



THE TRUMPET



A PUBLICATION OF

Christ the King Lutheran Church

1660 Birch Lake Avenue, White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110

Pastor's Corner

"And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.'"

– Luke 1:46

Dear Siblings in Christ,



How does a
weary world
rejoice? An Advent series in
Luke's Gospel

This Advent we are dwelling in the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke as we explore our theme "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" The theme title might seem familiar as it comes from the familiar Christmas hymn "O Holy Night." This hymn has an unusual history as it was originally written by a French poet who was an atheist and featured music written by a Jewish composer. Unlikely collaborators to write a hymn that has become a Christmas classic! As it was translated into English by an American Unitarian minister, it became a popular hymn for Christian abolitionists due to the justice-focused language in the third verse. Like Mary's Magnificat found in Luke 1, "O Holy Night" reminds us that justice and joy belong together.

The theme was also inspired by a poem written by Sarah Speed entitled "How Does a Weary World Rejoice." The poem lists all kinds of mundane actions that fill our days, concluding the list by saying:

*How does a weary world rejoice?
I would guess
soul by soul
and day by day
But if you ask me,
I bet most of it counts.*

This Advent season we will allow room for two emotions: our weariness and our joy. Throughout the month of December, we will seek a "thrill of hope" in our hurting world. We'll make room for both the weariness that can weigh us down and the joy that can accompany all the emotions that we may also be feeling. All that we do and feel during this time "counts," whether we are feeling weary, joyful, or a combination of the two. All of our lives can be a prayer.

You are invited to participate in a Worship for the Weary on Sunday, December 17 at 4 pm. This service will be an opportunity to honor the reality that December can be a time of grief, fatigue, and loneliness for many. We'll have time to reflect and pray, sing and be together.

There will also be opportunities to find joy among the busy-ness that can often be December. Our children, youth, and adult volunteers will present a Christmas program during worship on December 17 to tell the story surrounding Jesus' birth. Christmas Eve will bring two different worship services – an Advent worship service in the morning and Christmas Eve worship at 4 pm complete with candles, carols, and communion.

This December you are invited into the season of Advent as we acknowledge the reality that life can be simultaneously weary and joyful, challenging and delightful. Joy is a companion to the other complicated feelings that we experience in life. We all deserve to feel joy, even in the midst of weariness, anxiety, grief, and disappointment. I look forward to exploring our Advent theme this December as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ into the world as a baby.

Peace,
Pastor Rebecca

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JOIN US

Please join us in person, watch us live via livestream or watch a recording later at ctkwbl.online.church. You can access the Bulletin by clicking at the top of the livestream page.

SUNDAYS

DECEMBER 3

1st SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19
Luke 1:1-23

We acknowledge our
weariness.

9 am Worship
Organ / Communion

DECEMBER 10

2nd SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13
Luke 1:24-45

We find joy in
connection.

9 am Worship
KHB

DECEMBER 17

3rd SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
Psalms 126
Luke 1:57-66

We allow ourselves to
be amazed.

9 am Worship
Organ / Communion

DECEMBER 24

4th SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Romans 16:25-27
Luke 46b-55
Luke 1:67-80

We sing stories
of hope.

9 am Worship
KHB



How does a weary world rejoice?

Our Advent theme this year focuses on the possibilities of rejoicing even in the midst of difficult circumstances. Our joy can be found because we are in relationship with one another and is rooted in the fact that we belong to God. This Advent, we will hold space for our weariness *and* our joy. In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

DECEMBER 17

WORSHIP FOR THE
WEARY

Join us for "Worship for the Weary" a service that will provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the hustle and bustle of December. You are invited to this service to draw close to God and find space for quiet and healing.

4 pm Worship
Piano

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 21

WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY

9:00 am

*Please join us for a
Bible Study from
"Gather"
magazine.*

*No need to
prepare ahead of time.
We will have materials
ready for you to use
during class!*

DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS

	AV	Altar Guild	LAM	Reader	Ushers	Communion	Acolyte
12.3	Jason / Julia	Connie / Peggy	Bill	Polly	Howard / Mike	Trip / Alex	Jack
12.10	Janelle / Joe	Ann / Kathy / Sharon	Michele	Cyndi	Scott / Howard	—	—
12.17	Janelle / Craig	Cathy / Stephanie	Lee	Sterling	Beth / Scott	Bonnie / Karen	
12.24 9a	Mike / Joe	Lori / Lori	Trip	Mike	Ann /	—	—
12.24 4p		Lori / Lori	Mike	Cyndi	Michele / Scott	Sally / Wayne	
12.31	Joe / Craig	Karen / Becky	Julie	Cyndi	Mike / Howard	—	—

Hospitality: Mike Wallace, Terry & Peggy Keohen, Joan Macheledt

If you are faced with a conflict, please attempt to trade with one another and let the office know. Thank you!

President's Ponderings

Like many people, Thanksgiving is my second favorite holiday, next to Christmas. There are no expectations on Thanksgiving Day other than a good meal surrounded by those we love. It is a day to give thanks to God for all His blessings; something we should do every day of the year. This year was no exception. I am so incredibly blessed and thankful for all God has given me.

As this church year ends, we begin a new year with Advent – a time filled with hope, dreams and awaiting the celebration of Jesus' birth – Christmas. It is my wish that you will be able to slow down, take a deep breath, and ponder the miracle of that birth.

Everything that “needs” to be done, will get done. If something doesn't get done, how important was it? The important thing is that we give thanks to God for sending us His Son, Jesus Christ.

I have a sign on my office wall that I read nearly every day just to remind me of how I should live out that day. It reads:

Accept what is.
Let go of what was.
Have faith in what will be.

Merry Christmas from my heart...to yours.



Bonnie Jackelen

UPDATES

ADMIN & FINANCE

October Financial Report

Envelope and online offerings monthly comparison:

10/01/2023 through 10/31/2023 = \$19,091

10/01/2022 through 10/31/2022 = \$20,013

Envelope and online offerings Year-To-Date comparison:

1/01/2023 through 10/31/2023 = \$201,179

1/01/2022 through 10/31/2022 = \$193,848

Expenses Year-To-Date:

1/01/2023 through 10/31/2023 = \$216,391

1/01/2022 through 10/31/2022 = \$198,150

Cash account balances as of October 31:

North Star Bank:

Checking = \$7,683

Savings = \$11,100

Memorial Savings = \$32,902

Online Giving = \$530.

CD = \$40,000



Mission Investment Fund demand account = \$51,222

The amount of temporarily restricted funds, including memorials, is \$118,269 and are not available to be used for day-to-day operational expenses. The mortgage balance as of September 30 = \$131,092.



For budgetary reasons the Council has decided to make a change in custodial services and we are now contracting with Jan-Pro, a company serving a number of other churches in our area.

We would like to thank Kristen Jackelen for her dedicated service as our custodian for the past five years. Please direct any custodial concerns and questions to the church office.



STEWARDSHIP

In terms of this year's Stewardship campaign theme, "Like Trees Planted by Streams of Water" (Psalm 1: 3), your estimates for giving in 2024 have been flowing in like streams, and we are pleased to report that we are only one Estimate of Giving card short of reaching our goal of 45. Is your card that one estimate that will allow us to reach our goal?

Sharing your estimates is extremely important as we begin preparing the 2024 budget proposal. These estimates tell us how much income we will have available to support our ministries and operations next year.

We are thankful for your generosity which keeps this ministry alive and hopefully, growing. It is not just your financial support, but your contribution of time and talent that allows us to flourish, bear fruit, and prosper.

There is still time to submit your estimate to the office, or drop it in next Sunday's offering. Look for more information about our 2024 budget plans in the weeks to come.



COMING SOON



Good Stewards Together: Intergenerational Sunday School

Join us as we begin Advent with faith-filled activities and crafts. Create an Advent calendar and reflect on our Advent theme.

All are welcome! We'll meet in the fellowship Hall at 10:15am.

Sunday, December 3:
Advent Fair



The Chosen Viewing & Discussion

The Chosen is the first multi-season TV series about the life of Christ, as witnessed through the eyes of those he impacted. *The Chosen* has grown to become the largest crowdfunded TV series of all time. We'll gather in the Library once a month to watch an episode and discuss it after worship. We'll also decide if we'd prefer to watch the show together as a group, or watch it before meeting on our own.

Sunday, December 10
"Jesus Loves the Little Children"

Season 1, Episode 3

Lectio Divina Bible Study



How does a
weary world
rejoice?

Visio Divina, latin for "divine seeing," is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. We'll meet in the Conference room for Bible study and to explore images from our Advent theme,

"How does a weary world rejoice?"

Tuesday, December 5: 9:30 am

First Week in Advent:

We acknowledge our weariness

Tuesday, December 12: 9:30 am

Second Week in Advent:

We find joy in connection

Tuesday, December 19: 9:30 am

Third Week in Advent:

We allow ourselves to be amazed



Giving Tree

CTK will again have a Giving Tree with ornaments to support ELCA Good Gifts. Select the gift you'd like to give to grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives and write a check to CTK with "ELCA Good Gifts" in the memo. Ornaments can be taken from the tree to put your Christmas tree or to share with someone you are giving the gift in honor of. We'll also have \$10 ornaments to support a meal at Shobi's Table, a pay-as-you-can mobile café in St. Paul. Shobi's Table is a part of our Saint Paul Area Synod and works to create community where everyone has access to real nutritious food, no matter what they are able to pay. Take an ornament and write a check to CTK with "Shobi's Table" in the memo. You can then share your ornament with someone to give a gift in honor of them or bring it home to put on your Christmas tree.



Festive Fellowship

Saturday, December 2, 6:00 pm

Mark your calendars for Festive Fellowship!
We will be gathering for scrumptious appetizers
and delicious desserts in the
Fellowship Hall starting at 6:00 pm.
(As last year, we will not be
going to individual homes for dinner.)
We hope to see you there!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Birch Lake Elementary Holiday Store

Volunteers are needed to help at their
annual Holiday Store. This year it is one
day only, Friday, December 15th. There
are 3 shifts available. See Elida at church
or use this sign up link:

[signup genius link](#)

Anyone interested in helping must do a
background check prior to December
15th. You will find information on how to
complete that on the same link. If you
need help with this you can call the main
office at Birch Lake Elementary at
651-653-2779.

The New Church Year

Dear Friends in Christ,

We say goodbye to a year of Matthew and
move into a year of Mark, with a smattering of John.
I find ELCA Bishop Michael Rinehart's overview
informative:

The Gospel according to Mark is the shortest,
and probably the earliest of the gospels. .. Luther
Seminary professor emeritus Paul Berge points out
that the first sentence of this gospel has no verb.
The missing verb clues us in that this is the real title
of his gospel:

*"The Beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God"*

...Kingsbury says "Son of God" is the thread that
brings Mark together. Jesus refers to himself as Son
of Man. Son of God is rarely used. It appears in the
inscription. Then it is announced to Jesus privately at
his baptism (a quote of Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1)
and to Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration.
Other than that, only the unclean spirits refer to
Jesus as the Son of God. None of the characters in
Mark's gospel get it, not even the disciples. There
is only one exception. It is mentioned by only one
person publicly, at the end of the gospel, only after
Jesus is lifted up on the cross, and only by a Gentile,
the Roman Centurion.

The Roman centurion at the cross, after
witnessing, overseeing the crucifixion of a gentle,
humble, innocent man – after seeing how he died –
the Roman centurion, is the only one who finally
realizes who Jesus is: "Truly this man was the Son
of God..." Not just king of the Jews, as the
authorities had posted above his head, as a sign of
his insurrection, but Son of God.

That Jesus is the Son of God is the point of Mark's
gospel. Son of God, and Son of Man. This is a clear
statement of the theology of the church from a very
early gospel. Jesus is truly human, truly divine. He is
the second Adam, who sets creation right by not
succumbing to temptation.

May the beginning of our new journey together
with the season of Advent renew us and sustain us.
Amen.

Prayerfully in Christ,
Michael Stepan

DECEMBER 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Regular Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00pm Office Closed: 12/25-12/28				1	2 Bread Ministry 7am KHB 9am
3 Worship 9am Intergenerational Sunday School 10:15-11:00am	4 WMA 6:30P	5 Lectio Divina Bible Study 9:30am	6 Bells 6:30pm King's Choir 7:45pm Confirmation 7:00-8:30pm	7 Property 7P	8	9 Bread Ministry 7am KHB 9am
10 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-11:00am The Chosen 10:15-11:00am	11	12 Lectio Divina Bible Study 9:30am Admin Team 7 P	13 Bells 6:30pm King's Choir 7:45pm	14	15	16 Bread Ministry 7am KHB 9am Christmas Program rehearsal 9-11am
17 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-11:00am Worship for the Weary 4pm	18 Trumpet Deadline	19 Lectio Divina Bible Study 9:30am Church Council 7P	20 Bells 6:30pm King's Choir 7:45pm Confirmation/Youth Christmas Party 6:00-8:00pm	21 Women's Bible Study 9am	22	23 Bread Ministry 7am KHB 9am
24 Worship 9am Christmas Eve Service 4PM	25 Merry Christmas	26 Family Shelter Meal 5-6:45pm	27	28	29	30 Bread Ministry 7am KHB 9am
31 Worship 9am						

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