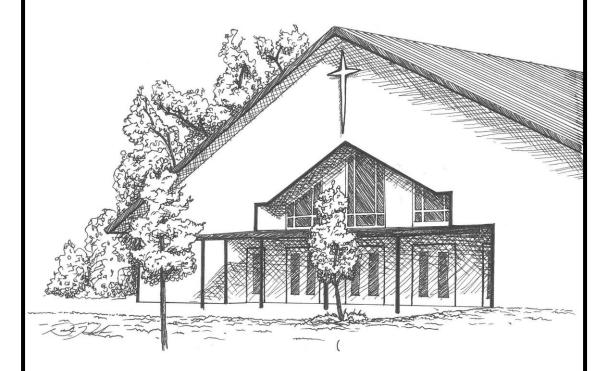
Celebration Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



First Sunday After Christmas Divine Service Three December 28, 2025

Take this bulletin home and use it for prayer, Scripture reading, and encouragement throughout the week.

Celebration Lutheran ChurchLCMS

810 Roberts Road St. Johns, Florida 32259 (904) 230-2496 www.celebrationlutheran.org

Pastor: **Rev. Santiago Keinbaum** pastor@celebrationlutheran.org

Director of Music Ministry
Deborah DeGrado
music@celebrationlutheran.org

Congregational President

Kenny Lovelady president@celebrationlutheran.org

Board of Elders

Tom Anderson, John Schumacher, Gary Vondrasek elder@celebrationlutheran.org



Welcome to Celebration Lutheran Church

You have entered a holy place where Christ serves His people. In the Divine Service, He forgives sins, feeds the faithful, and strengthens His Church through Word and Sacrament. He does this to prepare us to live by faith, love our neighbor, and bear witness in the world.

Whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, a visitor, or new to the faith, **we are glad you are here**. May you receive His mercy, His promises, and His peace.

What to Know Before Receiving the Lord's Supper

Our Communion Statement

We believe, teach, and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the Sacrament of the Altar. His body and blood are given in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, just as He says: "This is My body... this is My blood" (Matthew 26:26–28).

In faithfulness to God's Word and in care for all who commune, we practice closed communion. All who are baptized, instructed, and confirmed members of this congregation or of a congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are welcome to receive the Sacrament. In receiving the Lord's Supper, we not only receive Christ's gifts but also confess a shared faith.

Communion is not a general Christian right. It is an invitation to the holy banquet, and our Lord calls us to be prepared, clothed in faith and understanding. Scripture warns, "Whoever eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself" (1 Corinthians 11:29).

Those not communing today may come forward for a blessing by crossing their arms. Before communing, Luther's Small Catechism encourages each Christian to ask:

Do I believe I am a sinner?

Do I believe in Christ and His words in the Sacrament?

Do I intend, with God's help, to turn from sin?

If you have questions, Pastor Keinbaum or one of the Elders would be glad to speak with you.

Preparing for the Divine Service

Before the Service – Speak to God. During the Service – Let God speak to you. After the Service – Speak to one another.

Please enter the sanctuary quietly and prayerfully, allowing others time for reflection. We ask that all electronic devices be silenced before the Service begins.

"Let all the earth keep silence before Him." (Habakkuk 2:20)

Prayer before the Service

Almighty and eternal God, I, a poor, unworthy sinner, come before You in the name of Jesus Christ. I pray that You would graciously prepare my heart by Your Holy Spirit, that I may rightly hear Your Word, receive Your grace, and offer You praise and thanksgiving. strengthen my faith and lead me in holiness of life, that I may serve You in joy, now and forever. Amen.

Reading Summary

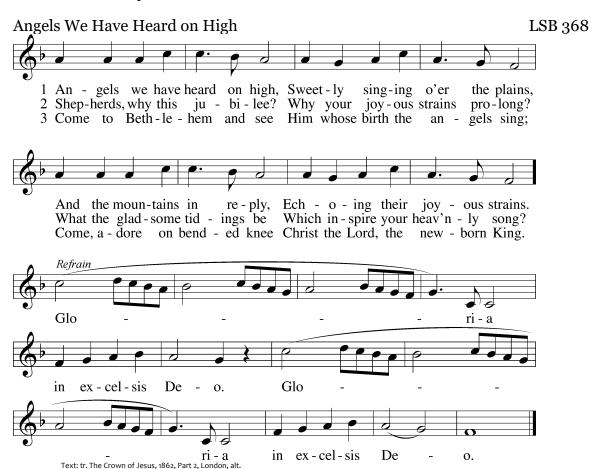
What the Word Is About This Week

The Lord Jesus Undergoes a New Exodus in Order to Save His People from Their Sins

Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must "take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt" (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He "had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son" (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing "his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses" (Is. 63:12).

Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. "He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them" (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we "receive adoption as sons" in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:4–6).

Processional Hymn



Confession and Absolution

Text and tune: French
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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 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.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **©** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

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

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

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."

Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping,

and your eyes from tears,

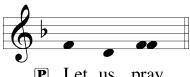
for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country." When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.









Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 63:7-14

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.' And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old,

of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual Isaiah 9:6; Psalm 98:1a

To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

for he has done marvelous things!

Epistle Galatians 4:4–7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand



Holy Gospel

Matthew 2:13-23

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



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." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 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."

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. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

"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."

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles' Creed

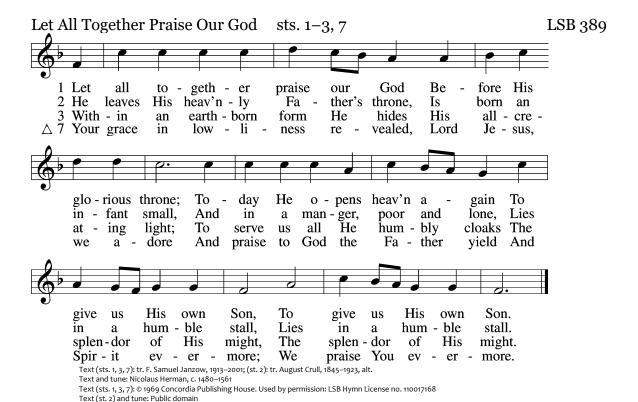
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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

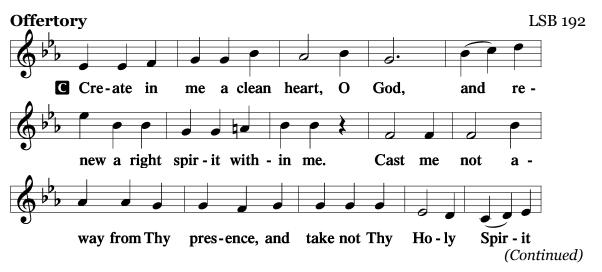
→ everlasting. Amen.

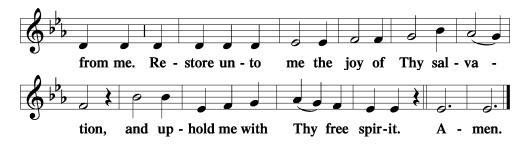
Sit



Sermon

Stand





Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord**, **have mercy**.

P For the renewal of our fellowship as the Body of Christ; and for families, husbands and wives, the single, those who desire marriage, and the lonely who yearn to know the comfort of friendship and family, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

P For babes and nursing infants, out of whose mouths the Lord perfects His praise, that our Lord would silence their enemies, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who mourn the loss of infants, that they would fix their eyes on Christ who, though spared for a time, shed His blood for the world's salvation, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and those who suffer, that the Lord would grant them healing in accordance with His will, and for those who give aid and care to the sick, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the family and friends of Leta Swatzell, who are mourning her recent passing, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our communion this day in the body and blood of Christ, that we may receive this Sacrament with faith and be strengthened by it; and that the Lord would soon bring unity

of faith and doctrine so that all divisions may cease and we may be fully one at the altar, let us pray to the Lord:

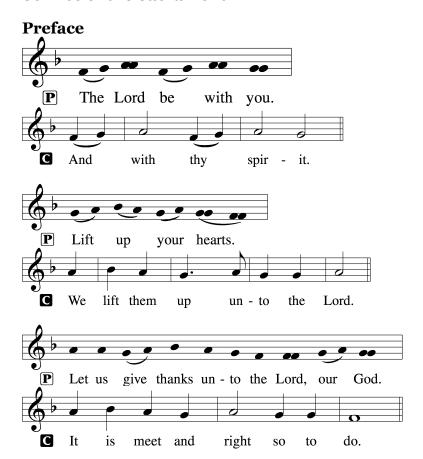
C Lord, have mercy.

P That the Holy Spirit would increase our joy and sustain us in this joy and thanksgiving throughout the days of this Christmas season, until that day when at last the Lord returns in His glory as Lord and judge of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

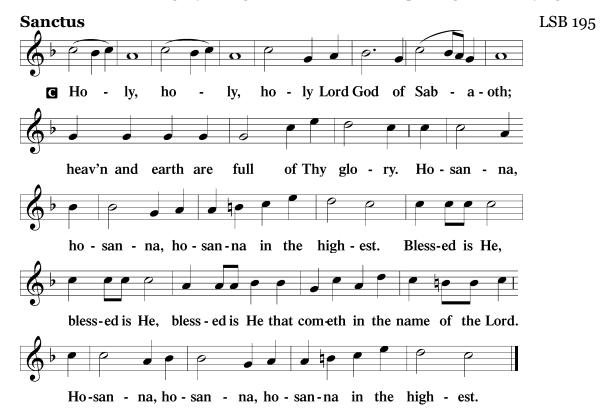
P Hear us, O Lord, for we are the people of Your promise and the children whom You have redeemed through the salvation accomplished through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament



LSB 194

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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;

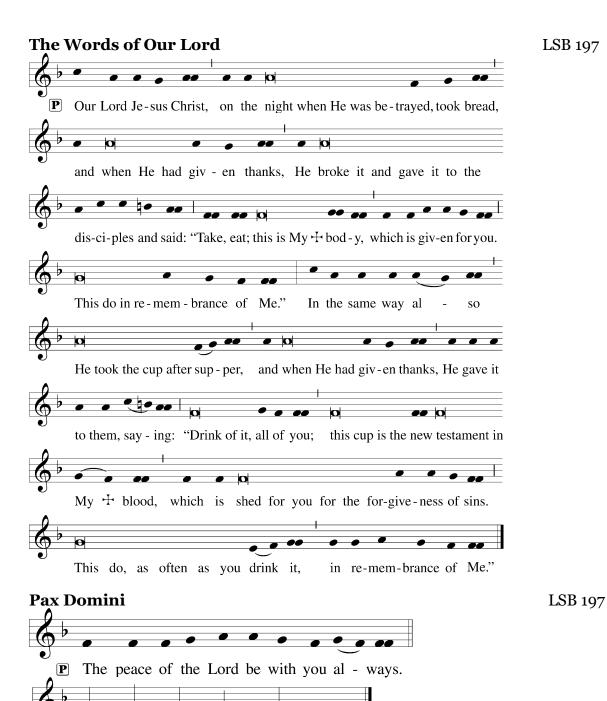
and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

-16-



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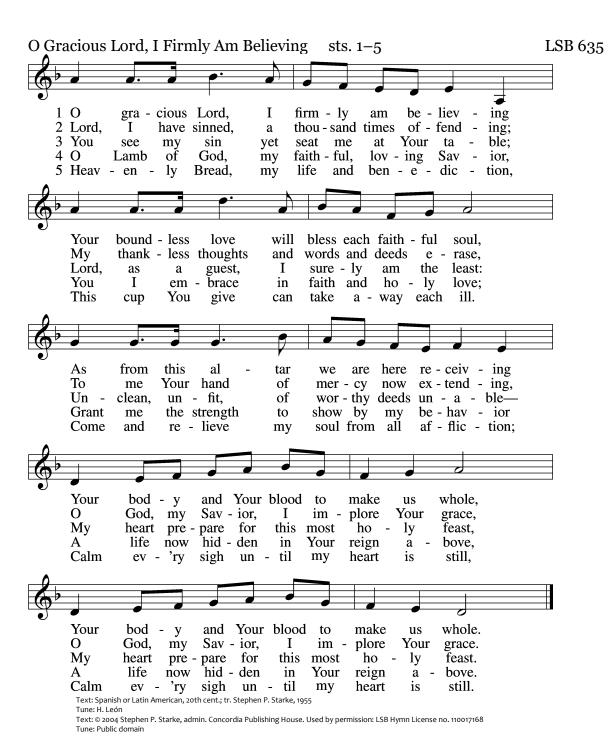


Sit

Distribution



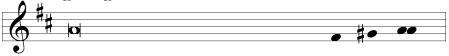
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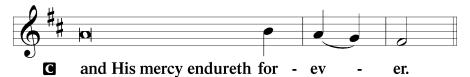
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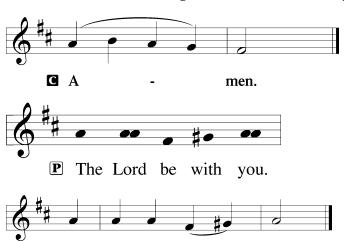


A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



P Let us pray.

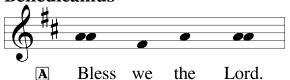
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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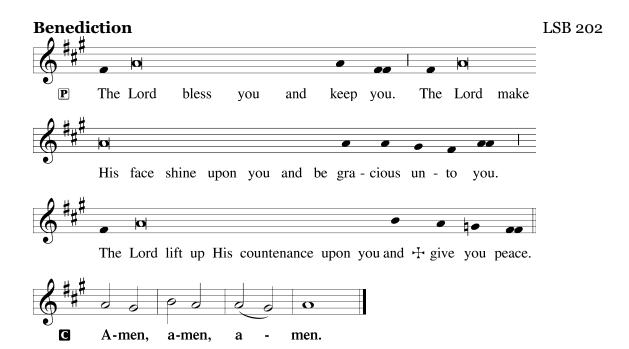
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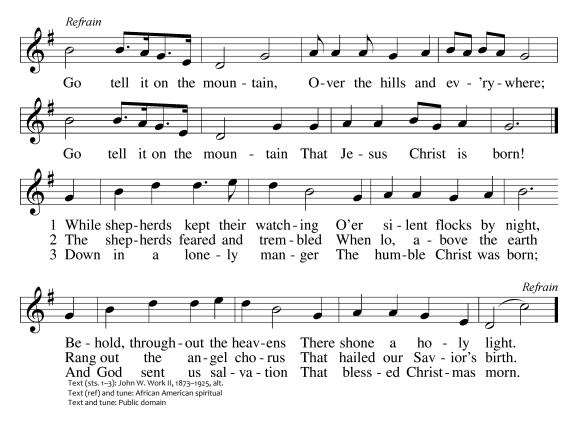
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-22-

LSB 202







Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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FROM THE TREASURER

December Monthly Offering Goal

Goal Progress: 65%

Thank you for your faithful and generous giving. Your offerings support the preaching of the Word and the administration of the Sacraments, the care of souls, and the ongoing work of the Church here at Celebration Lutheran. "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

LIFE TOGETHER AT CELEBRATION

MEN'S NEW YEAR PARTY is on Saturday, January 3rd beginning at 8:30 am. We'll meet at Saltwaters Shooting Club in St. Augustine and then follow on to the church for lunch around noon. Come for either shooting, lunch, or both. Feel free to invite friends or neighbors, sons are also welcome to attend. A more detailed announcement will be sent out to emails we have, but if you need additional information, please see Tom Anderwson or Kenny Lovelady. RSVP to: Kenny Lovelady at president@celebrationlutheran.org or Tom Anderson at elder@celebrationlutheran.org

FLOWERS on the altar today are donated in honor of the 90th birthday of Grant Maves. Birthday blessings, Grant!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT! Join us for a bonfire and fellowship on January 23rd at 6 pm until the fire is out. Hot dogs, s'mores, and hot chocolate will be provided.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY led by Debra Weier will <u>NOT</u> meet on December 29, but will resume on January 5, 2026 in the Fellowship Room. The current study is *Meant for God: A study of Joseph*.

NEW CONFIRMATION CLASS is on the horizon. Stay tuned!

CHRIST'S CUPBOARD PANTRY needs cereal and other breakfast items. There is a donation cart in the church office for your convenience.

GRIEF SHARE will start on Tuesday, January 13 at 6:00 p.m. This study is designed for those who have lost loved ones, either recently or in the past. All are welcome. Spread the word. If you have any questions, contact Erin Porter or Pastor Keinbaum.

NEW ADULT STUDY will begin in January, during the Sunday School Hour (after the Divine Service). This study will focus on Martin Luther's Large Catechism, offering an opportunity for us to explore the foundation of our Christian faith, and deepen our understanding of Lutheran teaching, while growing in faith together. All adults are invited to join us for study, discussion and fellowship!



PLEASE DOWNLOAD our app using this QR code or visit our website for current and upcoming events.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

9:00 am	Bible Study
9:45 am	Coffee & Service Preparation
10:15 am	Divine Service 3
11:15 am	Fellowship Time
9:00 am	Christ's Cupboard Preparation (Volunteers Welcome!)
8:00 am	Christ's Cupboard Distribution (Volunteers Welcome!)
6:30 pm	AA Meeting
7:30 am	AA Meeting
	9:45 am 10:15 am 11:15 am 9:00 am 8:00 am 6:30 pm

DEVOTION A Family of My Own

In the Word

[Jesus came] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons (Galatians 4:5).

Of the Word

The couple held the young girl's hands as the judge signed the documents. After years of waiting, the adoption was legal. Her delight in belonging was evident in her laughter.

Only those who have been part of an adoption process can fully understand the joy it brings. The joy of answered prayer, of being chosen, of family. Yet, this is exactly the joy Paul meant when he wrote, [Jesus came] to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons (Galatians 4:5).

A child wishing to be adopted is powerless on his own. The parents-to-be choose to create a family, fill out the paperwork, and pay the fees. They work to make it complete and legal. Our heavenly Father did the same for us. He desired to make us His children. Jesus chose to redeem us by fulfilling the Law in our place and paying the price through His death and resurrection. We are no longer orphans but truly members of the family of God. That is definitely reason for celebration!

Walking with my Lord

Holy Father, I thank You each day for my adoption into Your family. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Mustard Seed: Everyday Celebrations. Authors: Elaine Bickel and Jan Struck. 14/28 ©2015 Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. Code: #40195

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The Nativity Crossword



- 2. The Wise Men followed this.
- Precious metal given to the baby Jesus as a gift.
- 5. Mother of Jesus.
- 6. The town that Jesus was born in.
- Mary was visited by one to tell her she would have a baby.
- There was no room here for Mary and Joseph.
- Baby Jesus was born in this building.
- A angel visited them to tell them about the birth as they watched their sheep.

DOWN

- I. Mary rode on one.
- The number of kings or wise men who visited Jesus.
- 7. Jesus was lain in here as a crib.
- 9. Mary's Husband.

