



DECEMBER 2025

THE KING'S MESSENGER

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMPHIS, TN

From the time I was a young boy until well into my teenage years, I remember my dear mother arranging an Advent wreath in the middle of our kitchen table. Three purple candles, one pink, with a white candle in the center. We would gather together, usually just before dinner, and Mom would read the brief devotion out of *Portals of Prayer*. Sometimes she would ask my sister or me to read, and I remember feeling a little nervous because I knew that family around the table, lit candles, and devotions meant something important was happening.

Mom's intention was noble but her implementation had a few holes. In the early weeks of Advent there was more faithfulness to the schedule but as the days and weeks passed, there were lapses. Thankfully, I never processed the inconsistencies as anything other than the normal course of events and maybe this was due, in part, to the fact that Advent always meant Wednesday evening worship.

As with many things in life, it's hard to determine the impact those Advent moments around the kitchen table or even the midweek services had on my spiritual formation but I would be wrong to conclude they weren't part of a larger fabric of interwoven events that had no influence. We are all the products of our past, after all.

Too many well-intentioned folks have too many false expectations when it comes to formative faith moments. They want the one big, powerful, glitzy experience; they want the "life-changing" worship experience; they want a miracle, a sign. God certainly works through these, but more often He chooses a slower sequence of things, ones which stretches out over years, through life's ups and downs, to mold us, and part of the reason for this has to do with the nature of faith itself.

Faith is a life. It's not one singular moment. The redeeming work of Christ finds meaning and expression with each new day and whatever God, in His wisdom, attaches to it. When Luther would wash his face in the morning, remembering his baptism, I have to believe he would, as he towed off the soap and water, say to his reflection: "Your sins are forgiven in Christ! Praise God! Let's see how this day plays out in service to God and love of neighbor!"

It is critical to avail ourselves as much as we can of the gifts of God while at the same time believing that any and all moments dedicated to God matter deeply. I hope you'll join us each Wednesday evening for worship and a light dinner beforehand. Wherever two or three are gathered in the Lord's name, He is present and, regardless of scale, He is working.

Pastor Mark





Christ the King Lutheran Church

Advent & Christmas

Worship Schedule

2025

1st Sunday in Advent ~ Candle of Hope

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

Nov. 30 8:30 & 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY ADVENT WORSHIP

Dec. 03 6:30 PM (Dinner @ 5:30)

2nd Sunday in Advent ~ Candle of Peace

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

Dec. 07 8:30 & 11:00 AM

WEDNESDAY ADVENT WORSHIP

Dec. 10 6:30 PM (Dinner @ 5:30)

3rd Sunday in Advent ~ Candle of Joy

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

Dec. 14 10:00 AM ~ Lessons & Carols

Reception following in the Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY ADVENT WORSHIP

Dec. 17 6:30 PM ~ SS Children's Service (Dinner @ 5:30)

4th Sunday in Advent ~ Candle of Love

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

Dec. 21 8:30 & 11:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Dec. 24 4:00 PM ~ Candlelight Service

6:00 PM ~ Candlelight Service

11:00 PM ~ Candlelight Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Dec. 25 10:00 AM

SUNDAY AM WORSHIP

Dec. 26 8:30 & 11:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE ~ Quiet Communion

Dec. 31 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Please join us for worship this Advent and Christmas Season as we prepare
and celebrate the birth of the Son of God AND
anticipate the triumphant return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!



Thank you, Veterans

Our students honored our church and school veterans with a special breakfast and chapel service on November 11.



Left: Pastor Mark proudly displays his father's US Air Force uniform. Above: Kindergarten-4th grade students sang a patriotic medley.

Join us for two special Christmas programs:

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 9AM,
the Preschool will present
"A Night Like No Other"

Thursday, Dec. 18, 6:30PM, K-8 will
present their Christmas program

We had a great time celebrating
Grandparents Day with activities,
brunch and a chapel service.



Our Booster-thon Glow Run brought out many parents as we concluded our Fun Run to raise money for campus upgrades. We raised over \$9800 and got to shave Pastor Matt's beard as our goal incentive! We love you, Pastor Matt!





Christmas RECEPTION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 11:00AM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

In the Christmas Reception that follows our Lessons and Carols Service, we will take a moment to thank all of our musicians — instrumentalists, vocalists, directors — who contribute their talents all year long to make our worship meaningful and lovely. Please join us at 11AM in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy this especially merry time.

(To volunteer to assist, contact Genie at gswan@ctkmemphis.com or Lisa at lisamariesalz@gmail.com.)

Let's spread the word about Christmas! During the month of December, you are invited to participate in some “easy evangelism” and share Christmas at Christ the King with your friends and neighbors. It's simple! Just take a few cards and distribute them to your friends, family, community helpers — anyone who could use the Good News of Jesus' Birth! The card contains basic information about our Christmas Eve and Day services. If you're shy about inviting people, let the card do the talking! Cards are limited in supply so make each one count! If you run out, check with Genie in the church office for extras.



Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 4:00PM - Candlelight*

December 24, 6:00PM - Candlelight*

December 24, 11:00PM - Candlelight with Communion*

Christmas Day Service

December 25, 10:00AM - Holy Communion*

**Each service has a different order of worship and message proclaiming the birth of Jesus Christ.*



Thank you for
spreading the word
about Christmas at
Christ the King!

We hope to see
YOU at one of more
of our joyful
Christmas services.




Service of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 14, 10AM

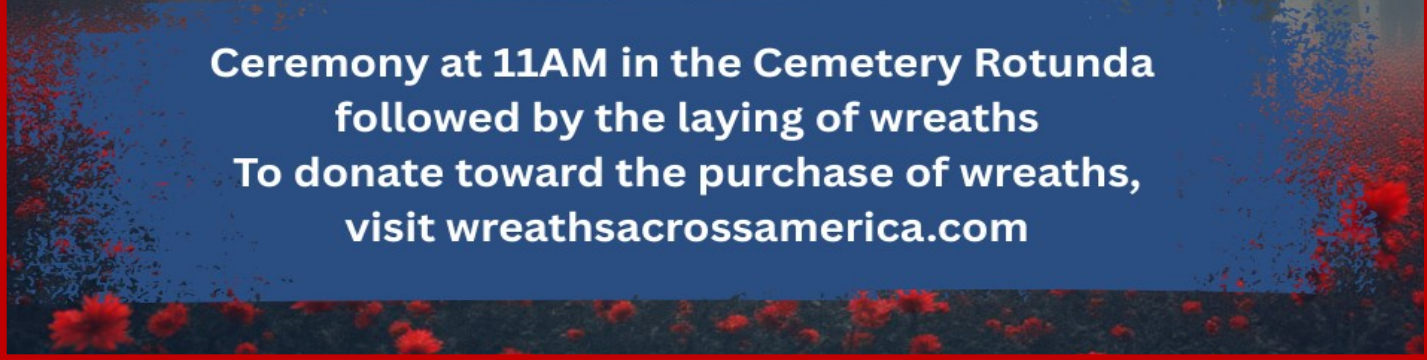
Bible Class and Sunday School at 9AM



**December 13
11AM
West TN Veterans
Cemetery**



**Ceremony at 11AM in the Cemetery Rotunda
followed by the laying of wreaths
To donate toward the purchase of wreaths,
visit wreathsacrossamerica.com**



YOUTH MIN @ CTK

DECEMBER 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER

HIGH SCHOOL youth meet each

Sunday at 9:45am in the youth room to dig deeper into the scriptures and discover how God's word is never changing and remains relevant to their lives today. Please feel free to join us and bring a friend.

HS Christmas Party on December 7. Location and all other info will be relayed next week!

Youth will be serving preservice dinner on Wednesday Dec. 17. Details coming soon!



- 12/07 5:00pm HS Christmas Party
- 12/12 6:00pm MS Christmas Party
- 12/14 TBD SS Christmas Service Practice
- 12/14 10:00am Single Worship Service
- 12/17 5:00pm Youth Advent Dinner
- 12/17 6:30pm SS Christmas Advent Service
- 12/21 9:45am SS Christmas Bday Party for Jesus
- 12/28 No Confirmation or Children's SS

MIDDLE SCHOOL Youth Confirmation (7th & 8th) meets each Sunday in Admin. 203 at 9:45am. Please note - **There will be no class on Dec. 28.**

Christmas Party Dec. 12 @ 6:00pm Youth Room. Join us and bring a friend. If you have questions, contact Mr. Nathan Leborious at Nathan.Leborious@ctkschool.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (PK4-6th) CTK students and teachers are preparing to lead the congregation in the annual SS led Advent Service on Dec. 17. We invite you to join your CTK family for supper (served by our HS Youth) at 5:30 and worship at 6:30.

Please note—there will be **NO Sunday School on Dec. 28.**

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF OUR MESSIAH, WE WANT TO THANK EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR YOUTH MINISTRY AT CHRIST THE KING! MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE FILLED WITH THE SURE HOPE AND PROMISE OF ETERNITY WITH OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.



CTK's "Angel Tree" is in the narthex, awaiting your participation! We encourage you to take at least one ornament and help us gather Christmas gift cards for several families within our Lutheran community who may be struggling to provide for themselves and their children this year. Please remember the following:

- Choose an Angel Ornament: Take one or more from the tree
- Purchase the gift card listed on the tag
- Keep the ornament as a thank you and a reminder of your generosity
- Place gift cards with tags attached in an envelope and return it to the church office or in the basket at the Reception Desk in the office area
- Have all gift cards in the church office no later than **Sunday, Dec. 14.**



(If you prefer to make a cash donation, mark your check "Christmas Families" and drop it in the offering plate.)

Thank you for helping to make someone's Christmas a little brighter.

VOLUNTEER FOR ROOM IN THE INN

SIGN UP AT
BIT.LY/RITIDEC2
BIT.LY/RITIDEC16



CONNECT!

Are you a new or prospective member at Christ the King? Or maybe you just want to know more about CTK? Or perhaps you have been here a while and still looking for your niche? A three-week **CONNECT CLASS** tailor-made for YOU will be offered on **Sunday, January 11, 18, and 25, at 10AM in the Parlor.**

Join Genie Swan for a load of information on how to connect and communicate and how to get involved with service, fellowship, and worship opportunities, plus a brief overview of the history and future of Christ the King and an opportunity to meet ministry leaders. **RSVP to Genie at gswan@ctkmemphis.com.** We'd love to get YOU connected!



(This picture and article appeared in the December issue of the Mid-South District "Encourager" online magazine.)

The congregation of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Memphis, TN, was thrilled to witness the installation of Steven Andrews as an SMP Vicar on November 2, 2025. The members are looking forward to the many ways Steven will be involved in the mission and ministry of CTK as he continues his studies. Vicar Andrews will work alongside Senior Pastor Mark Goble and Associate Pastor Matthew Lynch in areas of outreach and compassionate care, among others. Welcome to this new role, Vicar Andrews! God bless you in your ministry.

SAVE THE DATE! MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST, JAN. 10, 9AM

Enjoy a hearty breakfast by Paul Howell and join us for "RETIREMENT: PART 2!"

Our last Men's Breakfast in which we discussed retirement topics was very successful and led to questions on many related subjects. At this breakfast, we will address concerns such as: Selling your home; Wills & Trusts; Annuities; Investment Tips for Younger Men; and Reverse Mortgages. Something for everyone! RSVP by signing up in the rotunda or contacting Gary Osing at garyosing@gmail.com

For many years, the late CTK member Jack Kerr was a strong supporter of Calvary Rescue Mission, a safe place for homeless men in downtown Memphis. Now located in a new facility at 960 South Third Street, CRM was founded in 1967 by Milton and Betty Hatcher of Memphis. CRM is an emphatically Christian mission that requires each resident to attend an evening chapel held seven nights a week. Since a resident must pay \$5 per night to stay there, many of the men have jobs. Support from churches comes in the form of food, services, and funds.

Several years ago, CTK Men's Ministry adopted CRM in Jack Kerr's memory as its community outreach support. Each month a crew of CTK members prepares a Sunday night dinner for the residents, numbering in the 20s, plus staff. We keep the menu simple, but we cook with the love of Christ. Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, a green vegetable, tea, and dessert make up our menu. Men's Ministry receives funding for these meals from Thrivent and gets the cooking and serving support of faithful CTK members. For more information on how you can help, contact Gary at 901-326-6737 or garyosing@gmail.com.





2026 TANZANIA MISSION

To communicate to the people of Tanzania the life-changing power of Jesus Christ in a practical and understandable way; to develop them into responsible, productive, successful Christians; and equip them for their ministry in the church and like missions in the world.

We have had great meetings by Zoom with our out-of-state missionaries! From CTK, we have Mark Novy, Sharon Hyde, Mike and Cindy Jurgensen along with twelve more joining from Arkansas, Missouri, and the TN/Kentucky border.

The donations we have received from our congregation at Christ the King have so far been a blessing! We should be able to purchase the international airplane tickets in January. The in-country flight, room & board, meals, and transportation will be paid from donations later. The recent Craft & Paint was fun, and we loved painting with everyone!

Please contact Mike or Cindy Jurgensen at 901-848-0447 or Cindy at c3jurgen@gmail.com if you have questions. We would be glad to answer them!



One of two groups that enjoyed the fun and fellowship of the Tanzania Christmas Craft & Paint fundraiser in November.

FUTURE COMFORT DOG UPDATE...

We have come a long way in the past two years and four months! Application paperwork has been completed and submitted to Lutheran Church Charities (LCC). We are very excited to announce that Handler and Caregiver Interviews are taking place on December 1-2. This is a big step toward our final goal. Please cover us in prayer during this time.

So...when do we get our dog? That is the question on everyone's minds! I wish I had an answer to this question! LCC will contact us at some future date to schedule our training session in Northbrook, IL. Thank you for all of your prayers and support during this period of anticipation and preparation! We are truly blessed by all of you!

—Dianna Garner, Future Dog Top Dog



LWML NEWS



On Wednesday, Dec. 3, LWML will host the Advent Dinner at 5:30pm. The menu is Baked Spaghetti, French bread, salad and desserts. Our Free-will Offering will go towards the 2026 Tanzania Mission.



Sunday, Dec. 7, is Mite Box Sunday. Please drop your change in the LWML Mite Box in the narthex or give online. Thank you!



Thank you to our congregation for your generous donations to the “Adopt a Seminary Student” Campaign! We have a total of 11 Seminarians, SMP’s, and Deaconesses from our Mid-South District that will be receiving a generous check from CTK in December. Thank you again for your love.



Our next LWML Meeting will be a NEW YEAR’s gathering on Thursday, January 15. Please bring a plate of goodies to share and we will celebrate 2026!

UPCOMING SMALL GROUP DATES

- *Tuesday, December 2 and 16 —Steven & Jennifer Andrews** - “Hitchhiking with Prophets” by Chad Bird drewkrewe@yahoo.com
- *Tuesday, December 2 and 9 — Michael & Lisa Salzgeber**
“Church History in Plain Language” michael.salzgeber@sylvamo.com
- *Pastor Matt’s group for 20’s and 30’s** — Stay tuned for the next date coming in January of 2026 pastormatt@ctkmemphis.com
- *Saturday, January 24, 6:30PM — Billy & Carol Kutteh**
Study of the Book of James, by various leaders cckutteh@yahoo.com
- *Every Thursday, 7PM — Jim Devan “Woodworking”** j_devan@bellsouth.net
- *Every Tuesday, 8:00AM — Jim Devan “Nehemiahs”** j_devan@bellsouth.net
- *Robyn Byrum “Crafting Moms”** For moms of teens and college-age kids. Stay tuned for the next meeting date! robynbyrum2@gmail.com

It’s never too late to join — or start! — a Small Group!

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” 1 Thess. 5:11

JOB'S JOURNAL

Job Comfort Dog touches the lives of people far and wide, both during crisis deployments and in the everyday visits to the many places around the community. His soft eyes and feathery tail are well-known and welcomed. But through his Facebook page, his reach extends to people he has never met. Job's Facebook page, kept by Laura Smith, has close to 5,500 followers and several of these have established a relationship with Job and his Facebook "voice" through kind and encouraging messages. One such follower, a teenage boy from Missouri, has a passion for the LCC Comfort Dogs, and recently traveled to see some of his favorites, including Job. Tyler and Job exchanged gifts and lots of hugs and pets. It was great to meet such an avid fan in person. Thank you to Laura for being such a wise and loving voice for Job.

Job's communication with his friends can be a real help in times of distress. As a recent Facebook follower said: "You've been such a calm, guiding friend which has truly helped me work through all of the things life throws at us. Words cannot express my gratitude or tell you the difference you have made. Happy Thanksgiving!" Again, thank you, Laura, for speaking comfort to Job's followers and pointing them to Jesus.

Job is still getting requests to serve in new and different ways, including a session with TN Kids Belong, an entity that, among other things, makes videos of children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted. Job was invited to attend the session this week to help calm nerves and be a comforting distraction. Good boy, Job!

A Merry Christmas to all of Job's friends!





Here's a glimpse of the LCC Comfort-Dogs-in-Training. Which of these cute pups will be Job's new best friend?



Christ The King Lutheran Church

December 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 		2 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah 11:45a Altar Guild Mtg. 2:00p GriefShare 5:00p RITI 7:00p Sm. Group-Andrews 7:00p Sm. Group-Salzgeber	3 10:00a Wed. Bible Study 5:30p Advent Supper 6:30p Mid Week Advent Svc. 7:15p Adult Choir	4	5	6
7 2nd Sunday in Advent 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 9:45a Youth Confirmation 9:50a Adult Study 11:00a Worship 5:00p HS Youth Christmas Party MITE BOX SUNDAY	8	9 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah 2:00p GriefShare 7:00p Sm. Group-Salzgeber	10 9:00a CTK ECC Christmas Program 10:00a Wed. Bible Study 5:30p Advent Supper 6:30p Mid Week Advent Svc. 7:15p Adult Choir	11 7:00p Woodworking Sm. Grp.	12 6:00p Middle School Christmas Party	13 11:00a Wreaths Across America, West TN Veterans Cemetery
14 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:00a Youth Confirmation 9:00a Adult Study 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Worship - Lessons & Carols 11:00a Christmas Reception	15 5:45p FIA Meeting	16 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah 2:00p GriefShare 5:00p RITI 7:00p Sm Group-Andrews	17 10:00a Wed. Bible Study 5:30p Advent Supper 6:30p Mid Week Advent Svc. 7:15p Adult Choir	18 6:00p CTK K-8 Christmas Program 7:00p Woodworking Sm. Grp.	19	20 10:00a Christmas Caroling at the Ciel 11:30a Comfort Dog Christmas Party
21 4th Sunday in Advent 8:30a Worship 9:45a Sunday School 9:45a Youth Confirmation 9:50a Adult Study 11:00a Worship 5:00p Calvary Mission Dinner	22	23 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah 2:00p GriefShare	24 Christmas Eve 4:00p Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00p Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00p Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25 Christmas Day 10:00a Christmas Day Worship OFFICES CLOSED	26 	27
28 8:30a Worship 9:50a Adult Study 11:00a Worship	29	30 7:00a Men's Bible Study 8:00a Nehemiah 2:00p GriefShare	31 New Year's Eve 6:00p Quiet Communion OFFICES CLOSED	1 Happy New Year!		