

The Christogram

Psalm 145:2

***Every day I will bless you and praise your name,
forever and ever.***

**September 2025
Volume 63 Issue 9**



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**And the peace of God,
which surpasses
all understanding,
will guard your hearts
and your minds
in Christ Jesus.**

~Philippians 4:7, ESV~



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Christ Lutheran Church
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Lakeland, FL 33805
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CHRIST LUTHERAN STAFF**Pastor**

Rev. Christopher Hazzard
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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	Dave Wacker
Steve West	Frank Decker

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**

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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 September**September 7**

Elder..... Keith Kallstrom
Lector..... Levi Hazzard
Greeters
Audio.....
Video Video/Streaming:
 GFX:

September 14

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

September 21

Elder..... Steve Rosane
Lector..... Kim Kaniecki
Greeters
Audio.....
Video Video/Streaming:
 GFX:

September 28

Elder..... Dave Wacker
Lector..... Levi Hazzard
Greeters
Audio.....
Video Video/Streaming:
 GFX:

:

ALTAR GUILD SERVICES



Sandy Spanier and John T. Doherty, Jr.

SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP @ 5:30 PM

Elder..... Carlos Orellana (9/6), Steve Rosane (9/13)
 Steve Rosane (9/20), Steve West (9/27)
Lector..... Debbie Smith, Gerie Slaten
 Carlos Orellana, Steve Rosane



**Christ Lutheran
Church**
2715 Lakeland Hills

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  LABOR DAY Church Office Closed	2 Adopt a Block @ 11a	3 Trustee WD @ 9 a Quilters @ 10a Grief Share @ 6 p Choir Practice @ 7 p	4 Bible Study @ 10a	5	6 5:30p Worship
7 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Elders Meeting After service	8 Council Mtg @ 6:30p	9 Adopt a Block @ 11a	10 Trustee WD @ 9a Mary Martha Mtg @ 9:30a Quilters @ 10 a Grief Share @ 6 p Choir Practice @ 7 p	11 Bible Study @ 10a	12	13 5:30p Worship
14 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship Communication Board Mtg	15 9 AM Deadline for Newsletter items	16 Adopt a Block @ 11a	17 Trustee WD @ 9 a Quilters @ 10 a Grief Share @ 6 p Choir Practice @ 7 p	18 Bible Study @ 10a	19	20 5:30p Worship
21 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship	22 First Day of Fall 	23 Adopt a Block @ 11a	24 Trustee WD @ 9a Quilters @ 10 a Grief Share @ 6 p Choir Practice @ 7 p	25 Bible Study @ 10a	26	27 5:30p Worship
28 8:30a Bible Study 10a Worship	29	30 Adopt a Block @ 11a				



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
Rose McLauchlin
Fran Murphy
Paul Schierschwitz
Natalie Thiele
Norma Tipton
Amy Wilson
Fred and Marlene Yost



Charles Henning	Sept 4
Virginia Fahrenholz	Sept 10
Betty Davenport	Sept 11
Noah Ives	Sept 13
Helen Gavin	Sept 13
John Freer	Sept 14
Tom Funtsch	Sept 16
Traie Ward	Sept 17
Michael Thomas	Sept 17
Martha Bolton	Sept 23
Keith Kallstrom	Sept 25
Lorie Bielec	Sept 25
Cassandra Alexis	Sept 30



Nancy Cantrell	Aug 15
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Richard (Dick) and Joyce Neuenfeldt	Sept 6 (67 yrs)
Dawn Peters and Troy Peters	Sept 29 (13 yrs)



Thank you Sandy Spanier and Janette Williams for serving for the month of August. Sandy Spanier and John T. Doherty, Jr. will serve for the month of September. 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.*

BAPTISM BIRTHDAY

Blessings

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.

Catherine Sterns	Sept 1
Janice Newman	Sept 2
Jonathan Keating	Sept 9
Cheryl Erwin	Sept 10
Cindy Cavanaugh	Sept 20
Donna Grant	Sept 21
Sandra Spanier	Sept 24
Barbara Miller	Sept 28

First year Anniversary as Member of Christ Lutheran Church

None for this month.



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; dishwashing soap, personal soap, laundry soap; 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.....

Bearing Our Crosses - Luke 9:23-24

[23] And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. [24] For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. (ESV)



The cost of following Jesus can be steep. Self-denial. Actually following the ten commandments. Actually loving our neighbors as ourselves. Actually using "our" money for God's purposes over ours. Actually bearing our crosses and living a life of trust as we follow Jesus. Many of us only pay lip service in some areas of our life to following Jesus. Many of us are content to know that we are forgiven and beloved, so we never start the hard journey of ordering our lives completely according to God's will. All too often we don't even try to do the hard stuff that Christ calls to do as we live lives of loving God and loving our neighbors. We have stunted Christian growth.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand! Jesus calls us to do the hard stuff because he loves us. God helps us thrive as we persevere through trials by the power of the Holy Spirit. He calls us off the bench in the game of life, daring to play the game the best we can, daring to follow Jesus. God wants something more from you than to be a spiritual couch potato. God uses you to serve the world around you in love. And as you do the hard things in life, God's love shines through to others. Jesus is no stranger to choosing the hard things. He chose death and the grave for you. He chose the cross. And so we bear our crosses for the sake of others.



Join us Sunday morning, August 31st, for a full report on our trip to the gathering. We appreciate the support that the congregation provided. Thank you!



We worked the Florida-Georgia District booth in the activity center as a service project.

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Continued from page 6



We were seated close to the action for Wednesday's concluding Divine Service.



The mass events at the Superdome were inspirational.



A view from the balcony of our hotel at the corner of Bourbon and Canal Streets.



After the gathering, we took some time to decompress at the aquarium.

A Word from the President

I read a story once about a lady that was sitting under a magnificent oak tree. Big, strong branches all over it loaded with tiny acorns. Looking out, she saw a field of watermelons. Big, heavy watermelons on a little vine. "Funny," she thought, "God should have put the big watermelons on the big tree branches and the tiny acorns on the little vine!" Right about then, an acorn fell on her head! You guessed, she realized very quickly that God knew what He was doing after all! Thank goodness He didn't ask us for our opinions when He made all of creation!

In every situation in our lives, God knows far more about the people and circumstances involved that we can ever know. He alone sees the big picture. He alone has created the master plan that provides for the good of all who serve Him.

How many times have we said to ourselves, "That was a God thing!"? He's always at work in our lives blessing us, protecting us, providing for us. Just this past month there was a situation in our own building that had someone saying, "That was a God thing!" Part of our building experienced a broken pipe with water flooding the entire area. Days before, a decision was made to put everything that was on the floor into plastic tubs instead of cardboard boxes. What a blessing that decision turned out to be or much would have been lost to water damage! Thanks be to God for planting that thought into the mind of those that made that decision.

It's not always the big things in life that concern God. He cares for the little things in our lives too. Today, trust in Him and His plan. He always knows what's best for us. Proverbs 3:5-6 advises us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, not leaning on your own understanding, and He will make your paths straight."

May you find a way each and every day, in all situations, to trust in God with all your heart. Not just in the big things but also in the little things! Never forget: He loves you as His child and always wants what is best for you.

Have a blessed month!

*Kim Kaniecki,
Council President*



MARY MARTHA GUILD



The **Mary Martha Group of LWML** will hold our first meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 10th at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

We will kick off the year with our planning of **LWML Sunday**, which will be held on Sunday, October 5th. This will be the beginning of this season's **Fellowship Sundays**, which we will be serving.

We will be sharing our plans for the **LWML Winter Haven Zone Rally**, which we will be hosting on November 8th. Details will be following.

Our **Craft Fair** will be held on Saturday, December 6th. Please see the flyer in this edition of the newsletter

All Mary Martha members need to review the Constitution and By-laws updates, prior to the meeting. Please have any corrections or suggestions in writing, prior to the meeting so that the committee can finalize an updated copy.

Christ Lutheran and Mary Martha will be hosting the **Winter Haven Zone of LWML** on Saturday, November 8th beginning at 9:00 am. Our theme is **"Seeds of Hope" Luke 8:11; The Seed is the Word of God.**

Our guest speaker will be Kay Sasser, founder and President of Combee Connection, a ministry that serves the homeless and underserved in the Combee area.

Light breakfast foods will be served as well as lunch. All ladies of the congregation are welcome, whether or not you are able to come to Mary Martha meetings

We will be packing soup mixes to give out at the ministry at their food bank. Our goal is to make 100 soup mixes that we will pack in jars. Listed below are the needed items that we are collecting for this mission. We need a lot of help in this endeavor as we reach out to these folks.

Below is the list of items needed. We will have a box in the Narthex to place your gifts of ingredients inside. We will have lists posted on our Mary Martha bulletin board which you can take with you to the grocery store.

Mixed bean and barley soup
(*all beans are dried)

Kidney beans	Barley
Green split peas	Black beans
Cannellini or Great northern beans	
Green lentils	Red lentils
Brown lentils	Bay leaves
Onion flakes	Chicken boullion
Parsley flakes	Italian seasoning
Garlic powder	



In His Service

Charlotte Mantz
President, Mary Martha

Christ LUTHERAN CHURCH CRAFT BAZAAR



SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 ❄️ 9AM-2PM

Local
Artisans

Concessions
Available

Need
vendor
details?

email
clmantz@aol.com
or text
863-409-6270

Profits to
benefit
local charity

Door
Prizes!!

Bake Sale

Holiday
Crafts

Christmas
Gifts

Christian Education

A book I would recommend is "*Lutheranism 101*". This book examines our Lutheran beliefs and heritage in a fresh way. If you are a lifelong Lutheran searching for more information or new to Lutheranism looking to understand what we believe, I would recommend this study.

There is so much information in this book. Part One: *It's All About Relationships*. In this section you will see in sending Jesus Christ as the Savior of all mankind, God has done what we could never do to restore our relationship with Himself. In Chapter 3, "*It's All about Jesus*", you will see 101 Biblical names and titles of Jesus. And in Chapter 4 you will get a study on the word "Justification."

Part Two: *Delivering the Gifts of God*; Part Three: *The Means of Grace*. In this section you will learn more about Law and Gospel, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

Part Four: *Lutherans at a Glance*; Part Five: *Worship: The Blessings of God*. In this section you will learn how to make the sign of the cross, Seasons and Colors of the Church Year, and the Top Twenty-five Hymns Lutherans Love to Sing. Finally, Part Six: *Living as Lutherans*. In this section you will learn ways of sharing your faith.

At the end of the book there are so many appendices. For example, Weird and Wonderful Bible Facts, Spiritual Gifts, The Church Year, Lutheran Churches around the World and so many more. It even has a glossary which explains so many words we use in our teachings and worship.

I know you will be blessed to purchase this book from Concordia Publishing House (CPH). As it says on the front cover it is quick, usable, comprehensive, and concise.

In September, Pastor Hazzard will be starting a Bible Study on our Lutheran Confessions. The study is called "*Lutheran Confessions: Augsburg Confession and Its Apology*." There are 13 sessions in this CPH study. On pages 179 and 180 of "*Lutheranism 101*" we read this about the Augsburg Confession and Its Apology:

In the year 1530, the Lutherans were required to present their confession of faith before the emperor in Augsburg, Germany. Philip Melancthon wrote the Augsburg Confession, and it was read before the imperial court on June 30, 1530. One year later the Lutherans presented their defense of the Augsburg Confession, which is what "apology" here means. It too was written by Philip Melancthon. The largest document in the *Book of Concord*, its longest chapter is devoted to the most important truth of the Christian faith, the doctrine of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Keep praying for our sister congregation Our Savior, Zephyrhills as they get ready to extend their 5th call. I know the Lord in His time will bless this congregation with a new pastor.

A blessed September!!!

Pastor Block/Board of Christian Education



Fellowship



As I write this, it is the second week of August. Summertime is slow and easy - and that's how the responses to volunteering for fellowship have been. Just giving you a heads-up that I will be starting to make phone calls this week.

Please feel free to call me at 863-937-6756 if you have any questions. We have this lovely tradition and would like it to continue. Depending on amount of volunteers, we may need to revamp from having it every Sunday, to once or twice a month for a meal, then cookies on the other Sundays.

Please watch the bulletin and newsletter for details. This is just a great way to meet your fellow members!

Joyce Munz

Outreach

Outreach will be meeting on Tuesday September 2nd at 5:30 pm.

If you are interested in being involved as we continue our outreach efforts, please join us!

See you in September!

Blessings
Wendy



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.

Central America Missions



There are so many blessings going on with the Central American Mission. During month of August I received the promised donation from Lutheran Women Missionary League Florida District of \$10,000. This money will be used to install a gas sterilization system that will improve our capabilities tremendously. We will be able to reprocess more of the donated surgical material and will help to alleviate our reliance on the steam sterilizer. I also want to thank the Munz's for spearheading the request of this money and to Charlotte Mantz for making sure the process was followed correctly.

In another front: the Friars had 5K and 8K races in Comayagua to help raise funds. This money helped finance their different programs, helping the poorest of the poor around Comayagua and beyond. The morning of the race, while we were setting up, it was pouring rain. We didn't expect too many runners. The weather got a little bit better an hour later, and we were running with an overwhelming respond. Although running on a muddy street is not easy, the participants were in a very Competitive mood and in high spirits! It was a very nice environment to be in.

Christ Lutheran: thank you for your support throughout all these years. Your prayers and financial support are doing a lot of good for the poorest of the poor in Guatemala and Honduras. There is so much to tell you, so stay tuned! May the Lord keep the Mission going, helping those with the most need.



Thank you to the Lutheran Women Missionary League for your donation to the Central American Mission. This will be used to help the poorest of the poor.

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The name of the race is "Burroton" which for us means big donkey. Not really, but our mascot has been with us for the three years of this race.

I am just an old donkey trying to run with these stallions. By the way, people from Comayagua are known as "donkeys".



Mission accomplished and still feeling great!

Carlos Orellana

GriefShare®

SUPPORT GROUP

Wednesdays, Aug 27th – Nov 19th, 2025, 6:00–8:00pm ET

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

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.

Hello! Sheriff Grady Judd here! With school starting and as our county continues to grow, there is a lot more traffic on the roads. Now there will be children walking and biking to school.

Please watch out for them and allow extra travel time for local travel because the roads are going to be busy and slowdown in school zones and look out for school buses that are stopped picking up and letting off our most precious resource, you know, our children.



Remember, school buses have cameras to document those who pass stopped school buses and I don't want to see anyone get a traffic citation, so please be safe.

Thank you. Let's make this a great school year!

Love you all, take care!



Puzzle!

After looking up each Bible passage, find and circle the location in the word search. (If a verse lists more than one place, figure out which one is hidden.) Answers can be found horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

Genesis 2:15	S	I	D	O	N	G	N	I	L	E	S	O
Genesis 11:9	J	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R
Genesis 35:1	E	S	G	A	A	R	C	A	N	A	A	M
Exodus 13:18	R	A	E	T	B	D	C	D	B	E	O	O
Ruth 1:1	U	M	T	H	B	E	T	H	E	L	F	U
1 Kings 18:19	S	A	H	E	T	N	E	A	T	N	G	N
1 Chronicles 11:4	A	R	S	N	Y	O	M	N	H	I	A	T
Isaiah 23:1	L	I	E	S	R	F	M	T	L	N	L	C
Isaiah 23:2	E	A	M	D	E	E	A	I	E	E	I	A
Isaiah 23:3	M	F	A	R	S	D	U	O	H	V	L	R
Jonah 1:2	G	H	N	O	A	E	S	C	E	E	E	M
Matthew 3:6	I	J	E	M	B	N	A	H	M	H	E	E
Matthew 4:18	T	O	W	E	R	O	F	B	A	B	E	L
Matthew 26:36												
Luke 24:13												
John 2:1												
Acts 8:5												
Acts 11:22												
Acts 17:16												
Romans 1:15												

