



THE TRUMPET

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

PASTOR'S CORNER

“For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing.” – Deuteronomy 10:17-18

Dear Siblings in Christ,

A sermon seldom becomes the topic of national conversation. However, this past January, Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde's sermon at the Washington National Cathedral's Service of Prayer for the Nation made headlines around the world. If you haven't watched the sermon, I recommend you listen to the whole sermon (on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/xwwaEuDeqM8?si=ocB3xd9yAs1sISCK>) or search for “Bishop Budde National Cathedral sermon.”

Bishop Budde's sermon focused on the characteristics of unity, a topic that makes sense at an ecumenical prayer service. She focused on all that we have in common and what is the foundation of unity. She defines the three foundations for unity are honoring the inherent dignity of every human being, honesty, and humility. But what she says next is what has caused controversy. She makes a plea directly to President Trump to be merciful. Bishop Budde says, “God teaches us to be merciful to the stranger, for we were all once strangers in this land.” She asks for mercy upon those who are afraid and vulnerable, specifically LGBT individuals and immigrants.

There have been a variety of responses to her sermon and of making such a direct ask of the president, ranging from praising her courage to anger at her audacity. As a preacher, I think it is wonderful people are reflecting on a sermon and responding to it.

As your pastor, I can offer a faith perspective on the content of her sermon. Bishop Budde is participating in a long-held tradition of prophetic preaching and asking for mercy. In the Bible, there are multiple stories of women intervening on behalf of others. The book of Esther is one clear example

as Esther hid her Jewish identity to become queen. When a servant of the king began plotting to destroy all the Hebrew people, Esther prayed for guidance, then took action and revealed her true identity to the king. She pleaded for her people to be spared and saved all the Hebrew people from genocide. Esther is an example of a woman pleading with a powerful man to have mercy on others.

In an example from the New Testament, there is the Syrophenician woman who pleaded with Jesus to heal her daughter. Jesus initially refused to heal her daughter, saying in Mark “It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.” (Mark 7:27). She doesn't take this as a final answer and says, “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' tables.” (Mark 7:28). Jesus changes his mind and heals her daughter, showing mercy upon the foreign woman and healing her daughter.

You might also wonder why Bishop Budde was asking for mercy to be shown to those who are vulnerable. Jesus tells us that we should love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Throughout the Bible, God is described as “gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.” The request for mercy on those who are most vulnerable, the orphan, the widow, and the stranger, comes directly from the Bible.

I am grateful for Bishop Budde's example of faithful witness and love for the vulnerable. Her invitation into unity is one that we can all hear and heed, particularly as we consider how we can love our neighbor and extend mercy and love outside of our comfort zones.

Peace,
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.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

FEBRUARY 2

Presentation
of Our Lord

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 84
Luke 2:22-40

“Jesus is the
Light of the World”

9am Worship
Organ / Communion

FEBRUARY 9

Fifth Sunday
After Epiphany

Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 138
Luke 5:1-11

“Here I am; send me;
we are all called!”

9am Worship
KHB / Communion

FEBRUARY 16

Sixth Sunday
After Epiphany

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1
Luke 6:17-26

“Blessings and curses
abound on the sermon
on the plain.”

9am Worship
Organ / Communion

FEBRUARY 23

Seventh Sunday
After Epiphany

Genesis 45:3-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
Luke 6:27-38

“Mercy,
mercy, mercy!”

9am Worship
KHB / Communion

THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 20

Women's
Bible Study

February's Study
is titled,
“Faithfulness:
Faith in the depths.
- Psalm 22.”

9:30am
in the library.

CANDLEMAS

In worship on February 2 we will be marking Presentation of Our Lord or Candlemas. This day is called Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church for the coming year. We'll hear a reading from Luke where Simeon confesses that the baby Jesus was “a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

You are invited to bring something that you use for light in your home – a candle, flashlight, lantern – and we will bless these sources of light and how they can also be a way to shine the love of God in our home.



February

WORSHIP LEADERS

| | AV | ALTAR GUILD | LAM | READER | USHERS | COMMUNION | ACOLYTE |
|------|-----------------|----------------|---------|--------|-----------------|----------------|---------|
| 2.2 | Jason / Julia | Lori / Lori | Mike | Cyndi | Mike / Carol | Ann / Bea | Levi |
| 2.9 | Janelle / Mike | Karen / Becky | Thomas | Ann | Scott / Michele | Howard / Peggy | |
| 2.16 | Mike / Craig | Connie / Peggy | | Cyndi | Mike / Michele | Polly / Howard | |
| 2.23 | Janelle / Craig | Ann / Kathy | Michele | Mike | Scott / Mike | Wendy / Peggy | |

Hospitality: Kathy Felix, Dean & Pam Felix, Erin Simunds

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

DEVOTION

Compassion:

Be Good to Yourself and Others

Most of you know that I love being Lutheran, and now I love being a seminarian. In a sentence, I am surrounded by the best-of-the-best faculty, guides, and colleagues. I know I am on the right path.

But one of the things I've struggled with of late is acknowledging my delay in responding to God's call and how I may have hurt others along the way. And in doing so, I've managed to do quite the number on myself.

More than a decade ago, my greatest mentor encouraged me to seek out a spiritual director, which I did. I found that spiritual director almost immediately. We meet regularly and even met remotely during the pandemic. Indeed, I look forward to meeting with him the week this Trumpet article goes to press.

After talking about the regret toxifying my vocation, he reminded me simply that if I am to be compassionate with others, I need to be compassionate with myself. And to leave that regret – that debilitating darkness – behind.

He then pointed me to a loving instruction from Sister Becky Van Ness. She is a sister of the Oblates of St. Benedict, at the monastery in St. Joseph, MN. Beyond theology, she has studied mathematics, education, psychology, and she is the former director of the spiritual direction program at St. John's School of Theology and seminary, the position my current spiritual director holds. The focus of her service in Christ was assisting those in the discernment process. In a nutshell, she taught me to think more of others than myself, and in the process, I gained a better understanding of compassion. Be good to oneself – forgive yourself – just as God has forgiven you.

Let us pray: Gracious One, we come before you with hearts desiring humility. Just as you've embraced us with your compassion, teach us about and grant us understanding, Lord, about compassion for our fellow members of Christ the King, for our neighbors, for strangers, and for ourselves. Send your Holy Spirit as we accomplish your work as your disciples. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Prayerfully in Christ,
Michael Stepan

COMING SOON

YOUTH & FAMILY

Hello youth families!

We had a wonderful youth group session on January 15th! We played a game called "The Bible is Funny" which is kind of like Apples to Apples, if you've ever played the game. We also played Pictionary on the new white board!

Next month we will spend some time learning about St. Valentine (for which Valentine's Day is named) and learning about "unusual" prayer practices using the book "Soul Types" by Sandra Krebs Hirsch and Jane A.G. Kise. If you want to learn more, shoot me an email at hannahgrove@ctkwbl.org.

See next month's schedule and as always, feel free to bring a friend to any meeting!:

February 5th, 7:00-8:30pm: All About St. Valentine! We will learn about St. Valentine and play some games!

February 19th, 7:00-8:30pm: Exploring "Unusual" Prayer Practices

ARCHIVING HELP NEEDED

Admin & Finance are archiving church records. We have several VHS tapes that need to be converted to digital media. If you are able and willing to help with this effort please contact Scott Tradup.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

the CTK Kitchen will be cleaned on Monday, February 3rd, starting at 9 am. Any unclaimed leftovers will be discarded at that time. Volunteers welcome!

2025

INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION TRIP

Want to grow in faith, deepen relationships, and serve in Duluth? CTK is heading north to spend time at Amnicon Camp and serving in the Duluth/Superior communities. All ages are encouraged to join in the trip.

Date: Saturday, July 26 – Tuesday, July 29

Cost: TBD but will be offset by fundraising opportunities

We'll spend Saturday and Sunday at Amnicon Camp building relationships, enjoying outdoor activities, and growing in faith through Bible study and worship. Monday and Tuesday will be spent serving in Duluth/Superior before heading home on Tuesday night.

We are also wanting to be flexible with summer schedules. Talk to Pastor Rebecca if you are interested but need some flexibility to participate.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY



Join Pastor Rebecca after worship on **Sunday, February 9** for



a conversation about joining Christ the King. We'll discuss what it means to be a member of an ELCA church and learn more about one another. Join us in the conference room. We will receive our new members in worship on **Sunday, February 23** and warmly welcome them into the Christ the King church family.

UPDATES

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Corner

In January, the council did some routine business. Every year, the Memorial Team recommends a list of projects to be funded using memorial funds. The council approved this list of projects which is published in the Annual Report. The council approved designating all Lenten offerings to go to Habitat for Humanity. Lenten offerings have gone to Habitat for several years now. The goal for Lenten offerings is \$3,500, the same as last year. The council also approved the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

The council approved a proposed budget for 2025. The new budget includes a 3% expected increase in both income and expenses. Similar to 2024, the budget also includes a large projected deficit of over \$15,000. Continued diligence in member giving will once again be required in 2025 to minimize our deficit. The 2025 budget is shown in the Annual Report and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

Finally, the council approved spending up to \$14,000 for improvements to the sound system in the sanctuary. This proposed project will be presented at the Annual Meeting for congregation vote and approval.

I have been blessed to be your President during 2024. Thank you for your trust and support of the leadership team and the continued support of the ministries of Christ the King. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve in this way.

In Christ's Service
Scott Tradup

ADMIN & FINANCE

Envelope and online offerings monthly comparison:

01/01/24 through 12/31/24 = \$277,559

01/01/23 through 12/31/23 = \$250,064

Expenses Year-To-Date:

01/01/24 through 12/31/24 = \$274,794

01/01/23 through 12/31/23 = \$264,250

Cash account balances as of December 31, 2024

North Star Bank:

Checking = \$9,336

Savings = \$49,159

Memorial Savings = \$24,856

ELCA Mission Investment Fund = \$57,106

Endowment Fund = \$91,634

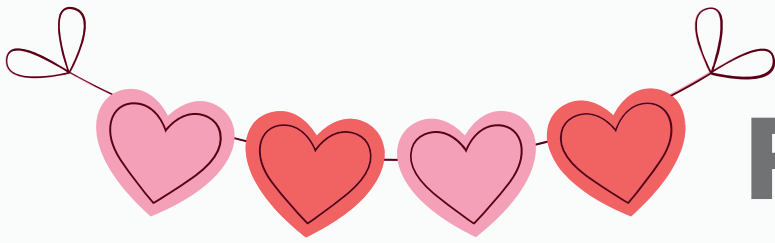
Mortgage Balance = \$111,293



ANNUAL MEETING

Council has determined that our Annual Meeting will be after worship on **Sunday, February 2.**

Join us as we select new leaders for church council, approved a budget, and make other important decisions for CTK.



FEBRUARY

2025

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