



Newsletter

DECEMBER 2023

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ... for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and Holy is His Name. And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. ... He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." (Luke 1:46-47, 49-50, 54-55)

Listen to what Mary says in her song! She describes what God has done, and she does it *in the past tense*. She says that God has scattered the proud and brought down the mighty (not that He *will* scatter the proud and bring down the mighty). She says that He has filled the hungry and sent the rich away empty; He has helped Israel, remembering His promises of mercy to Abraham and all believers.

Why put all this in the past tense? We can look around us every day and see that these things have not all happened yet.

Mary can use the past tense because she is describing a world where God has set everything right—where evil is destroyed, and God's kingdom has come in full blessing. And she knows that all of this is so certain and sure that we might as well put it in the past tense—it is guaranteed to happen. Why? Because Jesus has come into the world. That tiny baby is God Himself, keeping His promises; and nothing will stop Him from saving us and all creation from the power of evil. For this He became a human being, and for this He will suffer, die, and rise again. It's guaranteed.
<https://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions>

CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

January 7th after
10:00 am service



Backpack Buddies

Thanks to the core members who helped bag the food for the children.

Angel Tree Toys The Christmas gathering of toys for children served by Bluffton Self Help resulted in 85 toys and \$290 in cash and checks. Items were loaded into 2 cars and were delivered. Thanks to all who donated to make a child's Christmas special.



Save These DATES

2024

Bring a friend or two or more!

- February 11 **Burning of the Palms** in preparation for Ash Wednesday
Valentine Brunch – Wear Red or Pink
- February 14 **Ash Wednesday Service** 11:00am and 5:00pm
- Lent **Soup Supper** @ 5:30
Worship @ 6:00pm February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20
- March 17 **St. Patrick's Day Brunch** – wear green
- March 24 **Palm/Passion Sunday**
- March 28 **Maundy Thursday** 6:00pm
- March 29 **Good Friday** 6:00pm
- March 31 **Easter Breakfast** – wear Easter Bonnets
- May 19 **Pentecost Sunday** – wear red



The Souper Bowl will be held on February 11th. We will again collect soup (and other pantry shelf food items) for Bluffton Self Help. Our goal is 500 items for this Souper Bowl! A Thrivent member through the Thrivent website to apply for an action team up to \$250 toward a community project or an event. See Karen Meyer for further information.

Preparing the Church for Advent



Thanks to All who Helped!

The Christmas Cantata



Blue Christmas



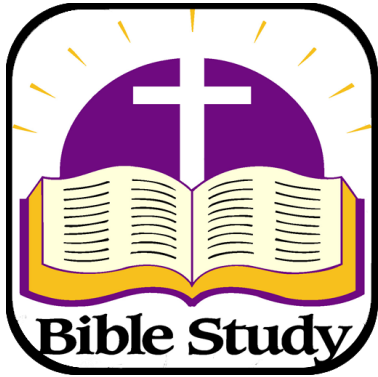
A candle for Courage A candle for Grief
A candle of Memories A candle of Faith
The Candle of Love The Candle of Hope



WELCA Christmas Luncheon

A special thanks to Charlotte Mayer, Carol Gentalen, Vivian Cunningham, and Diane Christ for all their work in getting the luncheon together at Olive Garden. There was a Christmas puzzle, a Christmas story, and over \$700 in donations were collected for ELCA Good Gifts. It was a wonderful opportunity for fellowship!





Tuesday Bible Study 11:00 am in the café

Thursday Lutheran Men in Mission @ 8:00 am

*Currently meeting by Zoom.

*Breakfast in person every Third Thursday at 8:00 am

