



CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN
CHURCH
THE KING'S HERALD
JANUARY 2026

EPIPHANY & STAR WORDS

Even though Epiphany is officially on January 6th, we will be focusing on it during worship on Sunday, January 4th to coincide with our emphasis on the three kings this year. As in years past, we will offer Star Words for you to take and reflect on during the coming year. You are invited to ponder what significance your Star Word might have in your life and how God might be speaking to you through that simple word.

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD - JANUARY 11th

As we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, we take this opportunity to remember our own baptisms and the promises made to us therein. We will also celebrate during worship all those individuals who were baptized in the last year.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Congregational Meeting of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Universal City, Texas, will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 10:30 am **IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AND BY ZOOM** for the purpose of electing council members and to review 2025 Financials. The Zoom link will be emailed when the date gets closer.

FEAST AND FELLOWSHIP

January 25th brings the first breakfast of the new year! Join us for food, fellowship and the congregational meeting. The meal and the meeting will be held in the fellowship hall at 10:30 am after worship.

LUTHERAN LUNCH BUNCH

The Lutheran Lunch Bunch is excited to announce its first gathering on Thursday, January 22nd at 11:30. We'll meet at Shanghai Chinese Restaurant, located in the Triangle Shopping Center at 2935 Pat Booker Rd, # 130, in Universal City. We encourage everyone to join us for a delightful meal. Reservations are required, so please contact Susan Abbey by phone at 210-218-1469 or by email at texlady78233@gmail.com to secure your spot. We look forward to seeing you there!

NEW LIFE CHILDREN'S CENTER

Pajamas, slippers and journals were delivered to New Life Children's Center on December 22nd. Thanks to Alfrieda Anderson and Ann Krahn for buying items to fill in where needed, and to Cindy Bonaccorsi, Sheri Boos and Kathy Hanley for stocking the shelves all year long. This is the 17th year of providing pajamas for New Life! Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please contact Erika Robeson at (210) 548-6894.



CTK BOOK CLUB

With a month off, hopefully the CTK book readers are ready for another year. Book club meets Monday, January 5, at 6 PM at the American Legion in Universal City. The group will be discussing “April Storm” by Leila Meacham, chosen by Cathie Theis. New members are always welcome. The yearly calendar is posted on the WELCA bulletin board, so if monthly meetings seem a bit overwhelming, feel free to drop in when a title or author is of special interest. Better yet, contact Patsy Meyers at 210-566-4001, and recommend a book for later consideration. Many of you may have done some holiday reading, so if you have a book that you are ready to pass on, please bring it to our January gathering for an informal book exchange. As always participation is

optional. Hope to see you there.

RACAP NEWS

Thank you for your continued support of the Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program. Your donations of food for over 40 years ensure that clients who come to the pantry for assistance can be fed or helped with monetary assistance for utilities/rent. Sponsors helped 97 families with a Thanksgiving Meal Basket. Those baskets fed 359 people. Many more families were gifted with bonus bags and turkey donations as they came to the pantry for assistance. It was an amazing sight to see indeed! The Christmas Meal Basket was much larger. At last count, with the help of member churches and sponsors, 260 families were provided with a meal basket that fed an estimated 634 people with a Christmas meal. Thank you and Happy New Year!



KINDNESS CUPBOARD

The following is a quote from Aaron, an Ascent Program Chaplain:

“What I wish our community knew about homelessness is that homelessness is not a disease or a curse, it’s not a different species of human being or lesser people. There is no such thing as a “homeless person,” only a person experiencing homelessness, which is essentially the result of a holistically wounded individual whose many and complicated stories of suffering have emerged, often from birth, out of the fight for survival, safety,

hope, and belonging and over time have compounded to the point of disrepair and utter loneliness.

“Each of these wounded souls is a human being loved deeply by God. Each is a son or daughter of the Creator and is seen as precious in his sight. Christ commands us to love our fellow humans experiencing homelessness as we would desire to be loved. He commands us to invite them into a relationship with the church, God’s family. This begins with each of us being willing to start a conversation with someone in the position of homelessness, to ask them to share their story, and for us to listen well, with compassion and without judgement”.

FRIENDLY VISTORS/CARE MINISTRY ACTIVITY

Friendly Visitors were busy as always staying in contact with our members who are sick, homebound, or unable to attend church regularly. In December, the following contacts were made:

Number of Cards/Letters Sent: 190

Number of Emails/Texts Sent: 9

Number of Phone Calls: 6

Number of Personal Visits: 5

Number Served Communion: 2

If you would like to become a part of this important ministry, contact Joyce Lucas.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA at Christ the King

Happy New Year! We are excited for another fabulous year of fellowship, learning, and service to others.

Join us for our first Quarterly Meeting on January 26th at 6:45 pm. At this meeting we will install our leadership team, approve the treasurer's year end report, vote on the proposed 2026 budget, approve our speaker for the August meeting, discuss our Cibolo Creek Spring Gathering and the upcoming Conventions in 2026.

Our WELCA organization includes Lutheran women who gather in more than 4,500 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more. WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support one mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

There are three expressions of the Women of the ELCA, each with its own constitution:

- Congregational Unit – there are approximately 4,500 units
- WELCA Synods – 64 Synods – we are the Southwestern Texas Synod
- WELCA Church Wide Organization

Women of the ELCA is a place where your faith, your gifts, and your voice matter. Whether through service, study, leadership, friendship or quiet support, there is a place for you here. Together we grow in faith, support one another, and serve our neighbors in Christ's name. Come be involved and help us continue God's work-side by side, rooted in faith and guided by love.



Want to learn a little more about Women of the ELCA? Subscribe to *Gather* Magazine. They are offering special pricing for new subscribers. For more information or to subscribe, go online at www.womenoftheelca.org. Go to the Publications tab at the top of the page.



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THE COUNCIL IS IN

By Lisa Lopez, Mutual Ministry Chair



As CTK enters a new year, it does so with gratitude for God's faithfulness and hope for what lies ahead. A new year invites reflection on where we have been-celebrating ministries that have flourished, lessons learned, and relationships that have been strengthened-while also opening our hearts to renewal and possibility. Grounded in scripture and prayer, we look forward with trust, knowing that God continues to call and guide us into seasons of service.

Mutual ministry and engagement in church reflect the understanding that all are called and gifted to serve in the body of Christ. Rather than ministry belonging to a few, it is shared among Pastor, laity, young and old, as each person brings unique talents, experiences, and perspectives. Mutual ministry invites us to listen to one another, to encourage and equip one another, and to recognize that God is at work through every willing heart and hand.

As we journey into 2026, we can recommit ourselves to shared ministry and engagement. We can welcome new voices, deepen faith through worship and learning, and respond to the needs of our community with compassion and courage. Together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we move forward in faith-seeking to love, serve and reflect Christ's light in the world.

Happy New Year from your Church Council

WORSHIP AT THE ARMY RESIDENCE COMMUNITY

On Sunday, January 25th at 4:00 pm the Lutheran worshipping community will gather at the ARC located at 7400 Crestway Rd. The message, "Are You Coming?", based on Matthew 4:12-23 will be given by Chaplain Bruce Betker and music is led by Carol Bearce. *Stay for fun(ny) conversation and goodies!* This is a good opportunity to visit with those of CTK who are home bound at the ARC. All are welcome to worship with the ARC community and bring your news of home to share with the residents.



Artwork: John Stuart www.stushieart.com.
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And there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:9b-12

FAITH FORMATION

WEDNESDAY MORNING WITH PASTOR MIKE - 10:00AM

We will resume Wednesday morning Bible study on January 7th. We finished Season 1 of “The Chosen” TV series in December and will begin Season 2 on the 7th. The class meets at 10:00 am to watch the episode and discussion follows. You can join the group in person in the Disciples Room or via Zoom on Wednesday mornings. Bring your Bible and join the discussion. If you need the Zoom link, please contact Pastor Mike. **Everyone is welcome** to join.

The
CHOSEN

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School classes for all ages resume on Sunday, January 11th, 2026 as we celebrate Jesus’ baptism. Classes will also be held on January 18th when students will learn about the Calling of the Disciples.

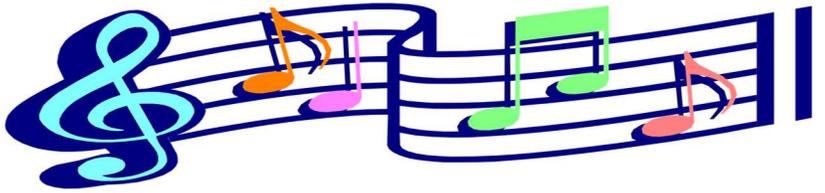
A NOTE FROM YOUR FRIENDLY CHAOS COORDINATOR 😊

Also known as News from the Administrative Assistant

This month I didn’t forget the January birthdays! Yea! But, guess who has a birthday in January? Of course I’m not going to forget! The January newsletter looks a lot like last month. It’s getting easier. I’ve discovered a faster way to put it all together, which is a good thing. I didn’t get much feedback on the December issue. Is that a good thing? I hope so.

January marks the beginning of my fifth year at CTK. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for all the things that you have done for me over the course of the past four years. Granting grace when I’ve been out sick, coming in to help me when I get overwhelmed during Lent and Christmas (nobody told me the stress a church secretary goes through during the Holy Church Seasons), and just being good to me on a daily basis. I love to meet and chat with all of you when you stop by, and if I ever seem testy, well, it’s probably because it’s Lent or Advent! And the little gifts that you all leave for me, from hunks of cheese from Wisconsin to bags of candy, and lots more, I am blessed!! Thank you for the Christmas gift from the church. It came in handy when one of my headlights decided to burn out the day after Christmas. Who knew that new bulbs to replace all of them would cost almost \$100. They’re just light bulbs! Lol. Anyway, thank you Christ the King – I have loved working here and hope to be able to continue for a while to come.

Musical Notes



Choir and Worship Band News

Our choir rehearses at 6:30 pm on January 14, 21, and 28.

Our worship band will rehearse in January but at this time the schedule is undetermined. Contact Sally Walters for more information.

Sally Walters, Choir Director and Band Director

Bell Choir News

Bell Choir – Your fearless leader, Cindy, is on vacation and will be returning in January. She’ll reach out to you and let you know what your rehearsal schedule will be when she returns.

ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETINS



The new schedule for 2026 has been posted on the bulletin board near the Disciples Room. The price for flowers has increased to \$30.00 per vase. Bulletins are still \$20.00 per week. Select your dates soon before they are all filled up!

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Articles for the **February 2026** Newsletter are due no later than **January 20th**. You may send your articles to ctkadm@ctk-uc.org or bring them by the church office.

Lectionary Readings for the month of January, 2026

January 4	Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
January 11	Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
January 18	Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
January 25	Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1, 4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23

Thank You

From Dodie Checote: thank you for the donations of suitcases. If any of you should come across any more, please let me know.

From Mr. & Mrs. Diaz: For all the gifts and prayers, and all the well wishes of so many, we give thanks. Everything will stay in our hearts and all of you will always be in our prayers, in Jesus' name.

Thank you to our Advent wreath / candle lighting litany leaders – Jamie Dunevant and Ethan, Aileen Zittle, Jill Schulz and Ann Krahn.

Thank you to Rich Patterson, Al Boos IV & Jeremy Jackson for helping with our We Three Kings dramatic sermons.

Thank you to Rachel Ball, Maggie Boos, Sheri Boos, Jamie Dunevant & Lisa Lopez for preparing & leading the Christmas pageant.

Thank you to all the musicians and leaders for our Joyful Jubilation / 3rd Sunday of Advent worship service: Al Boos IV, Dinah Halopka-Ryson, Oliver Merrifield, the Rakotoniaina family and Jill Schulz, Louise Cruz, and Sally Walters. Each was beautiful and enhanced worship meaningfully!

Thank you to Erika & Robbie Robeson for their work coordinating and delivering pajamas, slippers & journals to the New Life Children's Center.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so diligently for many hours to prepare for Christmas Eve worship services and all who offered the gift of their time and skills – choir, bell choir, worship band, musicians, altar guild, media tech & slides, ushers, offering counters, liturgists, readers, communion assistants, staff and everyone who stepped up or completed seemingly easy tasks! Every ONE of you is GREATLY appreciated!!

Thank you to the Women of the ELCA for your gift to me for Pastor Appreciation month! Y'all are wonderful and I feel so blessed by God to be ministering with you. Thanks again so much! *Pastor Mike*

Thank you for the contributions to the staff Christmas gifts, the cards and the love, support and help that you have shown each of us during this holiday season and throughout the year. We are so thankful for the opportunity to serve God with all of you! **Your thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated!** Blessings for a Happy New Year! *Christ the King Staff*

JANUARY 2026 WORSHIP ASSISTANTS AND VOLUNTEERS

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
Liturgist	Rich Patterson	Katharine Barden	Joanne Benson	Al Boos, IV
Reader	Steve Lerum	Cindy Patterson	Ann Krahn	Sissie Mirhashemi
Communion Assistants	Joanne Benson Mary Petermeier	Delilah Barden Leona Hietala	Susan Abbey Sissie Mirhashemi	Joyce Lucas Kathy Staley
Ushers	Alfrieda Anderson Joy Brown	Ed & Pearl Sauseda	Dorothy Lawrence Patsy Meyers	Luis & Tina San Román
Media Slides	Jill Schulz	Jill Schulz	Carol McClelland	William Jackson
Acolyte	OPEN	Delilah Barden	OPEN	OPEN
Safety Monitor	Ed Sauseda	Cindy Nutt	Enzo McClelland	Cindy Nutt

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Andrea Hale	1
Lisa Lopez	2
Jan Dunevant	3
Hazel Knipp	7
Payton Lopez	12
Joy Brown	11
Al Boos, IV	12
Cheryl Craig	13
Dawn Young	13



Harold Henk	15
Dawn Derby	16
Vanessa Jackson	16
John Hatzel	17
Jan Lindorfer	20
Dodie Checote	21
Chloe Kriegel	21
Arthur Cox	26
Grant Lopez	28
Leona Hietala	31



JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Christmas 1 9:15am Worship/Communion 11:00am CALEB AME Zion Worship 4:00pm Worship at the ARC	29 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	30 9:30am Text Study for A/CC Pastors	31	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY - OFFICE CLOSED Pastor Mike - Vacation	2 Pastor Mike - Vacation 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	3
4 Epiphany Sunday 9:15am Worship/Communion 11:00am CALEB AME Zion Worship 11:30am Church Council Meeting	5 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	6 9:30am Text Study for A/CC Pastors 12:00pm Homeschool Class (Math)	7	8	9 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	10 Staff/Council Epiphany Party
11 Baptism of our Lord 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:30am Faith Formation/All Ages 11:00am CALEB AME Zion Worship	12 Dawn - Vacation Day <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	13 9:30am Text Study for A/CC Pastors 12:00pm Homeschool Class (Math) 6:00pm HR Committee 6:00pm Worship Team	14 1:00pm LWR Quilting 6:30 Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00pm DAV/DAVA	16 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	17
18 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:30am Faith Formation/All Ages 11:00am CALEB AME Zion Worship	19 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i>	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:30am Text Study for A/CC Pastors 12:00pm Homeschool Class (Math)	21 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	22 11:30 am Lutheran Lunch Bunch	23 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	24
25 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:30am Congregational Meeting 10:30am Feast and Fellowship 11:00am CALEB AME Zion Worship 4:00pm Worship at the ARC	26 <i>Pastor's Day Off</i> 6:45pm WELCA General Meeting	27 9:30am Text Study for A/CC Pastors 12:00pm Homeschool Class (Math) 6:00pm HR Committee	28 1:00pm LWR Quilting 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	29	30 7:00pm Narcotics Anonymous	31

Christ the King Lutheran Church
1129 Pat Booker Road
Universal City, TX 78148

(210) 658-2254

Office Email: ctkadm@ctk-uc.org

Website: www.ctk-uc.org

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

Staff

Pastor--Rev. Mike Widner
Administrative Assistant--Dawn Young
Choir & Worship Band Director--Sally Walters
Bell Choir Director--Cindy Bonaccorsi
Pianist--Vanessa Jackson
Nursery--Rachel Ball
Bookkeeper--Suzanne Schroeder
Financial Secretary--Leona Hietala
Treasurer--Joy Brown
Media Team-- Thomas Hawkins, Shannon Lopez,
Ray Lopez, Dale Meyers

Church Council

President--Jamie Dunevant
Fellowship (Vice President)--Susan Abbey
Education (Secretary)--Maggie Boos
Mutual Ministry--Lisa Lopez
Finance--Dobie Garner
Property, Building, & Ground--Edward Sauseda
Shepherding--Sissie Mirhashemi
Worship--Joanne Benson

Education / Faith Formation Ministries

Sunday School—Maggie Boos
Wednesday Bible Study--Pastor Mike Widner
Sunday Adult Bible Study--Al Boos IV

All Other Ministries

Women of the ELCA--Susan Abbey
LWR Quilts—Joanne Benson
LWR Kits – Erika Robeson
Prayer Shawls--Kathy Hanley
Bereavement--Barbara Kovacich
Mission Endowment Fund--Jill Schulz
Stewardship Committee--Dinah Halopka-Ryson
HR Committee--Susan Abbey

Fellowship Ministries

Fourth Sunday Breakfast--Susan Abbey
Lutheran Lunch Bunch--Susan Abbey
Book Club--Patsy Meyers