

Psalm 145:8-9

The Christogram

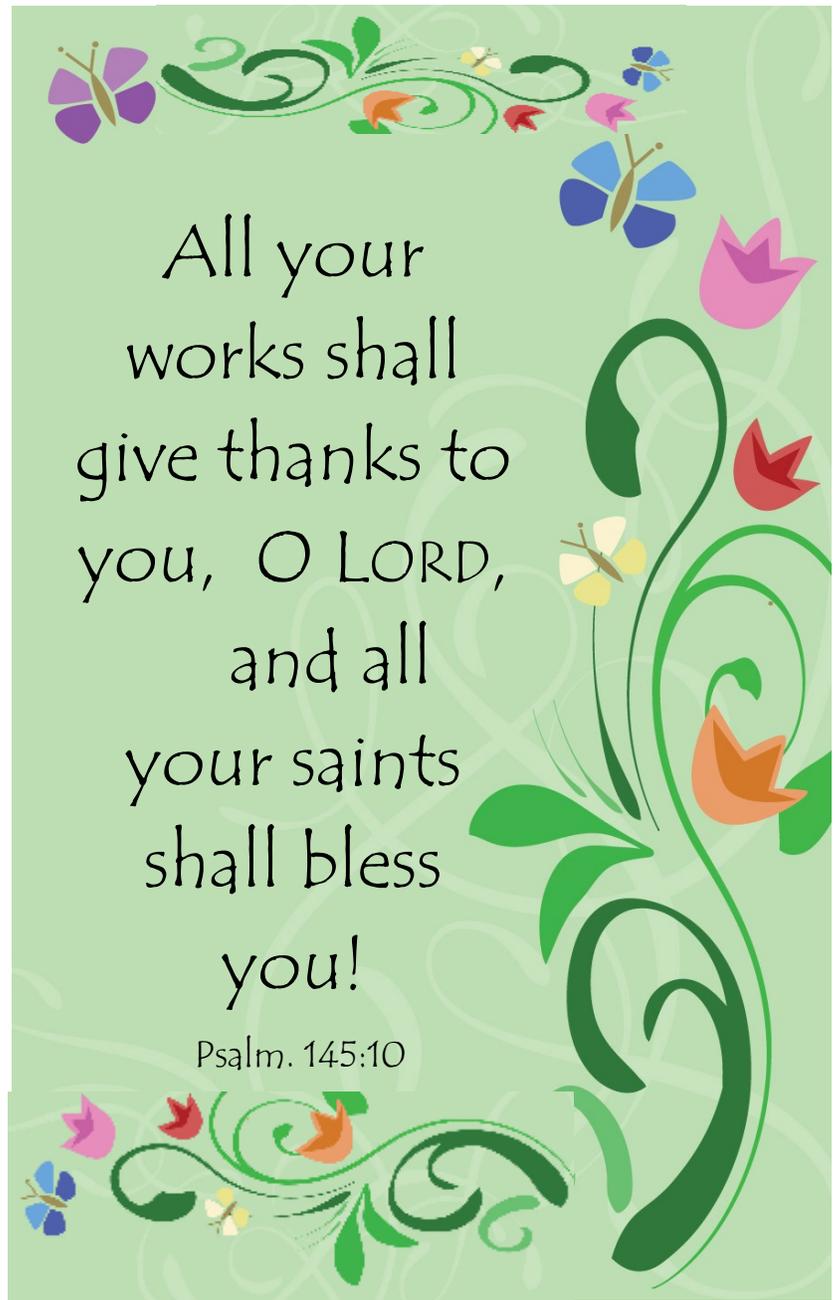
The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all,
and his mercy is over all that he has made.

March 2025
Volume 63 Issue 3



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clclakeland.org



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scan this QR code
to go to the "Giving"
website page.

Christ Lutheran Church
2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33805
863-682-7802

Serving in March

March 2

Elder Carlos Orellana
Lector John T. Doherty, Jr.
Greeters John T. Doherty, Jr.
Audio
Video Video TD:
GFX/Stream:

March 5 - Lent

Elder Carlos Orellana

March 9

Elder Keith Kallstrom
Lector Kim Kaniecki
Greeters
Audio
Video Video TD:
GFX/Stream:

March 12 - Lent

Elder Steve Rosane

March 16

Elder Steve Rosane
Lector
Greeters
Audio
Video Video TD:
GFX/Stream:

March 19 - Lent

Elder Keith Kallstrom

March 23

Elder Dave Wacker
Lector
Greeters
Audio
Video Video TD:
GFX/Stream:

March 26 - Lent

Elder Carlos Orellana

March 30

Elder Fred Sterns
Lector
Greeters
Audio
Video Video TD:
GFX/Stream:

ALTAR GUILD SERVICES

Debbie and Rick Smith

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP @ 5:30 PM

Elder Carlos Orellana (3/1), Steve Rosane (3/8),
Dave Wacker 3/15, Keith Kallstrom 3/22
Carlos Orellana 3/29
Lector ... Debbie Smith/ Gerie Slaten/
Carlos Orellana, Steve Rosane

CHRIST LUTHERAN STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Christopher Hazzard
(cell) 863-732-1322

Office Secretary

Terry Krum
863-682-7802

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

Pastor

pastor@clclakeland.org

Office

clcsecretary@gmail.com

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.



Christ Lutheran Church
 2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd
 Phone: 863-682-7802

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
= <i>Baseball Parking</i>						1 5:30p Worship
2 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Elders Meeting Mary Martha Purse & Accessory sale Baby Bottle Campaign ends	3 	4 Adopt a Block @ 11a Grief Share @ 1 pm Outreach @ 5:30p	5 Trustee WD 9a Quilters @ 10a Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 5:15 Choir @ 7:30p Ash Wed Service @ 6:30 p	6 Bible Study @ 10a	7 @ 6:05p	8 5:30p Worship
9 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Daylight Savings time begins	10 Council Mtg @ 6:30p	11 Adopt a Block @ 11a Grief Share @ 1 pm	12 Trustee WD 9a Mary Martha mtg @ 9:30a Quilters @ 10a Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 5:15 Lent Ser @ 6:30p Choir @ 7:30p	13 Bible Study @ 10a	14	15 5:30p Worship
16 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Communication Board Mtg	17 9 AM Deadline for Newsletter items	18 Adopt a Block @ 11a Grief Share @ 1 pm	19 Trustee WD 9a Quilters @ 10a Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 5:15 Lent Ser @ 6:30p Choir @ 7:30p	20 Bible Study @ 10a Civitan mtg @ noon	21 @ 6:05p	22 5:30p Worship
23 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship	24	25 Adopt a Block @ 11a Grief Share @ 1 pm	26 Trustee WD 9a Quilters @ 10a Private Com. 1:30 - 2:30p Jr. Conf @ 5:15 Lent Ser @ 6:30p Choir @ 7:30p	27 Bible Study @ 10a Civitan mtg @ 6p @ Il Forno's (North)	28	29 M/M Fashion Show 1-4pm
30 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Church Potluck	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.

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



Gayle Thomas	Mar 2
Helen Borgwardt.....	Mar 4
Maria Hazzard.....	Mar 7
Rita Czanko.....	Mar 7
Shirley Lindstrom.....	Mar 15
Gerard Moran	Mar 15
Barbara Szymanski	Mar 16
Roland Feickert.....	Mar 17
Art Reinert.....	Mar 18
Henry Veal.....	Mar 18
Virginia Hazlett.....	Mar 20
Christian Ives	Mar 24
Carol Kloha	Mar 25
James Kloha.....	Mar 26
Gloria Nelson	Mar 26
Elizabeth Wilkens.....	Mar 27
Norma Miller.....	Mar 28
Janice Caffary	Mar 30
Wendy Rogers	Mar 30



Lee and Audrey Crapo	Mar 1 (45 yrs.)
Rick and Debbie Smith.....	Mar 2 (51 yrs.)
Charlotte and Randall Mantz	Mar 7 (44 yrs.)
Ronald and Jane Roy	Mar 10 (52 yrs.)
Henry and Judy Veal.....	Mar 23 (41 yrs.)
Tom and Nancy Funtsch,.....	Mar 27 (26 yrs.)



Thank you Helen Borgwardt and Gwen Snook for serving for the month of February. Debbie and Rick Smith will serve for the month of March. 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.

If you are a member or an associate member, and your information is missing or incorrect, please notify the church office.

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.

Skylar Peterson.....	Mar 1
Kris Welch.....	Mar 1
Kyle Welch.....	Mar 1
Steve West.....	Mar 1
Amanda Peterson	Mar 1
Gary Hancock	Mar 3
Fred Sterns	Mar 4
Gerard Moran.....	Mar 15
Richard Smith	Mar 19
Gayle Thomas.....	Mar 22
Kim Kaniecki	Mar 25
Elizabeth Wilkens	Mar 27
Sarah Sicheri.....	Mar 28
Norma Tipton	Mar 29
Jane Roy	Mar 30

*First year Anniversary as
Member of Christ Lutheran Church*

None in March

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.....

Fasting

Ash Wednesday is March 5th. The church season of Lent lasts for 40 days (not including Sundays), mirroring the 40 years that Moses and the Israelites spent in the wilderness before crossing over into the promised land, as well as the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and being tempted by the devil. Traditionally, Christians have fasted during Lent, giving up something enjoyable as an act of devotion. Fasting implies giving up food for a time, although abstaining from other substances and behaviors can also be beneficial. When Jesus was tempted to turn the stones into loaves of bread, he replied (quoting Deuteronomy 8:3) “It is written, ““Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”” (Matthew 4:4 ESV). Some Christians abstain from eating from sunrise to sunset. Others give up on specific kinds of food. If you decide to give substantial fasting a try, it is wise to seek the advice of a health care provider before starting. Jesus seems to teach that fasting is a normal part of the Spiritual life. “And **when you fast**, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But **when you fast**, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:16-18 ESV) Luther also commends fasting, “Who receives this sacrament worthily? Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training...” (Small Catechism, Sacrament of the Altar).

The purpose of fasting is not to gain spiritual brownie points, somehow making oneself right before God. That is impossible. Jesus on the cross made us right with God, giving us His righteousness. Rather, fasting points us to the Lord and His gifts. Sometimes, we do not appreciate things until they are gone. Every good Gift comes from God. May we learn to “thank and praise, serve and obey Him” (Luther’s Small Catechism).

Pastor Chris

Adopt a Block

Each Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. we share a meal at which we enjoy connection with our neighbors. All are invited to attend and help. I encourage everyone to check it out as you are able.



See pictures on page 7

Continued from page 6



Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee is happy to welcome 6 new members...some are familiar faces too !

Cassandra and family, David , and Nancy

Does your membership photo need updating? I bet it does.....please submit a new photo to me via email or we can take one any Sunday in person.



Mark your calendar now for our annual Volunteer Appreciation lunch on April 6th after our service. See you then.

Finally, trying to get out in the fresh air a little more before the summer heat joins us? Remember, a short walk does wonders and ALWAYS WALK WITH GOD.

LET'S REMEMBER OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AS THEIR SCHOOL YEAR WINDS DOWN.....

Dear Jesus

Long before the world was made, You planned to come to Earth and die on the cross for my sins. Thank you. Thank you for the plans you have for our youth today and in the future.

Help them prepare themselves to carry out these plans. In your name I pray.

Amen

Blessings, Lora Wacker

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.

A Word from the President

It's so nice to finally have some warm weather, isn't it? It's been a very chilly winter for us Floridians. However, I'm sure our winter guests have been enjoying it very much! The sun is shining more and more, the temperatures are quickly rising, the grass is beginning to green up and yes, the weeds are growing, much to our dismay! However, let's all rejoice in the growth of whatever is greening up because it means we are still here to enjoy the goodness of God's world.

We, like the plants, should be growing also. Yes, there are times when we go into a bit of a 'dormant' season like winter, but let's all recognize those times and ask for God's strength, encouragement and excitement to get back out into His world and spring into growth! There are ways that He is ready and waiting to bless us and we need to be ready to receive those blessings. But not only that. There are people that need to be blessed by you, as well!

I once read a book called, "Connected to Christ, Why Membership Matters" by Peter Speckhard. As I read it, something stood out to me. It was the idea of how we can be a blessing to others, without even realizing it sometimes. It doesn't always take a moment of "Here, let me do this in service to God for 'such and such' a result." It said that just coming to church may be blessing someone you don't even know you are blessing. It spoke of the single mom who may struggle to get the toddler(s) ready for church but didn't realize how much she blessed the elderly person who sits behind her. How much of a smile it puts on that person's face, the hope it gives them for the future. It also spoke of the single man sitting in the pew who, unbeknownst to him, is being such a positive role model for the young boy sitting there with his mom.

There are countless ways we can be a blessing to someone else. Quite often when we are completely unaware of it! Yes, it can feel more special to know it, but it shouldn't take our 'knowing' it for us to do as God has commanded. And yes, He has commanded that we come together to worship Him as often as we can if we are able. Let's just trust that God, in His infinite wisdom, will use us in a myriad of ways to bless those around us. We just need to be available for His use, and that's hard to do sitting in our home alone.

So, let's all make the effort this spring to get out and 'plant' ourselves into the world He has placed us in. My own personal Confirmation Sunday theme (WAY back when), was "Bloom Where You Are Planted". It has stuck with me for many years. And you know, if we all 'bloom where we are planted', we can, together, make a beautiful garden!

Happy blooming!

Kim Kaniecki
Council President



ENDOWMENT FUND

Christ Lutheran Church Endowment Fund was approved at a special voters meeting on November 19, 2006 and was signed by then president Lee Dux and then secretary Doris Jungerberg.

The Endowment Fund has to reach a certain principal amount before any gifts or bequests can be expended.

The committee is looking to the future years to be able to give back to the congregation by supporting some of our students with scholarship money for college. Also to make monetary gifts in helping missions of the LCMS. As opportunities open, we would like to support Christ Lutheran Church with capital improvements, debt reduction or building programs.

We will be having two fundraising drives this year. One in the Spring and one in the Fall!

However, we would like the congregation to consider making donations as you are able throughout the year.

The Endowment Fund has a SEPARATE checking account so please make your check payable to the Christ Lutheran Church Endowment Fund.

We welcome special gifts in memory of a love one, and you may want to talk with your financial advisor regarding using your Required Minimum Distribution as a donation to the Endowment Fund for tax purposes.

On behalf of the Endowment Fund Committee, I would like to thank you for all the support you can give us.

Peace Be With You,

Helen Borgwardt

Chairperson



Christian Education

In the months ahead I will share some of my books that I have found helpful in my spiritual journey. I would like to begin with my devotional materials that I use every day. I start my day with one that many of you use, the Portals of Prayer. I read the devotion for that day. One good thing about the Portals of Prayer is that it includes a reading from the Psalms in addition to the reading the devotion is based on. After my reading, I then go to the back and pray the prayer for that day, morning and evening. After these prayers, I go to the front and pray Luther's Morning and Evening prayers. Some of you pray the evening prayers before you go to bed. There are times when you will see an asterisk at the top of the devotion for that day. There is a special prayer for that reading in the back of the Portals of Prayers. In March we have four: The Transfiguration of our Lord (March 2); Ash Wednesday (March 5); Lent (General); and The Annunciation of Our Lord (March 25).

After I finish my devotion with the Portals of Prayer, I go to my next devotional guide "Today's Light." I will talk more about this guide next month. After I finish my second devotional guide then it is time for my prayers. I pray for our pastor, our congregation, those who are sick, our nation, our missionaries and more. Then I finish my prayer time with the Lord's Prayer and start my day making the sign of the cross, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." On Sunday after I read my devotion (Today's Light has only one devotion for the weekend) I pray the prayers for Sunday, Luther's morning prayer, and then I pray all the prayers in the back. As you can see there are many prayers. Of course you can use any of these prayers at any time. After I finish my prayers, I go to the front of the Portals of Prayer and finish up my Sunday's devotion using the "Order of Family Worship." I use the Invocation, the Gloria, the Lord's Prayer, and finish up with "Let us bless the Lord," "Thanks be to God," and the Blessing.

Thankfully at Christ, we have three print sizes, small, digest, and large. When I make my homebound visits and it is time for the new Portals of Prayer, the digest and large print are by far the ones that our members use.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119: 105).

Blessings on your time in the Portals of Prayer!!!

Pastor Block



Outreach

Outreach has been very busy since the beginning of the New Year. January fellowship was donated to the Orphan Grain Train. February donations are designated to the Senior Orphans. Viste will benefit from March fellowship. Thank you to all who donate to fellowship's worthwhile causes. Each donation makes a difference in somebody's life.

The Options for Women Baby Bottle Campaign is going well. Approximately 70 baby bottles have gone out with 60 returned. Remember, March 2nd is the final return date. Who knows how many babies have been given a chance at life because of your generous donations.

Go Tigers! Baseball Spring Training is here! New parking signs are ready to go. Things are heating up in the concessions department. Most volunteer spots are filled except for a few. Sign up in the Narthex to volunteer for a couple of hours parking cars or working at the concession stand. It's a lot of fun and you get to know others from the congregation.

Souper Bowl Sunday was a great success. We had 11 very tasty soups to sample from. I don't believe anyone went away hungry. Thanks to everyone who worked to make this a success.

Lamar Stewart is our new Seminary student. More information to come.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have suggestions, ideas for future outreach, or questions about volunteering at Adopt a Block.

Wendy Rogers
Outreach Chairperson

Lenten Services -Wednesdays @ 6:30 pm

March 5 - Ash Wednesday

March 12 - Listener

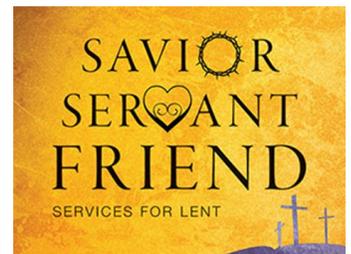
We embrace the news that Jesus listens to us like no other and answers all our questions and concerns.

March 19 – Healer

In word and song, we remember that Jesus heals us of the sickness of our sin through his death on the cross and makes us well again in our very souls.

March 26 – Comforter

We look to Jesus who comforts us in struggles and sorrows that we might find rest in his promises.



Continued on page 14

MARY MARTHA



Spring Luncheon- All ladies of Christ Lutheran are invited to this luncheon!

Mary Martha met on February 12 for our regular monthly meeting. Our next regular meeting will be on March 12, but we will not be meeting at the Church, rather at our spring luncheon which will be held at

Brack Shack Bar and Grill
231 East Lake Avenue
Auburndale, FL 33823

We can order off their menu. We will have a private section. They accommodate wheelchairs and walkers.

We have several members who live near this location, or nearby, which is our reason for meeting there. We can also have a meeting beforehand and Brack says we can arrive anytime after 10am. At 10:30, we will hold a short business meeting.

For those of us from Lakeland, we can carpool. My van holds 7 people! We can meet at 9:45 am at the Church to traverse to the Metropolis of Auburndale.

Winter Haven Zone Spring Rally!

Our Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, March 1 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Zephyrhills! We will carpool for this event, as well, if you so desire! Call or text Charlotte at 863-409-6270. I can pick you up, if need be with advanced notice!

The Gifts from the heart for this event is “ Phil’s Friends.” This ministry is for the care and comfort of Cancer patients. The list for their needs is on the door of the Fellowship hall.

Sunday- March 2 is our annual purse and accessories sale! Please feel free to donate your purses and accessory goodies. We have a box in the narthex!



Mary Martha will hold our Annual Fashion Show on Saturday, March 29 from 1-4 pm!

Bungalow Boutique in Dixieland, Downtown, Lakeland will be holding the show! The price is \$10 per and includes appetizers.

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12

We are selling tickets every Sunday after our worship services. If you live in a community that you can place posters, we have those for you! Also, if you want to check out tickets to sell, you can do so without paying for them up front!

Mary Martha voted to commit partial proceeds from this event to the Youth group for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, this summer!

We would love to sell out this event to promote our ministries!

Please feel free to contact Charlotte for any questions! I have a cochlear implant, so I am not always available for calls, but always available for texts!

In His Service

Charlotte Mantz
President, Mary Martha/ LWML

Puzzle!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

crown donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
colt crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
confess death Gethsemane lots repent thorns
cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil

E	N	A	M	E	S	H	T	E	G	R	L	W	Y
C	L	E	U	X	B	M	T	H	B	U	C	W	B
N	R	I	K	Y	P	A	T	E	T	I	Y	X	Y
A	V	J	G	A	L	B	R	E	Y	A	R	P	B
N	G	N	L	I	S	N	L	A	I	N	E	D	X
E	W	M	P	R	V	R	D	H	B	N	R	D	F
P	S	O	G	O	L	G	O	T	H	A	B	S	C
D	L	N	R	O	C	O	N	F	E	S	S	I	K
O	T	H	T	C	P	E	K	W	U	O	U	N	D
M	N	S	H	N	P	W	E	D	R	H	F	S	K
U	N	F	O	E	T	K	Y	C	S	G	F	O	E
H	E	C	R	E	V	L	I	S	W	Q	E	C	M
H	V	H	N	C	X	S	O	C	C	J	R	L	O
F	Q	E	S	U	D	S	H	C	A	A	Y	M	C
C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	S	R	V

Lighthouse Ministries Presents
KEAGGY
PHIL KEAGGY LIVE
An Evening of Music & Hope
TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN
LAKELAND
11 APR
WHITETHORNEVENTS.COM
Lighthouse Ministries



Join us for our
Annual Fashion Show

PRESENTED BY:



1026 S. FLORIDA AVENUE
 LAKELAND, FL 33803

Join us for food (*hor D'oeuvres* will be served), fellowship, fashion and fun!
 Proceeds to benefit local charities.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025
1-4 P.M. * COST: 10.00

Christ Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
 2715 Lakeland Hills Blvd., Lakeland

Hosted By: Mary Martha Group
 See Charlotte Mantz for tickets
 863-409-6270



Daylight-Saving Time Begins



Sunday, March 9th

Turn your clocks ahead one hour
 Saturday Night

Puzzler!

Search for these words that are all associated with the Lenten journey.

- crowns donkey hosanna penance Pilate sins
- coit crucifixion forsaken kiss prayer suffer
- confess death Getsemane lots repent thorns
- cross denial Golgotha palms silver vigil



Continued from page 12

April 2 – Protector

We acknowledge that Jesus protects us from the devil and from danger and keeps us safe in him.

April 9 - Encourager

We recognize that Jesus encourages us in our faith to live our life for him.



Central America Missions March, 2025

Last January I went on my first surgical mission for 2025. This medical group also has a program that goes to visit people in the mountains. These are remote areas where people live; most of them can't afford to travel to seek health care. Through a grant, the Franciscan Friars have an outreach program with a full time social worker; he assesses and monitors the needs of the people in these areas. Our medical group sends Doctors and Physicians Assistant to provide health care.

This passed January we saw a total of 266 patients to whom we provided care and treatment. We did 76 surgical procedures . I feel privileged to be a part of this medical group. The results of the work that these professionals do is truly remarkable. Christ Lutheran Church is also part of this life changing mission. Thank you for your prayers and support for this mission.

Carlos Orellana



Holding one of our patients

More pictures on Page 16

Central American Missions March 2025



This is the “mountaineer” group for 2025. Includes a Pediatrician, Physician Assistants, Social Worker, Physical Therapist and interpreters..



We also invite local practitioners to work with us.



An elderly woman being assessed by a local resident. The Friars also have a resident program from the Medical School. They also joined our group.