

Psalm 85:9a

The Christogram

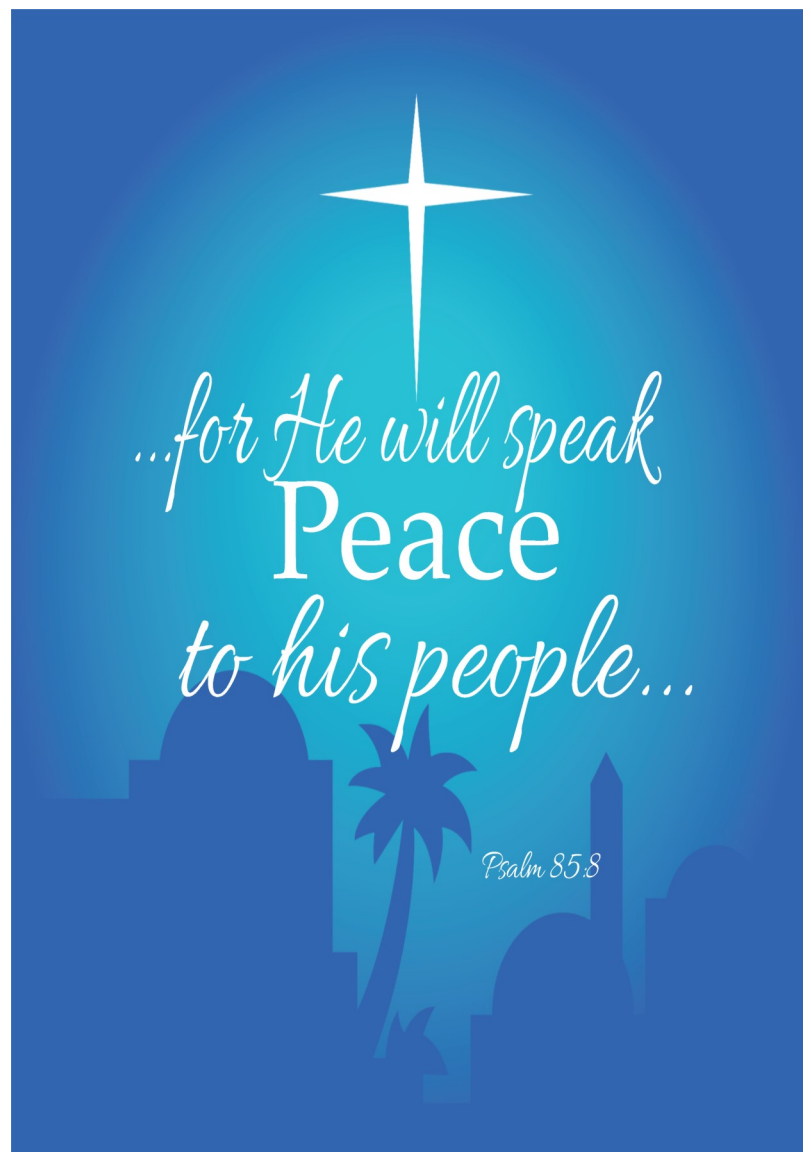
Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him ...

December, 2023
Volume 61 Issue 12



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website page.

Christ Lutheran Church
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CHRIST LUTHERAN STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Christopher Hazzard
(cell) 863-732-1322

Office Secretary

Terry Krum
863-682-7802

Council Officers

President John Freer
Vice-President Ted Nelson
Secretary Robin Fox
Treasurer Jon Lindstrom
Finance Secretary Emma Block
Christian Ed Annie Smith
Outreach & Missions Blake Albright
Stewardship Kim Kaniecki
Trustees Sandy Spanier
Youth Group
Communications Kris Welch

Board of Elders

Carlos Orellana (Head)
Lee Crapo
Keith Kallstrom
Steve Rosane
Fred Sterns

Committee Chairpersons

Fellowship Coordinators

Vi Zabel & Belinda Freer

Altar Guild

Barbara and Alfred Miller

Director of Music

Elena Miraztchiyska

Endowment Fund

Helen Borgwardt

Mary-Martha Guild

Charlotte Mantz

E-Mail Addresses

Pastor

pastor@clclakeland.org

Office

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Christ Lutheran Guiding Statement

Christ Lutheran Church is a growing family of believers who love, accept, and welcome all, so that we may share God's love in word and deed.

Serving in December

December 3

Elder..... Steve Rosane
Lector..... Jon Lindstrom
Greeters Joanne Shepker
Audio..... Maria Hazzard
Video..... Video TD: Kris Welch
GFX/Stream: Robin Fox

December 10

Elder..... Lee Crapo
Lector..... George Czanko
Greeters
Audio..... Kyle Welch
Video..... Video TD: Kris Welch
GFX/Stream: Robin Fox

December 17

Elder..... Carlos Orellana
Lector..... Kim Kaniecki
Greeters
Audio..... Maria Hazzard
Video..... Video TD: Kris Welch
GFX/Stream: Robin Fox

December 24

Elder..... Carlos Orellana
Lector.....
Greeters
Audio..... Kyle Welch
Video..... Video TD: Kris Welch
GFX/Stream: Robin Fox

December 31

Elder..... Steve Rosane
Lector..... George Czanko
Greeters Robert and Cheryl Langanke
Audio..... Maria Hazzard
Video..... Video TD: Kris Welch
GFX/Stream: Robin Fox

ALTAR GUILD SERVICES

Barbara and Alfred Miller

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP @ 5:30 PM

Elder..... Lee Crapo/Steve Rosane (12/9)
Lector..... Rick Smith/Gerie Slaten
Audio..... Lee Crapo/Robin Fox/Taniqua Jackson



Christ Lutheran Church

2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd

Phone: 863-682-7802


| Sun | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 4p Bible Study 5:30p Worship | |
| 3 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship 11:15 Bible Study Congregational Mtg. Elders Meeting | 4 Church Office Closed | 5 Trustee WD 9a Quilters@ 10a Outreach @ 5:30p | 6 Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Advent Service @ 6:30 Jr. Conf Choir | 7 Bible Study @ 10a | 8 | 9 4p Bible Study 5:30p Worship |
| 10 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship 11:15 Bible Study | 11 Church Office Closed Council Mtg @ 6:30p | 12 Trustee WD 9a Quilters@ 10a | 13 Mary Martha @ 10a Luncheon @ 11:30a Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Advent Service @ 6:30 Jr. Conf Choir | 14 Bible Study @ 10a | 15 | 16 4p Bible Study 5:30p Worship |
| 17 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship 11:15 Bible Study Communication Board Mtg | 18 Church Office Closed 9 AM Deadline for Newsletter items | 19 Trustee WD 9a Quilters@ 10a | 20 Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Advent Service @ 6:30 Choir | 21 Bible Study @ 10a | 22 | 23 4p Bible Study 5:30p Worship |
| 24 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship 11:15 Bible Study Stewardship Meeting 6:30p Christmas Eve Service | 25 10a Christmas Day Service Church Office closed | 26 Trustee WD 9a Quilters@ 10a | 27 Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Choir @ 7p | 28 Bible Study @ 10a Paper Pumpkin @ 6:30p | 29 | 30 4p Bible Study 5:30p Worship |
| 31 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship 11:15 Bible Study | | | | | | |

Bulletin announcements are due each Tuesday by 9:00 a.m.

**The Infirm
and
The Homebound**

Remember to keep these people in your daily prayers.

- Vi Bertsch
- Sen & Dale Campbell
- Joanne Ditton
- Donita Duncan
- Marilyn Gillette
- Hazel Gust
- Al Herman
- Judy Kargel
- Fran Klug
- Dorothy Lovelace
- Don & Nancy Matter
- Fran Murphy
- Lois Smith
- Norma Tipton
- Amy Wilson



| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Rosie Fyffe..... | Dec 2 |
| Linda Johnson..... | Dec 2 |
| Linnea Vogt..... | Dec 3 |
| George Czanko..... | Dec 3 |
| Neal Whitehurst..... | Dec 5 |
| Kris Welch..... | Dec 5 |
| Rick Joost..... | Dec 9 |
| Diane Hill..... | Dec 9 |
| Carol Stuckert..... | Dec 10 |
| Fran Murphy..... | Dec 10 |
| Al Herman..... | Dec 13 |
| Debora Stephenson..... | Dec 15 |
| Erica Bell..... | Dec 16 |
| Ted Nelson..... | Dec 22 |
| Norma Tipton..... | Dec 26 |
| Richard Caughey..... | Dec 26 |
| Alfred Miller..... | Dec 27 |
| Taniqua Jackson..... | Dec 29 |
| Judy Kargel..... | Dec 30 |
| Pat Wiesenauer..... | Dec 30 |
| Debra Louchart..... | Dec 31 |
| Patricia Swope..... | Dec 31 |



| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Linnea Vogt and David E Vogt,..... | Dec 15 (34 yrs.) |
| Lynn and Lynette Newman..... | Dec 29 (44 yrs.) |



Thank you to Rita and George Czanko who served for the month of November. Barbara and Alfred Miller will serve for the month of December. Thank you for your service to the Lord and Christ Lutheran Church.

Baptismal Birthday Blessing

(Leader reads:)

Loving God,

You created all the people of the world, and you know each of us by name. We thank you for *(Name)* who celebrates the anniversary of *his/her* baptism. Bless *him/her* with your love, that *he/she* may grow in wisdom, knowledge, and grace. May *he/she* love *his/her* family always, and be ever faithful to God. Grant this through Christ our Lord. (All:) **Amen**

(Place your hands on the person's head or shoulders.)

May God, in whose presence our ancestors walked, bless you (All:) **Amen**

May God, who has been your shepherd from birth until now, keep you. (All :) **Amen**

May God, who saves you from all harm, give you peace. (All:) **Amen and Amen**

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| Michael Simonds | Dec 1 |
| Yvonne Case | Dec 1 |
| Violet Zabel..... | Dec 3 |
| Shirley Lindstrom..... | Dec 8 |
| Judith Verbeke..... | Dec 10 |
| Blake Albright | Dec 18 |
| Neal Whitehurst..... | Dec 19 |
| Dawn Peters..... | Dec 26 |
| Lynn Newman..... | Dec 26 |
| Diana Moilanen..... | Dec 31 |
| Linnea Vogt..... | Dec 31 |



DON'T FORGET BAGS FOR TALBOT HOUSE —

Thank you to all of you who continue to support this ministry! Talbot House does extraordinary things to help the homeless. We are blessed to share in that ministry! Their doors are open to both men and women and they provide meals, shelter, & clothing, and direct them to medical care as needed. We collect offerings of canned goods-meat, vegetables, fruit, soup, paper goods-paper towels, toilet paper, napkins; cleaning supplies; soap-dishwashing, personal soap, laundry; toothbrushes & toothpaste. We also collect gently used clothes -free from stains, and have working zippers and buttons. There are especially marked baskets in the mail room at the back of the church to place your offerings. Our pickup day is the second Tuesday of every month. We also have a box on top of the table where you may place unused medicines, empty pill bottles, and unopened bottles of over the counter medicines. Talbot House uses the empty pill bottles to measure out soap and shampoo for the residents. Please remove labels from the empty bottles. Large containers of spices, flour, and sugar are real blessings.



From the Pastor.....

Each year, the “Cultural Christmas” season gets longer and longer. According to the church year calendar, Advent is a penitential time of fasting, prayer, reflecting sorrowfully over one’s sins, and the confession of those sins. According to the church year calendar, the joyous season of Christmas lasts December 25th through January 5th, culminating in the observance of Epiphany on January 6th. According to the church year calendar, a time feasting presupposes a time of fasting. According to the **cultural** calendar, Christmas lights replace Halloween decorations in early November. SiriusXM satellite music service started streaming and broadcasting 21 stations of Christmas and “holiday” music of 21 different musical genres starting November 5th. (SiriusXM only broadcasts Christmas music the first 2 of the 12 days of Christmas, leaving me quite disappointed). I am sure that some of my neighbors will be discarding their tree(s) the evening of the 25th.

Instead of lamenting how our culture has perverted the sacred Advent and Christmas seasons, I have learned to rejoice. I rejoice that our culture has said that it is okay to talk openly about Christ for close to two months! What an opportunity to share God’s Word of the real reason for the season (that actually starts December 25th): that the sinless Son of God emerged from Mary’s womb to live a life of loving service, culminating in a death that destroys the power of death, and a resurrection that announces to us victory. We have opportunities to share the “... good news of great joy that will be for all the people...” “... that the Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11) has been born into our world in desperate need of saving. Many who observe cultural Christmas have no idea who Jesus is and are very open to hearing the Truth. May the Lord put opportunities in place and words that you already know on your lips to share the Christmas story in its’ basic, transforming form.

Pastor Chris



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Resounding Psalms for Advent

In our sermon series for midweek Advent Vespers, we will be examining Psalms that point us to the gifts that the long hoped for Messiah would bring. All are welcome to prepare our hearts for Christmas each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

December 6th: Restore, Psalm 80

December 13th: Revived, Psalm 85

December 20th: Returned, Psalm 126

YOU'RE INVITED TO
Celebrate
CHRISTMAS WITH US

Christmas Eve
SUNDAY SERVICE

6:30 PM

Christmas Day

10 AM

Mary Martha



Mary Martha met on November 8th for our regularly monthly meeting. Mary Martha guild meets on every 2nd Wednesday at 9am in the Fellowship Hall from September to May. All women members of Christ Lutheran Church are welcome to join us.

In December, we will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall for our meeting and then go to the 1916 Irish Pub inside the Cleveland Heights Golf & County Club at 11:30am for our annual Christmas Luncheon. We will have our own room, but we will order off the menu, so prepare for around \$15-\$20 entrees and of course tip for our server. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex for the luncheon, just to give the restaurant a close number of attendees.

All women of Christ Lutheran Church are invited to attend our Christmas Luncheon regardless of your attendance to our meetings.

Mary -Martha will have their 2nd Annual ornament collection box in the entry to the Fellowship Hall beginning December 3rd. We can't wait to place your ornaments on our beautiful new tree in the Fellowship Hall. Please make sure your family name is on the ornament! The tree goes up on November 28th!

Save the dates for these upcoming events!

Church Rummage sale- January 20th, if enough volunteers are available

Ladies Fashion show- February 10th - details to follow

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Looking for Christ Lutheran in social media? Check us out at our website: www.clclakeland.org
Feel free to leave comments! We are also on Facebook at: Christ Lutheran Church Lakeland-LCMS. Please like, follow, and share on your Facebook page. You may also leave comments on our Facebook page.

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Our February Mary- Martha meeting date will be moved up one week to February 7th from February 14th due to the 14th being Ash Wednesday

Our Spring luncheon will be held on March 14th

Purse and accessories sale- March 10th during Fellowship- details on collection of donations to follow in the new year.

Winter Haven Zone Rally will be on April 13th, here at Christ Lutheran

Mary Martha Recipe Collection! We have done a preliminary “look see,” at the recipes collected thus far. We would appreciate your submission of more! It is very clear that Christ Lutheran LOVES desserts! Keep the desserts coming, but we would appreciate some more entrees, casseroles, main dishes, sides, but breads and drinks are in very short supply.

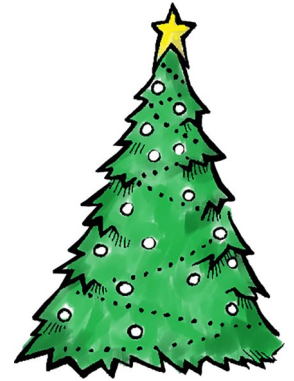
We really love recipes that you have made that are tried and true and especially recipes handed down in your family! If you want to share a sentence or two about the origins of your recipe, please feel free to submit it! We would like to wind down our collection within the next few months, so please submit as soon as you can. If you would like to email, send your recipes to Belinda Freer; johnjuke2@aol.com or Rita Czanko; ritaczanko@yahoo.com

In His Service

Charlotte Mantz

Angel Tree

We once again will have an Angel Tree for the children who live at the Lighthouse Ministries. The tree will be put up in the Narthex on Tuesday, November 28th and a representative from the Outreach committee will be available after service on December 3rd and 4th to answer any questions you may have. Each child will have two requests on the tree. We ask that you take a tag and then sign your name on the sheet located on the outreach bulletin board (the one by the water fountain). There will be a box placed by that bulletin board to receive your UNWRAPPED gift with the name tag attached. We leave the gifts unwrapped so that the moms can do the wrapping. We will also have tags on the tree for monetary donations, wrapping paper, and scotch tape. We ask that you return the gifts by December 14th. The Outreach Committee will then sort the gifts for each child, and put them in a separate bag for delivery to Lighthouse. The Outreach Committee gives each child a Bible or Bible story book with their name engraved-if possible-as a gift from Christ Lutheran Church. Thank you to all who participate!



2024 Flower Chart

The new Flower Chart will be posted in the Narthex starting in November. 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, please call me.

Barbara Miller 863-858-5790

Reformation Meal Committee

I would personally like to thank the Reformation Meal Committee who started meeting in July to plan for October 29th, as well as all of the members who volunteered to help! You folks are great and were a pleasure to work with! Blessings you all are!

Charlotte Mantz

Chair

Stewardship

Jesus, the Light



Are you waiting for something that seems to be too long in coming? Maybe it's a job promotion or a raise. Maybe it's just employment of any kind! Perhaps you've been praying for someone's salvation, and you don't see any sign of God's working in that person. It's difficult to wait. People in Jesus' day were waiting for a Messiah. It seemed, to many, that His coming was long overdue, but Paul writes in Galatians 4:4-5, "*When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.*" Our waiting is over! The Light has come into the world!

Simeon was one who knew that "*the time had fully come,*" and "*moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts*" (Luke 2:27). There he saw the Child whose parents brought him there to fulfill what the Law required of them. Simeon knew Jesus was the light. He proclaimed, "*For my eyes have seen Your salvation...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel*" (Luke 2:30, 32).

Unfortunately, not all who were waiting for the Messiah recognized Him when He came. In John 1:4-5 we read, "*In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*" Still today the darkness misunderstands the Light. Yet He continues to shine, and, as He shines, He dispels darkness.

And He calls upon us to shine also. Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, described a lamp that is put on a stand so that it lights up the whole house. Then He said, "*In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven*" (Matthew 5:16).

The only way to dispel darkness is to fill it with light. As stewards, it is our joyous task to be reflections of Christ's light. So we are "*prepared in season and out of season: [we] correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction*" (2 Timothy 4:2). *We are always prepared "to give an answer to everyone who ask [us] to give the reason for the hope that [we] have."* And we do so "*with gentleness and respect keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak*

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maliciously against [our] good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander” (1 Peter 3:15-16). In this way we proclaim that the waiting is over! Jesus, the Light has come into the world!

As the Christmas season approaches, here at Christ Lutheran Church, there will be many opportunities to “let your light shine”. Sanctuary decorating, Angel Tree participation, greeters, ushers, and many other ways that are more “behind the scenes” such as money counters, altar guild assistance, soundboard and video assistance, etc. We ask that you thoughtfully consider which way best fits your abilities to serve your Lord and His church; and if you find that your “light” has dimmed lately, find a way to brighten it for His glory! Thank you to all those that are giving their time and talents, and yes even their treasures here at Christ Lutheran Church. You are truly letting your light shine!

Have a blessed Christmas Season!

In Christ,

Kim Kaniecki



Merry Christmas



Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting in a Nutshell
By Robin Fox, Council Secretary, November 13, 2023



Treasure: Jon Lindstrom

For the month of October our actual performance is at a positive ----- compared to budgeted amounts. For YTD our actual performance is at a negative ----- compared to the budgeted amounts. There was one noteworthy income item this month, Thrivent Mutual Fund 3rd quarter dividend. There was one noteworthy expense item this month, Ronnie's Carpets & Flooring.

Our undedicated bank funds are ----- . The Stewardship reports our total church income is about **14.6%** higher this year than in 2022 at the end of October.

Pastor Report: Pastor Christopher Hazzard

The Holiday Service Schedule is as follows:

December 6th, 13th, and 20th Advent Services at 6:30 p.m.

Dec 23rd 5:30 Advent 4

December 24th 10:00 a.m. Advent 4

December 24th 6:30 p.m. Christmas Eve

December 25th 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day

December 30th 5:30 p.m. 1st Sunday after Christmas

December 31st 10:00 a.m. 1st Sunday after Christmas

(No New Year's Eve evening service)

January 6th 5:30 p.m. Epiphany

January 7th 10:00 a.m. The Baptism of our Lord

President: John Freer

New council officers

Budget approval

Contracting an outside accountant to fill the treasure position. We greatly appreciate Jon Lindstrom serving as council treasure for the last eight years. **Thank you, Jon Lindstrom for your many years and hours and efforts!**

The council made a motion to approve the accountant. It will need to be voted on by the congregation.

Tammy Street's resume was given to review. Jon Lindstrom and I have met with her on three different occasions discussing the treasure position and responsibility.

The Nomination committee has completed their search to fill the vacancies on council and elders. The ballots for the open council positions will be given to the congregation to vote on December 3rd. The Youth director, Treasurer, and Stewardship positions still have not been filled.

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Vice President: Ted Nelson

Nothing to report.

Christian Education: Annie Smith

Nothing to report.

Board of Elders: Carlos Orellana

Nothing to report.

Stewardship: Kim Kaniecki

The Board of Stewardship met on the 4th Sunday of October and discussed having one more celebration dinner for ALL the new members to Christ Lutheran in 2023. We would like to have a big celebration on Sunday Dec.10th after the service. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy Publix fried chicken, cake and side dishes. Let's make our new members feel welcome!

Board of Outreach: Blake Albright

Block Party review.

Angel Tree for Lighthouse. I will be getting the names this week.

Reformation Fellowship donations will go to LCRF as was discussed last month.

Senior Orphans got three weeks of Fellowship donations.

November Freewill offering will go to One More Child.

Seminary student, Caleb Wehling, will be sending him a Christmas card/gift ----.

Board of Communications: Kris Welch

MABE will be coming Thursday 11/16/23 to do the work needed to run the camera again in the choir loft.

Trustee Report: Sandy Spanier

Misc. maintenance

Maintenance on A/C in Fellowship Hall

Helped with the block party & Reformation service & dinner.

Turned all clocks back.

The new flooring was completed in the offices today, November 13th.

Youth Board:

The youth had an educational and fun-filled weekend at the Youth Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Fox

Central America Missions December 2023



Now that we are approaching the end of the year it is time to think retrospectively and review our results. A lot has been done this year: five surgical missions in total plus the shipments to the orphanages and medical supplies. Next year I will keep track of the number of pounds we sent for orphanages and medical supplies, but I know we had a very productive year.

We did a surgical mission to Guatemala, three missions to Honduras, and one to Nepal. We still have a Christmas shipment to do this year. I also hope to be able to send financial donations to the kids and elderly orphanages so they can celebrate with a Christmas dinner.

The surgeries we do are performed by qualified professionals mostly from the United States and some local like in the case of Nepal. The people we serve are certainly the under privileged. Their government doesn't provide care for them, and they are unable to pay for their care.

We also help the orphanages for kids and the elderly. Unfortunately, Honduras also experiences the abandonment of the elderly. We work to support Catholic Nuns who run these charities. The kids orphanages are supervised or run by the Franciscan Friars. They run the orphanages with the purpose to reintegrate the kids to a safe environment and make them productive members of society.

I foresee increasing our work next year. There is always something new to learn, and our system is improving, making us more efficient at what we do. Keep our mission in your prayers. Thank you Christ Lutheran for your support to the Central American Mission.

Carlos Orellana

Recent shipments sent to Honduras. Each box is around 250 lbs.



More pictures on page 16



Mixing with the locals in Dhankuta, Nepal.



Surgery in progress, Dhankuta



A traditional Nepali farewell.



Local leaders expressing their appreciation.