Fourth Sunday in Advent December 21, 2025

As We Gather - Though Matthew is already telling of the birth of Jesus Christ, it is not yet the account we look forward to hearing on Christmas Eve. But this one, lighter on details, is heavy with the promise Jesus' birth fulfills. This Sunday, we hear of Joseph's own angel visit, of the name that shall be given to this child, and of His birth to save His people from their sins. All of this is prefigured in the voice of the Advent prophet Isaiah and framed in the essential message of the church by the words of Paul. Each of the readings appointed for today remind us that God has it all figured out, and even though it all unfolded in time before us, it was appointed by God from the beginning of time. As we remember again all that happened, we also happily remember that God still has it all in hand and that Christ is not only the fulfiller of the past but also the author of the future.

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: "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen" "Hyfrydol" arranged by Purifoy

Played by Albert McCullough on flugelhorn

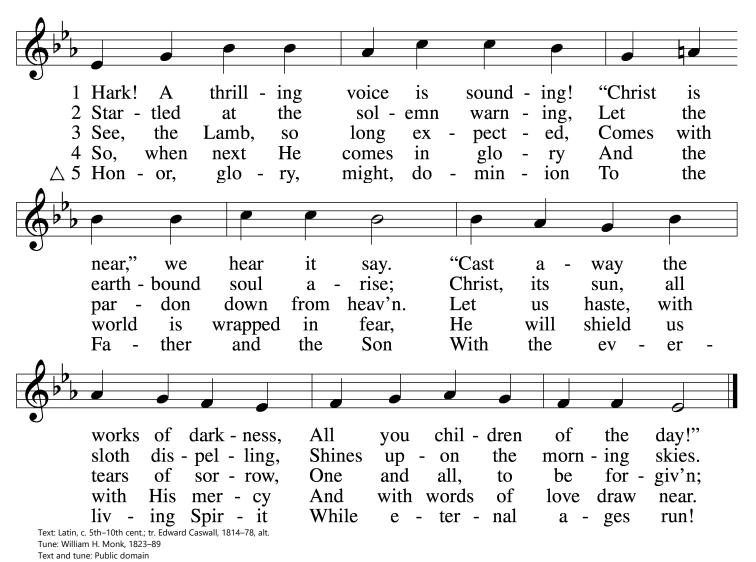
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Greeting and Sharing of Peace (stand)

PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

Δ Please stand after a brief interlude.



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

- ightharpoonup In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- We light the fourth 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.
- The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- The fourth Advent candle has been known as the angel candle and the candle of love. As our Advent season soon ends, we await the angelic message of the good news of a Savior. We have come to know the love of the one true God this season and always as we have prepared to celebrate His birth. We know God's promises come to fruition in Jesus, who later made known His Father's love in His being born into this world; in His life, ministry, teaching, preaching, healing; and ultimately in His dying and rising. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."
- The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
- P Guided by the light of love, we respond with the psalmist: "Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.
- Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.
- P How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.
- They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.
- P For with You is the fountain of life;
- in Your light do we see light."
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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

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

Service of the Word



Psalm130:5-8; Isaiah 64:1

- P Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,* that the mountains might quake at your | presence.
- I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,*
 and in his | word | hope;
- my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,*
 more than watchmen for the morning.
- O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,* and with him is plentiful re- | demption.
- P And he will redeem | Israel* from all his in- | iquities.
- 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.
 Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*
 that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

Kyrie LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



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



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

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

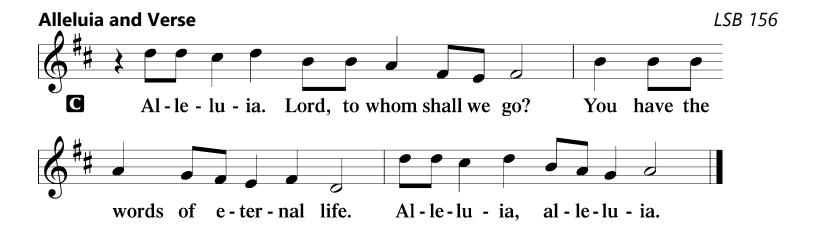
Epistle Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Stand



Holy Gospel Matthew 1:18–25

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



¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an

angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

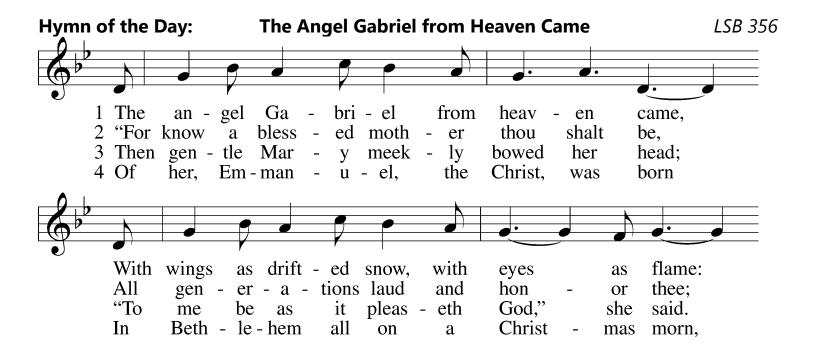
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

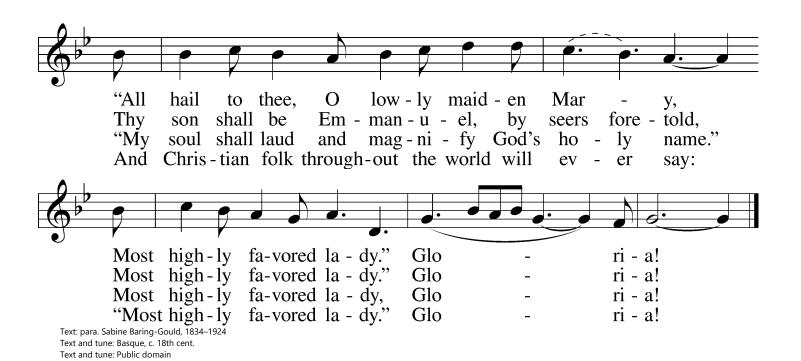


Sit

Children's Sermon







Sermon

"What's In A Name?" Matthew 1:18-25

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "Christ Has Come For All" by Jeff Lippencott.

Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only)

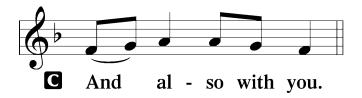
Registry of Worship Cards (Sunday Only) – Please pass your completed cards to the center aisle

Stand

Service of the Sacrament

Preface LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.



P Lift up your hearts.

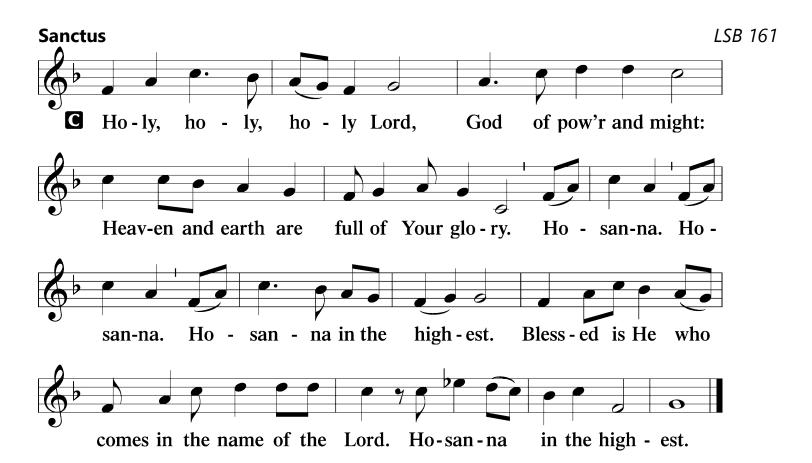


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Proper Preface

It is our privilege and our duty, at all times and in every place, to give You thanks and praise, O Lord, God Almighty, eternal Father of the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, whom we know and in whom we rejoice as the fulfillment of all the promises given down through the ages and the herald of all that is come. With angels and archangels; the blessed apostles and prophets; the virgin Mary; Joseph, faithful guardian; and all the company of heaven, we join in their eternal song of praise and singing:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

- When the peace of perfection was broken by the voice of rebellion and death became our end, You looked upon us in love, O merciful Father, and You sent forth the promise of a new day made possible by a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. He fulfilled Your Word, was incarnate of the virgin by the Holy Spirit, and was delivered in flesh and blood as one of us, yet without sin. He fulfilled all Your saving will and offered up Himself in our place to death, paying the price of our redemption and forging a path through death to life everlasting. In this Holy Supper He established, He placed His promise, that by our communion in His flesh and blood, we might be forgiven of our sins and strengthened in the new life granted to us in Baptism. Now, by His own Word and testament, we gather to set aside this bread, that it may be to us His flesh for the life of the world, and this cup, that it may be His blood to cleanse us from all our sin, as He Himself has said.
- 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."

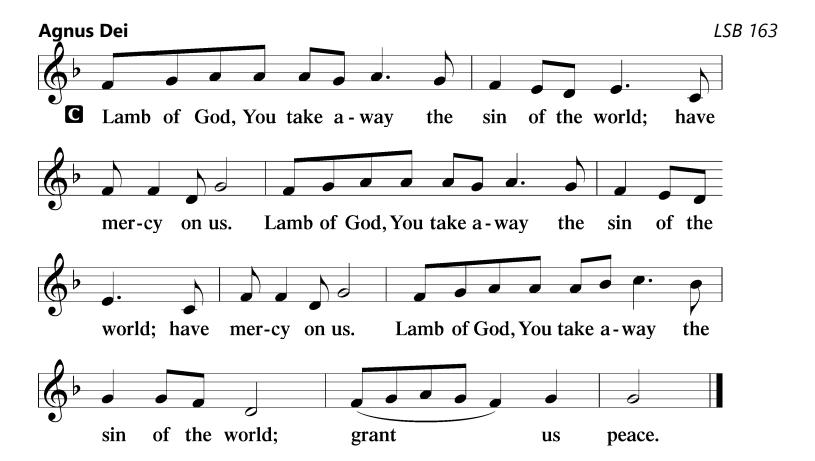
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My → blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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





Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)

LSB 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LSB 350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

Stand

Thank the Lord LSB 164



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



Post-Communion Collect

(Saturday)

- P Let us pray.
- 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 O Lord, God Almighty, everlasting Father, we pray You to open our hearts to Your Spirit that we may enter into the holy contemplation of our Savior's birth with sins forgiven and hearts at peace, knowing that He who moved time and eternity for us and our salvation will preserve us in all uncertainty and fear and bring us to the perfect fulfillment of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with the Father and the Spirit are one God, now and even to the end of all the ages.
- Amen.

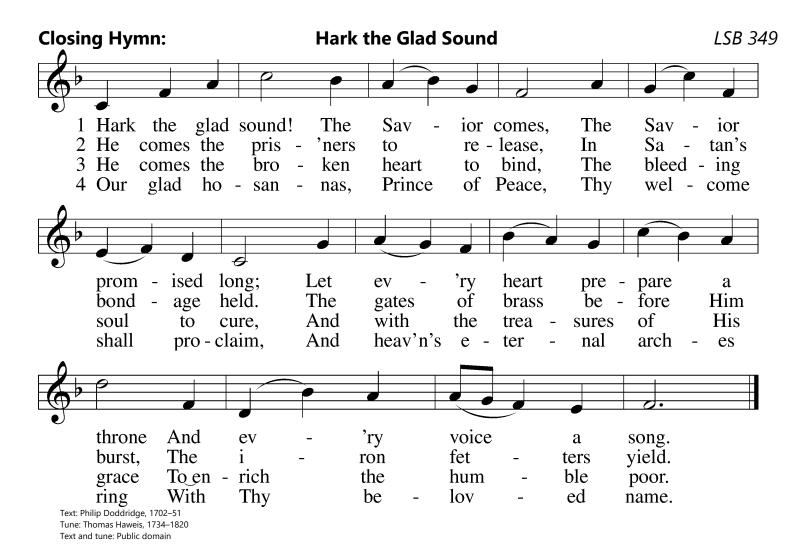
Benediction LSB 166

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.





Postlude:

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Pastor Pastor Christopher Hazzard **Organist**...... Elena Miraztchiyska **Saturday Organist**...... Elena Miraztchiyska Elder Steve West Sunday **Elder** Frank Decker Lector Greeter Video.....Video/Streaming: Kris Welch **GFX**: Cheryl Erwin **LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY** Pastor Pastor Christopher Hazzard **Organist**...... Elena Miraztchiyska **Elder** Keith Kallstrom LectorLevi Hazzard Greeter......Bob and Cheryl Langanke AudioJudi Rudolph Video......Video/Streaming: Josiah Hazzard GFX: Andrea Hazzard Altar Guild Dawn Peters and Sandy Spanier ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK Saturday Worship Attendance......25 Sunday Worship Attendance101 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

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH – **Advent 4** – The birth of the King of Glory (Psalm 24:7) is surrounded by the messiness of human sin and intrigue (Matthew 1:18-25). As we rejoice that our Lord has taken on our human likeness with all its sin and pain, being "descended from David according to the flesh" (Romans 1:3), we can also rejoice that Jesus has sanctified every human life, even those born in circumstances which are surrounded by sin and pain.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER SPONSOR – Today's flowers were given by Diana Moilanen, in memory of Oiva Moilanen.

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.

<u>MARY MARTHA "SUNDAY UNDIES"</u> - The "Sunday Undies" collection for children in need has been extended until January 25, 2026. Please place your donations in the box in the Narthex. This is for new, packaged socks and underwear for children! Thank you for your contributions.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (SUNDAY) – Team 2 is serving this week. Coffee and cookies are being served next week. Everyone is invited! There is no charge, and a freewill offering is voluntary. Our Fellowship offerings for December will be Top Button.

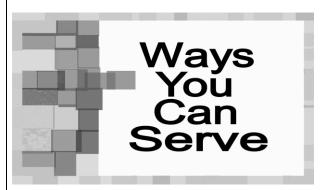
<u>THRIVENT CHOICE</u> - Did you know? If you have a Thrivent Life Insurance policy, you can donate "Choice Dollars" to our church. This gift doesn't affect your policy in any way, but is a wonderful way to support the church financially! Follow this link for more information: <u>Thrivent Charitable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

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

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

<u>CLC ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF</u> – Do you think you have the best chili recipe? Well here is your chance to prove it! It's time for the <u>Annual CLC Chili Cookoff</u>. This year it will be on Sunday, January 11th, following the 10am service. Sign up in the Narthex, and drop off your crockpot in the Fellowship Hall. There will be prizes for both Judges Choice and Peoples Choice. This is always a fun event and the free will offering will go to the Youth group. See you there!

<u>ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP</u> – 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.



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.

<u>ADOPT-A-BLOCK</u> - 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.

<u>CHURCH DIRECTORY</u> – 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 <u>stewardship@clclakeland.org</u>.

<u>NAMETAGS</u> – 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

Matthew 1:21 – "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God's Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus' love has done!



| THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN | |
|--|--|
| <u>Monday - 12/22</u> No activities scheduled | <u>Tuesday – 12/23</u> No Adopt-A-Block today |
| Wednesday - 12/24 Carols in the Courtyard @ 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Service @ 6:30 pm | Thursday - 12/25 MERRY Christmas Christmas Day Service @ 10:00 am Church Office Closed |
| <u>Friday – 12/26</u> Church Office closed Pastor's day off | <u>Saturday - 12/27</u> Worship @ 5:30 pm |

Sunday - 12/28
Bible Study @ 8:30 am
Worship @ 10 am

