

## Pastor's Page

*"Yet you, LORD, are our Father; we are the clay, and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand..."*  
Isaiah 64:8

"The shape of faith" could refer to how belief shapes or molds in a person's life, like a cookie cutter or a jello mold. Pour the substance in and it solidifies in that shape. That was my original thought as I prepared for Lent this year and it is still in the background of what we will be looking at together. But my thinking changed a bit as I tried to find a shape or mold that I wanted to use. I decided instead to think of various shapes and how Christians have adapted them to speak of God, Christ, faith, hope, love, the cross and the Gospel story itself. Shapes and images have long been used by Christian teachers and missionaries to help those who could read or didn't have written languages see and understand the Christian faith.

*There is a legend of how St. Patrick when preaching to some soon-to-be converted heathens was shown a sacred standing stone that was marked with a pagan circle or wheel, symbolic of the sun or moon goddess. Patrick made the mark of a Latin cross through the circle and blessed the stone, effectively creating the first Celtic cross.*

*It is a nice story but there may be a kernel of historical truth within it. Certainly it does point to a way in which the early Christian missionaries sought to Christianize the symbols that were familiar to the people among whom they were working - not destroying, but using them as a building block upon which to illustrate and expand their message.*

<https://www.faithandworship.com/circle.htm#gsc.tab=0>

There are no shapes that stand outside the possibility of speaking of faith and the formation of our lives, since God is the source of all things. We will look at a few shapes that have been taken up in the Christian tradition and how they shape our minds and hearts to hear and be transformed by the Good News of Jesus. Two questions from an internet study of circles in the Christian faith, might help us see why these shapes are worth our time.

- 1. How important are symbols in your church? When you visit an ancient Christian site can you appreciate the artistry within a carved cross or painted icon? Have you learned to read them as expressions of faith, in an age when few could read, or do you find yourself dismissing them as purely historical artifices?
- 2. In the story of St Patrick told above, he took a symbol of the pagan beliefs that he found on his missionary journey and Christianized it – the circle dedicated to the sun god became the familiar Celtic cross. We live in what is, in many countries, a secular world filled with symbols of no faith or consumerism. Can you think of any symbols of modern life that could be transformed such that they could tell a different story? <https://www.faithandworship.com/circle.htm#gsc.tab=0>

May we be helped to see the shape of things differently and therefore find points of connection between our faith and the world around us. Having done so, maybe we too might be able to communicate with others. The shapes we will examine are listed below:

### February 18 Heart

My sacrifice, O God, is<sup>[a]</sup> a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.

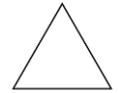
Psalm 51:17

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 27:37



### **February 25 Triangle**

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... Matthew 28:19  
...these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1Corinthians 13:13



### **March 4 Anchor**

“God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope set before us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.” Hebrews 6:18. 19



### **March 11 Shield**

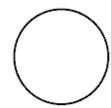
He will cover thee with his pinions, And under his wings shalt thou take refuge: His truth is a shield and a buckler. Psalm 91:4

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Ephesians 6:16



### **March 18 Circle**

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; Isaiah 40:22  
All the angels were standing in a circle round the throne and round the Elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces in front of the throne and worshipped God. Revelation 7:11



### **March 25 Cross**

After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Isaiah 53:11

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20,



Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.

    You are the potter, I am the clay,

    Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart Oh God, make it ever true.

Change my heart Oh God, may I be like You.

## **Worship Notes for February**

### **February 1 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**Readings:** Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

**Theme:** A Christian life leads to the cross. Any life that does not lead to the cross is following the wisdom of the world. Or as Paul wrote: “God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong...” The world admires strength and worldly wisdom to the powerful act of God in the cross of Christ. A Christian life seeks that wisdom and the blessing promised by Jesus in the Beatitudes, not as something to be grasped, but as something to be received. “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

### **February 8 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**Readings:** Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

**Theme:** Be careful of what you claim about the righteousness of others, for as Jesus reminds us: “I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” The Sermon on the Mount should serve as a reminder that Jesus isn’t doing away with the moral life, he makes the demand harder, while make it possible to live it out without fear, for he is merciful and gracious. He has given us his mind and heart, living in us so that we might live for him as his body in the world.

### **February 15 – Transfiguration Sunday**

**Readings:** Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

**Theme:** The historical evidence for Jesus is stronger than most people think. No ancient person had more written about him than Jesus in his own time and the eyewitness testimony is strong for what happened to him. So, as Peter wrote: “we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.” The faith we share has a foot on earth and in the heavenly places, God has conquered his rebellious creation in His Son, so that we might have confident faith.

### **February – Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.**

**Readings:** Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**Theme:** On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

### **February 22 – First Sunday in Lent**

**Readings:** Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

**Theme:** “The irony of man’s condition is that the deepest need is to be free of the anxiety of death and annihilation; but it is life itself which awakens it, and so we must shrink from being fully alive.” (Ernest Becker, The Denial of Death) The man who wrote those words was not a believer, but they embody the human condition apart from Christ who overcomes our need to create something out of nothing or justify our existence in any way. Temptation comes in the desire to overcome death and limits, but life comes through Christ, who gives abundantly more than we could ever expect.

## **Lenten series “Shapes of the Christian Life” begins with Ash Wednesday and continues through March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Ash Wednesday worship is on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

**The rest of the Wednesday Lenten services will take place at 6:30 p.m. with a meal before the service at 5:30 p.m.**

See Pastor’s Page for a description of the series and its meaning.

## **Changes to the Bible Studies for coming up in February:**

**Women’s Study: Women of the Bible continues in February**, we meet on Mondays at 3:00 p.m.

**Men’s Study: The Story of Esther continues in February**, we meet on Saturdays at 8:00.

**The Monday Evening Bible Study:** The Parables of Jesus continues through February at 7:00 p.m. week.

**Confirmation Classes continue will end on February 11<sup>th</sup> with a quiz and some fun.**

February 4           **Philemon, the beginning of the end of slavery**  
February 11           **Quiz/Test on Ephesians and Philemon**

**No Class from Ash Wednesday, February 18 to Easter Sunday, April 5**

**We will do something similar to past years with Confirmation groups helping with Lenten worship, so attendance will be required.**

Plan to meet after Easter with the following topics.

April 8           **Community life: People of Love and Service**  
April 15           **Community life: People Practicing Peace and Reconciliation**  
April 22           **Community life: People Celebrating Life in Hope**  
April 29           **Community life: People Bearing One Another's Burdens**

### **Annual Report & Annual Meeting**

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 25<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. There were \_\_\_\_ in attendance.

**Directories** – We still have some directories available, just check at the office and grab a book!



**Sign up for Subsplash Giving online and set up a one time or recurring gift and giving will be easier than ever! Follow this link: <https://subsplash.com/u/christ-the-king-lutheran/give> or scan this QR code.**



Thanks from Cindy Klinger for all the prayers, calls, visits, gifts and cards during her recent hip surgery and recovery.

**Thanks from Water's Edge Ministries (formerly Green Lake Ministries) for our gift of support for their mission.**

Thanks to the Project Group for taking down the Holiday Season decorations, and for all that you do for the Church year-round!

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Please consider a donation to the Little Pantry and thanks so much to everyone who has already donated! We continue to be a welcome service for those in need.



**Pantry Items Needed**

Macaroni and Cheese  
Pasta, Tuna & Cream of Mushroom Soup  
Pasta & Spaghetti Sauce  
Canned vegetables  
Canned fruit  
Canned pasta such as Ravioli or Spaghetti Os  
Boxed meals such as Tuna Helper, can of tuna  
    Cake Mixes  
    Pancake Mix & Syrup  
    Cereal  
    Baby Food  
    Toilet paper  
    Paper towels  
    Cleaning supplies  
Personal Hygiene products  
    Diapers & Wipes

**Stewardship Creed**

*I believe in the gifts of God and feel gratitude for all I have been given, These gifts are not mine to have, but mine to share.  
When they are shared, my gifts will make a difference for others. And I believe the act of giving is more important than the gift itself. I will make giving a priority.  
I will give to others because so much of what I have comes from others.  
I will give of who I am, what I do, and what I have.*



# IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Bob Wise as he is continuing treatment for cancer.

Darryl Weigel dealing with foot issues

Paul Huseby has suffered a stroke

Tim Kruse recovering from knee surgery

Lanis Curtis's Family upon the passing of her mother, Charlotte; her sister, Mary, experiencing a return of breast cancer; her daughter-in-law's mother, Robin who is suffering seizures, and her daughter, Robin, who is dealing with multiple stresses

Kyle Hawk recovering from surgery

Doug Shrader dealing with some health issues

Sharon Brennan suffering from shingles and leg spasms

Brian Kloos recovering from foot surgery

Char Klocke is now residing at Valley View Home in Lamberton

\*\*There is a new Care List available in the office for those who would like to send cards\*\*



**Caregiver Coffee Hour** - The *Caregiver Coffee Hour* started in March last year and we have had a great response – so many folks out there caring for others and it's great to know that there is support available, even if it's just a shoulder to lean on! This group will meet the first and third Thursday of each month.

February dates are the 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at Christ the King Lutheran Church at 1:00pm. Coffee and snacks will be served.

If you are a caregiver to a loved one and would like to get out and socialize with others that are in the same type of situation, this is the group for you! If your loved one can't be left alone, you can bring them along, and we will have some activities that they can participate in as well, while you have some time to yourself to recharge.



Welcome to the Christ the King Sewing Group! We are meeting weekly on Tuesday's or Thursday's at 9:00am to sew and quilt and enjoy good fellowship! More details will be available soon, or contact Beth Wendinger or Kathie Born for more information and to inquire about donating fabric for projects.

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There is evidence that many of you enjoy meeting and visiting with people! There will be a new ministry beginning at Christ the King where you would have the opportunity to go out in the Church Community and visit with the members, particularly the home-bound, of the congregation. If you would be interested in more information please talk with Helen Christenson or call her at 507-276-3551.

# Puzzles

## HOW'S THE WEATHER?

Use the code below to fill in these forecasts in places where Jesus traveled:

CODE:

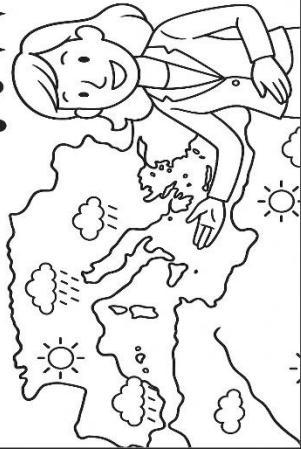
$A = \odot$	$D = \otimes$	$H = \circledast$	$M = \star$	$P = \blacklozenge$	$T = \blacksquare$	$W = \boxdot$
$B = \bullet$	$E = +$	$I = *$	$N = \uparrow$	$R = \bullet$	$U = \square$	$Y = \wp$
$C = \circ$	$G = \circledast$	$L = \star$	$O = \downarrow$	$S = \circ$	$V = \boxtimes$	$Z = \Box$

Mt. Hermon  $\overline{\textcircled{O}} \rightarrow \downarrow \square$  Jericho  $\overline{\textcircled{*}} \downarrow \blacksquare$

Jerusalem   

Dead Sea Area

## Mediterranean Coast



**Love is patient,  
Love is kind.**

## 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

# Puzzles

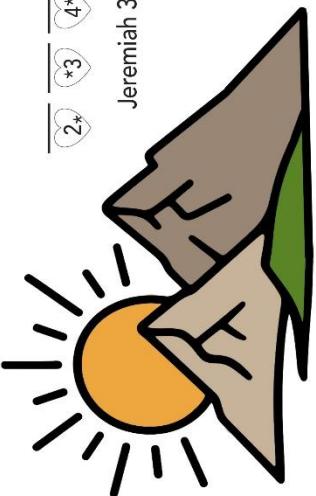
We see hearts everywhere and love sharing cards and greetings with friends and family.

Use the code to discover a special message from God — perfect for any day, any month.

CODE.

A 1 D  
G E  
H 2 I  
N L  
O 3 R  
T S  
U 4 V  
Y W

II	<input type="checkbox"/> 2*	<input type="checkbox"/> 4*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1*	<input type="checkbox"/> 3*	<input type="checkbox"/> 4*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1*	<input type="checkbox"/> 3*	<input type="checkbox"/> 4*
	<input type="checkbox"/> 2*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1*	<input type="checkbox"/> 4*	<input type="checkbox"/> 3*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1*	<input type="checkbox"/> 4*	<input type="checkbox"/> 2*	<input type="checkbox"/> 1*



Answer: "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

# Youth News



- **February 1<sup>st</sup>** – Chili and Challenges
- **February 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>** – First Communion Lessons
- **February 8<sup>th</sup>** – Mission Trip Meeting
- **February 13<sup>th</sup>** – Valentine's Movie Night
- **February 16<sup>th</sup>** – Tubing at Mt. Kato with OSL
- **March 1<sup>st</sup>** – First Communion

**Club 1515** resumed January 8<sup>th</sup>. 3rd-6th graders are invited to come after school on Wednesdays from 3:30-5pm throughout the year. We meet at Washington School and walk up to church. This year we are having a snack, devotion, and then trying to focus on Service projects in the community. Come and check it out!

## Summer Camp Information

Important dates to keep in mind:

**Camp week is June 21-25** - This is the week that Our Savior's goes as well, however, you are welcome to register for any week of camp.

\$65 Early Bird Discount for camp is **February 19**

When registering for camp, please sign up as paying the supported fee. If you would like a church scholarship, once you have registered, please send me a copy of your registration. Church will give scholarships for 1/2 the cost of camp. If you are in need of a scholarship larger than that, please talk to Geri.

**The Youth made \$530.00 to support Camp costs during the recent Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser.**

## Mission Trip Information

We have a group of 10 youth that are interested in going to Madison, Wisconsin this summer for a mission trip with Serve Boldly. We will have a meeting to discuss details of the trip at **10:15 on February 8th**. If you are unable to make this meeting, please contact Geri.



**Valentine's Movie Night- Feb. 13th 6-8pm** - There will be a movie (Elemental), crafts, popcorn, pizza and other activities. Sign up so we know how many kids to plan for.

## First Communion

3rd graders will take part in First Communion lessons and paint their chalices on February 7 or February 21. Pastor Tim will meet with the 3rd graders and their families on February 22 at 10:15 in the sanctuary to go over details. First Communion will be on March 1 at the 9:00 service.



**Mount Kato Tubing with Our Savior's February 16th** - We will leave Our Saviors at 12:30 and return about 4:00. The cost is \$20. Let Geri know by February 8th if your child(ren) would like to go.

**Watch for Valentine and Lent Scratch off Family Activity sheets coming home with your children and youth. This is a great way for families to spend a little time each day in the Word and talking to our Lord.**

**Reminder: There will not be Confirmation class from Ash Wednesday, February 18 through Easter Sunday, April 5. Confirmation groups will be helping with Lenten worship, so attendance will be required.**

# FEBRUARY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Sunday Worship 10:15 Sunday School 4:00pm Chili and Challenge	<b>2</b> 1:30pm Prayer Shawl 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Youth Ministry Mtg 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>3</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV, Public Access 3:45pm Personnel	<b>4</b> 5:00pm Worship TV 6:00pm Confirmation Meal 6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 1:00pm Caregiver's Group 5:00pm RRT Troy G.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 10:00am Delgado B'day Party 5:33pm Worship
<b>8</b> 9:00am Sunday Worship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>9</b> 1:30pm Parkinson's 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Women of Today	<b>10</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV, Public Access 4:30pm United Players	<b>11</b> 5:00pm Worship TV 5:00pm Grief Support Group 6:00pm Confirmation Meal 6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00pm Movie Night	<b>14</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 9:00am League of Women's Voters 5:33pm Worship 
<b>15</b> 9:00am Sunday Worship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>16</b> Tubing at Mt. Kato 1:30pm Prayer Shawls 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>17</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV, Public Access 3:00pm STAY Group 6:15 pm Finance 6:30pm Council Mtg	<b>18</b> 4:00pm Oak Hills Worship 5:00pm Worship TV 7:00pm Ash Wednesday service	<b>19</b> 1:00pm Caregiver's Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 5:33pm Worship
<b>22</b> 9:00am Sunday Worship 10:15 Sunday School	<b>23</b> 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Adoption Group 7:00pm Bible Study	<b>24</b> 9:00am Staff Mtg 10:00am Worship TV, Public Access	<b>25</b> 4:00pm Oak Hills Worship 5:30pm Lenten Meal 6:30pm Lenten service 7:15pm Choir rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:00am Men's Bible Study 5:33pm Worship



## CtK's Helping Hands Fund

### For December

Given - \$	<b>7,220.19</b>
Utilities - \$	<b>50.00</b>
Housing - \$	<b>1,607.83</b>
Car Repairs - \$	<b>.00</b>
Gas Cards - \$	<b>400.00</b>
Groceries - \$	<b>150 .00</b>
Misc - \$	<b>1,089.97</b>

### Financial Report for December

**Given - \$70,705.67**  
**Budgeted - \$54,686.87**  
**Given YTD - \$378,222.99**  
**Budgeted YTD - \$389,798.19**

### Christ the King Council Members

**President:**  
Kurt Johnson

**Vice President:**  
Josh Walth

**Secretary:**  
Amy Johnson

**Treasurer:**  
Beth Zambino

**Members:**  
Elmer Rettig  
Bill Steinke  
Pat Novak

Lauren Buckentine  
Miriam Waldner  
Ryan Meyer

### Staff

**Pastor**  
Timothy Anderson

**Finance Manager:**  
Jen Kapolczynski

**Administrative Assistant:**  
Mary Lammers

**Visitation Ministry Coordinator:**  
Helen Christenson

**Youth Education & Youth Ministry Coordinator:**  
Geri Groebner

**Custodian:**  
Cindy Fahey

**Music Coordinator:**  
Connie Jacobs

**Choir Director:**  
Anne-Lise Johnson

## CtK's Council Minutes

### Minutes of the December Meeting

**Mission Statement of our Congregation:** "A Family of Christians welcoming all as we journey with God to teach, love, and serve others."

**Highlights from past month** – Coat Drive ended today and was well utilized by the community. Silent Auction was successful; Sunday School Christmas program was this past Sunday with lots of good singing. Fourteen people have requested Christmas baskets. Operation Christmas Child collected 753 boxes from the area and there were 753 boxes. The Thanksgiving service went well at Our Savior's with the joint choir.

#### Pastor's Report –

- Annual meeting will be January 25, 2026.
- Sound issues have improved with Luke Simonson running the streaming/sound system. Muska Electric will be coming after Christmas to set up streaming through Subsplash.
- **Adult Education continues:**
  - Men's study: We will begin a study of Esther in January.
  - Women's study: We will begin a study of various Women of the Bible.
  - Our next Monday evening study will be on the Parables of Jesus
- **Thank you to** David Sellnow and Anna and Ron Fleischmann for filling in for Pastor Tim during his absence in November.
- **Thank you to** Elmer Rettig and Miriam Waldner who served at the joint Thanksgiving service at Our Savior's.
- **Christmas services** are set at 4:00 pm and 8:00 pm on December 24th. Volunteer slots need to be added on the CtK app.
- **Lenten Theme:** "The Shape of a Christian Life." It will speak of what a Christian life would look like in outline, since each is unique. Will use different elements (water, fire, etc.)

**Youth Ministry Report:** We had 8 kids go to the Junior High Youth Gathering. We had the Glory and Goodies event after service on December 7th and was well attended.

**Youth Education Report:** The Christmas program was this past weekend. There will be a pause in Sunday School during the holiday break.

- **Committee Reports:** Property Committee-Elmer Rettig/Ryan Meyer--Turned in budget and prioritized different projects; 2 furnaces were replaced. In spring, will add a few additional handicap parking spots. Five trees will be replaced.
- Youth/Education Committee – Youth/Education Committee – Amy Johnson/Geri-January 11<sup>th</sup> will be Craft, Cocoa and Christ will have Epiphany activities. February 1<sup>st</sup> will be Chili and Puzzle Challenge.
- Gifts & Bequests Policy committee—brochure available—remove from agenda
- Constitution Committee – Kurt Johnson-Will have an approval at the annual meeting and a second meeting for a final approval.

**Christ the King  
Lutheran Church  
1515 North Garden Street  
New Ulm, MN 56073**

Non-Profit Org.  
Postage PAID  
New Ulm, MN  
56073  
Permit No. 142

Return Service Requested



## **February 2026**

**Worship Services** *Streamed on Facebook Live and Available on Public Access Television Tuesdays 10am Wednesdays*

**Saturday 5:33pm**

**Sunday 9:00am**

