

**The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day
December 25, 2022**

Angels: The Ultimate Divine Messengers of Hope

An Angel Brings Hope with a Sign of God's Presence in the Newly Born Christ Child

As We Gather - During Advent this year, we focused on the messages brought by angels: to Zechariah, to Joseph, and to Mary. Last evening—Christmas Eve—it was a multitude of angels singing God's glory and peace to shepherds. Now, on this Christmas Day, we hear from yet one more angel: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:10–12).

Imagine the surprise of the shepherds when the sign of Christ the Lord was not a palace or a crib radiating light beams or a baby surrounded by a fierce army of guards. The sign was just a baby in a manger, wrapped in swaddling cloths! As John declares in today's Gospel, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). Even today, the Word comes to us in plain spoken words, in the water with God's promise of Baptism, and in the bread and wine of Communion. God's ways are not our ways; He comes in seemingly lowly, simple, and unspectacular ways that we end up discovering are full of His grace and truth.

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

PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation: Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367

△ Please stand after a brief interlude



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
△ 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

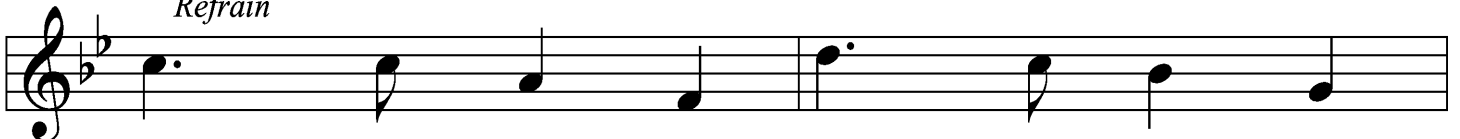


all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
Ye have seen His na - tal star.
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-4): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, alt. Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79 Text and tune: Public domain

Remain Seated

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **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.

C **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.

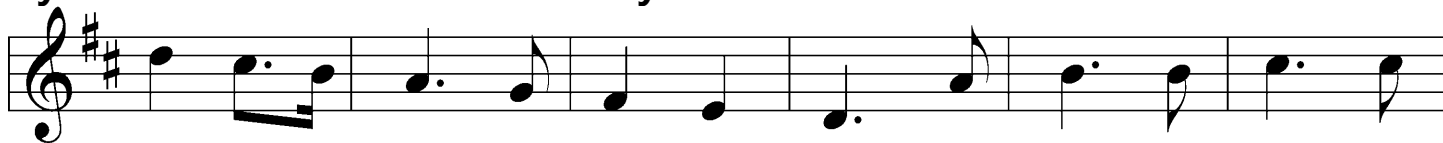
C Amen.

WORD

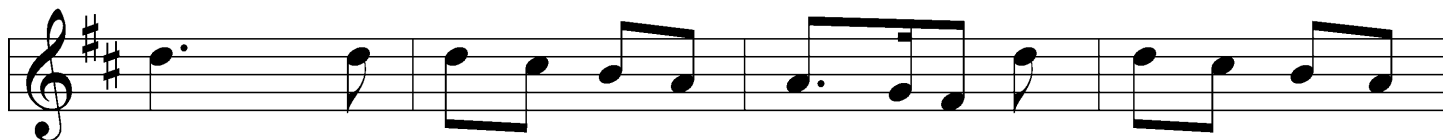
Hymn:

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

God of light, shine hope in our hearts by the sign of Your only-begotten Son, so that our lives may radiate Your love in the darkness of this world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1–12

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son, today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire."

⁸But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. ⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

¹⁰And,

“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; ¹¹they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, ¹²like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:11–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn :

Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; (sts. 1-4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821-77 Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon:

“Angelic Hope in a Sign”
Luke 2:11-18

Creed

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

John 1:14

P The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. So let us bring before the God of mercy prayers of thanks, praise, and intercession.

For pastors, teachers, and all workers in the Church, and for all people, that together we shine with the light of Christ’s love. In Your great mercy,

C **hear us, Christ our Lord.**

P For missionaries near and far, that the grace and truth of Jesus shine through their lives and multiply the kingdom of God throughout the world. In Your great mercy,

C **hear us, Christ our Lord.**

- P** For the leaders of our nation, state, and local community, that they govern justly and faithfully, seeking peace and the well-being of the people they serve. In Your great mercy,
- C** **hear us, Christ our Lord.**
- P** For those who serve in the military and for anyone far away from home on this joyous day, that the message of the Word made flesh bring them the presence of God in the midst of loneliness. In Your great mercy,
- C** **hear us, Christ our Lord.**
- P** For those who are sick, dying, or mourning, that the Christmas message bring the light of Christ into all the dark places of our lives. In Your great mercy,
- C** **hear us, Christ our Lord.**
- P** For all who travel during this season of family gatherings, that they arrive safely at their destinations. In Your great mercy,
- C** **hear us, Christ our Lord.**
- P** For our own congregation, that our hearts be filled with hope as we receive the simple signs of God's love for us in Jesus. In Your great mercy,
- C** **hear us, Christ our Lord.**
- P** In remembrance of those dear ones who have died, we give thanks. As they were blessed by the grace and truth of the Word of Life and now rejoice in the presence of God, grant that we one day join them with all the choirs of angels singing God's praise for all eternity. In Your great mercy,
- C** **hear us, Christ our Lord.**
- P** Hear our prayers, gracious Father, both those we have spoken and those that are too deep for words yet expressed by the Holy Spirit, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P 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; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

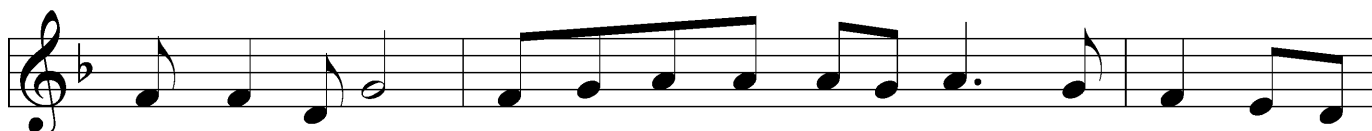
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution:

Distribution Hymns

LSB 386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

LSB 383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 378 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

Stand

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

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

P 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.

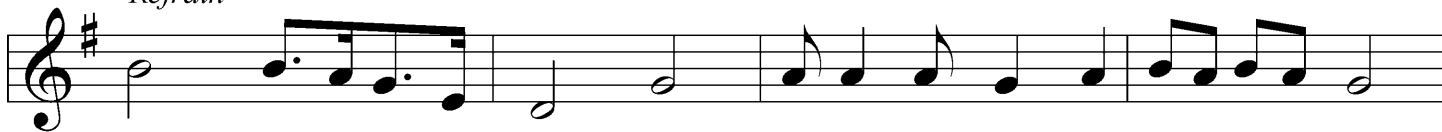
C Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LSB 388

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an-gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt. Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude:

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Pastor Christopher Hazzard

Organist Carol Ceaglske

Elder Steve Rosane

Lector P.J. Nunez

Greeter

Audio.....Maria Hazzard
Video..... Video TD: Kris Welch
 GFX/ Stream: Robin Fox
Altar Guild..... Barbara and Alfred Miller

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor..... Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist..... Carol Ceaglske
Elder..... Steve Rosane
Lector.....
Greeter.....
Audio..... Kyle Welch
Video..... Video TD: Kris Welch
 GFX: / Stream: Robin Fox
Altar Guild..... Debbie and Rick Smith

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Mid-Week Service Dec. 14.....	33
Saturday Worship Attendance.....	31
Sunday Worship Attendance.....	93
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings.....	\$4,289.00
Simply Giving/Vanco.....	\$0
Paypal Offerings.....	\$0
Website (ShareFaith).....	\$25.00
Total of Offerings Received	\$4,314.00
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts.....	\$168.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH- Nativity of Our Lord – The Lord bared His holy arm (Isaiah 52:10) not just by appearing in the form of a full-grown man. The Word became flesh (John 1:14) first as an embryo and a fetus. The clearest revelation of God’s glory (Hebrews 1:2-3) also designates every human life precious, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. We can no more keep quiet about the sanctity of life than we can leave out Christmas or Jesus from the Gospel!

FLOWER SPONSOR– Barbara Miller in celebration of Alfred Miller’s birthday.

BULLETIN SPONSOR – No Bulletin sponsor this week.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR –No Fellowship Hour this week or next week. Will resume January 8.

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

MOVIE NIGHT - Movie night will resume on January 7 at 6:30 P. M. in the Fellowship Hall. The movie is titled "Unbroken" and is the true story of a man who survived a Japanese prisoner of war camp during WW II. The February movie is Unbroken-Path to Redemption, and will follow this man's path to forgiveness of the things he did and that were done to him. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the water fountain. We will have pizza (we will have at least pepperoni, and one of sausage), but you can sign up to bring salad, dessert, etc.-if you are able. There is no charge for the movie. We do accept donations for the charity of the month for Fellowship. January's charity is Option for Women.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS - Thanks to all who helped to decorate and make the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall look so nice! We will be meeting on Tuesday, January 10, to take the decorations down. Anyone who can help is invited to meet at the church at 9:00 A. M.

ANGEL TREE - Thank you to all who participated in making the wishes come true for the 24 children at Lighthouse this year! Gifts were sorted by the Outreach Board after Fellowship on 12/18 and delivered on 12/19 by Pastor Munz, Blake Albright and the Youth Group. Please continue to support the women and children at Lighthouse Ministries with your prayers and donations to the Lighthouse dedicated fund. Again, thank you!

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 OFFERING 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

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- John 1:5 – “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Through all of our hardships, all of our sorrows, all of our pains and loneliness, Jesus' light shines in the darkness, and we are not overcome. In the face of our sin, in the midst of our pettiness, against all our pride, Jesus' light shines and illuminates our hearts and changes us, day by day, into a greater reflection of His likeness.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Tuesday Trustee/Volunteer Work Day 9 am-Noon
Wednesday NO Bible Study
NO Private Communion
Friday.....Church Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off
Saturday.....New Year's Eve Service @ 5:30 pm
Sunday.....New Year's Day Service @ 10 am
Elders Meeting