

# Stronger Together

## WINTER 2023

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LIVING HOPE  
Lutheran Church ELCA



Christ the King  
Lutheran Church



Advent Series:  
How does a  
weary world  
rejoice?

# How Does a Weary World Rejoice?



The Christmas season is filled with emotions. There's the wonder of a child opening their presents, nostalgia for traditions of Christmases past, the peace and awe of a sanctuary filled with candlelight, and grief for empty seats at the table. In the Biblical Christmas story, there is the joy of the angels, Zechariah's fear at encountering an angel, Mary's perplexity, the wonder of the shepherds, and the generosity of the magi.

This year as we journey through the Advent season and prepare for Christmas, we are focusing on the question, *How does a weary world rejoice?* Through this series, we are exploring some of those familiar human emotions present in both the Christmas story and our own experience: Isolation, fear, and disbelief, as well as connection, trust, and joy.

Maybe you're coming to this season feeling weary. As I write this, there is a truce in the fighting in Gaza, but it's unclear how long it might last. The war in Ukraine seems to be mired in a bloody stalemate. We are living in a global climate crisis. People we know are facing long-term and acute medical issues. We have neighbors struggling to make ends meet. It's hard to see how our present issues with poverty, violence, racism, greed, discrimination, inequality, and so many more things will be resolved. No wonder so many are feeling weary!

Share the Good News of Christmas!

The good news of Christmas—the reason we can rejoice—is that God looks at this world with all its brokenness, division, and suffering, and God chooses to love it. God chooses to love us. Rather than abandon us to the consequences of our self-destruction, God chooses to be born into this world. Jesus lays down his life for our salvation, offering us new life in place of death. What a wonderful story we have to share with our neighbors, many of whom are in desperate need of some good news! Christmas brings a “thrill of hope” in which this weary world can rejoice.

I hope you'll join us in celebrating Advent and Christmas this year. Invite a friend or neighbor to come too. Bring all your emotions with you. Bring your weariness, and your joy, and remember that God's grace and love are for you. May God bless you to rejoice this season.

Merry Christmas!

—Pastor Daniel





# Ministry Spotlight: Family Promise

On Christ the King Sunday, we heard Jesus talk about the importance of loving the least of these in his name. As churches, one of the ways we answer that call to love and serve our neighbors in tangible ways is through our partnership with Family Promise of Ozaukee County. Through their emergency shelter, rent assistance program, and case management services, Family Promise works to reduce homelessness and help families regain housing, independence, and their dignity. Over 195 households have been helped so far this year.

In January 2023, Family Promise opened the new Portlight Shelter on Sunset Road in Port Washington. The shelter has eight sleeping rooms, along with community rooms, a kitchen, and gathering spaces to help with financial literacy and rehabilitation. Over 2,300



nights of shelter have already been provided through the shelter. Around twenty local churches, including ours, support Family Promise by providing meals for families staying at the shelter.

Jan Nealy calls our partnership “an opportunity to be involved in the community and use the talents our members have to share food and to step up at a time when more and more people are in need.” She also points out that in addition to the specific weeks when our congregations provide meals, “They have one day slots too - you can sign up as an individual and serve just one meal, rather than a whole week.”

Alex Pieper says, “What I love about Family Promise is that it is up close and personal. Our volunteers are not only making meals but eating those meals with the people we are serving-it makes it more rewarding.”

## A Note on Stewardship

Looking to support our ministry without affecting your monthly budget? If you are 70½ years or older and have a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA), you are likely eligible to contribute to our congregation tax-free directly from your IRA. This is a great way to benefit our ministry as a congregation while avoiding paying taxes on any Required Minimum Distributions. Talk to your financial advisor or IRA custodian to direct a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to your church.

*“For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.” —Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:9*



### DO I QUALIFY TO GIVE A QCD?

YOU QUALIFY IF YOU ARE:

**70½**  
YEARS OLD



Giving to a public charity



An owner of an IRA



Are at any income level — QCDs have tax benefits for low-, middle- and high-income taxpayers.

“

“To get the full value of joy you must have someone to divide it with.”

—Mark Twain

”

## From the Councils:

We've asked our CTK and LH Council Members to finish this sentence:

***Right now, I am finding hope and joy...***



...as I see our younger folk's family involvement with their children. Very edifying!  
—Brad LeDuc

...in the 60 years of all the people, projects, and outreach that has happened at CTK, and the many more to come. —Mark Dybdahl



...in my family, my friends, and a cozy fireplace. —Jen Eason

...in two upcoming trips we have planned. —Deb Bruns



...with the development of my 6 grandchildren, who are becoming responsible young people. —Gary Myrah



...in enthusiastic volunteers and teamwork. —Paul Hoffmann



...seeing my kids volunteering to help others in the community. —Fred Walls

...in the promise of the Advent season. —Patti Luedtke



...because medical issues in my family are finally trending to the positive. —Joe Georgeson

...in the many ways God is blessing our ministry and fellowship. —Chris Lear



...as I am seeing, hearing and reading about good things that people are doing to improve the lives of others. There are many examples of people using their skills, time and innovative ideas, to organize efforts that benefit needy and underserved populations, both locally and globally. -- Ellen Smith



## Congregational Annual Meetings

Christ the King: January 21 at 9:30am

Living Hope: January 28 at 11:30am





## Lighthouse Youth Ministry

As 2023 draws to a close, we are so grateful for all the ways God has been at work through Lighthouse this year. After some time off this summer we have enjoyed getting back into the swing of things with bi-weekly Sunday evening programming. Students enjoyed fun activities like a painting night, bonfire, and "Friendsgiving" celebration with a breakfast themed potluck. We welcomed guest speaker, Carole Hynes, from the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) to share about mental health, and completed our 2nd annual "Trick-or-Treat so Others Can Eat" event, collecting more than 200 lbs in food for the Ozaukee Food Alliance.

And of course, a big highlight for the fall was bringing back the Giving Tuesday Spaghetti Supper and Silent Auction fundraiser. This event took place on November 28th and was a huge success! We had a great turnout, the food was delicious, live music from Bella Musik added a cozy and festive feel to the event, and we had 126 fabulous auction items up for grabs. A HUGE thank you to everyone who attended, contributed auction items, supplied desserts and other food supplies, and helped promote our event. We estimate we raised approximately \$10,000, which we will use to continue investing in the lives of the youth of our communities!

Thank you so much for your support of Lighthouse Youth Ministry, not only with our recent fundraising event, but throughout the year - we couldn't do it without you!

--Christin Flucke - Lighthouse Program Director

## BABY SHOWER FOR JESUS

### Joint Worship Service

17  
DEC

Living Hope  
&  
Christ the King

held at CTK  
420 W. Whitefish Rd.  
Port Washington

9:30  
AM

with a special Intergenerational Christmas Program!



Christmas is a story about a baby-- a very special baby who is God with us, and who is also a human baby. This year as we celebrate, let's support babies and parents in need in our own neighborhood! After our 9:30 am joint Christmas program worship service at CTK on December 17, bring diapers or other newborn items as we have a baby shower for Jesus to benefit the Ozaukee County Baby Bank.

# 60 for 60 Anniversary Campaign

As we mark our 60th anniversary year, Christ the King is engaging in an ambitious campaign to raise \$60,000 to reduce our outstanding mortgage debt by half by September, 2024. With a \$30,000 matching commitment and over \$7,000 in donations received so far, we are already well on our way to the goal!

Beyond our own needs, we have committed as a congregation to tithe 10% of what we raise to our synod's *Equipping the Saints Mission Appeal*, which is providing innovation grants to congregations, training and equipping leaders for ministry in this changing world, supporting Lutheran churches in El Salvador and Tanzania, and more. Learn more at <http://EquippingTheSaintsGMS.org>.

Please prayerfully consider what God might be calling you to contribute to help us reach our goal, reduce our debt load, and free up money for ministry as we enter our next decades!

## New in Our Sanctuary

Have you noticed the new additions to our sanctuary? One item we recently added is a new tech booth. Custom-made to fit behind our organ, this new desk provides a permanent home for the sound board & the computers controlling the screens in the sanctuary and the worship livestream. When you're traveling or not able to be with us in-person for worship, remember that you can participate online - look on the church website each week for the livestream link.

Another addition is a beautiful wood baptismal calendar hanging in the chancel. Created by Robin Honish, this unique wood display will eventually include the name and baptismal date for every person who has been baptized at CTK. Forty years of baptismal history are complete so far, and we continue adding throughout our history to add baptisms all the way back to 1963. Did you know our congregation has celebrated over 430 baptisms in our history? Of course, we will also add each person baptized here in the years to come!



Trunk or Treat 2023



# Christ the King Celebrates 60 Years!

On Sunday, November 17 Christ the King celebrated 60 years as a faith community! We would like to thank those who volunteered to help make this event special: the Committee members, all those who helped clean the building, plan and make the meal, served at worship, and cleaned up after the event. A special thank you also to Thrivent Financial for helping to fund our celebration.



From left to right back row: Rev. Jon Breimeier, Bishop Paul Erickson, Deacon Chris Lear, Rev. Daniel Flucke  
Front Row: Rev. Jerry Groth, Rev. Alice Horton, Rev. Kelly Nieman Anderson, Rev. Marilyn Borchardt, Rev. Gerald Anderson



# 60 YEARS!

“For we are co-workers  
in God’s service, you are  
God’s field, God’s building”  
1 Corinthians 3:9



**CHARTER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE  
2023 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**





**Christ the King**  
**Lutheran Church**  
420 W. Whitefish Rd  
Port Washington, WI 53074

**Return Service Requested**

place  
stamp  
here

**CONTACT US**

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**WORSHIP WITH US**

YOU ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH US  
SUNDAYS AT 8:30AM  
FOLLOWED BY COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

*You are invited!*

Bring your weariness, and your joy, and remember that God's grace and love are for you!

*Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship  
December 24 at 4pm at Christ the King  
and 7pm at Living Hope*

*Christmas Day Joint Service  
December 25 at 9:30am at Living Hope*

*December 31 Joint Service at 9:30am at Christ the King*

