

# CHRISTMAS SEASON

2025~2026



## GATHERING TOGETHER

**WELCOME** - Make a special effort to welcome our visitors!! Christ Lutheran Church is a weapon, smoke, vape and tobacco free church and campus. We share Joys, News, and Concerns.

### **PRELUDE**

*We take a quiet moment to prepare our hearts and minds to worship God.*

**GATHERING HYMN/CHOIR ANTHEM** - Stand As You Are Able

### **YOUTH/YOUNG IN SPIRIT MESSAGE**

### **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**[P]** The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the love of GOD our Father, and the communion of The Holy Spirit be with you all!

**[C]** And also with you!

### **CONFESSION**

**[P]** Blessed be The Holy Trinity, ✝ One God, the Word made Flesh, our life and our salvation!

**[C]** Amen!

**[P]** Trusting the grace and mercy of Jesus our Lord and Savior, let us confess our sin!

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**[P]** Jesus our life and salvation,

**[C]** you are Good News of great joy for all of your people, and you call us to be your messengers of your freedom, justice and peace. We confess that at times we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. At times we nurture conflict and build barriers. At times we neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of your creation. Have mercy on us. Through the power of The Holy Spirit, where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, grant us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and mercy and grant us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen!

**[P]** Hear Jesus' Good News: We are part of Jesus' flock and heirs of His promises through the outpouring of The Holy Spirit. In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the life and salvation of Jesus!

**[C]** Amen!

## SHARING THE WORD

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**[P]** Let us pray!

**[C]** Almighty God our Father, your Holy Light shines with the brightness of your Son Jesus, the One True Holy Light. Through the power of The Holy Spirit, continue to grant that here on earth we only walk in the Holy Light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and The Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen!

## **PRAYER FOR THE WORLD**

**P** Let us pray!

**C** Let us pray for all victims of any forms of violence, terror, human trafficking, and all displaced peoples; all victims of ethnic, racial, gender, sexual, political, and religious discrimination and violence; all victims of natural disasters or human made disasters; all victims of war or warlike activity, conflict, oppression and strife including in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine; and for Jesus' Gospel to reach the Hindu Kurmi People in India. Gracious GOD our Father of healing and wholeness, through the power of The Holy Spirit, bring relief in every way you see fit for those impacted by natural disasters, human made disasters, conflicts, persecutions and wars. Empower all peoples to reach out to those impacted through the healing power of Jesus Christ. GOD our Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, we admit our human frailties and recognize we live in a fallen creation. Restore us each and every way as you see fit so that your will is done. In Jesus' Holy Name we pray. Amen!

## **SCRIPTURE HYMN/CHOIR ANTHEM**

**GOSPEL** - Stand As You Are Able

**SERMON**

**APOSTLES' CREED** - Stand As You Are Able

**P** Living together in faith, trust, and hope, let us confess our faith together!

**C** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in The Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

## **THE BANQUET**

### **COMMUNION LITURGY**

**P** Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened His arms to all.

- In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me.

- Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me.

- Remembering, therefore, His death, resurrection, and ascension, we await His coming in glory.

- Pour out The Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of The Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever!

**C** Amen!

## LORD'S PRAYER - SING

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Come to the Banquet, for all is now ready!

**C** Thanks be to God!

*All Baptized Christians who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome at the Lord's Table. We receive His continuing forgiving presence in our lives, along with His mercy, salvation, and promise of eternal life. You are also invited to come forward for a blessing. Pick up a communion wine cup from the cup stand. Receive the host bread from the Communion Assistant and the wine from the Pastor. Tell the Communion Assistant if you prefer gluten-free bread and the Pastor if you prefer grape juice. Return your used cup to the tray from the Communion Assistant.*

### HOLY COMMUNION HYMN/CHOIR ANTHEM

#### TABLE BLESSING

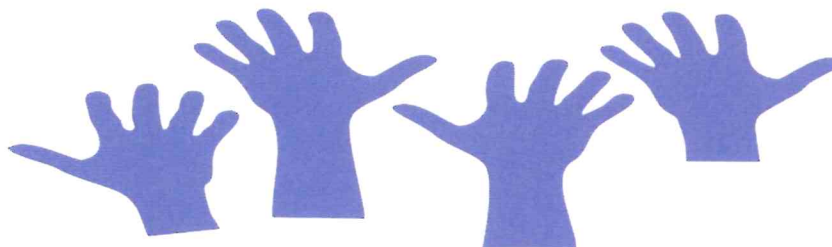
**P** The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace now and forever!

**C** Amen!

### THE SENDING

**BLESSING - SING** - Stand As You Are Able

**C** Blessed be the Name of the Lord; He is worthy to be praised and adored; So we lift up holy hands in one accord, singing, "Blessed be the Name, blessed be the Name, blessed be the Name of the Lord!" We are Jesus strong! Amen!



### SENDING HYMN/CHOIR ANTHEM

#### FINAL SENDING

**P** Continue to bring Christ to all people today and everyday! Go in Peace! Share the good news!

**C** We will with thanks to GOD! Amen!



# LESSONS & FINANCIALS

Year A-First Sunday of Christmas, December 28, 2025



**Worship Services**  
with Holy Communion  
At 9:00 am & 10:30am

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
15699 SE 80th Avenue  
Summerfield, FL 34491  
352-307-6900  
**Mailing Address**  
P.O. Box 693,  
Summerfield, FL 34492

**Website:** [christlutheranchurchelcm.org](http://christlutheranchurchelcm.org)

*Bringing Christ To All People Today  
And Every Day*

## **GOSPEL: St. Luke 2:15-21**

**L** Eight days after His birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the Holy Name announced by the angel Gabriel before His conception.

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd Chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

**C** <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. <sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **EPIPHANY DAY GOSPEL**

### **GOSPEL: St. Matthew 2:1-12**

**C** God our Father's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited Messiah of Israel.

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 2nd Chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

**C** <sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means

least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### FIRST LESSON: Numbers 6:22-27

**L** The Lord God commanded the prophet Aaron to speak these Holy Words, known as the Aaronic benediction, in blessing the people of Israel. We too are marked with the Lord God's Holy Name and the Lord God's blessing as we are sent from our assemblies into His world.

**L** <sup>22</sup>The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>23</sup>Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them, <sup>24</sup>The LORD bless you and keep you; <sup>25</sup>the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; <sup>26</sup>the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. <sup>27</sup>So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

**L** Word of God, word of life.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM: Psalm 8

How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Ps. 8:1)

<sup>1</sup>O <sup>1</sup>LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in <sup>1</sup>all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup>**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths  
of in-<sup>1</sup>fants and children; you have set up a fortress against  
your enemies, to silence the foe <sup>1</sup>and avenger.**

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work <sup>1</sup>of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set <sup>1</sup>in their courses,

<sup>4</sup>**what are mere mortals that you should be mind-<sup>1</sup>ful of them,  
human beings that you should <sup>1</sup>care for them?**

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less <sup>1</sup>than divine;  
with glory and hon-<sup>1</sup>or you crown them.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made them rule over the works <sup>1</sup>of your hands;  
you have put all things un-<sup>1</sup>der their feet:**

<sup>7</sup>all <sup>1</sup>flocks and cattle,

even the wild beasts <sup>1</sup>of the field,

<sup>8</sup>**the birds of the air, the fish <sup>1</sup>of the sea,**

**and whatever passes along the paths <sup>1</sup>of the sea.**

<sup>9</sup>O <sup>1</sup>LORD our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in <sup>1</sup>all the earth!

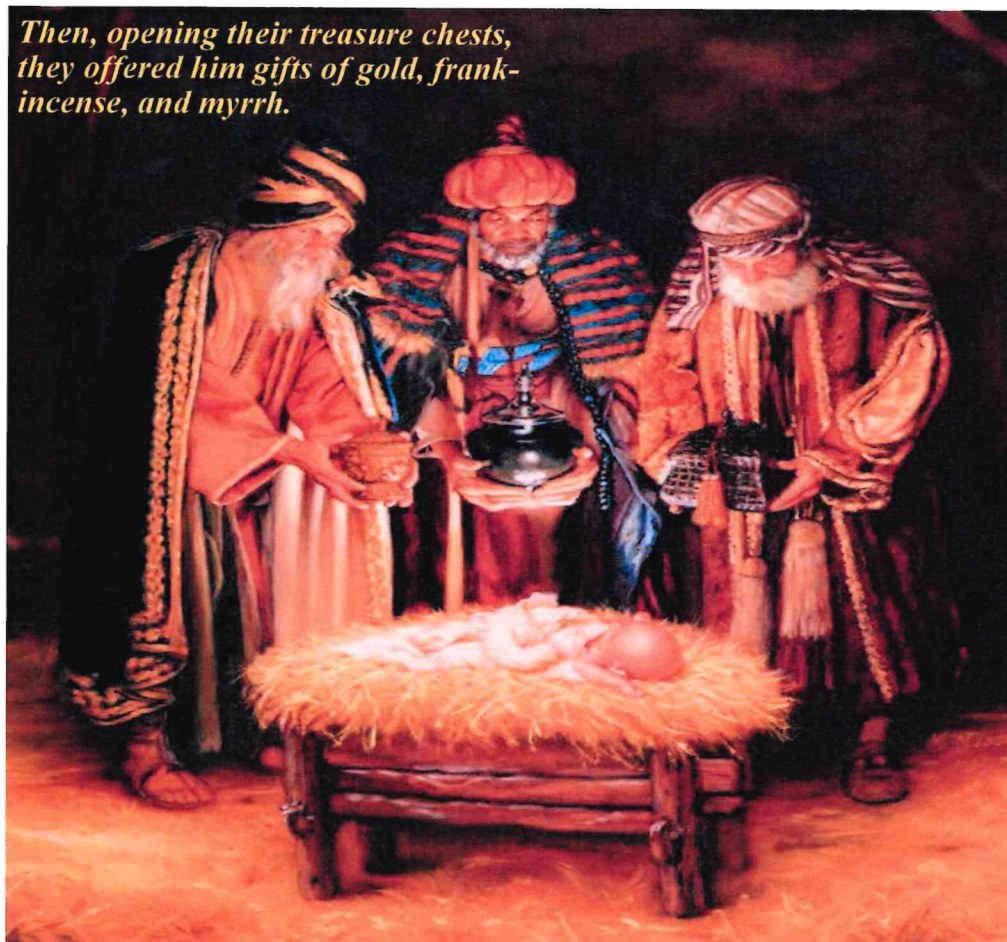
## SECOND LESSON: Galatians 4:4-7

**L** St. Paul proclaims the ultimate significance of the nativity: Jesus was born the Son of God His Father so that, because of Jesus, we all are God our Father's children.

**L** <sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**L** Word of God, word of life.

**C** Thanks be to God.



## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS for 12/28/2025 BULLETIN

	<u>Operating Funds</u>
Balance @ 01/01/25	\$ 90,689
YTD Income	\$ 342,226
YTD Expenses	\$ 348,222
Balance @ 12/21/2025	<u>\$ 84,692</u>

### Offering for 12/21/2025

Operating Fund	\$ 6,913
Loose	\$ 4
Mortgage Fund	\$ 1,983

### Designated Giving:

- Food For The Poor	\$ 65
- Salvation Army	\$ 40
- Lutheran World Relief	\$ 15
- ELCM Missions	\$ 40
- Fellowship	\$ 3
- Feed My Starving Children	\$ 349
- Designated Giving - Bear Ministry	\$ 50
- Library Fund	\$ 105
- Interfaith Emergency Services Ocala - Backpack Program	\$ 250

<b>Total Offering</b>	<b><u>\$ 9,817</u></b>
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Advent Soup Sales (included in Mortgage Fund line above)	\$ 225
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<b>FMSC Net Fundraising for 2026 Pack:</b>	<b>\$ 39,082</b>
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<b>Mortgage Debt Balance as of 12/17/2025</b>	<b>\$ 808,454</b>
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<b>2025 Annual Giving Sustained Increase-31 Giving Units, Total</b>	<b>\$ 31,341</b>
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**Note: If anyone would like further details on Church financials, please see Barb LeFevre, Treasurer.**



## CHURCH INFORMATION & EVENTS, December 28, 2025

**Hearing Aid Devices**-We have Blue Tooth and T Coil. In case your connection isn't working we have some really nice headphones you can use. **Joe Pence, Facilities Manager, 352-307-6900.**

**Feed My Starving Children**-The net proceeds collected to date are \$39,082 towards our January 2026 goal of \$35,000 goal. **Mark Ferrera, FMSC Chair, 407-616-1576.**

## 2026 UPCOMING EVENTS AT CLC



*Prayer Shawl*  
*BP CLINIC*

### *OTHER CLC EVENTS*

**Valentine's Party**-Saturday, February 28-3-5pm (Youth Ministry)

**Celebrate Easter**-Saturday, March 21-3-5pm (Youth Ministry)

**End of School Bash**-Saturday, May 23-3-5pm (Youth Ministry)

**VBS**-Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup> & Saturday, June 26-12-5 (Youth Ministry)

### **CONTACTS**

**G.I.F.T. Minister-Skyler Forsythe,**  
**352-299-5471**

**Family Ministers-Ashley Runyon, 980**  
**-925-9959**

**Medical & Prayer Shawl, Darlene**  
**Baney, Coordinator, 419-367-0373.**

**FMSC, Mark Ferrera,**  
**Chair, 407-616-1576**

**Fellowship-Kay Bertzyk, 352-245-**  
**0346 or Joe Capelli, 352-445-2616,**  
**Co Chairs.**

## **CHURCH INFORMATION & EVENTS CONTD.**

**The Rock-Lake Weir Middle School** is back in session for the 2025-26 school year. They need Deodorant for males and females, Shampoo & Conditioner, as well as two pack hand sanitizer. **Carolyn Korpics, 352-693-8543, Coordinator.**

**Blood Mobile**-12 people donated blood on November 2. The next drive is **NEXT Sunday, December 28 from 8-12:30pm.** Link for sign up -[https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/1541681](https://donor.oneblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/1541681). **Cindy Kelly, Coordinator, 440-221-4027.**



**Sewing Circle**-Lots of quilts were made: Shepherd's Lighthouse-20 children, 10 adult, Marion Cty. Schools Resource Homeless Liaison-20, VA Center Gainesville Infusion Center-26 lap Quilts and LWR-76. **Cindy Koebernick, Co-Chair, 937-361-5476 and Sharon Avery, Co-Chair, 352-288-1943.**

**Live Plant Garden**-The calendar has openings for IMO/IHO Live Plant Gardens. **Michele Harney, Parish Admin. Minister, 352-307-6900.**

**Prayer Shawls**-In the Fellowship Hall there are Prayer Shawls ready to be given to people who you feel might like to wrap themselves in Prayer. Please feel free to take one. Just let us know where you sent it. **Darlene Baney, Coordinator, 419-367-0373.**



**Shepherd's Light House**-The housing section is in need of baby wipes, paper towels, kitchen garbage bags and black garbage bags. Also copy paper is needed. **Questions-Rosemary Ganci, local Outreach Chair, 352-307-5952.**

**House of Hope**-This is a voluntary facility to treat men with addiction in a Christian based residential program. At this time they need mens' underwear, toiletries and new bed pillows. **Cindy Kelly, Social Ministry Chair, 440-221-4027.**

**Interfaith Free Clinic Medical Center**- needs any **Over The Counter medicines** that are **NOT** opened and **NOT** expired. Cold medicine, cough drops, regular aspirin and low dose aspirin are needed too. **NO RX MEDS.** **Michele Harney, Parish Administration Minister, 352-307-6900.**

**Hands of Mercy Everywhere**- Needed: Paper Towels, Paper Napkins & Toilet paper. **Cindy Kelly, Social Ministry Chair, 440-221-4027.**

**Domestic Violence Center (C.A.S.A.)**-We are collecting items at this time. They need Cleaning Supplies, Hygiene Items, Diapers and Wipes, Paper Towels, Paper Napkins & Toilet Paper. Clean and like new condition business attire is also needed. **Cindy Kelly, Coordinator, 440-221-4027.**

**Interfaith Shower Ministry in Ocala**-for the homeless. We collect supplies: bath towels and wash cloths, all hygiene products, men's socks and underwear, **Susan Blusewicz, Interfaith Shower Ministry Coordinator, 352-674-9434.**

**Cell Phones**-We will still be collecting cell phones. They are taken to Interfaith. **Michele Harney, Parish Administration Minister, 352-307-6900.**

**St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church Food Pantry**-Thank you for continuing to donate. Keep those donations coming. Non-perishable supplies are always needed. Be sure to check the expiration date. Questions call **Pastor Dave Connell, 352-307-6900.**

**We acknowledge gifts to the Mortgage Fund:**

**In Memory Of:** Dorothy "Dotty" Smith

**By:** Terry & Cindy Robinson

**In Memory Of:** Carolyn Hunt

**By:** Rod & Jessica Hunt (son & daughter-in-law)

**We acknowledge a gift to Interfaith Backpack Program:**

**In Memory Of:** Carolyn Hunt

**By:** Rod & Jessica Hunt (son & daughter-in-law)

**We acknowledge a gift to Feed My Starving Children:**

**In Honor Of:** Pastor Dave Connell

**By:** Terry & Cindy Robinson



**The Live Plant Garden Is Given:**

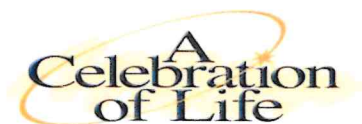
**To The Glory of God**

**&**

**In Memory Of:** Bob Wright (Father & Husband)

**By:** Carolyn, Garth & Derek Wright

**We express Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of:**



**Walt Baney**-Parishioner Celebration of Life is Friday, February 27, 2026 at 11am at CLC.

## **PRAYERS**

### **Pray - Council, Ministry Team Leaders / Teams, and Parishioners - Today**

**for:** Steve & Ann Smith; Louise Soltys; Randy & Rosie Specht; Mike & Pam Stell, Charlie Stinson; Bonnie Taylor; Chuck & Mary Thorson; Art & Elsie Tibaldi; Terry & Rose Townsend; Claire Vandiver; and all baptized, confirmed, married, memorialized, new parishioners, and all at Christ Lutheran Church.

**Give Thanks - Healing:** Patty Judd (left eye cataract removal repair surgery rehab - OK); and Ashley Runyon (internal non-cancer health issue repair surgery rehab - OK).

**Pray - Parishioners (short term):** Shirley Denny (fractured right hip repair surgery rehab - Chatham Glen Rehab # 102); Jean Dunbar (left eye detached retina repair surgery rehab & gel removal surgery 1/14); Kelly Hallermeier (2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 health issues repairs surgeries 1/20 - Orlando hosp.); Patricia "Pat" Holman (internal health issues test results pending); Jim Hopper (internal cancer radiation therapy rehab); Ed Israel (right shoulder torn rotator cuff pain shot therapy rehab); Dave Judd (heart health issues tests results w/cardiologist Dr. 1/13); Susan Long (right elbow health issues medication rehab); Edith Lee (multiple internal health issues next steps pending); John Lotz (internal health issues biopsy results w/Dr. 1/13); Frank Neumann (heart cath 1 stent implant repair surgery pending; right knee replacement repair surgery pending); Perry Olyer (back spinal discs pain repair surgery 1/2 - Shands Hosp.); Custer Redman (add'l internal cancer medication rehab); John Simmons (internal health issues rehab - Lady Lake Spec. Care Rehab # 324); Judi Simmons (internal health issues next steps pending); and Pr. Roy Steward (ELCM President, aorta heart valve replacement repair surgery 1/5 - PA hosp.).

**Pray - Parishioners (long term - hospital):** No one.

**Pray - Parishioners (long term - Hospice):** Christine "Chris" Messersmith (Summerfield, FL).



Attendance: 9am: 72  
10:30am: 65 Total : 137  
YouTube: 38

### **LESSONS FOR NEXT WEEK**

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

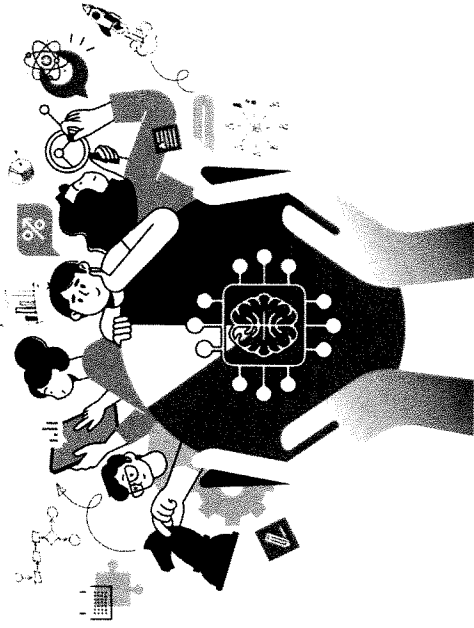
Hebrews 2:10-18

Gospel-St. Matthew 2:13-23



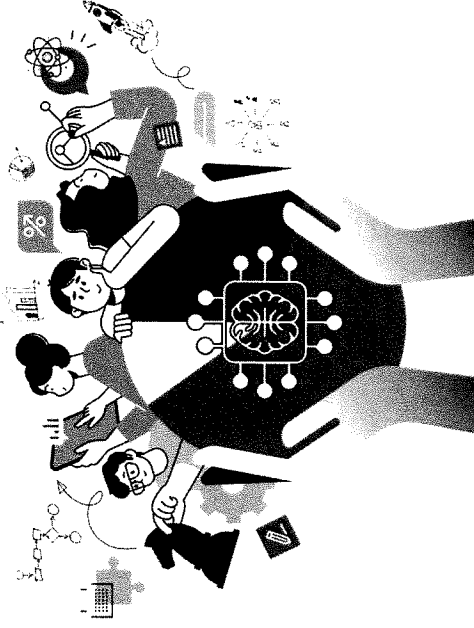
## Fellowship Ministry

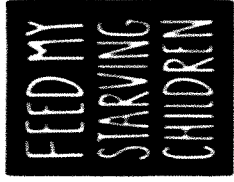
The Team needs men as well as women to join this fun, active, sometimes (oops! Often times!) whacky Team. The Team is involved in everything from Sunday morning coffee hour, Thanksgiving Dinner, decorating and Celebrations of Life. The fun doesn't end there! Many hands make light work, so please join the Fellowship Ministry Team. Thanks for taking the time to consider this. When your heart says "I Can and Will Do This" the sign-up sheet is on the Fellowship Hall table or call **Joe Capelli (352-445-2616)** or **Kay Bertzyk (352-245-0346, Fellowship Co-Chairs.**



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for I was hungry and you  
gave me food  
St. Matthew 25:35-37



for I was hungry and you  
gave me food  
St. Matthew 25:35-37

**FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN:**

**MEAL PACKING 2026**

Christ Lutheran Church  
15699 SE 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Summerfield, FL 34491

**Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

1-3pm-Pack

**Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

9-11-Pack, 12-2-Pack, 3:30-5:30-Pack

**Thursday, January 29, 2026**

9-11am-Pack, 12-2pm-Pack

**To Sign Up:** Circle times you would like, along with your name,  
phone number and email, and drop in offering plate.

**OR**

Go directly to the FMSC Website:

[give.fmsc.org/Summerfield](http://give.fmsc.org/Summerfield)

Donations may also be made at this site.

Or

Contact Pastor Dave Connell at [shattered79@prodigy.net](mailto:shattered79@prodigy.net) or

352-804-3054.

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**MEAL PACKING 2026**

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15699 SE 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
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352-804-3054.

## Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: Yiddish folk tune  
 Text © 1984 Fortress Press

TF IN VELDELE  
 107 956

### Stanza 5

Light 5 candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is born, salvation for everyone, His light will never be vanquished!

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WREATH

### First Sunday of Advent

**P** The season of Advent begins today, a time of both remembrance and anticipation. During this season we wait, as did the Lord God's people long ago, for the coming of the Messiah, the only Son of God the Father, the Holy One Jesus who is known by many Holy Names including the Prince of Peace. As we journey together, may we also see Jesus' Great Holy Light and grow closer to Him, the Holy Light of God His Father's people and world. Let us pray together!

**C** Lord and Savior Jesus, Prince of Peace and King of Kings, as we journey through this Advent season, remind us that your peace is not merely the absence of war or conflict, but that it is each of us choosing to live in your peace with ourselves and with one another. Continue to fill us with The Holy Spirit's power and your peace, so that we walk not in darkness but in your Holy Light, the Holy Light of Jesus Christ. Amen!

### Second Sunday of Advent

**P** Jesus taught in His Sermon on the Mount that we should not worry about tomorrow; rather, we should consider how God our Father feeds His birds of His air and clothes His lilies of His fields. And the Apostle St. Paul teaches us in his letter to the Romans that we should be filling our minds with good, noble, and virtuous thoughts. Finally, Proverbs 23:7 teaches, "as people think, so they are". How are we thinking this Advent season? Let us pray together!

**C** Gracious God our Father, through the power of The Holy Spirit, continue to make your thoughts our thoughts; guide us to share your Son Jesus' peace with one another, and as we continue in our journey this Advent season, may Jesus' peace, the peace of the One True God, guard our hearts, minds, and souls. Amen!

### Third Sunday of Advent

**P** One of the most beloved hymns in Jesus' holy catholic church today is "When Peace Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)", which the prayer is that Jesus' peace begins with each of us. The Apostle St. Paul teaches Jesus' church that we are called to be Jesus' peace, and that we are to share Jesus' Gospel of His peace with one another in worship, service to and for Jesus, and in our daily lives. Let us join our hearts as one, singing, praying, and living together as one in the Body of Christ, with gratitude for Jesus, our Prince of Peace, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Let us pray together!

**C** Mighty Holy Spirit, as we gather today in worship in confession, prayers, hymns, Holy Communion, and Jesus' Holy Gospel Word, may we only seek Jesus' peace, singing with our hearts as well as with our voices, being Jesus' peace in our actions, words, and deeds, and may our thankfulness to you for the gift of Jesus permeate every fiber of each of us individually, and as One Body, Jesus' Body, the Body of Christ, His holy catholic church. Amen!

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

**P** As we draw closer to Jesus this Advent season, through the power of The Holy Spirit may we continue to dwell in His peace that He grants, setting aside the troubles of the day for the joy that resting in Jesus offers. And may we then share Jesus' Gospel in our actions, words, and deeds, to be His peace in the lives of others, knowing that as we journey heavenward we experience Jesus' peace that transcends all human understanding, eventually resting forever in the arms of Jesus, our Prince of Peace. Let us pray together!

**C** Lord and Savior Jesus, we are grateful that through The Holy Spirit's power you continue to teach us that our hope, our peace, is only in you. Strengthen us by your grace to share your peace with all of God your Father's people and world, and direct us to the time of your return when your kingdom and your will is fulfilled. On that day, we will claim the culmination of your eternal promise of peace, resting forever in the joy of your salvation. Amen!

### Christmas

**P** "Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King! Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." In God our Father's world fraught with conflict, anxiety, and much uncertainty, we live as people of faith, believing as we do that God our Father grants redemption, the ultimate reconciliation, to the prophet Micah and to us, "to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Lord our God." In so doing we experience the peace of Jesus daily in our own lives, and we are witnesses to His enduring peace that He grants, "Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!" Let us pray together!

**C** Gracious God our Father and Creator, the evil one in your world loves to try and steal from us your Son Jesus' peace. Through the power of The Holy Spirit, continue to make us fully yours in Jesus, so that we always dwell in His peace, safe from the onslaught of the evil one's intrusive messages of chaos and fear. May we rest only in Jesus and find our hopes and dreams fulfilled only in Him. "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emanuel." We ask and pray these things in the Holy Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus, God our Father's Prince of Peace. Amen!



# Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: Yiddish folk tune  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press

THE IN VELDELE

107 96

## Stanza 5

Light 5 candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is born, salvation for everyone, His light will never be vanquished!

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WREATH

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## **HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025**

*Quiet Moment-Light One Candle (5 verses)*

1. Angels We Have Heard on High ELW 282
2. It Came upon the Midnight Clear ELW 282
3. **Communion-A.** What Child Is This ELW 296 **B.** Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent ELW 490
4. Go Tell It on the Mountain ELW 290