



# THE TRUMPET

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

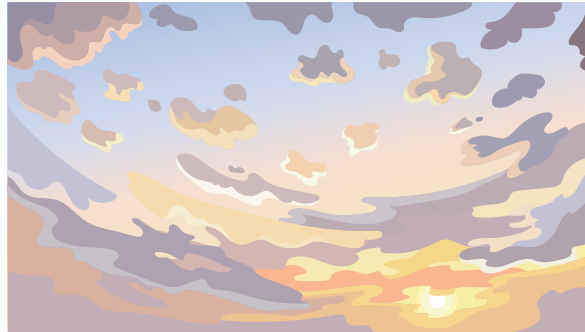
## PASTOR'S CORNER

*“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.”*  
- Luke 1:78

Good-bye 2024! Hello 2025!

We have been blessed as a community this year. We've come together to share God's grace and continued to put our trust in a God who provides in ways we could not anticipate. We've managed our church building – redoing windows in the sanctuary, removing trees, and refreshing the children and youth spaces with new seating. God continues to provide for us – we've shared God's grace through worship, music, and faith formation activities. Our Council has made faithful decisions to lead us forward in faith, stewarding the resources we have been blessed with. The Endowment Team continues to give away four percent of our endowment, focusing on a variety of organizations, from supporting future seminary students at Luther Seminary, scholarships for students in Maisiwe, the Christ Recovery Center, our next door neighbor Birch Lake Elementary School PTA, Shobi's Table, and the White Bear Food Shelf.

We are living into our calling as people of faith. I am grateful for the support from congregation members, Council leaders, and our community. We are all church together because of your commitment to God, to CTK, and to one another. We've begun to discern where God is leading us as a congregation through a series of one-to-one conversations this summer and will be evaluating the data early this year to see what



commonalities come out of it. The process of discern God's call can take time, but we are confident that God continues to call us to be a place where God's grace is shared in our community.

We could not be church together without you. Every one at CTK has an

important role to play as the body of Christ. There are so many ways to participate in the life of the church here at CTK: singing in the choir, participating in worship, growing in faith through Bible study, Confirmation, or Sunday School, joining the prayer chain, serving on a ministry team, and more. It is only through your prayers and commitment to CTK through giving of your time, service, and financial support that we will thrive as a congregation going forward into 2025! We could not be church without you.

As we enter into 2025, I invite you to pray “A Prayer for New Year's Eve” from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

Eternal God, you have placed us in a world of space and time, and through the events of our lives you bless us with your love. Grant that in the new year we may know your presence, see your love at work, and live in the light of the event that gives us joy forever - the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Blessings on this new year!

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.

## JANUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### SUNDAYS

#### JANUARY 5

Second Sunday  
of Christmas

*Isaiah 43:16-21*  
*Psalms 147:12-20*  
*Matthew 2:1-12*

“The Road  
Isn’t Straight”

**9am Worship**  
Organ / Communion

#### JANUARY 12

Baptism of  
Our Lord

*Isaiah 43:1-7*  
*Psalms 29*  
*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

“This is my Son,  
the Beloved”

**9am Worship**  
KHB / Communion

#### JANUARY 19

Second Sunday  
After Epiphany

*Isaiah 62:1-5*  
*Psalms 36:5-10*  
*John 2:1-11*

“Tast and see that  
the Lord is good.”

**9am Worship**  
Organ / Communion

#### JANUARY 26

Third Sunday  
After Epiphany

*Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10*  
*Psalms 19*  
*Luke 4:14-21*

“Glimpse the glory  
of God”

**9am Worship**  
KHB / Communion

### THURSDAY

#### JANUARY 16

Women’s  
Bible Study

January’s Study  
is titled,  
“Faithfulness in  
These Days:  
Ruth and Naomi.”

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

## INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES



### Epiphany Fair

Prepare to celebrate Epiphany on **January 5** at 10:15am in the Sunday School room with a fun morning learning about the Wise Men. We’ll study the Bible together, learn about chalking the door to mark the new year, and enjoy a King Cake to celebrate. Who will find the baby Jesus? You have to come to find out!

### Mission Trip Conversation

Join us in the Confirmation Room on **January 26** after worship to learn about an intergenerational mission trip for summer 2025. We are hoping to discuss dates for a trip in July to Duluth. The trip would focus on community building and service together. All are welcome to learn more!



# January

## WORSHIP LEADERS

|      | AV              | ALTAR GUILD       | LAM   | READER | USHERS          | COMMUNION       | ACOLYTE |
|------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1.5  | Craig / Trip    | Karen / Becky     | Mike  | Polly  | Mike / Michele  | Ann / Wendy     | Levi    |
| 1.12 | Jason / Brianna | Connie / Peggy    | Bea   | Mike   | Scott / Carol   | Hannah / Thomas |         |
| 1.19 | Janelle / Mike  | Ann / Kathy       | Lee   | Howard | Mike / Peggy    | Wendy / Wayne   |         |
| 1.26 | Janelle / Mike  | Cathy / Stephanie | Cyndi | Mike   | Scott / Michele | Polly / Howard  |         |

**Hospitality:** Corinne Erlandson, Matt & Laura Schleede, Sally Hesse, Polly Morrison

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

## DEVOTION

### Service in Love

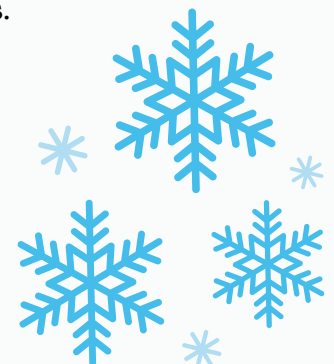
One of the things I enjoy about Advent is that it is the first time in the church year when we hear the Virgin Mary’s Magnificat, where she reflects on God’s love in service:

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has

helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” Luke 1:46b-55.

In my recent course, “Thinking Theologically, Confessing Publicly,” one of my texts highlighted Mary’s selfless service to God in reflecting God’s love for her, and Joseph’s dedication to her. I also think Mother Teresa put it perfectly when she said, “If you judge people, you have no time to love them.” She also said, “It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters.” Mary and Mother Teresa are great examples of individuals who served in God’s love. Our service in love matters.

Prayerfully in Christ,  
Michael Stepan



# COMING SOON

## YOUTH & FAMILY

Hello from the Youth Group!

We had a fun time in Youth Group December! We met on December 11th for our regular meeting where we practiced for the Christmas program (Thanks Erica!) and solved a minute mystery! We finished by playing a game of Uno.

Several of the youth helped out with the Christmas program to fill available roles and speaking parts! They all did so well!

We finished the year by joining with confirmation for a Christmas party! We enjoyed some pizza, exchanged gifts, played some games, and watched some Christmas movies! Everyone had a great time and I'm so thankful to lead the youth this half of the year.

We will meet a couple of times in January after a brief recess for Christmas and New Years. Here's our schedule for January:

**January 8th:** Confirmation led by Hannah and Thomas

**January 15th:** Youth Group (activity TBD)

**January 22nd:** Confirmation with Pr. Rebecca

**January 26th:** Mission Trip Interest Meeting

**January 29th:** Youth Group - Exploring Prayer Practices

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

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## JUSTmove Lock-in – January 19-20

All youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to a justice themed, faith-filled lock-in for all. There will be a JUSTmove presentation, inflatables, games, dinner, and more. Lock-in is at Woodlake Lutheran Church in Richfield from 1 pm on Sunday, January 19 until 7 am on Monday, January 20. Pastor Rebecca or Hannah have registration forms for any youth interested in attending. Registration is due by Wednesday, January 8.

## ADVENT / CHRISTMAS

Thank you!

Many thanks to all who made our Advent and Christmas season a memorable one at CTK! We shared a lot of Christmas spirit in 2024 and we give thanks for:

- All who decorated the church and sanctuary, especially the Altar Guild, the Fellowship Team, and Craig Carlson, Jason Clapper, and Trip Sullivan who put up the tree and star
- All who participated in "Dear Diary" our Christmas program – especially Erica Johnson for organizing the script and rehearsing with the youth, all our participants who made the characters come to life, John Murray, Lily Johnson, Alex Johnson, Lily Schleede, Jack Sullivan, Elise Schleede, Brianna Clapper, Levi Sullivan, Hannah Grove and Julia Clapper, and all the congregation members who took on character roles
- The families who volunteered to light the candles on our Advent wreath
- Everyone who helped support ELCA Good Gifts and Shobi's Table by participating in the Giving Tree
- All the wonderful musical offerings on Christmas Eve, the Joyful Noise Bell Choir, the King's Choir, and the King's Brass who helped make the service joyful
- Our wonderful music leaders Lyn Campbell and Betsy Murray for leading the choirs and brass to make our music festive
- Elida Olson's work to create quilt square kits and all who made squares for our bulletin board
- Our church administrator Linda Stasieluk for preparing all the bulletins and powerpoints to make our worship flow smoothly
- The leaders of our Lessons and Laughter service Mike Stepan and Lee Wood for leading the congregation in an interactive and fun post-Christmas worship service
- A big thanks to all who invited friends and family to worship during the Christmas season to share the amazing story of Jesus' birth!

# UPDATES

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Council Corner

The council initiatives during the holiday season have taken a back seat to the activities and excitement of the season. Assembling the information from the one-to-one conversations were put on hold until next year. The sound system project is waiting for information from a sound engineering company before bringing the project to the congregation, hopefully, at the annual meeting. Good news though, the rotten sills in the sanctuary windows were repaired.

The council also did some end of the year, routine business. To stay in the good graces of the IRS, the council approved the pastor's housing allowance for 2025. The council also set the date for the annual meeting as February 2, 2025. This will be formally communicated to the congregation in a couple of weeks in accordance with the by-laws.

Finally, two big end of the year thank yous. First, member giving has remained strong the entire year, so, thank you for your dedication to supporting CTK's ministries. Second, we've received 46 pledges, slightly fewer than last year, with an average pledge increase of approximately 4%. Thank you to those who have pledged so far. If you have yet to turn in a pledge, please consider turning one in. Pledges are very important in our annual budget planning.

In Christ's Service  
Scott Tradup

## ADMIN & FINANCE

### November Financial Report

#### Envelope and online offerings monthly comparison:

01/01/24 through 11/30/24 = \$261,292

01/01/23 through 11/30/23 = \$229,102

#### Expenses Year-To-Date:

01/01/24 through 11/30/24 = \$251,972

01/01/23 through 11/30/23 = \$240,066

#### Cash account balances as of November 30, 2024

##### North Star Bank:

Checking = \$8,502

Savings = \$62,107

Memorial Savings = \$28,826

ELCA Mission Investment Fund = \$56,019

Endowment Fund = \$90,603

Mortgage Balance = \$112,756



## 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.



# JANUARY

## 2025

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