



THE

# KING'S BANNER



Christ the King Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas 2353 Rice Blvd, Houston TX 77005  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 713-523-2864 ctkelc.org  
God's work. Our hands.

Volume 71, Number 11  
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Artwork by He Qi

## Advent and Christmas


### Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m.** we celebrate the Advent season with Advent Lessons and Carols. This beautiful event includes readings, hymns, anthems, and prayers that mark events in the story of Redemption. Join our Church Choir, Chorus, Choristers and Jr. Choristers as we fill our nave in sound! A potluck Open House will immediately follow Lessons and Carols in the parish hall. All are invited to bring a savory or sweet finger food to share. (Please bring food items already plated and ready to share, so that there will be a minimum of set-up and clean-up).

### Friday Organ Concerts

Friday Organ Concerts return this December, with **12:15 p.m.** half hour concerts each Friday featuring Brian Glikes and Rick Erickson performing music for the Advent season. These concerts will take place December 1, 8, 15, and 22. All welcome!

### Johann Sebastian Bach's Great "Magnificat"

 **Sunday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m.** our Bach Choir and Orchestra present Johann Sebastian Bach's great "Magnificat," BWV 243. This stunning work for choir, soloists and orchestra, will be presented in the setting of Vespers, and will also feature works by Johann Michael Bach, Michael Praetorius, Johann Eccard, Mark Whitfield, and Rick Erickson. Come and join for this festive celebration of the Advent season!

### New Year's Day Organ Concert

**Monday, January 1 at 6:00 p.m.**, join Brian Glikes and Rick Erickson as they perform our popular annual New Year's Day organ concert - this year featuring works for organ four hands and feet! Works presented will include a transcription of Mendelssohn's Reformation symphony, along with music by Mozart! All welcome!

### Service of Hope and Comfort on the Longest Night

**December 21, 7:00 p.m.**

Join us at 7:00 p.m. in the nave for a service of hope and comfort on The Longest Night of the year, December 21. This meditative service gives us time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Join others for whom the Christmas season is bittersweet to hear scripture, offer prayers for healing and wholeness, and to sing hymns that acknowledge God's presence with those who mourn and grieve, with those who suffer, and with those who struggle. God is the light shining in our darkness.

All are welcome! The service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

*see page 5*

### Christmas Flowers

Members may contribute toward decorating the nave for Christmas by donating \$10 for greenery, poinsettias and the Christmas tree. You may place contributions in the offering with one of the inserts from the bulletin or give it to the church office.

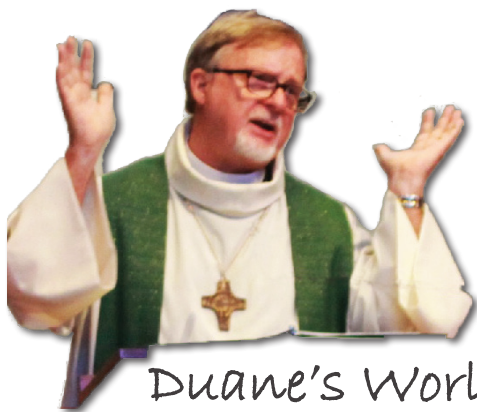
Members and friends of the congregation are invited to join the Altar Guild in decorating the nave for Christmas. Contact Jan Petner [jhpet1@gmail.com](mailto:jhpet1@gmail.com).

### The Annual Meeting of the Congregation Part 1

**December 3, 12:30 p.m. in the parish hall**

Part II of the annual congregational meeting will be held on **February 18**

*see page 4*



Duane's World

My Dear Sisters and Brothers here at Christ the King Church,

From the bottom of my heart, from the fullness of my being, I thank you so very much for these immediate days past, and, even more, for what I know is to come.

The welcome for Joen and me upon our return from Australia was more than warm; the Service of Installation and the following reception was overwhelming. What a grand exhibit of who we are and will be as a congregation! One guest wrote the following to me after the Installation Service. "Y'all knocked it out of the house today. Spectacular expression of ministry vision in 21st century Houston. I'm so glad I was there."

I couldn't be happier about that response. What we celebrated was not that a new pastor here has formally begun ministry, but that this particular church of Christ the King has so much rich history and diverse strength for which to be thankful and now so much new and good work to do with so many supportive ecumenical, interfaith and civic partners all around the city, representing also our commitments around the world. We celebrate the mission that God in Christ has given us! Can there be a greater calling and a greater privilege? And is there a better time to have this than now?

This coming Sunday we begin another Advent season (my favorite liturgical season of the year). We anticipate the Lord's coming again. I've come to appreciate ever more how meaningful it is that God chose to come into the midst of our own personal and social situations, and how this affects everything. It's not "just" the cross that redeems us. It is not "just" Christ's resurrection that redeems us. Those two connected events are but mere abstractions unless they are connected to the very birth and whole life of Jesus with our being human in history. Jesus' birth was a new and fully enfleshed entrance of God into human history, including everything from the history of conflicts of civilizations to our own personal conflicts with our checking accounts. Jesus' birth connects all of God's eternity with our most mundane routines and decisions. Jesus' coming connects the most holy with our most hollow. All this is right interpretation of a famous "speechlet" from Luther: "There is nothing so great that God is not greater, nothing so small that God is not smaller." God has "assumed" everything. Otherwise, God would not be God and we would have no future beyond death.

Do we see, then, how large is our call from God and how great our privilege to serve outside ourselves in the lowliest and most sublime of human situations? Do we see where there may be some disconnects between some personal decisions about our lives and the totality of that to which God calls us personally and together as a faith community? For God to have entered all of life at Christmas is, indeed, for God already to have given us all of God's own heart to us.

And so I celebrate--WE celebrate--that we of Christ the King Church have much to decide and much to steward from the fullness of our

lives as we begin ministry anew. This Advent (with Pledge Weekend on December 2&3), we dedicate again fully to Living and Learning God's Love. And we look forward again to Christmas, which already is God's full gift of God's self for our beautiful fullness of life. And this we joyfully find impossible to keep to ourselves. As the last stanza goes of our new Rice Village hymn, debuted at the installation service, "Install your Church, Eternal One, with zeal and strength to heal the spaces in our hearts and worlds made large by selfish will. May you, our Prophet, Priest, our King, turn great what small we bring."

Love, Pastor Duane



## WE ARE

### "LIVING AND LEARNING GOD'S LOVE"

#### PLEDGE WEEKEND ON DECEMBER 2-3

Our Stewardship theme this fall has been (lightly) "Living and Learning God's Love." Christ the King is steeped in God's Love. Yet, we have the blessing of living it more and learning it more as we plan ministry for 2018. We will build and finalize a strategic plan in early 2018 under the same theme. We will plan and offer new ways to learn and live the love of God, including, for example, a once a month event of *Brews, Blues, and the News*, church for seekers on a Friday night. We'll look to building more congregational friendship and spiritual depth with house church events. There will be much more. But, as with all our ministry, it will need your stewardship support. Toward that end, we pray for your financial pledges, on which basis we can build a responsible and yet growing ministry budget. Did you pledge your personal and financial commitment last year? If yes, please do so again. If no, we pray you will pledge this time around. We hope to match, and better, increase, the percentage of our households who pledge. And please, with prayer, consider how you might increase your generosity to support the nurture and growth of God's love in our life and mission together as your congregation. Pledge cards were sent to you in early November. Cards are also available at the church office or in the nave pews.



# ELCA World Hunger Appeal

*The mission offering is collected at the church doors at the end of worship.*

## ELCA World Hunger Appeal

The December Mission Offering is designated for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger Appeal. The ELCA's commitment to supporting people who live with chronic hunger, disease, and poverty around the corner and around the world is carried out by ELCA World Hunger through relief, development, education, and advocacy. **Last year, we contributed over \$24,000** to the World Hunger Appeal and, historically, our congregation has regarded the World Hunger Appeal as one of our distinctive global mission priorities.

All money raised by the World Hunger Appeal comes through specially designated offerings and donations from ELCA members, congregations, and friends. ELCA World Hunger receives no benevolence (general budget money from general ELCA member offerings); the ELCA's world hunger ministry is based in congregations, where most of the fundraising takes place.

### ELCA World Hunger improves the lives of people in need in the United States and around the world in four distinct ways:

- providing immediate relief for people affected by chronic hunger and poverty;
- assisting whole communities through long-term, sustainable development to help alleviate chronic hunger and poverty;
- advocating for justice by changing laws and systems;
- educating members of the ELCA in awareness of issues relating to hunger, poverty, and justice.

### How does ELCA World Hunger carry out these functions?

ELCA World Hunger supports "partner organizations" that carry out international relief and development on the ELCA's behalf with grants from money raised by the World Hunger Appeal. Also through grants, the program helps fund more than 200 relief and development projects in the United States. Funds raised by the World Hunger Appeal also support efforts of ELCA units and other outside partners as they:

- Teach members of the ELCA about causes and solutions to global poverty.
- Carry out active projects in environmental stewardship.
- Carry out hunger advocacy work in the ELCA office in Washington, D.C., and in 20 state offices as well as Bread for the World.
- Examine our lifestyles through resources from Alternatives for Simple Living.

### Who decides how the money is spent?

While most of the funds the World Hunger Appeal collects are raised in congregations, the funds are collected at the ELCA churchwide office in Chicago. There, the work of raising and spending of funds is coordinated and supported by various units of the churchwide office, including:

- Development Services (World Hunger Appeal fund-raising, hunger education, communication)
- Global Mission (international relief and development, International Disaster Response)
- Church in Society (World Hunger Program overall coordination, hunger education, ELCA Domestic Disaster Response)
- ELCA Foundation (fund-raising through major and planned gifts)

For more information on the World Hunger Appeal, visit the ELCA website at [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger).



### Huch'uy Runa (Little Important Person)

Every weekday morning, 120 elementary school children fill the dining hall at the Help the Children Association School to eat a warm breakfast. While each child has a different story, the children have one thing in common - they all come from an area of extreme poverty in and around the ancient Incan capital city of Cusco, Peru. The school, known locally as Huch'uy Runa, began 31 years ago to meet the basic needs of the children in Cusco. In Quechua, "huch'uy" means little and "runa" means a well-rounded person who contributes to the wellbeing of the community. The two words combined, "huch'uy runa" mean "little important person." And the children of this city carry this identity with pride. The school, with support from ELCA World Hunger, has been able to change the lives of many "little , important person(s)" and their families for more than a decade. Through your gifts, the children of this city receive a primary education, meals and snacks, and training in trade skills that include carpentry, metalwork, pottery and weaving - skills they can use to support themselves and their families in the future. Thanks to your support, the children in Peru are gaining lifelong skills. As one teacher shares, "[It] is like a family trying to equip the children to be able to survive and succeed in life, hoping to build a solid base on which they can stand."



# Sunday Forum

**Sundays at 9:45 a.m.**  
in the basement classroom

Members are invited  
to suggest speakers or topics.  
Contact Pr. Karin at [karinliebster@ctkelc.org](mailto:karinliebster@ctkelc.org)

**December 3 — Advent Wreath Workshop**

on First Sunday of Advent

The Altar Guild will set up for wreath making in the cloister and courtyard. The supplies provided include two different styles of wire wreaths, blue and purple advent candle sets, ribbon, bows and greenery. A donation of \$10 is suggested to cover the Altar Guild's cost of supplies. All ages are invited to join in this communal craft activity to start the Advent season in your homes. If you have a purchased wreath that you would like to decorate, please bring it and join the fun.

**December 10 — Forum with the Congregation**

The conversation about the parsonage continues. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

**December 17 — Children's Christmas Pageant**

in the parish hall. Waffle Café by Luther League.

**December 24 — No Sunday Forum**

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

(see Christmas Eve schedule on back page)

**December 31 — No Sunday Forum**

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Part 1**

**December 3, 12:30 p.m., parish hall**

Part 1 of the Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place on Sunday, December 3, immediately following the 10:50 a.m. service. The agenda will include presentation of preliminary budget(s) for 2018, a capital campaign report for Build Us Up -Send Us Forth, and council member elections. There will be opportunity for further Q & A with council leadership as well, including further conversation about the parsonage question. Your presence and voice in the planning and administration of our congregational life together is vital. Thank you for your presence and support.

Part II of the annual congregational meeting will be held on **February 18**.

**Flowers for the Nave**

The 2018 Altar Guild Flower Chart will soon be on the mobile bulletin board. Flower arrangements for weekend services are \$65. Please pay for the flowers when you sign up. Checks can be made out to Christ the King Lutheran Church with "Altar Flowers" in the memo line and placed in the offering.

**Christ the King  
Young Adults Christmas Potluck**

Friday, December 15 7:00 p.m.



Anyone "young at heart" (and age 40 or less) join for the end-of-year CTK YA Soiree! Bring a dish and beverage to share. Hosted by Nathan Wiker. Contact [nathan@wikernet.com](mailto:nathan@wikernet.com) for directions. We'll enjoy each other's company, sing carols, and take time for Advent devotion. Newcomers welcome! For more information, contact Pastor Duane at [duanelarson@ctkelc.org](mailto:duanelarson@ctkelc.org).

Anyone "young at heart" (and age 40 or less) join for the end-of-year CTK YA Soiree! Bring a dish and beverage to share. Hosted by Nathan Wiker. Contact [nathan@wikernet.com](mailto:nathan@wikernet.com) for directions. We'll enjoy each other's company, sing carols, and take time for Advent devotion. Newcomers welcome! For more information, contact Pastor Duane at [duanelarson@ctkelc.org](mailto:duanelarson@ctkelc.org).

**Choir/Chorus Trip to Mexico City!**

This coming March, we will be traveling to Mexico City. This trip is an opportunity to meet new friends, sing, sight-see, engage in a community service project through AMEXTRA, worship with Lutherans in the Mexican Lutheran Church and with the community of the German Lutheran Church. Members and friends of CTK are also welcome to join in this journey.

The trip leaves Friday, March 9 and returns either Wednesday or Friday the following week. The cost is around \$1750 for 5 day and \$2000 for 7 day including airfare. An immediate deposit of \$500 is due - balance due February 1. Please join us as we continue our Reformation 500 celebration!

Our multinational reformation 500 celebration *con nuestros vecinos al sur*.

**Tamales! Tamales! Tamales! December 17**

Between services on Sunday, **December 17**, the members of Good Shepherd Church (El Buen Pastor) will be selling their delicious tamales again. The cost is \$10 per package. Proceeds go to support projects for their church. Remember, don't wait too long, they always go fast. Thank you to our friends at El Buen Pastor Lutheran Church.

**Morning Prayer**

Morning Prayer is said at Christ the King Church each day **Monday through Friday at 8:15 a.m.** in room 314 (visitor's room) on the third floor for the 15-20 minute service. Everyone is welcome to participate as your schedule allows. We can especially use help on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please join us as we pray for the needs of body, mind, spirit, the Church and the world.

**Keeping Connected to Christ the King Church**



Christ the King Church has many opportunities to stay connected to life in and outside the church through facebook and our **weekly MailChimp email service**. Keep an eye out for these great opportunities to participate and keep in touch with the life of Christ the King Church. Please let us know if you are not getting out weekly emails, and for extra assistance, please contact the church office at [ctk@ctkelc.org](mailto:ctk@ctkelc.org).

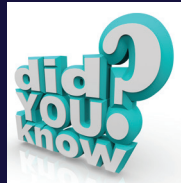
**Like Us On Facebook**—Christ the King Lutheran Church—and stay connected.



*"Some assembly required."  
The Advent star is converted from a flat piece of paper to a beautiful star. Pr. Liebster taking a break from star assembly.*

## Advent Star

During Advent through Epiphany a star appears at Christ the King Lutheran Church. In the early nineteenth century special multi-pointed stars began to be used in the Moravian churches of Saxony. They are made from paper, perhaps originally as geometry projects. Soon the stars were very popular in the churches as reminders of the light of creation, of the prophecy that a star would arise out of Jacob, of the Star of Bethlehem, and of the bright and Morning Star, Jesus Christ. They also became popular in the Lutheran churches of Saxony and beyond. The star appears in Advent and remains until the Epiphany of Our Lord and sometimes even later.



In 1949 at the Sunday School Christmas program, The Light of the World, Christ the King Church member Gail Glass sang a solo.

## THE LONGEST NIGHT: A SERVICE OF HOPE AND COMFORT

Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. in the nave

Christmas is a joyous time for many and yet a painful time for others. This holiday season may be the first time without the presence of a loved family member or friend taken by death. It may be a time that you are facing changes or the unknown in your life. It may be a time that has always been difficult, or it may be particularly challenging this year because of the loss of home and security due to the recent flooding.

For these reasons and more Christ the King Church will again offer a special "Longest Night" service on December 21, at 6:30 p.m.

The constant refrain we hear about getting together with family reminds many people of what and who they have lost, or what they never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the loss of "home," the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation - all of these can make us feel very much alone in the midst of the festive season.

The Longest Night is an intimate service of scripture, stories, special music, silent reflection and healing prayer. It's a time to recognize that Christmas can be bittersweet and that we need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concerns. Join with us to hear scripture, offer prayers for healing and wholeness, and to sing hymns that acknowledge that God's presence is for those who mourn, for those who grieve, and for those who struggle.

God is the light shining in our darkness. We invite you to experience this meditative worship service that takes time for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

This is also a wonderful way to remember those you know who might be in need. Everyone is welcome.

The short service will be followed by a brief time for light refreshments and fellowship.

## Donate New Toys and Books

Please donate new, unwrapped toys and books (avoiding items violent in nature) for children ages 0 – 15 to the Christian Community Service Center (CCSC). **You may place donations in the box in the foyer or in the church office. Deadline for toys and gifts is December 3.**

When shopping for toys, remember the toy each child receives through Jingle Bell Express may be his/her only Christmas present. Consider purchasing one or two "primary gifts" rather than several small "stocking stuffers" or donate money and pick up a Gift of Hope card in the foyer to give to a loved one for Christmas. **Checks can be made out to Christ the King Church with Jingle Bell Express in the memo line.**

Jingle Bell Express involves hundreds of volunteers. Help is needed with organizing toys, setting up the 'store', and even helping parents select toys.

## Fill a Shoebox and Delight a Seafarer by December 3

Christ the King Lutheran Church is collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts to give to seafarers who visit the Port of Houston during the holiday season. The gifts will be distributed by the Seafarers' ecumenical ministry. Crew sizes vary between 8 and 30, with an average number of 22 seafarers to gift per ship. In 2016, chaplains placed almost 12,000 gifts on board 517 ships which had seafarers from 63 different countries! These gifts were donated to the seafarers by churches and organizations!



For information, contact Ben Remmert, Deacon  
Director of Youth and Family Ministry,  
benremmert@ctkelc.org or 281-468-4686.

## December Dates:

- 1-2: Advent Retreat at Lutherhill
- 3: Luther League: Wrapping SeaFarer Gifts, 5 p.m.
- 6: No Confirmation Mtg
- 10: Luther League Meeting, 12:30 p.m.
- 13: No Confirmation Mtg
- 17: Luther League Waffle Café, 8 a.m.  
Luther League Christmas Party, 4:30 p.m.
- 24: Christmas Eve, No Luther League Mtg.
- 31: New Years Eve, No Luther League Mtg.

## What Excites Me About Being A Christian

*by Luther League, Sunday, October 29, 2017*

“What excites me about being a Christian is the people, the way we study and how we react to situations differently than others in the world.”

“Being a Christian excites me because I feel like I am in a special group. I understand more about Jesus and can talk about Christ outside of Church. We can talk about something not everyone believes in. Our pastors, deacons, and organizers are so nice and want to know more about us. They want you to be comfortable. All that helps me get excited about being a Christian”

“What excites me about being a Christian is the sense of community and the belief of the community binding everyone together.”

“What excites me most about being a Christian is meeting new people and learning about Christian practices. (And we eat good food).”

“I enjoy the fellowship and sense of community in the church. Every week, I feel like I am a part of the great community that shares the good news of Jesus Christ.”

“I love about being a Christian is going to places like Lutherhill and being a part of a worship community that offers service and great food.”

“Being a part of the CTK community excites me because we go to fun places to learn more about God.”

“What excites me about being a Christian is that I feel like I am a part of something bigger than myself. I feel that I get to help others and being a part of a stronger community. I love that I get to meet new people and learn new things about my faith.”

## Advent Retreat at Lutherhill: December 1-2, 2017

Awaken to the Advent season as we await for the coming of Christ. Campers in 1st through 6th grade are invited to spend a packed 24 hours worshipping, learning in Bible study, and experiencing fun camp activities like the giant swing, archery, and arts and crafts with Ben Remmert. We will navigate the day largely as a community but we will break into small groups for age specific Bible studies. This retreat will begin on Friday evening with welcoming games, activities, and a devotion. On Saturday, we will have an action packed day including learning more about our theme, experiencing fun camp activities, and being sent out to go in peace and serve the Lord through closing worship. Cost is \$55 per person. RSVP to Ben Remmert at benremmert@ctkelc.org

## Seafarer Wrappers Needed: December 3

Youth and adult volunteers needed for our seafarer gifts on Sunday, December 3, 5:00 p.m. Volunteers will help in wrapping gifts that we have been collecting to give to sailors that stay in the Port of Houston over the holidays. Donations of wrapping paper is needed as well.

## Luther League Christmas Party: December 17 at 4:30 p.m.

All 6th – 12th grade youth and their parents are invited to help decorate the church Christmas tree at 4:30 p.m. before attending the Luther League Christmas party and gift exchange. All attending should meet in the narthex at 4:30 p.m. to decorate the tree. Afterwards, we will move to the parish hall for a festive feast, fellowship, games, and a white elephant gift exchange. Please bring a gift under \$10 (new or used) for the gift exchange. Gifts are typically something laying around the house that you don't want and that is funny, tacky, or “Gag Gift.” The main entrée will be provided but side dishes and desserts are needed for our feast! Please contact Ben Remmert to volunteer or to sign up to bring a dish!

## Waffle Baking Volunteers Needed: December 17

Youth and adult volunteers needed for our Christmas Pageant Waffle Bake on December 17, 8 a.m. Volunteers will making and selling waffles during the Christmas Pageant to support the youth going to the Youth Gathering this summer. No experience necessary. Donations of waffle batter and toppings are welcome to help cut the cost. If you feel so called to donate, please contact Ben Remmert



*Our middle school students attending the Converge Retreat at Lutherhill on November 10-12.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS- SUMMER 2018

Those completed 2nd-5th grade will spend a whole week at Lutherhill discovering all of the joys camp has to offer with Deacon Ben Remmert! Youngin's (grades 2-3) and Yearling's (grades 4-6) are at camp July 15-20. First graders (Alpha Campers) get to try out camp for three days at a reduced rate, July 15-18. Enjoy fun bible studies, camp-wide worships, afternoon activities and daily All Camp activities. Spend an evening around the campfire making s'mores. Cost breakdowns are below. Sign up and Register by February 15, 2018.

### ALPHA (1<sup>st</sup> Grade) PROGRAM COST:

Paid In Full by Dec 15	Paid In Full by March 15	Paid In Full by May 15	Paid After May 15
\$275	\$290	\$325	\$340

### YOUNG'NS (2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) and YEARLING'S (4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade) PROGRAM COST:

Paid In Full by Dec 15	Paid In Full by March 15	Paid In Full by May 15	Paid After May 15
\$425	\$450	\$500	\$525

## Junior High Students - (6th-8th Grade)

### Lutherhill Beach Camp - July 22-27, 2018

Those that have completed 6th-8th grade can experience a week at Lutherhill as a confirmation group with Deacon Ben Remmert! Beach camp is located at the new Zion Retreat Center, Galveston Island. Campers will experience the love of Christ both inside and outside the walls of Zion by taking advantage of the beach and surrounding attractions.

- Dive into Bible studies
- Enjoy worships on the Gulf of Mexico
- Cook for one another
- Experience service opportunities in the surrounding communities
- Explore the island of Galveston
- Grow in community with fellow junior high students

Cost breakdown are below. Sign up and Register by February 15, 2018.

### JR HIGH BEACH CAMP PROGRAM COST:

Paid In Full by Dec 15	Paid In Full by March 15	Paid In Full by May 15	Paid After May 15
\$465	\$490	\$540	\$565

## Senior High Students- (8th-12th Grade)

### 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering: June 27 – July 1, 2018

Youth have a great opportunity to participate in the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in Houston. Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. We hope to bring a group of our youth to participate this summer in this great event. If you are interested in attending, RSVP to Ben Remmert no later than November 1 with a \$200 deposit.

## GODLY PLAY

Parents, please make your New Year resolution to join us during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.) in 2018.

We invite you to:

1. Send your kids to Godly Play
2. Visit a Godly Play class, sitting quietly at the back
3. Become a door person
4. Attend our adult Sunday Forums which feature a variety of timely topics
5. Have a cup of coffee and enjoying our courtyard while your child develops his/her faith life



# DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Lesser Festivals and Commemorations</b>					1	2
3 Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, 1552 4 John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, c. 749 6 Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, c. 342 7 Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397 13 Lucy, martyr, 304 14 John of the Cross, renewer of the church, 1591 20 Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, 1552 26 STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR 27 JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST 28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS					8:15 am Morning Prayer 9:00 am Prayer Shawl ministry 10:00 am Friday Morning Bible Study 12:15 am Advent Organ Concert Advent Retreat	6:00 pm Contemplative Worship Advent Retreat
3 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Pageant rehearsal 9:45 am Advent Wreath Workshop 10:50 am Worship 12:15 pm Annual Meeting, Part 1 5:00 pm Luther League 6:00 pm Lessons and Carols, followed by a PotLuck Dinner	4 Church Office Closed 8:15 am Morning Prayer	5 8:15 am Morning Prayer 6:00 pm Executive Committee 7:30 pm Bach Choir	6 8:15 am Morning Prayer 5:30 pm Pizza 6:00 pm Pageant Rehearsal 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Brass Choir 7:30 pm Choir and Chorus	7 8:15 am Morning Prayer	8 8:15 am Morning Prayer 9:00 am Prayer Shawl ministry 10:00 am Friday Morning Bible Study 12:15 am Advent Organ Concert	9 6:00 pm Contemplative Worship
10 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday Church School 9:45 am Sunday Forum 10:50 am Worship 12:30 pm Luther League 6:00 pm Bach Vespers	11 Church Office Closed 8:15 am Morning Prayer	12 8:15 am Morning Prayer 7:15 pm Congregation Council 7:30 pm Bach Choir	13 8:15 am Morning Prayer 5:30 pm Pizza 6:00 pm Pageant Rehearsal 6:15 pm Brass Choir 7:30 pm Choir and Chorus	14 8:15 am Morning Prayer	15 8:15 am Morning Prayer 9:00 am Prayer Shawl ministry 12:15 am Advent Organ Concert 7:00 pm Young Adults Potluck offsite	16 6:00 pm Contemplative Worship
17 8:00 am Luther League Waffle Café 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Childrens Christmas Pageant 10:50 am Worship 4:30 pm Luther League	18 Church Office Closed 8:15 am Morning Prayer	19 8:15 am Morning Prayer 7:30 pm Bach Choir	20 8:15 am Morning Prayer 10:00 am SEARCH Coffee Hour 6:15 pm Brass Choir 7:30 pm Choir and Chorus	21 8:15 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm The Longest Night	22 Church Office Closed 8:15 am Morning Prayer 12:15 am Advent Organ Concert	23 No Contemplative Worship
24 10:00 am Advent Worship 4:00 pm <i>Weihnachtsmesse</i> German-language service 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion around the Crèche with Carols and Candlelight 10:00 p.m. Holy Communion with Carols and Candlelight	25 Church Office Closed 11:00 am Carols and Communion	26 Church Office Closed 8:15 am Morning Prayer	27 8:15 am Morning Prayer No <i>Wednesday Night Alive!</i> WNA will resume on January 17	28 8:15 am Morning Prayer	29 8:15 am Morning Prayer	30 6:00 pm Contemplative Worship

31  
Blood Pressure Screenings  
8:30 am Worship  
9:45 am Sunday Church School  
9:45 am Sunday Forum  
10:50 am Worship



*Members and friends joined together for a festive dinner in the parish hall on Thanksgiving Day. We are grateful to Paul and Marie Monroe for roasting the turkeys and for serving as gracious hosts.*



# Giving Gifts



# Alternative

Do you really want another "thing" for Christmas?

What do you give the person who already has everything?

Is gift giving at Christmas losing its sense of meaning?

## ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Contribute to our December Mission Offering which benefits the Evangelical Church in America (ELCA) World Hunger Appeal and pick up "gift of hope" cards in the narthex to give to your loved ones for Christmas.

**ELCA Good Gifts:** With more than 50 options, from honeybees to goats to school supplies to medical checkups, ELCA Good Gifts makes it easy to honor your gift recipients in meaningful ways that help people in need in more than 80 countries in which the ELCA has a presence.

Sending a "good gift" is easy. First, choose your gift from the catalog. Second, announce your gift by printing off one of the online printable cards, or request cards to be mailed directly to you for giving. (When you make a gift online, you also have an option to personalize free, printed cards that will be sent directly to your loved ones.) Third, know that more than 90 percent of your gifts directly support Lutheran ministries near and far. To make the gifts more personal, you can choose the causes that are closest to your recipients' hearts.

- [elca.org/goodgifts](http://elca.org/goodgifts)

**Make it fair trade:** There's a lot of talk about fair trade, but just what does it mean? According to Fair Trade USA, "Fair-Trade Certified" products are made with respect to people and planet, with products ranging from coffee and chocolate to body care and clothes. To be sure you're buying certified products, look for the label. Equal Exchange is one worker-owned cooperative that offers fair-trade goods.

Another thought to consider when giving this Christmas season: it's not how much you spend or how big the gift, but how it will continue giving long past December 25. "There was no room for Mary and Joseph and the Christ child in the inn, but room was made for them," Strickland said, reflecting on the Christmas story. "Even when we might feel that there's not enough, God's abundance is present, and in the Christmas season, we're reminded how abundance may look small-like a baby being born in a Bethlehem manger scene."

*by Susan B. Barnes, Living Lutheran, November 2017*

### Alternative Giving and Sharing Christmas Joy!

Are you looking for a gift to give a loved one or friend that will truly make a difference this Christmas? Here is a wonderful way to honor those you love while supporting your neighbors in crisis who visit the **Christian Community Service Center**.

Go to [ccschouston.org](http://ccschouston.org) and click the green "I Want to Donate" button. Once CCSC has received your gift(s), they will send a Christmas card to the recipient(s) you designate in the "Memory/Honor/Christmas Acknowledgement" section. (Make sure to include their full name and complete address). Many wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Additionally, **Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Farmers Market Coffee** partners with farmers to help transform communities that depend on coffee crops to support their families. Not only can you give the gift of a delicious cup of hot coffee, but you'll know that your gift funds LWR projects worldwide.

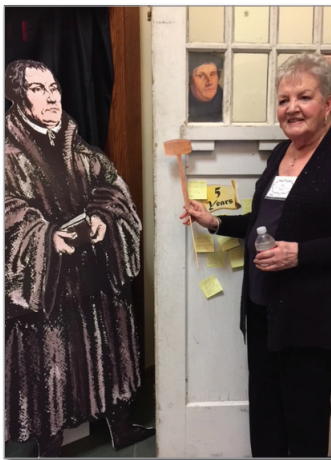
For more fair-trade gift ideas, take a look at **Ten Thousand Villages**, with an online shop and brick and mortar stores, that works with 20,000 makers in 30 developing countries; and **Servv**, which connects shoppers with artisans and farmers in 25 countries to lift them and their families out of poverty.

- [fairtradeusa.org](http://fairtradeusa.org)
- [tenthousandvillages.com](http://tenthousandvillages.com)
- [lwrfarmersmarket.org](http://lwrfarmersmarket.org)
- [servv.org](http://servv.org)
- [equalexchange.coop](http://equalexchange.coop)

**Adopt an animal:** You can't take the animal(s) you adopt home (can you imagine keeping a manatee in the bathtub?), but you can virtually adopt wild animals as gifts while supporting international, national or local animal groups.

- [savethemanatee.org/adoptpag.htm](http://savethemanatee.org/adoptpag.htm)
- [gifts.worldwildlife.org](http://gifts.worldwildlife.org)  
(click on "special adoptions").

You can also support our own Houston Zoo by adopting an animal. [www.houstonzoo.org/support-the-zoo/adopt-an-animal](http://www.houstonzoo.org/support-the-zoo/adopt-an-animal)



# Christ the King Festival

## REFORMATION 1517-2017

# 500

November 17, 2017



## Thank You

Our deepest gratitude is extended to all the people that made our annual Festival a great success. The proceeds of \$16,000 will benefit the Service and Care ministries of Christ the King Lutheran Church. We especially thank our committee chairs.

Festival Chairperson: Mary Ann Beseda  
 Decorations: Cindi Scruggs and Courtney Harper  
 Food: Gaelyn Leshar  
 Wine Pull: Mary Ann Beseda and Carolyn Phillips (and to Meaghan Wheeler and Adrienne Winston, our "wine promoters")  
 Sociables: Beverly Davis  
 Wishing Wall and Mission Fair: Julie Giam, Mary Ann Beseda and Beverly Davis  
 Registration: Joanie Brehm  
 Auctioneers: Adrienne Winston and Lucky Sahualla  
 Office and Creative Support: Noelle Jung and Michael Shelton  
 Skit: The Never Ready for Prime Time Players (church staff)  
 Photo booth: Ben Remmert and Katherine Willcockson  
 Piecemakers: for the gift of their time, talent and treasure in the creation of this year's "confetti" quilt  
 And to everyone that donated fine wine, auction items, and sociables; to all who bid, purchased, and granted wishes; and to those that helped set-up, decorate and clean-up. It takes a village—a Village Church with a Global Mission!

# HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

*Make your holiday season  
a healthy one in body and in spirit!*

## For the body:

1. Don't diet! That's right, don't diet. Instead, aim for weight maintenance.
2. Enjoy those holiday goodies in small portions surrounded by healthy choices like apples, cranberries and baked squash.
3. When entertaining, provide a few healthy alternatives for those who are trying to maintain. For example:
  - salsa instead of cream cheese
  - sorbet instead of ice cream
  - Ginger ale, sparkling cider and cranberry juice along with alcoholic choices
4. Center entertainment on an activity such as singing carols, watching videos or ice-skating at the mall instead of food.
5. Don't drink and drive.
6. Above all, maintain your exercise routine amidst the hustle and bustle.

## For the spirit:

1. Make a budget for holiday spending and stick to it.
2. Give gifts of time like babysitting, running errands, paying a visit or preparing a meal.
3. Volunteer for a community organization.
4. Try something new.
5. Spend time thinking about what the holidays really mean to you.
6. Remember that many people experience "holiday blues". They are normal and manageable. Talk with someone you trust.
7. Make moments for yourself – a walk in the park, coffee at Starbuck's, window shopping, looking through the family picture album or spending time on a neglected hobby or passion.

These healthy holiday tips were created from information provided by Duke University and the Department of Health and Human Services.

## Nurse Notes

submitted by Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse

## Adolescent Mental Health

Adolescent mental health is an important health issue. Mood swings are common during adolescence, but approximately one in five **adolescents** has a diagnosable **mental health** disorder, such as depression and/or anxiety disorder. The United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends that adolescents be screened regularly for depression.

Faith communities can play an important role in being alert to warning signs and supporting adolescents who face mental health diagnoses. Like physical illness mental health disorders can be managed if there is openness to discussion, assessment and supportive interventions. In October, Christ the King staff, four synod youth leaders and one CTK parent attended a workshop on this topic presented by Mental Health America. This opportunity was organized by Jessica Schmitt, a doctoral nursing student, working with Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse. As a follow up ministry staff received information on support services available here in Houston. Copies of this resource list can also be found in the Care Notes rack across from the kitchen serving window. For more information please contact a member of the ministry staff or visit <http://www.mhahouston.org/>

houston  
**food bank**  **Saturday  
January 13**  
Leave the church at 7:30  
Return at noon  
For information, contact [ctkhfb@gmail.com](mailto:ctkhfb@gmail.com)

Please put the following 2018 dates on your calendar.

**Second Saturdays  
of Odd Months  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

### 2017 DATES

January 13	July 14
March 10	September 8
May 12	November 10

## Montrose Grace Place

It's December, and that means it's time to sign up to serve at Montrose Grace Place on **Thursday, December 7!** Bette Bowers will be preparing the meal, but we need 4-5 volunteers to serve it to at-risk LGBTQ youth. If you would like to help with this community project, contact Rebecca ([rshields63@gmail.com](mailto:rshields63@gmail.com)) know if you are available!

## SEARCH

### Cards and Coffee Ministry

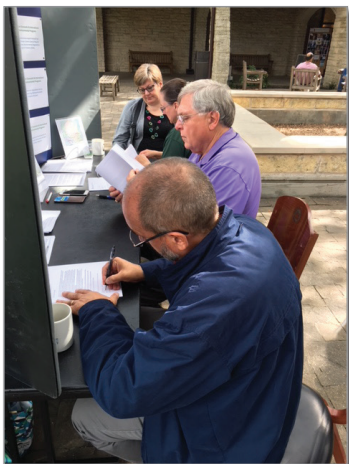
Please join us in hosting our monthly coffee hour for SEARCH Homeless Services clients at the Perry St. Apartments, 4415 Perry, a New Hope Housing project in the Third Ward on **Wednesday December 20, 10:00-11:00 a.m.** This collaboration with SEARCH takes place every third Wednesday of the month. **If you have any 2018 calendars** you'd like to contribute you may drop them off in the donation basket in the narthex on Sundays or in the church office. For more information, contact Beverly at [beverlydavis@ctkelc.org](mailto:beverlydavis@ctkelc.org).



### Join Us on a Justice Journey!

The Justice Advocacy Ministry Team invites you to join a Justice Journey in 2018. We will use the ecumenical justice resource, *Living Justice: A Gospel Response to Poverty*. The plan is to meet once/month for a focused study, and once/month to do justice. Specific dates/times will be set to accommodate those who would like to participate. You are welcome to join for the entire study, or any sessions that interest you. To see details on the text, or to order it, see <http://www.cpj.ca/books>. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) for more information or to indicate interest in participating.

*Below: Members and friends advocated on a variety of issues at our Justice Advocacy event on November 12.*



### Justice Advocacy Opportunity – Reach Every Mother & Child Act

The Reach Every Mother & Child Act was recently introduced in Congress by a bipartisan group of senators/representatives. This legislation would increase the effectiveness of existing maternal & child survival programs by: requiring a coordinated strategy, establishing rigorous reporting, reducing duplication of effort, maximizing impact, and leveraging other resources to compliment U.S. assistance. While mortality rates of mothers and children under 5 have dropped by more than half since 1990, there are still over 5 million children and 300,000 women who die annually of preventable causes, principally in the developing world. Join with other Lutherans to urge Congress to support the Reach Every Mother & Child Act. (go to [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy), click on the Take Action Now link, and then locate the Help End Preventable Maternal & Newborn Deaths Globally advocacy action).

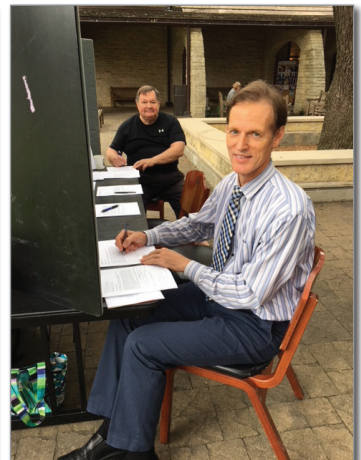
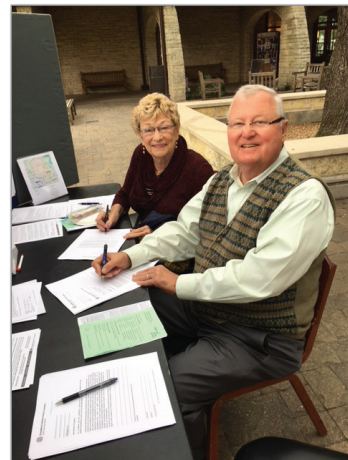
### Churchwide Assembly Look-Back:

#### African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter

At churchwide assembly in August of 2016, a proposal entitled African Descent Lutheran Lives Matter was approved. This proposal calls for Lutherans of African descent to be included in celebrations of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, as well as the U.N. International Decade for People of African Descent. The ELCA is further called to confess and repent of 400 years of oppression/marginalization of people of African descent, and others, and to acknowledge racial discrimination within the ELCA itself. A Declaration of the ELCA to the African Descent Community is to be prepared by April 2018. Lutheran seminaries and colleges are called upon to include the study of Black Liberation and Womanist theologians, to develop anti-racism resources, and to offer programs for ethnic-specific communities. The ELCA is asked to sustain & re-invest in African descent ministries, increase the number of African descent leaders, congregations and communities served by 10%, and to grow racial and ethnic diversity in the church.

### The Work of the ELCA: Fund for Leaders

The ELCA Fund for Leaders is a merit-based scholarship program for seminarians. The ELCA's vision is to eventually be able to provide full-tuition scholarships to all candidates for rostered ministry at ELCA seminaries. In 2016, a \$3 million gift was announced to the Fund for Leaders, to provide full-tuition scholarships for an additional 60 seminarians. To learn more, go to [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org), place your cursor over Our Work, and click the link for ELCA Fund for Leaders.



## Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston

### 2018 Kick-Off Event

Sunday, January 7, 2:00 p.m.

The Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston invites you to their 2018 Kick-Off Event at the University of St. Thomas. We will hear from faith leaders of a variety of faiths on the relationship between their faith and the natural world. There will be a presentation on the top ten free environmental resources for houses of worship. We will recap activities from 2017, and discuss plans for 2018. You'll get an opportunity to provide your input into 2018 planning via a survey. And, we ask those who can do so to bring some snacks to share for our break-out sessions, during which we'll get to know each other better. We'll provide beverages to accompany the snacks. People of all faiths are encouraged to attend, as are representatives of local environmental non-profits that would like to work with people of faith on environmental issues. Please join us! This event will take place at the University of St. Thomas, 3800 Montrose Blvd. Metro buses lines 82, 56 and 25 stop nearby. Please register for this event for planning purposes. The Interfaith Environmental Network of Houston seeks to empower the faith community in Houston to advocate and act collectively as stewards of the environment by (a) fostering a strong connection between the rich faith community of greater Houston and Houston-area environmental organizations in order to reach shared goals and by (b) empowering their members to advocate and take action on behalf of the environment. Contact Lisa Brenskelle at [brenskelle@aol.com](mailto:brenskelle@aol.com) for more information.



### Ideas for a Green Christmas

The Creation Care Team offers the following ideas for an ecologically green Christmas that is kind to God's creation.

1. Shop locally to avoid the extra carbon footprint associated with the time products spend on trucks and planes. For out of town gift recipients, shop online and have gifts shipped directly to recipients.
2. Utilize reusable gift bags or reusable fabric gift wrap and reuse last year's Christmas cards to make gift tags. Let your children decorate brown paper shopping bags with their art work or hand prints and use them as wrapping paper.
3. Choose gifts that have minimal packaging.
4. Minimize the number of hours that holiday lights are left on. Consider use of LED Christmas tree lights which are very low power consumers and very long-lasting.
5. Purchase sustainable gifts like fair trade coffee or handicrafts, animals from The Heifer Project, gifts from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog or from Lutheran World Relief.
6. Shop from your favorite charity. Your purchase not only provides a gift, but also uses part of the purchase price toward support of the charitable cause.
7. Give the gift of your time or talent: Free babysitting, special baked goods, jams, relish or yummy casseroles, or a holiday dinner at your home.
8. Other gift suggestions are tickets to performances or movies, and cooking or art classes.

### CREATION CARE

Biological diversity is the key to the maintenance of the world as we know it...Eliminate one species and another increases to take its place. Eliminate a great many species and the local ecosystem starts to decay.

Edward O. Wilson, *The Diversity of Life*, 1999



Photos from the installation service of Senior Pastor Duane Larson on November 26, 2017.

## Community of Hope training begins in February Is God Calling You to be a Lay Chaplain?



Do you want to deepen your relationship with God? Do you want to strengthen your ability to handle difficult circumstances in everyday life? Do you want to be a better listener—to God, to your own heart, to your neighbor? Then, the Community of Hope might be for you!

The Community of Hope training awakens participants to God's call on their lives through experiential discovery and understanding of their own spiritual gifts for ministry. Each student is encouraged to make a journey into wholeness. More than the absence of illness, a healthy person is one who has discovered meaning and purpose in life and understands the importance of mind, body, spirit balance. All are invited to develop their own "rule of life" while exploring sacred silence, Christian meditation, compassionate listening, lectio divina and pastoral identity. The program is rooted in Benedictine Spirituality and is based on the classic "clinical pastoral education" model used to train chaplains.

The experience builds community and develops spiritually centered pastoral caregivers, equipped for ministry in multiple settings, including their own families, workplace and civic organizations, as well as in traditional ministry settings such as the congregation, hospitals, nursing homes and hospice.

Contact Beverly Davis at [beverlydavis@ctkelc.org](mailto:beverlydavis@ctkelc.org) or 713-400-0517 for more information and to register. Registration deadline is January 10. Classes will be held at Christ the King Church on **Monday evenings starting February 5 and concluding April 23**. Cost is \$120 which includes all materials.

## Year-End Tax Deductible Contributions from Any Assets

As you prayerfully consider your calendar year-end giving, remember: You can take advantage of the charitable tax deduction for any gifts given before December 31. Checks must be dated and postmarked in 2017. Our church office is open from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 29 if you would like to bring your gifts in person. Of course any gifts placed in the offering plate through December will be credited to 2017.

## Support Christ the King thru an IRA Rollover

### Time to turn your minimum distribution into maximum tax savings

The current IRS rules now allow you to make a special gift to CTK through your individual retirement account. An IRA rollover allows individuals over 70 1/2 years of age or older to make transfers up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA to a charity without counting the transfer as income. The IRA rollover donation is a simple way to support CTK while satisfying your IRS required minimum distribution (RMD) and avoiding additional taxes. Depending on your income level it may also help reduce your Medicare payments the following year.

Gifts of appreciated assets (such as stock) allow you to avoid capital gains tax and you may claim the current fair market value as your contribution. If you need help in handling this donation or if you have any questions regarding your contribution statement or giving opportunities, please contact our business office at 713-400-0512. Note: We cannot split a gift of stock into two different tax years; it must be designated for one specific year. Once again thank you for your amazing generosity. May you know the joy of giving in this season of celebrating the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

## Celebrate your Baptismal Anniversary!

### November 26

Kevin Simpson  
Luke Winston  
Rasmus Hoenen  
Cindy Scruggs  
Patricia Barnard  
Gerald Gibson  
Andreas  
Fullaondo-Boker  
Torsten Louis  
Grace Sahualla  
Peter Boecher  
Hilda Boyce  
Lisa Krueger  
Maureen Lamson  
Nancy Letness  
Nicholas Lloyd  
Johnny Longoria  
Wendy Wentland  
Jan Petner

### December 3

Richard Oechslin  
Franz Liebster  
Janning Hoenen  
Ron Brownlee  
Charles Hooks  
Susanna Schuster  
Michael Vollmer

### December 10

Yanis Eberhart  
Yonas Eberhart  
Aeron Hoogerwerf  
Jack Zage  
Peter Winston  
Dorothy Chesley  
Ryan Morris  
Jennifer Dyer

### December 17

Eric Zage  
Daniel Zorn  
Bill Marks  
Kiersten Thompson  
Matthew Boles  
Trey Bourne  
Robert Hoover  
Richard Stuff  
Eldon Thomas  
Bill Mintz  
Henry Thweatt  
Gaelyn Leshar  
Mary Ella Orsburn

### December 24

Christina  
Azure-Keller  
Sarah Thweatt  
Alexandra Uri  
Stephanie  
Hoogerwerf  
Katie Feuille  
Evren Gener  
Niell Gorman  
Oliver Miertschin  
Alexander Skoracki  
Marlee Thompson  
Anna Fay Williams  
Louis Monroe  
Peter Nikonowicz  
David Jurgens  
Penny Linsenmayer  
Will Mallon  
Pierce Mathis  
Charles Turner  
Shanna Thorvilson  
Lucky Sahualla  
Meredith Murphy  
Eric Olafson

### December 31

Vivian Ho  
John Boles  
Valentine Boving  
Joanie Brehm  
Andrew Winston  
Kleta Gerhart  
Cheryl Howard  
Kurt Johnson  
Doug Morris  
Bob Petner  
Karen Sebung  
Janice Thompson  
Anja Timmerman  
Hilary Ybarra  
Steve Ybarra  
Lily Lenz  
Thai Hoang

*"Remember  
and rejoice,  
Renewed  
by floods of  
grace.  
We bear the  
sign of Jesus  
Christ,  
That time  
cannot erase."  
(ELW 454)*

# Advent and Christmas

## Friday, December 1

12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Recital

## First Sunday of Advent December 2

6:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship  
with Holy Communion

## December 3

8:30 and 10:50 a.m. Holy Communion  
12:30 p.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation,  
Part 1  
6:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols  
7:00 p.m. Advent Potluck in the parish hall

## Friday, December 8

12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Recital

## Second Sunday of Advent December 9

6:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship  
with Holy Communion

## December 10

8:30 and 10:50 a.m. Holy Communion  
6:00 p.m. Bach Magnificat - Vespers for Advent

## Friday, December 15

12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Recital

## Third Sunday of Advent December 16

6:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship  
with Holy Communion

## December 17

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant  
10:50 a.m. Holy Communion

## The Longest Night December 21

7:00 p.m. A Service of Hope and Comfort

## Friday, December 22

12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Recital



Artwork by He Qi

## Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

### December 23

6:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship  
with Holy Communion

### December 24

10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols  
with Holy Communion  
(Only one morning service!)  
4:00 p.m. Weihnachtsmesse  
German-language service  
6:00 p.m. Holy Communion around the Crèche  
with Carols and Candlelight  
10:00 p.m. Holy Communion  
with Carols and Candlelight (Incense)

## Christmas Day

### December 25

11:00 a.m. Carols and Communion

## First Sunday of Christmas

### December 30

6:00 p.m. Contemplative Worship  
with Holy Communion

### December 31

10:00 a.m. Holy Communion  
(Only one morning service!)

## January 1

6:00 p.m. Organ Concert