

Christ the King Lutheran
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Worship Services

Saturday 5:33 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM

January 1, 2010 [NEWSLETTER](#)

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

Return Service Requested



Mission Statement

Christ the King Lutheran Church
New Ulm, MN

“A family of Christians welcoming all
as we journey with God
to teach, love and serve others.”

King's Messenger

January 1, 2010

Pastor's Page

⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

John 2:9-11

The season of Epiphany is a lot like following a trail. I watch my dogs on our walks checking the scents and stopping at almost every tree or fire hydrant while I am on my way to keep walking. I have an agenda and am looking at things that hardly interest them, but they are on a trail, they are hunting scents, distinguishing smells and looking for who knows what, but if nothing else, they are aware of dangers and meals of which I am hardly thinking about. That is what Epiphany is like, seeing the signs of God at work in the life of Jesus so that we might also look for and maybe even catch the hint of the scent of God's work among us and in our lives.

One of my favorite book titles (the book too) is The Elusive Presence, by Samuel Terrien. I read the book long ago in my first parish and loved the image of trying to pin down a presence that always seemed to elude being pinned down. Whether on a pillar of fire or cloud, a mountain, a temple, an ark, a prophet, or a people, God's presence while always sought is not something that we can easily capture. It is more like seeing the print of a deer, dog, or rabbit in the snow and knowing that these creatures are there, but knowing also that in reality they are no longer present.

I think that is what happens in our lives. We wonder where God is and we are not satisfied always with paw prints or scents or other signs and dismiss them too easily. For they are, nonetheless signs of a powerful presence to those who know what they are looking for and how to distinguish one thing from the other. During the season of Epiphany, you may want to improve your skills of seeking the signs of God's presence. I think it requires attention and practice, though of course it can also happen by accident out of God's grace. Biblical people watch for signs, not so much for proof as it might be for a hint that the promises of God are active in real life. Sometimes it is just nice to know we are not alone and a sign is enough in a moment of turmoil. We may not always get the signs we want, the people who met Jesus didn't, yet John tells us in the gospel that there were signs to who Jesus was and what he was doing. May we attune all our senses to seek the "elusive presence" of God in our lives. Who knows, we too may discover the "good wine" that has been prepared for us and a life of abundance in Jesus Christ.

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and

that through believing you may have life in his name.
John 20:30-31

Pr. Tim Anderson



Please pray for

The family of Glenn Abraham as they grieve his death.
Maxine & Lloyd Sabatka, as they grieve the death of their sister-in-law, Kay Hargen
Julie Untiedt's brother, Joel Botten and family as they grieve the loss of Joel's wife Maureen.
Kara Jorve and Kent Menzel and family as they grieve the death of Kara's dad.
Dana Miller as she recovers from surgery.
Ethan Alfred, as he is hospitalized in Ohio.
Steve Christianson as he undergoes treatments.



Thank you to everyone who helped in any way for the funeral of Glenn Abraham. It was very much appreciated.

Thank you to John and Diane Rodenberg for donating the nativity set to Christ the King.

Thank you to those of you who have provided a Christmas at the St. Peter Treatment Center by donating clothing and many nice personable gifts for the residents. God's blessings in the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who provided extra funds to the Helping Hand Fund for the gifts given at Christmas. Thank you to those who give to the loose offering on the first and second weekends worship services which is given to the Helping Hand Fund.

The New Ulm Area Emergency Food Shelf thanks Christ the King for the donation they received from the Thanksgiving Service. The donation will be used to better serve our clients needs.

News & Events

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 interested parents are invited to participate in a training program for congregations that will help us examine more closely our expectations and the best ways of accomplishing them as a congregation.

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

Adult Studies

Men's Saturday Bible Study Integrity: Passionate Pursuit continues

January 9 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. We are considering other topics for the near future. Come and try us out, each week is self-contained.

Adult Education at 10:30, Begins on January 10: Sabbath as Resistance

The Sabbath rest is not just relaxing and avoiding work for a day, but in doing so it is a rebellion against the way of a world at war with God and God's way for us. Whether it is to remember a God who is able to rest without being anxious for the world that He created or to rebel against a world in which all is reduced to what we can get out of life, a Sabbath rest is one of the gifts of God. At 10:30 a.m. we will begin a four week discussion of what Sabbath keeping might be about for us and how it might help us to re-imagine the world around us in ways that might actually transform the world.

Letters from Dad Session One Will Come on January 17

We will begin Letters from Dad program on Sunday January 17th. Our material should arrive before that time and we will gather at about 11:30 a.m. to work on our first letter. The event should last a little less than an hour and a half.



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



Annual Meeting

We invite you to join us Sunday, January 24th for **Christ the King's Annual Meeting**. The annual meeting will start at 10:30 a.m.

Stewardship Note Matthew 7:18

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

Volunteer Opportunities

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

Confirmation & Sunday School

Confirmation classes start up again on January 6. Sunday school starts up again on January 10.

Letter to 2010 Graduates

Scholarship Letters have been sent to upcoming 2010 High School Graduates. If you have not received a letter please contact the church office at 354-4672.

4x4 Groups

The 4x4 groups have been organized. Start thinking of your get together activities.



The Next newsletter and calendar deadline will be January 18.

Gas Card Sales Discontinued, Thanks to All for Your Support

We have run out of gas cards and have for the time being decided that we will no longer sell them. The reason is that the amount we get to keep from the sale was cut from 20% to 5% and the up-front cost was almost \$ 3000. For the 5% we would be just about as well off putting the \$ 3000 in the youth fund and keep it all in house. We are looking for other fund raising opportunities and have a couple good options. When a decision is made, we will let you know. Thank you to all for your support of the youth fundraising over the last year, the youth would certainly have not had as great a trip to New Orleans without your help in purchasing the gas cards.

Help Needed for Junior High Play

New Ulm 7th and 8th grade play is looking for someone to work with costumes! The production will be in March but rehearsals will begin in January. If interested please contact either the Administrative office at 359-8401 or Wendy Tuttle at 354-5724. This is a paid position and can be shared.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota Adoption Meeting

Join us to learn about the exciting opportunities and recent changes in adoption. Discover the tools and support for families who would like a flexible, proactive adoption process, and learn how LSS can partner with you to grow your family. LSS can help families adopt children locally, and from countries around the world. Call Lynne Haggart at (612) 879-5230 or **1-888-205-3769 to register for the 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. meeting at the LSS' Mankato office located in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, on Thursday, January 14, 710 South 2nd Street, in Mankato.** For more information, or to register online, visit www.minnesotaadoption.org.

Financial News

Giving in November	\$31,557
Budgeted Expense for November	\$33,258
Giving Year-to-date	\$304,106
Budgeted Expense Year-to-date	\$338,796

Children, Youth, & Family News

Sunday School resumes on January 10 at 9:00 AM



Sunday, January 24 @ 10:30 AM - Sledding Party!

Following the Annual Meeting we will have a family sledding party! Sled down the hills behind church and then come inside and warm up with hot beverages, hot dogs and Chili lunch!

Sign up for food donations will be in the Narthex. Please come bring your own sled.

Camp Information Meeting

There will be a informational meeting on Sunday, January 10th at 10:00 a.m. for families of children interested in attending the summer camps at Green Lake, Shores of St. Andrews, or Camp House. We are tentatively planning the week of June 20th for Christ the King's week. Our week' registration needs to be blocked by the middle of January.

Wednesday, January 13; Spiritual Formation Committee Meeting @ 5:30 PM

***** SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES, HERE'S A DATE TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR *****

All Sunday School classes will be singing at 9:00 a.m. worship service on January 31, 2010. They will be singing "We Are Marching in the Light of God" and will be practicing it during the Sunday School hour in January. Thanks for your support and participation in helping our young people bring special music to our worship services.

County Wide Student Survey Results Presentation Scheduled for January 10th

A county wide open forum presentation of the Search Institutes Developmental Assets Survey results will be held on Sunday evening January 10th, from 7-9 pm at the DAC Auditorium located at 15 North State Street in New Ulm. This presentation, conducted by Shelby Andress of the Search Institute, will present the results of the student survey taken by over 1300 high school students from all 7 Brown County high schools this past October. The survey sponsored by Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth of Brown County is based on the 40 developmental assets (20 internal and 20 external) that research has found to be vital for young people to grow up healthy, caring and responsible. The more assets youth possess the happier and more successful they will be in their lives. Results of the survey will help each school along with Healthy Communities/Healthy Youth address areas of concern and build on areas of strength in curriculum and other programming. Students, parents and other interested adults are encouraged to attend this event and show support for ongoing efforts to 'Empower the Potential and Promise of Our Youth'. For more information contact Mike Brigger at 354-8632.



