Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost November 19, 2023

As We Gather - This Sunday and next we will consider how we should live between now and the Last Day. Our preparation for it is not a matter of simply believing correctly, for that would make our faith to be a good work. Rather, we are living in the end times, and by grace the Lord has already consecrated His guests. A Gospel-centered life means letting the Good News affect how we live in love today. Paul says we should "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). We are very much like the servants in the Gospel, using the treasure our master has entrusted to us. We dare not keep our talents hidden, for they belong to God and should be invested! The Good News—that our Savior will return on that Day—is reason enough to take risks, investing our faith in loving the people around us.

Offering and Registry of Worship Cards: Please fill out a Registry of Worship Card found in the pew racks. We ask that you print the names of every person in your family, indicating if they take communion. One side of the card is for members and the other side for guests. As the offering is collected, pass the cards to the center aisle so our ushers can gather them.

Saturday Worship: Offerings and Worship Cards 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.

About Protecting the Healthy: 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 of an infectious illness are highly encouraged to stay home. Symptoms 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.

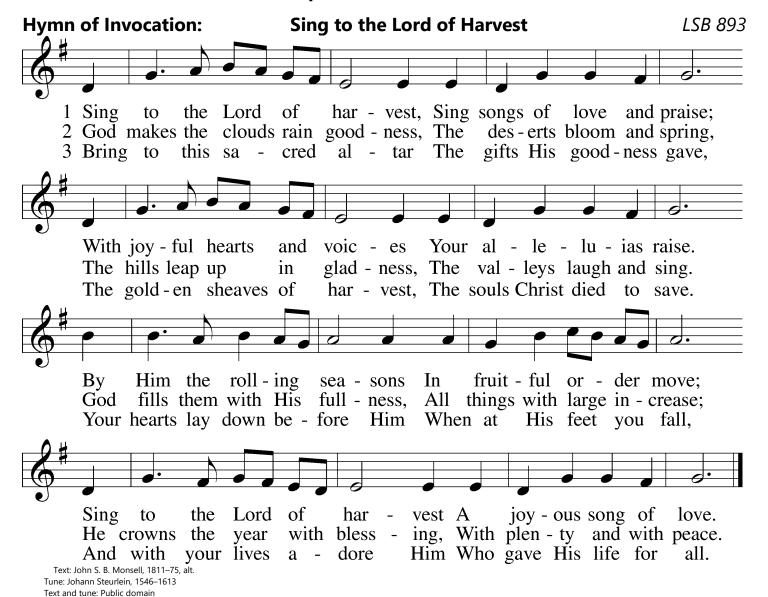
GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.

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
The Greeting and Sharing of Peace (stand)

Confession and Absolution



Stand

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.
- C 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

- Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.
- I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;
 I ponder the work of your hands.
 I stretch out my hands to you;
 my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
- Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

 Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

 For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!

 In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!
- 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.

 Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

Kyrie LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



P 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.

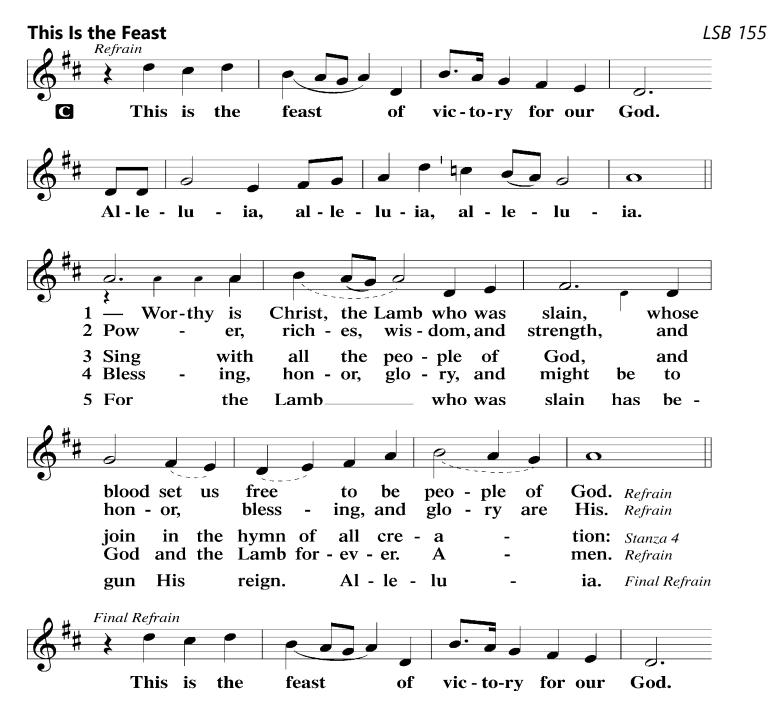


P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.







Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 1:7–16

⁷Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. 9On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. 10"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' 13Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. ¹⁵A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

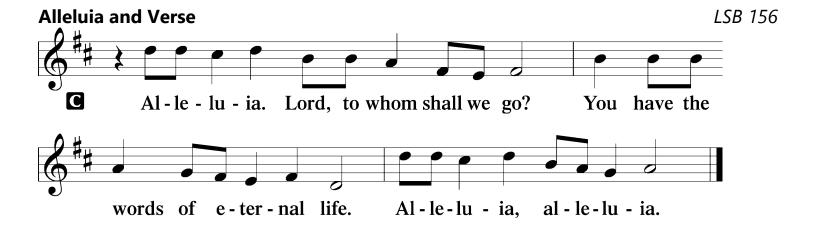
- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

Stand



Holy Gospel Matthew 25:14–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



¹⁴[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more." ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

 \mathbf{P} This is the Gospel of the Lord.





The cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim their prais - es to You bring: Sing with the ho - ly Church through-out all the world this song: Were cru - ci - fied for us and were placed in - to a tomb; So help Your ser-vants You have re - deemed by blood, we pray;



"O all - ma - jes - tic Fa - ther, Your true and on - ly Son, Then by Your res - ur - rec - tion You won for us re-prieve—May we with saints be num-bered where prais-es nev - er end,



Your maj - es - ty and glo - ry fill the heav-ens and the earth!"
And Ho - ly Spir - it, Com-fort-er— for - ev - er Three in One!"
You o - pened heav-en's king - dom to all who would be - lieve.
In glo - ry ev - er - last - ing. A - men, O Lord, a - men!

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Sermon:

"Investing Wisely" Matthew 25:14 - 30

Stand

Apostles' Creed

Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "Make Me a Servant"

Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only)

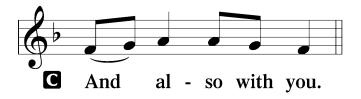
Registry of Worship Cards (Sunday Only) – Please pass your completed cards to the center aisle.

Stand

Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.

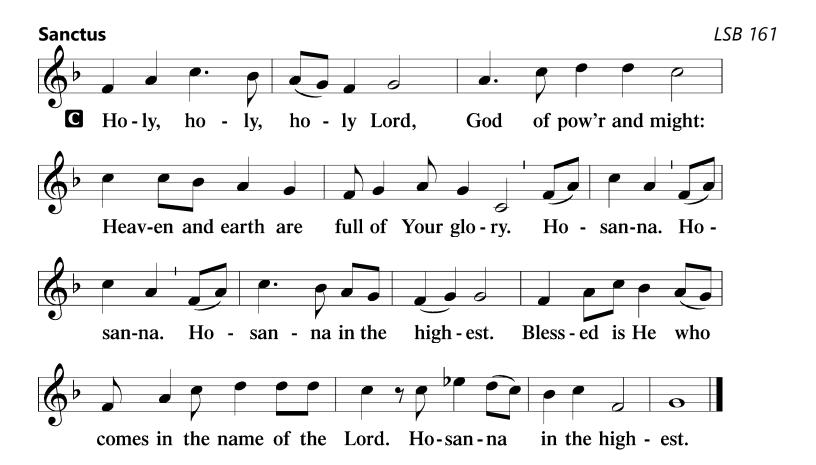


C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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

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."

- P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- 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:

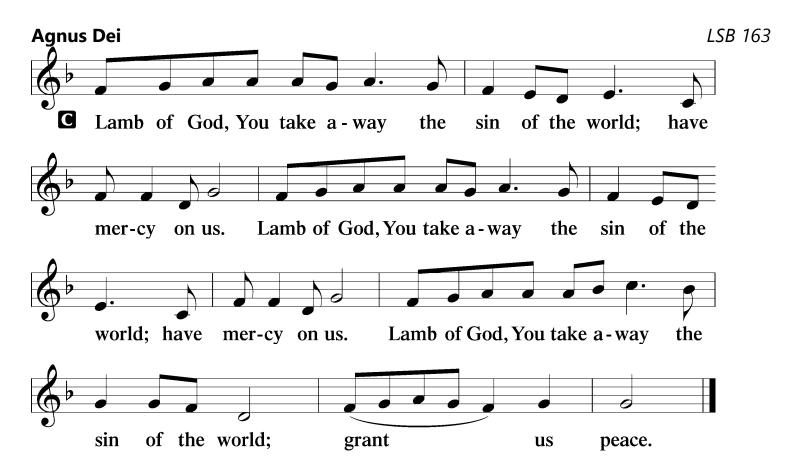
Lord's Prayer

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.





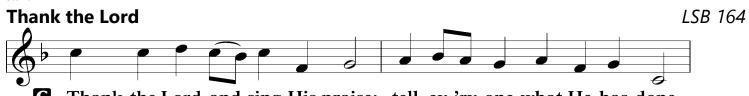
Sit

Distribution:

Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)

LSB 733 O God, Our Help in Ages Past sts. 1–6
LSB 853 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

Stand



Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



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.

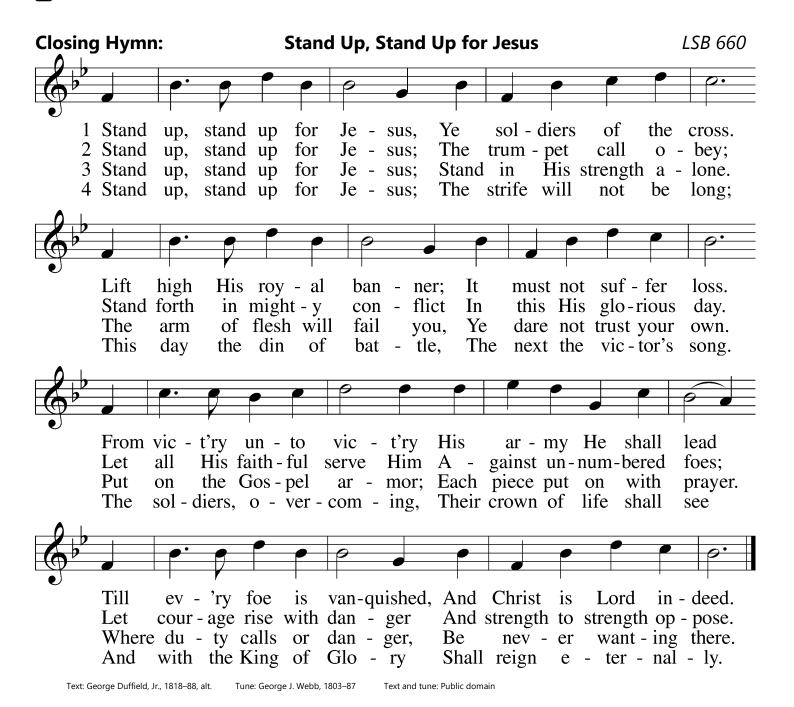
Benediction LSB 166

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.

Amen.



Postlude:

Acknowledgments

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska
Saturday	
Elder	Lee Crapo
Lector	Rick Smith/Gerie Slaten
Audio	Lee Crapo/Robin Fox/Taniqua Jackson
Sunday	
Elder	Carlos Orellana
Lector	Kim Kaniecki
Greeter	
Audio	Maria Hazzard
Video	Video TD: Kris Welch
	GFX/ Stream: Robin Fox
Altar Guild	Rita and George Czanko

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska
-	Carlos Orellana
Lector	
	Robert and Cheryl Langanke
	Kyle Welch
Video	Video TD: Kris Welch
	GFX: / Stream: Robin Fox
Altar Guild	Rita and George Czanko

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship Attendance	28
Sunday Worship Attendance	102
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings	\$0
Simply Giving/Vanco	
Paypal Offerings	
Website (ShareFaith)	
Total of Offerings Received	\$0
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts	\$0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH- Pentecost XXV – Many around us despair because the world pressures them into the violence and fraud (Zephaniah 1:9) of viewing death as a solution to difficulty. In the sanctity of every human life, we have riches to spare (Matthew 25:15). Gospel hope and joy are not just for us to possess. Jesus brings us faith and life to proclaim and put into practice.

FLOWER SPONSOR – No Flower Sponsor this week. **BULLETIN SPONSOR** – No Bulletin sponsor this week.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR *(SUNDAY)* – Team 2 is serving today; team 3 will serve next week. Everyone is invited. There is no charge and a freewill offering is voluntary.

NEW MEMBER CLASS – On Tuesdays during the month of November from 6 -8 pm by ZOOM or in person, for anyone interested in joining our congregation, have never had confirmation instruction in a Lutheran church or for those looking for a refresher about the key things of faith. Please contact the church office to register.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY (SUNDAY)— There is a Congregational Meeting today, Sunday, November 19th, after the service. We will be voting on the Budget and Financial Accounting. Congregational Voters Meeting for the Slate of Officers is scheduled for December 3rd. A sample ballot is in your mailbox.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE – Thanksgiving Eve Service will be this Wednesday, November 22, at 6:30 pm.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED THURSDAY – The Church Office will be closed this Thursday, November 23rd, in observance of Thanksgiving Day.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS MEETING – There will be a Congregational voters meeting on Sunday December 3rd, after service. We will be voting on the Nominating Committees' recommendation of a Slate of Officers. A sample ballot is in your mailbox.

RUMMAGE SALE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for help with the rummage sale on January 20th. While this event is a lot of fun, it requires a lot of work. If you can help with the sale, please sign up. If we do not sign up enough volunteers by December 10th, we will not be able to hold the sale! Thanks so much! Mary-Martha.

2024 FLOWER CHART - The new Flower Chart is posted in the Narthex. You can sign up for flowers for the new year. Please write your name and what occasion is being celebrated. If you would like real flowers, please let us know, otherwise they will be silk flowers. When you donate money for the flowers, please mark it for the Flower Fund. The monies in the Flower Fund pay for the Christmas and Easter flowers that are put in the church. If you have any questions, you can call me. Barbara Miller 863-858-5790

UNUSED HEARING AIDS: Unused hearing aids can be donated. Place them in the Munz mailbox in the church mailroom. Pastor Jerry Munz collects them and takes them to the Lakeland Hearing Center. If you want a tax receipt be sure to ask Pastor Jerry to get one for you. Recently someone asked for a tax donation receipt, but Pastor Munz has forgotten who asked. He is holding your tax donation receipt.

CLC BAZAAR & CRAFT SHOW CANCELLED- Due to the lack of participation, the Bazaar and Craft show has been cancelled.

MARY MARTHA QUILTERS – The Mary Martha Quilters meet each Tuesday morning from 10 AM – Noon. Anyone who would like to join them is welcomed.

DREAM CENTER VOLUNTEERS – Volunteers are needed to help check- in and sort items here at Christ Lutheran for the Dream Center. Please see or contact Robin Fox at 863-513-4774 to schedule a day and time to volunteer.

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.

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.

TRUSTEE VOLUNTEER DAY – Every Tuesday from 9 am - 1 pm. If you would like to help with the various needs of the church, come join us. A job, whether large or small can be found to help with. If you notice something you think needs attention, come let us know. Thanks for helping.

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.

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.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX – Please check your mailbox in the narthex.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Matthew 25:30 – "And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness." Why did the worthless servant act the way he did? Because of what he believed about the Master. He didn't trust or love the Master; so, his actions did not demonstrate love and trust, but rather hate and mistrust. It's the same with us, but in reverse: since we know our Lord God to be faithful and kind, we desire to serve Him and render faithful service with what He has given us.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Tuesday	
	Quilters @ 10 am New Member Class @ 6 pm
	- 1
Wednesday	Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran
	Private Communion @ 1:30 – 2:30 pm
	Thanksgiving Eve Service @ 6:30 pm
Thursday	Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving
Friday	Church Office closed, Pastor's Day Off
Saturday	
	Worship @ 5:30 pm
Sunday	Bible Study @ 8:30 am
	Worship Service @ 10 am
	Bible Study @ 11:15 am
	Communication Board Meeting
	Stewardship Meeting