

Psalm 96:1

The Christogram

Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

January 2025
Volume 63 Issue 1



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SING TO THE LORD; BLESS HIS NAME;
TELL OF HIS SALVATION FROM DAY TO DAY.

PSALM 96:2



clclakeland.org



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website page.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Christopher Hazzard
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Terry Krum
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Council Officers

President Kim Kaniecki
Vice-President Dawn Peters
Secretary Robin Fox
Treasurer Karen Crickenberger
Finance Secretary Emma Block
Christian Ed Rev. Thomas Block
Outreach & Missions Wendy Rogers
Stewardship Lora Wacker
Trustees Sandy Spanier
Youth Group
Communications Kris Welch

Board of Elders

Carlos Orellana (Head)
Keith Kallstrom
Steve Rosane
Fred Sterns
Dave Wacker

Committee Chairpersons

Fellowship Coordinators

Joyce Munz and Charlotte Mantz

Altar Guild

Dawn Peters and Charlene Rosane

Director of Music

Elena Miraztchiyska

Endowment Fund

Helen Borgwardt

Mary-Martha Guild

Charlotte Mantz

E-Mail Addresses

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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 5

Elder Steve Rosane
Lector
Greeters
Audio Kim Kaniecki
Video Video TD: Kris Welch
GFX/Stream: Roland Feickert

January 12

Elder Fred Sterns
Lector
Greeters
Audio Judi Rudolph
Video Video TD: Josiah Hazzard
GFX/Stream: Robin Fox

January 19

Elder Dave Wacker
Lector
Greeters
Audio Kyle Welch
Video Video TD: Kris Welch
GFX/Stream: Andrea Hazzard

January 26

Elder Fred Sterns
Lector
Greeters
Audio Maria Hazzard
Video Video TD: Josiah Hazzard
GFX/Stream: Cheryl Erwin

ALTAR GUILD SERVICES

Cheryl Erwin and Charlene Rosane

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP @ 5:30 PM

Elder Keith Kallstrom 1/4, Carlos Orellana 1/11,
Steve Rosane 1/18, Keith Kallstrom 1/25.
LectorDebbie Smith/ Gerie Slaten/
Carlos Orellana, Steve Rosane



JANUARY

Christ Lutheran Church

2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd

Phone: 863-682-7802

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Church Office Closed New Year's Day	2 Bible Study @ 10a	3	4 5:30p Worship
5 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Installation of Officers Elders Meeting	6	7 Adopt a Block @ 11a Outreach @ 5:30p	8 Trustee WD 9a Mary Martha mtg @ 9:30a Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 5:15 Choir @ 7p	9 Quilters @ 10a Bible Study @ 10a Church Office Closed	10	11 5:30p Worship
12 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Chili Cook-off	13 Church Office Closed Council Mtg @ 6:30p	14 Adopt a Block @ 11a	15 Trustee WD 9a Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 5:15 Choir @ 7p	16 Quilters @ 10a Bible Study @ 10a Civitan Mtg @ Noon	17	18 5:30p Worship
19 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Communication Board Mtg	20 9 AM Deadline for Newsletter items	21 Adopt a Block @ 11a	22 Trustee WD 9a Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 5:15 Choir @ 7p	23 Quilters @ 10a Bible Study @ 10a	24	25 5:30p Worship
26 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Stewardship Mtg	27	28 Adopt a Block @ 11a	29 Trustee WD 9a Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 5:15 Choir @ 7p	30 Quilters @ 10a Bible Study @ 10a	31	

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
- Carolyn Calendar
- Dale Campbell
- Betty Coombs
- Betty Costine
- Joanne Ditton
- Donita Duncan
- Gerald Frizzell
- Rosie Fyffe
- Helen Gavin
- Donna Grant
- Pam Hanson
- Bob Kossel
- Fran Klug
- Sally Martel
- Nancy Matter
- Rose McLaughlin
- Fran Murphy
- Joanna Perlewitz
- Jerry Poole
- Don Rohrbach
- Paul Schierschwitz
- Natalie Thiele
- Norma Tipton
- Amy Wilson
- Fred and Marlene Yost

Jessica Rogers.....	Jan 2
Betty Coombs.....	Jan 2
Levi Hazzard.....	Jan 6
Gwen Snook.....	Jan 7
Paul Schierschwitz.....	Jan 7
Richard Smith.....	Jan 8
Reagan Bell.....	Jan 9
Ashton Rzepka.....	Jan 12
Willie Siedenstrang.....	Jan 12
Lois Foster.....	Jan 20
Scott Seiferth.....	Jan 20
Sally Martel.....	Jan 23
John Gillespie.....	Jan 25
Josiah Hazzard.....	Jan 28
Clarence Baker.....	Jan 29
Stacey Orellana.....	Jan 31



No January Wedding Anniversaries



Thank you Dawn Peters and Sandy Spanier for serving for the month of December. Cheryl Erwin and Charlene Rosane will serve for the month of January. Thank you for your service to the Lord and Christ Lutheran Church. Are you interested in serving on an Altar Guild monthly team? Please contact Dawn Peters.

Baptismal Birthday Blessing

Gracious Lord, we give thanks that in Holy Baptism we receive forgiveness of sins, deliverance from death and the devil, and eternal salvation. On this baptismal anniversary, bless [name] continually by Your Word and Spirit that [he/she] may faithfully keep the covenant into which [he/she] has been called, boldly confess [his/her] Savior, and finally share with all Your saints the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- Richard Heinz Jan 1
- Diane Hill Jan 1
- Carolyn Calender Jan 1
- Mary Witte Jan 1
- Fran Murphy 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
- Gerald Frizzell Jan 1
- Carlos Orellana Jan 2
- Diane Bickart Jan 2
- Pamela Hanson Jan 5
- Sylvia Willis Jan 8
- Sawyer Timmons Jan 8
- Erica Bell Jan 10
- Rick Joost Jan 15
- Linda Johnson Jan 16
- Diane Donaldson Jan 18
- John Doherty, Jr Jan 18
- John Gillespie Jan 22
- Donald Racer Jan 30

*First year Anniversary as
Member of Christ Lutheran Church
Mary Heinz, Jan. 9*

**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.



From the Pastor.....

The apparent disgrace that reveals true grace

For the sake of this very strife and struggle [with Herod], by which the wise men accepted the word of the prophet and followed it into such wild, unnatural appearance of a royal birth, God comforted and strengthened them by this star which went before them more friendly than before. Now they see it near, it is their guide, and they have an assurance which needs no further question. Before it was far from them, and they were not certain where they would find the king. So it is always with the Christian, after affliction has been endured God becomes more dear to him and is so near and so distinctly seen that man not only forgets anxiety and affliction, but has a desire for greater affliction. He gradually becomes so strong that he does not take offense at the insignificant, unattractive life of Christ. For now he experiences and realizes that to find Christ it must appear as though he found nothing but disgrace. (Martin Luther, Sermon on Epiphany, 1522)

The Magi endured much in their pursuit to see Jesus. They traveled through strange lands following a strange sign. They went first to Jerusalem, to Herod, who held the seat of power, thinking that Jerusalem would be the place where the king would be found. It is curious that the star did not lead directly to Jesus. Instead, there was a detour that led to intrigue. A bump in the road. Herod wanted to use the magi to find Jesus in order to kill him; there couldn't be pretenders to Herod's throne, at least from Herod's perspective. Instead of finding the boy Jesus, the Word made flesh, presumably they encountered the Word of the prophecy of Micah in Herod's hearing.

“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.” (Matthew 2:6 ESV)



Once they departed Herod, taking direction from the prophetic word, the star also unmistakably led them to Jesus. He wasn't much to look at, being born to a virgin of humble estate, but he was in truth King of heaven and earth. As Luther remarked, “it must appear as though he found nothing but disgrace.” The apparent disgrace of this lowly child masked the grace that He would bestow on Jew and gentile alike, on you and me. As Jesus

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continues to reveal himself in the lowly form of human language, combined with water, bread, and wine, we see Jesus clearly. Each time we receive God's gifts, it is in essence another Epiphany, another time in which God was made manifest. May we all see Jesus clearly!

Pastor Chris

Thank you for the Christmas cards and gifts. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated!

Pastor Chris

Coming soon!



Need Help Dealing with Grief?

GriefShare Grief & Loss Support Groups Are Here for You

What is GriefShare?

At GriefShare you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

A support group to help you move through the grief process

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Looking for Christ Lutheran in social media? Check us out at our website: www.clklakeland.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.

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A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.



Held every three years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

Stay tuned for information about how you can help support our youth and chaperones who will be invited to attend.

A Word from the President

Well, Happy New Year to all of you! Aren't we blessed to have yet another year to worship and serve our Lord?!

As I, once again, assume the role of Congregational/Council President I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all those that have shown and voiced their support of me. It's been a difficult few years for our previous president, John Freer, and I thank him for taking that on after I needed to step down due to the death of my husband in 2020.

We have several new members on our church council this year and I hope you join me in welcoming them to this new role in their life here at Christ. Lora Wacker will be stepping in as Board Chairperson of Stewardship and will need people to join her in that endeavor. I encourage you to consider that role. Also new is Wendy Rogers as the Board Chairperson of Outreach. Many from that group will likely stay on to join her, but I'm sure she welcomes anyone new wishing to help Christ Lutheran step out into the community and spread the Word of God. Our former pastor Tom Block will be the new Board chairperson of Christian Education. He, also, would welcome people to join him in his efforts to engage the members of our church in regular study and worship of God's word; as well as the teaching and education of the children and youth here in a possible Sunday School and summer VBS program. Please consider helping and supporting them any way you can.

Those that are continuing in their current roles: Dawn Peters (V.P.), Sandy Spanier (Trustee), Karen Crickenberger (Treasurer), Carlos Orellana (Elders), Kris Welch (Communications), Emma Block (Financial Secretary), Robin Fox (Council Secretary) and of course our Pastor Chris Hazzard will continue to covet your prayers and support as they so diligently move forward into the coming year.

I'm excited for this year and I pray God uses each of us to accomplish His will here at Christ and beyond. Please keep this council group in your weekly prayers as what they do is not always easy. May God bless each member of the congregation in the new year and may each of us find a way to express our thanks and appreciation to our Lord for all He has given to and done for us!

In Christ,

Kim Kaniecki



MARY MARTHA



On Wednesday, December 11th, we met at 10 AM for our meeting then adjourned for the Mary Martha Christmas Luncheon at Huntington Hills Golf and Country Club. A good time was had by all attendees.

Our next meeting will be January 8th, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

T-SHIRTS

We would like to get new T-Shirts with the Church Logo on the front. They will be bright orange 100% polyester lightweight roomy and highly breathable moisture wicking crewneck long sleeve or short sleeve shirts. If you would like to purchase a new shirt please add your name, phone number, etc. to the T-Shirt Sign Up Sheet in the Narthex by January 19, 2025. At that time we will determine the cost based on the number of shirts. A sample shirt will be available for everyone to look at. If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Erwin at 301-502-0389.



New
YEAR,
New
OPPORTUNITIES



**to give
to serve
to learn**



Lakeland - Polk Civitan Club

**Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 16, 2025 at Noon
at Christ Lutheran in the
Fellowship Hall.**

For more information contact: Wendy Rogers at lakelandcivitanclub@gmail.com

Adopt-a-block

You are invited to dine with our neighbors almost every Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. until noon. It is enjoyable making new friends, and receiving the mutual extensions of love and grace as we serve our neighbors and our neighbors serve us. Please check it out!



Christ Lutheran Church Council Meeting in a Nutshell
By Robin Fox, Council Secretary, November 11, 2024



Welcome New Council Members: The 2025 Council Members are as follows:

- o (New) President: Kim Kaniecki
- o Vice President: Dawn Peters
- o (New) Treasure: Karen Crickenberger
- o Financial Secretary: Emma Block
- o Council Secretary: Robin Fox
- o (New) Board of Christian Education: Pastor Thomas Block
- o (New) Board of Stewardship: Lora Wacker
- o (New) Board of Outreach: Wendy Rogers
- o Board of Communication: Kris Welch
- o Board of Trustee: Sandy Spanier
- o Board of Youth: (Vacant)

Treasure Report: Karen Crickenberger

For the month of November, our actual performance is at a positive compared to the budgeted amounts. For YTD, our actual performance is at a negative compared to budgeted amounts. The Stewardship Report shows that our total church income is about 13% higher this year than it was at the end of November 2023. There were no reported noteworthy income items or increases in assets for November 2024. There was one reported noteworthy expense items or decreases in assets for November 2024, for the payment to Amazon for 4 new picnic tables.

Pastor Report: Pastor Christopher Hazzard

Upcoming Dates:

January 5th, 2025: Installation of church officers

March 5th: Ash Wednesday

March 6th: Deadline for overtures, delegates, and nominations to the FLGA District Convention.

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March 10th: Circuit pastors meet here

April 20th: Easter

June 5th-7th: FLGA District Convention, Embassy Suites-Orlando Lake Buena Vista
Updates and discussion:

I have invited outside instrumentalists to help with Christmas Eve.

OnSolve communications revised quote sent and will be ordered this week.

Strategic/facility planning: Expect movement in January.

Circuit overture to the District Convention re: Lutheran Higher Education.

President: John Freer

The 2025 Budget has been completed and approved by the congregational voters.

The Nomination Committee ballot with new or returning council candidates was approved by congregation voters at the November 17, 2024, meeting.

The settlement form has been signed and sent to GAF. This is for compensation for the defective roofing material on the fellowship hall.

We continue seeing new visitors attending worship with us, please continue to make them feel welcomed as they are part of our church family; so we can continue to see our congregation grow.

This will be my last council meeting as President, and it has been a great journey over the years and a privilege to serve on council with all of you. With everyone's support on the council, we've been able to keep the church in financially sound position and grow our church membership. As I pass the gavel to Kim, if you need any assistance or have questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Vice President: Dawn Peters

Altar Guild Updates - we are still in need of 4-5 more people

Social Media Updates

Christian Education:

Nothing to report.

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Board of Elders: Carlos Orellana

Attendance on Sundays in the 90's and a few 110's. Saturdays in the 30's and sometimes 40's.

Nothing else to follow.

Stewardship: Kim Kaniecki

We are in the process of planning the Annual New Member luncheon for Dec 15.

Board of Outreach: Blake Albright

Seminary Student

Lighthouse Gifts for children and mothers completed and delivered.

Board of Communications: Kris Welch

Robin will be renewing ProPresenter for \$199.

I'm still waiting on an updated quote for the hearing assist tech.

Trustee Report: Sandy Spanier

The sinkhole has been repaired and capped.

Fellowship hall roof – Check was received from GAF to repair the roof. The cost will be with insulation. Motion was made to continue with the approval of the congregation. An Emergency congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

Retention ponds must be dug out. We got a bid to dig out and sod. John Freer made a motion to accept the bid and Kim Kaniecki 2nd the motion and all approved.

Community garden - plants are beginning to grow.

Youth Board: Pastor Hazzard

Matthew and Josiah are beginning to be our acolytes.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Fox

Central American Missions January 2025



We were able to accomplish our Christmas plans as we have done in the past. With this action, we put a smile on someone's face this Christmas. We send financial assistance to the Franciscan Friars, the orphanages Hogar Nazareno and Nuevos Horizontes, the house for the Elderly, and a small contribution to the employees of San Benito Jose. This way they will be able to help in their celebration of Christmas.

The Outreach Team gave me \$400 and I supplemented the rest. This writing is being done before Christmas; for this reason I couldn't get pictures of them receiving our help.

As always we thank God for your support to this mission. You help us to help those who need it the most.

Carlos Orellana

Some of the items sent on the Christmas shipment.

They are getting ready to be distributed.

