

The CTK HERALD

Christ the King Lutheran Church • Dec. 2011/Jan. 2012 • Wilbraham, Massachusetts

"PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL"

FROM THE PASTOR

The End Times

When *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* first appeared in 2006, some people noted an odd assortment of hymns titled "End Times." With the popularity of the *Left Behind* books and our culture's fascination with and inaccurate interpretation of the Book of Revelation, I was a little worried. Had the Lutheran church included whacky new hymns about the rapture and other recently concocted theories of the last days in its beautiful new worship resource? And an imminent concern rushed to my head: would I be forced to sing such hymns in worship? Instead, however, I found a wonderful collection of classic hymns and spirituals, many of which appeared in the *Lutheran Book of Worship* in the Advent section. In fact, this season in which we are to embark, Advent, is all about the last days, the "end times."

Every Sunday in worship, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. The refrain of "Amen, come Lord Jesus," is also frequently upon our lips. But what does this mean? What does it mean for Christ to come again? "Christ Seated in Judgment" was a popular subject of classical artwork. A quick Google search of this term will leave many uneasy. Our Christian hope is that Christ will come again, at the last day, to judge the world. But is that really what we want? Looking at these pictures, it doesn't look like a very fun scene.



The Good News of Jesus Christ is inextricably bound up with Christ's second coming. Christ does not come to unmercifully wreak havoc on us and others, but to vanquish evil from the face of the earth. This is a message that speaks to us now, as it has throughout the Church's history. Natural disasters like tornadoes and blizzards have wreaked havoc on our community. Corporate greed and political corruption have resulted in growing disparities between rich and poor and suffering for the marginalized here and abroad. And endless wars seem to consume us on every front. Who will save us from this evil that surrounds us?

In Christ, God has already begun the work of redemption. Christ's return will mean the completion of this salvation for God's creation. Redemption means that everything will be made right – that war will cease, that suffering will end, and somehow, past wrongs will be corrected, and peace will reign on earth. This is why we come to worship, why we live the Christian life, and why we invite people to join us. Christ's judgment is not unnecessary suffering and pain: that is what Christ has come to destroy! Christ's judgment is the return of creation to its original design for glorifying God. As we travel through Advent, we are not so much counting down days to Christmas, as we are preparing for that last day, when Christ will come again in glory. No matter what evil confronts us, no matter how difficult following Christ can become, we do so in anticipation of the great and promised feast. Amen, come Lord Jesus.

Pastor Nathaniel

We strive to be a congregation so empowered by the Gospel message and our unity in Christ that we work together to minister to those in need and proclaim the Good News to all.



Christ the King Council officers are:
 President - Mike Fisher, Vice-President - Tom Henry,
 Secretaries - Melissa Springer, Ethan Springer,
 Treasurer - Kevin Hinkamper, Financial Secretary - Melissa Springer



Other Council members:
 Don Sienkiewicz and Paula Wilke

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve -
 One service with candlelight at **4:30 p.m.**

Christmas Day - 10:00 a.m. service with
 Holy Communion.

SUNDAY SCHOOL and ADULT FORUM NEWS

Sunday School . . .

In December, our Sunday School classes in grades Pre-K through 6 will be learning about Advent. Following the Christmas season, we will move on to lessons on the Lord's Prayer in January and then the Parable of the Sower in February. All adult members of our congregation are invited to teach. Materials are provided and you can teach for just one lesson. We have an excited group of first through sixth graders, who would like to spend an hour on Sunday morning with you! Please contact Barbara Fisher if you are interested.

Service opportunity . . .

On **Wednesday, December 7th**, Mike and Barb Fisher will be accompanying a group of our youth to serve at the Center for Human Development Christmas party for foster families. This has been a fun and rewarding service opportunity for several years, and we are

happy to have been invited back. CTK will again sponsor and staff the arts and craft table. The party is from **3:00 to 6:00 p.m.**, and we will need to be there at least 15 minutes early. We need to leave from the CTK parking

lot by **2:15**. If we have several kids from one or two schools, we could do pickups at the schools at dismissal. This service opportunity is best suited for youth in 6th grade and above. If you are interested in joining us this year, please contact Barbara or Mike.

Confirmation . . .

Thank you to Jess Henry for providing our delicious communion bread for November and a reminder to Sarah Springer who is providing bread for December and Allie Van Beaver who is providing bread for January. Thank you all so much for sharing your gifts with us in this ministry.

Please note that the scheduled Confirmation Class with Pastor Nathaniel has been moved from Sunday, January 22, to **Sunday, January 29**.

Christmas Pageant . . .

We will once again be sharing an intergenerational Christmas pageant this year on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**, during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. There will be parts for school age children, teens, and adults.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS Continues . . .

(Page 2)

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The CTK Herald is distributed on the last Sunday of the month by Christ the King Lutheran Church. All articles for publication should be given to Fran Selva by the **10th of the month prior to publication**.

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 758 Main Street—Wilbraham, MA 01095

Telephone: 413-596-3045 FAX: 413-596-9220

SUNDAYSCHOOL NEWS Continued . . .



Practices will be during the Sunday School/Adult Forum hour, **8:45 – 9:45 a.m.** on the Sundays of **December 11 and 18**. If you or your child would like to be a part of this program, please contact Linda Van Beaver, either by e-mail, Lvanbeaver@charter.net or phone, 413-596-5587. Thank you for your help!

There will be no Sunday School classes or nursery coverage on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. On December 18th, there will be no nursery coverage due to the Christmas pageant.

Coming to Adult Forum in January 2012!

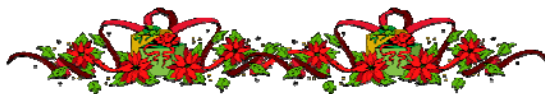
"Making Sense of the Christian Faith"

An engaging and fascinating look at the faith we claim. Did God intend for Jesus to die on the cross? What does the Church teach about life after death? How do human freedom and God's infinite knowledge coexist? How does this Holy Trinity thing make sense, anyway?

Over eight sessions Pastor Nathaniel and any interested persons will explore these and other fascinating questions. Participants will need to purchase the course book (\$13) and read one chapter before each session. The book is very well-written in an engaging, dialogue format.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to explore the core questions of our faith! See Pastor Nathaniel for more information and to sign up.

Adult Forum will not meet on the Sundays of **December 11, 18, 25, and January 1**.



Souper Bowl of Caring . . .



On **February 5, 2012**, congregations across the country will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. This will be the 10th year that Christ the King has participated in this event to support hunger-related charities. In our nine-year history of participation, CTK has collected 519 food items and \$2,893.06. Last year, we were able to donate 158 food items to the Community Survival Center.

Let's try to beat that number this year! On February 5th our Sunday School students will be collecting canned goods. Please prayerfully consider what you can offer to our collection in the fight against hunger.

YOUTH

Our December/January calendar is as follows:

December 3:

Baking at the Van Beavers' for Bake Sale

December 4:

Bake Sale following worship to raise money to buy Christmas gifts for foster kids

December 7:

Holiday Party for CHD kids

December 11:

Shopping for foster kids for Christmas

January 8:

Ice Skating (Family Event) at Cyr Arena

January 22: TBA

Watch your e-mails for details on all the events!

(Page 3)

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:
9:00 a.m.—noon

Tuesday: 1:00—5:00 p.m.

By appointment

Please call the church office, as Pastor Nathaniel from time to time will have specially scheduled events or pastoral emergencies.

Pastor Nathaniel's online tools:

Twitter: www.twitter.com/PastorNanderson

Blog: <http://pastornanderson.blogspot.com/>

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PastorNanderson

Fran's December/January Hours . . . Monday through Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to noon.

OUTREACH/FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Tree Trim Potluck Supper
Sunday, December 11, 4:30 p.m.

All CTK members and friends are invited to attend our most popular fellowship event of the year. This annual celebration begins with a potluck feast, followed by the trimming of our nave Christmas tree. Don't miss this opportunity to get into the holiday spirit and get to know your church family. There is no charge for the event; however, a free will offering will be taken to help defray expenses.

What to Bring:

- A main dish, **plus** a salad/vegetable **or** a dessert.
- Your own paper goods and place settings.
- Coffee, tea, and cider will be provided by the Fellowship Committee.

(We ask that you bring your main dishes thoroughly heated, as we do not have sufficient oven space.)

STEWARDSHIP

We had a terrific evening of food and discussion at our Stewardship Dinner on November 12th. We ex-

tend a heartfelt thank you to Kris Springer for so generously sharing his time and skills with us as he provided our wonderful meal. Thank you also to Michael Fisher, Ellen Henry, Kevin Hinkamper, and Ruth Kruger, as they helped facilitate discussions and goal setting.

Very shortly, you will be receiving a letter, your sealed pledge from last year and a new 2012 pledge card in the mail. We will be having a temple talk on **Sunday, December 4th**, addressing our finances, both this year's and next, and pledge Sunday will be on **December 11th**. We will be asking that you prayerfully consider what piece God is calling you to play in our ministry, and to pledge your support based on your discernment of God's call. We believe that the pledge you are making is to God, and for that reason, we will again be asking that pledges are returned in sealed envelopes - no later than **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**, please.

Our next step will be to focus on time and talents and the projects we will be highlighting as priorities for the coming year. On **Sunday, January 22**, there will be an opportunity for people to look at these projects

STEWARDSHIP Continues . . .

(Page 4)



IT'S TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS PLANTS

Donations of poinsettias to decorate the church for the Christmas season may be made as a memorial or in honor of loved ones. Please sign the form below and return it to the church office by

December 11, so that our order can be placed in time.

The price will be **\$8 for poinsettias**.

I wish to donate . . . _____ Poinsettias

Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____



STEWARDSHIP Continued . . .



and goals more closely, as well as the ongoing ministries of the church, as we share food and fellowship and prepare for our annual meeting. Again, we ask you to prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to share your gifts in ministry. Is there a project or an area that you are uniquely suited to or feel called to be a part of? There are many levels and ways to support these ministries, and we hope that you will pledge the support of your time and talents as a joyful response to all that God has done and continues to do for us.

As always, we ask you to pray – pray for stewardship, pray for Christ the King, and prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be a part of ministry at Christ the King.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Perfect Christmas Gifts!

Forget the fruit cake, the stuffed toy, and the ugly tie, etc. Give something that benefits truly needy people.

1. Give the gift of a farm animal. God's Global Barnyard lets you choose from chicks to cows and everything in between. Gift cards announcing "Your gift was hard to wrap" are available for you to send to friends and family.
2. Not into animals? The ELCA Good Gifts catalog describes many ways in which you can donate to needed missions. The ELCA Good Gifts catalog has a new look and new gifts, offering more than 50 unique, meaningful opportunities to offer support for ELCA ministries and honor loved ones at the same time. Included among the new gifts is surgery to restore sight to the blind and medicine to treat malaria. Each of these gifts has the remarkable capacity to transform lives -- all in God's name.
3. No crowds, no hassle, just beautiful hand crafted gifts delivered to your house. Check out the LWR Handcraft Project catalog. You'll delight your friends and family and help another family earn income from the sale of their products.



Both the ELCA Good Gifts and LWR Handcraft Project catalogs are available on the table in the Fellowship Hall. The ELCA Good Gifts catalog can also be viewed online at:
<https://community.elca.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=607>.

Calling All Quilters . . .

The quilting dates for the next two months are the **Wednesdays of December 14 and January 18**, beginning at **9:00 a.m.** Please note that the December date is the *second*, not the third Wednesday.

REPORTS NEEDED FOR ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 22, Annual Reports from

the pastor, officers, Council, committees, and organizations will be received. Elections will be held, and a budget will be presented for adoption.



Therefore, all annual reports need to be submitted to the church office no later than **Monday, January 2**. Kindly place the reports in the Parish Secretary's box in the church office or e-mail articles to ctkwilbraham@verizon.net. Thank you!

ECUMENICAL ADVENT SERVICE

The 42nd Annual Ecumenical Advent Service will be held **December 7, at 10:00 a.m.**, at **Wilbraham United Church** located on Main Street.

All are invited to this wonderful event to begin our Advent season. The service will be followed by an elegant coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Our speaker will be Sister Mary McCue of St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church in Wilbraham. Other participants in the service will come from local and area churches. For information, call Helene Pickett at 596-4772.

CTK PEOPLE

"Happy Birthday to You . . ."

Happy Birthday and best wishes to all those born in December and January!



Judi Mosso, Kris Springer, Elaine Wissig, Emma Hinkamper, Linda Palmioli, Abigail Person, Brett Vottero, Richard Steng, Sarah Springer, Christine Caster, Martha Mensing, Philip Oswald, Abigail Hinkamper, Carly Fisher, Doris Gulbransen, Debbie Carr, Gayle Hsiao, Daniel Nygren, Joe Sardinha, Karen Moreau, Jenna Bredvik, Kelly Libardi, and Erin Carr

Thank you . . .

Dear Christ the King,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness and sympathy during the passing of our grandmothers. Your gift of flowers and countless

cards and condolences mean very much to us. Thank you for supporting us during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Pastor Nathaniel and Carolyn

Remember in your prayers . . .

Recovering . . .

Buffy Mayo, who is recovering from surgery for a brain aneurysm.



In Sympathy . . .

Lee Hagon, as she mourns the death of her grandfather (Jimmy) Vincenzo Campolattano. Cards of condolence may be sent to her at **160 Whitney Street, Hartford, CT 06105**.

(A complete prayer listing is available through the Prayer Chain. If you wish to be added, please e-mail Fran at ctkwilbraham@verizon.net or call 596-3045.)

(The following was taken from the website of the New England Synod of the ELCA.)

ELCA bishop visits White House to discuss Israeli-Palestinian conflict

CHICAGO (ELCA) -

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), attended a Nov. 8 meeting at the White House as part of a group of ecumenical faith leaders. They asked that the United States take a stronger stance in its opposition to the rapid expansion of Israeli settlement construction in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. The construction threatens the viability of a future Palestinian state, thus precluding a two-state solution and support for a shared Jerusalem.

Hanson and the other faith leaders met with Dennis Ross, special assistant to President Barack Obama, and Catherine Powell, director for human rights, Office of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights in the National Security Council. The meeting took place before Ross announced his resignation Nov. 10.

The faith leaders discussed U.S. policies towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and problems facing Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land. They expressed hope for a high-level U.S. administration visit to the Middle East, especially in Bethlehem, which would include meetings with Christian leaders.

According to Hanson, continued meetings with the Obama administration are "a priority because of our commitment to our companions in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. It is also carried out in the commitment we have made in the ELCA's Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine.

"As we began our conversation with Mr. Ross, I expressed disappointment. We hear our Christian partners in the region question the United States' commitment. They wonder why the U.S. has not been more vocal about the increased settlement construction. I told Mr. Ross that we repeatedly hear Palestinian churches say they see this as a moment of abdication by the U.S. administration."

Reflecting on the meeting, Hanson said, "More progress must be made toward the goal of a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine. Since our meeting a year ago, the prospects for peace seem to have diminished with the expansion of settlements and the absence of face-to-face negotiations."

According to a Nov. 10 news release from Churches for Middle East Peace, the

church leaders who attended the Nov. 8 meeting said they are disappointed with developments since their 2010 meeting at the White House.

"The position of the Palestinian Christian community is precarious," stated the release. "There are constant problems of obtaining visas for clergy who must travel outside Jerusalem and the West Bank. Restriction on movement between Bethlehem and Jerusalem is a problem that undermines Christian life. Church leaders are humiliated at check points."

Ecumenical leaders at this year's White House meeting included Hanson; Katharine Jefferts Shori, presiding bishop and primate of the Episcopal Church; Denis James Madden, auxiliary bishop of Baltimore and chairman-elect of the Committee for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Neil Irons, executive secretary of the Methodist Council of Bishops; and Sara Lisherness, director of compassion, peace and justice for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The meeting was arranged by Churches for Middle East Peace, a coalition of 24 national church denominations and organizations working to encourage U.S. government policies that promote a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Official Notification:

**THE CHRIST THE KING
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

is scheduled for

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012

***FOLLOWING THE
10:00 A.M. SERVICE***

Annual reports from the pastor, officers, Council, committees, and organizations will be received. Elections will be held, and a budget will be presented for adoption.

*All annual reports need to be submitted to the church office
no later than Monday, January 2.*

*Kindly place the reports in the Parish Secretary's box in the church
office or e-mail articles to ctkwilbraham@verizon.net.*

Thank you!

All are invited to the



ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS TREE TRIM

POTLUCK SUPPER ...

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

4:30 P.M.

At the church

**Please see the Outreach/Fellowship article
in this issue of the Herald for details.**

Don't miss this wonderful intergenerational event!



DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>Pastor Nathaniel's Office Hours:</i> Monday, Wednesday, Thursday - 9:00 to Noon Tuesday - 1:00 to 5:00			1 2:45-4:00 Daisy Troop	2	3 Baking for Youth Bake Sale
4 2nd Sunday in Advent 8:30-9:45 Education Hour 10:00 Holy Communion 11:15 Youth Bake Sale	5 6:30-7:30 Bell Choir	6 6:00-7:30 Outreach	7 Noon Loaves & Fishes 2:15 Youth-Foster Kids Christmas Party 7:00 Parish Choir	8	9	10
11 3rd Sunday in Advent PLEDGE SUNDAY 8:30-9:45 Pageant Rehearsal 8:30-9:45 NO Adult Forum 10:00 Holy Communion 11:30 Confirmation Youth -shopping 4:30 Tree Trim & Potluck	12 6:30-7:30 Bell Choir	13	14 9:00 Quilting 7:00 Parish Choir	15 2:45-4:00 Daisy Troop 7:00 Council	16	17
18 4th Sunday in Advent 8:30-9:45 Pageant Rehearsal 8:30-9:45 NO Adult Forum 10:00 Pageant	19 6:30-7:30 Bell Choir	20	21 St. Thomas, Apostle 7:00 Parish Choir Hanukkah	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 4:30 Holy Commun.
25 Christmas Day 8:30-9:45 NO Education 10:00 Holy Communion	26 Stephen, Deacon and Martyr 6:30-7:30 Bell Choir	27 John, Apostle and Evangelist	28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 7:00 Parish Choir	29 Winter Begins	30	31 New Year's Eve

JANUARY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday of Christmas EPIPHANY SUNDAY 8:30-9:45 NO Education 10:00 Holy Communion New Year's Day	2 6:30 Bell Choir	3 6:00-7:30 Outreach	4 Noon Loaves & Fishes 7:00 Parish Choir	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord	7
8 The Baptism of Our Lord 8:30-9:45 Education Hour 10:00 Holy Communion 11:30 Confirmation Ice Skating-Cyr Arena	9 6:30 Bell Choir	10	11 7:00 Parish Choir	12	13	14
15 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30-9:45 Education Hour 10:00 Holy Communion Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed)	16 6:30 Bell Choir	17	18 Confession of Peter 9:00 Quilting 7:00 Parish Choir	19	20	21
22 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30-9:45 Education Hour 10:00 Holy Communion 11:00 Annual Cong. Mtg. Youth—TBA	23 6:30 Bell Choir	24 St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor	25 Conversion of Paul 7:00 Parish Choir	26 St Titus, Pastor and Confessor	27	28
29 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 8:30-9:45 Education 10:00 Holy Communion 11:30 Confirmation	30 6:30 Bell Choir	31		<i>Pastor Nathaniel's Office Hours:</i> Monday, Wednesday, Thursday - 9:00 to Noon Tuesday - 1:00 to 5:00		



Christ The King
Lutheran Church

758 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095



Come and Worship

