Second Sunday in Advent December 8, 2024

As We Gather - In this month of December, we find ourselves getting ready and preparing for many things, such as gatherings with family and friends, gifts to get and give to others, traditional treats to be made, and decorations for the season. The foremost preparation, of course, is for our Savior's birth. Today we are reminded of another time of preparation that would be after Jesus' birth and prior to His earthly ministry—that of John the Baptist, who would prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In our busy times of preparing to celebrate this season, today we draw our focus on and give thanks for the one who would raise valleys, level mountains, and make straight the paths for Him.

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: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry LSB 344 Δ Please stand after a brief interlude 1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc es 2 Then cleansed be ev -'ry life from sin: Make straight the our Sav - ior, Lord, 3 We hail Thee as Our ref uge Thy heal - ing hand 4 Lav the sick And make the on \triangle 5 All praise. e ter nal Son. to Thee Whose ad vent that the Lord nigh; Α wake ken, is and hear for God with - in, And let all way us our With -Thy and great re - ward; grace our out we fall stand; Show the en strong to us glo ry Thy ple free, Whom with the Fa sets ther peo for brings Glad tid ings of the King of kings! he hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and there. en ter Like flow'rs that with waste a - way er and de - cay. of Till beau - ty Thy face springs in ev 'ry place. And Ho Spir it a - dore ly ev er - more. we Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

Remain Standing

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.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Text and tune: Public domain

- We light our second Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
- The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- The second Advent candle has been known by a few different names, including the Bethlehem candle, the preparation candle, and the candle of peace. As we await the angelic proclamation of "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased," we rejoice in the present reality of the peace Christ has assured in and through Him until perfect and eternal peace is ushered in upon His return. In this season, and until that day, we find comfort in His assurance: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."
- The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
- **P** Guided by the light of peace, we respond with the psalmist: "There are many who say, 'Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of Your face upon us, O Lord!'
- You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.
- P In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
- for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety."

Confession and Absolution

- 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.

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

- **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

Psalm 81:8, 10–11, 13; antiphon: Luke 3:4b



- P The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:*

 "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight."
- Hear, O my people, while I ad- | monish you!*
 O Israel, if you would but lis- | ten to me!
- P I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of | Egypt.*

 Open your mouth wide, and I will | fill it.
- But my people did not listen | to my voice;*

 Israel would not sub- | mit to me.
- P Oh, that my people would lis- ten to me,* that Israel would walk in my ways!
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
 and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
 The voice of one crying in the | wilderness:*
 "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his | paths straight."

Kyrie LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



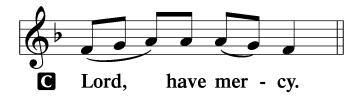
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



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.



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

Malachi 3:1-7b

¹"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

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

Epistle Philippians 1:2–11

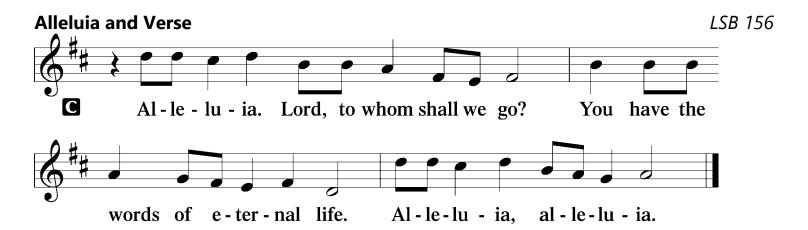
²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first

day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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

Stand



Holy Gospel Luke 3:1–20

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



¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" ¹¹And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" ¹³And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

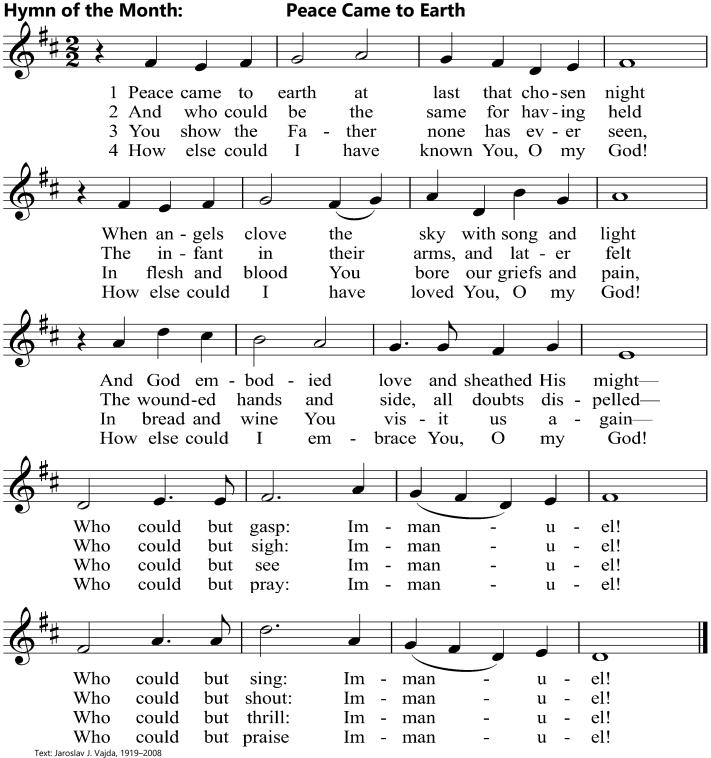
¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother's wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Children's Sermon





Tune: Timothy Shaw

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Sermon

"Pointing to Jesus" Luke 3:1-20

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "Peace Came To Earth"
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.



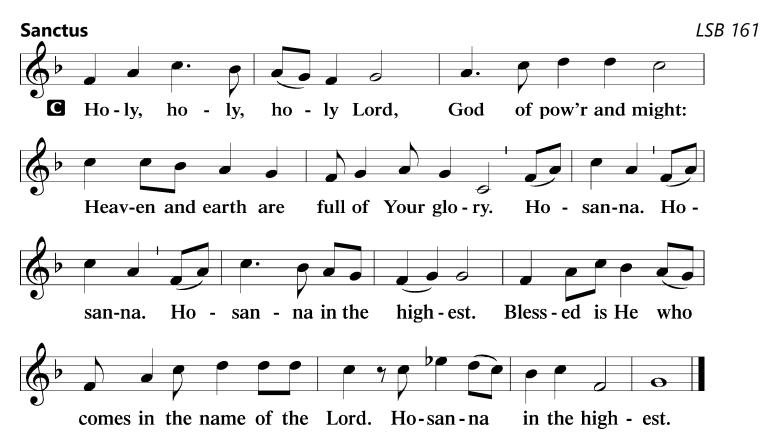
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

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

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.
- 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:

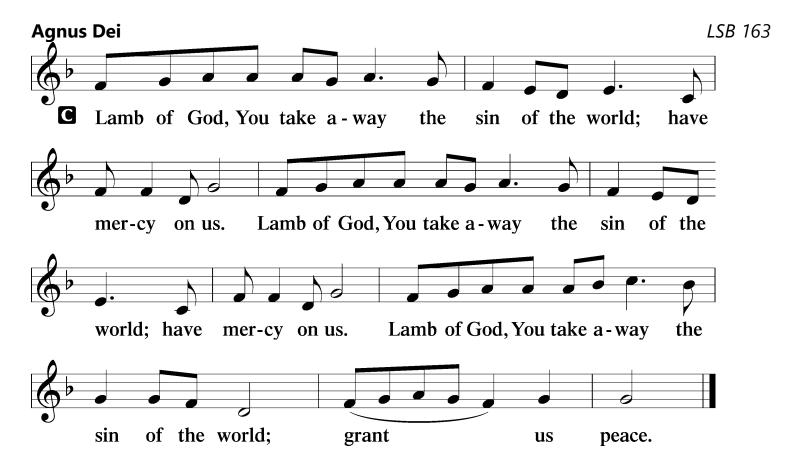
Lord's Prayer

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

Distribution

Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)
LSB 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People
LSB 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Stand

LSB 164



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



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



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



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.

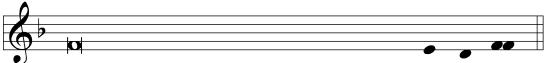
(Sunday)

Let us pray. $[\mathbf{P}]$

> 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 + give you peace.





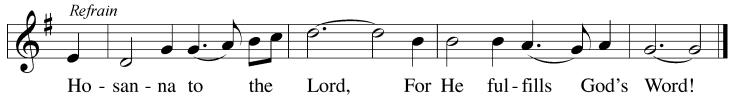
- 2 God's peo-ple, see Him com ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
- greet your prom-ised king! 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To
- 4 His no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove. is



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley lev - el Α road ap - pear! Palm branch-es strew be-fore Him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing! king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring. His is peace and free - dom And ius - tice, truth, and



Then greet the King of Glo-ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry: will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail God's prom - ise lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na-tions, now a - dore Him! So let your praise be sound-ing For kind-ness so a - bound-ing:



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: Swedish, 17th cent. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000852 Tune: Public domain

Postlude:

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor Organist	Bastor Christopher Hazzard Elena Miraztchiyska
Saturday ElderLector	Lee Crapo
Audio	
Sunday Elder	Carlos Orellana
Lector	Kim Kaniecki
Greeter	
Audio	Kyle welch
Video	Video TD: Kris Welch GFX: / Stream: Robin Fox
Altar Guild	Dawn Peters and Sandy Spanier

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska
	•
Elder	Lee Crapo
Lector	Roland Feickert
Greeter	Pat Hurd
Audio	Kim Kaniecki
Video	Video TD: Josiah Hazzard
	GFX: / Stream: Roland Feickert
Altar Guild	

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Not available at time of printing

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH- Advent II – The people of Christ do not sit still or stay silent. We shout, sing, praise, and bless (Psalm 66:1-2, 8). We get to testify after the fashion of the Baptist and loud like the Lord who has opened our lips. May we raise our Gospel-motivated voice For Life to encourage and advocate for those vulnerable to the deception of using death as a solution.

FLOWER SPONSOR – Bob and Cheryl Langanke, in memory of James Fleck. **BULLETIN SPONSOR** – No Bulletin Sponsor this week.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR *(SUNDAY)* – Team 3 is serving today; team 4 will serve next week. Everyone is invited. There is no charge and a freewill offering is voluntary. December freewill offerings will go to One More Child.

ENDOWMENT FUND MEETING – The Endowment Fund Committee will meet today, Sunday, December 8th, following the service. The meeting will be held in the Zoom Room, 1st door on the right in the Fellowship Hall. Looking forward to seeing everyone on the Committee. Helen Borgwardt, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEETING – The Church Council will meet this Monday, December 9th, at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICE THIS WEEK – Join us for the mid-week Advent Service at 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 11th, and the 18th.

MARY MARTHA MEETING – The Mary Martha will meet this Wednesday, December 11th, at 10am in the Fellowship Hall before our Luncheon at Huntington Hills.

MARY MARTHA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - Mary Martha would like to invite all ladies of our congregation to our Christmas Luncheon at Huntington Hills Golf and Country Club @ 2626 Duff Road at 11:30am this Wednesday, December 11th. The entrée selections are on the Mary Martha board in the narthex. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet and make your selection. Please contact Charlotte Mantz @ 863-409-6270 for more information!

COMMUNICATIONS MEETING – The Communications Board will meet next Sunday, December 15th, after service.

ANNUAL NEW MEMBER WELCOME – Join us next Sunday, December 15th, during Fellowship Hour, as we welcome all the new members that have joined Christ Lutheran this past year.

ANGEL TREE – Please bring the UNWRAPPED gifts – with tag attached – in by next **Sunday, December 15th**, and place in the marked box in the Narthex.

ALTAR GUILD- HELP NEEDED - We are looking for two to four individuals willing to serve on a Communion service team -- men and couples also welcome! This is a low time-commitment role of roughly an hour combined each weekend for one month each year and a wonderful opportunity to serve God and church. Full training will be provided and completing a year of membership at Christ Lutheran Church is not a requirement. Please see Dawn Peters for more information.

MARY MARTHA QUILTERS – CHANGED TO WEDNESDAY'S -The Mary Martha Quilters meet on Wednesday's each week at 10 AM. All Ladies from the congregation are invited to come. You don't have to be a quilter or know how to sew as we need people who can cut, arrange, and tie.

HELP WANTED- The Church is in need of workers in several positions around the Church. These include Ushers, Offering Counters, Altar Guild, Lectors, Sound Board, Video Assistance, Elders (requires one year membership, and many other opportunities to serve. Please consider using your time and talents in some way here at Christ Lutheran.

ADOPT-A-BLOCK – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED– To reserve your spot on the team or if you have questions, please contact either Robin Fox or Pastor Chris.

TRUSTEE WORKDAY - The Trustee Workday is each Wednesday from 9am – 1pm. 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.

USED HEARING AIDS: Used 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.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX – Please check your mailbox in the narthex.

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.

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.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Luke 3:4 – "As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than seven hundred years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That's yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what's coming and we don't.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Monday	Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
Tuesday	Adopt-A-Block @ 11 am
Wednesday	
	Mary Martha Meeting @ 10 am
	Mary Martha Luncheon @ 11:30 am
	Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran
	Quilters @ 10 am
	Private Communion 1:30 – 2:30 pm
	Jr. Confirmation
	Midweek Advent Service @ 6:30 pm
	Choir @ 7:30 pm
Thursday	•
Friday	Church Office closed, Pastor's Day Off
Saturday	
Sunday	Bible Study @ 8:30 am
	Worship @ 10 am
	Communications Meeting
	Annual New Member Welcome