Ommuni



January 2026



CTK Church -Trenton Rd. Campus

15600 Trenton Rd., Southgate, MI 48195

Church Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am—3:00 p.m. (734)285-9695

Church Office Phone: Church FAX:

(734)285-4188

CTK Day School - Trenton Rd.

School Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. (734)285-9697

School Office Phone:

CTK Event Center - Pennsylvania Rd. Campus 16700 Pennsylvania Rd., Southgate, MI 48195

Main Phone: (734)285-9695

Childcare Center - Pennsylvania Rd. Campus Child Care Hours: Mon-Fri 6:30 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Child Care Phone: (734)285-8525

Trenton Road Campus

Saturday Worship 5:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Sunday Worship: 9:00 AM

11:00 AM

Bible Study/Sunday School 10:00-10:45 AM



Financial	Snapshot –	Through No	vember 2025

INCOME (General Fund):	November 2025	Year To Date
Church receipts	\$ 117,127.08	\$1,357,751.46
Tuition	\$ 87,667.19	\$ 997,391.43
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 204,794.27	\$2,335,133.89
BUDGETED EXPENSES	\$ 195,496.00	\$2,345,952.00
INCOME OVER/(UNDER)	BUDGET	
` ′	Φ 0.200.27	Φ (10.010.11)

\$ 9,298.27 \$ (10,818.11)

	November 2025	Year To Date
TOTAL INCOME	\$204,794.27	\$2,335,133.89
ACTUAL EXPENSES:	\$193,523.19	\$2,228,648.16
INCOME OVER/(UNDER) EXPENSE	

\$ 11,271.08 \$ 106,485.73

Thank you, Christ The King members, for your faithful stewardship. Through the month of November, even though our income is a little under budget needs, our income has exceeded expenses, as we've kept costs down. We encourage you to continue faithful giving through the end of the year, as any excess allows us to fund various replacement accounts, funds used for major repairs like HV-AC, parking lots, roof, etc. "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:15)



Church Office Hours

Mon. – Friday: 8:30am to 3:00pm January 1 Church Office Closed January 19 Church Office Closed (MLK Day)



<u>In Memory of Tom Cole</u> <u>To Memorial Fund, given by:</u> Harriet Cole

<u>In Memory of Kevín Franklín</u> <u>To Food Pantry, gíven by:</u> M/M Roy Thomas

<u>In Memory of Bruce Thomas</u> <u>To Food Pantry, given by:</u> M/M Roy Thomas

<u>In Memory of Dorothy Hassenrík</u> <u>To Memoríal Fund, gíven by:</u> Nancy Nissen

<u>In Memory of Gil Jenkins</u> <u>To Food Pantry, given by:</u> Mary Lou Jenkins <u>In Memory of Paul Tidrick</u> <u>To Memorial Fund, given by:</u> Nancy Nissen

To Food Pantry, given by:

M/M Dennis Rodriguez

The Tidrick Family

<u>To Alms Fund, given by:</u> Judy Bielby

Share Group & Lady's Bible Study

<u>In Memory of Janis Otto</u> <u>To Food Pantry, given by:</u> Judy Mongelluzzo

To CTK Music Fund, given by:
The Pawloski Family
Ann Twork
M/M Lee Carroll

Birthday Blessings

In Honor of Birthday
Tonya Young 2/28



Scrap Metal, Cans/Bottles & Capital Fund Drive Fundraising

		<u>2023</u>		2024	2025	Tota	l (since 2006)
"C" Dollars	\$	1,380.00	\$	1,278.00	\$ 1,145.00	\$	26,385.00
Scrap Metal	\$	2,925.99	\$ 2	2,383.50	\$ 2,154.42	\$	59,173.12
Bottles	\$	2,888.54	\$	774.60	\$ 178.20	\$	45,413.04
Paper Recycle	e \$	52.26	\$	28.25	\$ 11.56	\$	810.20
(As of: 12/14	/25)						

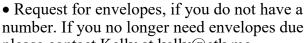
FROM THE FINANCIAL OFFICE

Happy New Year! Here are a few points to remember from the Financial Office, as we begin this new year:



Envelopes are available by the Psalms & Proverbs Bookstore.

The following requests can be found online:



to online giving, please contact Kelly at kelly@ctk.me.

• Request for your contribution statement to be printed, if you are unable to access www.myctk.me.

2025 Contribution statements will be available online at myctk.me for members after January 18th, 2026. All contribution statements will be available via email with a secure link that same week, as long as we have a valid email address on file.



1,586 visits from Jan. 1 – December 15th

2025 Contribution Statements

Your giving statement will be available no later than January 19, 2025 through one of the following methods:

- ◆ CTK Members can go to the website (<u>www.ctk.me</u>) and follow the instructions to sign in to MyCTK.
- ◆ If we have your current email on file, you will automatically receive a secured link to your statement the week of January 19th. Please contact the church office if you need to update your email address or had any trouble receiving your statement via email last year.

Please contact Kelly in the church office at <u>kelly(a)ctk.me</u> or (734) 285-9695 ext. 160 with any questions regarding your statement ———————————————————————————————————
I am requesting my 2025 Contribution Statement:
Please: Mail or Hold in Church Office for pick up
Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:



WAYS TO GIVE YOUR TITHE & GIFTS

- In Person
- Online: Scan the QR code to be directly sent to the online giving link.
- Online: Members may visit www.ctk.me and click on "MyCTK" at the top of the homepage to log in. Select "Giving" then "Give Now" to set up a one time or recurring payment.



- <u>Text:</u> Visitors/Members text 'CTKGIVE' to 73256 to receive a secured link. (It should open to Christ The King Lutheran, Southgate.
- Mail: Mail to CTK, 15600 Trenton Rd., Southgate, MI 48195

ONLINE GIVING & TEXT GIVE OF TITHES/ CONTRIBUTIONS We are grateful for the opportunity to accept contributions online via MyCTK and through text giving. Just as a reminder, if possible, please use your banking account information, rather than a card number, to save on processing fees, which start at 2.6%. This cuts back on monthly expenses and, in turn, more of your gift goes directly to the mission of your church. Thank you for your faithfulness!





A reminder to all of our members and visitors that use text giving: please make sure that Christ The King Lutheran Church, Southgate, MI is the link that comes up when you text "CTKGIVE" to 73256. It has been brought to our attention that occasionally another Christ The King church link is listed. Thank you for your tithe.





UPCOMING EVENTS				
Date	Event	Time	Location	
January 12	CTK Sewing Circle	10:00 AM	PA	
January 17	Euchre Night	7:00 PM	TR	
January 19	Church Office/School Closed for	· MLK Day		
January 21	59+ Group	1:00 PM	TR	
February 9	CTK Sewing Circle	10:00 AM	PA	
February 18	59+ Group	1:00 PM	TR	
February 21	Euchre Night	7:00 PM	TR	
Weekly Even	nts:			
Tuesdays:	Toolbelt Tuesday	8:00 AM	PA	
Wednesday:	School Chapel	8:40 AM	TR	
	Women's Bible Study	9:00 AM	PA	
Thursdays:	Donation Station Open	12:00-2:00	PA	
-	Food Pantry	3:00 PM	PA	
Fridays:	Men's Bible Study	8:00 AM	PA	
Saturdays:	Pickleball	9:00 AM	PA	
-	Donation Station Open	10:00 AM-12:00 PM	PA	
	Worship	5:00 PM	TR	
	Adult Bible Class	6:00 PM	TR	
Sundays:	Worship	9:00 & 11:00 AM	TR	
٠	Bible Class & Sunday School	10:00 AM	TR	

CHRISTMAS BASKET THANK YOU!



A huge thank you to all those that helped bring Christmas cheer to families who were in need. We all know the best gift of Christmas is the love of our Lord but, if you are a kid, sometimes a toy or two makes Christmas a little more fun. We were blessed to help 203 children with toys and 88 adults with gifts for their home and a food basket filled with a full turkey dinner for Christmas, a gift card to Kroger and a few other goodies tucked inside. I want to thank the volunteers for helping to organize the toys and food, pack them in the boxes and help distribute

them. And a big thank you to Linda Ratliff, for her donation of homemade dolls and accessories for three lucky little girls. ~ Lisa Demou





Dear Christ The King family,

Church is Community. We believe, teach, and confess that the church is not a building. It's not a place. It's not an organization. It's a community. A community of people wholly centered on the work and person of Jesus. A community of people that have been called by the Gospel and gathered by the Holy Spirit to live our Christian lives together and spread the love of Jesus with the world.

We want to take this opportunity to invite and encourage you to consider the idea of joining a small group. Small groups are a community of a handful of people or families that meet together regularly to fellowship, prayer, read God's Word, and most of all to simply walk together and share in life's joys and sorrows as brothers and sisters in Christ.

We will be forming new small groups in January. There will be all kinds of groups filled with people of all different life stages, schedules, and generations.

If you are interested in eventually joining in with a small group, please follow the link below and fill out the form so that we can keep you up to date as official sign-ups come out in the coming weeks.

https://forms.gle/M8A7kTBD9537kCyv6

Paper copies of this form will also be available at church over the next few weekends.

We truly believe God will use this ministry to bless our congregation, deepen relationships, and strengthen your faith.

Please reach out with any questions!





This is the time of year for resolutions. If you're a resolution person, have you thought about it for this year yet? I don't have mine fully worked out yet, but I do have a few options for you to consider. They both have to do with the Bible. Read-

ing through the Bible in a year is a great resolution. It is also pretty challenging. It takes 20-25 minutes of reading every day to get through the whole Bible in a year. I don't say that to discourage you from trying, I say that to remind you that it is well worth the effort of trying, even if you don't make it all the way through in 2026. If you set out to read through the whole Bible and only make it halfway, well, that's a win, in my book! The other idea for you is to join a Bible study. Talking about God's Word with other Christians, sharing ideas and experiences, that is one of the ways that God speaks to us in His Word. A CTK small group would be a great way to do this, if you're looking. I can't wait to see what God has in store for our church family this year!

Seminary Update: I am working hard on Greek right now, and I am starting to enjoy it more and more! I am also getting ready for a trip to St. Louis in January for a class about Pastoral Leadership. Thank you for your support and your prayers!

God's Blessings, Pastor Brooks

GATHER AND GROW BOOK CLUB



Another year has come and gone for our group, and as we welcome in 2026, we'll also mark our 2 year anniversary of The Gather and Grow Book Club! This year we read 'Visiting Heaven', 'Jane Eyre', 'Joining Jesus on His Mission', 'The Magician's Nephew', and 'The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe'. We also enjoyed a movie night and many moments of good conversation and laughter. In January 2026, we will begin reading 'Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Mar-

tyr, Prophet, Spy' by Eric Metaxas.' We will discuss chapters 1-10 at our meeting on January 26, 6:30pm in the Cana Room. Interested in becoming part of our book club? The group is open to all women (high school and older), and we meet once a month, typically on the last Monday. Reach out to the church office to get on our mailing list or to find out more information.

CTK MILITARY MINISTRY

"Do Not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by Prayer and Petition, with Thanksgiving, present your requests to god" - Philippians 4:6

On behalf of the CTK Military Ministry, Happy New Year!

We would like to invite you to join our "Prayer Warrior" group. We pray for our country, our government leaders, our veterans, and our service men and women who are active duty, retired, and reserves, and their families, too.

As a spiritual warrior, you'll receive a monthly prayer request by email. There is no special app or technology that you need. Just your email and willingness to pray. Sign up today by emailing Cecilia at chowleyaussicker@yahoo.com.

Then check your inbox (or your mailbox if you prefer regular mail) and let's join together in prayer as we lift up our nation and our military to the Lord.

Also, check out our CTK Military Ministry page at www.ctk.me/ministries
and let us know if you have any questions or need help navigating our list
of resources.

If you or a family member is or was in the military, please let us know. We'd love to connect. Email Denise at ddoede01@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU! And God Bless America!



Do you sign in on the Fellowship clipboard in the pew at church each week? Why is this important? By signing in, we can get a more accurate number for printing bulletins and inserts. Signing in also helps us make sure we have enough Holy Communion prepared for each worship service. By putting

your address/email/phone or name changes on the back, we can keep our database records up to date for getting you the most accurate information about what is happening in our church. You can always call the church office with these updates, as well.

CTK SEWING CIRCLE

We meet the 2nd Monday of every month from 10am to 2pm in the PA Rd Fellowship Center. Join us Monday, January 12th. The Sewing Circle is a group of individuals sharing their gifts and talents to sew, crochet, or knit items, such as cradle blankets, lap size blankets, and twin size blankets. We donate these items to Rivergate Nursing Home, Project Linus, Downriver Veterans, and Knit Michigan. Please contact Bobbi Chrysler at bchrysler72@gmail.com or 734.558.5143 with any questions.



Mark Your Calendars 2026 Euchre Dates

January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, September 19 & October 17

We play in the Upper Room at Trenton Rd, starting at 7pm SHARP! (Sorry, but we are unable to accommodate latecomers.) Cost is \$3 per person. Each player is asked to bring a beverage and snack to share. Partners are not necessary and guests are welcome. This is a FUN event and prizes are awarded. Questions? Contact Mike Shoup 734.624.4350 or blueknight007@hotmail.com

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL We meet at CTK in the Trenton Rd gymnasium every Tuesday from 7-10pm. You need to be at least 16 yrs. of age to play. We encourage those interested in playing volleyball to come out and join us for a night of fun and conversation! Contact Mike Shoup at blueknight007@hotmail.com or 734.624.4350 with any questions.



PICKLEBALL SOCIAL We meet every Saturday in the PA Rd gym at 9am, \$3 drop-in. Contact chance@ctk.me for more info.



59+ Group Welcome back! Please meet us January 21st for chair exercises in the Cana Room at TR Rd from 1:00-2:15pm. You can stand or sit, exercise or not. We'd just love for you to join us!



Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 9am in the Fellowship Center at PA Rd. We are studying the Psalms. Please join us!



Men's Bible Study

We meet on Fridays at 8am at PA Rd in the Fellowship Center. Pastor Brooks lead. Coffee is served, and maybe even some goodies. If you haven't been, we hope you can join us!

ChristNet needs your help!

Fifty lunches are needed each day. This is the perfect opportunity for a group, troop, combined families, etc. to come together and provide to those in need.

Lunches are needed on the following days:

Friday, January 2 Tuesday, January 6 Tuesday, January 13 Monday, January 19 Thursday, January 22 Friday, January 23

If interested or for more details, please contact Jen Gepes at jellen71@comcast.net or 734.775.1972. Thank you!

Psalms & Proverbs Bookstore

As the new year begins and the weather turns colder and frosty, why not settle in with a book from the bookstore!! The bookstore has devotionals, books, and Bibles for kids, teens and adults to help you get your faith off to a good start in the New



get your faith off to a good start in the New Year. The bookstore volunteers are willing to help you find what you are looking for. There is also a pocket/purse size calendar/planner, and a daily desk calendar with prayers and devotionals. Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!!!



ALTAR FLOWERS

NEW PRICING FOR ALTAR FLOWERS! Flowers available for purchase, in memory or in honor of a loved one, i.e. for anniversaries, birthdays, etc. (Your honoree will be listed in the intercession ALTAR FLOWERS list.) The sign-up chart is in the West Gallery. You may take your flowers home to enjoy, immediately

following the 11am service. Cost is \$20 per vase. Payment may be placed in the offering basket or you may give online or via text. Please designate "altar flowers."

This Month in CTK History

After the busy month of December, the cold and snowy month of January slowed, but some notable events happened at the beginning of the new year for CTK over the years.



- First, Rev. Biesenthal was tasked with starting the "New Mission" in 1951.
- In 1954, CTK applied for membership in the Missouri Synod. In January 1959, it was announced that the Board of Christian Education would be organized. Then, in 1961, officers of the church were recognized at a special dinner for the first time.
- Next, we jump to 1983, when a Saturday evening worship service was added.
- Later, in 1995, church services were held in the gym, while construction was being done on the church. Also in January 1995, many of the teachers moved their classrooms into the newly built school wing.
- Finally, our history reflects several events in January at the Pennsylvania Road campus. The first Women's Bible Study took place on January 18, 2007. On January 2, 2008, the demolition of Building 5 began.

With all that is happening at CTK (Trinity Wyandotte, Penn Campus), 2026 will be a memorable and historic year for sure!! Wishing everyone a Happy 2026!!



To purchase tickets, contact Deanna Warrington via call, text, or email at 313.505.1704 or dl prescott@hotmail.com

Mom 2 Mom Sale

When: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Time: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Where: Christ the King Lutheran Church 16700 Pennsylvania Road, Southgate

Admission: \$2 per adult & children FREE

Contact: Gina for more information and/or contract. gmd.lwml@wowway.com

Gina is the <u>ONLY</u> contact for this sale.

There is <u>NO</u> electronic form to complete and <u>NO</u> form of online payment accepted





Day School News January 2026

As we begin a new year together, I want to first extend a special thank you to all who attended our Children's Christmas Program. It was such a beautiful celebration of our Savior's

birth. We were so happy to share this CTK tradition with so many.

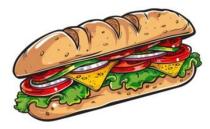
At school, January is a time to refocus on perseverance, responsibility, and gratitude. We encourage our students to set meaningful goals—academically, socially, and spiritually—remembering that we do not walk this journey alone. With Christ as our guide, challenges become opportunities to trust Him more deeply and to develop character that honors God.

As we move through this month, may our classrooms be filled with kindness, patience, and encouragement. Let us continue to partner together—school and home—to nurture hearts and minds rooted in Christ. We pray that 2026 will be a year marked by growth, joy, and faithful obedience to God's calling in our lives.

God's Blessings, Dr. Kelli Kapp-Heifner



Super Bowl Sub Sale



Subs are homemade by the CTK Youth Group with Ham, Turkey, Salami and Provolone cheese.

(You add your own other toppings)

They will be ready for pickup Sunday February 8th before and after all services at Trenton Road.

Name		
Phone#		
Email		
# of Subs	x \$8 = \$	_10_0

Orders and Payment must be turned into Gina by Sunday, February 1, 2026





Youth Group Calendar January 2026

2-3	Lock-in @ CTK Friday 6 PM - Saturday 8 AM
4	SpringHill Attendee & Parent Meeting 5 PM
4	Youth Group 6-8 PM
9-11	SpringHill Winter Camp
18	Michigan Youth Gathering Info Meeting 5 PM
18	Youth Group 6-8 PM
25	Youth Group 6-8 PM



Jan/Feb - Super Bowl Sub Sale April - M&M Tube Sale Feb/March - Lent Dinners Feb 28 - Spring Mom2Mom Sale TBD - Spring Craft Show May 2 - Spring Scrapbooking

Michigan Youth Gathering Mackinaw Island

Calling all 8th-12th Grade Youth
Did you know that your youth does not need to be an attendee of the weekly youth group to attend this gathering??

Informational Meeting
January 18th, 2026 5 PM, Penn Campus

CTK Youth Lock-In

Youth Group will host a Lock-In @ Penn Rd
Campus, Friday January 2, 7 PM to
Saturday, January 3, 8 AM
Any Youth 7th - 12th Grade are welcome
See the Youth Board in the West Gallery for permission slips

Super Bowl Sub Sale





Subs are homemade by the CTK Youth Group with Ham, Turkey, Salami and Provolone cheese. (You add your own other toppings) They will be ready for pickup Sunday February 8th before and after all services

> See CTK Youth Board for Order Forms Orders and Payment must be turned into Gina by Sunday, February 1, 2025

thrivent

Are you a Thrivent Member? Did you know that as a Thrivent member you have access to "Thrivent Action Team" grants? Did you also know that the Youth Group can use those for supplies needed for fundraisers or events? Please consider helping the Youth Group with your Thrivent Action Team grants.





7 WORD STATEMENTS FOR EVERYDAY OF JANUARY—2026

1. Start your New Year with focused purpose.	Isa, 43:18-19
2. Take your distresses to God for help.	Lam. 1:20
3. Throughout your life focus on God pleasing things.	Phil. 4:8
4. Don't be divided by differences of opinion.	I Cor.11:19
5. Often Spirit conversation unfolds at meals.	John 21:15
6. Be kind people desperately need your kindness.	II Sam. 9:1
7. God forgives and restores us from sin.	Ex. 34:6
8. Your harvest is coming! Don't give up.	Gal. 6:9
9. Focus on Jesus brings radiant victories.	Judges 7:7
10. Seek the Lord and you'll live again!	Amos 5:6
11. May our lives be rich in giving.	Prov. 11:25
12. Asking forgiveness makes everyday trash-removal da	y. Ps. 103:12
13. Sleep's inadequate? God's creation can restore it.	Ps. 8:1 and 3
14. I love seeing great grandchildren blessed.	Ex. 34:6-7
15. Don't covet: be content with your possessions.	Heb. 13:5
16. Get rid of negativity read God's word.	Eph. 4:31-32
17. Stop fretting, sit still, let God work.	Ruth 3:18
18. A good name is better than great riches.	Prov. 22:1
19. Guard against condemning and judging other's action	ns. Rom. 8:1
20. Replace your worries with God's perfect peace.	Isa. 26:3
21. Go in your might when God sends.	Judges 6:14
22. Don't promise prayer; stop, pray right there.	Gal. 6:2
23. God often turns disappointments into something bette	er. Rom. 8:28
24. Though difficult Thank God in all things.	I Thess. 5:18
25. Determinedly move in obedience to God today.	Mark 11:22-26
26. Amid trials, focus on the Eternal Prize.	Col. 3:2
27. Change your priorities to make right choices.	Deut. 30: 9-10
28. Pray for the land where you're living.	Jer. 29:7
29. Prayer journals memorialize faithfulness in our lives.	
30. God's light and glory fills your future.	Rev. 21:23
31. God is working hope in His whispers.	Job 26:14

~ By Ralph & Donna Moore





<u>The Donation Station</u> is open on *Thursdays from 12:00 – 2:00 pm and Saturdays from 10:00 am—12:00 pm*. We are in need of baby clothes, jewelry, and all types of kitchen items. If you would like to help in this unique ministry, please contact carol@ctk.me or 734-281-3773.

<u>Donation Station Volunteer Opportunities</u> <u>Tuesdays from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm</u>

On Tuesdays, we work in the Resale Station, getting the shop ready for our Thursday Sale Day. We price and shelf items, try to clean out the drop off overhang, dust, clean, reorganize shelves, if needed, etc. We give new volunteers options and hope they enjoy what they are doing well enough to come back again.

Wednesdays from 10: 00 am - 12:00 pm

During this time, all we do is hang up clothes. This job can be done standing or sitting. This takes place in the office area of the Administration Building.

JEWELRY!

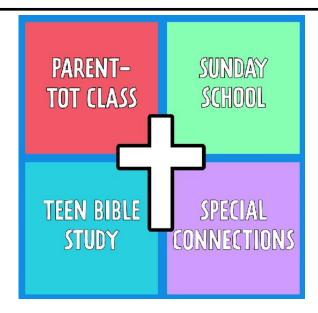
Jewelry is a big seller at the Donation Station. If you have any old jewelry, please donate now! Bring any jewelry donations to Trenton Rd. Do NOT put under Bldg. 9 overhang. Thank you!



THE 411 NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in paths of uprightness. Proverbs 4:11

The 4-1-1 offers something for everyone! All classes follow the same curriculum to promote great family discussion each week.



THANK YOU!



There is so much for which to be thankful! We are truly surrounded by talent and generosity. Thank you to the talented Joyce Zanley and Janis Krzyske for another spectacular Bible Bucks store! And a Big Thank You for your generosity of food donations to the CTK Food Pantry.



Happy New Year!

January's here and we're ready to unfold exciting new lessons in our Sunday School curriculum. We'll begin by experiencing more stories of Jesus' wonderous first miracles. As we dig deeper into God's Word, we'll hear many of the parables Jesus taught to the people of His day. The accounts of Jesus suffering, death, and resurrection will also be included. Finally, this unit will end with the end of the Bible, the Book of Revelation. Please make one of your New Year's Resolutions to faithfully have your child attend Sunday School. We promise to partner with you on this most important journey- raising your child in the truth and knowledge of God's Word!

Coming Up!

Lesson 12 - A life restored - Jairus's Daughter

Lesson 13 - The fish and bread sign - Jesus feeds five thousand

Lesson 14 - A Hearing Aide - Jesus Heals a Deaf Man Unit 3 - Lesson 1 - A Mercy-Full Message - The Good Samaritan

Pastor's Message

The season after Christmas in the church year is called Epiphany. The actual festival day is January 6, commemorating Jesus' being revealed as the Son of God to the Magi. (Matthew 2:1-12). The word itself means



"a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something." (Thank you, Merriam-Webster) It's also described as that "ah-ha" moment, when a sudden burst of clarity either puts everything in perspective, creates a new frame of reference, grants a clearer understanding, or a combination of all three. In the narrow sense, the "ah-ha" moment was experienced by the group of Magi from the East upon finding the infant/toddler Jesus (depending on your favorite historian). In the broad sense, the "ah-ha" moment is meant to last into eternity and is offered to anyone who believes that "the Word has become flesh and made his dwelling among us." God's plan of salvation puts everything in perspective. Our frame of reference is hope and joy, even as we are challenged in this fallen and broken world. God gives a clear understanding of how our relationship with Him is restored, both now and forever, in the person and work of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Happy Epiphany.

In Christ, Pastor Jason Cashmer