

CHRIST THE KING
LUTHERAN CHURCH

King's Chronicles

Inside this issue:

Divine Worship	2
Sunday School Christmas Program/Youth Group News/ Official Acts	3
Confirmation Instruction/Bible Study/News Briefs	4
Preschool Happenings	5
Stewardship	6

Christmas Is:

"The Word became flesh and lived among us." John 1:14

The truth that the prophets foretold and the truth proclaimed in the Christmas Gospel is that Jesus Christ, Son of God and our Savior became human and lived among us. This, in a sentence, IS CHRISTMAS! You and I can never believe this teaching from God by our own human understanding. We hold to it because God's Word produces faith in us to trust that Jesus Christ our Lord is truly God and man. Jesus is true God. He had to be divine to fulfill the promise God the Father made through His prophets to send us a perfect Redeemer from sin. No sinful, human could effect that! If however Jesus is not God, we are lost and there is no real Christmas, for what good would Christ's birth, suffering and death be for us if He were only human? He would have been too weak and totally unable to help us. But so that we would know and believe that Jesus IS God, two times the Father spoke from heaven saying about Jesus: "This IS My Son, My Beloved, listen to Him!"

On the other hand, our Lord Jesus also HAD to be truly human and take on flesh so the

results of His saving work could be made effective for us sinners who live and die in human form. God's plan was that He would give us grace and life eternal through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus IN THE FLESH. If Jesus is not divine and human, we are lost...for His birth, suffering and death would have not have worked to overpower sin, death and the devil for us who are in the flesh.

Christmas is about God the Father lovingly, mercifully and graciously sending His Gift of a Savior to us, One Who is fully God and fully man. Jesus Christ, the Christmas child perfectly fulfills the Father's requirements to forgive our sins and bring us salvation.

We at Christ the King wish you a blessed Christmas as we gather together in faith to celebrate the saving truth of Christ's two natures!

Rejoicing this Christmastide with you,

Pastor Boelter

Sunday Worship During Advent

Our services begin each Sunday with the lighting of our Advent Wreath. We will also prepare for our Lord's Coming through a special sermon series on Sundays entitled "Keeping Watch."

Sunday December 3: "Watching for the Messiah." We keep watch for Jesus as we wait with the people of Israel, who spent centuries waiting for the promised Messiah to come. We also wait this Sunday with the priest Zechariah whose son John the Baptizer would prepare the way for Jesus.

Sunday December 10: We keep watch for Jesus as we "Watch for the Child", and wait with Mary for the little child to come and lead God's people.

Sunday December 17: At our early (8:15) Divine service on this Sunday, we keep watch for Jesus as we "Watch for the Lamb." We wait with the Prophet Malachi of old and with John the Baptizer, who waited to see the Lamb of God Who came to take away the sins of the world.

At our 10:45 A.M. Service on December 17th, our Sunday School Children will present their Christmas worship service, and sing with joy at our Savior's Birth.

Sunday December 24. ONE MORNING SERVICE: 10:45 A.M. With Holy Communion.

On this Sunday morning prior to Christmas, we gather for the 4th Sunday in Advent and keep watch as we wait with the Prophet Daniel and the heavenly angels who are looking for signs of a Savior Who will bring peace to our troubled lives.

Sunday, December 31st. ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:45 A.M. On this Sunday after Christmas, we will gather at Christ the King to celebrate New Year's, and gather around God's Word for the strength we need for the tasks of a New Year, and to look back with thankfulness for the blessings of 2017.

Divine Worship

Sunday Worship
8:15am & 10:45am

Holy Communion
1st & 3rd Sunday
8:15am
2nd & 4th Sunday
10:45am

Monday Worship
7:00pm
2nd & 4th Mondays of
the month

We continue to spread the Good News of Christ at Sunrise Assisted Living, Brys/Mack on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 10:30 A.M.

We hold a simple Divine Service of the Word and Prayer with our friends, the staff and residents. You are most cordially invited to come and participate in this outreach ministry to our community. Our friends at Sunrise genuinely appreciate the ministry we have provided, and warmly welcome us and appreciate hearing God's Word.

Advent Worship

Join us as we gather for special services this year to prepare our hearts for the Coming of our Savior Jesus this Christmas and at the Last Day. We will hold morning and evening services again this year **each Wednesday (Dec 6, 13, and 20) at 11:15 A.M. and at 7:00 P.M.**

Our 2017 Advent Theme for our Wednesday Divine Services is: "Together in Advent." In these three special services, our theme is based on Psalm 106:47: "Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to Your holy name and glory in Your praise." Each week we will focus on a different aspect of our Christmas preparation, and by God's Word and Spirit, be strengthened for a life of worship, giving and sharing rather than on material things that do not last. Our sermon series is as follows:

December 6: "Be Present" based on Malachi 3: 1-7.

December 13 "Send Peace" based on Micah 5: 2-5a.

December 20 "Share Joy" based on Zephaniah 3: 14-20.

Join us for our special services, which each focus on a different activity of our seasonal "to do" list. Each service lasts approximately 30-40 minutes.

Advent Dinners

Will be held on **Wednesday evenings from 5:30 P.M. to 6:45.**

Our First Dinner will be held December 3rd as usual, in our Church Library and will be sponsored by the Youth Group and their parents.

Our Second Advent Dinner will be quite special. We will join Pastor Jim Rizer and the members of Living Hope Church, who have been renting educational space here at Christ the King on Wednesday evenings when our Sunday School rooms have not been in use in CTK's program. Living Hope gathers each Wednesday for a dinner in our Large Auditorium prior to breaking for their evening Bible Classes. The two congregations will meet for fellowship and dinner on Wednesday December 13th prior to Christ the King departing for worship at 7, and members of Living Hope breaking for Bible Classes downstairs. We are most happy to share an Advent meal together, and to live with faith in Christ as God's people, each congregation waiting in expectation of Jesus' return at His Second Advent!

The final Advent Dinner will be held December 20th ...again as usual in our Church Library. Menu is tentatively baked chicken, potatoes, vegetables and desserts.

Our Advent Dinners are designed to provide fellowship for our congregation, and a way to enjoy a good dinner after a long day of work. Dinners conclude promptly at 6:45 in preparation for worship at 7:00 P.M. Plan to join us!

Christmas Services

Our Worship Services are always special and beautiful here at Christ the King on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Our Christmas Eve Service this year is entitled : "Be the Light," based of course on the birth of our Savior, Who Himself is "The Light of the World." Come and celebrate the light and life Jesus brings to our lives and to our world as the Christmas Child, Son of God and our Savior! **Our Christmas Eve Services are held at 5 PM and 10 PM on December 24th. The 5 PM Service will include the Sacrament of the Altar. Our Senior Choir will grace our 10:00 P.M. Service.** If you are inviting family members and friends, please share our communion practice with them beforehand, so that they understand our practice of Close Communion and our understanding of the Real Presence of Christ's Holy Body and Blood. We look forward to singing our favorite Christmas hymns in a narrative service format, and we look forward to the wonderful music that Mr. Bruce Slinger and our Senior Choir present in worship each Christmas!

NOTE: There will be ONLY ONE DIVINE SERVICE HELD CHRISTMAS MORNING, December 25th at 10:45 A.M. With Holy Communion.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!

It's time to start preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus! This year's Children's Christmas service takes on a news theme during the 10:45 am service on **Sunday, December 17th**. ALL CHILDREN are invited to participate – from pre-K through Middle School. There will be lots of opportunities for the children to get involved and share their talents. Please mark your calendars now for the following rehearsals:

- Saturday, December 2nd – 9:30 – 11:30 am**
- Saturday, December 9th – 9:30 – 11:30 am**
- Saturday, December 16th – 9:30 – 11:00 am**



We'll be doing some dress-up, videos and photos on each of the first 2 Saturdays above so we'll have some fun and get the children excited about the presentation. Everyone is welcome; if there are any parents or siblings who would like to get involved, even if only singing with us and sharing your support, we welcome your participation. If you have questions, please call the church office.

Youth Group News



December and January Youth Group Happenings

Is it really December?!? Seems impossible - yet it's true! My hope is that our very capable youth group members (and their families) will be setting some time aside to be available to attend and/or help out with the many activities we have on the CtK Calendar. We will have baked cookies the last week of November to contribute to the Judelaires Concert Afterglow – Plans are also underway to coordinate a youth group sponsored Advent dinner – mark your calendars for Wednesday December 6th! Many of our kids will also be assisting with our Living Nativity on the 10th as readers, kitchen helpers and costume assistants...please plan on staying after church or coming back between 12:30 and 3:30 to join us for caroling, cookies and cocoa – no better way to get into the Christmas spirit!

Starting January 10th, 7:00-8:30pm—Wednesday Youth Group Fun Nights at St. Paul's with Pastor Rutter will resume. Group game, Bible Study, and a snack. Good times!

January 15th—MLK Day—the kids will be off of school and I am looking into some interesting options to keep them busy. More details to follow in the New Year.

January 26th—A Friday Evening with Marty & Company—7:00-10:00pm. Marty, wife Noelle, and sister Holly (all equally dynamic and talented) will be with us for another evening of fun and games, music, and a relatable youth message. Dinner will be served!

Looking forward to another great year with our kids!

Official Acts

The following acts were performed or are scheduled to be performed by your Pastor on behalf of the congregation:

Christian Burial

Helen Pippin, born May 5, 1923, died in the Lord at Sunrise, Shelby Township on November 8, 2017. Burial: Cadillac Memorial Gardens East, Clinton Township, MI on Saturday, November 9, 2017. Pastor Boelter officiating. Text: Matthew 17:22.

Funeral

Erna Adrian, born November 30, 1929, died in the Lord at St. John Hospital on November 7, 2017. Memorial Service held at Christ the King on Monday, November 27, 2017. Cremation. Interment: at a later time. Pastor Boelter officiating. Text: Isaiah 66:13.

To Be Baptized

Trent Luther Garrett, son of Matthew Garrett and Jessica ne'e Strobbe Garrett, born July 26, 2017; to be baptized Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 10:45 A.M. Baptismal sponsors: Stephen and Dawn Wend. Pastor Boelter to officiate.

Confirmation Instruction

Confirmation Instruction begins again Tuesday, January 2nd. Present students who have completed Levels I and II will move forward to Levels II and III. New Level One Students will begin at this time. If you wish to enroll your child in our confirmation program, please call the Church office this December and indicate your desire. Level II meets with Pastor Boelter from 5:30 - 6:15 P.M. A light dinner is held from 6:15-6:30 with fellowship and games provided by Nancy Josefiak, our Youth Director. Classes for Level I and III Students begin promptly at 6:30 and run until 7:30. Mrs. Jan Ropes teaches our Level I Class which covers the basics of the Word of God, the 10 Commandments, the Creed and Lord's Prayer as well as the Books of the Bible. Also included in this first year of study are Christian Church History and in particular, Lutheran Church History. Level II, taught by Pastor Boelter, includes further Study on the Commandments, the Creed and Holy Baptism. Level III also taught by Pastor Boelter, completes the study of the 6 Chief Parts of Christian doctrine with a study on The Office of the Keys, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Communion and Worship.

A preliminary meeting is planned for parents in our program-both present and new to the program on Thursday evening, December 7th at 6 PM in the Conference Room. We ask all parents who are planning to have their children participate in 2018 join us for this important meeting.

News Briefs

Congratulations to Jean Azar Christ the King's Woman of the Year. Jean will be honored March 20, 2018 at the Council of Lutheran Women Luncheon at Wyndham Garden, Sterling Heights. Tickets will be available in January.

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Mornings - On December 3rd, we will begin a four-week study called "Justifying Christmas" in our Sunday morning Bible Class held each Sunday at 9:30 A.M. This Bible Study Series is not about us believers justifying our celebration of Christmas, rather, it is a study about how the teaching of Justification by Grace through Faith is brought forth in the Advent and Christmas narratives as God brought His saving plan to pass in the birth of Christ.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class - continues its verse by verse study of the Book of Hebrews every class beginning at 10:00 A.M. All are welcome to join us in the study of this Book of the Bible with its every so timely message for the Church and our individual lives.

NO Bible Class will be held Sunday, December 31st!
NO Wednesday Morning Bible Class on December 20 and 27.

Women's Guild Luncheon

Come join the Guild on December 12, 2017 at 11:30 A.M. at Ram's Horn on 9 Mile Road and Jefferson. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Please make reservations by December 10, 2017 with Judy Champine. Everyone is welcome!

Preschool Happenings



Our Classrooms The school year continues to move quickly forward and we enjoy each new month and the fun it brings! Our preschoolers spend their days enjoying Jesus Time, free play, circle time, centers, gym, handwriting, letter days, stories, projects, and so much more. In the month of December the 3's focus on learning their shapes while the 4's review their shapes. All classes focus on Jesus' birthday and the Christmas story. In January, we focus on winter themes involving snow, snowmen, penguins, and polar bears. During December many of our preschoolers enjoy getting involved with our Living Nativity and we love our Baby Jesus' Birthday Parties!

Preschool Mom's Day Out Program

Please help spread the word – our preschool Mom's Day Out program is back for some "getting ready for the holiday" sessions. We will be offering sessions in the morning and afternoon. All sessions will be on Tuesday's with the morning class from 8:45 – 11:15 and the afternoon class from 12:30 – 3:00 on the dates listed below. Children ages 2-5 are welcome to attend. Cost is \$25/child and \$15 for additional children in the same family. Interested people may sign up by calling the preschool at 313-884-5998; emailing the director at sziegler@christthekinggp.org; or by signing up in the preschool hallway. Please sign up by the Friday before each session to be sure we are properly staffed. The program is led by Delvina Leggett. Dates are as follows:

Dec. 4th Dec. 12th Dec. 19th



Registration and Open House

February marks the time of year when we begin promoting and registering children for our following school year. Watch for dates of our Open House and Registration and please encourage friends and neighbors to attend. Brochures with information about our preschool will be available in mid-January and anyone can go on our website at www.christthekinggp.org and see pictures and information about our fabulous preschool! You can also go to our Facebook page at christthekingppreschool.

Fundraisers

- Thank you to all who participated in our **Savory Foods** cookie dough and popcorn fundraiser. We had on of our best profits ever at \$1193.00.
- Our **Scrip Gift Card** fundraiser has begun. Information can be found at the table in the Welcome Center. All gift card orders are due by December 5th.
- Our **Ram's Horn Holiday Fundraiser** will be on Tuesday, December 12th from 4:00-9:00pm.
- **Little Caesar's Pizza Kits** will be sold from January 8th-23rd with delivery on the 31st. Just in time for the Super Bowl parties!
- Our third annual **Preschool Olympics** will be held on February 6th and 7th. You may choose to sponsor a child for the different Olympic activities they will be doing. More information to come.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT IN OUR MANY FUNDRAISERS!

Stewardship

Remembering Jesus at Christmas

Christmas is the gift-giving season. We make our lists of what we'll give and what we'd like to receive. We gather together with family and friends and exchange those gifts, and we're thankful to receive them and enjoy giving them as well.

Even though in preparation for Christmas our lives are in fast-forward—shopping, attending parties and gatherings, and sending cards—we remember, as Christians, that Jesus is the reason for the season. We're attending Advent services and Sunday worship, and we see the candles being lit every week, culminating in the lighting of the large white candle on Christmas morning. And we rejoice. God has given His Son. God has sent Him into the world to be the only gift we need. Jesus took on our flesh and walked among us, and He willingly laid down His life in order to save our lives for eternity. He gave us the gift of salvation.

So what gifts can we give to Jesus? After all, the earth and everything in it is His (Psalm 24:1). Every animal of the forest and the cattle on a thousand hills belong to Him (Psalm 50:10). What is expected of and from us? The psalmist tells us, *"A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."* (Psalm 51:17)

Let us, then, bring our sins to our Savior. Let us kneel before Him in contrition and allow Him to give us even more gifts—clean hearts and right spirits (Psalm 51:10). Like the Wise Men from the East, let us rejoice *"exceedingly with great joy."* Let us bow down and worship Him and present Him with our gifts (Matthew 2:10-12). Let us also rise up just as the shepherds did on that first Christmas and go on our way, *"glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen"* (Luke 2:20).

In obedience to His command (Matthew 28:19-20) and in response to His great love for us, let us love one another (I John 4:11) by teaching and preaching, baptizing and making disciples, so that others may receive the gift of salvation from the Giver of all good gifts (James 1:17). In doing these things for Jesus and in His name, we remember and praise Him not only at Christmas but all year round.

A Christmas Message

Christians Live for Jesus

How does knowing that Jesus came to us as a babe in a manger, lived among us for over 30 years, suffered and died for your sins and that, through His resurrection, He has conquered death and the devil affect your lifestyle? The motivation for the Apostle Paul's lifestyle can be found in II Corinthians 5:14-15 which reads, *"For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised."*

Out of love for His Father and us, Jesus gave up the glories of Heaven and took on human form on that Christmas morning more than 2,000 years ago. As the Apostle Paul wrote in II Corinthians 8:9, *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich."* Because of His great love for us demonstrated on the cross, we are also motivated, as Paul was, to follow a different and better plan for our lives: God's plan *"For I know the plan I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope"* (Jeremiah 29:11). With the help of the Holy Spirit, we say goodbye to our old lives that were totally focused on what we wanted. With changed hearts, we seek to know and do God's will. We want to please God by serving others and helping all hear about God's love. When we yield to Christ, we experience a shift in the center of our beings. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come"* (II Corinthians 5:17). God restores us into a new sphere of existence. We are recreated into people of faith, who desire to live in and for Him alone. In Christ, the things of the sinful flesh have died, and we live under the Lordship of Christ.