



JANUARY 2025

THE KING'S MESSENGER

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMPHIS, TN

Greetings, CTK family! I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year! Well, with Christmas and the New Year celebrations behind us, that means it's finally official – the year 2025 is here, if you can believe it. If you're like me, you're already looking ahead into 2025 and making all kinds of plans for the year.

One thing I'm sure we've all heard about from friends and family members is making New Year's Resolutions – the goals we make at the beginning of the year to try and better ourselves. Whether it's living healthier, eating better (I always resolve to eat more vegetables!), a new hobby, traveling, etc, they're all goals set to make ourselves better than we were the year before. To reorient ourselves so that we would be a happier and better version of ourselves. These can all be good and noble things to strive for in our lives; after all, who doesn't want to be better! But I'm sure all of us know that New Year's Resolutions don't seem to last. In fact, research shows that the average American gives up on their resolutions just 32 days in. It's easy to look back and see that the same resolutions we made last year didn't last much longer and, more than likely, 2025's will not, either.

We often guilt ourselves far too much when we look back on the past years of our lives. Our mistakes and let-downs stick out far more than the successes and milestones we achieved. Sin sticks out more than God's work in our own minds. But I ask you to take a second or two and really think back on this past year. Look back and see not just the times you would rather forget, but also the good that happened. Maybe you began a new job, became a new parent or spouse, graduated from college, joined the church, celebrated times you had with those who love you – the list could be endless. These are the moments we should remember; these are the times we should look back on, these are the gifts God gave to us just this past year. If you look even farther, you will find more of these moments than you may realize you had.

God knows you and He knows your moments of success. He also knows your failures and mistakes. But God does not tell us to figure it all out or even to understand it all. Solomon's wise words tell us in Proverbs 3:5-6 to "trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight...he will make straight your paths." This is trust that goes beyond just intellect. This is a trust that goes by faith. A faith all of us share as His people. So, yes, last year had some rocky terrain filled with ups and downs. But the LORD brought you here to this day. Your path to Him is made straight and He will not cause you to stumble.

So I urge you in this new year not to weigh yourself down with the past mistakes but rather look ahead knowing full well that God was with you then, He is with you now, and He will be with you far past 2025. Blessings again to you all and I look forward to a wonderful 2025 and beyond with you.

Pastor Matt

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD, "plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

SOUP SUNDAY

Brought to you by
the LWML



JANUARY 19
1 QT \$8 2 QTS \$15

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is hosting its Annual Soup Sale on Sunday, January 19!

Stop by the table in the rotunda to purchase your choice of soups, which may include Chili, Italian Wedding, Sausage Tortellini, Vegetable Beef, Chicken Noodle, Chicken Rice, and more! Gluten-free options will also be available.

The frozen Soups will be sold for \$8.00 per Quart or \$15.00 for two Quarts.

You don't want to miss this opportunity during the winter months to have soup ready to warm up...and warm YOU up!



Merry Christmas from Job Comfort Dog, pictured at left with some of his new Christmas toys!
Job enjoyed greeting his little friends at the 6PM Christmas Eve Service. Llamas come and llamas go, but Job will always be a favorite among CTK members and friends! Job and his team wishes everyone a very blessed New Year!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM JOB COMFORT DOG!



The teams of Job Comfort Dog and the Future Comfort Dog met together for a festive Christmas potluck in the month of December that included a "Get to Know You" trivia game and the opening of presents for Job from friends across the country. The teams thank the members of CTK for their continuing support.

Potluck Lunch



Sunday, January 26, 2025, 12:15PM
Fellowship Hall

RSVP at bit.ly/CTKPotluck or sign up in the rotunda



**Christ the King
Lutheran School**

OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 30

9:00 – 10:30AM

**PK – 8TH GRADE
CONTACT JAYCIE AT
JAYCIE.HART@CTKSCHOOL.COM
TO SCHEDULE A TOUR.**

A huge thank you to those who have donated to our School's Annual Fund campaign! It is still ongoing through May, and we are gratefully accepting donations! If you have misplaced your envelope, you may pick up a replacement at the Information Desk in the narthex. Thank you!



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

VALENTINE BAKE SALE

IN SUPPORT OF THE
TANZANIA MISSION TEAM

Join us in the rotunda after each service

Sponsored by Thrivent "Action Team" projects

Ladies, the Altar Guild of Christ the King invites you to join in the important tasks of caring for the chancel, preparing Communion, and decorating the sanctuary for festival seasons of the church year. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 11:45am in the Parlor. Our next meeting is Feb. 4. *(If you would like to serve but can't make the meetings, we can work with that!)* Contact Altar Guild Chair Karen Whitlock, at karenwhitlock967@gmail.com, or speak with one of our members for more information. We'd love to have you join us!



Sunday, January 5, is **MITE BOX SUNDAY** and a **SPECIAL** day for Christ the King's LWML. A check of **\$6,386** will be presented by Christine Acomb, the LWML Mid-South, West Zone President, to Cindy Jurgensen and Pam Barnes for the **Tanzania Deaconess**

Ministry-Young Women Impacted by Albinism. This Tanzania ministry houses and trains young women with albinism to sew, garden, and make soap. On graduation day, each lady receives a sewing machine, fabric, and skills to earn a living for her family. Our missions to Tanzania have supported these ladies and now the Mid-South LWML Zone's Mighty Mites are too! Thank you for your support!

You are invited to the **LWML Meeting** on Thursday, January 16, 5:30-7:00PM, in Room 201. We look forward to having our new members join us. We have mission work to prepare for! See you then!



Winter
Biscuit
Time!

SUNDAY
JANUARY 26TH
2025

BEFORE & BETWEEN
SERVICES

Proceeds to assist victims in Memphis helped by *One More Child* & residents of *NHC Healthcare* in Somerville

Christ the King's Faith in Action Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE! Faith in Action's Annual Winter Biscuit Day is coming up on Sunday, January 26! Stop by the rotunda hallway and grab a biscuit, pastry, or coffee before or between services. All proceeds will go to help procure survival backpacks for victims helped by *One More Child*, and also to purchase bingo prizes for residents of *NHC Health Care Center* in Somerville, where *Job Comfort Dog* regularly visits.

HELP US create comfort kits for **ONE MORE CHILD**, an organization that provides help to victims of trafficking in Memphis. Faith in Action will purchase backpacks, Bibles, and blankets. You can add: *re-useable water bottles, hygiene items, travel-size hair products, toothpaste, notebooks, adult coloring books, devotionals, and other items.* A collection bin will be in the rotunda through February. For more information, contact **Caroline Johnson** or **Patti Higginbotham**.

**Next Faith in Action Meeting:
Monday, Jan. 13, 5:45PM, at
Panera Bread in Germantown.**

ONE MORE CHILD COMFORT KITS



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Help us create comfort kits for **One More Child**, an organization that provides help to victims of trafficking here in Memphis.



Faith in Action will purchase backpacks, Bibles and blankets. But, we need your help to bring in many more items for each of the kits including:

- 1 or 2 re-useable water bottles
- a blank notebook or journal
- pens
- adult coloring book
- colored pencils or washable markers
- a devotional of some sort
- Hygiene items /New & Unused Travel Size
- hand sanitizer
- shampoo
- conditioner
- lotion
- vaseline
- wipes
- 2-3 travel toothpaste
- 2-3 toothbrushes

ONE MORE CHILD +1

COLLECTING
NOW THROUGH FEBRUARY 2025

YOUTHMIN @ CTK

January 2025

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Christ the King's High School Youth meet each Sunday morning at 9:45 in newly refreshed youth room, under the leadership of Mr. Nathan Leborious! Grab a friend and join in as he guides us through a variety of studies.

LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans is 7 months away. Please pray for our CTK kids and adult leaders as they continue to plan and get ready for this amazing event.



HS YOUTH SERVE
Advent Supper
2024

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Children PK4—6th grade meet each Sunday at 9:45 in the Upper School building. We used the month of December to prepare and lead the congregation in worship for the final midweek Advent service, gave our volunteer teachers a well-earned week off, and will pick back up with our overview of the Old Testament on January 5. We are using the CPH Enduring Faith curriculum (with some fun additional ideas thrown in!).

We will take a break during the season of Lent and Holy Week to walk with Jesus on the road to Calvary, to His death on the cross, and see the promise fulfilled in His resurrection.

SAVE THE DATE

VBS 2025 JUNE 16—20

CTK Sunday School students led the congregation in worship the last midweek service in Advent. They did a wonderful job of sharing the joy of our Savior's birth! Thank you to the SS staff for their help and dedication to serving our youngest CTK'ers!





It's never too late to join a Small Group! If interested, contact the Group Leader for more information or RSVP on CTK's App.

Arlington "Saints and Sinners Club" - Steven & Jennifer Andrews

6290 Burren Way, Arlington, 2nd & 4th Wednesday; next meeting dates: January 15 & 29
"Limping with God: Jacob & the Old Testament"
Contact: Steven, 757-343-9720

"Crafting Moms" — Robyn Byrum — for moms of teens and college-age children
CTK Room 201, 6:30-8:30PM. Next date is January 17

We'll be making care packages for college kids. Bring a snack to share.
Contact: Robyn Byrum, 901-485-4977

If you would like to help with supplies for the care packages, please contact Robyn for information on needed items. Thank you!

Woodworking and Nehemiahs — Jim Devan

Woodworking meets every Thursday night, 7PM, Nehemiahs workshop.
Nehemiahs meet Tuesday mornings, 8AM, CTK campus; work projects, devotion, lunch
Contact: Jim Devan, 901-834-8143

The Kuttehs' Small Group — Billy & Carol Kutteh

4th Saturday of every month, beginning January 25. Rotating leaders and topics
Contact: Carol Kutteh, cckutteh@yahoo.com

"The Olive Branch Outpost" — Michael Salzgeber and Lisa Bough

7990 Glenn View Cove, Olive Branch; 2nd & 4th Tuesday of every month
"Church History in Plain Language" by Bruce Shelley; next meeting dates: January 14 & 28
Contact: Michael Salzgeber, 901-496-8813 or Lisa Bough, 513-919-7441

Homeschool Moms of CTK — Ashley Tieman

Meets monthly for lunch; open to anyone homeschooling or considering homeschooling as an option in the future. Contact: Ashley Tieman, 901-403-0915

Pastor Matt's Group for 20's and 30's — Pastor Matt Lynch, 832-687-8240

Meets the second week of each month at 6PM, varying locations. Contact Pastor Matt for info.

CTK's Faith in Action thanks everyone who donated to the Angel Tree project. With your support, we were able to provide over \$3,000 worth of gift cards for eleven families who needed a little extra!

And another THANK YOU to everyone who supported the 10th Annual Chili Auction in November. Over \$7,000 was raised from your donations and purchases which allows us to fulfill our obligation to Trinity Hope for our adopted school in Haiti! Thank you to all!



As we reflect on our beautiful Christmas services, the Board of Worship wishes to thank all the volunteers who regularly assist in ensuring that each service is conducted in an orderly, God-pleasing manner and in such a way that worship itself becomes an act of thanksgiving and praise for our Lord:

The *Elders*, who assist the Pastors in leading worship by lectoring and offering Communion;

The *Altar Guild* members, who ready the chancel for the Christmas season along with help from the *Nehemiahs*, as well as preparing Communion and a myriad of other tasks;

The *Crucifers and Acolytes*, who begin each service with the Cross and the Light and complete their duties with a measure of poise and reverence;

The *Ushers*, who greet, direct, welcome, and assist members and guests;

The *Choir and Musicians*, instrumental and vocal, who add beauty and depth to our worship services;

The *Nursery Volunteers*, who care for our littlest members and friends in a cheerful, attentive manner;

The *Greeters*, who offer a friendly face and hand to all who enter;

The *Sound and Live-Stream Technicians*, who ensure the Word reaches not only those present but also those at home and away;

The *Bulletin Stuffers*, without whose attention to detail we would surely lose our way;

And to everyone else who helps to make
Christ the King Lutheran Church
a “worship-full” place to honor our Lord,
we thank you and wish you a
very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





Scenes from Christmas Eve Service, 6PM, clockwise from top left: Pastor Mark and the Christmas visitor have a moment; Mrs. Swan is surrounded by servers Tatum, Madi, Lucy, and Evan; Pastor Matt leads the Liturgy of the Light; Job is greeted by his friends Fred and Greer; and Pastor Chuck preaches to a full sanctuary on "A Song, a Star, and a Savior." Worshipers also celebrated Christmas joy at the 11PM Christmas Eve and 10AM Christmas Day services.



CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4
5 MITE BOX SUNDAY 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 9:45a Youth Confirmation 9:50a Adult Study 11:00a Worship 5:00p Youth Night	6 Epiphany 6:30p Bd. of Elders	7 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah's 5:00p RTTI	8 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Adult Choir	9 7:00p Woodworking Sm. Grp.	10	11 10:00a Future Comfort Dog Mtg.
12 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 9:45a Youth Confirmation 9:50a Adult Study 11:00a Worship	13 5:45p FIA	14 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah's 7:00p Sm. Group-Salzgeber/Bough	15 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Adult Choir 7:00p Sm Group-Andrews	16 5:30p LWML Meeting 7:00p Woodworking Sm. Grp.	17 6:30p Sm. Group-Crafting Moms	18 10:30a Job Comfort Dog
19 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 9:45a Youth Confirmation 9:50a Adult Study 11:00a Worship 5:00p Youth Night	20 MLK Jr. Day OFFICE CLOSED	21 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah's 6:00p Church Council	22 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Adult Choir	23 7:00p Woodworking Sm. Grp.	24	25 10:00a Future Comfort Dog Mtg. TBD Sm Group-Kutteh
26 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 9:45a Youth Confirmation 9:50a Adult Study 11:00a Worship 12:15p Congregation Potluck	27 6:00p Bd. of Ed.	28 8:00a Nehemiah's 7:00p Sm. Group-Salzgeber/Bough	29 10:00a Bible Study 6:30p Adult Choir 7:00p Sm Group-Andrews	30 9:00a CTK School Open House 7:00p Woodworking Sm. Grp.	31	