Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany February 23, 2025

As We Gather - Today's Old Testament Reading is the account of Joseph forgiving his brothers, who had sold him into slavery years earlier. Is it possible for us to forgive as he did? Joseph learned to trust in God and how He would arrange things. God has arranged everything for us too! The resurrection of Jesus is beyond our understanding but not beyond our comprehension. So Paul tries to explain about heavenly beings. We don't know much about them, but we can forgive because our Lord went a lot farther than we are called to follow, into death, for God to forgive us. Today Word and Sacrament strengthen us to follow His example in daily living.

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



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–80; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Ander Theil Des Erneuerten Gesang-Buchs, 1665, Stralsund

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.
- 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.
- **G** Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 37:1-5; antiphon: vv. 7a, b

- P Be still before the LORD and wait patiently | for him;*
 fret not yourself over the one who prospers | in his way.
- Fret not yourself because of evil- | doers;*
 be not envious of wrong- | doers!
- For they will soon fade | like the grass* and wither like the | green herb.
- Trust in the LORD, | and do good;*

 dwell in the land and befriend | faithfulness.
- P Delight yourself in the LORD,*

 and he will give you the desires of your heart.

 Continued on next page

- Commit your way | to the LORD;*

 trust in him, and | he will act.

 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.
- P Be still before the LORD and wait patiently | for him;*
 fret not yourself over the one who prospers | in his way.

Kyrie LSB 168

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



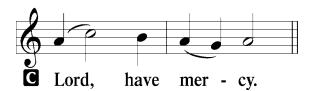
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



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.



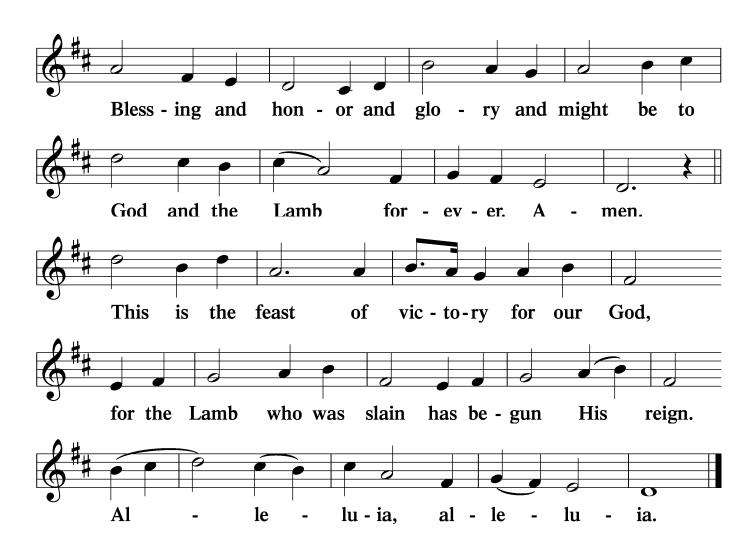
P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



This Is the Feast LSB 171

P This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.





Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully grant that by Your power we may be defended against all adversity; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament Reading

Genesis 45:3-15

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' 12 And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

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

Epistle

1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . .

³⁰Why am I in danger every hour? ³¹I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of

God. I say this to your shame.

³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

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

Stand



Holy Gospel Luke 6:27–38

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

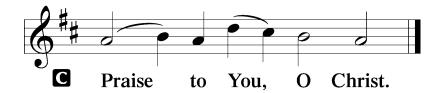


²⁷[Jesus said:] "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

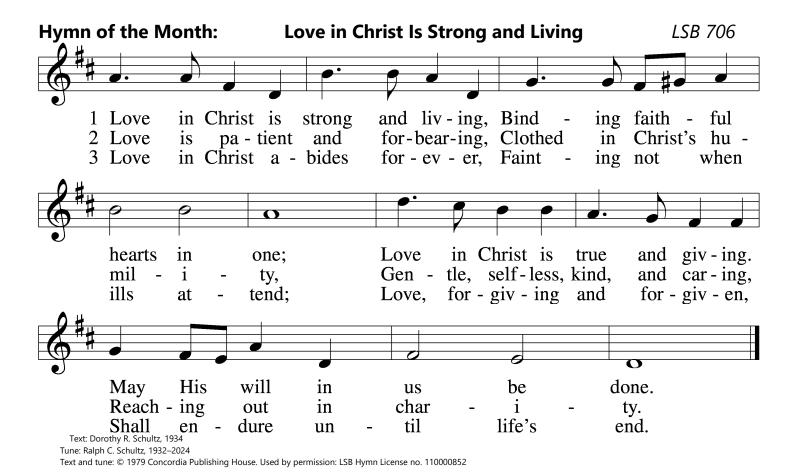
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

Children's Sermon





Sermon:

"Loving the Unlovable" Luke 6:27-38

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 \pm of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "I Love You Lord" 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 177

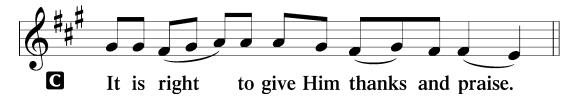
P The Lord be with you.



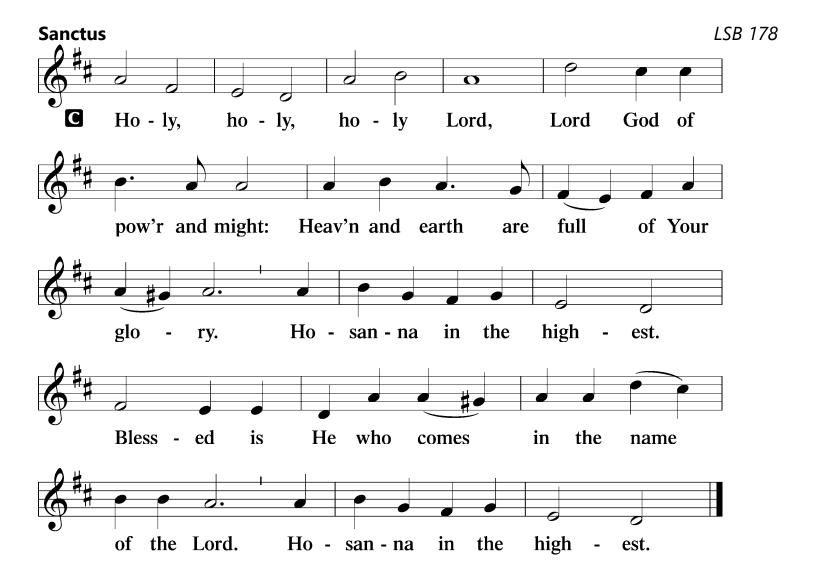
P Lift up your hearts.



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; 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

LSB 178

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.

G 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

- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **G** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

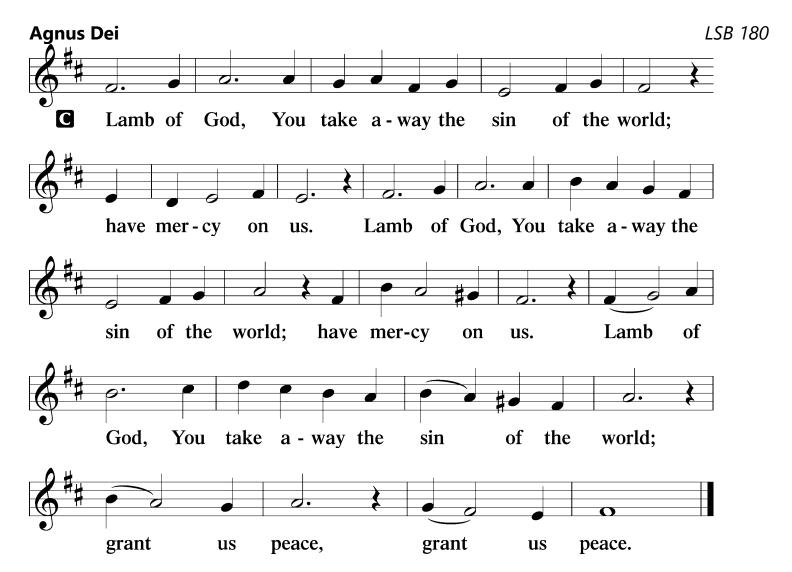
Lord's Prayer

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

Pax Domini LSB 180

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



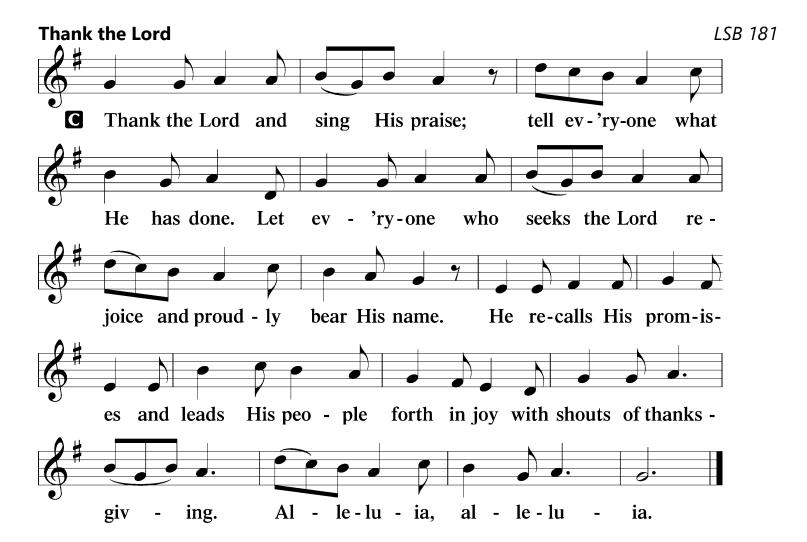


Distribution

Sit

Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)

LSB 845 Where Charity and Love Prevail LSB 848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service LSB 844 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



Post-Communion Collect (Saturday)

- P Let us pray together.
- I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Sunday)

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Benediction LSB 183

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.







Postlude:

Acknowledgments

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska
Saturday	
Elder	Steve Rosane
Lector	Gerie Slaten/Carlos Orellana
Audio	Robin Fox

Sunday Elder Keith Kallstrom **Lector**John T Doherty, Jr. AudioMaria Hazzard VideoVideo TD: Kris Welch GFX: / Stream: Cheryl Erwin Altar Guild Helen Borgwardt and Gwen Snook **LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY** Pastor Christopher Hazzard **Organist** Elena Miraztchiyska Greeter.......John T. Doherty Jr Audio...... Video TD: GFX: / Stream: ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK Saturday Worship Attendance......30 Sunday Worship Attendance......100 Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings\$0 Simply Giving/Vanco......\$0 Paypal Offerings\$0 Website (ShareFaith)......\$0 Total of Offerings Received \$0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts.....\$0

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH - Epiphany VII – Joseph's brothers aborted him well after his birth because they thought him a threat. History eventually disclosed the Heavenly Father's design: a life-giving mission they didn't see (Genesis 45:7-8). The same holds true in the surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnoses we encounter. So Christians practice servanthood to apparently burdensome persons (Luke 6:29), because like mercy from God makes our lives possible.

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

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (**SUNDAY**) – Team 1 is serving this week. Team 2 will serve next week. There is no charge and a freewill offering is voluntary. February freewill offerings will go to Senior Orphans.

ALTAR GUILD MEETING TODAY – There will be an Altar Guild Meeting today, Sunday, February 23rd, in the sanctuary, immediately following the service, to go over the plan for Holy Week.

COMMUNICATIONS MEETING – The Communications Board will meet today, Sunday, February 23rd, after service.

WINTER HAVEN ZONE SPRING RALLY – will be held this Saturday, March 1st at Our Savior Lutheran in Zephyrhills. Gifts from the Heart will feature "Phil's Friends" a support ministry for cancer patients.

PURSE AND ACCESSORIES SALE - Our Annual "Purse and Accessories Sale" is next Sunday, March 2nd, after the Worship Service and during Fellowship time! Bring your Purses, wallets, jewelry and other accessories and place in the box in the narthex. If you have an item, too large, place it next to the box and we will take care of tucking it away for the sale! No shoes, please!

OPTIONS FOR WOMEN BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN –Through next Sunday, March 2nd, we will have the Baby Bottle Drive for Options for Women pregnancy help clinic. Please take a bottle home and fill it with coins or cash as you can. Bottles should be returned to the church by next Sunday, March 2nd.

FASHION SHOW - Mary Martha will be hosting a Fashion Show on March 29th in the Fellowship Hall from 1-4 pm. The Fashions will be from Bungalow Boutique. The cost will be \$10 per person and hors d'oeuvres are included. Partial proceeds will benefit our youth going to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Tickets are on sale now!

BASEBALL PARKING – Baseball Parking is here! Please consider helping with this fun outreach fundraiser. We need about eight willing helpers for each game, three hours with a free lunch and you can still get to the game if you want. Get a schedule from Cathy Sterns in the Narthex or call 989-657-2916.

HOT DOG CONCESSION STAND – SPRING TRAING – Now is the time to volunteer for the CLC Hot dog Concession Stand! Once again we will be selling quarter pound, all beef hot dogs, chips and water. We need five (5) people in our stand. There is an average of three (3) games per week. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Sign your name, phone number and days you can help. We set up at 9-9:30,

and will finish grilling around 1, and then we dismantle our concession site. Contacts are John Freer @ 863-660-6438 or Charlene Rosane @ 863-660-1689. This is a great way to meet people from all over the USA and even abroad. Also a good way for our fellowship to reach beyond the CLC grounds. Appreciate all your time and efforts, thank you in advance.

GRIEF SHARE – A GriefShare grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one continues on **Tuesdays**, **at 1 pm**. At GriefShare you'll watch a weekly video with counsel and insights from respected grief experts and relatable personal stories—followed by a time of sharing and support. Session topics include what's normal in grief; how to handle difficult emotions; and what to do with regrets, questions, and worries.

MARY MARTHA QUILTERS - *CHANGED TO WEDNESDAYS* -Mary Martha Quilters meet each Wednesday at 10am. 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.

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.

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.

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 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 6:30–31 – "Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them." Is it really possible to live like this? Would it really work to be so open-handed and generous? Our conscience often reminds us of our failures, and the Lord knows our frailty, that's for sure! But a life of faith is a life lived in imitation of Jesus — and every follower of Jesus knows that yes, indeed, it is better to give than to receive.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Monday	Baseball Parking
Tuesday	Adopt-A-Block
	GriefShare @ 1 pm
Wednesday	Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran
	Trustee Workday @ 9 am
	Mary Martha Quilters @ 10 am
	Baseball Parking
	Private Communion 1:30 – 2:30 pm
	Jr. Confirmation
	No Choir
Thursday	Bible Study @ 10 am
	Baseball Parking
	Civitan Meeting @ II Forno Restaurant North @ 6pm
Saturday	Baseball Parking
	Winter Haven Zone Rally @ Our Savior
	Worship @ 5:30 pm
Sunday	Bible Study @ 8:30 am
	Worship @ 10 am
	Baby Bottle Campaign Ends
	Mary Martha Purse & Accessory Sale
	Elders Meeting