



# Herald

## February 2026

As I write this article just a few days after the holiday commemorating his birth and before the beginning of Black History Month, I can't help but think of a story I once heard about the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As I am sure you know, on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 1963, standing at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial and gazing out at a crowd of around a quarter of a million people gathered on the National Mall, Dr. King delivered one of the most iconic speeches in American History. But here's something you might not have known: it wasn't necessarily the plan.

As the most visible leader within the Civil Rights movement, quite naturally Dr. King was expected to speak. As one of the most gifted orators of his—or any—generation, it was likely that Dr. King would speak. However, just what he would say was uncertain. Up until the night before, in fact, the specifics of his speech were as yet undetermined.

When the day came, the speech he had prepared—and, for the most part, delivered—was heavy on policy and the need for legal, political, and social change. In fact, one of the running titles for the speech was "Normalcy, Never Again."

But as he delivered speech from that podium atop the gleaming vantage point overlooking the reflecting pool and the great spire of the Washington Monument towering in the distance, Dr. King heard a familiar voice. Nearing the end of his prepared remarks, his friend the famous gospel singer Mahalia Jackson shouted out to him: "Tell 'em about the dream, Martin!"



In that moment, Dr. King looked away from his notes. He stopped speaking and started to preach. Using some words and ideas he had used before and combining them with words from scripture, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the United States Constitution, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King spoke with such eloquence, such poignance, and such power that there has yet to be another speech that can hold a candle to the words he said that day.

Now, this story is probably a bit apocryphal and it's likely to be a bit true, too—the usual blend of fact and fancy. Nevertheless, this story shows the power of Dr. King's incredible gifts as a leader, a speaker, and a pastor. It also highlights the necessity of his message that day and our continual need to revisit it time

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## Birthday Greetings

to our homebound and semi-homebound members celebrating February birthdays:



- Virginia Paulsen 2/2

## CTK Loaves & Fishes—Wednesday Night Dinner 2/11 and 2/25

On 2/11 and 2/25 CTK will be **ONLY preparing** the drive-up meals. As always there will be meals available inside at CTK. Prepping is 2:30pm-4:30pm. If you would like to help, please contact the office—952-881-8600. Thank you!

## Bible Study and Soup!



Starting Wednesday, February 18 (Ash Wednesday), we will be moving our Wednesday Bible study to 12noon for the season of Lent. We will meet in the Lounge with a soup lunch and study of the Scriptures for the coming week. If you would like to make soup or provide bars/cookies—there is a sign-up sheet in the commons. Thank you!

## Volunteers for February

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

**Greeters** 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22

**Readers** 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22

**Assisting** 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22

**Prayers** 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22

**Communion servers(2)** 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22

**Communion prep** on 2/1 & 2/15

**Make Coffee** 2/1

Please call the office 952-881-8600 or email Jane V at [jvevea@ctkb.org](mailto:jvevea@ctkb.org).

## Usher Schedule February

February 1 - Team I - David Tillotson & Henry - Captains

February 8 & 15 - Team G - Jack Bergerson & Mark Murray, Co-Captains

February 22—Team AD - Jon Greiner & John and Marilyn Akimoto

February 18—Ash Wednesday—Confirmation Students and Parents



## CTK Staff

Per Halaas, Pastor

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## Care Card Minister

Bev Larson

## March Newsletter Deadline Monday, Feb. 16

Please email newsletter articles to [jvevea@ctkb.org](mailto:jvevea@ctkb.org) or leave a hard copy in the church office.

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and time again. But even more than all that, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech is proof positive of the power of the Holy Spirit. I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit was highly active that day—spurring Ms. Jackson to shout and sing and giving Dr. King the words he needed to speak, the words this country needed to hear.

Yes. The Holy Spirit was there that day in Washington, D.C. In the midst of challenging times for our nation, God breathed those impactful words through Dr. King. And that same Spirit blows in, around, and through us during these challenging times, too. So let us remember to be open to the calls of trusted friends who know the stories we have to share. Let us be filled with curiosity and compassion for the stories the Spirit coaxes from the lips of those around us. Let us be willing to move as the Spirit guides us—especially where love and justice are needed the most.

After all, Dr. King's dream wasn't just for himself. It wasn't even just for the moment in which he spoke it. Dr. King's dream was a dream dreamt for us, too. You and me and everyone we know and have yet to meet. A dream of peace, justice, and love.

Sounds pretty good, doesn't it?  
-Pastor Per

## Christ The King Youth Fundraising Event

**SOUP-ER BOWL  
SUNDAY,  
FEBRUARY 8TH-**

SOUP for SALE  
before  
and after worship Service  
-12 oz :\$5.00  
-24 oz: \$10.00



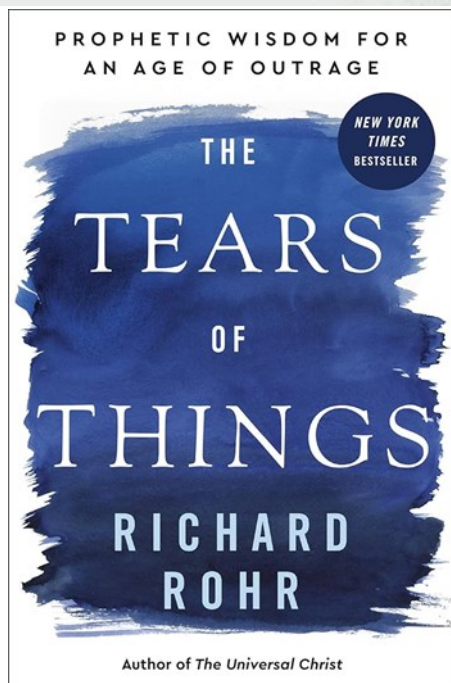
SOUPS  
.....  
Ham Wild Rice  
and  
Chicken Vegetable  
.....

Kristina Elder -kelder@ctkb.org  
Children, youth and Families  
Ministry Director



**Ash Wednesday  
February 18  
Worship at 6pm**

Spaghetti dinner from 5-6pm  
If you would like to help prep or serve  
dinner, please call Jane V.  
All are welcome!



## Lenten Book Study

This Lenten season, join in a lively discussion of what the prophets of old have to teach us about how to live with hope in difficult times. In his New York Times bestseller *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage*, lauded spiritual leader, founder of the renowned Center for Action and Contemplation, and Franciscan priest Richard Rohr explores how the work of the Old Testament prophets set the stage for Jesus and can offer us a crucial path forward today.

**What:** *The Tears of Things* book study  
**When:** 4:00pm Tuesdays - February 17<sup>th</sup> to March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
**Where:** CTKB Lounge

*If you'd like to join this book study, please stop by the office to sign up and to purchase your copy of the book for \$20.*

## Celebrate Black History Month at the Movies!

Come join Pastor Per as we experience four films by African-American filmmakers in honor of Black History Month. We'll gather in the Lounge at noon every Thursday in February to watch and discuss these important and impactful films. Bring a lunch and your curiosity and we'll provide the popcorn.

See you at the movies!



### ***Fences* (2016, PG-13)**

Directed by Denzel Washington

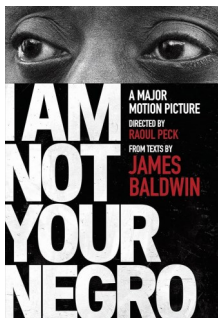
This first film marks the first on-screen adaptation of August Wilson's Pulitzer and Tony award winning 1985 play. Led by Denzel Washington and Oscar winner Viola Davis, *Fences* tells the story of a working-class African-American father in 1950s Pittsburgh as he tries to provide for his family while coming to terms with the events of his life.



### ***Origin* (2023, PG-13)**

Directed by Ava DuVernay

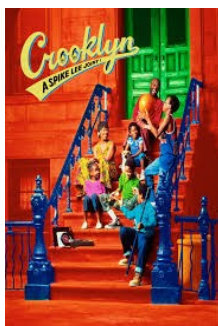
Starring Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, this ambitious film tells the story of journalist and author Isabel Wilkerson and her path to writing her award-winning 2020 book *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents*—an exploration on the foundations of racism and social stratification in the US and beyond. Come see what RogerEbert.com called a "forceful masterwork."



### ***I Am Not Your Negro* (2016, PG-13)**

Directed by Ava DuVernay

Narrated by Samuel L. Jackson and directed by visionary filmmaker Raoul Peck, this documentary uses existing footage and the unfinished manuscript *Remember This House* to explore the history and lasting impact of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s through sharp wit, biting words, and profound wisdom of James Baldwin.



### ***Crooklyn* (1994, PG-13)**

Directed by Spike Lee

In possibly his most personal film, Spike Lee tells the semi-autobiographical story of the life of a schoolteacher, her stubborn jazz musician husband, and their five kids living in Brooklyn, NYC in the early 1970s. Vibrant and full of beautiful performances, this time capsule of a complicated and vibrant moment is not to be missed!

Feb. Gift of Love—Lutheran Campus Ministry—Twin Cities  
Watch for more information





## Heart Healthy Palentine's Event—Feb 15

Join us for the February 15th Forum. We are hosting a morning of heart healthy snacks and fun. Look forward to an amusing and educational event for all ages. Watch for more information in the Constant Contact and the Church Bulletin.

### Walk and Talks

Walk and Talks continue at the Mall of America. We meet on Sundays at 6pm and Wednesdays at 2pm at the down escalator to Sea Life on the 1st floor east side. We will be walking all 3 levels. The walk usually lasts about one hour. It is a gentle pace. You can do as much or as little as you want. If you come late. Walk clockwise (to the left) and you should run into us. Contact Lynn Lenort with any questions. [lennort@ctkb.org](mailto:lennort@ctkb.org)

### Walk with Ease

The Twin Cities Faith Community Nurse Network is asking Christ the King to pilot a program from the Arthritis Foundation and are offering it to us at no cost. This program can help you:

- Reduce the pain and discomfort of arthritis
- Increase balance, strength and walking pace
- Build confidence in your ability to be physically active
- Improve overall health

You do not need to have arthritis to attend. It is beneficial to all. **The program will run from February 22nd - March 29th.** This involves meeting at the church once a week. We will then go over short simple exercises and some health topics, then some brief walking at the church at your own pace and ability. This is a 6-week program that is geared toward gradually increasing your stamina. People will need to commit to 3 times a week. The Sunday afternoon class will count for one day. You will walk on your own the other two days. The church is always a safe and available area for walking. If you don't wear a step/distance tracker, we can have distance maps of the church available for you. You will be lent a book and given a tracking sheet. The books are also available for purchase. The more people that sign up and complete the requirements, the more money the church will receive. This class will be held in conjunction with the Walk and Talks at the Mall of America. Those that want to walk further than at the church, we can carpool or you can drive yourself to the MOA where you can join up with the Walk and Talk program. Questions? Contact Lynn Lenort at 612-770-5986 (texting preferred) or email at [lennort@CTKB.org](mailto:lennort@CTKB.org). Sign up in The Commons, in the church office or online here <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0448AFAC28A02-61833716-walk>

### Family Play Space-Saturday, February 7



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 March. 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!

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](mailto:jbishop@ctkb.org); 952-881-8600.

## Public Witness Team

**The Public Witness Team meets on the second Monday of the month at 4:00pm.**

We are excited and blessed to welcome 5 new members to CTK Public Witness Ministry! They are Kristina Elder, Emily Gunyou Halaas, Chris Scanlon, Jon Soucek and Lynda Tysdal. Here's what a few had to share:

I am Jonathan Soucek. My vocation is professor of history at Normandale Community College where I specialize in the history of the Civil Rights movement. I joined the Public Witness Ministry Team because I am passionate about social justice and want to use that passion to help my community.

"I was inspired to join the Public Witness team by hearing Peggy speak about it at church one Sunday. I felt strongly as I listened that it was a way to DO something and take action in a world that needs changes made. Alone, we can feel helpless and hopeless. Together we can learn to speak out for others and it's a great way to find out about things we can do to make changes happen. Thanks, Lynda"

"Hello my name is Kristina. I am the Children's, Youth and Families Ministry Director here at CTK. I just recently joined the CTK's Public Witness Ministry team. Over the past year or so my heart has called me to be more of a "Voice" and so I joined this team to do that... to share my experiences here in our community as a family of color. But also because I want to hear others' experiences and to be in community with others who are trying to make a positive difference for those of color, for those who are seeking a home, for those who just need help to live their lives and gain some sense of peace. The experience so far has been very positive, great conversation and a real sense of teamwork."

I've been a member of Christ the King since I was a child and became more active in our church as an adult. I am now a member of the Public Witness Ministries team. I've been active in public service in Bloomington and understand the importance of public action for the promotion of justice and human rights which is our call as Lutherans to love our neighbors. ~ Chris Scanlon

# THANK YOU

Bob was so pleased to be remembered with a box of cookies at Christmas. Thanks to all the bakers, quilters and folks that delivered the delicious cookies. Bob really enjoyed them and also enjoyed the nice visit from Bonnie and David Westermoe who delivered the cookies. Bob just LOVES cookies and had fun choosing (and eating) the wide variety of treats. With thanks and wishes for a Happy New Year, Bob and Carol Rathje

To the ladies and men of CTK Church who baked the cookies and goodies they brought for Christmas. I really enjoyed them. Thank the youth for the homemade ornament for my small Christmas tree. Thank you wonderful people. May God bless you all. ~ Marion Anderson

Thank you to everyone involved in the CTK Christmas boxes of cookies. What a wonderful treat! They were delicious and beautiful. Everyone loved them! Bless You! Sincerely, Mary Ann Olson



**SHINE:**  
**February 1st - Noon**  
**Bring your favorite**  
**dessert or pastry to**  
**share!**



# Children, Youth and Family

## Looking back-

### SHINE:

We need to thank Carol Rydell and Barbra Felker for hosting our SHINE event. We had a wonderful conversation and shared delicious food. Thank you ladies for a great event.

### YOUTH:

The youth had fun watching cartoons, playing "wrong answer ONLY" and of course playing "Romans and Christians". The youth had a "team building activity" when the flashlight fell in a hole. They worked together to create a unique and creative way to get the flashlight out. They came back stating we just made the best "memory"!

### CHILDREN:

The Children had a GAME day during BLAST. They also had a Pajama Sunday - to ensure they were all warm and cozy for the Annual meeting. They also continued to attend children's choir and WOW on Wednesday nights.



## Time for - FEBRUARY fun!

### YOUTH:

Souper BOWL fundraiser - PREP - FEBRUARY 6-7

Check out the link for more details

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050F4FAFAF2FA64-61775994-youth>

SUNDAY Feb - 8th - YOUTH FUNDRAISER - see page 3

CROWD Sunday- FEB 8th

Though youth will be selling soup til around 11:40am

CROWD group is invited to go down to the youth room for food and social time \*If desired CROWD can stay till 12:30

Confirmation - Has been moved to the 2nd Sunday  
Feb 8th \*NOTICE the DATE\*

For questions about these events or programming  
please reach out to - Kristina - [kelder@ctkb.org](mailto:kelder@ctkb.org)

### CHILDREN:

BLUEY SUNDAY—Feb 22nd

BLUEY SUNDAY - February 22nd



- WEAR YOUR BLUEY GEAR
- WE WILL WATCH BLUEY
- WE WILL HAVE BLUEY SNACKS
- WE WILL PLAY BLUEY GAMES

Christ the King  
Kristina- [kelder@ctkb.org](mailto:kelder@ctkb.org)  
Children, Youth and Families Ministry director

## Spring Plant Sale



Our Children's Ministry Spring Plant Sale profits will support our summer programs. Gertens has moved all fundraising groups to an online selling format to prevent tally mistakes and over-selling what is grown. **Online orders will be open on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>.** Why order right away? To make sure you get your favorite item and that it hasn't sold out. Online orders close at 10PM Monday, April 6th with plants available for pick up at CTK on Tuesday, May 12th 5-7pm. To order, go to [www.gertensfundraising.com](http://www.gertensfundraising.com) and enter our store ID code 490.

## Notes from the Piano Bench

A very large thank you to all of the musicians who made December such a wonderful time of reflection and celebration: Darin Tysdal, Trinity Choir, Chapel Ringers, Acclaim Worship Band, The Bernier family, David Westermoe, the Children's Choir, Jeremy Hiniker, Loren Thompson, Sean Johnson, Rick Turnquist, Akiko Durbin, Mary Newton and ALL OF YOU who sing joyfully each Wednesday and Sunday!

Just a reminder that everyone is welcome to share their love of music in our current groups:

**Trinity Choir:** rehearse Wednesday evening from 7-8pm in the choir room

**Chapel Ringers:** rehearse Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 in the choir loft

**Acclaim Worship Band** plays once per month with a rehearsal the morning of our presentation to the congregation.

**Special Music:** we welcome all instrumentalists and singers to share their gifts during worship. Contact me about possibilities.

In faith,

Kristi MacKay, Director of Music Ministry

[kmackay@ctkb.org](mailto:kmackay@ctkb.org)



## Treasurer's Report

For the month of December 2025, the income was \$96,680.96 and the disbursements were \$73,071.06, making us ahead for that month by \$23,609.90. As we reconciled the entire year, we ended up not needing to use \$16,283.98 of our budgeted reserves. At the end of the year, we balanced the budget with an income of \$618,147.33 and expenses of \$618,147.33. We are grateful for your financial contributions and for all the many, many ways you tend to our life together. If you have any questions regarding the financials, please feel free to contact CTKB Treasurer, Jan Gasterland at [jangasterland@gmail.com](mailto:jangasterland@gmail.com) or Jane Bishop, Financial & Property Administrator. Grace & Peace!



|                  | Dec Budget   | Dec Actual  | YTD Actual   |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Income           | \$94,361.22  | \$96,680.96 | \$618,147.33 |
| Disbursements    | \$ 48,899.12 | \$73,071.06 | \$618,147.33 |
| Margin (Deficit) | \$ 45,462.10 | \$23,609.90 | \$ 0         |



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