

Pastor's Report — January 9, 2025 – Christ the King

Continuing Education

In November, I attended two continuing education events, a synod-required boundaries education workshop in Wauwatosa on November 7, and a free Siebert workshop on best practices to recognize and avoid burnout in Milwaukee on November 14.

Coming up in two weeks, Christin and I will both be attending the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza in Louisville, Kentucky, for which I'll be out of the office from January 23-27.

Finally, the synod's *Together in Mission* event is coming up on Saturday, February 15 in Wauwatosa. This is a great time for council members and congregation members to connect with people across the synod in workshops, conference meetings, worship, and fellowship. Handout with info at our meeting.

Holidays

This year, we experimented with two midweek Advent services, one at each church. I'm very happy with how both went. We had between 30-40 people at each service, and I think people enjoyed singing the Holden Evening Prayer service. I'm in favor of doing something similar next year, but we have a while before we need to decide that!

Christmas worship also went well. Our attendance here at Christ the King was over 100, the largest attendance since I've been here for a non-funeral service (2021: 87, 2022: 55, 2023: 92, 2024: 104), which was encouraging to see.

Looking forward, I've just reached out this week to our ecumenical partner congregations asking about doing cooperative Lenten midweek services again. Hopefully I'll know more next month. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5, and CTK will be hosting that service.

Housing Allowance

Each year, both congregations designate a portion of my salary as "Housing Allowance" – meaning up to that amount is tax-free for income tax (I still have to pay Social Security tax on it) when used for housing and furnishing expenses. Money designated but not used is still taxable. The amount designated has no impact on the church. I request a \$38,000 (\$19,000 per congregation) housing allowance designation for 2025. We'll vote on this at this meeting.

Lighthouse

Lighthouse had a very successful fundraising dinner in early December, raising over \$13,000 after expenses from the silent auction, dinner tickets, sponsorships, and raffle. We had great representation from our congregation – thank you!

Synod Assembly Delegates

Our congregation can send two delegates to this year's Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly, who ought to be elected at our annual meeting. Assembly this year is May 30-31 (~5:00 pm Friday – 4:30 pm Saturday) at the Brookfield Conference Center.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who provided music or otherwise helped with Christmas worship services, as well as helped with the Advent supper!

Thank you to Fred and Carrie for lots of work to help ease the upcoming transition to a new treasurer!

Thank you to everyone who went caroling and brightened our neighbors' Christmases!

Vacation Bible School

This summer's Vacation Bible School is being planned for the week of June 9 at Living Hope. It's right after school gets out, in the hope that avoiding summer school will free up a few more families to participate. Mark your calendar as I'm sure we'll need lots of volunteers!

Worship

Pastor Brad Brown will be leading worship on January 26 while I'm in St. Louis, and Pastor David Schoob will be leading worship on February 16 while I'm at Quake.

2024 Combined In-Person Attendance Average: 70 (Living Hope: 39; Christ the King: 32)

2023 Combined In-Person Attendance Average: 66 (Living Hope: 33; Christ the King: 33)

2022 Full Year Combined In-Person Attendance Average: 50

Weekly online "attendance" has averaged 7-8 at each congregation all year for 2024, down slightly from 10 per congregation in 2024.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Saturday, February 15 – Together in Mission Event in Wauwatosa

Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday Worship, Joint Service at Christ the King

Pastoral Records for 2025

Baptisms – 0

Funerals – 0

Vacation and Continuing Education for 2024

Vacation Days Taken: 0 (including 0 weekends) Vacation Days Unused: 28 (including 4 weekends)

Continuing Ed Days Taken: 0 (incl. 0 weekend) Continuing Ed Days Unused: 14 (incl. 0 weekend)

Please let me know if you have any questions about my report or anything else I'm working on. Thank you for your faithful partnership in ministry!

In Christ,

Pastor Daniel Flucke