The Epiphany of Our Lord January 6, 2023 Look Here! Hear!

As We Gather - The Twelve Days of our Christmas celebration have come to an end. But the miraculous birth of the Son of God is only the beginning of the story. For though Jesus came as the fulfillment of all the promises to God's chosen people Israel, the promise to Abraham was clear that by his seed "all the families of the earth" would be blessed (Genesis 12:3). This is the mystery Paul speaks of in Ephesians 3, how "the Gentiles are fellow heirs . . . of the promise in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 3:6). Anything hidden remains a mystery until it is revealed. No one, Jew or Gentile, can come to faith in Christ without the Gospel being revealed. Another word for "reveal" is "epiphany." So today Matthew uses the word "behold," showing what may seem a surprise to some. "Behold, wise men from the east" (Matthew 2:1). "Behold, the star that they had seen" (Matthew 2:9). Today we say, behold, Christmas is a much bigger thing than many have thought. It encompasses nothing less than all our Lord's earthly ministry culminating in His suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit. It is nothing less than the gift of salvation to all who believe. This epiphany has invaded your darkness through the water and the Word of your Holy Baptism, through the Word of God preached in your hearing, and through the receiving of our Lord's very body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar to sustain that gift, that epiphany of faith to the end of days. By faith you have made a very good beginning.

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.

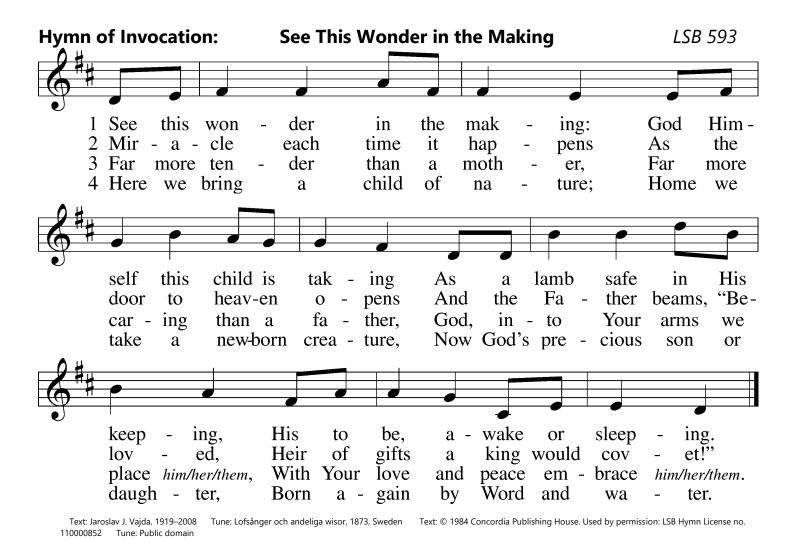
GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.

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)

PREPARATION



Invocation

- $lap{P}$ In the name of the Father and of the $lap{H}$ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 43:4; 124:8

- P I will go to the altar of God,
- **G** to God my exceeding joy.
- P Our help is in the name of the LORD,
- who made heaven and earth.

Holy Baptism page 268



Verses 5 & 6 on next page

- O let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 Our voices gladly blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way—
 Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out! Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Great is He, the King of Glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past,
 The Lord we love is first and last,
 The end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 Transport us to that happy place
 Beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen! Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
 For the day of Your returning!

Text: tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000852 Tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

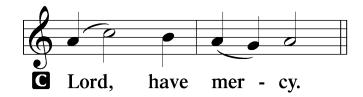
- P I confess to almighty God,
- before all the company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word, and deed through my fault, through my own fault, through my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray almighty God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, His Son, to have mercy on me, forgive me my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.
- Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
 → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

Kyrie LSB 168

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



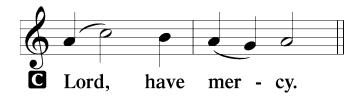
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



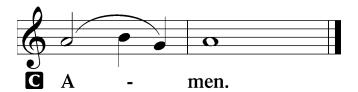
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



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.



Gloria in Excelsis LSB 170 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. \mathbf{A} heav - en - ly king, al - might - y Lord God, God and C We wor - ship You, Fa - ther: give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Lord Son of the Fa - ther, God, Lamb of God: You of the world; take a-way the sin have mer сy on You are seat ed at the right hand of the us. For You Fa-ther; re - ceive our prayer. a-lone are the Ho - ly One, You a-lone are the Lord, You a-Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, lone are the ry of God the Fa-ther. in the glo -A men.

Salutation

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

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

Psalm

Psalm 72:1–11; antiphon: v. 18

P Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Give the king Your justice, O God, and Your righteousness to the royal son!

May He judge Your people with righteousness, and Your poor with justice!

- Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!
- May He defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!
- May they fear You while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!
- In His days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- May He have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!
- May desert tribes bow down before Him and His enemies lick the dust!
- May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render Him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!
- May all kings fall down before Him, all nations serve Him!
- 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.

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Epistle Ephesians 3:1–12

¹For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
²assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.
⁴When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to

his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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

Holy Gospel Matthew 2:1–12

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

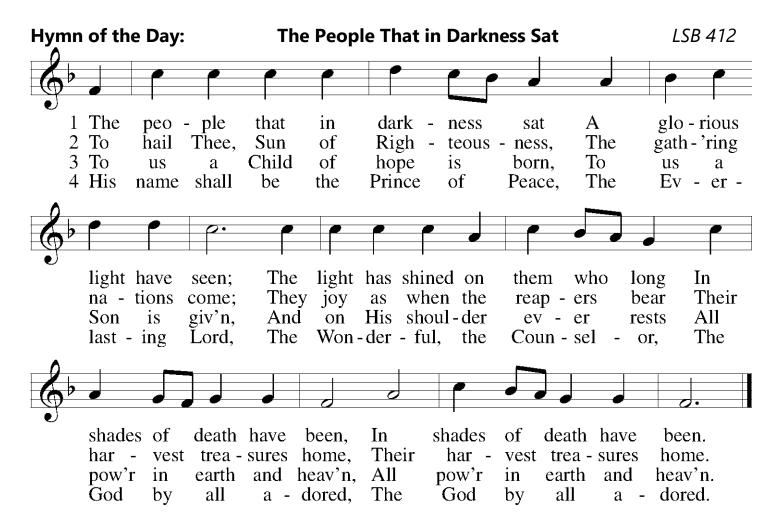
¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and

frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.



- His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
 On judgment and on justice based, His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.
- △ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
 And make us Thine alone,
 Who with the Father ever art
 And Holy Spirit, one,
 And Holy Spirit, one.

Sermon: "Joy to the World" Matthew 2:1–12

Choir Anthem: "We Three Kings" Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings

Prayer of the Church

- P O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God of our fathers in faith, and God of light, we praise You and give You thanks, above all for revealing Your gracious will of salvation through the lamp of Your Word, through the light of Your Christ. In Jesus, the light of Your salvation has shone in the hearts of people of all nations. Hear our prayers for the life and salvation of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- P Gracious Lord, as the star spread the news of Your Son's birth over distant lands, so make Your Church and her people to be a shining witness of the Gospel of salvation to all people, both near and far. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Extend Your reign, O Christ, over the whole earth so that oppression may be transformed to freedom and justice. Give wisdom to those who lead. Grant that they rule justly and with wisdom, according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Lord Jesus, bless all those who are ill, injured, or in mourning, [<u>especially . . .</u>]. Fill them with the assurance of Your promises and grant that we may be of help and encouragement to them. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Lord, accept our humble praise and thanksgiving for the blessings given to our brothers and sisters who rejoice this week, [especially . . .]. We acknowledge You as the source of all goodness and magnify Your name with all the gifts You give. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.

- P Savior of the nations, we thank You for the blessed memory of those who have died in the faith whom You have gathered into Your heavenly kingdom. Grant that we always look to the future with hope and confidence in the reunion that is ours when You transport us to that glorious place that is beyond all tears and sinning. Lord, in Your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.
- C Amen.

SACRAMENT

Preface LSB 177

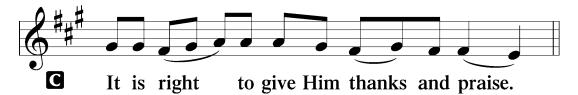
P The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.

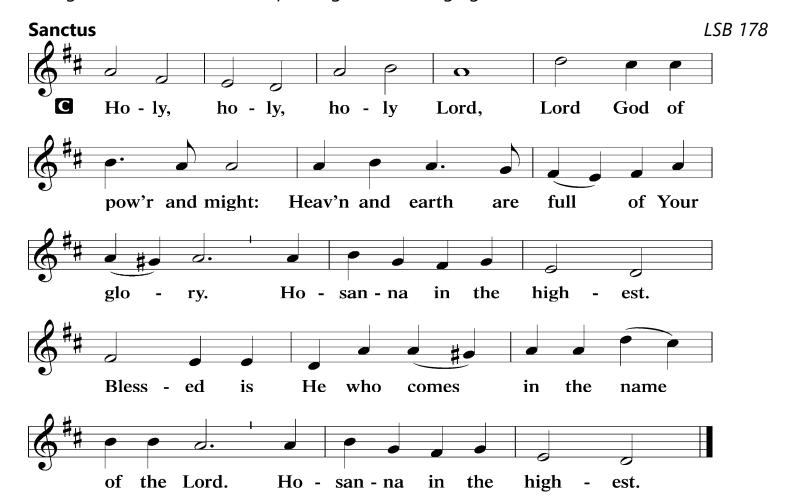


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your 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

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."

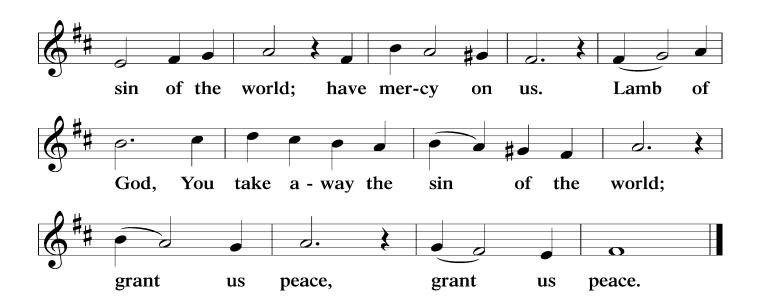
Proclamation of Christ

- 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.
- 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:

Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

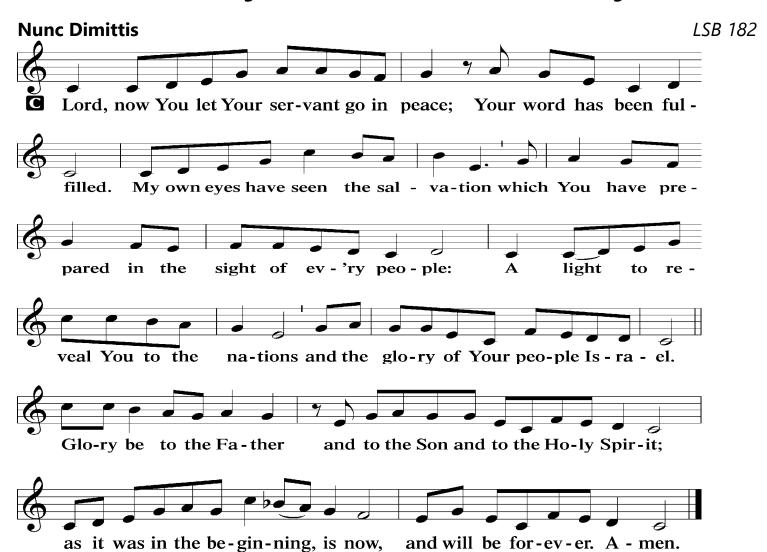




Distribution:

Distribution Hymns

LSB 397 As with Gladness Men of Old LSB 400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning



Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- 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.

Benediction LSB 183

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.





- 1 Songs of thank ful ness and praise, Je sus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
- 2 Man i fest at Jor-dan's stream, Proph-et, Priest, and King su-preme;
- 3 Man i fest in mak-ing whole Pal sied limbs and faint ing soul;
- 4 Sun and moon shall dark-ened be, Stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
- 5 Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Pres ent in Thy ho ly Word—



Man - i - fest - ed by the To the sa - ges from a - far, star Thy God-head man - i - fest; at Ca - na wed - ding guest In And Man - i - fest in val - iant fight, Ouell - ing all dev - il's might; the Christ will then like light - ning shine, glo-rious sign; All will see His Grace to im - i - tate Thee now And pure art Thou; be pure, as



Branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem In Thy birth Beth - le - hem: at Man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, in - to wine; Chang - ing wa - ter Man - i - fest in gra - cious will, er bring-ing good from ill; Ev will then the trum - pet hear, will see the Judge ap-pear; All All we might be-come like Thee Thy great e - piph - a - ny That At



An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

An - thems be to Thee ad-dressed, God in man made man - i - fest.

Thou by all wilt be con-fessed, God in man made man - i - fest.

And may praise Thee, ev - er blest, God in man made man - i - fest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–85, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–93 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude:

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.
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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/Stacey Orellana
Audio	Lee Crapo/Robin Fox/Taniqua Jackson

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship Attendance	28
Sunday Worship Attendance	100

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH- Epiphany I/Baptism of Our Lord – Nothing and nobody comes into existence apart from the will and the Word of the Lord God Almighty (Genesis 1:3). This means God desires the survival of every human life from fertilization to forever. We court great danger if we go against this intent or counsel others to do so (Psalm 29:7-8). Instead let us receive neighbors as blessings and enjoy our Father's favor (Mark 1:11)!

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

COUNCIL MEETING – There will be a Council Meeting this Monday, January 8th at 6:30 pm.

NEW MEMBER CLASS - Starting Tuesday, January 9th, at 6PM during the month of January 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TAKE DOWN DECORATIONS – Volunteers are needed to help with taking down the Christmas decorations. We will meet at 9 AM this Tuesday, January 9th. Any help would be appreciated.

MARY MARTHA MEETING – Mary Martha's' will meet this Wednesday, January 10th, at 9 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

PAPER PUMPKIN CLUB – The Paper Pumpkin Club is disbanding as of January 1. We will no longer be meeting at CLC in the Fellowship Hall on the 4th Thursday. You can still continue receiving the kit as long as you want. Call Carol if you have questions at 863-660-2426.

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.

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 - Isaiah 60:6 – "They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD." Faith in God moves the heart toward thanksgiving, which moves us toward making offerings to the Lord in His house. It's simply what Christians do: Our thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us simply must overflow into sacrificial giving to the Lord. What Isaiah prophesied, the Wise Men did, and we still do today: we give with a thankful heart.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Trustee Workday @ 9 am
Take down Christmas Decorations @ 9 am
Quilters @ 10 am
New Member Class @ 6 pm
Mary Martha Meeting @ 9 am
Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran
Private Communion @ 1:30 – 2:30 pm
Jr. Confirmation @ 7 pm
Choir @ 7pm
In Person & Zoom Bible Study @ 10 am
Church Office closed, Pastor's Day Off
Bible Study @ 4 pm
Worship @ 5:30 pm
Bible Study @ 8:30 am
Worship Service @ 10 am
Bible Study @ 11:15 am