# The Holy Innocents Martyrs December 28, 2025

**As We Gather -** The wait is over. The Child Mary carried, the Savior she pondered, has been born for you and for your salvation. On this holy day, you are welcomed to the manger bed of your Redeemer as heaven touches earth and the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us. All through Advent, we have waited with Mary, hearing the promises, bearing the hope, watching for dawn to brighten the horizon. Today, we mirror Mary's joy as the promise is fulfilled. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not—cannot—overcome it. Come, let us adore Him—Christ the Lord—born of Mary, cradled in a manger, and given for you.

**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.

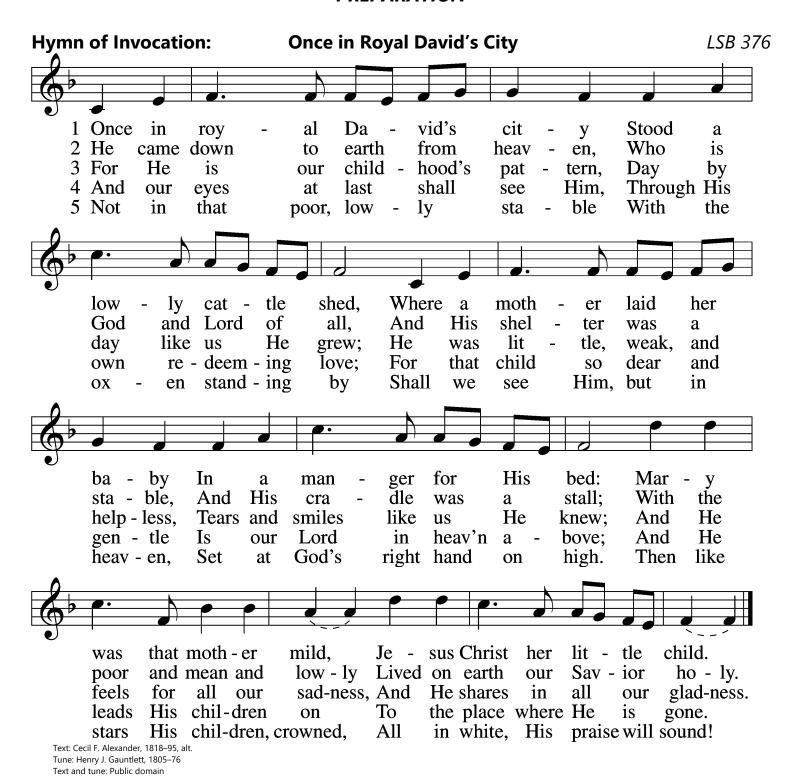
## GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.

**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**



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.

- 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.
- C Amen.

## Service of the Word



Psalm 31:1, 3, 5; Rev. 7:14b

- These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*

  They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.
- In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be | put to shame;\* in your righteousness de- | liver me.

- For you are my rock and my | fortress;\*

  and for your name's sake you lead me and | guide me.
- Into your hand I commit my | spirit;\*
  you have redeemed me, O LORD, | faithful God.
  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.
  These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- | lation.\*
  They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood | of the Lamb.

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.



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.

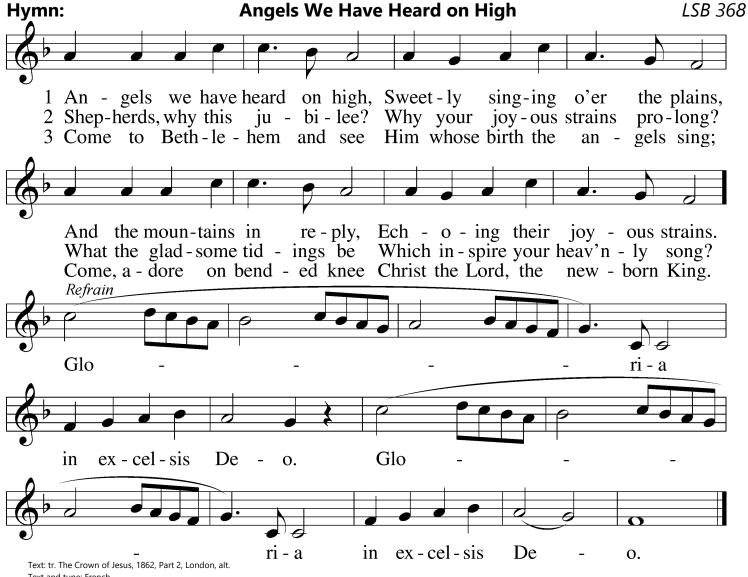


For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to  $\mathbf{P}$ the Lord.



 $\mathbf{P}$ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.





Text and tune: Public domain

# **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.



# P Let us pray.

Almighty God, the martyred innocents of Bethlehem showed forth Your praise not by speaking but by dying. Put to death in us all that is in conflict with Your will that our lives may bear witness to the faith we profess with our lips; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

# **Old Testament Reading**

Jeremiah 31:15–17

<sup>15</sup>Thus says the LORD:

"A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children,

because they are no more."

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD:

"Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD,

and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

<sup>17</sup>There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country."

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

**Epistle** Revelation 14:1–5

¹Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. ²And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, ³and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. ⁴It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, ⁵and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

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

Stand



Holy Gospel Matthew 2:13–18

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



<sup>13</sup>When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup>And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

<sup>16</sup>Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

18"A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

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



#### Children's Sermon



## Hymn:

## **Sweet Flowerets of the Martyr Band**

LSB 969

Sung to the tune VON HIMMEL HOCK, LSB 358

 $\Delta$  Please stand after a brief interlude.

- Sweet flow'rets of the martyr band, Plucked by the tyrant's ruthless hand Upon the threshold of the morn, Like rosebuds by a tempest torn;
- 2 First victims for the\_incarnate Lord, A tender flock to feel the sword; Beside the altar's ruddy ray, With palm and crown, you seemed to play.
- 3 Ah, what availed King Herod's wrath? He could not stop the Savior's path. Alone, while others murdered lay, In safety Christ is borne away.
- △ 4 O Lord, the virgin-born, we sing
  Eternal praise to You, our King,
  Whom with the Father we adore
  And Holy Spirit evermore.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, alt. Tune: Daniel Vetter, d. 1721
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

"Weeping For The Children"
Matthew 2:13-18

Stand

#### **Nicene Creed**

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.

Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "The Coventry Carol" arranged by Mark Hayes

**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.



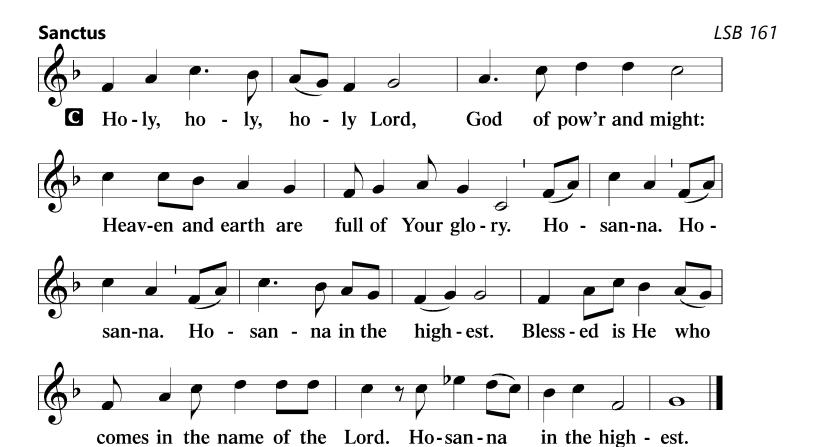
P Lift up your hearts.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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. In the communion of all Your saints gathered into the one body of Your Son, You have surrounded us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, encouraged by their faith and strengthened by their fellowship, may run with perseverance the race that is set before us and, together with them, receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



# **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We add our voices, O Father, to the unending chorus of praise wrought by Your glory, generosity, and faithfulness; for in the giving of our Lord Jesus, You have presented to all creation the One meant to be our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

We praise You that this gift of Your love, Jesus Christ, would condescend to a manger, to a cross, and here at this Table, to be cradled in human hands as we receive His true body and blood. As those who celebrate His arrival, His accomplished work of atonement, and His ascension into heaven, make us those who anticipate with joy His second advent, that we would frequently and faithfully receive the gifts of this altar, proclaiming Christ until He comes again. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.
- **G** 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:

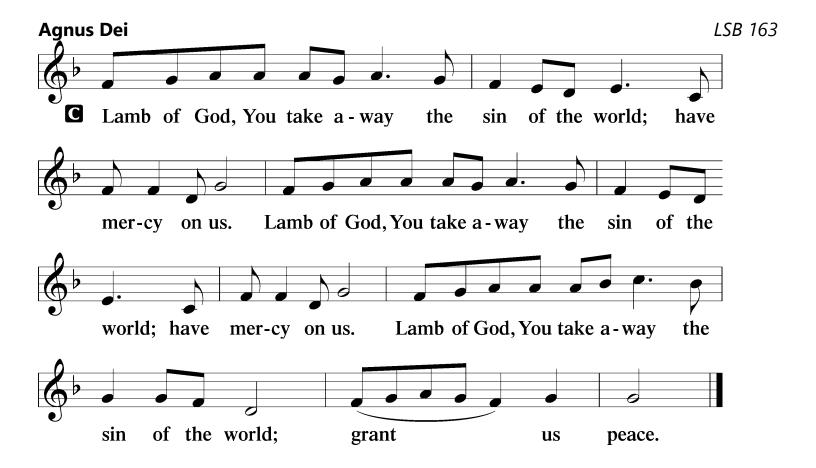
# **Lord's Prayer**

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.





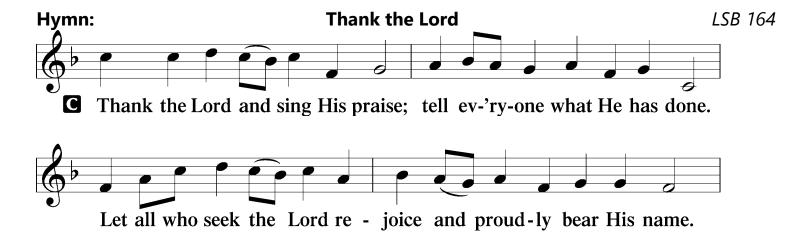
## **Distribution**

# **Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)**

LSB 384 Of the Father's Love Begotten sts. 1–4 LSB 412 The People That in Darkness Sat sts. 1–5

Stand

Sit





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 Let us pray.
  - O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



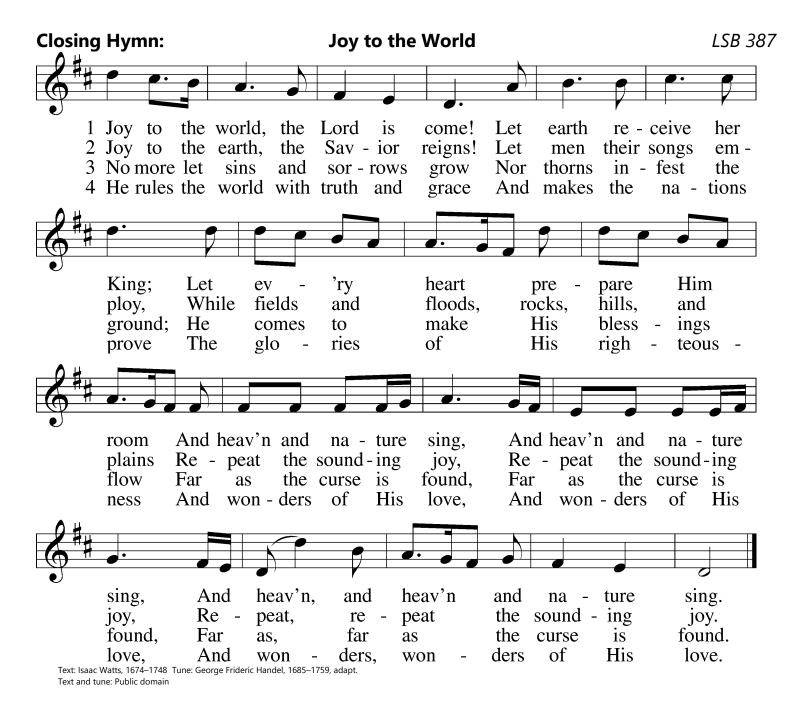
Benediction LSB 166

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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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP <u>TODAY</u>		
Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard	
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska	
<u>Saturday</u>		
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska Steve West	
Elder	Steve West	
Lector	Gerie Slaten	
<u>Sunday</u>		
Elder	Keith Kallstrom Levi Hazzard	
Lector	Levi Hazzard	
Greeter	Bob and Cheryl Langanke Judi Rudolph	
Audio	Judi Rudolph	
Video	Video/Streaming: Josiah Hazzard	
	GFX: Andrea Hazzard	
Altar Guild	Dawn Peters and Sandy Spanier	

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP <u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>	
Pastor Organist	Pastor Christopher Hazzard Elena Miraztchiyska
Elder	Frank Decker and Steve Rosane
	John T. Doherty, Jr.
	Video/Streaming:
	GFX:  Helen Borgwardt and Rita Czanko

### ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Saturday Worship Attendance	19
Sunday Worship Attendance	114
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings	\$0
Simply Giving/Vanco	\$0
Paypal Offerings	\$0
Website (ShareFaith)	
Total of Offerings Received	\$0
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts	\$0

**LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH** – Holy Innocents – The devil hates little children because he hates the Christ child, who was promised to crush his head (Genesis 3:15). Sadly, his influence can still be seen today in those who, like Herod, see little children as a threat to their authority and aim for their destruction (Matthew 2:16). As we weep with Rachel and her children (Jeremiah 31:15), we also rejoice that by sparing His only-begotten Son from Herod's wrath, God has provided eternal salvation for all the holy innocents—past, present and future—that they too might join in the heavenly song around the throne of God (Revelation 14:3).



#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLOWER SPONSOR** – Today's altar flowers were given by Barbara Miller, in thanksgiving for Alfred's 85th birthday.

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

<u>MARY MARTHA QUILTERS</u> - 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)** – Coffee and cookies are being served this week. Team 3 is 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.

**ASL CLASS** – There will be an ASL Class on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 - 7:30 pm. Please contact Maddie Block to register.

**FORGIVING CHALLENGE** - This coming Thursday, January 1, 2026, we will begin the challenge. Please read the Introduction and then on January 1st, start with Day 1. Each day you will read a lesson until Day 40 and then the Final Challenge. Pastor Hazzard will be doing a six week study on the Challenge either Sunday or Thursday mornings. This Bible study will complement what you have done the previous week in your individual study. We still have a few copies left if you are still willing to take the Challenge. The cost is \$10.00. In addition to the Forgiving Challenge, don't forget to pick up your 2026 January-March Portals of Prayer. Blessings on your study of the Word in 2026. "But grow in the \_\_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

**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.

**ELDERS MEETING** – There will be an Elders meeting next Sunday, January 4th, after service.

*OUTREACH MEETING* – Outreach meets the first 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 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!

**CLC ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF** - Do you think you have the best chili recipe? Well here is your chance to prove it! It's time for the *Annual CLC Chili Cookoff*. 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!

**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.



way here at Christ Lutheran.

**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

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.

<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

Galatians 4:4 – "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law." Jesus was born under the law so that He might fulfill the law in our place. His perfect righteousness is credited to us. And it is this free forgiveness of sins and this crediting of righteousness that sets us free to follow our Lord in godly living. Since we are freed from the law's condemnation, we are freed from any mercenary attitudes. Now that the Lord has shown His love to us in saving us, we freely show our thanks to Him in generosity, humility and kindness.



THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN		
Monday - 12/29 No activities scheduled	<u>Tuesday – 12/30</u> No Adopt-A-Block today	
<u>Wednesday - 12/31</u> Trustee Workday @ 9 am Quilters @ 10 am Individual Communion 1:30 - 2:30 pm	Thursday – 1/1  Happy New Year!  Church Office Closed	
<u>Friday - 1/2</u> Church Office closed Pastor's day off	<u>Saturday − 1/3</u> Worship @ 5:30 pm	

<u>Sunday - 1/4</u>

Bible Study @ 8:30 am Worship @ 10 am Elders Meeting after Service