

Psalm 51:6

The Christogram

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

January, 2024
Volume 62 Issue 1



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website page.

Christ Lutheran Church
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863-682-7802

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Vice-President Dawn Peters
Secretary Robin Fox
Treasurer
Finance Secretary Emma Block
Christian Ed Rita Czanko
Outreach & Missions Blake Albright
Stewardship Kim Kaniecki
Trustees Sandy Spanier
Youth Group
Communications Kris Welch

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Carlos Orellana (Head)
Lee Crapo
George Czanko
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

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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 January

January 7

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

January 14

Elder..... Lee Crapo
Lector.....
Greeters
Audio..... Maria Hazzard
Video..... Video TD: Kris Welch
GFX/Stream: Robin Fox

January 21

Elder..... Keith Kallstrom
Lector..... Kim Kaniecki
Greeters
Audio..... Kyle Welch
Video..... Video TD: Kris Welch
GFX/Stream: Robin Fox

January 28

Elder..... Fred Sterns
Lector.....
Greeters
Audio..... Maria Hazzard
Video..... Video TD: Kris Welch
GFX/Stream: Robin Fox

ALTAR GUILD SERVICES

Debbie and Rick Smith

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP @ 5:30 PM

Elder..... Lee Crapo/Steve Rosane(1/13)
Lector..... Rick Smith/Gerie Slaten
Audio..... Lee Crapo/Robin Fox/Taniqua Jackson



JANUARY

Christ Lutheran Church

2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd

Phone: 863-682-7802

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>1 Church Office Closed</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	<p>2 Trustee WD 9a Quilters@ 10a</p> <p>Outreach @ 5:30p</p>	<p>3 Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p No Jr. Conf</p> <p>Choir @7p</p>	<p>4 Bible Study @ 10a</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 4p Bible Study 5:30p Worship</p>
<p>7 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship 11:15 Bible Study Elders Meeting</p>	<p>8 Council Mtg @ 6:30p</p>	<p>9 Trustee WD 9a Quilters@ 10a</p> <p>New Member class @ 6p</p>	<p>10 Mary Martha @ 9a Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 7p Choir @7p</p>	<p>11 Bible Study @ 10a</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 4p Bible Study 5:30p Worship</p>
<p>14 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship 11:15 Bible Study</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Trustee WD 9a Quilters@ 10a</p> <p>New Member class @ 6p</p>	<p>17 Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Youth @ 6p Jr. Conf @ 7p Choir @7p</p>	<p>18 Bible Study @ 10a</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Rummage Sale 4p Bible Study 5:30p Worship</p>
<p>21 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship 11:15 Bible Study Communication Board Mtg</p>	<p>22 9 AM Deadline for Newsletter items</p>	<p>23 Trustee WD 9a Quilters@ 10a</p> <p>New Member class @ 6p</p>	<p>24 Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 7p Choir @7p</p>	<p>25 Bible Study @ 10a Paper Pumpkin @ 6:30p</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 4p Bible Study 5:30p Worship</p>
<p>28 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship 11:15 Bible Study Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Trustee WD 9a Quilters@ 10a</p> <p>New Member class @ 6p</p>	<p>31 Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 7p Choir @7p</p>			

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
- 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

	<i>cele</i> JANUARY <i>Birthdays</i>	
Jessica Rogers.....		Jan 2
Betty Coombs.....		Jan 2
Tyler Cavanaugh.....		Jan 4
LaVerne Austin.....		Jan 6
Levi Hazzard.....		Jan 6
Gwen Snook.....		Jan 7
Paul Schierschwitz.....		Jan 7
Richard Smith.....		Jan 8
Reagan Bell.....		Jan 9
Willie Siedenstrang.....		Jan 12
Heather Gordon.....		Jan 20
Lois Foster.....		Jan 20
Scott Seiferth.....		Jan 20
Sally Martel.....		Jan 23
John Gillespie.....		Jan 25
Wanda Reinert.....		Jan 27
Josiah Hazzard.....		Jan 28
Clarence Baker.....		Jan 29
Stacey Orellana.....		Jan 31

cele
JANUARY
Anniversaries

Richard and Pamela Hanson.....	Jan 26 (18 yrs.)
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Thank you to Barbara and Alfred Miller who served for the month of December. Debbie and Rick Smith will serve for the month of January. We want to say thanks to all the people who served on the Altar Guild for the year 2023. The old saying is a lot of helping hands makes the job easier. So thank you for giving your time to make our Altar area and Communion special and attractive for church worship. Barbara and Alfred Miller

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**

Richard Heinz Jan 1

LaVerne Austin Jan 1

Diane Hill Jan 1

Carolyn Calender Jan 1

Mary Witte Jan 1

Fran Murphy Jan 1

Al Herman Jan 1

Belinda Freer Jan 1

Kathy Siedenstrang Jan 1

Richard Caughey Jan 1

Helen Borgwardt Jan 1

Rosie Fyffe Jan 1

Sally Martel Jan 1

Joel Nelson Jan 1

Gerald Frizzell Jan 1

Diane Bickart Jan 2

Carlos Orellana Jan 2

Pamela Hanson Jan 5

Sylvia Willis Jan 8

Sawyer Timmons Jan 8

Erica Bell Jan 10

Rick Joost Jan 15

Diane Donaldson Jan 18

Linda Johnson Jan 18

John Gillespie Jan 22

Continued here →



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.



George Czanko, Jan 22

Donald Racer Jan 30

Patricia Swope Jan 31

From the Pastor.....

Epiphany People

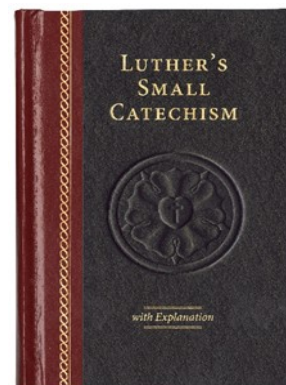
“To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God...” (Ephesians 3:8-9 ESV).

For many years, the slogan of the General Electric corporation was “GE, we bring good things to life.” I would get confused, thinking that the slogan should be, “we bring good things to light,” since the company made light bulbs at the time. As Christians, we know that life and light are always close at hand. The second verse of *Hark the Herald Angel Sing* contains the line, “Light and life to all He brings.” In the Gospel of John Jesus declares himself to be the “Light of the world” (8:12 and 9:5), as well as “the Life” (11:25 and 14:6). In the Epistle for Epiphany quoted above, St. Paul declares that he was to preach to the gentiles (non-Jewish ethnicities) the riches of Christ, and to bring to light for **everyone** God’s plan. The word *epiphany* carries with it the sense of shining forth the light, a revelation. We mark the holy day of Epiphany to commemorate the pagan Magi being led by the star to see the child Jesus. We continue to shine forth the light of Christ to all nations in today’s world. As we sing in the Nunc Dimittis, Jesus continues to be “A light to lighten the Gentiles.” As we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to shine forth the light of Christ to Polk County, we bestow upon our neighbors abundant life. May we be empowered to continue to share God’s love in word and deed.

Pastor Chris

Study starting in January: Luther’s Small Catechism and Explanation (2017 edition)

From the catalogue description: *Written by Martin Luther in 1529, the Small Catechism provides a brief, clear summary of God’s Word on the essentials of the Christian faith. In question-and-answer format, it explores the Six Chief Parts of Christian Doctrine and includes daily prayers, a table of duties for Christians in their various callings, and a guide for Christians as they prepare to receive Holy Communion. **The Small Catechism itself is a timeless confession of the Faith, applicable to Christian instruction in every age.***



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An explanation designed to help readers understand and apply Luther's Small Catechism has accompanied editions of the catechism since the early days of Lutheranism. However, in the time since Luther wrote his explanation to the catechism, society, and culture have changed dramatically. The 2017 Explanation presents a lens to faithfully understand God's Word in the midst of changing times—providing a practical guide for living the daily Christian life. With 374 questions and accompanying Scripture references, the new Explanation provides more biblical teaching and devotional aids than ever before. The Bible text included in the Explanation is from the English Standard Version (ESV).

Join us! Sunday Mornings at 8:30 a.m., Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Cost for book: \$20.00. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, or you may call the church office.

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

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.

Stewardship



Another Chance

I can remember growing up, whenever I misbehaved and was facing punishment, how I would beg my parents for “another chance”! It’s always nice to have another chance to get it right. Here we are facing a brand-new year. And with it comes “another chance”! Another chance to do better, another chance to get it right. We can always do better, I think, than the year before.

God is good at giving us second chances. Even thirds and fourths, if truth be told! He understands our condition and yet still loves us as His children more than we can imagine. How gracious He is to us. How deserving He is of our devotion, service and love.

There are myriads of ways we can show Him that devotion, that love. Especially here at Christ Lutheran Church. The areas of service available are many here. Ranging from high dedication and frequency to minimal time invested, it is still extremely valuable to this church. Whatever we can do to express our love and thankfulness to Him for His grace and mercy is beneficial to this church and I’m sure, loved by Him.

We have a new year ahead. A fresh start. May we each take advantage of this opportunity and choose to make this new year one of great thankfulness and love to our Lord.

Also, a quick reminder to continue to “Pray for your Pew”! We are surely seeing the results of those faithful prayers for God to fill our church pews with souls hungry for His grace and mercy; and for the friendship and support that a church body can give to each other! Thank you to all those that are continuing this important act. And if it has slipped away from your weekly habit, let us pick it up again as we enter a new year. May God bring many hungry souls to Christ (literally!) because of your prayers.

Looking forward to a blessed year ahead!

Kim Kaniecki

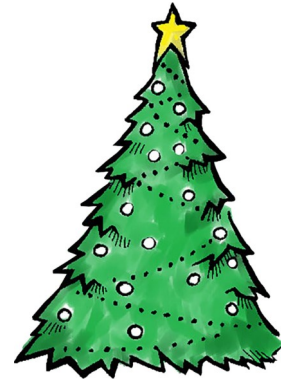
Board of Stewardship

Angel Tree

Thanks to all who participated in the Angel Tree. The impact and joy brought to twenty-five children by these gifts is tremendous.

Thanks to the generous members of Christ Lutheran Church, many people had a Merry Christmas.

Outreach Committee



Options for Women

Because Christ Lutheran Church supports life from beginning in the womb to death, each year we support the baby bottle campaign for Options for Women. Options for Women is a crisis pregnancy center in Lakeland with their main office located in south Lakeland. They provide pregnancy testing, counseling, ultrasounds, STD testing, referrals for support, and a starter layette for babies as needed. Each year we designate a Sunday in January to hand out baby bottles. We then ask for you to fill them with a check or cash in the form of dollars or all of the loose change you have. You will have about three weeks to do this. We want to continue to support LIFE!

Bottles will be available on **Sunday, January 7** and **must be returned by Sunday, January 28th.**

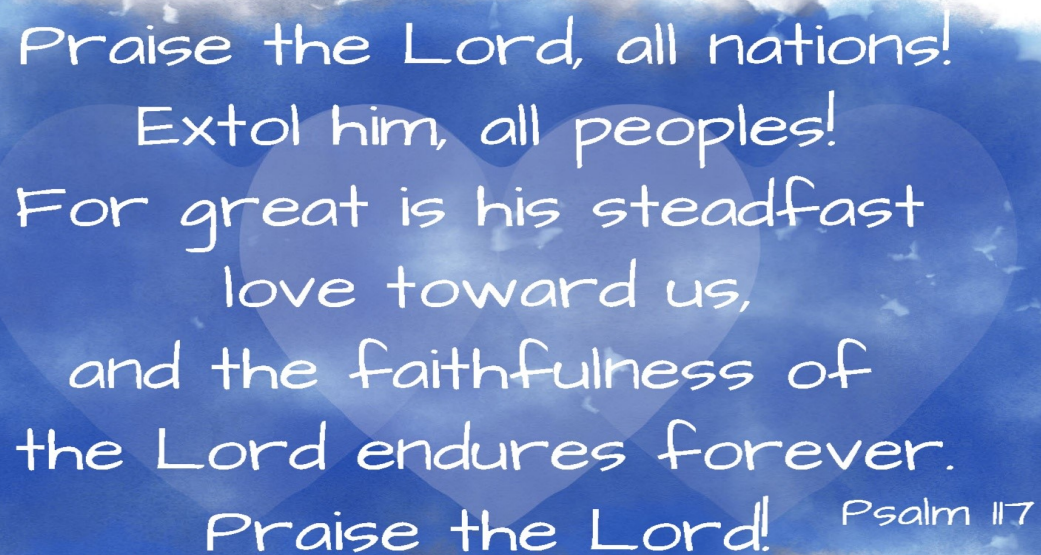




HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May the Lord give you increase,
you and your children!
May you be blessed by the Lord,
who made heaven and earth!

Psalm 115:14-15 ESV



Praise the Lord, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!
For great is his steadfast
love toward us,
and the faithfulness of
the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord! Psalm 117

Central America Missions December 2023



Christ Lutheran, thank you for your support to the Central American Mission during 2023. With your help we were able to accomplish a lot. Our accomplishments continue to grow. The phrase; “the sky is the limit” really applies to this mission. I am already confirmed for three surgical missions to Guatemala and Honduras for 2024. At this point, I am trying to make sure that our logistics will fall into place and in time for each mission. The support to the mission comes from a line item budget in our Church; we are able to expand our work because of individual donations done directly to the Central American mission fund managed through our Church Treasury. Your individual donations go directly to those you intend to help.

The service the surgical groups provide are completely free. The local hospitals are religious base organizations whose interest is to serve those who can not help themselves. They also have a system to screen the patients, so the surgeons can do a final determination. Most of the surgeries we perform are GYN, General, Orthopedic, and Podiatry. I am really proud to be part of these missions, and I thank you for your support.

This month in December we sent another shipment of 1800 lbs. It was to be distributed to the different Orphanages, girls, boys, and elderly. These orphanages are mostly run by Friars and Nuns. The programs in the orphanages for kids are run in a way that provides safety, and an opportunity to grow and get an education. Most of the time the kids have an opportunity to return to their homes; provided that it is safe to do.

Again, I am grateful for your support to the Central American Mission. Please continue your support with prayers and financial donations. We all have a little part in helping the poorest of the poor.

Carlos Orellana



Our last shipment. These are 6 boxes with hospital linens and donations from the Dream Center.

More pictures on page 12



Getting organized for a fast paced week of surgeries.



We operate with fragile and old equipment. It is a miracle to finish every surgery.



Their defects are so obvious; that I can almost feel the pain for them.