



THE TRUMPET

A PUBLICATION OF CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
1660 BIRCH LAKE AVENUE, WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Happy New Year! It isn't quite 2025, but we are entering into a new church year with the beginning of Advent. We will be preparing for Jesus to come into the world again, as we enter into the church season of Advent, a time of anticipation and waiting. It is always a curious church season, as we know that Jesus was born in the world – and yet we await his coming again by retelling the story of his birth.

This Advent season our theme will be “Words for the Beginning.” It's a season of endings and beginnings. As a new calendar year arrives on the horizon, the new church year begins. Christ's birth moves us into a new way of living and loving and yet the world keeps on going forward. This Advent season will ground us through a series of blessings. These blessings are the imagined words that Mary would speak to her newborn baby son. Each weekly theme might seem like a lesson for children, yet these are lessons that we continue to learn and relearn as adults.

“Words for the Beginning” will start on Sunday, December 1 and continue through Epiphany, which we will celebrate on January 5. Each week we will hear scripture that we might have heard at a wedding or baptism. Just as these are new chapters in the lives of believers, each Sunday will help us enter into a new beginning and we will be given reminders to hold onto for the road ahead.

This Advent season we will also utilize some



familiar imagery: quilting. The hope is that the themes in this series will feel like a blanket wrapped around you, providing warmth and comfort as you begin again. The main logo for our Advent series is inspired by a design called a ‘kaleidoscope’ quilt. It's formed by basic shapes: triangles, squares, and circles. The simple shapes are similar to the weekly reminders in this series— they are basic lessons we teach to children but remain building blocks of our lives as

adults. You might notice a familiar image in the center of the logo - an Advent wreath!

Each week we will get an opportunity to create a new quilt block that symbolizes the theme for each Sunday. Thanks to Elida Olson for creating paper quilt packets for each Sunday through Epiphany. We will get a chance to exercise our creativity and make a paper quilt square to remind us of each Sunday's theme. All you'll need to bring is yourself and a willingness to put together squares of paper with glue to create the theme quilt block. Join us in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour – you can bring your quilt squares home or add them to the display at church.

This Advent season will be an opportunity for us to be reminded of timeless lessons as we encounter familiar Bible stories and await the birth of Jesus at Christmas. May we all be blessed as we come together in community to begin again.

Advent blessings to you all!
Pastor Rebecca

JOIN US

PLEASE JOIN US IN PERSON, WATCH US VIAL LIVESTREAM OR WATCH A RECORDING LATER AT CTKWBL.ONLINE.CHURCH. YOU CAN ACCESS THE BULLETIN BY CLICKING AT THE TOP OF THE LIVESTREAM PAGE.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

DECEMBER 1

First Sunday
of Advent

Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 25:1-10
Luke 1:26-38

“You are
a Blessing”

9am Worship
Organ / Communion

DECEMBER 8

Second Sunday
of Advent

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
Luke 1:68-79
Ruth 1

“We Can’t Go
Alone”

9am Worship
KHB / Communion

DECEMBER 15

Third Sunday
of Advent

Isaiah 58:9b-12
Isaiah 12:2-6
Luke 3:7-16

Christmas
Program

9am Worship
Organ / Communion

DECEMBER 22

Fourth Sunday
of Advent

Luke 1:46-55
Psalm 80:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

“Hope is Worth
the Risk”

9am Worship
KHB / Communion

DECEMBER 29

First Sunday
of Christmas

Luke 2:10, Matthew 2:10,
Isaiah 9:2-3, Psalm 148,
Psalm 126:1-3, Eccl. 3:1-8
Isaiah 55:12-13

Lessons & Carols
“Don’t Forget to Laugh”

9am Worship
Organ / Communion

THURSDAY

DECEMBER 19

Women’s
Bible Study

December’s Study
is titled,
“In God’s Garden:
What Fig Trees Teach
Us About Advent.”

9:30am
in the library.



DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:6
Psalm 96
Luke 2:1-20

“Love Knows Your Name”

4pm Worship
Organ / Communion





December

WORSHIP LEADERS

| | AV | ALTAR GUILD | LAM | READER | USHERS | COMMUNION | ACOLYTE |
|-------|-----------------|-------------------|---------|--------|-----------------|----------------|---------|
| 12.1 | Craig / Mike | Lori / Lori | Trip | Ann | Carol / Mike | Karen / Howard | Jack |
| 12.8 | Janelle / Craig | Karen / Becky | Bea | Mike | Scott / Michele | Ann / Kathy | |
| 12.15 | Jason / Julia | Connie / Peggy | Lee | Cyndi | Howard | Mike / Peggy | |
| 12.22 | Janelle / Joe | Ann | Cyndi | Wayne | Michele | Peggy / Polly | |
| 12.24 | Craig / Mike | Cathy / Stephanie | Bill | Polly | Scott / Michele | Kathy / Bonnie | Alex |
| 12.29 | Joe / Craig | Lori / Lori | Michele | Howard | Mike / Howard | Wayne / Peggy | |

Hospitality: Mike Wallace, Joe Danielson, Terry & Peggy Keohen, Polly Morrison

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

DEVOTION

As I approach my tenth year at Christ the King and my first year of seminary, I am reminded that it is a special time in the church year, thanks in no small measure to each of you. I am also reminded of the Advent Sunday when the gospel is Mark 13:24-37. It's not a "warm and fuzzy" passage. As Bishop Michael Rinehart points out, "Chapter 13 is the Gospel of Mark's little apocalypse," adding that "Mark 13 looks to the end of the world and the messianic return, which Mark says will happen a short time after this destruction (of the temple)." Bishop Mike explains:

"Advent was not originally the time of preparation for celebrating Christ's birthday. In fact, the startling thing in reading the Church Fathers' Advent sermons is that there is little to no mention of Christmas in them. These early Advent sermons are about being ready for the second coming.

Whether preparing for Christmas or preparing for the second coming, the theme of "preparation" is clear. We might reflect on how we prepare to meet Christ, whether at the end of the world or the end of your life. Let's all draft our obituaries. Ponder what

you might like the speaker to say at your funeral. How you live now, the choices you are making right this minute, will shape that eulogy. I once watched a show in which Stephen Hawking assured us that the sun wasn't scheduled to do the things Mark describes for a few more million years. I then attended a funeral of someone who died too young. I was reminded that, regardless of the timing of the end of the world, we are, everyone one of us, only a short time from meeting our Maker. Maybe today. You don't know what hour, like a thief in the night. Are you ready?"

When I re-read Mark 13, I was a bit taken aback by its somewhat dark tone, but after I reflected on Bishop Mike's commentary, a message began to sink in: Advent is about faithful, hopeful, and actually, joyful expectation. Advent is demonstrative of the expectation and preparations we're invited to make in our daily lives—for Christ, in response to the opportunity presented to us, in living graciously and generously as servant-disciples. Imagine approaching each of our days as if they were our last—before meeting our Maker—what an aspiration!

Prayerfully in Christ,
Michael Stepan



MISSIONS

Masisiwe Student Scholarship Fund Thank You



Thanks to 25 individuals/families plus donations from the Endowment Fund and Women's Ministry, we met our goal and sent \$6,265 to Bega Kwa Bega for the further education of our Masisiwe Students! We currently have 18 students being supported with some of them in vocational schools and one in seminary training. As is often said, "When you educate a child, you educate a village". Please continue to pray for all the students including one whose name you may have received. They are now facing exams that determine their advancement for the 2025 school year. Asante Sana from the Masisiwe children and the CTK Mission Ministry for your generous support.

OUTREACH

Birch Lake Elementary School Volunteers Needed

Would you be interested in volunteering at Birch Lake Elementary School? Dr. Berlin, one of the third-grade teachers, is looking for volunteers during her literacy teaching time. The class has around 10 students who need extra support to meet the third grade reading standards. You would help with one of two stations during the class: a literacy game or listening to students reading aloud passages.

We are looking for two volunteers to commit to volunteering on Tuesdays from 11:45 am – 12:10 pm. The volunteer commitment would begin the week of January 6 and run through the school year. Dr. Berlin will meet with the volunteers ahead of time to make sure you understand what is needed for working with the students.

Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you would be able to commit to supporting the students at Birch Lake Elementary School.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Silent Auction Re-cap



The Silent Auction held September 29th resulted in a little over \$1,000 to be divided between Silent Ground, a local mission for women and children, and the church's ongoing window repair/replacement fund. A heartfelt thank you to Cyndi Frankel who chaired this special fundraiser.



Advent Calendars

Stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex and pick up an Advent calendar for December. Each day in December, children and the young at heart can color in a new shape on the calendar containing a daily word to learn and use. Our other Advent calendar option is a photo-a-day challenge to share online. You can share a photo for each word on the CTK Facebook page - a prompt will be posted each day with the word. The daily words are the same for both calendars so all ages can engage in this daily practice.

Advent Devotion Books

Advent is a season of ending and beginnings. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving. "Words for the Beginning: Art, Poetry, and Reflections for Advent" is a companion during the month of December through Epiphany on January 6. Each week offers art, reflections, poetry, and hymns to give you strength, courage, and grace. May you find words for beginning again.

Christ in Our Home

Jan / Feb / Mar now available in the Narthex.

COMING SOON

FELLOWSHIP

Festive Fellowship

Saturday, December 7, 6:00pm

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.) Please sign up on the poster in the Narthex to indicate what you would like to bring. We hope to see you there!



ADVENT / CHRISTMAS

“Dear Diary: Telling the Christmas Story” Christmas program

Our interactive intergenerational Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 9 am. We need volunteers to share diary entries from the Christmas story in addition to participants to be shepherds, angels, animals, wise people, and stars! Everyone will have an opportunity to participate in this Christmas program – the props and costumes will be available on Sunday morning for everyone to take on a role and help tell the Christmas story together.

Individuals interested in a speaking role for the Christmas program can connect with Pastor Rebecca or Erica Johnson. We'll do a brief run-through after worship on Sunday, December 8 and another rehearsal before worship on Sunday, December 15 at 8:15 am.

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve worship on December 24 at 4 pm. We'll sing carols, light candles and sing Silent Night, and celebrate communion. All are welcome!

Lessons and Laughter, December 29

Continue celebrating Christmas with congregation-led Lessons and Laughter. We'll celebrate the joy of Christmas and sing favorite Christmas carols.

Advent Quilt Squares

Our Advent theme is visually inspired by quilting this year. You are invited to help us make a paper quilt to display in the Fellowship Hall and hallway to mark the Advent season. Each Sunday after worship, we'll have quilt pattern packets available for you to put together. All ages can participate; all that is needed is a little cutting and gluing to create a beautiful square to mark each Sunday in Advent through Epiphany!

YOUTH & FAMILY

Hello from the Youth Group!

During November we had a spectacular lock-in where we played some fun games and learned about the Bible. We were treated by Erica Johnson who made ice cream for the group which was delicious! On November 20th we met for our regularly scheduled youth group and did a hypotherable (hypothetical+parable). We discussed how our relationships would be impacted if we had to share our whole humanity (entire person) with our friends. If you had the choice to, would you share EVERYTHING with the people in your life?

We have two meetings in December:

December 11th: We will meet at our regular time (activity to be decided)

December 18th: Combined Youth Group AND Confirmation Christmas party!

We hope to see the youth there, even if you haven't attended in the past and feel free to bring a friend!



UPDATES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Corner

Council initiatives update:

1. One-to-one conversations – We are assembling the information from the conversations to help us assess our vision and mission. This effort will probably be finished in 2025.
2. Sound System – The council received a quote from Excel AV Group for the components and labor to improve both the on-line and in-person sound. The council is getting clarification on one of the items and will assess the final cost in December. The council is also looking into hiring a sound engineering company to help with balancing both the on line and in-person sound levels. It is expected that the council will bring a proposal for congregation approval at the annual meeting in January.
3. Window Repair – The property team found a company to repair the rot in the rear sanctuary windows. The council approved and signed the contract. The repairs will be funded with existing designated funds earmarked for window repair. The sanctuary windows should be repaired in December.

Finally, a big thank you to those who have turned in an estimate of giving card. To date, we've received 32 estimates of giving cards with an average pledge increase of approximately 5%. Last year we received 49 cards. If have yet to turn in a card, please consider turning one in. Estimates of giving are very important in our budget planning for the year.

In Christ's Service
Scott Tradup

ADMIN & FINANCE

October Financial Report

Envelope and online offerings monthly comparison:

01/01/24 through 10/31/24 = \$228,241
01/01/23 through 10/31/23 = \$205,665

Expenses Year-To-Date:

01/01/24 through 10/31/24 = \$227,502
01/01/23 through 10/31/23 = \$216,396

Cash account balances as of October 31, 2024

North Star Bank:

Checking = \$5,893

Savings = \$47,107

Memorial Savings = \$30,826

ELCA Mission Investment Fund = \$55,962

Endowment Fund = \$93,049

Mortgage Balance = \$114,209

STEWARDSHIP



Thank you

to all who shared their estimate of giving cards for 2025. If you have not shared your estimate of giving card

for 2025 yet, please put it in the offering plate or give it to Joe Moore, Financial Secretary. We are grateful for your commitment to support the mission and ministry at CTK!

DECEMBER

2024



| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--------------------|--|---|--|-----|--|
| 1 Worship 9am | 2 6:30pm WMA | 3 | 4 Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:45pm 7-8:30 Confirmation | 5 | 6 | 7 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am |
| 8 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-11:00 | 9 | 10 7pm Admin Team | 11 Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:45pm 7-8:30 Youth Group | 12 7pm Property Team | 13 | 14 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am |
| 15 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-11:00 | 16 | 17  Trumpet Deadline 7pm Church Council | 18 Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:45pm 7-8:30 Confirmation / Youth Group | 19  9:30am Women's Bible Study | 20 | 21 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am |
| 22 Worship 9am Sunday School 10:15-11:00 | 23 | 24  4:30pm Family Shelter Meal  Christmas Eve Worship 4pm | 25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> | 26 | 27 | 28 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am |
| 29 Worship 9am | 30 | 31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> | | | | |