

# Christ the King Lutheran Church

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas, December 28, 2025

( \* = please stand as you are able)

Christmas 1: *As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the “holy innocents” of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God, **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

God’s grace upon grace flows over you. ✠ Christ’s presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

*Love Will Come*

ELW 292

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The light of Christmas be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: **O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

PSALM: Psalm 148 (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

<sup>2</sup> **Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

<sup>4</sup> **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

<sup>6</sup> **who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

<sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;**

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

<sup>10</sup> **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

- <sup>11</sup> sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup> **young men and maidens, old and young together.**  
<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.  
<sup>14</sup> **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
 the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *He Came Down* **ELW 253**  
 \*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:13-23 (NT page 2)

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *What Child is This?* **ELW 296**

HOLY BAPTISM **Finley Kirk Ornes-Ward**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

## WELCOME

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

## SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

## OFFERING

*Give by mobile: Text "GIVE" to 320-313-1815, by mail, in the offering plate or our website – [www.ctkb.org/generosity/](http://www.ctkb.org/generosity/) Thank you!*

## OFFERING PRAYER

\*GREAT THANKSGIVING

## SANCTUS

(on screen)

\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

## LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION *We commune at two stations in front of the pulpit and lectern. Come down the side aisles, receive the bread; proceed to the wine or grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available. Return to your seats by the center aisle. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION **Lamb of God** (front of ELW page 154)

COMMUNION HYMN **Your Little Ones, Dear Lord** **ELW 286**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
BLESSING  
SENDING HYMN

*Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

ELW 288, v. 1 & 3

DISMISSAL    Glory to God in the highest! **And peace to God's people on earth!**  
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

**Worship Leaders**

Ministers	All of you!
Preaching	Pastor Per Halaas
Assisting Minister	Chris Gabel
Lector	Linda Thompson
Prayers	Verla Olson
Organist	Mary Newton

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**SUNDAY – December 28 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

**9:30a Worship with Holy Communion**

**10:30a Maranatha Christian Congregation –  
Lounge**

**Baptized today – Finley Kirk Ornes-Ward child of Kaija Ornes-Ward and Ben Ward. Sponsors are Jacob Ornes and Rachel Ward. Great-granddaughter of Reino & Darla Maijala.**

**In your prayers this week, please remember:**

- **Continuing Prayers:** **Jacque Craig** (Jodi Greiner's sister), **Ryan Jones** (Jane B's nephew), **Robert Thornton** (Carol's husband), **Pam Novak** (friend of Chris Gabel), **Lavonne Kennedy** (Clare Erickson's sister), **Jim Wegge** (Bev Wegge's brother), **Carol Hinze** (Caitlyn Johnson's grandma), **Isaac Hill** (grandson of Gail & John, nephew of Melissa), **Jackie Schmeidlin** (friend of Sean Bernier), **Shirley Gentz**, **Pastor David** and **Diane Lerseth**, **Steve Olson**, **David Newhall** (Liz Olson's brother), **Elizabeth Olson**, **Lynn Hansen** (Tami Roloff's sister), **Julie Allen** (friend of Lynne Gasterland), **Michael R. Vogel** (Mike Vogel's son), **Susan Hanson**, **David Niemand** (Holly Hauer's brother), **Donna Woodward** (sister of Dan Pierce), **Geralyn Barone** (friend of John & Kim Gunyou), **Sue Larson** (friend of Liz Olson), **Chris Wondra** (friend of Sean Johnson) and **Jim and Arlene Knutson**
- **New prayers:**
- **Pat Halverson** and all who are homebound
- **Our sister in China, Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, El comunidad de fe bilingue/ The bilingual faith community of Tapestry Lutheran Church in Richfield**
- **Leipzig District of the Lutheran Church in Saxony, Germany** (Companion Synod)

**Family Play Space - Saturday, January 3**

Families with young children are invited to play together at this free indoor play space that operates the first Saturday of the month, **9am-3pm**, November through March. The play space is ideal for children ages 6 months through about 6 years old, but younger and older children are welcome. All are welcome!

### This Week at Christ the King

Loaves & Fishes provide a free drive-up meal  
Monday-Friday from 5-6 **Closed 1/1**

**MONDAY – December 29**

8:30a Church Chore Crew

**TUESDAY – December 30**

6:30p Yoga

**WEDNESDAY – December 31**

***New Year's Eve***

**THURSDAY – January 1**



**Office/Building Closed**

**FRIDAY – January 2**

### Let's Raise the Bar!

Turning in your 2026 *Statement of Intent* (pledge card) now helps us plan for the year ahead so **if you haven't had an opportunity to drop off your card, I invite you to give me a buzz in the office or shoot me an email.** Additionally, I can answer any questions you might have about your 2025 giving and as a reminder, the IRS requires that **any charitable contributions for the year be received in the office by December 31st or postmarked 12/31/25 in order to be recorded for this giving year.** And one more important thing ... thank you, thank you, **THANK YOU** for the many ways you support and participate in shaping our life together. Grace & Peace!  
Jane Bishop

### CTK Loaves & Fishes—Wednesday Night Dinner 1/14 and 1/28

On 1/14 and 1/28 CTK will help prepare & get the meals ready and hand them out.  
**Prepping is 2:30pm-4:30pm and handing out is 4:30 to 6pm.** If you would like to help, please contact the office—952-881-8600.  
**Thank you!**

### Next Weekend at Christ the King

**SATURDAY – January 3**

9am-3pm Family Play Space

**SUNDAY – January 4 – Epiphany of Our Lord**

**9:30a Worship with Holy Communion**

10:30a Maranatha Christian Congregation – Lounge

10:45a Multi-generational Epiphany Event – Social Hall

Noon SHINE – Off-site

### Bible Reading for next week:

**No bible study on 12/31. We will resume on Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

### December's Gift of Love is ELCA World Hunger

God richly provides for daily bread — the earth can produce enough food for everyone. Yet, many of our sisters and brothers still go hungry. By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, we meet basic needs and recognize the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. Go to <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger> for more info.

### Volunteers for January

If you would like to greet, read, assist, serve/prep communion, or serve coffee on any of the following Sundays: Greeters **1/4**, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25  
Readers **1/4**, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25  
Assisting **1/4**, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25  
Prayers **1/4**, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25 28  
Communion servers (2) **1/4**, 1/11, 1/18, 1/25  
Communion prep on **1/4** & 1/18 Make Coffee **1/4** & 1/18  
Please call the office 952-881-8600 or email Jane V at [jvevea@ctkb.org](mailto:jvevea@ctkb.org).

### SHINE event on January 4th

Will be hosted by Carol Rydell at Applewood Pointe, Valley West -10650 Beard Ave S. Bloomington, 55431  
There is a sign-up sheet in the commons. Please invite family and friends. For more information reach out to Kristina - [kelder@ctkb.org](mailto:kelder@ctkb.org)

### **Jan. 4 Epiphany Gathering - after worship service**

Come learn about the Kings who traveled so far to see Jesus. We will look at artwork that depicts these men. We will learn about their journey and how others celebrate this joyful time. As we create our own artwork of the kings. We will enjoy King cakes, and other treats. There will be a sign up sheet to bring a King Cake out in the Commons.