

Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11:28



Celebrating 175 years
Saved by God's Grace and Sharing His Love

ANTIOCH LUTHERAN CHURCH – NALC

*330 Old NC 277 Loop Road
Dallas, NC 28034
704-922-9491*

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Antioch Lutheran Church NALC
February 16, 2025 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday School: 9:30AM Worship Service: 10:30AM

<i>Ministers:</i>	<i>The People of Antioch</i>
<i>Pastor:</i>	<i>Rev. Rebecca Foster</i>
<i>Readers: (Sign up in the Narthex)</i>	<i>Gabriel Bailey and Perry Kallam</i>
<i>Greeters:</i>	<i>Jim and Joann Scarborough</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Rich Gibson and John White</i>

Prelude
Announcements
Children's Time

THE ORDER OF MORNING SERVICE
From the Church Book for the Use of Evangelical Lutheran
Congregations
Copyright 1868

*[The Minister, standing before the Altar, shall begin the Morning Service,
as here followeth],*

Congregation all standing.

*Minister: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the
Holy Ghost.*

Congregation: Amen.

[Then shall the Minister say the Confession of Sins, as here followeth:]

The Confession of Sins

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

[Then, all kneeling or standing, shall be sung or said:]

Minister: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

Congregation: Who made heaven and earth.

Minister: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

Congregation: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

[Then shall the Minister say:]

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee, that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

[Then shall he say; or if there be an Assistant, he may say:]

O most merciful God, who hast given Thine Only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us, and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee, and of Thy will, and true obedience to Thy word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Congregation: Amen.

[Then the Minister, standing, shall pronounce]

The Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us, and for the sake of His dear Son, forgiveth us all our sins. To

them that believe on His Name, He also giveth power to become the sons of God, and bestoweth upon them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant us, O Lord, this salvation.

Congregation: Amen.

[Then, all standing to the close of the Collect, shall be sung or said:]

The Introit.

[...The introit may be said by the Minister]

I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord: thoughts of peace, and not of evil. Ye shall call upon Me, and I will hearken unto you. I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity, and gather you from all places.

Congregation shall say the... *Gloria Patri*
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

[Then shall follow the]

Kyrie.

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Minister: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Then shall be sung the Gloria in Excelsis...or another Hymn of Praise.

Hymn of Praise

*“Lord Jesus Christ Be Present” Hymn 49 – Church Book
(tune “Jesus Shall Reign”)*

1. Lord Jesus Christ, be present now!
And let Thy Holy Spirit bow
All hearts in love and fear to-day,
To hear the truth and keep Thy way.
2. Open our lips to sing Thy praise,
Our hearts in true devotion raise,
Strengthen our faith, increase our light,
That we may know Thy Name aright.
3. Until we join the host that cry
“Holy art Thou, O Lord most High!”
And ‘mid the light of that blest place
Shall gaze upon Thee face to face.
4. Glory to God, the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise throughout eternity!

Wm. August. II., Duke of Saxe-Weimar. 1638.

Miss Winkworth, Tr. 1862.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray.

*[Then shall the Minister say one of the Collects appointed for the
Season of the Church Year....]*

O Lord, we beseech Thee favorably to hear the prayers of Thy people: that we, who are justly punished for our offences, may be mercifully delivered by Thy goodness, for the glory of Thy Name: Through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Congregation: Amen.

[When there is but one Service on the Lord's Day, other Scripture Lessons from the Old or New Testament may be read before the Epistle, but the Epistle and Gospel for the Day shall always be read.]

Congregation is seated

The First Reading of the Day: Genesis 28:10-22

¹⁰And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. ¹¹And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them for* his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. ¹²And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. ¹³And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; ¹⁴and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of. ¹⁶And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and

he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew *it* not. ¹⁷And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful *is* this place! this *is* none other but the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven. ¹⁸And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put *for* his pillows, and set it up *for* a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. ¹⁹And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city *was called* Luz at the first. ²⁰And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, ²¹so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: ²²and this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

The Second Reading of the Day: **Haggai 2:1-9**

¹In the seventh *month*, in the one and twentieth *day* of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying, ²Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, ³Who *is* left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? *is it* not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? ⁴Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I *am* with you, saith the LORD of hosts: ⁵*According to* the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. ⁶For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it *is* a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry *land*; ⁷and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill

this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. ⁸The silver *is* mine, and the gold *is* mine, saith the LORD of hosts. ⁹The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

The Epistle for the Day: James 3:13-18

¹³Who *is* a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish. ¹⁶For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work. ¹⁷But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Congregation: Hallelujah be said, except in the week before Easter.

The Hallelujah!

Hallelujah! O praise the Lord, all ye nations: and laud Him, all ye people. For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Hallelujah!

The Holy Gospel

[Then shall the Minister announce the Gospel for the Day, saying:]

*The Holy Gospel is written in the 11th Chapter of St.
Matthew, beginning at the 25th verse.*

Congregation: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

The Gospel for the Day: Matthew 11: 25-30

²⁵At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. ²⁶Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. ²⁷All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father: neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and *he* to whomsoever the Son will reveal *him*. ²⁸Come unto me, all *ye* that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light."

Minister: Here endeth the Gospel.

Congregation: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

[Then shall the Creed be said by the Minister and Congregation.]

The 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 Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified so 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again

with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe 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.

[Then shall the Minister announce the Hymn to be sung:]

*“O Christ, Our Hope” Hymn 202 – Church Book
(tune “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”)*

1. O Christ, our Hope, our heart’s Desire,
Redemption’s only Spring!
Creator of the world art Thou,
Its Saviour and its King.
2. How vast the mercy and the Love
Which laid our sins on Thee,
And led Thee to a cruel death,
To set Thy people free!
3. But now the bands of death are burst,
The ransom has been paid;
And Thou art on Thy Father’s throne,
In glorious robes arrayed.
4. O may Thy mighty Love prevail
Our sinful souls to spare!
O may we come before Thy throne,
And find acceptance there!

5. O Christ, be Thou our present Joy,
Our future great Reward;
Our only glory may it be
To glory in the Lord!

John Chandler. 1837.

The Sermon

When the Sermon is ended, the Congregation all standing up, and continuing to stand to the end of the Lord's Prayer,

[the Minister shall say:]

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus unto everlasting life.

Then shall the Congregation sing "Create in Me a Clean Heart" or the second and third verses of Hymn 356

*"Paraphrase of Psalm 51" Hymn 356 – Church Book
(tune "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross")*

2. Create my nature pure within,
And from my soul averse to sin;
Let Thy good Spirit ne'er depart,
Nor hide Thy presence from my heart.

3. I cannot live without Thy light,
Cast out and banished from Thy sight;
Thy holy joys, my God, restore,
And guard me that I fall no more.

Watts. 1719. A.

[Whilst this is sung, the Minister shall go to the Altar, and the singing ended, shall offer prayer.]

The General Prayer

Almighty and most merciful God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: We give Thee thanks for all Thy goodness and tender mercies, especially for the gift of Thy dear Son, and for the revelation of Thy will and grace; and we beseech Thee so to implant Thy word in us, that, in good and honest hearts, we may keep it, and bring forth fruit by patient continuance in well doing.

Most heartily we beseech Thee so to rule and govern Thy Church universal, with all its pastors and ministers, that it may be preserved in the pure doctrine of Thy saving word, whereby faith toward Thee may be strengthened, and charity increased in us toward all mankind.

Grant also health and prosperity to all that are in authority, especially to the President and Congress of the United States, the Governor and Legislature of this State, and to all our Judges and Magistrates; and endue them with grace to rule after Thy good pleasure, to the maintenance of righteousness, and to the hinderance and punishment of wickedness, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and honesty.

May it please Thee also to turn the hearts of our enemies and adversaries, that they may cease their enmity, and be inclined to walk with us in meekness and in peace.

All who are in trouble, want, sickness, anguish of labor, peril of death, or any other adversity, especially those who are in suffering for Thy Name and for Thy truth's sake, comfort, O God, with Thy Holy Spirit, that they may receive and

acknowledge their afflictions as the manifestation of Thy fatherly will.

And although we have deserved Thy righteous wrath and manifold punishments, yet, we entreat Thee, O most merciful Father, remember not the sins of our youth, nor our many transgressions; but out of Thine unspeakable goodness, grace and mercy, defend us from all harm and danger of body and soul. Preserve us from false and pernicious doctrine, from war and bloodshed, from plague and pestilence, from all calamity by fire and water, from hail and tempest, from failure of harvest and from famine, from anguish of heart and despair of Thy mercy, and from an evil death. And in every time of trouble, show Thyself a very present Help, the Saviour of all men, and especially of them that believe.

Cause also the needful fruits of the earth to prosper, that we may enjoy them in due season. Give success to the Christian training of the young, to all lawful occupations on land and sea, and to all pure arts and useful knowledge; and crown them with Thy blessing.

[Here special Supplications, Intercessions, and Prayers may be made.]

These, and whatsoever other things Thou wouldest have us ask of Thee, O God, vouchsafe unto us for the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of Jesus Christ, Thine only Son, our Lord and Saviour, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever One God, world without end.

[Then shall the Minister, and the Congregation with him, say the Lord's Prayer; but if there be a Communion it can be omitted here.]

[Then may the Minister make any needful announcements, and the Offerings of the Congregation be gathered; after that shall follow a Hymn which shall end with a Doxology when there is no Communion. Whilst the Doxology is sung the Congregation shall stand.]

The Offering

*“Jesus, Sun of Righteousness” (Hymn 41 -Church Book)
(tune “For the Beauty of the Earth”)*

1. Jesus, Sun of Righteousness,
Brightest beam of love divine,
With the early morning rays
Do Thou on our darkness shine,
And dispel with purest light
All our long and gloomy night!
2. Like the sun’s reviving ray,
May Thy Love with tender glow,
All our coldness melt away,
Warm and cheer us forth to go,
Gladly serve Thee and obey
All our life’s short earthly day!
3. Thou our only Hope and Guide!
Never leave us nor forsake:
In Thy light may we abide
Till the endless morning break;
Moving on to Zion’s hill,
Onward, upward, homeward still!
4. Lead us all our days and years
In Thy straight and narrow way;
Lead us through the vale of tears

To the land of perfect day,
Where Thy people, fully blest
Near Thy throne forever rest.

Christian Knorr von Rosenroth. 1684

Jane Borthwick, Tr. 1853. a.

The Holy Communion

[Whilst the hymn after the General Prayer is sung, the Minister shall uncover the Communion vessels, and devoutly prepare for the administration of the Holy Communion.

The minister, standing before the Altar, shall begin the Communion Service as here followeth, the Congregation all standing to the end of the Agnus Dei.]

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up unto the Lord

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

Congregation: It is meet and right so to do.

Minister: It is truly meet, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty Everlasting God.

[Here shall follow the Proper Preface, according to the time, if there be any specially appointed, or else immediately shall follow, Therefore with angels, etc]

Therefore, with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name; evermore praising Thee and saying:

Congregation shall say the:] Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory;
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

[Then may the Minister give this Exhortation to those that be minded to receive the Lord's Supper.]

The Exhortation

Dearly Beloved! Forasmuch as we purpose to come to the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He giveth His Body to eat and His Blood to drink, in order to strengthen and confirm our faith, it becometh us diligently to examine ourselves, as St. Paul exhorteth us. For this Holy Sacrament hath been instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins, and who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Our own conscience accuseth us that we are by nature sinners, and have grievously offended the Lord our God: but our Lord Jesus Christ hath had mercy upon us, and by His death and passion hath wrought perfect redemption for us. And to the end that we should the more confidently believe this, and be strengthened by our faith in a cheerful obedience to His holy will, He hath given us His Body to eat and His Blood to drink. Therefore, whoso eateth of this bread, and drinketh of this cup, firmly believing the words of Christ, dwelleth in Christ, and Christ in him, and hath eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death, that He was delivered for our offences, and raised again for our justification, and rendering unto Him most hearty thanks for the same, take up our cross and follow Him, and according to His commandment, love one another even as He

hath loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread, and drink of this one cup.

[Then the Minister, turning to the Altar, and extending his hands over the Bread and Wine, shall say:]

Minister: Let us 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, for ever and ever.

Congregation: Amen.

[Then shall the Minister say:]

Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; (a) and when he had given thanks, He brake and gave it to His disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of Me. (a) Here he shall take the Plate with the Bread in his hand.

After the same manner, also, He took the cup, (b) when he had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me. (b) Here he shall take the Cup in his hand.

The Holy Communion

Congregation shall be said the: Agnus Dei.

O CHRIST, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us!

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us!

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

[Then shall the Distribution begin, Communicants kneeling or standing at the Altar. During the Distribution communion Hymns may be sung.]

[When the Minister giveth the Bread, he shall say:]

Take, eat, this is the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you; may it strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life.

[When he giveth the Cup, he shall say:]

Take and drink, this is the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; may it strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto everlasting life.

[When all have communed, or when a portion of the Communicants have received the communion together, to be followed by others, the Minister shall dismiss them with the words:]

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[If the consecrated Bread or Wine be spent before all have communed, the Minister shall consecrate more, saying aloud, so much of the Words of Institution as pertaineth to the element to be consecrated. During the consecration the singing shall cease.]

[When all have communed, the Minister shall reverently cover what remaineth of the Bread and Wine.]

Then, all standing, may be said the:

Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace: according to Thy word: For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people: A light to lighten the Gentiles: and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

[Then shall be said:]

The Thanksgiving.

Minister: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

Congregation: And His mercy endureth for ever.

Minister: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, we most heartily thank Thee that Thou hast again vouchsafed to feed us with the most precious Body and Blood of Thy dear Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ; and we humbly beseech Thee, graciously to strengthen us, through this Holy Sacrament, in faith toward Thee, in charity toward one another, and in the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, world without end.

Congregation: Amen.

Congregation may sing a..... *Doxology*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Minister: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Congregation: From now, henceforth, and forever.

*Minister: The Lord bless thee, and keep thee, The Lord make
His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give
thee peace.*

Congregation: Amen.

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Worship at Antioch in the Early Years

As we celebrate and give thanks for 175 years of ministry at Antioch Lutheran Church, we take a step back in time to the latter 1800s, in particular 1868, to worship as our predecessors may have worshipped. Antioch was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod during this time and throughout much of its early history. The liturgy that we are using today is from “The Church Book for the Use of Evangelical Lutheran Congregations”, published in 1868, and recommended by the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod.

What do we know about Antioch during this time period? In 1868, most worship services were led by the Rev. George L. Hunt, a supply pastor, and held in Antioch’s first church building, located south of what we now call the “old church.” The Rev. Hunt performed baptisms and confirmed

members at Antioch up until 1874. Church records show that Pastor Hunt baptized Thomas Warren Cloninger in May and Dennis Erastus Grant Pasour in June of 1868.

A few of the most popular hymns during this time period were “Rock of Ages”, “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”, “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”, “Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun”, and “All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”. Many other hymns that were in “The Church Book” are still sung today and can be found in the Lutheran Book of Worship or With One Voice.

Later during this year, we look forward to more worship services representative of other periods of time during Antioch’s history. We will be using liturgies from hymnbooks published in 1918 (Common Service Book with Hymnal), 1958 (Service Book and Hymnal) , and 1995 (With One Voice).

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We welcome everyone who is worshipping with us today. If you are visiting, please sign the guest register in the Narthex.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

If you wish to add or remove a name on the prayer list, please call the Church office or let Sharon know.

Prayer List:

Our Church Family: Calvin Boyd, Leon and Faye Cloninger, Mervin Cloninger, Nancy Cloninger, Patti Cloninger, Sue Cloninger, Todd Cloninger, Keith Franklin, Adam Foster, Oliver Gilpin, Louise Grigg, Chris and Noreen Houser, Bill Huffstetler, Perry Kallam, Tom Lineberger, Bill and Beth

Lyerly, George Matthews, Libby Moore, Danny Pasour, Fred Pasour, Kenneth Pasour, the Family of Carolyn Ray, Mary Renner, Helen Rhyne, Linda Shapach, Randy and Brenda Street, Pam Walker, Laura Wilkinson, Glenn & Twila Wilson
Our Friends & Family: *Angie Atkins, Charlene Alford, Lisa Baldwin, Kathy Bradley, Wallace Beeson, Bernie Biskner, Carole Blair, Renee Bowman, Caitlyn Bynum, Neil Buff, John Clark, Faye Cloninger, Rebecca Cloninger, the Family of Steve Cloninger, Rhyes Connors, Elaine Cooke, Charles Eason, Craig Fincher, Dana Gibson, Harold Hayes, Edith Hendrix, Deanna Ingram, Heath Isenburg, Anna Marie, Tippy Mason, Addie McElveen, Cathy McGill, Tracy Moore, Johnny Moretz, Andrea Nichols, William Patterson, Kaly Pilkington, the Family of Barry Raby, Danny Ray, Wilfred Renner, Terry Riesen, Mike, Schultz, Dakota Shuford, Morgan Smith, Art Van Frachen, James Watkins, Pastor Bill White, Rodney Willis, Mike Wilkinson, Reese Wilson, Steve Wright*

Pray for: our Country; our Military & Families; all areas of our world suffering from disasters, especially the NC Mountain areas; our prayer partner church organizations; our local Schools, Universities and Colleges.

Dallas-High Shoals Christian Ministry: items for February are pinto beans, canned meats and corn. *The following items are always needed: Soup, Crackers, Canned Meat, Paper Products, Cleaning Supplies, Bath Soap & Shampoo.* The Ministry is in desperate need of any type of canned or boxed food items.

Garden of Peace Donations: were given by Tony and Stephanie Pasour in memory of Amos Best; by Helen Rhyne in memory of Carolyn Ray.

Announcements:

Choir: will practice today at 3:00PM.

Adult Handbells: practice today at 4:00PM.

Youth and Family Night: tonight at Antioch, 5:30-7:00PM

175th Committee: is specifically asking for photos, bulletins, news clippings or other items from the early years of Antioch. *We do not need Antioch plates, cookbooks or directories.*

Children's Handbells: practice next Sunday, February 23rd at 9:00AM.

Annual NC Lutheran Men in Mission Gathering: is March 8th at Daniels Lutheran Church near Lincolnton. To register and information go to: <http://www.nclmm.org>. See Todd Cloninger if you have questions.

Save the Dates: (more information will follow)

Scout Sunday: March 2; light lunch to following worship, provided

Solid Rock Day Camp: will be at Antioch ,from June 8 – June 13

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner: March 4th; 5:30-7:00PM

Ash Wednesday Service: March 5th

Broome Sisters Piano Concert: April 6th ; 6:00PM at Antioch

Maundy Thursday Service: April 17th ; at Antioch

Good Friday Service: April 18th ; at Our Savior

Easter Vigil: April 19th

Sunrise Service & Breakfast: April 20th

Thank you Alma Rhyne for all of your time and hard work researching and organizing this special Worship Service.

Listening for the Promise Weekly Devotions
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany – February 16, 2025

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man."

- Luke 6:22 -

I was at a fair when I saw this saying on a T-Shirt, "I can only please one person a day. Today isn't your day. Tomorrow doesn't look good either." I think most of us yearn for some type of appreciation. We want people to know what a great job we did. We want to please others, be the well-liked life of the party, the most popular in school, etc. We certainly want our employers to recognize how good we are and how well we've performed our jobs, that it might yield us a raise. There is both an internal pressure and a peer pressure that we experience in wanting to be liked.

When it comes to doing the right thing, or believing what Christ has taught us, we may find ourselves on the outside looking in. More than that, we may find ourselves attacked for what the world might consider narrow-minded beliefs. Challenge the notion that everybody goes to heaven with the truth that our salvation is through Christ alone, and people may accuse you of hating non-Christians. State that you believe marriage to be between one man and one woman and you'll certainly be labeled as being a homophobe or worse. We may even be ridiculed in our beliefs by others who identify as Christian. A former member of the congregation I serve asked how I could possibly believe that the story of Jonah was real!

The world continues to move in a direction that is oppositional to Christian teaching on many topics that we may have once considered common sense. It is an uncomfortable reality that there are those who hate, attack, or demean Christians. It has happened in every generation. Prophets who spoke God's Word were attacked. The apostles were beaten and killed for their faith. Around the world today, Christians are persecuted.

In these moments let us take heart in Christ's assurance. It is the assurance of Jesus who said to his disciples and to us, "But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33b) Remember, nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39) Be in prayer for those who would hate or harm us, as Christ taught us to pray for our enemies. And, "Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold your reward is great in heaven..." (Luke 6:23a).

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