

January 2021 Scribe Newsletter

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January 2021—Pastor Tim’s Thoughts

Special Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars now for a Special Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021 immediately following our 9:15am worship service for the purpose of voting to call Mandy Gardner as a Deacon to serve at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

This past year has been remarkable. Not always in good ways, but also not always in bad. I have been proud of the ways that we here at Christ the King Lutheran Church have adapted, pivoted, re-evaluated, and re-think (ha!) the ways that we have always done things in the face of the obstacles that 2020 has thrown at us. These last several months have forced CtK and every other church around the world to figure out how to do ministry in an online environment, whether ready or not. To that end, our digital presence has skyrocketed, and new emphasis has been placed on making our website easy to navigate and functional, ensuring that worship can still be accessed reliably on a regular basis, investing more time and resources toward electronic and social-media communications, and so on. For many of these adaptations, Mandy Gardner has been at the helm and deftly navigating these challenges. As we approach a congregational meeting in January on whether to transition Mandy from a hired employee to a called Deacon at Christ the King Lutheran Church, I thought I would re-post my verbal report from November. It outlines very well the responsibilities she has taken on.

Oh my goodness. Folks, I don’t know if I can tell you everything that Mandy has done and continues to do for this congregation. From being our congregation’s webmistress to build and sustain our digital ministries, to taking on the role of Sunday School teacher for our kids, to working with me to learn and implement new audio-visual technologies in the Sanctuary, to brainstorming with me about how to “be church” in this age of COVID, to taking on the responsibilities of Youth Director... dear church, I am dead serious when I say that this congregation is absolutely BLESSED to have her, and we would not be anywhere NEAR as healthy as we are these days without her. Mandy’s humor, and theological training, and administrative skills, and creativity, and passion, and get-it-done-ness is vital to our ministry and witness at CtK.

In some ways, the pandemic and the ensuing quarantine have really put a spotlight on Mandy’s role. If you’ve been to our website at all in the last eight months, you have seen first-hand her work in building beautiful websites that are intuitive, informative, interactive. And lest you think that that kind of thing isn’t really ‘church work,’ think again. These days, the digital presence we have online through our website, social media, and communications campaigns are every bit as important – if not MORE so – to bringing people into this community as anything else. Just over the summer, I had at least 5 out-of-town visitors who specifically wrote to me to thank me for our website. They found it easy to navigate and playful. And one couple even visited the church, investigating it for an upcoming wedding, just because they liked the website! This work of building and maintaining a good, clean, enjoyable website is all done behind-the-scenes, but it is the new evangelism. And Mandy is the one doing it all.

In August, the Spirit called and Mandy responded by stepping up to take on the role of Director of Youth Ministries here at Christ the King Lutheran Church. Actually, I guess it was the Spirit talking through Becca Awe – a former youth at this congregation who convinced Mandy that she was the perfect person for this job right now. In any case, Mandy has been meeting with the youth weekly lately, and has filled them with energy and enthusiasm for the ELCA National Youth Gathering to be held in 2022. While this is a long way away, these events are expensive and fundraising needs to start NOW. So, let me encourage you to go to our website, and under the ministries tab you'll see a page for the Youth Fundraiser. These pages will tell you all about the Gathering, all about our Youth, and will give you ample ways to support them financially as they seek to raise money for this incredible event.

In September, Mandy also tackled once-again the juggernaut of what to do with our younger kids. Through the pandemic, churches around the world have reported that young children are the ones who are being most left-behind in terms of attendance and participation. Online worship services just cannot keep their attention and do nothing to satisfy their primary reason for coming to church in the first place: social support and interaction. But these are also crucial years for children to learn the basics of faith – about prayer, about worship, about service, and about the Bible. So, in September, Mandy began creating videos for our younger youth that are sent to them weekly. They are not Zoom meetings – they don't have to log in at a specific time to watch them – but they are videos that the kids can watch when they have a few minutes to spare during the week to hear a Bible story, to hear a short sermon aimed at the children each week, and to be given some sort of activity or challenge to do for the week ahead. These videos that Mandy has been creating have been AMAZING. (If you'd like to see any of them for yourself, just go to <https://www.ctkdurango.org/faith-formation-at-home/>.)

Dear Church, my thankfulness for Mandy and her work for Christ's church is beyond words. I quite frankly could not do the work of being a pastor here without her. And it is for this reason that I am strongly advocating for us to officially call Mandy as a Deacon at Christ the King Lutheran Church in 2021. The impacts on our budget to do this are negligible. And I strongly feel that it is the right thing to do. Christ the King Lutheran Church paid, after all, for sending Mandy through seminary education. She has been duly interviewed and approved by the Candidacy Committee of the Rocky Mountain Synod as a qualified candidate for a call in the church. And at this point it sure feels like NOT following through on our investment, not to mention our desire for her to do this, sure feels like we are robbing her of the opportunity that this work has prepared her for. But beyond the benefits that we receive at CtK for moving her from a hired employee to a called Deacon of the ELCA, a huge benefit is that we give the church at large a well-qualified Deacon who loves Jesus and loves leading other people to love Jesus. I cannot think of a better qualification than that.

The transition to calling Mandy as a Deacon at CtK will involve a congregational meeting to officially call her, which will take place at a Special Congregational Meeting after worship on January 24, 2021. Transitioning her to a position of Deacon will not change her job responsibilities tremendously, but there will be some additional expectations including: a more regular opportunity to preach, every six weeks or so; a voice and vote at Council meetings; and Synodical and Churchwide expectations.

If you have any additional questions about what it will mean to call Mandy as a Deacon at Christ the King Lutheran Church, please do not hesitate to contact me or Ann Duft.

And, when you have a chance, please take a moment to express your gratitude to Mandy for the work she does here on your behalf.

Peace,
Pastor Tim

January 2021—By the Numbers

Please note: CARES Act Charitable Donation Provision: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act makes a new deduction available to folks who do not itemize their federal tax deductions for up to \$300 in annual charitable contributions. Please take note of this as you prayerfully consider your financial support of our ministries (deduction calculated by subtracting the amount you give from your gross income).

If you have any questions or concerns, please use this email address to contact us.
fin.sec@ctkdurango.org. Thank you.

November 2020 Financials

Our Gifts Blessing Others	November	YTD 2020
Synod	\$ 1,331	\$ 17,798
World Hunger	\$ 625	\$ 7,817
Social Ministry	\$ 14,662	\$ 29,197
Total Benevolence	\$ 16,618	\$ 54,812

Financial Update

Gifts Received	\$ 22,180	\$ 296,629
Facility Donations	50	\$ 300
Rental Income	833	4,167
Expenses	\$ 27,812	\$ 272,428
Net Operating Income	\$ (4,749)	\$ 28,714
Endowment Fund Balance		\$ 168,399

December 2020 Attendance (all worship via Zoom unless otherwise noted) *

Date	Wed. 6:00 PM	Sun. 9:15 AM	Total
December 2	6		6
December 6		58	58
December 9	5		5
December 13		57	57
December 16	No service		0
December 20		68	68
December 23	No service		0
Thursday, December 24th Christmas Eve	5 pm = 63 7pm = 33		96
December 27	46		46
GRAND TOTAL			336

***Note:** These numbers reflect the number of DEVICES signed onto the Zoom worship services, NOT the number of PEOPLE (since more than one person can watch on a single device).

January 2021 Zoom Worship Assistant Schedule

Zoom Worship Assistants	Sundays at 9:15 AM
January 3	Eryn Orłowski
January 10	Holly Landgren
January 17	Amy Wendland
January 24	John Condie
January 31	David Smith

January 2021—Faith Formation

Holiday Hoopla was awesome again!

Three generations of CtK Lutherans gathered again for Holiday Hoopla on December 13th. There was indeed much hoopla, even though the event was over Zoom this year. The rules remained the same, the building materials were basically the same, too. Pastor Tim put together for each team a sack filled with Royal Icing, graham crackers, shredded coconut, individually wrapped candy canes, animal crackers, individually wrapped Life Savers (mint and fruit), large and small marshmallows, M&Ms (regular and peanut), dark chocolate Kisses, red vines, gummy bears, and Jelly Belly jelly beans. All these details matter, as you can ONLY construct your scene with materials found in your sack. And it can be any scene you like; it doesn't have to be a house.

So, knowing we only had 2 sizes of cellophane wrapping and two colors of foil (dark chocolate Kisses' wrappers are purple on one side and silver on the other), many different colors of lots of other malleable and unmalleable candy, we set to work, having one hour to complete whatever it was we wanted to build.

It was a wonderful time! Hopefully, you can join us in 2021!

January 2021—CtK Youth

Plans for 2021 and Beyond. . .

The CtK Youth have big plans for 2021, among them being a Trivia Night and a Coffee Sale. They eagerly await your [Odd Job Requests](#) as well as any [pledges and donations](#) you can give. Start their New Year out with a BANG and help them get to the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in 2022!

I just can't tell you how proud I am of ALL of CtK's Youth, but especially the 8 who performed in the 2020 Live Nativity and are working to go to the Youth Gathering in 2022. So let's give a shout out to Kristina Bodewes Lana Bodewes, Maggie Gardner, Erik Hobby, Emily McVaugh, Jessi McVaugh, and Matt Pane—GREAT JOB!!

January 2021—Social Ministry News

How to Help CEAC (Community Emergency Assistance Coalition)

Over many years, Christ the King has been an active supporter of the CEAC process, where people in the community can apply once/year for grants for emergency assistance. You have heard from Pastor Tim over the last few months how we are encouraging support for CEAC through our Noisy Offering.

One more way to help throughout the year (if you are an LPEA customer) is to sign up through LPEA. Here is what they have to say on their website, www.lpea.coop:

"Sometimes it can be hard to know how we, as individuals, can really make a difference in our communities. But your pennies are powerful! By electing to "round up" your electric bill to the next highest dollar every month, you can make a meaningful impact. Your pennies, combined with those from your neighbors, have generated more than one million dollars in funds for local agencies in La Plata and Archuleta counties.

LPEA's inaugural Round Up board was formed in 1996, and by 1997, the foundation had issued its first grant - \$1,000 to the Manna Soup Kitchen. Since then, the foundation has endured as a win-win enterprise. Individually, the contributions may be exceedingly small, but, as mentioned above, those pennies add up."

If you are an LPEA member and would like to participate in the "Round Up" your bill program, please use the form found on the [website](#) or call [\(970\) 247-5786](tel:9702475786)."

Thanks for considering this small act to assist members of our community!

December 2020—Bible Studies

Circle of Contemplative Prayer

The Circle of Contemplative Prayer meets each Monday from 5:30pm-7:00pm. *Meetings are currently being held via Zoom. A silent meditation and prayers are then followed by a book discussion.* Their current study book is “The Sacred Enneagram: Finding Your Unique Path to Spiritual Growth” by Christopher Heuertz. *For the Zoom link and other pertinent information, please text Sharyn Butler at 970-759-6355. Thank you.*

Great Ol’ Broads of God (GoBoGs)

GoBoGs invites you to join them in study and fellowship each Monday from 4:00-5:30 pm. Share the Care, GoBoGs’ outreach mission, is addressed upon requests. They are currently studying “White Fragility” by Robin Diangelo. *NOTE: During the health crisis, they are conferencing via Zoom at 592-847-8387; the password for this meeting is Testify. The Zoom meeting ID is 966-5642-4190. Please join them for study sessions that are deeply rewarding. For more information, contact Kayla Hefner at 970-759-1636.*

Midweek Bible Study led by Pastor Tim

Bible Study class meetings each Thursday from 12:00-1:15 PM are currently on hiatus until further notice due to the pandemic. Thank you. Stay safe. Stay well.

Khuvara (“Circle of Friends”)

The Khuvara Women’s Group is starting a new book for discussion entitled, “Everyone’s Normal till You Get to Know Them” by John Ortberg. All women are welcome, and we gladly invite new members to join us. For meeting time/place during Covid, please call Stella at 970-903-9327.

Spiritual Study Group (SSG)

Currently, the Spiritual Study Group meetings are suspended until further notice due to Covid-19. For more information, contact Aurora Rose.

December 2020—Fellowship Groups

CtK Piecemaker Quilters

2020 has been a busy year for CtK Piecemakers! While the Coronavirus restrictions meant that we were not able to gather for our monthly sewing day, we all accepted the challenge of keeping up our mission of creating quilts for those in need. Additionally, we took on the task of sewing masks for a variety of local organizations. Below is a partial list of what we have been able to accomplish in 2020.

- 4,000+ masks (donated to: VOA, Durango Food Bank, Manna Soup Kitchen, Mercy Medical Center, Friends, Neighbors & various other local organizations)
- 76+ quilts (Mancos Nursing Home, Cottonwood Nursing home, Navajos & Family Center)
- 3 - Baptism Quilts
- 6 - Prayer Quilts

We would like to thank the congregants of CtK for their support of our mission. We look forward to 2021 and pray for everyone's health and safety in the coming year.

The Piecemaker Quilters continue to meet regularly on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 10 am until 2 pm. Everyone is welcomed to join us. For more meeting information, please call Stella Welcher at 970-903-9327. We look forward to seeing everyone soon!

And remember to check out our quilt sale!

[Click here to shop the Piecemakers' Quilt Sale](#)

CtK Book Club

The CtK Book Club currently meets on the second Thursday of each month at 3PM via Zoom.

We will be welcoming the New Year with our first meeting on Thursday, January 14, 2021 with a discussion of "Running With Sherman" by Christopher McDougall. For Thursday, February 11th, "Dear Edward" by Ann Napolitana will be our focus. We will discuss a book by Victoria Schade, "Who Rescued Who," on Thursday, March 11th. Then on Thursday, April 8th, we will discuss "The Vanishing Half" by Britt Bennett. During our May 13th meeting, we'll discuss "The Lost and Found Bookshop" by Susan Wiggs. Our last book discussion for this season will be a book by Charlotte McConaghy, "Migrations," on Thursday, June 10th. We will take a break for the summer months and return to meet again in September, 2021.

We hope you will join us -- anyone can attend one or more book discussions. If you are interested in attending, please call *Stella Welcher* at 970-903-9327 to get the Zoom link information.

January 2021—In Other News. . .

Communion Sign-Up

As La Plata County moves into Covid-19 Dial Level Red on Friday, November 20th, we are discontinuing our option for INDOOR Communion services until further notice. We will still have the OUTDOOR DRIVE-IN Communion service at 1:00pm. Please click [HERE](#) to sign up so we can ensure we have adequate communion supplies on hand.

For the 1:00pm OUTDOOR DRIVE-IN Communion Service:

- Participants are to remain in their cars for the duration of the service.
- For convenience, please write down any prayer requests you have on a piece of paper. These will be collected once you arrive at the church parking lot.
- Sound for the communion service will be transmitted to your car radio on 96.5 FM.
- The communion elements will be brought to you in your car.

Thank you for your help in making this a safe experience for all. If you have any questions, please contact [Pastor Tim](#).



Save the Dates—January

Sunday, January 24, 2021: Please plan to join our Special Congregational Meeting to be held immediately following our 9:15 am worship service. This meeting is for the purpose of voting to call Mandy Gardner as a Deacon to serve at Christ the King Lutheran Church.

For all events and activities, please check the [CtK website](#) for updates.

January 2021—In Our Prayers

Military Prayer Requests

Please keep the following Military men and women in your prayers...

(To add or remove names from this list, please [contact Linda](#))

- 1st Lt. Mitch Bugaj stationed in Germany—Nephew of Ronnie Zaday
- Major Ryan Bankhead—Brother of Eryn Orłowski
- Sgt. John Dee—Son in-law of Wendy Krull
- Sgt. Chris Gomez—Nephew of BJ and Danny Pierce
- Staff Sergeant (SSgt.) Airman Paul Herr—Nephew of Gary & Carol Orłowski
- Hugh Jones, Jr. Sailor—Son of Rick & Janeann Jones
- Sgt. Brandon Minser —Son in-law of Wendy Krull
- LCDR Andy Schaaf—Son of Merilee and Mark Fleming
- Major Clayton Stransky—Nephew of Kip and Laura Stransky
- Master Sargent Stephen Van Dover—Nephew of Nancy Van Dover

CtK family & friends in need of prayer...

(To add or remove names from this list, please [contact Linda](#))

- Shawn Johnston
- The Family of Mary Southworth
- The Family of Larry Rardin
- The Family of Beverly Dittmer
- Mary Ann Craig
- Carol Orłowski
- Bonnie Jung
- Roger Landgren
- Julie Williams
- Laura Stransky
- Darlene Warring
- Bonnie Rossmiller
- LuLu Mae Hess
- Bev Brown
- Lori Lachelt
- Kayla Hefner
- Carol Gunderson
- CtK's ministry and partnership with both the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, AZ and San Juan Bautista Lutheran Church in Zaculeu, Guatemala.
- CtK's Homebound Ministry and all those who serve our homebound members through this ministry.
- Mandy Gardner, CtK's Director of Faith Formation who has been approved by the RMS ELCA for Endorsement.
- All those battling mental illness and addictions.
- Each person in our CtK church family.

- All the front-line workers striving to keep Durango and our surrounding communities safe, healthy, fed, educated, and mentally and spiritually fulfilled during the Covid-19 crisis. May God bless and protect EVERYONE!

To add or remove names from this list, email [Linda](#) in the Church office or call: 970-247-5310.
