



THE TRUMPET



A PUBLICATION OF

Christ the King Lutheran Church

1660 Birch Lake Avenue, White Bear Lake, Minnesota 55110

Pastor's Corner

*“Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.”*

– Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Lent will be upon us in the middle of February. We will mark Valentine’s Day not only by exchanging cards, candy, and flowers, but by remembering our mortality on Ash Wednesday. Our Ash Wednesday worship service will remind us that we are dust and mortal humans who will eventually die. However, Valentine’s Day can also remind us of the great gift of God’s love that we also receive. We are both dust and loved. It’s a strange combination, but one that can be meaningful for the contrasts of God’s great and abiding love for us alongside our mortality.

The forty days of Lent that follow Ash Wednesday will focus on the life and faith of Peter, one of Jesus’ most famous disciples. The season of Lent our theme will be “Wandering Heart” as we explore the contradictions that Peter exhibits throughout the Bible: steadfast and unsteady, the rock on which Jesus depends and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. Peter’s experience of being a disciple of Jesus can reflect our own journey of faith as we try to figure it all out.

Each week we’ll have a different story of Peter’s faith journey from the gospels of John, Luke, and Matthew. Each week is paired with a phrase from the familiar hymn “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” as we sing our way through the season of Lent, bringing our hearts to God as we wander.

Our Wednesday night services will continue with familiar elements – a soup supper and a song from *Holden Evening Prayer* – along with some new elements – a new evening prayer setting and exploring art inspired by our scripture. I hope to see you on Wednesday nights in Lent as we tune our hearts to sing God’s grace.

Starting in early February, we’ll also have Lent devotion booklets available. These will offer devotions, poems, art, songs, and space for reflection and prayer that go along with our Lent theme of “Wandering Heart: Figuring Out Our Faith with Peter.” The devotion booklets run through the second Sunday in Easter, allowing us to use the booklet from February 14 all the way through April 7!

As we journey alongside Peter this Lent season, we will have the opportunity to see how the journey of faith can ebb and flow and yet is one of steadfast pursuit. Peter’s journey of faith keeps going despite the obstacles and missteps that he makes. Peter makes mistakes and still stays steadfast in his faith, seeking to love. Peter serves as the ultimate reminder that God loves imperfect people. And in the example of Peter, we see that God claims and calls exactly those imperfect people to do God’s work in the world. May we be inspired by the example of Peter to continue in our own journeys of faith. This Lent, I encourage you to rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

Peace,
Pastor Rebecca



FEBRUARY 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

FEBRUARY 4

5TH SUNDAY AFTER
EPIPHANY

Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalms 147:1-11, 20c
Mark 1:29-39

Praise the One who
breaks the darkness.

9 am Worship
Organ / Communion

FEBRUARY 11

TRANSFIGURATION
OF OUR LORD

2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalms 50:1-6
Mark 9:2-9

Jesus on the
mountain peak.

9 am Worship
KHB / Communion

FEBRUARY 18

1st SUNDAY
OF LENT

Luke 5:1-11
Psalms 25:1-10
Genesis 9:8-17

Wandering Heart:
Jesus Sought Me

9 am Worship
Organ / Communion

FEBRUARY 25

2nd SUNDAY
OF LENT

Matthew 14:22-33
Psalms 22:23-31
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Wandering Heart:
Rescue Me from Danger

9 am Worship
KHB / Communion

WEDNESDAYS

FEBRUARY 14

ASH
WEDNESDAY

Psalms 51:1-17
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Wandering Heart:
Tune My Heart

7:00 pm Worship
Organ / Communion

FEBRUARY 21

LENTEN MIDWEEK

Soup Supper 5:45 pm
Worship 7:00 pm

FEBRUARY 28

LENTEN MIDWEEK

Soup Supper 5:45 pm
Worship 7:00 pm



THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 15

**WOMEN'S
BIBLE STUDY**

9:00 am

*Please join us for
"Scripture and Nature:
Teachers of Faith"
from "Gather" magazine.*

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

February

WORSHIP LEADERS

	AV	Altar Guild	LAM	Reader	Ushers	Communion	Acolyte
2.4	Craig / Janelle	Connie / Peggy	Beth	Stephanie	Michele / Carol	Polly / Billie	John
2.11	Janelle / Mike	Ann	Julie	Howard	Ann / Mike	Sally / Karen	—
2.18	Jason / Julia	Cathy / Stephanie	Lee	Ann	Scott / Beth	MaryAlice / Trip	Brianna
2.25	Jason / Brianna	Lori / Lori	Michele	Polly	Mike / Peggy	Ann / Julie	—

Hospitality: Corrine Erlandson, Johnetta Kofa, Sally Hesse
If you are faced with a conflict, please attempt to trade with one another and let the office know. Thank you!

Council Corner

Greetings from the 2024 Council. I hope to provide monthly updates on what the council is working on. 2024 should be an exciting year. The events of the last few years have been challenging and limiting in our ability to expand our ministries. Covid dominated in 2020 and 2021. 2022 was a transition year with two interim pastors. 2023 was another year of transition as we got to know Pastor Rebecca and she, our congregation.

I'm excited to see where God leads us in 2024. The Council is planning to have a retreat in March to set priorities, goals and plan for the year. One goal for 2024 is to hire a youth director. The Council will also be considering how to allocate the ERC money we received last year and completing the list of memorial fund projects. The Council will also be taking a new look at our vision and mission statements.

The major challenge for the year will be managing the church operating budget. We've had a couple of deficit budgets in a row and our reserves are slowly decreasing. The congregation has been very generous and supportive of our past ministries and I trust that will continue this year. If we are going to achieve our goal of hiring a youth director, it will take everyone to keep up with their pledges throughout the year.

I like the theme God's Work, Our Hands. I have faith that our congregation has the talent and resources for the work God will ask us to do this year. If you feel God calling you to help out or lead a project, or have thoughts on our vision and mission statements, please get in touch with Pastor Rebecca or any Council member. We'd love to get your hands doing some of God's work.

In Christ's Service,
 Scott Tradup

COMING SOON

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Service Project Day Sunday, February 4, 2024

CTK will be participating in a **God's Work, Our Hands** service project after worship on February 4. Join us in the fellowship hall to tie fleece blankets for children at Masonic Children's Hospital in Minneapolis.



Bega Kwa Bega Choir Tour

Sept. 4-17, 2024 | Iringa, Tanzania

Love to sing *and* explore other cultures? Then consider being part of the Bega Kwa Bega Kwaya (choir) trip to Tanzania this fall! To celebrate the rich history of our synod's companionship with the Iringa Diocese, choirs from Minnesota and Tanzania will join voices for a musical tour of Iringa with songs from both cultures. Deacon Mark Ertl (Shepherd of the Valley) and The Rev. Tito Kilale will conduct the choirs. Synod participants will meet three times in the summer to prepare for the journey and rehearse the music.

Interested? Email kirsten.levorson@spas-elca.org.
Registrations due March 1.

*Shobi's
Table*

February 11

We welcome Deacon Kari Alice Olsen, mission developer, director, and kitchen manager of Shobi's Table as our preacher in worship on February 11.

Deacon Kari has worked in variety of kitchens, including as Food Service Coordinator at Holden Village. Her experience working in kitchens has created deep connections between the communion table and our own kitchen tables, revealing the love of God made edible in the food that nourishes our body and souls.

Deacon Kari will also share about Shobi's Table after worship in the Conference Room. CTK supported Shobi's Table with our Christmas tree gifts last December and we look forward to learning more about the ministry and how we can support Shobi's Table in the future.



***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 continue to 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, or watch it before meeting on our own.

Sunday, February 18
"The Rock on Which it is Built"

UPDATES

ADMIN & FINANCE

January Financial Report

Envelope and online offerings monthly comparison:

12/01/2023 through 12/31/2023 = \$20,376

12/01/2022 through 12/31/2022 = \$20,553

Envelope and online offerings Year-To-Date comparison:

1/01/2023 through 12/31/2023 = \$243,837

1/01/2022 through 12/31/2022 = \$243,239

Expenses Year-To-Date:

1/01/2023 through 12/31/2023 = \$264,244

1/01/2022 through 12/31/2022 = \$236,279

Cash account balances as of December 31:

North Star Bank:

Checking = \$5,364

Savings = \$5,011

Memorial Savings = \$31,592

Online Giving = \$130.

CD = \$40,510



Mission Investment Fund demand account = \$52,319

The amount of temporarily restricted funds, including memorials, is \$109,006 and are not available to be used for day-to-day operational expenses. The mortgage balance as of December 31 = \$128,321.

MISSIONS

Intergenerational Mission Trip Informational Session

CTK is heading north for an intergenerational mission trip in Duluth August 19-24! Join Pastor Rebecca after worship in the Conference Room on **February 18** to learn more about our plans to serve the Duluth community and our accommodations at Camp Amnicon, thirty minutes outside Duluth. All CTK members and friends are invited to consider attending. Youth in elementary school should have a parent/adult attend too. All ages are invited for five days of service, fun, and faith this summer!

Masisiwe-University of Minnesota Student Presentation

Fourteen University of Minnesota students visited Iringa, Tanzania, including Masisiwe, as part of their Design for Life class for three weeks this past December and January. They will be presenting summaries of their visits on Tuesday, **February 27** at the University of Minnesota campus. A social hour including a meal will begin at 5 pm at Lind Hall with presentations from 6:15-8 pm in Tate Hall (116 Church Street SE Minneapolis). Congregation members are invited to participate in the presentations to learn about the students' experiences in Masisiwe and Tanzania. [Register online](#) by Wednesday, February 21.



2024 class in a baobob

Extravagant Generosity

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you may have noticed from the church bulletin and Trumpet financial reports, we are facing an approximate \$14,000 budget shortfall from 2023. Like last year, CTK will not have a balanced budget in 2024 – with a very similar predicted budget shortfall for 2024. Accomplishing the goals of our critical mission and ministries comes with a continuing need for funding – to accomplish our important work. Increased costs, as a product of inflation, have hit our operating budget very hard. And as a result, we've attempted to control spending in 2024 by outsourcing our janitorial services and eliminating the budget for a visitation pastor without critically jeopardizing mission and ministry. But even these changes don't balance the budget.

Over the years, I have come to believe that our call to stewardship is a life-long endeavor. Having experienced your generosity year after year, especially in my various lay-leader roles, I am convinced you're committed to sustaining our mission and our ministries as a church. I am constantly reminded of your abundant generosity, dedicated support, and response to our operational, mission, and ministry needs. You've helped me appreciate that stewardship and generosity are a life-long endeavor – not a time of the year, but a way of living.

When I was very young, I remember my late folks giving from their want, especially to those in need in our rural community, even in the severe poverty of the family-farmer “ag crisis” of the '80s. It left an impression on me. They helped me appreciate that caring is not about money. It is about living generously. Recently, I especially appreciated the term “extravagant generosity.” Have you ever received a gift so extraordinary that it left you feeling indescribably blessed?

I am convinced that stewardship, at its core, is about relationship on multiple levels: It is about our relationship with God, with each other as faithful members of the Body of Christ, our resources, our time, our effort, our neighbors, and significantly, ourselves. It's about growing as followers of Christ. When we recognize that all we have as disciples comes directly from God's own generosity to us, being extravagantly generous with everything we have becomes second nature. What my folks taught me makes sense now. I've also become especially

fond of one of Mother Teresa's quotes: “It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”

Our congregation has always been extremely generous with support of a wide variety of ministries, locally, regionally, and internationally. Along those lines, I am humbled by the examples you set, by your generosity and rising to the call, especially when there is a need: Please prayerfully consider increasing your offerings to our general fund in 2024, which would be extremely helpful and abundantly welcomed, in relation to our ability to continue to conduct our day-to-day operations, our ministry, and our missions.

Prayerfully in Christ,
Michael Stepan



Please help us decorate the Altar for Easter

The following varieties are available to order. Color preference may be indicated; however, they cannot be guaranteed. The cost is listed beside the plant.

- Calla Lilies** (\$24.00) (white, yellow, red/pink)
- Azaleas** (\$26.00) (red, pink, white)
- Hydrangea** (\$24.00) (blue, pink, white)
- Kalanchoe** (\$17.00) (yellow, orange, pink)
- Mums** (\$17.00) (white, yellow, lavender)
- Begonia** (\$17.00) (yellow, orange, pink)
- Cyclamen** (\$17.00) (white)

Please see the kiosk in the Narthex for an order form. All orders should be placed in the locked box next to the office door. Alternatively, please e-mail or phone the church office to place an order and mail your payment to the church office. In your e-mail or voice message please provide:

- 1) Color selection
- 2) Quantity
- 3) Name of person or persons giving the plant
- 4) Message you would like placed in the bulletin
- 5) Preference if plant is unavailable

Checks should be made out to
"Christ the King Altar Guild".

Orders must be received by Sunday, March 10.

Due to supply constraints, some varieties may become unavailable. If your selected variety is unavailable, please indicate one of the following options:

1. Substitute plant of similar value (may be non-blooming plant)
2. Refund Payment (Payments will not be deposited until the order is confirmed)

FEBRUARY 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<div style="background-color: #8e44ad; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Regular Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00pm </div>			1	2	3 Bread Ministry 7am KHB 9am
4 Worship 9am God's Work, Our Hands Service Project 10:15am	5 WMA 6:30P	6	7 Bells 6:30pm King's Choir 7:45pm Confirmation 7:00-8:30pm	8 Property 7P	9	10 Bread Ministry 7am KHB 9am
11 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-11:00am Shobi's Table Info Session 10:15-11:00am	12	13 Admin 7P	14 <i>Happy</i> VALENTINE'S DAY Ash Wednesday Service 7pm King's Choir 7:45pm	15 Women's Bible Study 9am	16	17 Bread Ministry 7am KHB 9am
18 Worship 9am The Chosen 10:15-11:00am Sunday School 10:15am Mission Trip Info Session 10:15-11:00am	19 Trumpet Deadline	20 Church Council 7P	21 Lenten Midweek Soup Supper 5:45 pm Service 7pm King's Choir 7:45 pm	22	23	24 Bread Ministry 7am KHB 9am
25 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15am	26	27 Family Shelter Meal 4:30-6:15pm	28 Lenten Midweek Soup Supper 5:45 pm Service 7pm King's Choir 7:45 pm	29		

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