



The Christ Candle December 2023

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CLC Staff

The Reverend Dale M. Zylstra
Kelly Seitzinger - Secretary
Abigayle Kubiak - Organist

Congregation Council Officers

Nancy Zimmerman - President
Don Winston - Vice-President
Jan Kopischke - Secretary
Kelly Seitzinger - Treasurer
Dara Kubiak - Financial Secretary

Council Members

Mike Vidimos Bob Talley
Dave Holeman Shirley Whitesell
John Juranovich Carrie Valousky
Art Cimnovski

Ministry Team Leaders

Worship & Music Director—
Jan Kopischke
Choir Director—Lori Zylstra
JuBellation Director—Judy Rodgers
Genesis Bells Director—
Jan Kopischke

Fellowship - Esther Fuehrer
Finance/Stewardship -
Social Outreach- Julie Vidimos
Property - Don Winston
Christian Ed - Robin Bellamy
SCS Superintendent - Kelly Seitzinger
Visitation - Rosemary Wignall
Worship & Music - Judy Rodgers
Youth Ministry - Robin Bellamy

**All meetings are open to members
of the congregation.
Scheduled meetings are sometimes
adjusted based upon the ministry
team members schedules.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

~ An E.L.C.A. Congregation ~

**7051 Indianapolis Blvd,
Hammond, IN 46324**

The Reverend Dale M. Zylstra

**The Reverend James T. Swanson,
Pastor Emeritus**

Phone: (219) 844-6122

Website: clchammond.com

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Pastor's Email: pastor.clch@gmail.com



**Mark Your Calendar
Dates to Remember!**

- Dec 03 - 1st Communion Sunday
Advent Begins
- Dec 17 - SCS Christmas Program
Cookie Contest
- Dec 24 - 7pm Candlelight Worship
- Dec 25 - Christmas Day Worship
- Dec 31 - Lessons & Carols

**CLC MISSION
STATEMENT**



SHARING God's love by
LIVING our faith and
SERVING the world.

SCS Christmas Program

DON'T MISS IT!!!!

Sunday, Dec 17th
during worship



Estuary Group - Dec 6th

Estuary Group with Pastor Dale
meets the 1st Wednesday of every month
at 7pm in Byquist Hall.

Sign up at: <https://www.meetup.com/nw-indiana-estuary-meetup-group/>

Men's Group - Dec 4th

Men's Group with Dave Roman
meets at 7pm in Byquist Hall.

Cookie Contest - Dec 17th.



Please bring cookies for
Fellowship after service.
A prize will be awarded for the
cookies getting the most votes.

**Highland Community Band
Christmas Concert**

**Thursday, Dec 21st @ 7pm
Highland High School**

Come out and support our church
members!

The concert is free.

Check out our website.

Visit us at:
clchammond.com



Go to YouTube.com and Search:

**Christ Lutheran
Hammond IN**



Find me on

facebook

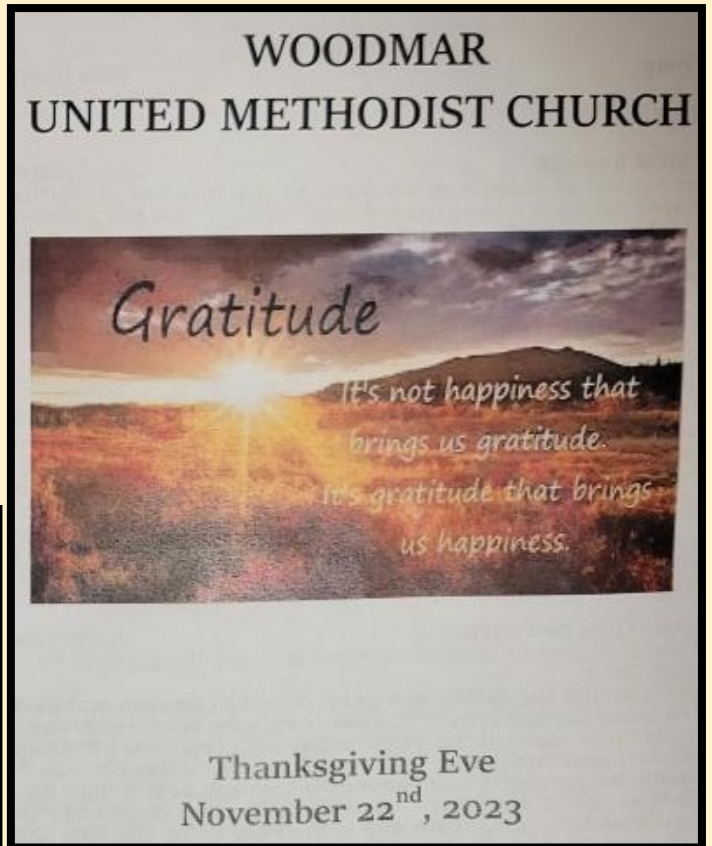
If we haven't found you yet...check us out on Facebook!!!

Search: Christ Lutheran Church Hammond

2023 Giving Thanks Dinner

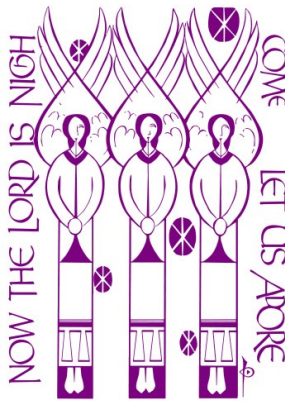


Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Woodmar Methodist, Hammond First UMC, Hyde Park UMC, Griffith/Whiting UMC, Gary UMC, Gloria Dei Lutheran, Griffith Lutheran, and Christ Lutheran joined together on November 22nd for Thanksgiving Eve Worship. Choir members from the churches sang together as well.

The 8 church joint worship, held at Woodmar Methodist, was attended by over 100 people and over \$450 was collected for the NW Indiana Food Bank.



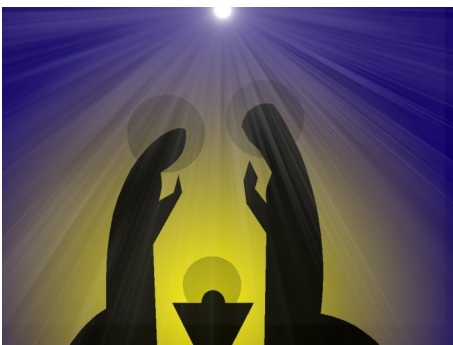
THE SEASON OF ADVENT, which is the beginning of the church year, is a time of waiting, a time of preparation, hope and joyful anticipation for the celebration of Christ's coming as God among us, for Christ's coming to us in Word and Sacrament now, and for Christ's coming at the end of the age. The word *ADVENT* is from the Latin phrase *adventus Domini*, meaning the coming of the Lord. The color of Advent is a shade of blue that reminds us of the color of the night sky just before sunrise, a sky, which symbolically in the season, holds the promise of the Light, which is to come.



THE ADVENT WREATH, The origin of the Advent wreath is somewhat obscure. Evidence points to its use in pre-Christian Scandinavia. During the Middle Ages, Christians adopted this usage and began using it in homes. By the year 1500, more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath had developed. The endless circle of the Advent wreath reminds us of

Jesus' eternal reign. The evergreens signify eternal life. The four outer candles symbolize the four weeks of Advent. The color of the candles is blue for royalty with one that is pink to symbolize rejoicing that the Christ child is near., as is the color for the season of Advent. The large center white candle on our Advent wreath is the Christ candle and is lit on Christmas Eve and at all services during the twelve days of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE - THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



The Christmas season celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the incarnation of God. It lasts for 12 days, December 24 through January 5, the eve of the Epiphany of our Lord. White, a color associated with the festivals of Christ and suggesting gladness, joy and light. It's principle themes are: God's presence in human life; God's love for all of creation; and the Paschal mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

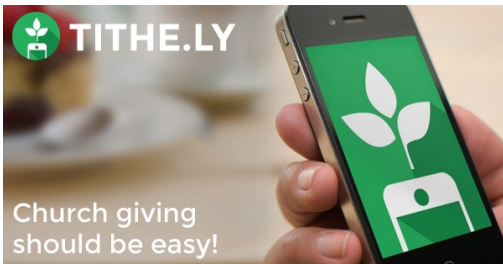
The word *Christmas* originated as a compound meaning "Christ's Mass". It is derived from the Middle English *Christemasse* and Old English *Cristes mæsse*, a phrase first recorded in 1038. "Cristes" is from Greek *Christos* and "mæsse" is from Latin *missa*. In early Greek versions of the New Testament, the letter *X* (chi), is the first letter of Christ. Since the mid-16th century *X*, or the similar Roman letter *X*, has been used as an abbreviation for Christ. Hence, Xmas is often used as an abbreviation for Christmas.

We believe Jesus Christ, born humbly in a manger this night, is the Son of God. He is the light in the darkness — sent from God to save us from our sins. We believe we are called and empowered by the Holy Spirit to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to share the good news of his birth, life, ministry and resurrection. On this night, as we celebrate Christ's birth, we affirm the mystery of our faith: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.



Glory to God in the highest heaven - Luke 2:14

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Advent 1 9:00am SCS & Adult Ed 10:30am Worship 12:30pm Worship & Music Mtg.	4 7pm Men's Group	5	6 7:00pm Estuary Group	7 6:15pm Genesis 7:00pm JuBellation 8:00pm Choir	1 <hr/> 8	2 <hr/> 9 Hall Rental
10 Advent 2 9:00am SCS & Adult Ed 10:30am Worship 5:00pm Youth Group	11	12	13 7:00pm Council	14 6:15pm Genesis 7:00pm JuBellation 8:00pm Choir	15	16 Hall Rental
17 Advent 3 SCS Christmas Program 9:00am SCS & Adult Ed 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Cookie Contest	18	19	20	21 7pm Highland Community Band Christmas Concert @ Highland High School	22	23
24 Advent 4 10:30am Worship Hall Rental 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship	25 10:30am Christmas Day Worship	26	27	28	29	30 Hall Rental
31 Christmas I Lessons & Carols 10:30am Worship	1 Happy New Year	2	3	4 6:15pm Genesis 7:00pm JuBellation 8:00pm Choir	5	6



Christ Lutheran is signed up for online giving.
 You can still give your offering in the plate at church or by mail, this is just another way to give.
 Simply go to Tithe.ly website or download the app and set up an account. It walks you through a few simple steps and your ready to go!

Christmas Flower Garden 2023

Orders for Poinsettias for use at the altar at Christmas are now being taken.

Don't hesitate! Order yours now!

Cost: \$10.00 per plant

Order Due by: December 17th

Please Print

Your Name: _____

Envelope Number (If you have one): _____ Phone: _____

Given in Memory of: _____

Given in Honor of: _____

Total poinsettias ordered: _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____ Amt. Due
Sunday Dec. 17th

Donation towards Christmas decorating fund \$ _____

Please Indicate:

_____ I will take home my plants after LATE service (Christmas Eve)

_____ I will leave plants for decorations for Christmas season

