

THE

KING'S HERALD

DECEMBER 2024



CHRIST the KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

As the body of Christ, we are called and sent to love and serve the world.



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The King's Herald is a monthly newsletter of Christ the King Lutheran Church. It can also be found on our website: ctkluth.com/kingsherald

SHINE!



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

—Isaiah 9:2b

A plant in our kitchen gradually but obviously grows toward the glass-paneled patio door and its eastern exposure sunlight. Particularly at this time of the year, I feel a certain kinship with this plant.

If you're like I am, the darkness works on you. I know we have plenty of neon to light our way, but there is something about the later mornings and the early evenings that makes Isaiah's words particularly meaningful. In this part of the world and at this time of the year, the metaphor of light and darkness is a powerful one.

Some age-old metaphors need to be explained because time, circumstance, and culture have changed since something was written or painted. Not this one. It doesn't take much imagination to realize that darkness symbolizes the struggle, heartache, and hopelessness with which we are entirely too familiar. It is also not much of a leap to recognize that the biblical writers use light to symbolize Jesus the Christ. As the December nights grow longer and darkness surrounds us, we are reminded that the one who is light...the one who pushes back our darkness... is on his way.

One way to focus on the impending light is by lighting candles on a wreath. Called an Advent wreath, this symbol has been used for centuries to count down the days until the darkness is pushed back and the light returns. Whether it's a wreath on your kitchen table or in our sanctuary, this year let's pay particular attention to the hope, peace, joy, and love that each candle represents and that the growing light brings.

As each successive candle is lit and our dark days are pushed back once again, may the growing light of the season fill you with hope, peace, joy, and love. May you, in turn, let your light so shine. In ways forever ancient and always new, our world needs it.

In the same way, let your light so shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

—Matthew 5:16



Christmas Eve Worship at Christ the King

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 + 4 pm

This contemporary, family-focused worship service includes traditional music of the season and features musical offerings from *Xalt!* This service also includes Holy Communion and the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 + 6 pm

This traditional worship service includes seasonal hymns and carols and features choral music from the Sanctuary Choir. This service also includes Holy Communion and the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight.

All are welcome to join the choir at the front of the church at the end of the service for the singing of Handel's *Hallelujah* chorus! Music is provided.

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 + 8 pm

This traditional worship service includes seasonal hymns and carols and features special music from the Alleluia Ringers, including an arrangement of the beloved "Carol of the Bells." This service also includes Holy Communion and the singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight.

*We look forward to welcoming you and your loved ones to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.
All are welcome!*

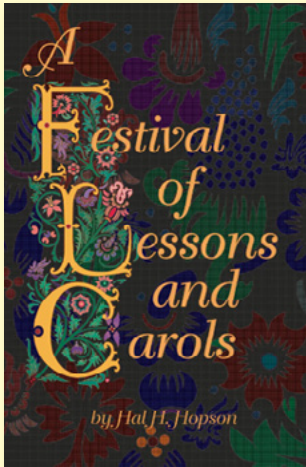
Poinsettia Order Forms Now Available



Help us decorate CtK for Christmas! All are invited to purchase poinsettias that will be displayed in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve. The flowers will be available for you to take home after the 8 pm service on December 24. The cost is \$7.50 per pot (3-6 blooms).

At Christmas, many people also enjoy donating to the ELCA Good Gifts program. In lieu of poinsettias, you may donate money to the ELCA to be used where help is most needed. A list of donors and those honored and remembered will be available in the worship folders on Christmas Eve.

The deadline for ordering flowers is **Sunday, December 8**. You may continue to donate to ELCA Good Gifts after the flower deadline. Order forms are available in the narthex and online at ctkluth.com/poinsettias.



Sights and Sounds of the Season

Sunday, December 15 • 4 pm

For this year's **Sights and Sounds of the Season**, CtK musicians will sing (and ring!) Hal Hopson's cantata ***A Festival of Lessons and Carols***.

This work features scripture readings and plenty of opportunities to join in singing the hymns and carols of the season, including "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Comfort, Comfort, O My People," "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice," "Angels We Have Heard on High," and "Joy to the World."

Please join us on **Sunday, December 15, 2024**, at **4 pm** in the sanctuary. A dessert and hors d'oeuvres reception will follow in the narthex.

Second Half Adventurers

Wednesday, December 11

Join the **Second Half Adventurers** at the Clay Firehouse Campus on **Wednesday, December 11**. We'll gather from **11:30 am–1 pm** for lunch, fellowship, and a special Christmas presentation by the Solid Silver Dancers that is sure to bring joy and delight to the holiday season.

Lunch is available for \$10 for those who pre-register. To learn more and sign up, please visit ctkluth.com/events.



Advent Devotionals Now Available

Free copies of *Good News, Great Joy*, the 2024 Advent devotional published by Augsburg Fortress, are now available at CtK.

Pick up your copy from the basket in the narthex or the front office vestibule. Both regular and large-print editions are available, but supplies are limited!

Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 29 • 10 am

Please note that CtK will offer **only one worship service** on **Sunday, December 29**. Join us at **10 am** for a service of lessons and carols featuring congregational singing, special music, one last reading of the Christmas story, and Holy Communion. The service will also be livestreamed at ctkluth.com/worship.



Silvertones Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 8 • 7 pm



Join the **Silvertones** at CtK on **Sunday, December 8**, at **7 pm** for *Sing Noel! Carols Old and New*, a musical celebration of joy, fun, friendship, and the One who changed everything. Admission is free and all are welcome!

Silvertones is the resident glee club of Forever Learning Institute. Founded in 2016 with only eight members, the group now consists of more than 40 senior singers over the age of 50. Maretta Hershberger directs the group, and Beverly Butler is their accompanist.

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15 • 2–4 pm

Middle and high school students: Mark your calendars for the annual **youth Christmas party!** Come decorate cookies, enjoy a hot chocolate bar, and (back by popular demand) participate in a white elephant gift exchange. Please do not spend more than \$15 on the gift.

Feel free to bring friends, and get ready to get festive! Following the party, stay for CtK's annual Sights and Sounds of the Season program.



Kids' Christmas Party and "Sights and Sounds"

Sunday, December 15



Mark your calendars for two family-friendly events on **Sunday, December 15!**

First, the **children's Christmas party** returns this year! All kids are welcome to join us in Van Oort Hall at **10:30 am** for crafts, snacks, games, and fun! (Note that we are holding this event in lieu of traditional Sunday school classes.)

Later that day, all are welcome for the annual **"Sights and Sounds of the Season"** service of lessons and carols, starting at **4 pm**. Kids will be invited to help lead the church in the first hymn of the evening ("O Come All Ye Faithful"), so we would love for your family to join us! Be sure to stick around after the service for a dessert and hors d'oeuvres reception in the narthex.

LOVING & SERVING

With Gratitude for Your Generosity

Thank you, CtK, for your generous support of several donation drives in recent weeks, including the following:

- **Thanksgiving Food Bags:** With your help, CtK donated 60 bags to the Clay Food Pantry Thanksgiving Bag program.
- **Angel Tree:** Thanks to your support, CtK was able to bring holiday joy to over 200 people served by 10 different organizations in our community.

The Community Missions Committee extends our gratitude for your support!



Hat and Mitten Drive

CtK is collecting hats, mittens, and gloves for **Broadway Christian Parish**, who will distribute them to unhoused individuals in the Michiana community. There will be a collection box in the narthex from **Sunday, December 8**, through **Sunday, December 29**.

Thank you in advance for helping keep others warm!

RaiseRight: Get Your Christmas Shopping Done

RaiseRight provides the opportunity to order gift cards for yourself and others, allowing you to shop the brands you love while helping support our local community missions.

As you contemplate what to give people this holiday season, please consider giving gift cards and supporting CtK missions at the same time! Gift cards are a great option for teachers, service providers, and friends and family near and far!

Stop by the RaiseRight table in the narthex between services on **Sunday, December 8**, to place your gift card order. Any orders placed by noon on Monday, December 9, will be available for pick up on Sunday, December 15.



Due to many requests, the Community Missions Committee will sell gift cards on the first Sunday of each month in 2025.

GriefShare: New Session Begins February 18

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.



CtK's next GriefShare session will be held **in person** at the church and will meet on **Tuesdays** from **10 am to noon**. The first meeting of the session will be on **February 18**, and the last will be on **May 13**. Please share this information with anyone you know who is struggling with grief. You can register for the upcoming session at ctkluth.com/griefshare.

You're Invited to the CtK Movie Club

Join the **CtK Movie Club** for casual conversation about how films can shape the way we see the world and help us better understand our place in it.

On **Saturday, December 14**, we'll gather to discuss **White Christmas** (1954, directed by Michael Curtiz). Join us at **10 am** in Room 502/504 for a closer look at this holiday classic! Email Josh Weinhold (josh.weinhold@gmail.com) to learn more.



New Adult Class: Reading Luke in Context

Pastor Gary Hilfiger's Old Testament study has been such a success that he's offered to lead another class! Starting this January, please join us for "**Reading Luke in Context**," to be held in Room 502/504 from **10:30 to 11:10 am** on **Sunday mornings**.



The gospel of Luke does not stand alone; it is a part of the New Testament, which is part of the larger record of God's action in the world, the Bible. As far as we know, Luke never met Jesus, but he saw Jesus in the ministry of Paul and then researched for himself, talking to many people who had known Jesus. Especially evident is what Luke learned from Mary, the mother of our Lord.

Knowing this background—as well as understanding that Jesus's ministry was conducted in a largely Jewish area controlled by Rome—helps us better read Luke in context. There is a lot left unspoken! Join us on Sunday mornings to learn more.

Trivia Night on February 28

Save the date for another great **CtK Trivia Night** on **Friday, February 28**! Start organizing your team and get ready to give your brain a workout! Proceeds go toward the youth trip fund.



HAPPENING @ CtK

Coming Soon: CtK Annual Meeting

January will be here before you know it, which means **CtK's annual meeting** of the congregation is just around the corner. The meeting will be held at **12:45 pm** on **Sunday, January 26**. Watch for additional details in January's *King's Herald*.

Speaking of the annual meeting, please note that all committee annual reports should be submitted to the church office on or before **January 5**. Thank you!



Men's Study Group Schedule Change

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Men's Study Group will **not** meet on Thursday, November 28. The group will gather on **December 5** and **December 19**, then resume its regular schedule on **January 9, 2025**.

YOUTH & FAMILIES



Upcoming Sunday School Schedule Changes

Please note that we will **NOT** have children's Sunday school classes on **December 22** or **December 29**, as many of our teachers and families will be out of town for the holidays. We will return to our regular class schedule on **Sunday, January 5**.

Youth Trips Registration Deadline

Youth families, remember to submit registration forms for any kids who plan to attend either the **Quake event** in Chicago (from Friday, January 31, through Sunday, February 2) or the **summer trip to Gatlinburg** (from Wednesday, June 18, through Sunday, June 22).

All registration forms are due to Jill Harms by Sunday, December 8.



**SUNDAY
NIGHT LIVE**

Save the Date for SNL!

Middle school families: Mark your calendars for **Sunday Night Live!** Our final meeting of 2024 will be on **December 8**, and our first meeting of 2025 will take place on **January 12**. As always, we'll gather from **5-6:30 pm** at CtK. See you there!

MUSIC MINISTRY

CtK Musicians' Rehearsal Schedule *Late 2024—Early 2025*

Saturday, December 14, 2024 + 12–3 pm

Dress rehearsal for Sights & Sounds (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 15, 2024 + 4 pm

Musicians are called at 3 pm

Sights & Sounds of the Season worship service (Sanctuary)

Wednesday & Thursday + December 18 & 19, 2024

Regular Choir, Handbell, and *Xalt!* rehearsals

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 + Christmas Eve Worship

3 pm *Xalt!* warmup + 4 pm contemporary worship

5 pm Sanctuary Choir warmup + 6 pm traditional worship

7 pm Alleluia Ringers warmup + 8 pm traditional worship

Wednesday & Thursday + December 25 & 26, 2024

No rehearsals! Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 29, 2024 + 10 am

No Choir or Handbells this morning!

There will be one worship service at 10 am featuring traditional Lessons and Carols.

Wednesday & Thursday + January 1 & 2, 2025

No rehearsals! Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 5, 2025

No Choir or Bells this morning!

Xalt! provides worship music for 9:30 am service.

Wednesday & Thursday + January 8 & 9, 2025

No Choir or Handbell rehearsals.

Xalt! will rehearse on Thursday, January 9, at 7 pm. (Note the time change!)

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

First Choir rehearsal of 2025 at 7 pm.

Thursday, January 16, 2025

First Handbell rehearsal of 2025 at 6 pm.

Xalt! rehearsal at 7:30 pm. (Back to regular rehearsal time!)

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Trinity Memorial Garden Price Change

The cost of niches at **Trinity Memorial Garden** will increase effective **January 1, 2025**. Now is your chance to get a columbarium niche at 2024 prices. If interested, contact the CtK office or one of the columbarium board members (Tricia Burns, Nancy Seng, Michele Jensen, or Glenn Jensen).



	2024 Price	2025 Price
Single niche	\$2,000	\$2,200
Double niche	\$2,500	\$2,800
Ash garden	\$1,000	\$1,000

Christmas Wreath at Trinity Memorial Garden

This Christmas season, please take a moment to pause and reflect at CtK's Trinity Memorial Garden. While there, you'll notice a wreath crafted with several symbols of the season:

- **Wreath:** The wreath is in the shape of a circle, which has no beginning and no end—a symbol of eternal life.
- **Greens:** The wreath is made of greens, reminding us that our Lord is the Creator and Sustainer of Life.
- **Bow:** White symbolizes purity and righteousness. In death, God washes away our impurities and welcomes us to live with Him.
- **Three silver bells:** It's Trinity Memorial Garden, after all!
- **Pine cones:** The cones are seed pods, reminding us that God's plan provides for the continuation and propagation of life.
- **Holly berries:** As we celebrate the birth of Jesus during the Christmas season, the red berries remind us that Jesus came to live among us and to shed His blood for our salvation.



BUILDING BEYOND

Building Beyond Intent Update

We are grateful for you and for your generosity toward this year's **Building Beyond** campaign! As of Sunday, November 24, we have received 123 intent cards toward our goal of 150. Remember, once we reach 150 completed intent cards, a generous challenge gift of \$50,000 will be received!

- These intent cards indicate a total of \$477,332 toward our goal of approximately \$750,000 for our general operating fund in 2025.
- The cards also indicate a total of \$1,239,558 toward our Building Beyond capital fund goal of \$1,285,000. We are 96% of the way there!

If you haven't yet completed an intent card, you can still help us reach our goals! Please contact Chuck Trundle at finsec@ctkluth.com or mail or drop off a completed card as soon as possible. Every gift is meaningful, and every gift matters.



CtK FINANCIAL UPDATE

FINANCIAL GIVING STATEMENT: OCTOBER 2024

Summary of Receipts	October	YTD
Envelopes/Loose Offering	\$ 55,942	\$ 592,578
Other Income	\$ 1,034	\$ 13,641
Missional Projects	\$ 5,306	\$ 53,622
Miscellaneous Funds	\$ 1,305	\$ 73,734
Total Receipts	\$ 63,587	\$ 733,575
Income and Expenses	October	YTD
Income (Envelopes/Loose & Other)	\$ 56,976	\$ 606,219
Expenditures	\$ 58,714	\$ 604,740
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (1,739)	\$ 1,479
Loose Offering	October	YTD
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$ 2,431	\$ 10,685
No 5th Sunday this month	\$ —	\$ 1,424
ELCA Benevolence (10% of Offering)	October	YTD
10% of Offering	\$ 5,594	\$ 59,258

*Envelopes/Loose total includes the \$1,424 (YTD) 5th Sunday offering for the General Fund.
Missional Projects total includes the \$2,431 October loose offering for Lutheran Disaster Response.*

CHRIST the KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

17195 Cleveland Road
South Bend, IN 46635

*A congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America
"God's Work. Our Hands."*

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is part of every
Sunday morning worship service.
Distribution varies as described below.

Office Hours

10 am - 4 pm
Monday through Friday
Phone: (574) 272.4306

Seasons Counseling Center

(574) 277.0274

Executive Director

Alexandra Sobieski

Director of Operations

Deborah Campoli

Business Director

Don Zerfas

Professional counselors available by appointment.



"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Isaiah 43:19a



WEEKLY WORSHIP

Sundays at 8:15 am: Traditional worship led by organ and/or piano, including the Sanctuary Choir or Alleluia! Ringers, and Holy Communion distributed around the altar with bread and wine (gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available).

Sundays at 9:30 am: Contemporary worship led by Xalt!, this service is family-friendly but speaks to people of all ages. Holy Communion is celebrated by station with bread and wine (gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available).

Sundays at 11:15 am: Traditional worship led by organ and/or piano, including the Sanctuary Choir or Alleluia! Ringers, a Young People's Message, and Holy Communion distributed around the altar with bread and wine (gluten-free wafers and grape juice are also available).

Worship on the Web: Join us each Sunday at 11:15 am for the livestream, or access the recorded 11:15 am worship service any time during the week. Visit www.ctkluth.com/worship to find a worship video, the worship folder for Sunday's service, and an online donation link to continue your tradition of giving at worship.