

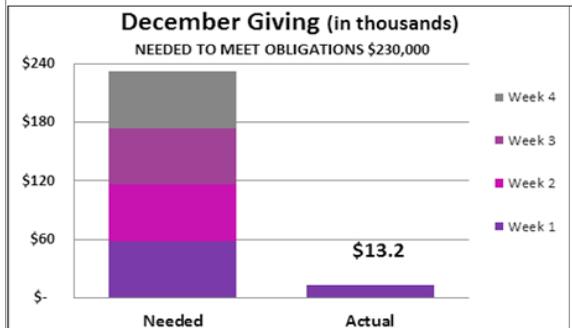


## Sign up for 2017 Sunday Flowers

Members and friends of Christ the King Church are invited to donate the Sunday flowers throughout the year. The 2017 Flower Chart is on the mobile bulletin board in the cloister or the foyer (during the week). The Sunday flowers are a significant part of the Altar Guild ministry as its members deliver them after services to families and individuals to express the congregation's support in times of joy, sadness or concern. Flower arrangements for weekend services are \$65. Please pay for the flowers when you sign up. Checks and cash can be dropped in the offering baskets (made out to Christ the King Church, memo line "Altar Flowers"). For online giving please use the Donate link on the church home page.

## December Giving

This graph illustrates the amount of income needed before the end of the year to close the year even financially. We appreciate your faithful and generous support of the congregation, and we are confident our members, as usual, will meet and exceed their financial giving pledges for 2016. We invite you to prayerfully consider how much extra you can give before the end of 2016 to ensure we end the year in a positive financial position and start 2017 ready for a successful transition as we conclude the call process.



## Bach Vespers for Advent

**December 11, 6:00 p.m.**

This Vespers features Bach's early cantata based on one of Luther's most beloved Advent hymns, Schütz's Magnificat for Four Choirs, and motets by Brahms and Distler. Pre-vesters talk 5:15 p.m. with Peter Loewen. Reception following.

## Midday Advent Organ Concerts Fridays 12:15 p.m.

Join us for a 30 minute organ concert for the Season of Advent in the nave of Christ the King Church. Christopher Holman will play selections for the pre-Christmas time of reflection and expectancy. An offering will be taken to support the music ministry of Christ the King Church. Bring a friend or colleague and enjoy. **Fridays at 12:15 p.m., December 16 and 23.**

## Church Photo Directory

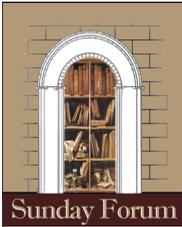
**Photo dates are:**

**January 4-7, 17-21, 2017**

We are excited to prepare a new pictorial directory of our church family. This new directory will serve as a valuable tool to help promote fellowship, showcase our congregation, and help us reach out to new members.

Photo sessions are January 4-7 and January 17-21. Sign up in the narthex before and after worship during December or sign up electronically by using the link on our homepage, [ckelc.org](http://ckelc.org). Please plan now to participate. Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

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## Sunday Forum

9:45 a.m. in  
the basement  
classroom

**December 11:**

### **Connections Between People and the Rest of Creation: Scripture and Science**

The Creation Care Team invites you to Sunday Forum for Connections Between People and the Rest of Creation: Scripture and Science. Lisa Brenskelle, Creation Care Team lead and a chemical engineer who manages research and development projects for her employer, will address the connections between people and the rest of creation from the perspectives of both scripture and science. Her talks will investigate the relationships and similarities between people and the rest of creation highlighted in scripture and then give examples of how these relationships and similarities have been observed by science. Learn some exciting newer science of which you may not be aware, and marvel at the connections between people and the rest of creation!

### **Pageant Rehearsals**

Pageant rehearsal will be Wednesdays, December 14. The pageant will take place on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18.

## **The Longest Night: A Service of Hope and Comfort**

**Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall**

Christmas is a joyous time for many and yet it is also 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.

For these reasons and more Christ the King Church will 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 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. We need space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. We need to know God's presence during this season.

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

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.

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.

### **Luther League Christmas Party December 18**

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 youth room 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!

## Christ the King Young Adults

### Christmas Potluck Sunday, December 18 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 Wendy and Nathan Wiker. Contact wendy@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.

### 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 2016. Our church office is open from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 30 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 2016.

### 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.

# ADVENT-CHRISTMAS

## Third Sunday of Advent December 11

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

## Friday, December 16

12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Recital

## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 18

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion with  
Reflections on the O Antiphons  
10:00 a.m. Children’s Christmas Pageant,  
Waffle Café  
10:50 a.m. Holy Communion with  
Reflections on the O Antiphons

## The Longest Night December 21

6:30 p.m. A Service of Hope and Comfort

## Friday, December 23

12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Recital

## Christmas Eve December 24

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

## Christmas Day December 25

11:00 a.m. Carols and Communion

## First Sunday of Christmas January 1

No Taizé on Saturday, December 31  
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion  
6:00 p.m. Organ Concert with Paul Tegels

## Eve of Epiphany

### Thursday, January 5

6:00 p.m. Festival of the Epiphany with  
blessing of the house and home

## Sunday, December 11

- 8:30 a.m. Worship ELW 5, nave
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday Forum, basement classroom
- 9:45 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal
- 10:50 a.m. Worship ELW 5, nave
- 12:30 p.m. Luther League, youth room
- 5:15 p.m. Bach Society Pre-vespers talk, parish hall
- 6:00 p.m. Bach Vespers, nave

## Monday, December 12

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor

## Tuesday, December 13

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor
- 7:15 p.m. Congregation Council, council room

## Wednesday, December 14

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor  
No Wednesday Night Alive!
- 5:30 p.m. Pizza
- 6:00 p.m. Pageant Rehearsal
- 6:15 p.m. Brass Choir, music suite
- 7:30 p.m. Church Choir, music suite
- 7:30 p.m. Chorus, rehearsal room

## Thursday, December 15

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor

## Friday, December 16

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor
- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry, 3rd floor
- 10:00 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study
- 12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Recital, nave

## Saturday, December 17

- 1:00 p.m. Yoga, basement classroom
- 6:00 p.m. Taizé, nave

## Sunday, December 18

- Blood Pressur Screening after services
- 8:30 a.m. Worship ELW 5, nave
- 9:45 a.m. Waffle Café
- 10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant, parish hall
- 10:50 a.m. Worship ELW 5, nave
- 4:30 p.m. Luther League Christmas Party, youth room
- 7:00 p.m. Young Adult's Potluck, offsite



## 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 \$14,477** 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.

## Advent Star

During Advent through Epiphany a star appears at Christ the King Lutheran Church. This paper star from the Moravian tradition is a reminder 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.

## Ten Thousand Villages Shopping Night Tuesday, December 13

The Ten Thousand Villages fundraiser will be **Tuesday, December 13 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.!** Ten Thousand Villages is closing – this will be our last time for fundraising shopping. Stock up on your favorite fair trade items. 15% of net sales will be donated to the Luther League. Beverages and snacks will be served throughout the evening. Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit, fair trade gift store that works with over 130 artisan groups in more than 38 countries to bring you fair trade jewelry, home decor, gifts and more. Find a gift for everyone this Christmas!



## We celebrate with these members and friends who are remembering their baptism this week:

Yanis Eberhart	Peter Winston	Marthe Munden
Yonas Eberhart	Dorothy Chesley	Jennifer Dyer
Jack Zage	Ryan Morris	Arash Noamouz
Donald Chandler	Rick Erickson	Ava Merie Noamouz
		Eric Zage

The Rev. Dr. Duane Larson, Interim Pastor  
The Rev. Karin Liebster, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation  
Ben Remmert, Director of Youth and Family Ministry  
Beverly Davis, Director of Congregational Care  
Linda Schoene, Congregational Nurse  
Rick Erickson, Cantor, Director of Bach Society Houston  
Chris Holman, Music Associate Robert Walp, Brass Choir Director  
Noelle Jung, Church Business Administrator

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.