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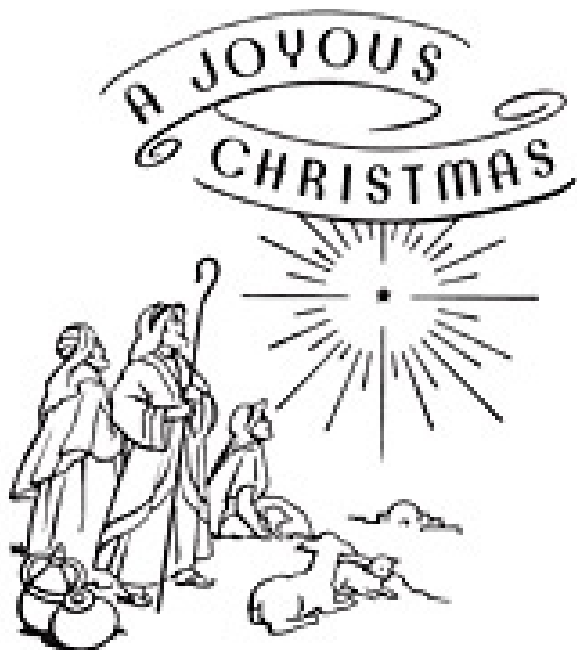
Worship Services

Saturday 5:33 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM

December 1, 2009 [NEWSLETTER](#)

Non-Profit Org.
Postage PAID
New Ulm, MN
56073
Permit No. 142

Return Service Requested



Merry Christmas from
Christ the King Staff

Pr. Tim

Laura

Paulette

Helen

Rita

Connie

King's Messenger

December 1, 2009

Pastor's Page

*We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. ³For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." ⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, **so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope...***

¹²and again Isaiah says,

*"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; **in him the Gentiles shall hope.**"*

¹³May the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may **abound in hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:1-4, 12-13

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope...

Someone asked a good question about faith and hope recently and both are important words in this season of Advent leading to Christmas. Faith, hope and love, the human reflection of the work of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Rarely does one have to defend the first or last of these words among Christians today, but I find it increasingly odd that on occasion I have to defend the third member of this trinity of Christian belief: **hope**. I suppose that this is because hope has become associated with wishing or empty, vain expectation like a child's hope of what they will get for Christmas. It is this kind of hope that the New Testament and the Old for that matter reject. Hope that is tied to what is possible, what is seen, is not hope.

Hope is used at least 69 times in the New Testament with a sense of solidity and power that we do not give it today, but it is a word that is as solid as Jesus himself. Faith and hope are for this world, but love will endure into the next. Faith is higher, but it is much the same as hope, since both hang on the faithfulness of God's love, and that love is a child born, become a man, crucified, died, buried and raised from the dead.

The issue should not be hope itself, but the one on whom and in whom our hope is set. As Paul notes in the words quoted above, all Scripture exists so that we might have hope, the hope stands on our faith in Jesus Christ of course, but that is what makes it a real hope. We are to abound in hope. Hope is not empty, wishful thinking that we did as children as we awaited some Christmas gift that we thought would transform our world, only to be tossed aside when it did not live up to expectations. Hope lives on and on toward that which we expect, based on the promise and action of God. People with hope cannot be disappointed, not because they are blind, but because by faith they see the really real, that which determines reality. They have no illusions about the ways of the world and the possible terrors and darkness, but know a light that shines in the darkness and that light is not overcome.

Hope is a sure anchor, one of the early symbols of hope in Christian history. The anchor is of course solid, heavy, substantial, it keeps us from drifting in the currents of fear and doubt and being blown about by the winds of the world's folly. Hope is solid, because the one whose glory weighs down upon the world in the infant Jesus cannot be moved. Hope became flesh, the hope of Eve, Sarah, Rahab, Ruth and Bathsheba is born into the world through the young woman who is the mother of God, Mary; ⁴²and [Elizabeth] exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." Luke 1:42-45

Faith and hope find their source in the Love of God made flesh in the conception of that child and in that child -- the root of Jesse -- God has brought both an answer to the hope of Israel and given hope to the Gentiles. That's you, by the way, Gentiles who have been made a part of the hope of the whole world through Jesus Christ. Faith and hope will one day come to an end, but the love of God endures and all that is done in that love will endure forever. That is the hope for which Jesus Christ was born, died and now lives forever. In hope you now live.

¹¹And we want each one of you to show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope to the very end, ¹²so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises...

¹⁹We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, ²⁰where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 6:11-12, 19-20





News & Events

Please pray for

Sandy Lunz, as she recovers from surgery on her shoulder.
 Dan Miller as she has surgery.
 Ethan Alfred, as he is hospitalized in Ohio.
 Steve Christianson as he undergoes treatments.
 Orie and Carol Asleson as they grieve the death of Carol's dad, Wilfred Einertson
 Eric Barnes, Irene Piotter's nephew, who is struggling with pancreatic cancer.
 All those who are suffering from mental health and drug addiction and their families

We rejoice on the Baptism of

Grace Camerson Barie, daughter of Shannon and Dave Barie



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Health Kits and to the Project Group for completing kits and updating the quiet bags in the nursery. Thanks to Joan Lindholm for delivering the 44 Health and 40 School kits to the MN Lutheran World Relief Headquarters in St. Paul.

Christmas blessings to all of you during this holiday season.

Thank you to Stan Sheie for installing a counter top and shelves in the kitchen.

Thank you to Arden Olson for taking care of the yard work for Christ the King this past summer.



Poinsettias



You are invited to bring poinsettias to worship and place them around the advent wreath. If you would like to donate in "Honor of" or "Memory of", please let the office know. You may take them home after the late Christmas Eve service.



Christmas Eve Services

December 24 at
 4:00 p.m. Family Service
 8:00 p.m. Evening Service of Lights

Worship Change: After Christmas, the 10:30 a.m. Service Will Be Discontinued

After a discussion begun in March of last year, the council decided at its last meeting that in January 2010, we will discontinue the 10:30 a.m. service. After observing for a year that the service has not drawn more than a handful of people, it has become increasingly obvious that the service is not drawing enough to justify requiring our volunteer musicians to stay for a second hour on Sunday mornings. It has also been a service where first time visitors have come and never returned after seeing an empty space. We will replace the service with a time for adult education for those who desire to stay and for special events and educational opportunities as they arise.

Down the road, I would like to see us discuss both the Sunday schedule and the fact that our congregation has developed a bad habit of keeping our children out of worship. That may require future changes (not before Fall 2010), but we will not change without discussion and input from our members. It is something to think about and pray about for all of us.

In Christ,
 Pastor Tim

Schedule for 10:30 service in December

December 6	Zecariah and Elizabeth	Luke 1:1-25
December 13	Annunciation	Luke 1:26-56
December 20	Magnificat	Luke 1:57-80

Adult Studies

Men's Saturday Bible Study Integrity: Passionate Pursuit begins on December 5 at 8:00 a.m.

In December, we begin a study and discussion about being people of integrity in our lives. Come and join a good conversation and fellowship in the Word of God.

Timothy Project for Youth

At the meeting about youth ministry on November 1, it was asked what the plans are for youth ministry at Christ the King. The first part of that process is to set up a date with the SW Minnesota Synod for the help of a youth ministry training and support ministry called the Timothy Project. Youth leaders and anyone interested in youth ministry will be invited to come.

Letters from Dad Session One Will Come in January

We will have to wait until January to begin the Letters from Dad program, due to the time it will take to get our material once everyone has signed up and paid.



A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

Matthew 7:18

Stewardship Note

January 31 -- Committee and Leadership

Event: will bring together committees and leaders of our congregation to discuss a vision for how we might better work together and toward a more comprehensive view of being stewards of the good news and gifts of Christ the King.

Stewardship: Living a Life That Counts

In February, we will have a series of sermons and Bible studies based on a series by Bryan Wilkerson we will examine Stewardship as a way of living and more than living, "living a life that counts" in a world that devalues life and living.

February 7: SPENDING TIME

Text: Psalm 90:1-17

Topic: The eternal value of numbering our days

February 14: FINDING FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Text: Matthew 6:24

Topic: How to make money a servant, not a master

February 21: TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND THIEVES

Text: Malachi 3:7-12

Topic: Are you robbing God?

February 28: LIVING IN THE ZONE

Text: 1 Peter 4:7-11

Topic: Three steps for Christians who want to use their talents for eternity

March 7: A SAD MAN WALKING

Text: Mark 10:17-31

Topic: The final ingredient of living a life that counts

Advent Wreath Lighting

If you would be willing to light the Advent wreath during our worship services during Advent, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. All are welcome to help.

Volunteer Opportunities

Please consider taking this opportunity to help serve the church during our worship services. The January Worship Calendar is located in the Fellowship Hall and In the Narthex. It is ready to be filled. Thanks!

Soundboard Help

We need some help with running the soundboard at our worship services. If this is something that you would be interested in doing, please call the church office at 354-4672.

St. Peter Regional Treatment Center

The St. Peter Regional Treatment Center is looking for donations of the following:

- Toiletries: Personal grooming supplies for men and women
- Clothing: Men and women – Large – XXXX large
- Household: Bedding and bath accessories
- Personal fun items: candy, games, electronics and stationary.

Please check out the Kiosk for a detailed list of items needed. Items may be dropped off at church by December 13.

Candlelight Remembrance Service

The Compassionate Friends, Inc. invite all bereaved families to join other families around the world on Children's Memorial Day, Sunday, December 13 to light candles in loving memory of children, siblings, grandchildren, relatives and friends. Please meet at the Family Services Building located at Center and Garden Streets, the rear entrance-lower level. At 7:00 PM, candles will be lit. Share your stories and photos of "Lights in our life who are gone too soon."

South Dakota Chorale Christmas Concert

The South Dakota Chorale will offer premiere performances Dec. 18 & 19 in Sioux and Brandon, SD. These two concerts will feature some of the most beautiful Christmas music written for choirs, along with the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah. For more information contact Brian Schmidt, Artistic Director at 940-368-9953 – southdakotachorale@gmail.com

Offering Envelopes

2010 Offering envelopes will be available for pickup in the Narthex after January 2nd. You will be receiving a new offering number for the year 2010, so please discard any unused envelopes from the past years. Thank you!



Year End Giving

Your monetary gifts of offering must be turned into the church office or postmarked no later than Dec. 31st to be credited to the year 2009.

Financial News

Giving in October	\$26,923
Budgeted Expense for October	\$32,853
Giving Year-to-date	\$272,549
Budgeted Expense Year-to-date	\$305,538



The Next newsletter and calendar deadline will be December 21.

Children, Youth, & Family News



Christmas Caroling Party

Saturday, December 5th - Christmas Caroling

Bring your friends and family for a fun night of caroling! After worship we will take part in the Soup Supper and then head out to local places afterwards to share holiday favorites. No talent required - all welcome!



Sunday, December 13 - Pool Party Bash @ Vogel Fieldhouse

Cost is \$4 per person, includes Open Swim from 1-4 PM, Snacks and Fun in the Herbeck Room from 2-4 PM. Volunteers are needed to chaperone the Herbeck Room and snack foods and beverage donations. A list will be posted in the Narthex after Thanksgiving. We are encouraging kids and families to also sign up if they plan to attend.

Saturday, December 19 - 10:00 - 11:30 AM Christmas Program Rehearsal, all kids participating in the Sunday School Program (including Confirmation readers and prelude music) should plan to attend. Practice will be from 10-11 and a snack will be provided from 11:00 - 11:30 AM.



Sunday, December 20 - 10:30 AM Christmas Program - as part of our Sunday School December mission we are asking each person to bring a Non Perishable food donation to the program - the donations will benefit the New Ulm Food Shelf.

Children should still plan to attend Sunday School at 9:00 AM we will use that time to practice for the show.



Sunday School Supplies Wish List - our craft bins are growing empty and we could use your help to fill them. Wish List Post its have been placed on a bulletin board in the Narthex. Please grab a Post it, donate the item and place it in the drop box. Many items you may have at home - fabric, yarn, clothes pins, cotton balls etc. all things that help us make wonderful crafts with our kids.

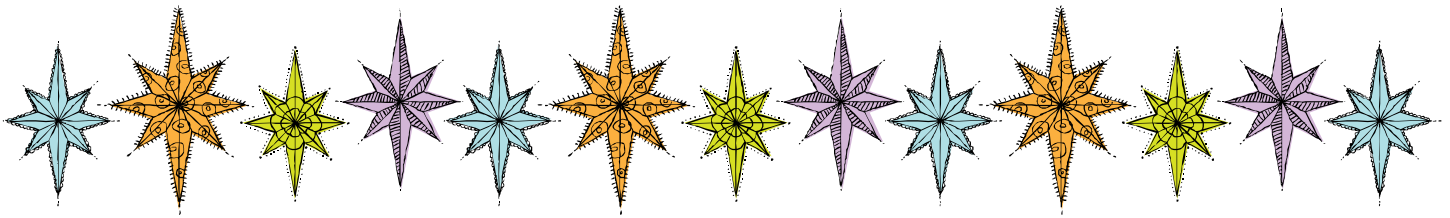
December Sunday School offering will go to the New Ulm Food Shelf. Kids can bring in either monetary or food donations during the month of December.

Thank you!!

Trunk or Treat was a great success! Thank you to all the families that came to the event and to all those who passed out candy and other treats from your trunks! A very big thank you to the Confirmation Students who ran the games and to those who donated food and prizes. It was a very successful event and fun for all those involved and we are looking forward to making this an annual event at CtK!

Operation Christmas Child was a great success again this year! Thank you to all of you who donated your gifts, finances and time to this great charity!! Special thank you to Sheila Brownfield and MOPS for coordinating the event and ensuring that all the donations made their way to the Mankato drop off point. Between MOPS and CtK we donated 97 filled boxes and \$391.06 in donations.

Thank you to Pr. Tim, Kim Volk, and Laura Gaylord for chaperoning the Jr. High Youth Gathering in Willmar on November 20 & 21.



UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5	6:30 PM	Soup Supper and Caroling
December 6	4:00 PM	Advent Family Celebration
December 9	7:45 PM	Confirmation Class – Hospitality Run
December 12	6:30 PM	Soup Supper
December 13	2:00 PM	4-6 grade Pool Party
December 19	10:00 AM	Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
	6:30 PM	Soup Supper
December 20	10:30 AM	Sunday School Christmas Program
December 24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Family Service
	8:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service of Lights



Advent Saturday evening services with Soup supper and Fellowship

Soup Suppers are planned for December 5, December 12, and December 19 after the Saturday Evening Worship Services.

We are need of volunteers to prepare the suppers.

We will need 2 crock pots of soup and bread or crackers, and bars for each week.

If you would be willing to help out, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the church office. The Holden Evening Prayer Service will be used during the Saturday Services during Advent.

All are encouraged to attend.



Advent Family Celebration

Please mark your calendars and join our Christ the King family in celebrating the coming of Christmas, at our traditional Advent Potluck and Tree Decorating.

When: Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4:00 PM

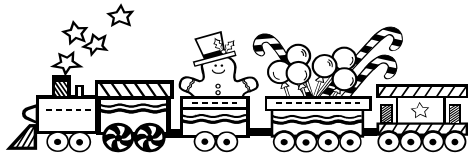
What: Potluck and tree decoration, and Christmas Carol singing.

Please bring one of your traditional Christmas dishes or a family favorite to share.

Our tradition is to decorate our tree with ornaments given by each of our Christ the King families/members. Please bring an ornament – if you are new to our church family, or have not brought one before, or you would like to bring a new ornament for your changing family. Everyone will help decorate the tree!

Please join us to begin the time of waiting for our Savior's Birth with a time of wonderful food and fellowship.

All Are Welcome!



Local Charitable Fun Event

DM&E Holiday Train passing through New Ulm
Wednesday, December 9 from 7:45 - 8:45 PM
(between 1st and 3rd streets downtown New Ulm,
behind the Public Utilities building)

The DM&E Holiday Train crosses the Midwest every year asking local residents to come down to the train tracks to enjoy the lighted train, music and entertainment and also support their local food shelves. There is no cost for this event they just ask you bring a donation of a Non Perishable Food Item, Hygiene Product or Household Cleaning product that will stay in our community and benefit those in need. Confirmation Classes will take part in a Food Run during Confirmation class that night and drop off their collections at the Train when it comes to town. If you can't participate in going down to the tracks to see the train - but want the confirmation kids to stop by to collect from you please call Jen Waloch at (507) 276-5964 and we will add your home to the Food Run list of stops.

Fair Trade for the Holidays Equal Exchange Interfaith Program

The holidays are a special time to share fellowship with family and friends, and consider how we affect the lives of our neighbors down the street and around the world. When you offer gifts of fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate from Equal Exchanged, you are giving not just once but twice; to your loved ones and to small farmers and their families around the world. Because 100% of our products are fairly traded, every package represents our commitment to social justice, environmental stewardship, and building long-term partnerships with farming communities. Supporting Fair Trade is one way to enact the true gift of the holidays every day. Please check out the display in the narthex.

