

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,

On a snowy Ash Wednesday we began the season of Lent together. I shared an "Invitation to Lent" that used our Lenten theme of "All In." Since Ash Wednesday again featured winter weather, let me share some highlights for those who were unable to attend.

"We are reminded that as Christians, God calls us to a life of commitment and caring for our neighbors. The events of our lives and of the wider world can be grim, and optimism can be hard to find. It would be easier to detach from the need around us, to go numb, and to care less as we try to protect our hearts and our expectations.

But God calls us to go all in, to be fully committed to the well-being of our planet and our neighbors. ... This Lent in particular is a season of intentional preparation to go all in for the sake of the world. I urge you to commit to this preparation through worship, prayer, fasting, and giving. Even as you prepare to go all in, God has already gone all in for you."

As we go all in for Lent this year, I want to share my 3-2-1 for March – three upcoming events, two interesting things, and one spiritual practice.

Three Events

March is a busy month! There are almost too many events to share both at CTK and in the wider church. The most obvious one is our **Lent Wednesdays** – join in a soup supper starting at 5:45 pm with worship to follow at 7 pm. These evenings at church are a great opportunity to gather in fellowship and worship.

I also encourage you to attend one or all of the **Craft & Conversation** led by Hannah on Sundays after worship. She is exploring the Biblical stories of Holy Week and leading a related craft. These are for all ages – anyone can join!

The last event is in April but is worth sharing about early. Our Saint Paul Area Synod is electing a new bishop this May. The bishop is the leader for the congregations, pastors, and deacons in our area. They provide direction, vision, and administration for the wider church. You can attend **Meet the Pre-Identified Bishop Candidates** on Sunday, April 12 at 2 pm at Roseville Lutheran Church. We will be sending three people to Synod Assembly in May – Pastor Rebecca, Erin Simunds, and Trip Sullivan. Please share your thoughts about candidates with them!

Two Interesting Things

All of the Minnesota ELCA Bishops and Presiding Bishop Yehiel shared a joint pastoral video message addressing the recent immigration activity in Minnesota entitled **We Will Not Grow Weary**. It offers a message of hope in the face of lament and a recognition that we hold onto Jesus' promises. <https://www.livinglutheran.org/presiding-bishop/we-will-not-grow-weary/>

I hope that you were able to see Alysia Liu's gold medal free skate at the Winter Olympics. Her skate was truly an expression of joy on the ice!

<https://youtu.be/Dg0h9iZ1ZAg?si=ePtiLULpL2fctn33>

One Spiritual Practice

We have no shortage of spiritual practices to consider during Lent – there are three traditional focuses: prayer, giving, and fasting. I will encourage you to consider fasting – but not in a food/diet way. Lent is not a self-improvement plan. What can you refrain from during these forty days to give you more space to focus on Jesus? Could you abstain from complaining? Give up social media in the morning or night? Whatever you fast from, let be something that points your focus towards God and gives you space to listen to Jesus this Lent.

Blessings on your March!

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.

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MARCH 1

Second Sunday
in Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
John 3:1-17

Answering any call from God involves entering wholeheartedly into the unknown.

9am Worship
Organ / Communion

MARCH 8

Third Sunday
in Lent

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
John 4:5-42

Relationship with God draws out our questions, wonder, and a true sense of awe.

9am Worship
KHB / Communion

MARCH 15

Fourth Sunday
in Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
John 9:1-41

God doesn't hesitate to enter into the messiness of human relationships, and calls us to do the same.

9am Worship
Organ / Communion

MARCH 22

Fifth Sunday
in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
John 11:1-45

Letting go of expectations makes way for God to do something wondrous and new, taking flight on a leap of faith

9am Worship
KHB / Communion

MARCH 29

Palm
Sunday

Matthew 21:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Matthew 26:14-27:66

Balancing Procession & Passion practices entering into the highs & lows of life with our church and with Christ.

9am Worship
KHB / Communion

THURSDAY MARCH 12

Women's
Bible Study

I AM: God's Holy
Name and Promise

Session One:
Bread, Vine, and Light:
Abiding With Us

9:30am
in the library.



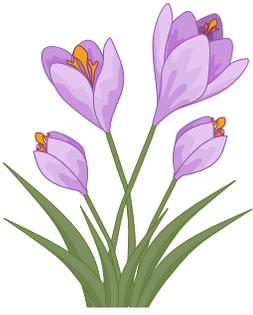
MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Midweek Lenten Worship

March 4, 11, 18 & 25

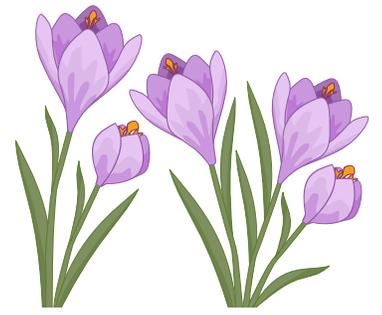
Soup Supper 5:45pm
Services 7:00pm

Sign up in the narthex to bring soup.



March

WORSHIP LEADERS



| | AV | ALTAR GUILD | LAM | READER | USHERS | COMMUNION |
|------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|----------------|
| 3.1 | Craig / Jason | Connie / Peggy | Michael | Polly | Mike / Michele | Peggy / Julie |
| 3.4 | N/A | Connie / Peggy | N/A | Polly | Scott / Carol | N/A |
| 3.8 | Janelle / Michael | Kathy Felix | Michele | Cyndi | Peggy / Scott | Cyndi / Howard |
| 3.11 | N/A | Kathy Felix | N/A | Michael | Michele / Peggy | N/A |
| 3.15 | Craig / Michael | Cathy / Stephanie | Bill | Peggy | Mike / Howard | Sally / Julie |
| 3.18 | N/A | Cathy / Stephanie | N/A | Cyndi | Wendy / Howard | N/A |
| 3.22 | Janelle / Michael | Lori / Lori | Cyndi | Polly | Scott / Wendy | Howard / Peggy |
| 3.25 | N/A | Lori / Lori | N/A | Michael | Scott / Mike | N/A |
| 3.29 | Joe / Jason | Karen / Becky | Julie | Michele | Scott / Michele | Karen / Peggy |

Hospitality: Becky Thompson, Jackie Shelstad, Corrine Erlandson

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

HOLY WEEK

- Palm Sunday**
March 29
Worship 9am
Community Easter Egg Hunt 10:30am
- Maundy Thursday**
April 2
Dinner Church Worship & Meal 6pm
- Good Friday**
April 3
Worship 7pm
- Easter Sunday**
April 5
Worship 9am

COMING SOON

YOUTH & FAMILY



Youth Group

Hello youth families!

Youth group will continue to be on hold for Lent this month so we will not meet.

Look for other ways to get involved!

Join us for Wednesday night supper and worship and Sunday mornings for worship and Crafts and Conversation!

We look forward to resuming youth group meetings in April. Check out April's newsletter for more information.



Wilderness Canoe Base: Congregational Camp:

Thursday, August 13 – Sunday, August 16

Spend a long weekend at Wilderness Canoe Base at the end of the Gunflint Trail in northern Minnesota near the entry point to the Boundary Waters.

We will spend four days and three nights on Fishhook Island with a variety of programming options. Housing will be in cabins or yurt cabins in bunk beds or tent pads. Meals are provided.

Cost is \$350 for adults, \$320 for youth (11-17), \$285 for children (3-10) and free for under 2.

Do not let money be a barrier; scholarships are available.

Registration will begin in late March. Let Pastor Rebecca know if you are interested in attending!



Please join us this Lent for Crafts and Conversation!

All are welcome to join us Sunday mornings from 10:15-11am for a craft and some conversations about the Bible. We will meet every Sunday in Lent except for Palm Sunday.

Interested? Please see our schedule and topics below!

March 1st - Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem

March 8th - The Last Supper

March 15th - The Crucifixion

March 22nd - The Easter miracle

Have questions or want to help out?

Email Hannah at hannahgrove@ctkwbl.org

FELLOWSHIP



Bingo night is coming soon!

Join us on Saturday, March 28 at 6:30 pm for a fun night of bingo, prizes, popcorn and fellowship. All ages welcome! Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Spring Luncheon
Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m.

Featured presentation: Gina Humphrey Kieger on "Urban Flower Farming". Invite family and friends. Watch for signup on the library window.

Annual Rummage Sale
May 28-29

A room will be available after May 18 to bring your sale items. Set up Tuesday- Wednesday May 26-27, sale Thursday - Friday May 28-29.

DEVOTION

Beware of Empty Promises

Our First Sunday of Lent 2026, we heard the temptation stories from Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, and Matthew 4:1-11. We heard empty promises from the devil. But Paul reminds us that: "If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ." Rom 5:17. "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." Rom 5:8. God refutes the lies.

In these days of Lent, we're reminded of God's faithful promise to us; it's the precursor to Easter. Jesus reminds us, "I have said this to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution but take courage: I have conquered the world!" John 16:33. And so may the world be in upheaval, and we struggle, may we be assured through the Word that God is with us, in all our lives, in joy, struggles, happiness, frustrations, successes, and setbacks.

Let us pray. Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayerfully in Christ,
Michael Stepan

MISSIONS



Support for Birch Lake Elementary School & Local Law Enforcement

Our community has been under considerable stress due to recent immigration authorities' action. We are wanting to offer our support to our neighbors, particularly teachers, staff, and family at Birch Lake Elementary School (BLES) and our local law enforcement. You can help our community by considering the following actions:

- Write a card of encouragement to BLES staff and local law enforcement. A rack of blank cards is in the fellowship hall with instructions and examples along with bins for completed cards. CTK volunteers will bring cards to the school and local law enforcement offices as they accumulate.
- Offer support for the BLES staff caring for students and families experiencing trauma by bringing in baked goods (no nuts), snacks, treats, soda, sparkling water, etc. for the staff lounge. We will collect items five times during the school year to bring over to the school office and a sign-up will be located on the library window.
- Support families by supplying necessities for the White Bear Solidarity Network. The items most needed are: pasta, dried or canned beans, lentils, cereal, toilet paper, dish soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, bar soap, baby wipes and diapers.

Note: The card ministry will continue throughout the beginning of June. Donations of blank greeting cards are much appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity and care for our neighbors!

UPDATES

ADMIN & FINANCE

January Financial Report

Envelope and online offerings monthly comparison:

01/01/26 through 01/31/26 = \$16,055

01/01/25 through 01/31/25 = \$16,256

Expenses Year-To-Date:

01/01/26 through 01/31/26 = \$23,946

01/01/25 through 01/31/25 = \$25,150

Cash account balances as of January 31, 2026

North Star Bank:

Checking = \$13,567

Savings = \$43,344

Memorial Savings = \$26,180

ELCA Mission Investment Fund = \$62,120

Endowment Fund = \$91,945

Mortgage Balance = \$91,958

CHURCH COUNCIL

Grace and peace to you from the Christ the King Council! Our 2026 leadership team is officially installed and has hit the ground running. We are energized by the spirit of our community and ready to discern where God is calling us in the year ahead.

Our February meeting focused heavily on preparing both new and returning members for the vital work of the church. We spent time conducting a comprehensive Council Orientation, which included:

- **Governing Documents:** A thorough review of our roles, responsibilities, and the church constitution.
- **Operations:** Familiarizing ourselves with the location of church policies and the operations manual.
- **Finances:** A detailed orientation on our financial processes and the Treasurer's Report led by Howard.

To solidify our commitment to one another and to the congregation, we reviewed and signed our Council Covenant. This document serves as a reminder of the shared values, cooperation, and faith we promise to bring to our leadership throughout 2026.

Beyond our orientation, we are already looking forward to several key initiatives, including next steps for the sanctuary project and gathering estimates for the Holy Hammers 2026 giving season.

The council is honored to serve this community with transparency and joy. If you feel called to serve on a ministry team or if you simply have questions, please reach out to any council member.

In Christ's service,
Erin Simunds

Zoom on the Hill: Your Voice is Needed



Register here

Tuesday, March 3, 1:00-2:30 p.m. OR
Thursday, March 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

(Same basic program – Two options)

Register at: <https://forms.gle/Lwcnrf2h7WtUcYwz6>



How can I effectively communicate with my legislators? What difference do letters or meetings make? Will my voice have an impact?

Join this event to learn what you can do, and how what you have to say can carry weight and be influential on Lutheran Advocacy-MN's issues: food security, electronic waste recycling, immigration and more. Register for either date at: <https://forms.gle/Lwcnrf2h7WtUcYwz6>



New Member Class Sunday, March 15, 10:15 am

Discover your place at Christ the King! Join Pastor Rebecca for a new member class to learn about CTK's mission, beliefs, and opportunities to connect, serve, and grow in faith. We will meet in the Conference Room. New members will be received in worship on a date TBD.



MARCH

2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----------|---|
| <p>1</p> <p>Worship 9am</p> <p>Crafts & Conversation 10:15am</p> | <p>2</p> <p>6:30pm WMA</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Soup Supper 5:45pm</p> <p>Lenten Worship 7:00pm</p> <p>Choir 7:45pm</p> | <p>5</p> <p>7pm Property Team</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> <p>7am Bread Ministry</p> <p>KHB 9am</p> |
| <p>8</p> <p>Worship 9am</p> <p>Crafts & Conversation 10:15am</p>  | <p>9</p> <p>Bells 6:30pm</p> | <p>10</p> <p>7pm Admin Team</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Soup Supper 5:45pm</p> <p>Lenten Worship 7:00pm</p> <p>Choir 7:45pm</p> | <p>12</p>  <p>Women's Bible Study 9:30am</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> <p>7am Bread Ministry</p> <p>KHB 9am</p> |
| <p>15</p> <p>Worship 9am</p> <p>Crafts & Conversation 10:15am</p> <p>New Member Class 10:15am</p> <p>Council Retreat 12 noon-4pm</p> | <p>16</p> <p>Bells 6:30pm</p> | <p>17</p> <p>7pm Church Council</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Soup Supper 5:45pm</p> <p>Lenten Worship 7:00pm</p> <p>Choir 7:45pm</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> <p>7am Bread Ministry</p> <p>KHB 9am</p> |
| <p>22</p> <p>Worship 9am</p> <p>Crafts & Conversation 10:15am</p> |  <p>Trumpet Deadline</p> <p>Bells 6:30pm</p> |  <p>Family Shelter Meal 4:30pm</p> | <p>25</p> <p>Soup Supper 5:45pm</p> <p>Lenten Worship 7:00pm</p> <p>Choir 7:45pm</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> | <p>28</p> <p>7am Bread Ministry</p> <p>KHB 9am</p> <p>Easter Egg Prep 9-11am</p> |
| <p>29</p> <p>Palm Sunday Worship 9am</p> <p>Community Easter Egg Hunt 10:30am</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> | <p>Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm</p> | | | |