



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Waffle Café 9:45 a.m.

All are invited to enjoy waffles and hot chocolate made by the Luther League youth before and after the Christmas Pageant. Proceeds will support the-ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

**Christmas Pageant
10:00 a.m. parish hall**

The children will present a pageant based on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke with traditional Lutheran Christmas carols interspersed throughout.

Luther League

Christmas Party 4:30 p.m.

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. The main entrée will be provided but side dishes and desserts are needed for our feast!

Christ the King Young Adults

Christmas Potluck 7:00 p.m.

Young adults join for the end-of-year CTK YA Soiree! Wear an ugly sweater. 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@ckelc.org.

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS

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

Flowers for January and February

The 2017 Altar Guild Flower Chart is on the mobile bulletin board. Flower arrangements for weekend services are \$65. **January and February have many open Sundays for flower dedications.** Please pay for the flowers when you sign up. For online giving use the Donate link on the church home page. Checks to Christ the King Lutheran Church or cash in an envelope should say "Altar Flowers."

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Check your Blood Pressure December 18

Monthly blood pressure screenings will be held after each Sunday morning service.

Midday Advent Organ Concert Friday 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. **Friday at 12:15 p.m., December 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, ctkelc.org. Please plan now to participate. Our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

SEARCH Cards and Coffee Ministry

Please join us in hosting our monthly coffee hour for SEARCH Homeless Services clients at the Perry St. Apartments, 4415 Perry, a New Hope Housing project in the Third Ward on **Wednesday, December 21, 10:00-11:00 a.m.** This collaboration with SEARCH takes place every third Wednesday of the month. **If you have any 2017 calendars** or Christmas cards you'd like to contribute you may drop them off in the donation basket on Sundays or in the church office. For more information, contact Beverly at beverlydavis@ctkelc.org.

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.

No Taizé services December 24 and 31.
Prayer Around the Cross will be January 7.

Salt and Light Pledge

Have you made your "Salt and Light Pledge" for 2017? Pledge cards are still welcome. You can even make your pledge or make a contribution online at CTKELC.org. Thanks for supporting God's mission through Christ the King Church!

Note, too, the December games bing and goal graph below.



Luther League Reunion Dinner

December 28, 6:00 p.m.

All high school youth and college students are invited for an evening of fellowship. The evening will have opportunities to catch up with our past Luther League students. We will gather together at church at 6:00 p.m. and go into the village to have dinner and return back to church for an evening of board games. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Ben Remmert by December 27.



New Year's Day Organ Concert with Paul Tegels

January 1, 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate the New Year with Dutch organist Paul Tegels as he presents the organ masterpieces of Bach and those from his homeland. Prosecco and cake reception following.

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 amaz-ing generosity. May you know the joy of giving in this season of celebrating the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

Annual Reports

The 2016 Annual Reports are due on **Monday, January 16, 2017**. Samples of last year's report can be found online at ctkelc.org/about-us/how-we-work. Please email your report to michaelshelton@ctkelc.org.

Wednesday Night Alive! Resumes January 18

Eating, learning, singing, playing instruments, studying, praying, and so much more.

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

Monday, December 19

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

Tuesday, December 20

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

Wednesday, December 21

- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor
- 10:00 a.m. SEARCH Coffee and Cards. offsite
- 6:15 p.m. Brass Choir, music suite
- 6:30 p.m. *Longest Night* service, parish hall
- 7:30 p.m. Church Choir, music suite
- 7:30 p.m. Chorus, rehearsal room

Thursday, December 22

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

Friday, December 23

- Church Office Closed
- 8:15 a.m. Morning Prayer, 3rd floor
- 12:15 p.m. Advent Organ Recital, nave

Saturday, December 24

- 4:00 p.m. Weihnachtsmesse, nave
- 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion around the Holy Family, nave
- 10:00 p.m. Holy Communion, nave

Sunday, December 25

- 11:00 a.m. Carols and Communion, nave

The Rev. Dr. Duane Larson, Interim Pastor
The Rev. Karin Liebster, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation
Ben Rimmert, 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

Phone: 713-523-2864 2353 Rice Blvd, Houston TX, 77005
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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



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.

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

Daniel Zorn	Robert Hoover	Gaelyn Leshner
Bill Marks	Richard Stuff	Mary Ella Orsburn
Kiersten Thompson	Eldon Thomas	Christina Azure-Keller
Matthew Boles	Bill Mintz	Sarah Thweatt
Trey Bourne	Henry Thweatt	Alexandra Uri

Why is There a Ship Hanging from the Ceiling in the Nave?

The Church Ship - *The Superb*

St. Gregory the Great (540-604) wrote that the Church is a ship in which God takes us safely through life from one shore, birth, to the other, death. The image of a boat is found throughout the Bible, for example in the stories of Noah's ark, Jonah, and Christ sleeping in the disciples' fishing boat during a storm. It is not surprising that the ship became the universally accepted symbol for the Church. Even the word for our house of worship, our nave, is derived from the Latin word "navis," meaning "ship or vessel." Our nave, like others, gives the appearance of an inverted wooden ship under which we take shelter.