

## Fourth Sunday in Advent December 24, 2023

**As We Gather** - Advent is the season of waiting! Soon and very soon our waiting and planning for Christmas celebrations will come to their close, and we will rejoice in Christ's coming to save us. Such waiting and planning for Christmas can also guide us as we prepare for Christ's final advent, His ultimate coming, when He returns on the Last Day. Until that glorious Day, when all portions of God's plan for our salvation will be accomplished, we are blessed with the peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Such peace is an amazing gift that the Lord gave to the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, when she received God's Word from the angel Gabriel and then carried our salvation in her womb, delivering Jesus into the world. "Let it be to me according to your word," she said (Luke 1:38). May we say the same as we gather this day and, like Mary, receive the peace that God alone can 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

Hymn of Invocation:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven  
Text and tune: Public domain

*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.

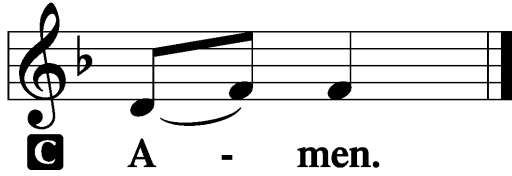
**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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



**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Sit*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"" <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

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

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

## Epistle

Romans 16:25–27

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.


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

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

Stand

## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26–38

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



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be

afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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



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

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day:**

**Once He Came in Blessing**

*LSB 333*



1	Once	He	came	in	bles -	ing,	All	our	sins	re -
2	Now	He	gent -	ly	leads	us;	With	Him -	self	He
3	Soon	will	come	that	hour	_____	When	with	might -	y
4	Come,	then,	O	Lord	Je -	sus,	From	our	sins	re -



dress -	ing;	Came	in	like -	ness	low -	ly,
feeds	us	Pre -	cious	food	from	heav -	en,
pow -	er	Christ	will	come	in	splen -	dor
lease	us.	Keep	our	hearts	be -	liev -	ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

Text (sts. 2–3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000852

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

**Sermon:**

**“The Holy Child”  
 Luke 1:26–38**

*Stand*

**Nicene Creed**

**☩ 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

Sit

**Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**  
**Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only)**

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

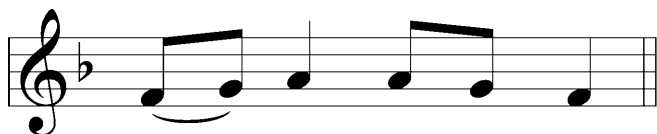
Stand

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 160

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so 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.

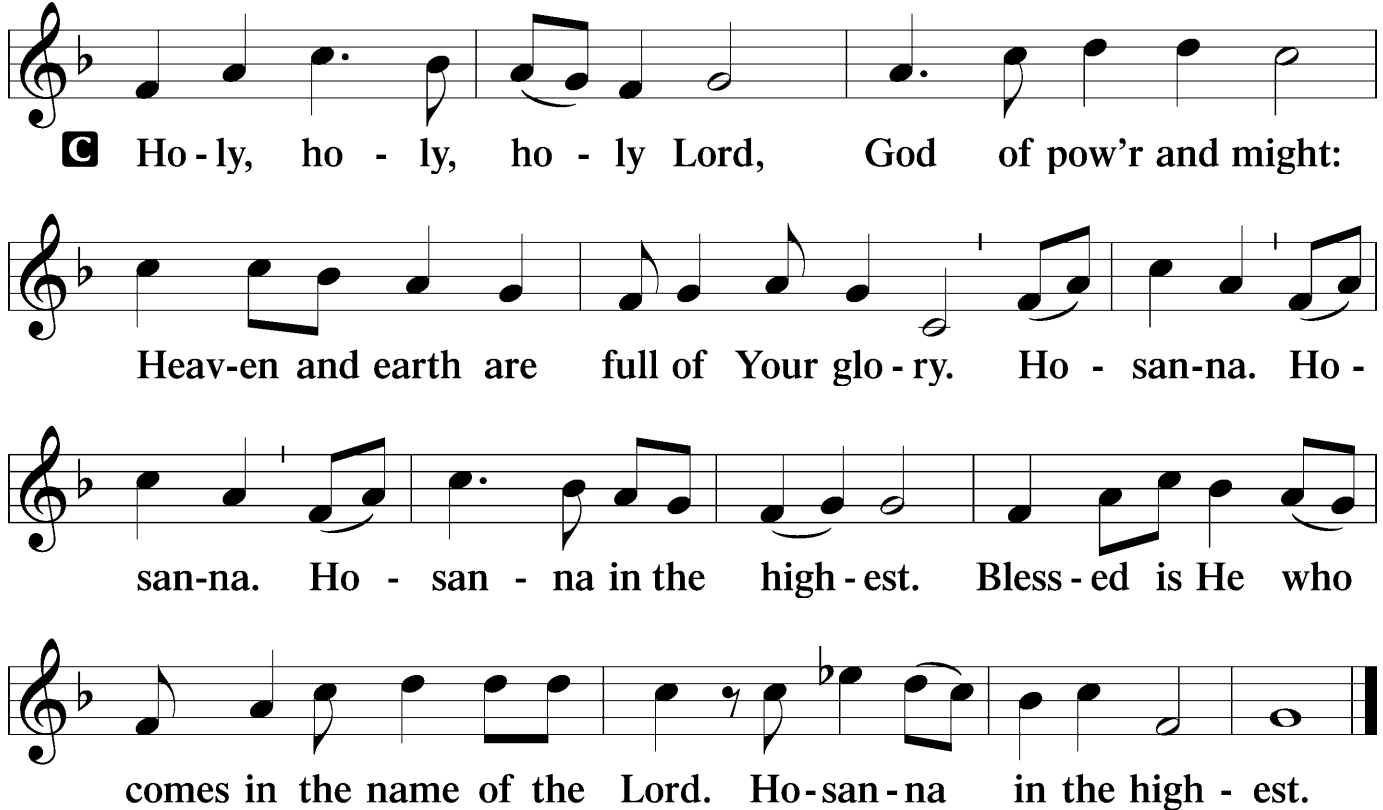
**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the 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:

### 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

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.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Pax Domini

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

**Agnus Dei**

LSB 163

**G** 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.

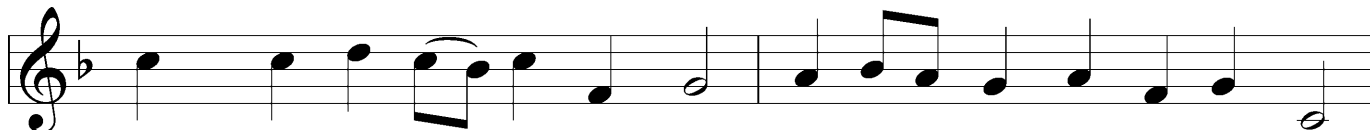
Sit

**Distribution:**

***Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)***

LSB 809 **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

LSB 332 **Savior of the Nations, Come** sts. 1-7

**Thank the Lord**

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



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



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



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

**Post-Communion Collect****(Saturday)**

**P** Let us pray together.

**C** 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** A - men.

**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** A - men.

**Closing Hymn:**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

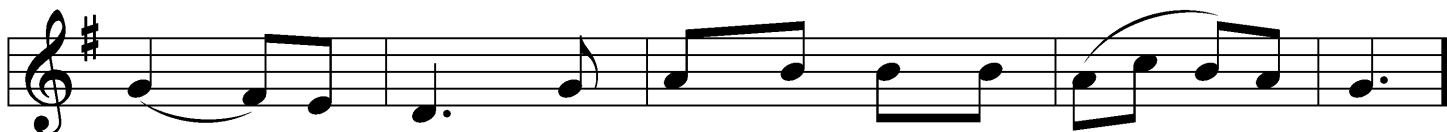
LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

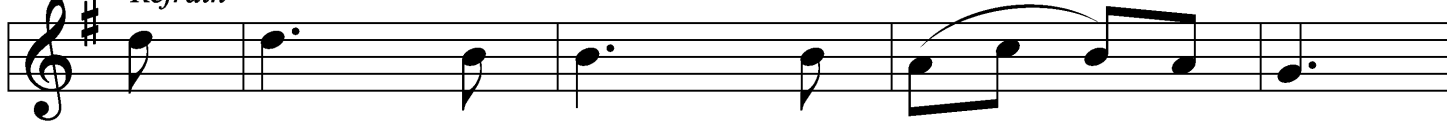


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

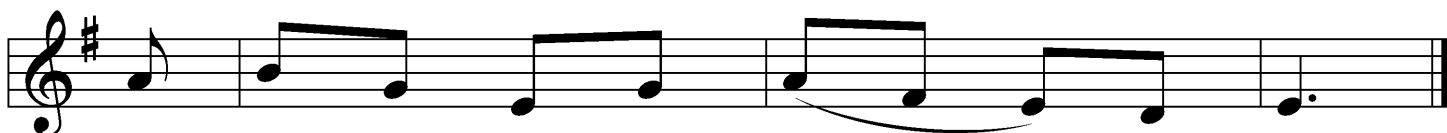


ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*Verse 5, 6, & 7 on next page*

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Tune: French, 15th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude:

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## **LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY**

**Pastor** ..... Pastor 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** ..... Carlos Orellana

**Greeter** .....

**Audio** ..... Kyle Welch

**Video** ..... Video TD: Kris Welch

GFX/ Stream: Robin Fox

**Altar Guild** ..... Barbara and Alfred Miller

## **LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY**

<b>Pastor</b> .....	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
<b>Organist</b> .....	Elena Miraztchyska
<b>Elder</b> .....	Steve Rosane
<b>Lector</b> .....	George Czanko
<b>Greeter</b> .....	Robert and Cheryl Langanke
<b>Audio</b> .....	Maria Hazzard
<b>Video</b> .....	Video TD: Kris Welch GFX: / Stream: Robin Fox
<b>Altar Guild</b> .....	Barbara and Alfred Miller

## **ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK**

Mid-Week Advent December 13 .....	37
Saturday Worship Attendance .....	19
Sunday Worship Attendance .....	96
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings .....	\$0
Simply Giving/Vanco .....	\$0
Paypal Offerings .....	\$0
Website (ShareFaith) .....	\$0
<b>Total of Offerings Received</b> .....	\$0
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts .....	\$0

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH- Advent IV/Christmas Eve** – Almighty God has profound interest and investment in childbearing and childrearing (2 Samuel 7:12; Luke 1:31). He has made this relationship and vocation central to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every mother and father, every son or daughter embodies the love of the Lord for humankind. While abortion attempts to conceal the realities, our sanctity-of-life advocacy gets to reveal this delightful mystery (Romans 16:25).

**FLOWER SPONSOR** – Barbara Miller, in celebration of Alfred Miller’s 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

**BULLETIN SPONSOR** – Henry and Judy Veal are the Bulletin Sponsors this week.

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR (SUNDAY)** – No Fellowship Hour this Sunday or next Sunday.

**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.

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED MONDAYS** – The Church Office will be closed this Monday and next Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Day.

**MARY MARTHA QUILTERS** – The Mary Martha Quilters will be taking a short break until after New Year's. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 AM.

**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.

**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](mailto: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 - Luke 2:12 – “And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”** Truly, as St. Paul said, He who was rich for our sakes became poor. The King was laid in a manger, no crib for His bed! There in the manger is the very picture of self-giving generosity.

### THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Monday.....Christmas Day Service @ 10 am  
Church Office Closed

Tuesday .....Trustee Workday @ 9 am  
**NO** Quilters

Wednesday.....Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran  
Private Communion @ 1:30 – 2:30 pm  
**No** Jr. Confirmation  
Choir @ 7pm

Thursday .....In Person & Zoom Bible Study @ 10 am  
Paper Pumpkin Club @ 6:30 pm

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