



THE HERALD

Worship Times: 9:00 and 10:15 a.m. **Sunday School Time:** 10:15 a.m.
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January 2015

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Local Mission Partners

Christ the King to celebrate community partners

This January, Christ the King will celebrate its annual Local Mission Partner weekend, featuring special guest, Bishop of the Saint Paul Area Synod, Patricia J. Lull. In addition to preaching on Local Mission Partner Sunday, Jan. 18, Bishop Lull will join us for a Local Mission Forum on Saturday, Jan. 17, 7:00 p.m. in the Trinity Room across from the church office.

Immigrant members and representatives of our local mission partners as well as Daily Work and the Agora program at Luther Seminary will be invited to tell their stories. Finally, we will engage Bishop Lull in a discussion of what "joining God in our neighborhood" means for God's mission.

On Local Mission Partner Sunday, representatives of our diverse community will enrich our worship through...

...the sounds of a Hmong youth band,

A Hmong youth band (seen above) from Good Samaritan Lutheran Church will provide special music. This group started in 2013 as they saw other youth playing music and asked if they could start learning keyboard, guitar, and drums. They now lead worship once a month at Good Samaritan, a Hmong worshipping community in St. Paul.

...poetry with a mission,

Joe Davis, poet in residence at Redeemer Lutheran Church in north Minneapolis, will share

Local Mission Partner Weekend Jan. 17-18, 2015



Local Mission Partners looks to promote awareness, evangelism, and service to members of Christ the King, the community around us, and our local mission partner congregations.

an original Epiphany poem highlighting Jesus being shown to the nations of the world. Born to a Jamaican immigrant mother and a hardworking Chicagoan father, Davis' family fostered in him a childhood sense of wonder and creativity.

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Christ the King Lutheran Church

Guided by the Gospel, it is the mission of Christ the King Lutheran Church to make disciples for Jesus Christ by inviting and welcoming all to serve God and God's people by joining in:

- Gathering for worship and fellowship,
- Growing in faith and understanding,
- Giving of our time and resources.

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New Year Blessings

Happy New Year!

For many of us, we welcome the change in calendar. 2014 was a difficult year. We lost loved ones. We experienced hardship. We longed for better days.

For others, we long to hold on to 2014 for a while longer. We celebrated births, marriages, and anniversaries. We lived fully. We see that a changing world can be a scary place and want to hold onto the past as best as we can.

But whether we like it or not, 2015 is here. With it brings potential and opportunities, challenges and changes.

In all of it, we cling to the hope and promise that we are woven together in God's love. What's mine is yours, and what's yours is mine. We are woven so tightly that we share one another's joys and burdens. We are called to hold each other up when we are weak and offer hospitality and prayers to those in need. No matter what we may face, God richly blesses us and, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, offers mercy, forgiveness, and hope.

Begin this year focused on this gift, and hear this New Year's blessing adapted from Rabbi Frederick L. Klein:

May you be blessed with sudden insights and inspiration.

May you be graced with quiet moments of simplicity and reflection.

May you be supported by your loved ones when you need them, and may you be a source of strength to those around you.

May you receive embraces from parents, children, and long lost friends.

May you cry at good movies with a person you love, and may you read a newspaper and react to injustice, both in mind and deed.

May you pick up a hobby that you have always wanted to do, and may you say goodbye to habits and thoughts that have become a burden for you.



May you forgive those who have hurt you, and may you have the courage to make amends when needed.

May you travel to new places inside yourself, and may you build the world you have always wanted for yourself and others.

May you hear the joy and the sorrow of this great universe in which we live, and may you—and us all—be blessed with peace.

I look forward to our year ahead and to seeing the many ways we will continue to be woven in love. Happy New Year!

With Joy,
Pastor Hannah

Greetings from your Church Council

Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 1, following 10:15 a.m. worship service.

2014 has been an exciting year of transition and change. We look forward to 2015 as we continue to work together doing God's work at Christ the King, in our community, and in the world. This congregation is richly blessed with talented and giving people. Among other important actions, this meeting will approve the proposed ministry budget for 2015 and elect council members and other leaders for the coming year. Don't worry, we'll be done in plenty of time for you to catch the Super Bowl. Thank you for your contributions to CtK with your time, talent, and treasure.

Cyndi Lescher, Council President

Meeting notes

This meeting, previously announced for Sunday, Jan. 25, has been rescheduled in order to celebrate Bruce Phelps' ministry among us (see page 5). Annual reports are due the communications coordinator (christine@lifeatctk.org) no later than Jan. 7.

Getting to know your staff

Each month, the Herald will feature a brief Q&A with one staff member in an effort for you to get to know a little more about your staff here at Christ the King.

Staff member of the month

Jean Metcalf

What's your role at Christ the King?

I am handle the bookkeeping and data entry.

How long have you been a member of staff?

More than ten years.

What do you like best about Christ the King?

I love the friendships I have made here as well as the comraderie, music, and messages.

What do you enjoy in your free time?

I enjoy golfing, quilting (for friends and grandchildren), gardening, and going to my grandchildren's sports games.

If you could describe yourself in one word, what would it be?

Joyful; I love to laugh!



Jean Metcalf

Office renovations underway

By Pastor Peter Hanson

Beginning in mid-January, the Christ the King's office suite will be undergoing renovations.

The front office will be reconfigured to create appropriate work spaces for communications, finance, and operations, while maintaining an open reception area and providing more efficient archive and storage areas. In addition, the area known as the counting room in the middle of the back office area will be opened up to create an area for collaborative work and smaller meetings.

During the renovations, the front office will be sealed off to minimize dust and debris traveling throughout the building. The temporary reception area will likely be in or near the Trinity rooms, with access to back offices through the door near Entrance 12. Certain meetings will need to be relocated in order to facilitate this temporary set-up.

These office renovations have been approved by the Council with input from the property committee and will be financed by funds from the 4M Capital Campaign. Plans will be on visible in one of the display cases near the office.

We will do our best to provide adequate signage during these renovations and send frequent updates on our progress via e-mail and on the website. We appreciate your patience and flexibility.

Congregation Care

Aging as a spiritual journey

By Pastor Deb Birkeland

Congregation Care is not just about meeting needs as people age or face crisis, but about honoring our aging as a spiritual journey of faith and life that continues to unfold within the body of Christ. Opportunities may shift and new challenges bring change, but our longing for vitality and purpose remain. Age does not diminish our hunger for meaning in one's life, but it does sharpen our awareness that hope is found most profoundly in Christ.

This summer and fall, I had the joy of engaging older adults in Bible studies I offered at Applewood Pointe and Meadowood Shores here in New Brighton where several members live in senior housing. As I listened to their stories, these wonderful people reinforced how sacred and insightful faith-filled aging can be as we share and care for one another in Christ. I began to wonder, if every member over age 55 shared their stories, challenges and dreams for vitality, faith and purpose, what would Congregation Care look like in this wonderful place?

Through our data system in the church office, I discovered that we have 826 members at Christ the King who are age 55 or older. That's a significant percentage of our membership! As such, this new year before us is a great time to seek greater understanding of what it means to grow older as vital, faithful, purposeful members of God's family!

Older Adult Faith and Wellness Advisory Team coming in 2015

An Older Adult Faith and Wellness Advisory Team will be formed in 2015. They will be asked to gather information by engaging our members in conversation to find out what needs, desires, and opportunities we should address to best vitalize the gifts within our older adult community here at Christ the King.

Those interested should contact Pastor Deb at debbirkeland@lifeatctk.org. We need those who can visit with other people and gather needs, dreams, and opportunities. It will be an exciting journey no matter what your age!

No Room

"No room for Him," the keeper said

That night so long ago.

"My inn is crowded, don't you see,
The rooms now overflow."

"It's just a Child," he must have thought

"A family, poor and plain;
My inn is filled with paying guests,
How could I dare explain?"

And thus, he turned aside from One
Who chose a humble birth
To enter into human form
And save all men on earth.
But lo, the shepherds in the hills
Were called, the Babe to greet;
They followed then the brilliant star
And worshipped at His feet.

"No room for Him," cry men today
As through the world they plod;
"My life is crowded, don't you see?
I have no room for God.
How could I dare explain to all
My friends who question me,
That Jesus came to save my soul,
From sin, to set me free?"

O God, forbid that we become
As keeper of the inn,
And have our lives so crowded
That we have no room for Him.
But now may we, Thy children dear,
Unworthy though we are,
Become as shepherds long ago
And follow now His star.

Poem by Kathryn Slasor

Poem submitted by Minister of Music,
Bruce Phelps.

This poem is meant to serve as a
thoughtful reflection on the season of
Advent and Christmas.

Farewell and Godspeed to Bruce Phelps, Minister of Music

Sunday, Jan. 25, 9:00 and 10:15 a.m.

Celebrate Bruce's ministry among us these past seven years, and help send him joyfully into his retirement. We will share in a simple lunch right after the 10:15 a.m. worship service, followed by a brief program of thanksgiving to God and gratitude to Bruce.



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY

Youth

Confirmation resumes in 2015

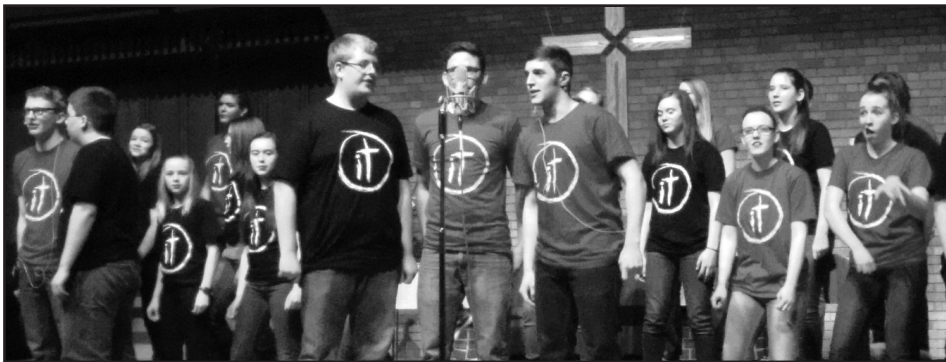
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 6:15 p.m.

Sixth-eighth grade confirmation resumes the first Wednesday of January. We look forward to being with you again in the New Year!

All confirmation students: Be sure to track your progress on service hours, worship notes, and (if you are a ninth grader) mentor sessions. Students should be halfway through their requirements. Questions should be directed to Pastor Hannah.

Youth Musical rehearsals begin Jan. 4

Sunday, Jan. 4, 6:00-8:00 p.m.



Rehearsals are on most Sundays in January and February (with a few extra rehearsals thrown in). See Director of the Children and Youth Ministries, Deb Wolterstorff for a full schedule of rehearsals. Performances of the 2015 Youth Musical will be Sunday, Feb. 22.

Eighth Grade retreat this January

Jan. 17-18

Eighth grade students will be participating in an Urban Immersion. This confirmation retreat highlights issues of poverty in the Twin Cities and challenges our students to think about ways to combat homelessness and hunger in our neighborhood. Adults are needed to share leadership on this retreat. Those interested should talk to Pastor Hannah. Additional information about the immersion will be sent by mail the first week of January.

Holy Hoops Basketball starts January

Practices, Sundays, Jan. 18 and 25

Games, Sundays, Feb. 8, 15, 22, and March 1, 8, 15, and 22

The Holy Hoops youth basketball begins again in January 2015. High school youth interested in participating in this three-month season are invited to sign up by contacting Deb Wolterstorff at 651-633-4674 x111 or deb@lifeatctk.org. Cost to participate is \$40.00. The final tournament will be held at Augsburg College in Minneapolis on Mar. 29. All games are hosted at Christ the King. Everyone is welcome to come and cheer on our teams!

Children

Wednesday nights start again

Wednesday, Jan. 7, 6:20 p.m.

Both Kingdom Kids (kindergarten-third grade) and Club45 (fourth-fifth grade) resume on Jan. 7.

Sunday school Epiphany Kick-off

Sunday, Jan. 11, 10:15 a.m.

It is a Growing in Faith Together Sunday. In worship, students will hear a message from Pastor Hannah. Following worship, first-third graders are invited to continue the celebration of God revealed to us in Jesus at an Epiphany Party. Join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

A February Field Trip

Sunday, Feb. 8

Students will travel by bus to an area Senior Care Center to deliver Valentines and sing for residents. More details to come.

Celebration of First Holy Communion

Saturday, March 8,

Fifth graders and their parents are invited to mark their calendars for the celebration of First Holy Communion. Instruction for both students and parents will be on the previous day, Saturday, March, 7.

Congregational Fellowship Event

Date and time TBD

We are looking to plan an afternoon of snow tubing for all ages. Pay attention to your weekly e-news for more details.

For more on Children and Family Ministry at Christ the King, lifeatctk.org/children.

All Congregation Night: Drawn to the Word

Wednesday, Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m.

What is it like to watch a painter create a large mural before you as you worship God? Join us on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. for our next all-congregation night to find out. Our focus will be on our mission to gather and grow.

We look forward to welcoming back Paul Oman of Drawn to the Word for this worship experience. Paul will paint a mural as we sing, pray, hear scripture, and share in the musical gifts of congregation members. This mural will then become a part of Christ the King.

Invite neighbors and friends for this special opportunity. A free will offering will be taken. You won't want to miss it!



Paul Oman last visited Christ the King for All Congregation Night in November 2013. The painting from that service can be seen outside the sanctuary. To learn more about Paul and his work, visit his website at paulomanfineart.com.

Register for the 2015 Women's Retreat

Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 2015

Audubon Center, Sandstone, Minn.
Register by Jan. 18, 2015.

Our theme "Garden Getaway: Where Women Walk with God" draws on the familiar passage from Ecclesiastes 3: "For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven."

The retreat offers opportunities for Bible study, worship, music, indoor and outdoor activities as well as getting to know one another. Whether you're a walker, gardener, or just looking to enjoy some time with other women, please consider joining us.

Register by Jan. 18, 2015

Invite a friend! Women of all ages are welcome! The cost is \$155; scholarships are available. Registration deadline is Jan. 18, 2015. Contact the church office at 651-633-4674 or info@lifeatctk.org for more information or to register.



Vacation Bible School in January?



We are beginning to plan for our week of free VBS in June. If you are interested in participating in the VBS planning team, contact Director of Children and Family Ministries Sheryl Bousu at Sheryl@lifeatctk.org.

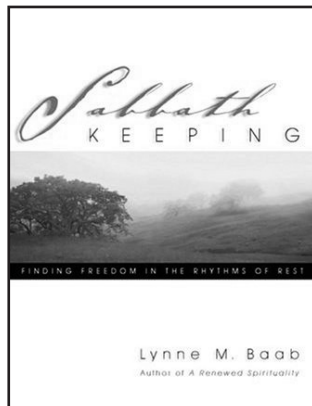
Opportunities to grow in 2015

Can we keep the Sabbath in 2015?

The fourth commandment instructs us to, "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). But amid the deadlines, meetings, and never-ending to-do lists, it is amazing to get an hour of rest a week, let alone a whole day. So how do we do it? How can we remember Sabbath and keep holy in the 21st century?

During Lent (Feb. 18-April 2), we will explore these questions in our annual all congregation book study. The selection this year is *Sabbath Keeping: Finding Freedom in the Rhythms of Rest* by Lynne M. Baab. In her book, Baab acknowledges how burned out, preoccupied, and busy we can get. As she provides insights from her own and others' experiences, Baab gives hope that it is possible to slow down, rest, and better enjoy our relationships with God and those we love. We hope you will join us as we read (and rest) together.

Watch for more information in the February Herald. If you have questions, contact Melodee Rossi, Director of Small Group Ministry at melodee@lifeatctk.org.



All Congregation Book Study will start in February 2015 and focus on the book, *Sabbath Keeping* by Lynne M Baab.

Divorce Care comes to Christ the King

Mondays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. starting Jan. 26

Divorce Care, a national program dedicated to walking with people through the changes and struggles related to divorce, is coming to Christ the King in 2015. Divorce Care groups meet weekly to face these challenges and move toward rebuilding one's life. One CtK member said that Divorce Care gave her the steps and courage she needed to get to a place of forgiveness and reconciliation. The program will begin Jan. 26 at 6:00 p.m. at Christ the King. Please contact Deb Wolterstorff at deb@lifeatctk.org or 651-633-4674 with questions. For more information on Divorce Care, visit www.divorcecare.org.

Celebrate Recovery launches in 2015

Mondays, 5:45 p.m. starting Jan. 12

Celebrate Recovery's weekly Monday night meetings are ready to roll out Jan. 12. These weekly meetings are open to those struggling with life's hurts, hang-ups, and habits including addiction, grief, and everything in between. Each meeting will include a meal and worship as well as large and small group time for discussion and reflection. All are welcome! Please call Shirlee Lansing at 651-402-5000 with any questions.

ZOOM House supports families in South Minneapolis

ZOOM House (which stands for Zion-Originated Outreach Ministry) started 12 years ago by Bruce Westphal, a member of Christ the the King. According to their website, "ZOOM House provides a loving, supportive community for families in transition from homelessness to permanent housing."

Currently, ZOOM House occupies a building that has 22 nice but empty units. The requirements for parents to live there are that they must have children, a job, and their kids must be in school. Parents (predominantly single mothers) cannot have visitors and cannot drink or use drugs while living at ZOOM House. Occupants must also take basic living classes such as how to balance a checkbook, parenting classes, and others.

When parents have passed the ZOOM House program, they are allowed to move into their own apartment. As families bring very little with them when they move in, there is an ongoing need for basic household items.

Bruce and Beryl Westphal have asked that we at Christ the King consider giving gently-used items to the ZOOM House. Items can include anything from dishes and cooking utensils to sofas and dressers.

For information on ZOOM House and how to donate, call Bob Antonvich (952-476-2805) to organize a donation pick-up for your larger items, or visit ZOOM House online at www.thezoomhouse.org.

Christ the King Foundation funds local and global partners

The Ilula Lutheran Hospital Nursing School will receive \$5,000 to address a shortage of trained health professionals in the Iringa area, and to empower women to serve in local clinics. The Iringa Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) operates the Ilula Health Center. The Ilula Health Center is now a district hospital, which operates eight small rural clinics.

The Agora program at Luther Seminary will receive \$3,000 to equip congregations and leaders for expanded Christian mission and ministry, particularly in immigrant and multicultural congregations. As Agora continues to restructure and expand, there is a need to hire a part-time administrative assistant. This person will attend to logistics, freeing the new director to connect with ministry leaders.

Daily Work guides and mentors job seekers by helping them prepare for, find, and maintain work that supports themselves and their families. The Christ the King site requested a grant of \$3,300 which has been met, including \$1.25 from the grandson of one of the donors. Daily Work meets at Christ the King on Wednesdays.

Small (and large) donations can accomplish great things. Don't forget to include the Ctk Foundation for a year-end tax contribution, memorials, as beneficiary of an IRA or insurance policy, and any other estate plans you are considering. The next foundation grant deadline is April 1, 2015. See lifeatctk.org/foundation for the grant application and more information.

Continued from page 1

Local Mission Partners, continued.

A graduate of Minot State University in North Dakota, Davis now mentors neighborhood youth in the Harrison neighborhood and shares his poetry around the United States.

...art illustrating the Liberian-American experience.

Richmond Seju, Christ the King member and son of George and Joyce Seju, will be at the Local Mission Partner table to show several pieces of his highly acclaimed art depicting his Liberian and American experience. A champion high school runner, he puts the same enthusiasm into his art that he puts into his athleticism. He says, "When I draw a picture, I just want to try to make it awesome, to make people like it."

Everyone is invited to these special events. Look for a special offering envelope in the pews and at the welcome center for all who wish to support our Local Mission Partner ministry!

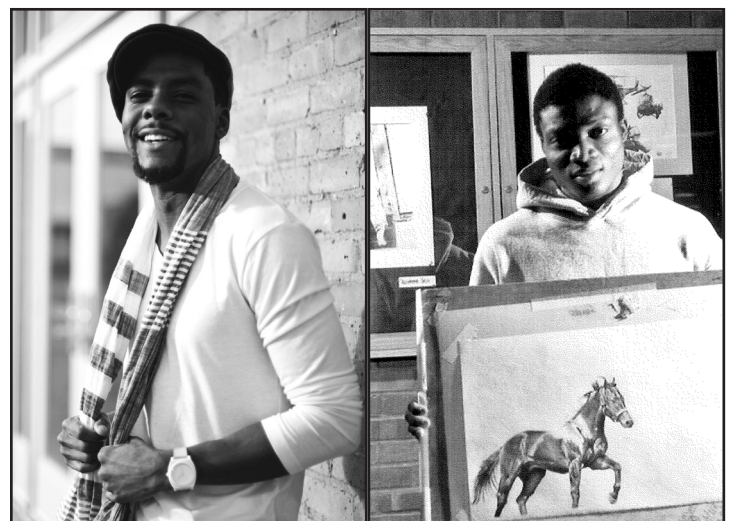
Thank you for giving to Angel Tree

A big thank you to all the angels at Christ the King who contributed to the Angel Tree Project. Your support of the Angel Tree Project truly made a difference in the lives of people in our community.

Because of your generosity, we distributed gifts to 38 children in our community who spent Christmas away from a parent currently serving time in prison. In addition, we supported three Christ the King families and four children at Bel-Air Elementary.

A special thank you also goes out to all who helped collect, wrap, and deliver the gifts:

Vickie Sodahl,
Renee Nutter,
Jill Burkhardt, and
Rhonda Stone.



Left: Joe Davis, poet and member of Redeemer, North Minneapolis, will share his poetry. Right: Richmond Seju will have his art on display. Both artists will share their gifts on Local Mission Partner Sunday, Jan. 18.

GLOBAL MISSION

Celebrating a baby boy born in Tanzania

The Global Mission Team celebrated the birth of a baby on Oct. 20, 2014, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, over 8500 miles from New Brighton. Samuel Chengula is the son and first child of Pastor Medson Chengula and his wife, Maka.

Why is this baby special to us? Pastor Medson was sent to be the pastor of Christ the King's companion congregation in Tanzania, Nduli Parish, in November 2013. Some of us remember his predecessor at Nduli, Pastor Laiton Muyenga, who visited CtK in 2011. Pastor Medson received his divinity training at the University of Iringa. (That is also where he met Maka, who has a bachelor's degree in cultural anthropology and tourism and a master's degree in human resource management.)

Roger and Trish Blomquist, CtK's short-term missionaries, visited Pastor Medson at Nduli in October 2014. They found him to be personable and open to honest conversations. He told them about his information-gathering process as he studied his new congregation.

Roger says, "We were extremely impressed with Pastor Medson and his process of gathering information and thinking things through.

"Not only is he outgoing, but he has a business perspective, and at the university had a course in project management. We believe the Iringa Diocese made a good choice when they selected him to follow in the footsteps of Pastor Laiton."

Through the Bega Kwa Bega program, Christ the King and Nduli Parish show our commitment to one another by:

- Communicating regularly through emails, letters, videos, photos, and in-person visits,
- Providing scholarships for secondary and post-secondary education,
- Giving financial support for structural and program needs,
- Sharing our common faith in God through worship and praise, and
- Praying regularly for one another, giving thanks for God's gifts and asking for God's loving support in life's challenges.

Global Mission Events

Global Mission Team Meeting

Jan. 8, 7:00 p.m.,

Chapman home. Contact church office for directions.

Global Mission Prayer

Dear God of all, we thank you for the safe birth of baby Samuel in Tanzania, and for the blessing of children to families in Nduli Parish and at Christ the King. As we work together, we pray that these children are welcomed, loved, and cared for their families and communities. Bless the parents who nurture and provide for them, the teachers who bring out the best in each of them, the medical workers who keep them healthy, and the communities of believers who are examples for them of living in Christian love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Shepherding News

Baptisms

Easton James Nichols, son of John and Gina Nichols and grandson of Stan and Brenda Radosovich, on Dec. 7.

Amelia Perin Routh, daughter of Gabriel and Katie Routh, on Dec. 21.

Prayer Requests

Larry Pratt, Kathy Ashbach, Mark Bousu, Ruth Hillestad, Sharon Stageberg, Arlene Johnson, Hannah Johnson, Carol Balfany, Sam Miller, Mary Mularie, Donna Blood, Tory Paulson, Natalie Rimmer

Sympathies

Cheri Aldridge and family on the death of her brother.

Becky and Wayne Anderson on the death of Becky's son, Aaron Lundeen.

Carol Balfany on the death of her son, Michael.

Greg and Karen Block on the death of Greg's brother, Ron.

Wouter and Anne van Bruggen and family on the death of Wouter's brother, Erik.

Dorothy and Doug Chapman on the death of Dorothy's grandnephew and Doug's cousin.

Tom Lunacek and family on the death of Tom's sister, Lori.

Deb Wolterstorff and the Nolby family on the death of Mark Nolby's brother-in-law.

Weddings

Jim Gooden and Lori Berg, on Dec. 27.

Advent at Ctk



Christ the King experienced an exciting Advent season full of traditions, old and new. Top: On Nov. 30, we were joined by acclaimed singer-songwriter Ken Medema, who performed a concert on behalf of Ctk youth. Left: We commemorated our 30th annual Smoragsbord on Sunday, Dec. 7. Bottom: Ctk's youngest members celebrated their annual Happy Birthday Jesus! Party on Monday, Dec. 8. Want more? Find pictures from these events and more at facebook.com/lifeatctk.



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Change Service Requested

February Herald articles are due by Jan. 10