

# THE TRUMPET

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

## PASTOR'S CORNER

*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"  
– Psalm 122:1*

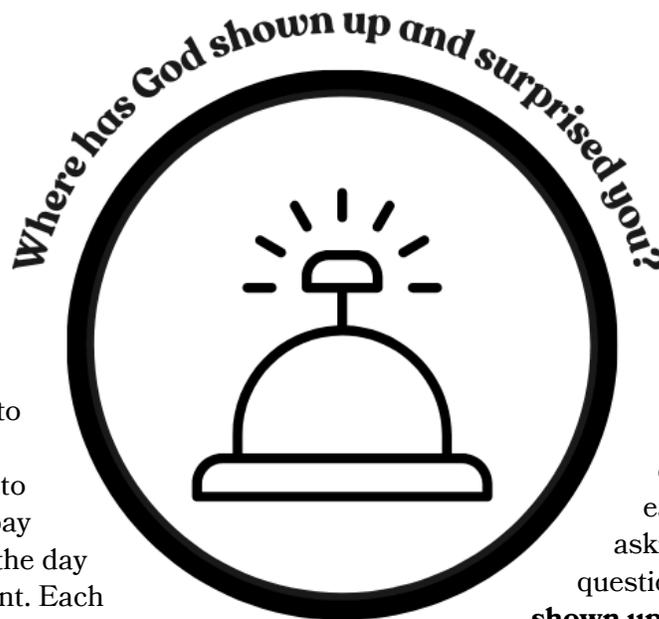
Dear Siblings in Christ,

We are entering into the season of Advent, a time of in between as we await the coming of into the world of baby Jesus. But it is not a time of just waiting. We are invited into an active waiting as we anticipate Jesus' arrival into the world. I invite you to pay attention to the prayer of the day each Sunday during Advent. Each prayer begins with the phrase "Stir up," encouraging us to be moved as we await Jesus' incarnation. We might imagine that the world is a giant mixing bowl and God is using a big wooden spoon to stir us up, to mix us together, and actively prepare us for Jesus' coming into the world.

There is an Advent hymn in *All Creation Sings* entitled "We Are Waiting for Jesus" by John Helgen. I invite you to reflect on as we wait and actively anticipate Jesus' coming into the world.

Sun of justice, shine upon us.  
We are trusting in your promise.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us.  
Stir our hearts, and gently guide us.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

In addition to the waiting and stirring up of Advent, this year the church is also focusing on the



surprises that occur during this season. God breaks into our world, both as a baby and as a presence in our lives, making God's presence known in unexpected ways. They can be big and bold – or quiet and meditative. God's presence in our lives might surprise us. And each Sunday in Advent, I will be asking everyone the same

question: **Where has God shown up and surprised you this week?**

If you answer the question, you'll get to hear the bell ring – DING! – as we share the way that God shows up and surprises us. I hope this Advent season to have a lot of bell ringing in worship as we name the ways that God is present in our lives. When we start to look for God's presence in our lives, we will begin to see how God continues to show up and surprise us. Our eyes will become more attuned to God's presence and naming it will become easier. My hope is that it becomes more second nature to consider God's presence in our lives – and perhaps we will be able to share God's presence in our lives with others outside of the church too.

Blessings on your Advent season and looking for God's surprising presence in your life!

Peace,  
Pastor Rebecca

# JOIN US

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

## DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### DECEMBER 7

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Matthew 3:2-11

**Out of the Blue:**  
*Wild New Life*

**9am Worship**  
Organ / Communion

### DECEMBER 14

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 1:46b-55  
Matthew 11:2-11

**Out of the Blue:**  
*Beyond the Superbloom*

**9am Worship**  
KHB / Communion

### DECEMBER 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Matthew 1:18-25

**Out of the Blue:**  
*At the Turning Point*

**9am Worship**  
Organ / Communion

### DECEMBER 28

First Sunday of Christmas

Psalm 148  
Luke 1:5-20, 24-25  
Luke 1:26-38  
Matthew 1:18-24  
Luke 2:8-20  
Luke 2:25-38  
Matthew 2:1-18

*Reflective Lessons & Carols*

**9am Worship**  
KHB / Communion

### DECEMBER 24

**Christmas  
Eve**

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Luke 2:1-20

**Out of the Blue:**  
*Jesus is Born*

**4pm Worship**  
Organ / Communion



Out of the Blue, our Advent theme gathers our shared imagination around moments of surprise, occasions of awe, and instances of inspiration when we discover the astonishment of God's work and God's purposes. Surprise can be bright and loud, and it can be quiet too. A different sense of astonishment accompanies us when we discover that God's goodness has draped itself in muted clothes and quietly worked behind the scenes of our lives.

THURSDAY

### DECEMBER 18

**Women's  
Bible Study**

*Practicing Advent  
Imagination:  
Matthew's Dreamers  
and Isaiah's Visions*

*We'll imagine God's future  
for all of us through the  
dreams of Joseph, the  
Three Wise Men, and Isaiah.*

**9:30am**  
in the library.



# December

## WORSHIP LEADERS

	AV	ALTAR GUILD	LAM	READER	USHERS	COMMUNION
12.7	Janelle / Craig	Cathy / Stephanie	Michael	Polly	Michele / Howard	Julie / Bonnie
12.14	Michael / Jason	Lori / Lori	NA	Hannah	Scott / Peggy	Cyndi / Howard
12.21	Janelle / Joe	Karen / Becky	Michael	Peggy	Mike / Howard	Bea / Karen
12.24	Jason / Brianna	Connie / Peggy	Trip	Michael	Scott / Michele	Peggy / Lee
12.28	Joe / Craig	Kathy / Ann	Julie	Erin	Mike / Michele	NA

**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

### Prayer Answers Anxiousness

Life, especially unexpected challenges, can make us anxious. Paul's words are comforting: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6).

Remarkably, he uses the word "thanksgiving" in this powerful message about anxiety and prayer. Perhaps most importantly, his words remind us of Jesus' words in John's gospel, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." (John 14:1). We're invited to put our trust in Christ, and to bring our fears, our hopes, our challenges, and our joys in thanksgiving to God. Prayer makes a difference in your life and mine – and glorifies God.

*Let us pray. Comforting God, we come before you in our anxiousness, joys, and pains. Lord, we give you thanks that we can come to you in prayer, no matter how you find us. Lord, we believe in the power of speaking with you in prayer, and that our connection to you in prayer is our source of healing and life. Send your Holy Spirit to all in need of healing, including us, especially in those ways we may not yet appreciate. We pray these things in Jesus' name.*

*Amen.*

Prayerfully in Christ,  
Michael Stepan

# COMING SOON

## FELLOWSHIP

Please join us for  
**Festive Fellowship**  
on **Saturday, December 6.**



We will be gathering for scrumptious appetizers and delicious desserts in the Fellowship Hall starting at 6:00 pm. (We will not be going to individual homes for dinner.) Please sign up on the poster in the Narthex to indicate what you plan to bring. We hope to see you there!



## Giving Tree and Baby Shower for Jesus

The Mission Team is offering three options to be generous and love our neighbors this December:

**1) ELCA Good Gifts** – purchase a chick, pig, cow, or other animal to support communities around the world! Select the ornament from the Giving Tree with the animal or item of choice and write a check to CTK with “Good Gifts” in the memo. Please keep the ornament and put it on your Christmas tree or give it to a friend or family member as a gift!

**2) New! Support Family Shelter’s Toy Shop for Children** by purchasing toys for boys or baby gifts. Gift tags with suggested gifts can be found on the Giving Tree. Select the gift tag you would like to shop for and bring back the toy unwrapped with the tag attached by Sunday, December 14. We will get the gifts to Family Shelter in time for the Christmas.

**3) New! Donate diapers and wipes for Baby Jesus!** During December, we will gather a collection of diapers (any size welcome!) and wipes in honor of baby Jesus’ birth. Donations will be brought to the White Bear Lake Food Shelf in January.

Thank you for your generous support of these ministries as we share Christmas cheer with our neighbors near and far.



## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

### 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!

### Lesson and Carols

**December 28 at 9am.** Continue celebrating Christmas with congregation-led Lessons and Carols. We’ll celebrate the joy of Christmas and sing favorite Christmas carols.

### Advent Devotion Books

Advent is a season of surprises as Jesus comes into the world. “Out of the Blue: Advent Devotions” is a companion during the month of December through Epiphany on January 6. The book offers a devotion for each week of Advent through Epiphany and can be spread out over the course of a week. As you use the devotion booklet, you are encouraged to create a found-object Jesse Tree that will gather items to signify six stories from Jesus’ ancestors.

## YOUTH & FAMILY



### Youth Group

Youth Group is continuing into the Advent season!

**December 10th** - We will have youth group from 7:00-8:30pm. We will be having a light hearted competition! (You could even win points for your team if you bring a friend!)

**December 14th** - Youth Bible study from 10:20-11:00am following Sunday worship. We will be discussing some of the parables in the Gospel of Mark.

**December 17th** - Youth Group/Confirmation Christmas party! We will send out more information soon!

I've been so thankful for the youth participation this year! Youth group nights are one of my favorite nights of the week and that's because of you, the youth. We would love to see you all this month!

Hannah



### Out of the Blue: Five Surprising Tales from Jesus' Family Tree

*For all ages*

Our Christmas program will be held on **Sunday, December 14 at 9 am.**

Individuals interested in a speaking role for the Christmas program can connect with Pastor Rebecca. We are looking for individuals for three larger roles: Mary, Joseph, and a Narrator. Smaller speaking or non-speaking roles include angels, shepherds, and stable animals. We'll do a run-through after worship on **Sunday, December 7** and another rehearsal before worship on Sunday, **December 14 at 8:15 am.**



### A Table Prayer for the Holiday Season

As you gather during this holiday season, enjoy this table prayer from Bread for the Day.

*Let us pray: God who provides, your dreams for the world are revealed when communities are fed, promises are kept, and the vulnerable have what they need. May the tables we set in your name honor the fullness of your creation and your wide welcome. May your blessings move freely through us as delight that flows like rivers and waterways, signs of new life. Amen.*



### Christ in Our Home

The January / February / March issue is available on the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

## MISSIONS



*Tumaini church construction*

### Greeting from Masisiwe

Dear friends, greetings in the name of Christ Jesus.

Masisiwe congregation is very happy and appreciative to BKB offices and to our partners for your effort which helped us roof the church building at Tumaini preaching point. The roofing phase is complete. The next phase will be plastering. Your kind contributions and prayers are so much appreciated.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU

*Idan Nziku - Parish pastor*

# UPDATES

## CHURCH COUNCIL

Mavo has completed their work in the sanctuary. Though the mold was more extensive than we hoped Mavo did an excellent job not only keeping me informed and performing their work. They were on-site for an extra two days.

Alexander will begin work once we've selected the wood. They expect their work to take two weeks. We will issue them a key for the duration of the work. Alexanders may work some evenings. Our goal is to have our Sanctuary back together before Christmas.

A big **Thank you** to all who have already donated to the sanctuary project. The first week of the project we received \$3,000 in donations. Please prayerfully consider a contribution to the project. Every contribution is greatly appreciated.

As always, the CTK Council welcomes feedback and input from congregation members. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me or any other Council members. We are also always looking for leaders to serve at CTK in a variety of capacities. There is currently an opportunity to join the Endowment Team. If you feel called to serve at CTK, please let any Council member know.

In Christ's service,  
Michele Murray

## ADMIN & FINANCE

### December Financial Report

#### Envelope and online offerings monthly comparison:

01/01/25 through 10/31/25 = \$223,207

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

#### Expenses Year-To-Date:

01/01/25 through 10/31/25 = \$244,217

01/01/24 through 10/31/24 = \$226,798

#### Cash account balances as of October 31, 2025

##### North Star Bank:

Checking = \$11,654

Savings = \$18,322

Memorial Savings = \$24,551

**ELCA Mission Investment Fund** = \$60,875

**Endowment Fund** = \$93,064

**Mortgage Balance** = \$96,490

## CONGREGATION

### CTK Core Values

The Council developed these core values with input from your one-to-one listening sessions. Please read through the descriptions of these values and consider answering the questions below via the QR code or by writing out your answers with your name.

- We begin our life together in Christ with worship in a variety of expressions. There is a place for you in the worship services at CTK. Worship is where we experience God proclaimed in word, sacraments, and music.
- We value spiritual formation for all ages, believing that everyone has something to learn from one another about faith. We seek to model our life together after Jesus, truly loving one another. We are committed to growing in faith and being transformed into true disciples of Jesus Christ.
- We respond with generosity for all of God's blessings. Living as stewards of all that God has given us, we answer with open hearts to the call of the Holy Spirit. We desire to give freely of our love, time, and resources in service to God at CTK, in our community, and around the world.
- We act with compassion as Christians centered in the life-giving love of Jesus. We seek to care for one another and our community, through prayer and by welcoming all.
- We commit to outreach in our neighborhood, our community, and our world. Through sharing our gifts, we love our neighbor and become more rooted in our community, by truly knowing them.
- 1) Of the five core values, which one are you most excited about? Why does it resonate with you personally right now?
- 2) Which core value inspires you with a specific, new idea for action or ministry that CTK could implement this year? Please describe your idea and explain how it connects to a particular value.

### Prayer List Update

The prayer list in the bulletin will reset in 2026. If you would like to keep your prayer request on the list, please email or call the church office. Thank you.

651.429.4828 / office @ctkwbl.org



# DECEMBER

2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 6:30pm <b>WMA</b>	2	3 Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:45pm Confirmation 7-8:30pm	4 7pm <b>Property Team</b>	5	6 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am Festive Fellowship 6pm
7 Worship 9am Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:15am	8	9 7pm <b>Admin Team</b>	10 Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:45pm Youth Group 7-8:30pm	11	12	13 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am
14 Christmas Program Worship 9am YG Bible Study 10:15am	15 7pm <b>Church Council</b>	16	17 Youth Group/Confirmation Xmas Party 7-8:30pm Bells 6:30pm Choir 7:45pm	18  Women's Bible Study 9:30am	19	20 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am
21 Worship 9am	22  Trumpet Deadline	23  Family Shelter Meal 4:30pm	24 Christmas Eve Worship 4pm	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> 	26	27 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am
28 Lessons & Carols Worship 9am YG Bible Study 10:15am	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	<b>Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm</b>		