

CHRIST THE KING'S MESSENGER

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations
804 8th Avenue N.E. P. O. Box 682
Pipestone, MN 56164 Phone: (507) 825-5958

E-mail: ctkfree@gmail.com
Web Page: www.ctkpipestone.com
Pastor Tim Johnson
Associate Pastor Matthew Pillman
Intern Sam Willard

VOLUME XXXVIII, No. 12

December 2021

Christmas Chaos

Christ-mas {noun} /'kris-məs/

a Christian feast on December 25 that commemorates the birth of Christ and is usually observed as a legal holiday

(<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Christmas>. Accessed 24 Nov. 2021.)

cha-os {noun} /kā-äs/

complete confusion and disorder

the state of the universe before there was any order and before stars and planets were formed

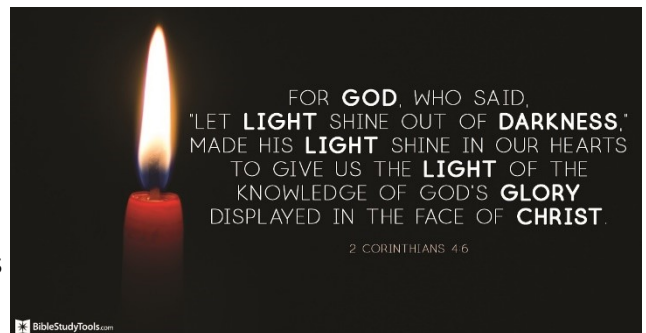
(<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/chaos>. Accessed 24 Nov. 2021)

Six Pillman kids and two Pillman parents busily scurried around our large kitchen preparing to host a holiday meal. Everyone had a job: set the table, carve the meat, mash the potatoes, prepare the vegetable and pickle trays... Everything was going great until a jar of pickled beets exploded! Bright red beet juice went everywhere. With the guests literally coming through the door into the kitchen, the entire Pillman family was engaged in washing pickle juice from the ceiling, floors, tables, chairs, and counters. Ordered busyness turned to utter chaos.

I fear that chaos represents much of what Christmas and life in general has become. Like an exploding can of pickled beets, the secular world-view has turned life into nothing more than a great shouting match of personal ideas. Without any objective basis for truth, the winner of the shouting match depends on the loudest celebrity, talk show host, or politician at the time. The intentional removal of God from life results in confusion and disorder. Why not murder children? Why not have sex with whoever you'd like (or your pet for that matter)? Why not drive a car into a crowded parade? Why not determine winners and losers based on critical race theory?

I would like to propose that Christmas and chaos are polar opposites. Sure, your celebrations could include chaotic moments when the kids or grandkids take over the house! But true chaos has no meaning—no order. Christmas is full of meaning. Jesus came to turn disorder to order. Consider 2 Corinthians 4:6, *For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

In creation, God took total chaos and made something beautiful out of it: oceans, mountains, animals, flowers, and humans! Through Christmas, God speaks life into the dark chaos of our heart through the Christ-child. Chaos has no place where Christ is King! **Continued on next page**



Continued from previous page: Is there chaos in your Christmas? Here are a few suggestions:

- 1. Don't let chaos overshadow you!** It is impossible to avoid chaos, but there is no need to let it take control. Remember that we are celebrating Jesus, the One who came to set the world free from the chaos of sin.
- 2. Care for your family!** Satan does his best to attack family, probably because family is God's idea. Whether you're a child, parent, or grandparent, seek to use to time to strengthen your relationship with those closest to you. Consider also how you can encourage a member of your church family!
- 3. Celebrate Jesus!** It's no secret that Christmas has become very commercialized. It's easy to get dragged into the trap of celebrating stuff. Look for ways to celebrate Jesus, the Giver of Life, more than the stuff and activities associated with Christmas. One idea is to do Advent Devotions together with your family (you can find a free Advent devotional on the table directly outside the doors to the Sanctuary).

Celebrating the Christ-child, Pastor Matthew

First Christmas Promises (Advent Series)



November 28	The Promised Seed	Genesis 3:15	Pastor Matthew
December 5	The Promised Blessing	Genesis 12:1-3	Pastor Tim
December 12	The Promised King	2 Samuel 7:12-16	Pastor Tim
December 19	Youth Sunday / Sunday School Program		
December 24	The Promised Fulfillment	John 1:14	Pastor Tim
December 26	The Promised Coming	Revelation 22:16-17	Intern Sam

children's
program



Youth Sunday
&
Sunday School Program
Sunday, December 19
During the worship service 10:30 AM

Christmas Events

*Christmas Eve
Service*



Please join us as we
celebrate Christ's birth
during our Christmas Eve
Worship service, Friday
December 24 at 5:00 PM



Christ the King Free Lutheran Church
Financial Report
 As of October 31, 2021

Cash Basis
 Balance Sheet

Revenue
 Expenditures

	<u>Oct 31, 21</u>		<u>Oct 21</u>
ASSETS		Revenue	
Checking/Savings		Building and Grounds	205.00
Bank Total		Discipleship	4.00
Building		General Revenue	24,266.19
Altar Guild	108.92	Outreach Revenue	6,250.15
Building Fund Account	1,736.09	Vehicle Sale	3,500.00
Total Building	<u>1,845.01</u>	Total Revenue	<u>34,225.34</u>
General Total		Expenditures	
General	27,334.81	Building & Grounds	1,587.51
Truth Help	278.93	Conferences/Meetings	115.00
Total General Total	<u>27,613.74</u>	Discipleship Expenditures	199.45
Outreach		Family Events	265.08
20% Offering	5,998.40	Family Support	100.00
Children's Mission Offering	251.75	Misc.	218.21
Thrivent	1,268.99	Office	280.44
Total Outreach	<u>7,519.14</u>	Outreach Disbursement	
Share And Care	1,048.05	20 %Outreach	3,469.96
Special Accounts		PAS Wellness	100.00
Internship Fund	533.54	Bible Translation-Wycliff	182.75
Local Outreach Ministry	6,423.71	Special Outreach	539.00
Church Missions	1,493.74	Total Outreach Disbursement	<u>4,291.71</u>
Marriage Ministry	307.98	Payroll Expenditures	18,959.66
Scholarship	322.26	Share And Care	1,026.95
Youth	11,103.93	Youth	687.07
Total Special Accounts	<u>20,185.16</u>	Total Expenditures	<u>27,731.08</u>
Total Bank Total	<u>58,211.10</u>	Net Revenue	<u><u>6,494.26</u></u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u><u>58,211.10</u></u>		

Present: Jim Gawarecki, Jim Otter, Morgan McNickle, Bill VanderPlaats, Marcine Olsen, Laurie Bruns, Heather De Wilde
Absent: Dave Sutherland, Brandie Hulstein

Also Present: Collene Landgren, Mike Morgan, Pastor Tim, Pastor Matthew
Absent: Intern Sam Willard

President Jim Gawarecki called the meeting to order. Devotions were led by Morgan McNickle by reading from a devotional from Inspiration.org., based on a Veterans Day message from John 15:13. Freedom comes at a great cost. Many veterans paid the cost with their lives, Jesus paid for our freedom from sin with His life. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lays down his life for his friend. Morgan M. opened in prayer. Intern Sam Willard will lead devotions in December.

Elders' Consultation: Jim G. reported he spoke with Wayne S. and they will be meeting for the annual pastor evaluation process.

The Treasurer's report for October was presented. Marcine O. moved to accept the treasurer's report. Seconded by Bill V. Motion carried.

The Payment of bills, Laurie B. moved to approve the bills, seconded by Jim O. Motion carried.

Budget Worksheets: Mike Morgan handed out worksheets for the 2022 budget to review for the budget meeting December 9.

Outreach was discussed; Heather D. moved to approve outreach, seconded by Morgan M. Motion carried.

AFLC \$ 949.20 Food Shelf \$ 200. Brazil Student \$ 100
CRU-Jeff \$ 500. Paul \$ 500. Steele \$ 100.

Local Outreach \$ 300. Alpha Center \$ 300.

Atlas \$ 200 Kvale's(Wycliffe \$500. Abel \$ 100

Children's Life \$200. Intern Account \$ 1,049.20

San Antonio Church \$ 100. PAS Wellness Room \$ 100

Lake Benton Food Shelf \$ 100. Lost Timber \$ 200

Union Gospel Mission \$ 500.00

The secretary's report from the October 14, 2021 meeting was presented. Bill V. moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Jim O. Motion carried.

Youth Ministry and Family Ministry Reports:

Youth Ministry: Pastor Matthew reported for the Youth ministry. 6 kids and 4 adults helped with the yard clean-up. Completing a 4 week study from RightNow Media. No one will be attending the Chaos to Clarity Reality Event. The youth are preparing for Youth Sunday, December 19. There hasn't been much response for the Nogales Mission trip but hopefully

that will change.

Family Ministry: Family ministry is planning a community skating night.

Pastors' Report:

Pastor Tim submitted a report of activities for the last month. Pastor Tim requested vacation from December 28 to January 3, Jim O moved seconded by Morgan M. to approve, motion carried. Pastor Tim also requested approval to do a special speaking event July 17-21 at Peace Free Lutheran Church at Canal Winchester, OH. Laurie B. moved to approve seconded by Heather D. Motion carried.

Pastor Matthew submitted a report for activities for the last month. Pastor Matthew requested vacation day Sunday, December 25, Morgan M. moved to approve, seconded by Jim O. motion carried.

Old Business:

Evaluations: The trustee will conduct interviews with the staff.

New Business:

Cross on Entry: Jim O. will check on prices to build a new cross out of aluminum and powder coat it.

Fellowship hall: Julie Manzey requested to use the fellowship hall for the 4-H banquet on November 28. Heather D. moved to approve, seconded by Marcine O. motion carried.

Thanksgiving eve and Christmas Eve offerings: Jim O. moved, seconded by Bill V. to give Thanksgiving offering to Pipestone Food shelf and the Christmas eve to the Sioux Falls Prison ministry, motion carried.

Trustee meeting time in Jan. will be at 6 PM.

FLBC team for VBS: We will request a FLBC team for Vacation Bible School

Nogales Mission Trip: CTK will pay for half of the registration for anyone going on the trip. Total registration is \$ 400. That does not include transportation to get to Nogales.

Gideons: Pastor Tim reported the Gideons would like to give a presentation of their organization on Nov 28 or Dec 12. Trustees approved

Pot Blessing meals: The American Legion has an omelet breakfast on the second Sunday of the month and to not compete with that the Pot blessing meal will be the 4th Sunday of the month.

Jim G. adjourned the meeting, Pastor Tim closed in prayer. Collene Landgren, recording secretary {Draft subject to approval by the trustees}



Christ the King Family
Gods Blessings to You! We
would like to thank you for the
prayers that were extended for
Kenny.
Jerry, Dianne and Kenny Rood



Dear Quilter Ladies

I received a quilt in the Pipestone hospital. I kept it with me as I spent the next few weeks in the Sioux Falls hospital. That quilt gave me such comfort.

I will take it with me back to one more surgery in Pipestone. The last of six recent.

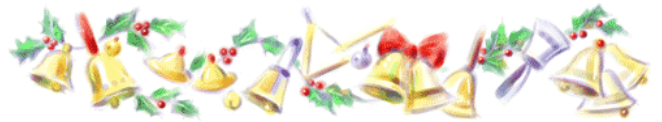
Thank you so very much for your labor of love! Also, I received many compliments about it! So I shared your stamp on it along with the scripture.

Thank You! Amy Christensen

Christ the King Church,

Thank you for all the prayers,
cards, thoughts and for the flowers
following my recent surgical procedure. I am truly blessed to be part of
such a caring church family.

Jim Gawerecki



Dear Friends

We appreciate so much the generous support your church family has blessed ATLAS. ATLAS for Life in Pipestone thanks you for your continued support in helping with the expenses at ATLAS. Some of you also came to the Pizza Ranch Fundraiser and we thank you for that, too. We want you to know how important your gifts are to the ministry. This past Sunday, we witnessed a woman get baptized at the Ewert Center as a result of God's prompting to walk in the door of ATLAS, be mentored by a volunteer and hearing the gospel message for the first time and then accept Him as Lord and Savior! That's what your gift helped to do! That is your prayers being answered.

Our teen program, TreeHouse, has brought many teens in the door every week to be encouraged, supported and loved. One young man confessed to trying to take his life several times. After coming to TreeHouse and the Holy Spirit working, he accepted Jesus as Savior and his suicidal thoughts are gone and now he has been bringing other teens.

That is what your gift with God's Blessings has done! There are more stories like these and we want you to know, that is what your gift is helping with!

We rejoice and THANK YOU! May you be blessed. ATLAS

JANUARY SMALL GROUP STUDY

Christianity & Wokeness by Dr. Owen Strachan

This is a 6-week YouTube video series with Scripture discussions. Topics include the woke culture, cancel culture, critical race theory and whether it is compatible with the Gospel. It also suggests how Christians can effectively speak into this culture.

Dr. Owen Strachan has been vetted by our AFLC Schools and has spoken at the seminary within the past few years and comes highly recommended for his Biblical and Godly approach to these seriously relevant topics.

Days and times will be made available before the New Year. If you have certain days and times you would like to attend a small group, please let your preferences be made known to one of the pastors before the new year.



December BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Luke Landgren
- 3 Bailey De Wilde
- 6 Doug DeRuyter
- 7 Morgan McNickle
- 9 Corrie Thomson
- 11 Tad Woelber
- 11 Trevin De Wilde
- 11 Kristie Lindquist
- 13 Laurie Westerbur
- 13 Karen Halbersma
- 16 Sandy Swanson
- 16 Isaac Berg
- 18 Kathleen Keller
- 18 Julie Manzey
- 19 Carter Holt
- 22 Gary Prins
- 23 Philip Berg
- 23 Janice Swanson
- 23 Sheila Westfield
- 24 Steve Blaue
- 26 Pat Haag
- 29 Mavis Remund



Notice: Check Facebook, KLOH or KNWC for cancellations or changes due to the weather

Chatter-sewers
(Quilting)
Will NOT meet
In December



Budget Meeting
Tuesday,
December 9
6:00 PM

TRUSTEE
MEETING
Tuesday,
Dec. 9 @ 7 PM



Youth Ministry
Meeting
Sunday, Dec 12
11:45 PM

Elders & Wives
Meet @
7:00 PM

News Letter
DEADLINES
December 19



Pastor Tim & family will be on
Vacation after Christmas
December 28-January 3

If there are any needs
during this time,
please contact Pastor Matthew
or one of the Elders.

Pot Blessing meals will start
being held the 4th Sunday of
the month. There will not be
one in December



YOUTH
Christmas
Service

December 19 - Mark your calendars!! Christ the King Youth Sunday is December 19, 2021 during the regular church service. This will include youth of all ages! (And a few not as youthful?) If your child/youth will not be able to participate please let Pastor Matthew know as soon as possible. Parts/tasks are being assigned.

Christmas Party: Wednesday December 22@ 6:30 for a Christmas event. . There will be Christmas music, games, and the baking and decorating of many cookies! Invite a friend!

Ugly Sweaters highly encouraged.



NERF
WARS

NERF Wars Event

Sunday, January 16

Grades 5-12. Check-in will begin at 5:30 pm.
Our annual NERF Wars will be part of a lock-in this year. Bring your friends!



Nogales Missions Trip

Thu, Feb 17, 2022

Mon, Feb 21, 2022

We are gearing up for a multigenerational missions trip to Nogales, AZ over President's Day weekend. It will be led by AFLC Journey Missions and CTK pastors. Please stay tuned for details!



- December 12 Youth Ministry Meets
- December 19 Youth Sunday & SS Program
- December 22 Youth Group Christmas Party
- December 29 NO Youth Group
- January 16 Nerf Wars
- February 4-6 Winter Retreat
- February 17-21 Nogales Mission Trip



Matthew & Ednay Abel; Zoey, Ian
Paraguay

Matthew and Ednay Abel have been serving in Paraguay since January 2019. They were commissioned as AFLC missionaries in 2015. Matthew recently completed his seminary degree through distance learning and Ednay trained in physical therapy.



In His strength

I can do all things through Him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

Perhaps this is one of the most misapplied verses in scripture. For many it is a favorite verse and indeed it conveys a great theological truth and a promise.

The context expresses that no matter what situations the Apostle Paul faced (wealth/poverty, hunger/abundance, suffering/comfort) he was ok because he had the Holy Spirit.

This verse reminds me of Matthew 28:19-20 when Jesus Commissioned the disciples saying "Go...I will be with you always."

Here are some prayer needs:

*Kids camp Dec 4-5

*For Eduardo, work and other schedules

*As we come and go and minister in a variety of different settings.

*Salvation and spiritual transformation as we preach God's Word.

*Wisdom as we counsel and guide.

*For God to send out workers into His harvest fields.

We can count on the same promise as we fulfill God's calling on our lives. Allow me to synthesize and paraphrase these verses: I can endure anything and I can fulfill my calling because Christ is with me. And so can you!

In the heart of South America

October, for a change, provided us with the semblance of much appreciated routine as we had several pretty regularly scheduled weeks. We had the normal weekly activities with the exception of a wedding trip and our Reformation service. November breaks in with a different idea. The first weekend I (Mafú) went to Annual Conference in Brazil while Nay made sure Joaju Kids Club and Sunday Worship continued as planned. This month the theme for Joaju is Parables of Jesus and at church we get an early start on Advent. Next week we are in charge of programming and execution of a two-day camp for the High School. This will be the first of seven

Bible Camps I will speak at between now and the end of January. We also will be taking a trip to Brazil in December and plan to have our family visit us here in PY for New Year. So I guess we get to say good bye to the routine for a few months.

Blessings, Matthew & Ednay



Loving Care for an Orphan

In the Bible there's a story of an orphan girl named Hadassah. After her parents died, her cousin took her in. She grew up to become queen—we know her as Es-

ther—and God used her to save the Jewish people. "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). Samaritan's Purse partners with orphanages and children's homes in more than 20 countries to care for orphans and show them that they are precious to God. Your \$35 gift will help us provide food, housing, healthcare, education, and other necessities, as we demonstrate the love of Jesus.





Luke 2:1-3 (CSB)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. ...

Altar Guild

Altar Guild

Acolytes

Family of the Week / Greeters

- December 5: Andrew & Kia Berg
- December 12: Steve & Deb Blaue
- December 19: Micheal & Leann Bloemendaal; Shelby
- Christmas Eve: Jim & Lois Gawerecki
- December 26: Eugene Bouw

- December 5: Keegan Otter
- December 12: Makenley DeWilde
- December 19: Jordan DeRuyter
- Christmas Eve: Kynslee Hulstein
- December 26: Tanner Thomson

Nursery

- December 5: Alyssa Steuck
- December 12: Amy Steuck
- December 19: Marcine Olsen
- Christmas Eve: Ashley Hoheisel
- December 26: Rachel Willard



**"I WILL RAISE
UP YOUR
OFFSPRING
AFTER YOU ...
AND I WILL
ESTABLISH
HIS KINGDOM."
2 SAMUEL 7:12. NRSV**

Ushers

- Gene Bouw
- Jim Woelber
- Tad Woelber

Money Counters/
Trustees

- Laurie Bruns
- Brandie Hulstein

Worship Leaders

- December 5: Bill Steuck, Irene Warner, Charlie Hoffman, Judy Steuck
- December 12: Denis Parsley, Lynn Hellie, Laurel Berg, Char Prins
- December 19: Youth Sunday
- Christmas Eve: Matthew Amdahl, Janelle Brockberg, Jane Smith, Susan Parsley
- December 26: Bill Steuck, Lynn Hellie, Charlie Hoffman, Susan Parsley
- January 2: Denis Parsley, Laurel Berg, Lynn Hellie, Susan Parsley

Sound Tech

- December 5: Alan Warner
- December 12: Kyle DeWilde
- December 19: Dave Sutherland
- Christmas Eve: Kyle DeWilde
- December 26: Dave Sutherland

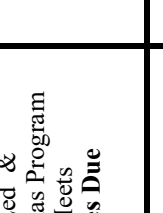
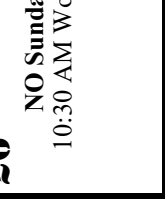




December



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>1</p> <p>6:30 PM Youth Group 8:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8 AM Men's Bible Study @ Finnian's</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45 AM Fellowship Hall / Private Event</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8 AM Men's Bible Study @ Finnian's</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:45 AM Youth Ministry meets</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Fellowship Time 10:30 AM Youth Led & Children's Christmas Program 11:45 AM Forge Meets Messenger Articles Due</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service</p> 
<p>26</p> <p>NO Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>29</p> <p>No Youth Group 8:00 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>_____—Pastor Tim & Family on vacation Dec 28—Jan 3_____</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:00 PM Family Ministry meets</p>	<p>31</p> <p><i>New Year's Eve</i></p> 	<p>25</p> 