



CHRIST THE KING Evangelical Lutheran Church

Green Bay, Wisconsin

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OUR MISSION: *Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church gives all praise and thanks to the Triune God for His grace received through Word and Sacrament by sharing the saving Gospel of Christ with the people of this community and the world.*

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

“Christ is Christmas”

Reprint from 2014 Lutheran Witness by Pastor Rodney Flohr of King of Grace Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, Minnesota

In our household, Christmastime meant getting out the “Christmas albums” to be played while cookies were being made and baked; the house decorated, inside and out; and the Christmas tree trimmed and lighted. With Bing Crosby, Perry Como, and Andy Williams crooning out various holiday songs, one in particular called “Christmas Present” would cause us to stop and think about the true meaning of the season:

“Christmas present, Christmas tree,
Children’s eyes are wide to see,
Santa’s presents ‘neath the tree,
All they’d asked for on his knee.
Christmas present, Christmas past,
From the presents, which one’s last?
Christmas future sure to be,
Looking underneath the tree.”
Then would come the good part:
“For the Present, look high, not low,
Christmas was a Gift itself many years ago.
Christmas Present at the start,
Was a Gift from Someone’s heart.
Christ is Christmas! That day is His.
That’s what Christmas Present is!”

Ok, it’s not theologically meaty, but it was different from so many of the others. The first part pointed out the world’s view of what Christmas is all about: presents! Ask any child (and plenty of grown-ups, too), “What’s the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word, ‘Christmas?’” and you’ll get an enthusiastic shout: Presents! And who among us doesn’t like presents? And so the world says that Christmas is all about Santa, family gatherings, and, oh yes... presents!

The last part of the song, though, would cut through the frivolity of the season and, in its own simplicity, bring it home to what the true meaning of Christmas is really all about! And guess what? It is about presents—not earthly ones, of course, but divine presents!

The first present God gave mankind was the gift of life, both physical and spiritual, along with a Garden, filled with perfection to be enjoyed for eternity. But the Garden came with one restriction: Do not eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Sadly, Adam and Eve failed to honor that restriction, and Adam’s disobedience brought sin, death, and eternal punishment not only to them, but to every generation that would follow.

Left to ourselves, we are all lost and condemned to hell because of our sins. But God, in His amazing grace, offered another gift—the gift of a Savior!

The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem’s stable was the fulfillment of God’s promise made “many years ago,” in Eden’s Garden, where He promised to send a Messiah, a Savior who, through His perfect life, innocent death, and glorious resurrection, would defeat the unholy three: sin, death, and the devil himself. And now, to all who believe in Jesus are given the gifts of forgiveness, new life, and life that lasts forever in God’s heaven.

Christ IS Christmas! He was the first Christmas gift from God’s heart to all mankind so that all who believe in His Son Jesus will not perish, but receive the gifts of forgiveness and life—life now and life forever! God’s own Christmas present to all mankind! That’s what makes Christmas truly “Merry.”



News & Notes

Advent Supper—Prior to our midweek Advent service, we will have a supper starting at 5:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall to plan, prepare and host a supper. You can be a group (Women on A Mission, Livestreamers, Ushers/Elders, etc.) or group of individuals.

HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH
SATURDAY, DEC. 2, AT 8:00 A.M.

THE DIFFERENCE

*I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray.*

*Problems just tumbled about me
and heavier came each task;
"why doesn't God help me? I wondered.
He said, BUT YOU DIDN'T ASK."*

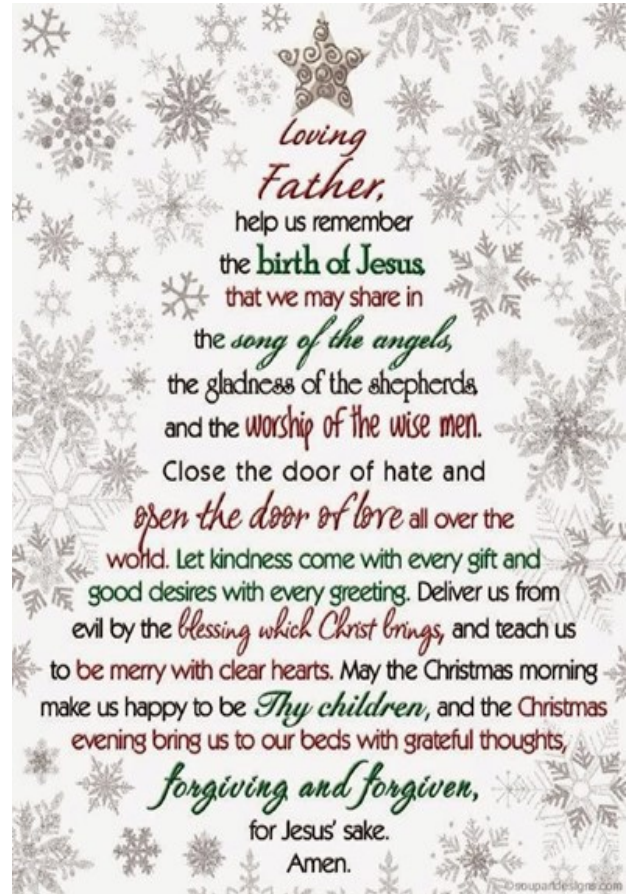
*I wanted to see joy and beauty
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, "BUT YOU DIDN'T SEEK."*

*I tried to come into God's presence
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"MY CHILD, YOU DIDN'T KNOCK."*

*I woke up early this morning
and paused before entering the day,
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray!*

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- Midweek Advent Services—Wednesday night at 6:30 pm on Dec. 6, 13, and 20. Supper at 5:00 pm
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Sunday, Dec. 24, at 5:30 pm
- Christmas Day Festival Service—Monday, Dec. 25, at 9:00 a.m.
- New Year's Eve Service - Sunday, Dec. 31, at 5:30 pm



WE'RE LIVE!

Worship Services streamed live every week on our website!
Visit us at christthekinggb.org for more information!



* NOT FAKE NEWS

December Birthdays!

- 1 Daniel Lindquist
- 4 Dennis Barlament
- 9 Eileen VanderStappen
- 11 Julie Busse
- 31 Janice Johnson



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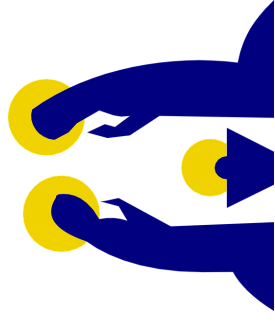
ALTAR GUILD FOR DECEMBER:
Lila Barlament & Jan Johnson










MONTH AT A GLANCE

- 12/6, 12/13, 12/20 - Midweek Advent Services
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 12/25 - Christmas Day Festival Service
- 12/31 - New Year's Eve Service

December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Deadline 12/10 donations To the Mitten Tree. Proceeds for 2nd half Going to Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay. Thank you to all.	Decorate the church for Christmas! Saturday, Dec. 2, at 8:00 a.m. Thank you to all who helped decorate!				1	2 8:00 a.m. 
3 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Comm. 10:05 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour Livestream: Julie Busse Ushers: Group 2	4	5	6 4:00 Emerald Bay Service  5:00 Soup Supper 6:30 Midweek	7	8	9
10 9:00 Divine Service 10:05 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour Livestream: Jason Diestler Ushers: Group 3	11	12	13 4:00 Emerald Bay Service  5:00 Soup Supper 6:30 Midweek	14	15	16
17 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Comm. 10:05 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour Livestream: Lori Greenwood Ushers: Group 4	18	19	20 4:00 Emerald Bay Service  5:00 Soup Supper 6:30 Midweek	21 1st day of winter 	22	23
24 9:00 Divine Service 10:05 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour 5:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 9:00 Divine Service w/Holy Comm.  Livestream: Dan Meves Ushers: Group 2	26	27 4:00 Emerald Bay Service	28	29	30
31 9:00 Divine Service 10:05 Fellowship 10:30 Education Hour 5:30 Divine Service w/comm. Livestream: Dan Meves						



Let There Be



Peace on Earth

Join us for worship & Bible study!
Sunday @ 9:00 a.m. Bible Study @ 10:30 a.m.
Midweek Advent Services 12-6, 12-13 and 12-20 @ 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, - Dec. 24, 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Day Service (Comm.) - Dec. 25, 9:00 a.m.
New Year's Eve Service (Comm.) - Dec. 31, 5:30 p.m.
