Fourth Sunday in Advent December 18, 2022

As We Gather - One of the pleasures of walking through medieval towns and cities in Europe is seeing the signs that hang above the doorways of various stores and craftwork locations. Without a word of written language, you can tell where the town's cobbler, blacksmith, baker, and glove maker have set up their shops. The signs indicate that the masters are at work in their various locations. For Christians, Advent is a time for looking to the signs of the presence of God as found in Word and Sacrament. There are signs around us right now! The cross over the altar or in front of church wordlessly attests to the fulfilling of the work by the Master of all creation through the coming of Jesus as the babe of Bethlehem, who would be our crucified and resurrected Lord. The candles on the Advent wreath burn brightly today! The signs of the season are all around us.

Offering: Offerings will be received in the offering plates at the rear of the church either upon entering or when leaving. Thank you for your gift to the work of the Lord.

The Wearing of Masks: To protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory diseases, individuals may choose to mask at any time. Appropriate hand washing by everyone is encouraged. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 are highly encouraged to wear a mask or stay home. Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Thank you for helping to keep everyone healthy as we receive God's gifts in worship.

GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.

Prelude and Meditation: Before worship we talk to God (see prayers on page 308 in the hymnal); during worship God talks to us; after worship we talk to one another.

Prelude:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dedication of Promises (Sunday Only)

Confession and Absolution



Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913 Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **G** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

and in his word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.

Kyrie LSB 152

- **P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- Let us pray.

 Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign

with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle Romans 1:1–7

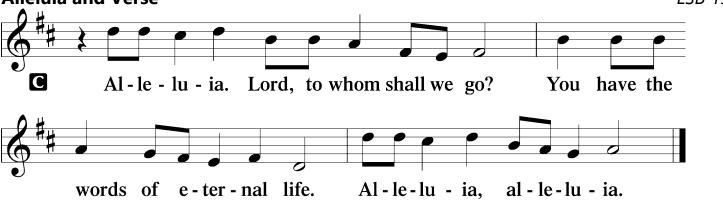
¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Stand





Holy Gospel *Matthew 1:18–25*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit



Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 1): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 5): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

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Text (st. 1) and tune: Public domain

Sermon:

"Who Was Joseph?"

Guest Pastor David Roskowic

Stand

Apostles' Creed

Prayer of the Church

P As the time of Advent comes to an end, let us go to our heavenly Father on behalf of the Church around the world and all people in their various needs.

"Call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." For people who have not heard a word of forgiveness from their society or circle of friends, that God would use the Church to bring them news of God's mercy and grace, available from His Son, born in a stable, killed on a cross, and risen from the grave, let us pray to the Lord.

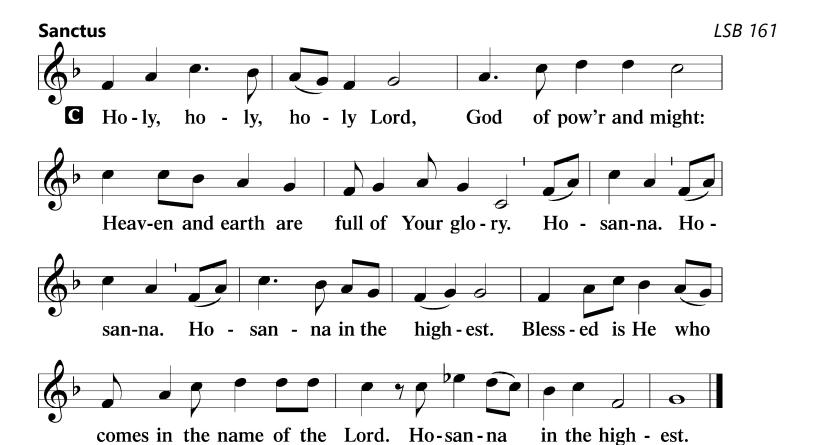
- Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
- Paul's apostleship was to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of Christ's name among all the nations. For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, that God would put into positions of authority and influence capable and faithful people who would work for order at home and peace with neighboring states, let us pray to the Lord.
- From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
- "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." For those who tend God's good earth, those who distribute and sell the fruits of the harvest, and those who manage wildlife preserves and wilderness expanses, that they be successful in their oversight of creation and give praise to the Creator, let us pray to the Lord.
- Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
- For people who are weighed down by illness, strife, or oppression, our friends and neighbors "who seek the face of the God of Jacob," that God would bring healing, peace of body and mind, and freedom from discrimination, [including . . .], let us pray to the Lord.
- **Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
- P For the forgotten in prison and unseen among us, all whose treatment by society has given them cause to stop waiting for answers to prayer, that God would surround them with caring, devout family and friends, so that they in patient joy look forward as "the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth," let us pray to the Lord.
- Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!

- IP Joseph was a just man and unwilling to put Mary to shame. For those who have succumbed to the criticisms of their circle of acquaintances, the fallen morality of their society, and the consequences of their own mistakes, that God would open their eyes to the forgiveness He offers through Christ so that they lift up their heads to the gates through which our Savior walks, let us pray to the Lord.
- **B** Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
- For the Church around the world, wherever it experiences active persecution or increasing indifference, that God would strengthen, guide, and protect laity and clergy alike and that it receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
- These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
- By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 160

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **©** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My

→ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My → blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

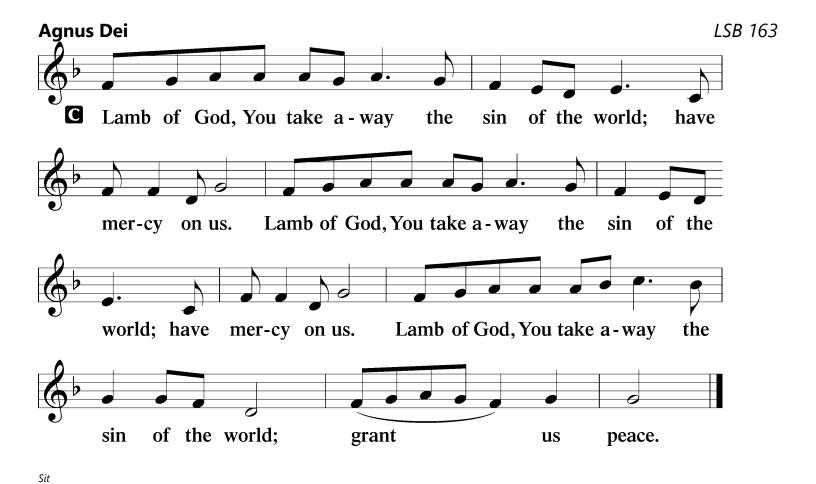
- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini LSB 163

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

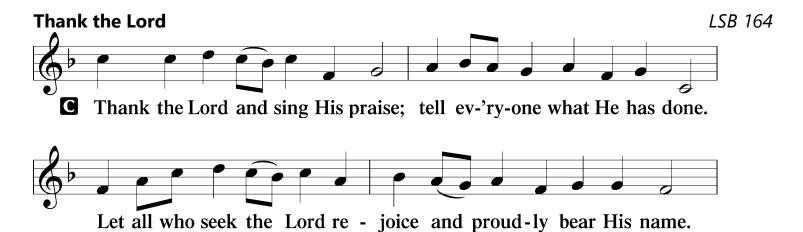


Distribution:

Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)

LSB 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LSB 624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

Stand





He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



Post-Communion Collect (Saturday)

- P Let us pray together.
- I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Sunday)

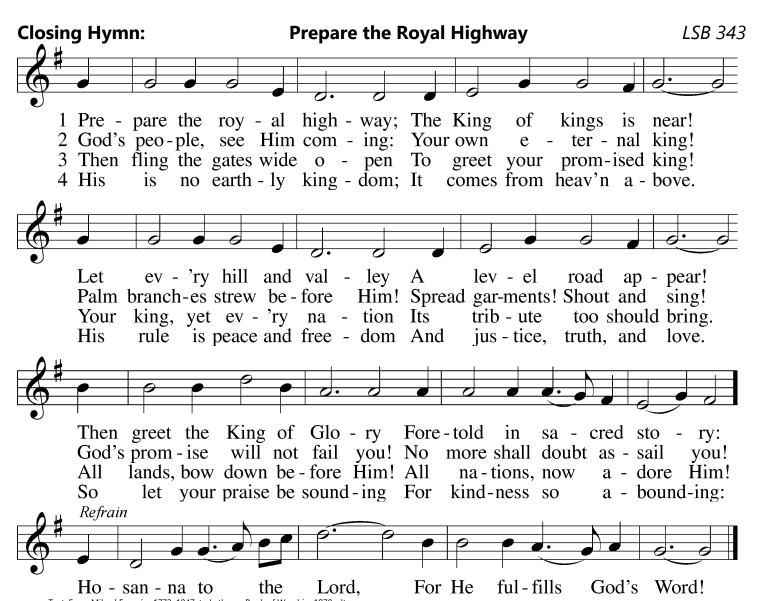
P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction LSB 166

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
 - The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- C Amen.



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000852 Tune: Public domain

Postlude:

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor	Pastor David Roskowic
Organist	Carol Ceaglske
Saturday	
Elder	Lee Crapo
Lector	Geri Slaten/Rick Smith
Audio	Lee Crapo/Robin Fox

Sunday **Lector** Kim Kaniecki Greeter......Barbara Joost and Annie Smith VideoVideo TD: Kris Welch GFX/ Stream: Robin Fox Altar Guild Barbara and Alfred Miller LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP <u>NEXT SUNDAY</u> Organist Carol Ceaglske Elder Steve Rosane Greeter Audio.......Maria Hazzard VideoVideo TD: Kris Welch GFX: / Stream: Robin Fox Altar Guild Barbara and Alfred Miller ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK Mid-Week Service Dec. 7......35 Saturday Worship Attendance......24 Sunday Worship Attendance......102 Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings\$3,080.00 Simply Giving/Vanco......\$0 Paypal Offerings\$0 Website (ShareFaith).....\$200.00 Total of Offerings Received \$3,280.00

Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts.....\$327.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH- Advent IV – Surprise pregnancy once redeemed the whole world. Joseph would have aborted the undertaking, but the Lord explicitly forbid it (Matthew 1:19-21). Even human limitations could not prevent the Heavenly Father from keeping His promises (Romans 1:2-3). So, every surprise pregnancy we encounter—along with our lives and everyone else's (Psalm 24:1)—belongs to Almighty God, and we may rejoice to say so.

FLOWER SPONSOR– No Flower Sponsors this week.

BULLETIN SPONSOR – No Bulletin sponsor this week.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR –Team 6 is serving today. Everyone is invited. There is no charge and a freewill offering is voluntary. No Fellowship Hour next week.

COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEETING – The Communications Board will meet today (Sunday) after service.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICE – A Blue Christmas Service will be on December 21st at 6:30 pm.

BIBLE STUDY CANCELLED – Both 8:30 AM and 11:15 AM Bible Studies are cancelled for next Sunday, December 25th and Sunday, January 1st. The Wednesday Bible Study is also cancelled on December 28th.

ENJOYMENT BOOKS – If you are interested in purchasing an Enjoyment Coupon Book (Polk County) for \$30, please contact Tere Morone at 607-765-0001. Shipping is free and will ship within two days.

2023 OFFERNG ENVELOPE PACKETS ARE AVAILABLE in your church mailboxes. Be sure to use these envelopes for your offerings or you may not get credit. Please do not use these envelopes until **2023**. If you mail your offerings please always include your envelope number. If you are having your IRA contributed directly please also make sure your envelope number is included. Any questions before 2023 contact Diane Bickart and beginning in January contact Emma Block. Thank you for your gifts of treasure.

NEW FLOWER CHART FOR 2023 - There will be a new 2023 Flower Chart on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex. You can sign up to place Flowers in the Altar area in honor of someone, birthdays and anniversaries or any other occasions. Please put your name and what occasion the flowers are for, so it can be noted in the Bulletins. The donations for the flowers are used to purchase the flowers for Easter and Christmas services. If you have any questions call Barbara Miller 863-858-5790

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS – There is still time to bring in your family ornaments for our tree in the Fellowship Hall. We would like a non-breakable ornament that you have written your family name on with a marker. We would prefer Christmas themed ornaments. Let's get this tree covered!

RECIPES WANTED - Mary Martha is collecting favorite recipes for the Church Cookbook. If you have a favorite recipe and would be willing to share it, please write it legibly, sign your name on it and put it in the box located in the Narthex. There is no limit to number of recipes you can submit.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP – If you are a seasonal visitor and would be interested in an Associate Membership with Christ Lutheran, please see an Elder.

CHURCH DIRECTORY – For those that are not aware, our church member directory is now available online. Please see the flyer sheets in the narthex for more information or email Kim Kaniecki at stewardship@clclakeland.org.

GREETERS NEEDED – Volunteers are needed to be Greeters in the Narthex to welcome guest and members as they enter for service. If you are interested, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the Bulletin Board.

TRUSTEE VOLUNTEER DAY – If you are interested in volunteering to help with maintenance around the church, please contact Sandy Spanier at 863-665-5572.

NAMETAGS – We would like to encourage all our members to please wear their nametags to church. If you can't find your nametag or don't have one, please sign-up for one on the bulletin board in the Narthex of the church.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER- Matthew 1:21 – "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God's Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus' love has done!

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Tuesday	Quilters @ 10 am
,	Trustee/Volunteer Work Day 9 am-Noon
Wednesday	Bible Study @ Noon
•	Private Communion 1:30 – 2:30 pm
	Blue Christmas Advent Service @ 6:30 pm
Friday	Church Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Saturday	Christmas Eve Service @ 6:30 pm
Sunday	Christmas Dav Service @ 10 am