

This Week at Christ the King Church

Advent 2: Sunday, December 7

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave
9:00 a.m. Kings Krewe Breakfast, RVC courtyard
9:10 a.m. Las Posadas Rehearsal, RVC Music Suite
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
3:00 p.m. Norwegian Seamen's Church Opening Service, Memorial Drive campus

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

Tuesday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 10

8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, at home
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 11

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

Friday, December 12

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 13

9:00 a.m. Crèche Festival Houston, RVC parish hall
9:00 a.m. Freewheels Houston, offsite
1:00 p.m. Online Yoga
6:00 p.m. Contemplative Holy Communion, RVC nave

Advent 3: Sunday, December 14

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave
9:00 a.m. Crèche Festival Houston, RVC parish hall
9:45 a.m. Intergenerational Las Posadas Program Waffle Cafe, RVC courtyard
10:20 a.m. Choir Rehearsal, RVC nave
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion, RVC nave

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.

December 7: Bright Stars of Bethlehem talk by the Rev. David Roschke

December 14: Las Posadas Program & Waffle Cafe, courtyard

Christmas Tree Decorating Gathering December 7 at 12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

All children and youth and their parents are invited to help decorate the church Christmas tree at 12:15 p.m. (or after late service). Afterwards, children and youth are invited for some Christmas games and fun. Lunch will be provided, and sides/desserts/beverages are welcome to share with our participants.

Advent Devotionals at Christ the King Church in the Narthex

We encourage all our members to use these devotionals to help enrich your Advent journey this year.

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.**

The Annual Norwegian Christmas Market at Memorial Drive

Norwegian Seaman's Church Christmas Market at Memorial Drive will be open to all December 7, 10, 11, 12 & 13 from 11a.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 members are invited to join the Norwegian Seamen's Church Opening service on December 7th at 3 p.m. at Memorial Drive Campus.**

Women in Transitions' Christmas Potluck: Monday, December 8 at 12:00 p.m.

Women in Transitions' Christmas Potluck will be at Linda Alexander's house on Monday, December 8, at noon. Please contact Linda Alexander or Linda Siemers for more information.

Advent Vespers: Wednesdays December 10, 17 at 7 p.m. at Rice Village Campus Nave

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 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.

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.

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.

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

All are invited to join our intergenerational Las Posadas in the courtyard. Las Posadas has over 400 years of celebration commemorating 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, animals and shepherds singing and carrying banners throughout the church campus until we reach our destination with a piñata, waffles and tamales cooked by our youth group.

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

Christmas Eve: Dec. 24 (livestreamed)

4:00 p.m. German Language Holy Communion Service with candle lighting

6:00 p.m. Holy Communion, children and youth participants, carols and candle lighting

9:00 p.m. Holy Communion with choir, carols, and candle lighting

Christmas Day: Dec. 25 (livestreamed)

11:00 a.m. The Christ Mass: Holy Communion celebrating Christ's Nativity

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.: Baptism and Holy Communion (livestreamed)

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

Longest Night Service: Saturday, December 20 at 6 p.m. at Rice Village Campus Nave

"How does a weary world rejoice?" Though the season of Advent brings joy, for many others it may be filled with fatigue, grief, loss, and loneliness. This special service provides space for prayer, reflection and remembrance to honor those who are weary.

Worship Server Practice for Christmas: Sunday, December 21 at 9:45 a.m.

Every role, from ushering and ringing bells to carrying the light of Christ, is vital to creating a welcoming worship experience for all this Christmas season. On Sunday, December 21 at 9:45 a.m. in the nave between services, we invite all (new or experienced) to come and review our worship server roles before our big holiday services. Sign up today or reach out if you have any questions to Trish Chapman or Deacon Ben Remmert.

Decorate the Nave for Christmas with Altar Guild: Sunday, December 21:

Join the Altar Guild on Sunday, December 21st at 12:15 p.m. as we decorate the nave with garland and greenery in preparation of the Christmas season. We will have projects for all ages to help.

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.**
- **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+)

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: 12/14, 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!



Rice Village Campus: 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston, TX 77005-2696

Memorial Drive: 12211 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024

Email: ctk@ctkelc.org Website: ctkelc.org Telephone: 713-523-2864

