

## Third Sunday in Advent December 14, 2025

**As We Gather** - During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the hope that the Savior who came for the world once is coming again. And we do not wait alone. Together, the whole Christian Church is accompanied in this waiting by the Christ who promises to be with His people always. Jesus' mother, the virgin Mary, knows a lot about waiting. With pregnant anticipation, Mary waited *for* Jesus, the promised Messiah who would reign from David's throne forever. But Mary was always waiting *with* Jesus, the Son of the Most High nestled within her womb. Throughout this Advent, we will listen with Mary, sing with Mary, and wait with Mary. Because, on darkest days, the Christ comes as near to you as He did to Mary to wait *with* you for the glorious sunrise that's coming.

Today we shall turn our attention to the words of Mary in her great Magnificat, sung by the church for two millennia. Through this song, we hear the message of Jesus Christ, who has come to rescue us from our sin.

**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 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)*

**PREPARATION**

**Hymn of Invocation: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

LSB 345

*△ Please stand after a brief interlude.*



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the  
near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -  
works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”  
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;  
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89 Text and tune: Public domain

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

**P** We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**C** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**P** The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means "rejoice," as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

**C** **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

**P** Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

**C** **Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

**P** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

**C** **Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

**P** For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

**C** **and His faithfulness to all generations."**

## **Confession and Absolution**

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **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.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## ***Service of the Word***

### **Introit**

*Psalm 71:14-18; Philippians 4:4*



**P** Rejoice in the Lord | always,\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

**C** I will hope con- | tinually\*  
and will praise you yet | more and more.

**P** My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,\*  
for their number is past my | knowledge.

**C** With the mighty deeds of the Lord God | I will come,\*  
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

**P** O God, from my youth you have | taught me,\*  
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

**C** So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,\*  
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those  
to come.

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.

Rejoice in the Lord | always,\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

## Kyrie

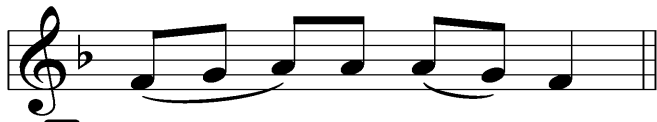
LSB 152

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** 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.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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



**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

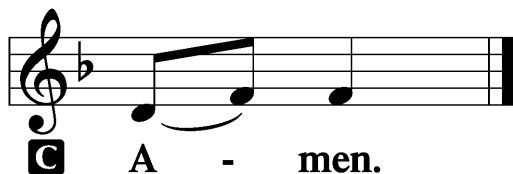
**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 35:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,

and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*James 5:7–11*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the'. The second staff continues the melody with 'words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The piece concludes with a double bar line.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

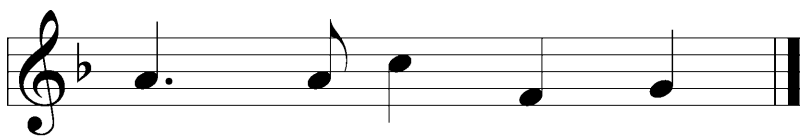
<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

<sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.





Hymn:

**Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'rings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.  
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt. Tune: Swedish Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon**

**"Shall We Look For Another?"**

**Matthew 11:2-15**

## Nicene Creed

**C** 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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "Rejoice in The Lord, Always"**

**Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only)**

**Registry of Worship Cards (Sunday Only)** – *Please pass your completed cards to the center aisle*

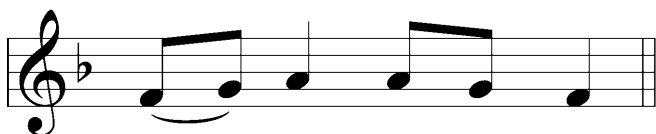
**Prayer of the Church**

## ***Service of the Sacrament***

### **Preface**

*LSB 160*

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## Sanctus

LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Before the dawn of the ages, You sent forth from Your love all that is and declared it good. When, in the rebellion against Your goodness, we chose the path of sin and rebellion, You did not stop loving us but promised the day when that love would be enfleshed in Your own Son, born of the virgin, for the sake of the whole world. Having come in obedience to Your saving will and having offered Himself in our place upon the cross, You have set Your Table among us and called us to feast upon the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.

**C 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."

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**


**P** 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:

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

# Pax Domini

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

  
A - men.

## Agnus Dei

*LSB 163*

**G** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

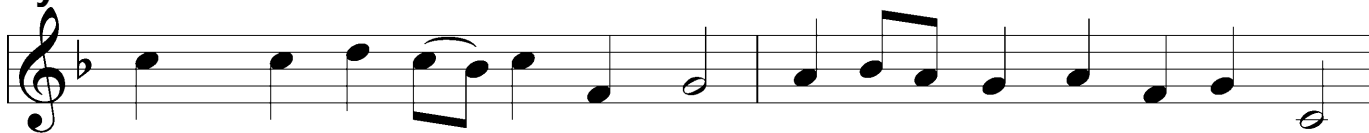
## Distribution

***Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)***

## LSB 334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

## LSB 333 Once He Came in Blessing

*Stand*



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



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



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



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

### *(Saturday)*

**P** Let us pray.

**C** 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.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

LSB 166

**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.



**C** A - men.

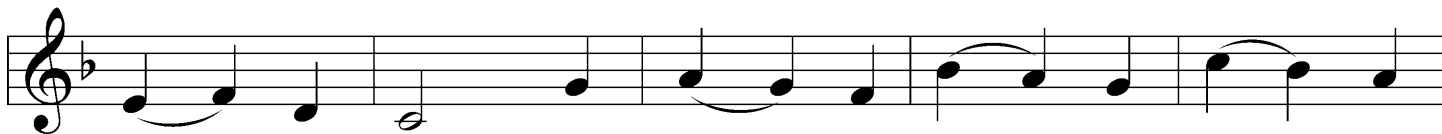
## Closing Hymn:

### Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820 Text and tune: Public domain

## Postlude:

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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### LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

**Pastor** ..... Pastor Christopher Hazzard  
**Organist**..... Elena Miraztchiyska

#### Saturday

**Organist**..... Elena Miraztchiyska  
**Elder**..... Steve West  
**Lector** ..... Gerie Slaten

#### Sunday

**Elder**..... Keith Kallstrom  
**Lector** ..... Carlos Orellana  
**Greeter**..... John T. Doherty, Jr.  
**Audio** ..... Kim Kaniecki  
**Video**..... Video/Streaming: Josiah Hazzard  
GFX: Andrea Hazzard  
**Altar Guild** ..... Dawn Peters and Sandy Spanier

### LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY

**Pastor** ..... Pastor Christopher Hazzard  
**Organist**..... Elena Miraztchiyska  
**Elder**..... Frank Decker  
**Lector** ..... Kim Kaniecki  
**Greeter**.....  
**Audio** ..... Matthew Alexis  
**Video**..... Video/Streaming: Kris Welch  
GFX: Cheryl Erwin  
**Altar Guild** ..... Dawn Peters and Sandy Spanier

### ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship Attendance.....16  
Sunday Worship Attendance .....92  
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings.....\$0  
Simply Giving/Vanco .....\$0  
Paypal Offerings.....\$0  
Website (ShareFaith) .....\$0  
**Total of Offerings Received** .....\$0  
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts .....\$0



**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH** - *Advent 3* - God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the privilege of sharing Christ's forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.



### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWER SPONSOR** - There is no Flower Sponsor this week.

**BULLETIN SPONSOR** - There is no Bulletin Sponsor this week.

**MARY MARTHA QUILTERS** - Mary Martha Quilters meet each Wednesday at 10 am. All Ladies from the congregation are invited to come. You don't have to be a quilter or know how to sew as we need people who can cut, arrange, and tie.

**MARY MARTHA "SUNDAY UNDIES"** - We will be holding a "Sunday Undies" for children in need. Collection will be until December 21<sup>st</sup>. A box will be placed in the Narthex. This is for new, packaged socks and underwear for children! If you are able, please contribute.

**COOKIE EXCHANGE** - There will be a cookie exchange on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> during Fellowship. Please bring cookies to exchange with the congregation. There is no charge, and cookies may be taken home.

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR (SUNDAY)** - Team 1 is serving today; Team 2 will be serving next week. Everyone is invited! There is no charge, and a freewill offering is voluntary. Our Fellowship offerings for December will be Top Button.

**FORGIVING CHALLENGE** - What a joy to see many members of Christ Lutheran willing to take the Forgiving Challenge. Read through the Introduction up to page 21 and then stop. On January 1, 2026 we will begin the challenge starting with Day 1 and continue until we finish up with the Final Challenge. We still have extra books for anyone who would like to join us in this Challenge. Remember the cost is \$10.00. Thanks again for participating in this Forgiving Challenge.

**THRIVENT CHOICE** - Did you know? If you have a Thrivent Life Insurance policy, you can donate "Choice Dollars" to our church. This gift doesn't affect your policy in any way, but is a wonderful way to support the church financially! Follow this link for more information: [Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing - Thrivent Charitable](#).

**OUTREACH MEETING** – Outreach meets the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us!

**CIVITAN MEETINGS** – The Lakeland Polk Civitan Group meets the second Tuesday of each month at noon and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm at Il Forno (North). Join us at a meeting and see what we're all about!

**ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP** – Sign-up sheets through August 2026 are now posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Each sheet will now be posted quarterly, by season, so that as a season passes, a new sheet will be put up, rather than one sheet used for the entire year. There are still some spaces open for the remainder of 2025. It would be a blessing to see those filled! Additional information is available on the poster, immediately next to the signup sheets. Specially designated envelopes are available below the poster. Altar flower offerings go toward our Christmas and Easter live flowers, as well as toward the proper upkeep and refreshing of our silk arrangements used throughout the year.

## **Ways you can SERVE**

**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 Lora Wacker 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 Pastor Chris 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](mailto: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**

*Isaiah 35:4* – “Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’” The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.



**THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN**

<b><u>Monday - 12/15</u></b> No activities scheduled	<b><u>Tuesday - 12/16</u></b> Adopt-A-Block @ 11 am
<b><u>Wednesday - 12/17</u></b> Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran Trustee Workday @ 9 am Quilters @ 10 am Individual Communion 1:30 – 2:30 pm Choir Practice @ 5:00 pm <i>Advent Service @ 6:30 pm</i>	<b><u>Thursday - 12/18</u></b> Bible Study @ 10 am
<b><u>Friday - 12/19</u></b> Church Office closed Pastor's day off	<b><u>Saturday - 12/20</u></b> Worship @ 5:30 pm
<b><u>Sunday - 12/21</u></b> Bible Study @ 8:30 am Worship @ 10 am	

