



THE TRUMPET

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

PASTOR'S CORNER

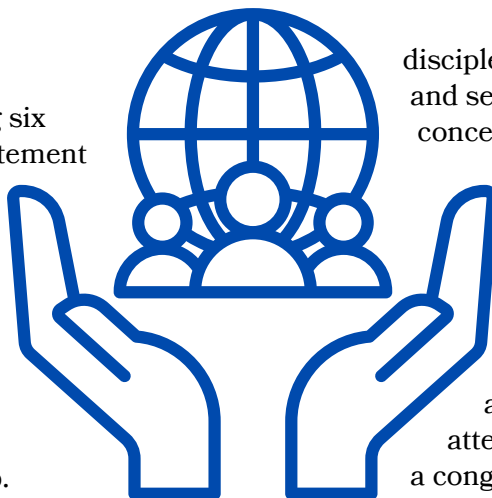
*"May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!"
– Psalm 29:11*

Dear Siblings in Christ,

This April and May we are spending six weeks studying the ELCA social statement "Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-Being of All." Each week we focus on a different section of the social statement, ground our conversation in a Bible passage, and have a "Table Talk" in the tradition of Martin Luther where we discuss a question in a small group before sharing with the larger group.

You might wonder what a social statement is and why the ELCA has an official social statement on faith and civic life. Social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks for thinking about and discussing social issues in faith and life. The creation of a social statement takes about five years, through a process that involves a group of experts and individuals with practical experience creating the documents, a lengthy period of comments and revisions, and then approval by a two-thirds vote by the ELCA churchwide assembly. The ELCA has 14 social statements and 18 social messages, which are narrower in scope on a specific topic.

A social statement is also not a document that all ELCA members have to agree upon. They are not meant to coerce individuals to believe a specific way. Social statements are grounded in scripture, Lutheran theology, and the discernment of the church and are meant to be tools. A social statement can inform how I discuss a particular social topic in sermons or teaching. The Faith and Civic Life social statement was created to address the larger topic of civic life. It is grounded in the context of being both



disciples and citizens of the United States and seeks to address the questions and concerns about the interaction of church and state.

During the first few weeks of our study, we have focused on the questions of "What does 'civic life' mean for you? Where might God be calling you to be more active?" and "What is the proper kind of attention to civic and political matters in a congregation? How can congregations be a safe place to have these kinds of conversations?" These are questions that have spurred good discussion among attendees about the various ways that we can live out our vocation in civic life: a commitment to voting and participating in jury duty, participating in expressing political views through rallies, and supporting our community by volunteering. We also discussed how the church can be a place where we can express differing views on civic/political matters, but that we can find our unity in Christ. A commitment to being curious and in conversation with one another can also allow the church to be a place for conversations sharing a variety of views.

We still have four sessions left in our study! If you'd like to explore how to be a disciple of Jesus and a citizen of the United States who participates in civic life, I would highly encourage you to come for one or more of the next sessions. Each week, we emphasize working for the well-being/shalom/peace of all, which is truly a way of envisioning how we might participate in bringing the kingdom of God closer.

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.

MAY SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAY 3

Fifth
Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
John 14:1-14

Youth-led Worship

*In words and deeds we
bear witness to the
risen Christ - our way,
our truth, our life.*

9am Worship
Organ / Communion

MAY 10

Sixth
Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
John 14:15-21

*Through
the Holy Spirit,
Jesus comes to abide
with his disciples
of every generation.*

9am Worship
KHB / Communion

MAY 17

Seventh
Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
John 17:1-11

*Jesus
prays for his
followers and for
their mission
in his name.*

9am Worship
Organ / Communion

MAY 24

Day of
Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
John 7:37-39

Wear red to celebrate the Holy Spirit!!

*We celebrate the Holy Spirit
as God's presence within
and among us.*

9am Worship
Organ / Communion

MAY 31

Holy Trinity
Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
Matthew 28:16-20

*We celebrate
the mystery of the
Holy Trinity
in word and
sacrament*

9am Worship
KHB / Communion

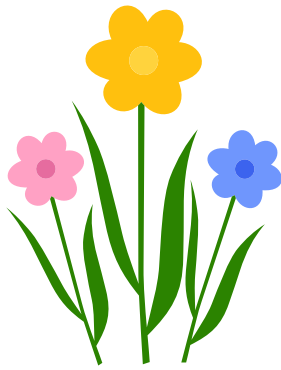
THURSDAY MAY 14

Women's Bible Study

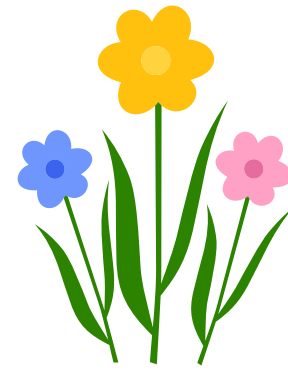
I AM: God's Holy
Name and Promise

Session THREE:
God Who Leads Us:
Resurrection and Life

9:30am
in the library.



May



WORSHIP LEADERS

	AV	ALTAR GUILD	LAM	READER	USHERS	COMMUNION
5.3	Janelle / Jason	Karen / Becky	Youth	Youth	Carol / Mike	Youth
5.10	Jason / Craig	Connie / Peggy	Trip	Peggy	Michele / Scott	Peggy / Bea
5.17	Janelle / Joe	Kathy / Ann	Bea	Cyndi	Mike / Joe	Julie / Bonnie
5.24	Jason / Brianna	Cathy / Stephanie	Cyndi	Michele	Scott / Peggy	Karen / Howard
5.31	Craig / Joe	Lori / Lori	Julie	Peggy	Michele / Mike	Polly / Howard

Hospitality: Cyndi Frankel, Sharon Burbach, Tom Ring, Anna Johnstone

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

DEVOTION

We Are Not Alone – Psalm 23

This Easter season I was reminded that we all have setbacks, challenges, wrongs, hurts, and evils that find their way into our lives. To be sure, we stray on our own, through no fault of others. As disciples of Christ, how we deal with these circumstances matters—most importantly to God, but regardless, especially to those around us, too. Reconciliation is important, as we strive to be thriving members of the Body of Christ.

When these dark times present themselves in our lives, I have found the last three verses of Psalm 23 especially encouraging—and I hope you do too.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Having studied Biblical Hebrew, the Hebrew for “shall follow me” of the final verse of the psalm gave me a new understanding. The phrase is even more active in the ancient language, having a connotation of seeking (me) out, finding (me), and especially, pursuing (me) with an eye toward saving or protecting (me). The verb means “to pursue” or “to follow,” in the sense of “pursue after”. When the Good Shepherd seeks us, we will be found, and most importantly, be guided and protected.

Indeed, I am reminded of the beautiful parable from the gospel of Matthew when the shepherd leaves the flock of 99 to save the single stray. In God’s eyes, we are so worth it!

Let us pray.

Almighty God, may we always be reminded that you pursue as one of your own, through the Good Shepherd of the flock—especially when we stray—and you guide us back to the fold, through the movement of your Holy Spirit. We pray in thanks, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Prayerfully in Christ,
Michael Stepan

COMING SOON

MISSIONS



Masisiwe Appreciation Sunday May 17th

Sunday the 17th kicks off our 21st year of fundraising for our partner church in Masisiwe and acknowledgment of your continued support. Your generosity has made a significant impact on Masisiwe's ministry and daily lives.

This year's goal is to help Masisiwe add doors, windows, and cement for the walls and flooring to their fifth church. We'll have a noisy offering during the service in addition to regular donations. So, save up your coins! Not able to be there on the 17th? Contributions will be collected through June 28th.

As a thank you for your support, special treats will be offered at coffee hour.

YOUTH & FAMILY



The school year is coming to a close and youth group will be finishing up in May.

Join us for a final Youth Group gathering on **Wednesday, May 6th from 7-8:30 pm** for games and fun.

We will have a joint Confirmation and Youth Group End of the Year Party on **Wednesday, May 20th from 6-8 pm.** We'll share a pizza dinner, play games, and celebrate the end of the school year.



Support for Birch Lake Elementary School & Local Law Enforcement

We are offering 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 with 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.
- Offer support for the BLES staff during a challenging school year by bringing in baked goods (no nuts), snacks, treats, soda, sparkling water, etc. for the staff lounge. We will collect items two more times this school year.

Sign up and bring your treat on Sunday. Pastor Rebecca will deliver to the BLES office on Monday morning.

Thank you for your generosity and care for our neighbors!

WORSHIP



Make sure you come to worship on **May 3** for **Youth Led Worship.**

Youth of all ages are encouraged to participate in leading worship!

The Confirmation and Youth Group youth did planning in April to write the prayers of the people, put together their thoughts for the sermon, and volunteered for leading different aspects of worship.

We are grateful for their leadership at CTK!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



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.



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.

Cost is \$330 for adults, \$300 for youth (11-17), \$200 for children (4-10) and free for under 4. Do not let money be a barrier; scholarships are available.

Registration is now open!

<https://lwlbc.com/wcbtk-wblcong-intergen2026>

Families and individuals register themselves online. An initial deposit is required and final payment is due two weeks prior to the congregational camp.

See the Welcome Center for a handout with more information and an interest survey.

CHRISTIAN ED



Civic Life and Faith Study

Join Pastor Rebecca in a six-week study of the ELCA Social Statement “Faith and Civic Life.” You are encouraged to sign-up so the correct number of materials can be produced. You can attend one or all of the sessions to learn more about the ELCA’s social statement, how we can utilize it to explore hard topics as a community of moral discernment, and address the needs of the world around us. We’ll gather at 10:15 am in the Conference Room. (New location!)

May 3 – Session 3: Assessing the U.S. Constitutional Form of Government

No earthly political system even comes close to being like the reign of God. At the same time, God expects human power to be used for the well-being of all. We can engage in efforts toward achieving the ideals of the Constitution and in this way serve God’s purpose toward the well-being of all.

May 10 – Session 4: Religion and the First Amendment

The Establishment and Free Exercise clauses of the First Amendment work together to promote and protect religious diversity and freedom. They do not prohibit individuals of faith from participating in public life; neither do they allow the exercise of one religion to impede the rights of others.

May 17 – Session 5: Constructive Relationships Between Religious Organizations and Political Authority

This church affirms working “with” government authorities, while maintaining institutional separation in a critical functional interaction. Our church believes this enables us to be a better voice proclaiming and working toward God’s expectations for the well-being of society. The ELCA encourages healthy patriotism and repudiates Christian nationalism as it inappropriately fuses a selective and imagined concept of a Christian nation with a false vision of God’s favoritism for Christian people in the USA.

May 24 – Session 6: Selected Contemporary Concerns in Civic Life

Being rooted in our own identity as created in God’s image and acknowledging that truth for all people enable us to address a number of contemporary concerns in civic life – especially hyper partisanship and the just and proper use of media.

UPDATES

ADMIN & FINANCE

March Financial Report

Envelope and online offerings monthly comparison:

01/01/26 through 03/31/26 = \$60,343
01/01/25 through 03/231/25 = \$59,510

Expenses Year-To-Date:

01/01/26 through 03/31/26 = \$74,100
01/01/25 through 03/31/25 = \$74,214

Cash account balances as of February 28, 2026

North Star Bank:

Checking = \$18,751
Savings = \$39,383
Memorial Savings = \$26,219

ELCA Mission Investment Fund = \$63,338

Endowment Fund = \$94,132

Mortgage Balance = \$88,973

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Christ the King Council continues to lean into our mission with a focus on both spiritual growth and practical stewardship. At our April meeting, we continued our devotional study of Invite Welcome Connect, exploring how we can further live out our value of radical hospitality. Building on that theme, the Council voted to host the congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd for their morning service on Sunday, May 10th, at 11:00 AM. We also finalized our Crisis Communication Plan to ensure we are prepared for future unexpected events, such as service cancellations. Additionally, we are looking forward to our rescheduled Council Retreat on May 3rd as we continue to oversee the Sanctuary Project and support our vital ministry teams.

In Christ's service,
Erin Simunds



National Day of Prayer Gathering Thursday, May 7, 2026 7:00-8:00pm

Sponsored by a cross denominational group of concerned citizens.

The event is being held at
Community of Grace Lutheran Church
4000 Linden Street, White Bear Lake

Please join us for a time of prayer for our country.
Light refreshments will be available
after the prayer service.



Sanctuary Project Update

Greiner Construction has sourced the appropriate materials and will be starting the rebuild of the sanctuary wall beginning May 4th. They anticipate the work taking one to two weeks.

Thanks to your generous contributions we were able to completely pay off the initial mold remediation phase of the project with funds leftover for the rebuild phase. The cost to rebuild is about sixteen thousand dollars and we have already raised over three thousand dollars in 2026. Please prayerfully consider if you might be able to contribute to this final phase of the project. No gift is too small! Thank you to all who have contributed!



Help Needed

The Bread Ministry team could use more volunteers to pick bread up from Cub and set up in the entry at Christ the King on Saturday mornings.

If interested, contact Mike Wallace or David Probst.



MAY

2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm				1	2 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am Women's Luncheon 11am
3 Worship 9am Civic Life & Faith Study 10:15am Council Retreat 12-4pm	4 6:30pm WMA	5	6 Choir 7pm Youth Group 7-8:30pm	7 7pm Property Team	8	9 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am
10 Worship 9am Civic Life & Faith Study 10:15am Church of the Good Shepherd 11am-2pm	11	12 7pm Admin Team	13 Choir 7pm Confirmation 7-8:30pm	14  Women's Bible Study 9:30am	15 SPAS Synod Assembly	16 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am SPAS Synod Assembly
17 New Member Worship 9am Civic Life & Faith Study 10:15am	18 Begin dropping off donations for Rummage Sale. 7pm Fellowship	19 7pm Church Council	20 Youth Group/Confirmation Party 6-8 pm	21  Trumpet Deadline	22	23 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am
24 Pentecost Worship 9am Civic Life & Faith Study 10:15am	25  MEMORIAL DAY	26 Rummage Sale Set Up  Family Shelter Meal 4:30pm	27 Rummage Sale Set Up	28 Rummage Sale	29 Rummage Sale	30 7am Bread Ministry KHB 9am
31 Worship 9am						