles with our friends at Freewheels Houston located at 6020 Jessamine St #204, Houston, TX 77081. All fixed and donated bicycles go to those who need transportation. Please wear close-toe shoes and prepare to outdoor work. Contact: Bill Chapman at wpchapman01@gmail.com for more information or to RSVP.

From the Manger to the HEARTh – Crèche Festival Houston

Saturday and Sunday, December 13 & 14, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall. This year's exhibition explores ways in which Christ's Nativity comes into our homes: postage stamps; greeting cards; and nativity art. Viewers will learn about the U.S. Postal Department's history of depicting the Nativity on stamps; reflect on vintage Christmas cards courtesy of the Hallmark Archives; friends share their Nativity scenes and special memories; and juried contemporary artwork for the Christmas Nativity Art competition will be displayed and auctioned to benefit Bright Stars of Bethlehem. This free event in its fifth year is a gift to the greater Houston community; invite your family, friends, and neighbors.

Intergenerational Las Posadas Program: Sunday, December 14 at 9:45 a.m.

On December 14, during the Sunday Forum hour all are invited to join us with our Sunday School teachers and musicians as we leading an intergenerational Las Posadas beginning in the parish hall and will end in the courtyard with a pinata, waffles and tamales from the Luther League! Las Posadas has over 400 years of celebration commemorate the Census pilgrimage which Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We will gather and re-enact Mary and Joseph's traveling, being led by a procession of children dressed as Mary, Joseph, angels, and shepherds singing and carrying banners throughout the church campus until we reach our destination. There prayers are said, songs sung, and we end the time with a party.

Christmas Worship Services at Rice Village Campus Nave: Dec. 24-28

Christmas Eve: Dec. 24

- 4:00 p.m. German Language Service
- 6:00 p.m. Candlelight and Holy Communion
- 9:00 p.m. Candlelight and Holy Communion (live streamed)

Christmas Day: Dec. 25

- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

First Weekend of Christmas: Dec. 27-28

- Saturday, December 27 at 6:00 p.m.: Contemplative Worship
- Sunday, December 28 at 10:00 a.m.: Worship and Holy Communion

Christmas Worship Services at Memorial Drive Fellowship Hall: Dec. 24

Christmas Eve: Dec. 24

- 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 2:00 p.m. Norwegian Language Service
- 4:00 p.m. Norwegian Language Service

2026 Flower Sign Up

We invite you to sign up to provide the altar flowers for our weekend services. Please note these changes which will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

- Members of our altar guild will no longer be delivering flowers to anyone after January 1.
- The person who has given the flowers may take them home following the 11:00 a.m. service (around 12:30) each Sunday.
- There will be no altar flowers in Lent 2026 (February 18 [Ash Wednesday] to April 3, 2026 [Good Friday]), as we follow the ancient tradition of giving up festive items (Alleluias, Hymns of Praise, etc.) during Lent.
- There will be no altar flowers during Advent 2026 (November 28 – December 24) as we follow a similar ancient tradition which emphasizes the Advent Wreath as the only floral greenery in the nave during that season. You may sponsor the Advent Wreath on Advent weekends.

To donate flowers in honor of, in memory of, or in thanksgiving for a person or an event, please find available dates by scanning the QR Code or email your preferred date to Cheryl Gaspard (cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org). Flower arrangements are \$70.00 per weekend. Checks may be made out to Christ the King Lutheran Church with Altar Flowers on the memo line or you may submit a payment online at www.ctkelc.org.



Snacks Volunteers Needed: We need volunteers to provide snacks after worship for: 12/7, 12/14, 12/21 at 11:00 a.m. You can sign up by scanning the QR Code. Plan to provide snacks for 30 people. All monetary donations received at the snack table will benefit ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for signing up!



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