

Herald

December 2025



In these chilly days between Thanksgiving and Christmas, my kids and I have been watching with bated breath as each of our neighbors adds their lights and decorations to the festive display of the city streets that surround us. Day by day, house by house, block by block, the holiday spirit is coming alive in each twinkle light, retro blow mold plastic figurine, and larger than life inflatable character. Whether they choose to stick to a predictable pattern or opt for something new, it is great fun to see how each household expresses themselves this time of year.

This time of year can be a very busy time for many of us. The realities of work as the year comes to a close can be demanding. The drive to create the very best Christmas experience for our families can be daunting. The travel plans and shopping lists can be more than enough all on their own to occupy our time. In the midst of all this busy-ness it can be so easy to lose sight of God's active presence in our lives.

Much like the deep breathing we practice at the beginning of worship, taking the opportunity—however brief—to see the small changes in our neighborhoods as we drive down the street can help us to reset—to center ourselves in the present moment. Witnessing God's action in our lives isn't always euphoric "a-ha!" moments or burning bushes and angel choruses.

So, this Advent season, at those moments when you inevitably find yourself caught up in the hustle-bustle of the holidays—when you are starting to lose your grip on the joy and cheer of it all—take a moment. Breathe the cold air in to your lungs. And look for the light of Christ in the eyes of those around you. And yes, even on their front porches. From the soft glow of the clear bulbs to the color-changing blinkers; in the simple, classic symmetrical displays and in the hodge-podge chaos of interconnected unrelated strings, you just might be surprised at what you see.

After all, God is in the twinkle lights, too.

Advent blessings and Christmas joy to you and yours!

-Pastor Per

Christmas Cookies for Homebound Members

Christ the King members will again deliver Christmas cookies to our homebound members. We need volunteers to bake cookies. **A sign-up sheet is at the Library desk. Bring your ready-to-pack cookies to the CTKB kitchen by 12/15 by 9am.** Our quilters will pack them that morning. The packed cookies will then be delivered later in the week. **If you would like to deliver cookies, please notify the office!**

Advent/Christmas Season



Please consider making a donation "in honor of" or "in memory of" loved ones to beautify our sanctuary for the Advent/

Christmas season. **Ordering starts on November 30th** and the forms can be found on the narthex table or in the office. **Forms are due by Dec. 21st.**

Usher Schedule December

Dec. 7 — Team G - Jack Bergerson & Mark Murray—Co-Captains

Dec. 14 & 21 - Team AD - Jon Greiner & John and Marilyn Akimoto

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve—4:30pm

4 Volunteers NEEDED

Dec. 28 — Team K— Roger Olson, Capt.

Volunteers for December

If you would like to greet, read, assist, serve/prep communion, or serve coffee on any of the following Sundays:

Greeters 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 12/24, 12/28

Readers 12/14, 12/21, 12/28

Assisting 12/14, 12/21, 12/24, 12/28

Prayers 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, 12/24, 12/28

Communion servers (2) 12/7, 12/21, 12/24, 12/28

Communion prep on 12/21, 12/24 & 12/28

Make Coffee 12/21

Please call the office 952-881-8600 or email Jane V at jvevea@ctkb.org.

Bible Study

Bible study will take a 2 week break for the holidays—no bible study on 12/24 & 12/31. Study will resume on 1/7/26. Thank you!



The office will be closed on Thursday, 12/25 and Friday 12/26, and Thursday, 1/1 for the holidays.

CTK Staff

Pastor

Per Halaas, Pastor

phalaas@ctkb.org

Program Staff

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jvevea@ctkb.org

Kristina Elder, CYF Ministry Director

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Maintenance

Dan Lenort, Sexton

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Care Card Minister

Melissa Hill

Jan. Newsletter Deadline Tuesday, December 16

Please email newsletter articles to jvevea@ctkb.org or leave a hard copy in the church office.

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Jane VeVea, Editor & Publisher
jvevea@ctkb.org 952-881-8600

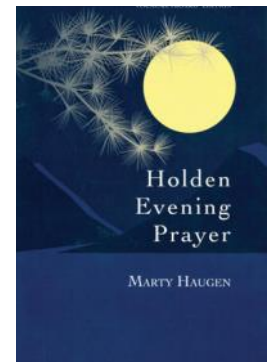
Come celebrate Advent together!

During Advent, we'll be using Marty Haugen's beautiful Holden Evening Prayer to guide our Wednesday evening worship services this month. Join us together in song and contemplation as we await the coming of the Lord!

WHAT: Holden Evening Prayer

WHEN: 6:00pm Wednesday, December 3, 10, & 17

WHERE: CTKB Sanctuary



Let's Raise the Bar!

Turning in your 2026 Statement of Intent (pledge card) now helps us plan for the year ahead so if you haven't had an opportunity to drop off your card, I invite you to give me a buzz in the office or shoot me an email. Additionally, I can answer any questions you might have about your 2025 giving and as a reminder, the IRS requires that any charitable contributions for the year be received in the office by December 31st or postmarked 12/31/25 in order to be recorded for this giving year. And one more important thing ... thank you, thank you, **THANK YOU** for the many ways you support and participate in shaping our life together. Grace & Peace! Jane Bishop

CTK Women's SHINE December 7th

Please bring your favorite breakfast food to share. We will make jar candles. While discussing what God's love looks like. We will meet in the social hall at 12:10pm

Please email - Kristina at kelder@ctkb.org with any questions.

Loaves & Fishes— Wednesday Night Dinner 12/10

We will prep their meals and hand them out, as well as, have them available inside at CTK. If you want to help, please contact the office—952-881-8600 or email Jane V. Thank you!
Prep @ 2:30p Hand out 4:30p

Chapel Ringers Concert December 14th



After worship—and the Children's Program—join us in the Social Hall for treats, carols and a bells concert!

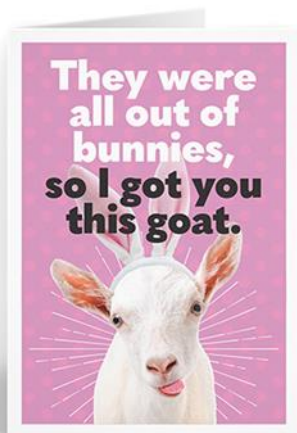


**December 24
Christmas Eve
at CTK
Worship
@4:30pm**

All are welcome as we share in community the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ!

December's Gift of Love is ELCA World Hunger

God richly provides for daily bread — the earth can produce enough food for everyone. Yet, many of our sisters and brothers still go hungry. By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, we meet basic needs and recognize the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. Go to <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger> for more info.



How about a Goat for Christmas!

Are you looking for a good gift to give for Christmas? You can shop at ELCA Good Gifts from more than 50 different gifts to give in honor of friends and family. You can get a card to send to let them know, and you'll get the joy that comes with making the world a better place.

There are goats, and piglets and chickens. You can give part of a cow or the whole cow! Honeybees and rabbits too. Then there are water projects, education projects, hygiene kits and lots more. These gifts support the ministries of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries around the world. They bring new skills, fresh food,

water, and money from product sales that help many families.

You can check out our tree in the Commons with ornaments that have pictures of some of the gifts on them. Pick up a catalogue there too, or go to goodgifts.elca.org to see all the options and give online.

God's love is a gift, given through Christ. This Christmas let us celebrate that gift by sharing God's love with others.

There will be 2 Christmas trees in the commons – one for scarves, mittens, & hats (they will be given to our local schools) and one for ELCA Good Gifts, which has ornaments & catalogs are available.

CTK Foundation

If you would have asked me 10, 5 or even 2 years ago to give money to the foundation, I would have said no way. In 2015, when my son Zach graduated, he was refused a foundation scholarship to college because he wasn't going to a "Lutheran" college. Well, times have changed. Now I am a member of the foundation and we give scholarships to all colleges and vocational schools. We owe a thanks to Jacob Schmidt (Johnson), who as a high school member of the foundation, pushed for the change. With Christmas coming up, instead of giving Uncle Joe a Starbucks card, consider giving a monetary gift to the foundation in his name.

TOOF— Think of Others First.

~ Rick Turnquist



Family Play Space Saturday, December 6

Families with young children are invited to play together at this free indoor play space that operates the first Saturday of the month, 9am-3pm, November through April. The play space is ideal for children ages 6 months through about 6 years old, but younger and older children are welcome. All are welcome!

[Sign up here to join our email list to receive updates and reminders about the Family Play Space.](#)

If you'd like to volunteer to help set up or clean up for one or more events, please call or email us: jbishop@ctkb.org; 952-881-8600.

The Family Play Space is part of the [Community Health Initiative](#) of Christ the King Lutheran Church. Contact Jane Bishop (jbishop@ctkb.org) or the church office 952-881-8600 with questions.

Angelica Encore Winter Concert Friday, December 12 at 7:30pm

Theme: The Heart of Christmas

This is based on the Thurman poem, *The Work of Christmas*. To paraphrase: "When the star, the angels, the shepherds and kings are gone, the work of Christmas begins: to help others, to bring peace to the world and to make music in the heart." We will have songs about the star, the angels, shepherds and kings, but also a wonderful Gloria in Excelsis, a Magnificat and a triumphant Dona Nobis Pacem—Winter Concert and Silent Auction - 7:30pm \$15 tickets at door

Christmas is Coming!

Looking for a few great gift ideas? How about a mug and a canister of cocoa mix, a bag of coffee, or box of tea. Put together a gift basket with olive oil and your favorite pasta and sauce. Maybe a chocolate lovers gift bag with cocoa and a variety of chocolate bars. Stop at the coffee sales cart and I will help you out. ~ Chris Scanlon

Bloomington Chorale—A Light in the Darkness—Concert Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4pm at CTK—free



Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria ... Global Health Ministries ...Christ the King

Each Sunday we pray for the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN). Have you wondered what this "partner in ministry" on the other side of the world is up to? What we take for granted as basic hygiene practices are not so well-known and simple in rural areas of developing countries. Another of our partners, Global Health Ministries, also partners with LCCN. Together they support a community-based Primary Health Care program training village health workers who teach families basic hygiene. CTK is part of a network that reaches some of the small corners of the world!

Children, Youth and Family

November: The month was full of adventures here at CTK. We came together and created memories and fun.

Children's Choir

The children's choir sang in worship the second Sunday of the month. They did a great job.

Craft Fair

We had another successful CTK Craft fair. We had returning vendors along with some new faces. Once again I heard personal heartfelt stories. I met wonderful people who were so generous and kind. A great big THANK YOU to all the awesome vendors, volunteers and all of those who contributed to this wonderful event. I have to share that we had more volunteers than we needed at set up, during and the clean up. It is such a blessing to be part of a church family. Who continuously show that they are there to pitch in as needed. Thank you again!



Youth event:

Though plans changed a bit, it was wonderful to have the youth come together. They played games, hung out and watched the Goonies. Thank you to Julie and Dennis for being the adult volunteers at this event. The youth and I so appreciate your support and help.

Advent event:



It was an event for all ages. We all joined as the children sang- *This Little Light of Mine*. Thank you to Chris G for accompanying the children on the keyboard. We made yummy angels. As you can see, many made, beautiful Advent candles.



Coming up - December fun!

Confirmation: Sunday Dec 7th

Thank you to all of you that have volunteered to lead confirmation. As we start to look ahead to session number 2 of Confirmation: Feb-May. We will need confirmation leaders. We welcome all who have been leaders to sign up again and any one who would like to lead to sign up. The sign up sheet will be on the counter in the commons. Please reach out to Pastor Per or Kristina if you have any questions. Thank you

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Christmas Program Practice:

We will be practicing the Christmas program on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday Dec 3rd 5:30pm - 7:15pm
- Sunday Dec 7th - 10:40am-12pm
- Wednesday Dec 10th 5:30pm - 7pm
- Saturday Dec 13 practice will start at 9:30a-11:30ish Please arrive by 9:15a am for pastries and juice.

We kindly ask that all those in the program please try to attend all the practices. Reach out to Kristina - kelder@ctkb.org with any questions

Children and Youth Holiday party—Dec. 13th

Link to sign up and to volunteer-<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4FAFAF2FA64-60839903-children>—Lunch will be provided. We will play games. Please bring your snow gear as we are looking forward to playing in the snow.

Christmas Program - Dec 14th

Invite Family and Friends as All are welcome to come to the CTK Christmas Program. Children and youth please be at CTK by 9am on Dec 14th.



Thank you

Dear Christ the King Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent generous gift of \$5,428 supporting the services of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Together, we are neighbors helping neighbors.

With gratitude, LSS Church Partnership Team

The Reverend Kathryn Fiede

Oct 2025 Treasurer's Report

For the month of Oct 2025, the income was \$30,706.99 and the disbursements were \$42,820.82, making us behind for the month by \$12,113.83 Year to date, we have received \$452,519.39 and spent \$497,837.35 making us behind for the year by \$45,317.96. We are grateful for your financial contributions and for all the ways you tend to our life together. If you have any questions regarding the financials, please feel free to contact CTKB Treasurer, Jan Gasterland jangasterland@gmail.com or Jane Bishop, Financial & Property Administrator. Grace & Peace!



	Oct Budget	Oct Actual	YTD Actual
Income	\$41,653.14	\$30,706.99	\$452,519.39
Disbursements	\$ 45,565.53	\$42,820.82	\$497,837.35
Margin (Deficit)	\$ -3,912.39	\$-12,113.83	\$ -45,317.96



December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 8:30a Church Chore Crew (CCC) 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	2 10:00a Staff Mtg 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32, 34 & 10 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal 6:30p Yoga 6:30pChapel Ringers	3 9:00a Bible Study-LG 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal 5:30p Children's Pract 6:00p Worship 7:00p Trinity Choir	4 9am-Noon Country Jammers-SH 4:00p Book Study-LG 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 30, 32, 34, 10 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	5 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	6 9am-3pm Play Space-SH
7 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30a Worship 8:30a KCC-WC 10:30a Maranatha-LG 10:45a Confirmation 10:45a Children's Practice Noon SHINE	8 8:30a Church Chore Crew (CCC) 9:00a Quilting-SH 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	9 10:00a Staff Mtg 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32, 34 & 10 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal 6:30pChapel Ringers 6:30p Yoga 7:30pEmotions Anon	10 9:00a Bible Study-LG 2:30p CTK Prep L&F 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 4:30p CTK Handout 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal 5:40p Children's Pract 6:00p Worship 7:00p Trinity Choir 7:30p Health Cabinet Meeting	11 9am-Noon Country Jammers-SH 4:00p Book Study-LG 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 30, 32, 34, 10 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	12 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal 7:30p Angelica Encore Concert	13 9:30a Christmas Program Rehearsal 11:30a Children & Youth Christmas Party
14 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30a Worship—Children's Christmas Program 10:30a Maranatha-LG 10:45a Chapel Ringers Program-SH 3:00p Anthem Academy of Music Concert	15 8:30a Church Chore Crew (CCC) 9:00a Quilting-SH 11:00a Christmas Cookie Packing 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	16 Newsletter Deadline 10:00a Staff Mtg Noon Judean Circle-Lounge 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal 6:30p Yoga 6:30pChapel Ringers 7:00p Council-LG	17 9:00a Bible Study-LG 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal 6:00p Worship 7:00p Trinity Choir	18 9am-Noon Country Jammers-SH 4:00p Book Study-LG 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	19 3:30-8pm AAM - Rooms 32 & 34 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	20
21 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30a KCC-WC 9:30a Worship 10:30a Maranatha-LG 4:00p Bloomington Chorale Concert	22 8:30a Church Chore Crew (CCC) 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	23 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	24 Christmas Eve 4:30p Christmas Eve Worship	25 Office/Building Closed 	26 Office Closed 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	27
28 9:30a Worship 10:30a Maranatha-LG	29 8:30a Church Chore Crew (CCC) 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	30 5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal	31 New Year's Eve  5-6pm Loaves & Fishes Take out meal			