## Second Sunday in Advent December 10, 2023

**As We Gather** - In ancient days, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah to comfort His people with the assurance of pardon and a joyful return to their home. After the time of exile, He Himself would restore them, renew them, and return them to the land He had promised them on oath to their forefathers. As He was with His ancient followers, so He is with us. Our God is for us, not against us! In the mercy of our advent King, Jesus Christ, who came once and who will surely come again, we rejoice in His goodness and gather to receive all that He seeks to give.

**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.

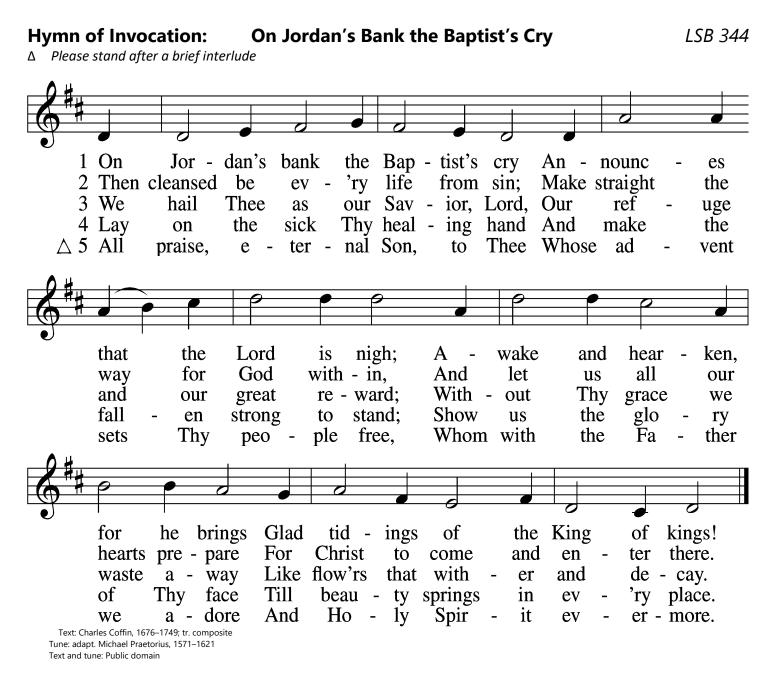
# **GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.**

**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**



Remain Standing

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

- 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.

- **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.

C Amen.

# Service of the Word

## Introit

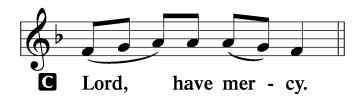
- Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. You brought a vine out of Egypt; it took deep root and filled the land.
- Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- 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.
   Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

## Kyrie

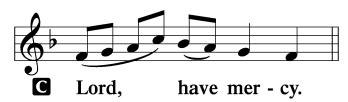
**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



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.



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.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; 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**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together,

Isaiah 40:1–11

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it: surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

## **C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–14

<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

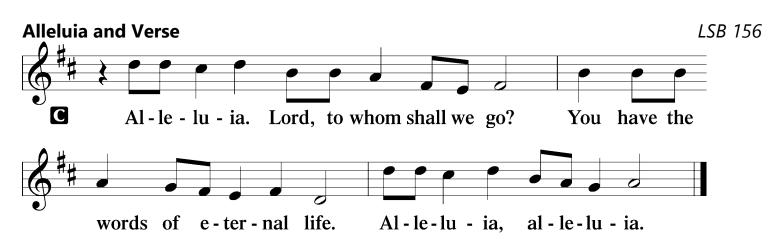
<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! <sup>13</sup>But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.



Stand



## **Holy Gospel**

Mark 1:1-8

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



<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way,

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

- 'Prepare the way of the Lord,
- make his paths straight,"

<sup>4</sup>John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.





Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

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Text (sts. 1, 4) and tune: Public domain

#### Sermon:

#### "Heralds of the Gospel" Isaiah 40:1–11

#### Stand

#### Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all С 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 He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again Pilate. 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**

Sit

#### **Confirmation/Reception of New Members**

Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "Comfort My People"

# Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only)

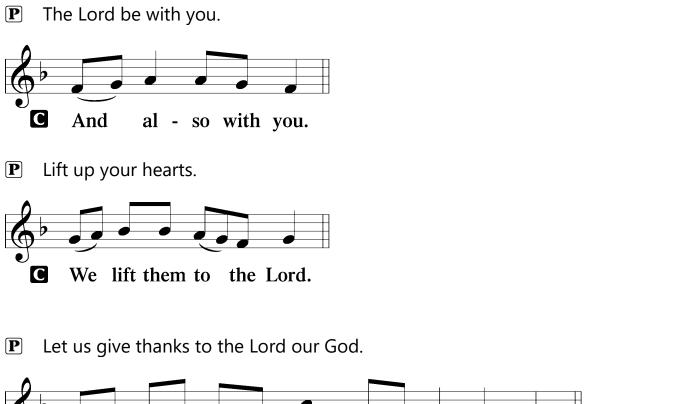
**Registry of Worship Cards (Sunday Only)** – Please pass your completed cards to the center aisle.

Stand

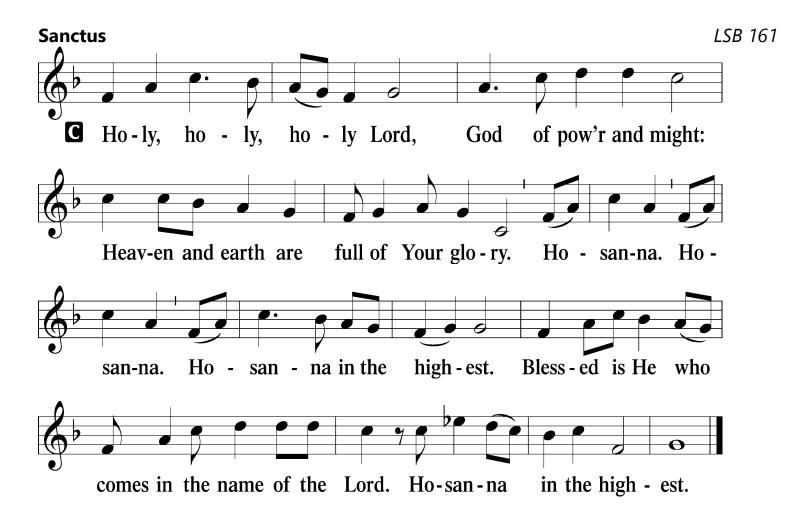
### Service of the Sacrament

LSB 160

## Preface



- 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

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.

#### **G** 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

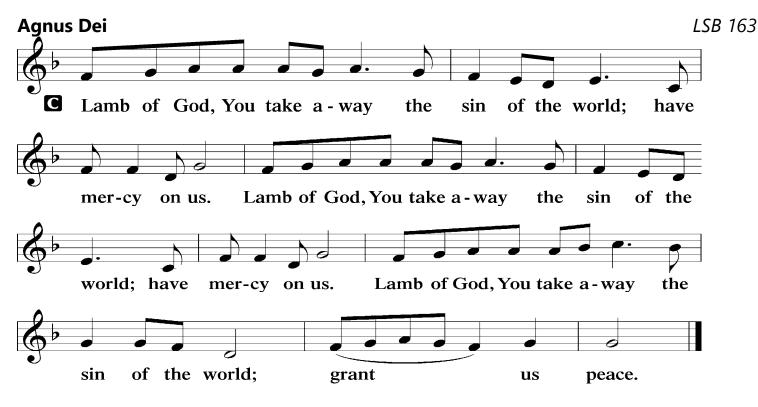
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the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





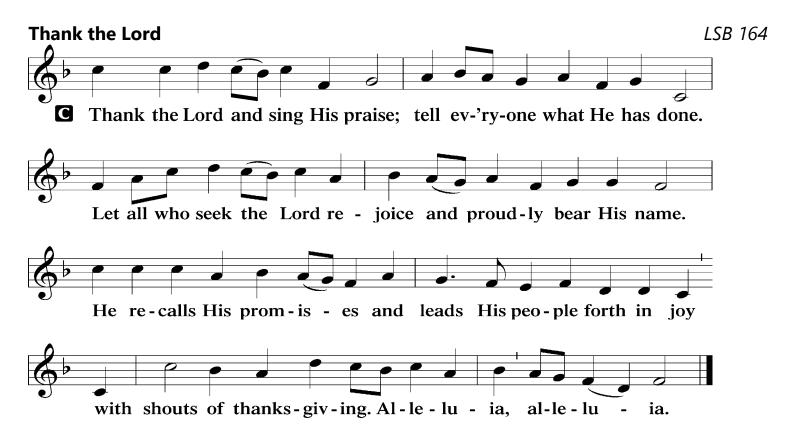
Sit

Stand

#### **Distribution:**

**Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)** 

LSB 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People LSB 594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



#### **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.



# 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 r give you peace.





#### **Postlude:**

#### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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# LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska

# Saturday

Elder	Steve Rosane
Lector	Rick Smith/Gerie Slaten
Audio	Lee Crapo/Robin Fox/Taniqua Jackson

# Sunday

Elder	Lee Crapo
Lector	
Greeter	
Audio	Kyle Welch
Video	Video TD: Kris Welch
	GFX/ Stream: Robin Fox
Altar Guild	Barbara and Alfred Miller

## LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP <u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska
Elder	Carlos Orellana
Lector	Kim Kaniecki
Greeter	Pat Hurd
Audio	Maria Hazzard
Video	Video TD: Kris Welch
	GFX: / Stream: Robin Fox
Altar Guild	Barbara and Alfred Miller

# ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship Attendance	
Sunday Worship Attendance	100
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings	
Simply Giving/Vanco	\$0
Paypal Offerings	\$0
Website (ShareFaith)	\$0
Total of Offerings Received	\$0
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts	\$0

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH-** Advent II – John the Baptist prophesied the Gospel of the Kingdom that with Jesus' blessing is always coming (Mark 1:7-8). Even during surprise pregnancy or terminal diagnosis, He is not slow to keep His promises. Instead, He acts patiently, not wishing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Aren't we crying out about it as this generation's voice in the wilderness (Mark 1:3)?

**FLOWER SPONSOR –** No Flower Sponsor this week.

**BULLETIN SPONSOR** – No Bulletin sponsor this week.

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR (SUNDAY)** – Team 5 is serving today; team 6 will serve next week. Everyone is invited. There is no charge and a freewill offering is voluntary.

**NEW MEMBER RECEPTION** *(SUNDAY)* – Today, Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, during Fellowship Hour, we will recognize all the members that joined our congregation this year.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MONDAYS** – The Church Office will be closed this Monday and each Monday in the month of December.

**MARY MARTHA MEETING** – The Mary Martha's will meet this Wednesday at 9:30 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

**MARY MARTHA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** – All ladies of the congregation are invited to the Mary Martha Christmas Luncheon at 11:30 on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the 1916 Irish Pub inside Cleveland Heights Golf & Country Club. We will order from the menu with \$15 -\$20 entrees, plus tip. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

**ANGEL TREE** –Outreach has the Angel Tree for the children at Lighthouse Ministries. The tree will have the names of the children and the gifts requested. Please bring the UNWRAPPED gifts – with the tag attached - in by December 14<sup>th</sup>, and place in the marked box in the Narthex. **RUMMAGE SALE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** - There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for help with the rummage sale on January 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 today, December 10<sup>th</sup>, we will not be able to hold the sale! Thanks so much! Mary-Martha.

**COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEETING** – The Communications Board will meet next Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, after service.

**CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES** –Christmas Eve service will be at 6:30 PM and on Christmas Day at 10 AM.

**CAROLING IN THE COURTYARD** - There will be Caroling in the Courtyard on Christmas Eve at 5:30 before our 6:30 service. Refreshments will be served.

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS** - Mary Martha has their 2<sup>nd</sup> annual ornament collection box in the entry to the Fellowship Hall for the tree in the Fellowship Hall. Please write your family name on the ornament and place in the box.

**SATURDAY LECTORS NEEDED** – If you would be willing to volunteer to serve as a lector during the Saturday Service, please contact the church office at 682-7802.

**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.

**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 - 2 Peter 3:11 – "Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?"** All the things of the earth have an expiration date: "Good until the last day." On that day, all these things will be dissolved. The things that seem so important now will simply cease to be. Peter issues this to us as a challenge: Since this is so, what kind of life should we be living? What should your priorities be? On things? Or on the things of God?

# THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Monday	Church Office Closed
	Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Tuesday	Trustee Workday @ 9 am
	Quilters @ 10 am
Wednesday	Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran
	Mary Martha Meeting @ 9:30 am/Luncheon @ 11:30am
	Private Communion @ 1:30 – 2:30 pm
	Mid-week Advent Service @ 6:30 pm
	Jr. Confirmation
	Choir
Thursday	In Person & Zoom Bible Study @ 10 am
Friday	Church Office closed, Pastor's Day Off
Saturday	Bible Study @ 4 pm
	Worship @ 5:30 pm
Sunday	Bible Study @ 8:30 am
	Worship Service @ 10 am
	Bible Study @ 11:15 am
	Communications Board Meeting