

Angelos

December 2025

The Grand Miracle

"If the thing happened, it was the central event in the history of the earth."

C. S. Lewis

I never get tired of Advent and Christmas! Despite how many years I have been preaching on these themes they never get old and it is never hard to find a new way of expressing this inexpressible good news.

This may well be the final time I get to preach through an entire Advent and Christmas season, and I am excited to do so!

This year I'm going to leave the appointed Advent readings I chose my own to go with 'The Grand Miracle' theme. I want to approach the incarnation (which literally means 'in the flesh') from varying angles. I'm working on those angles right now but tentatively I'm thinking along these lines:

November 30	'The Incarnation and Why 'Matter Matters'
December 4/7	'The Incarnation and God's Face'
December 11/14	'The Incarnation and Suffering'
December 18/21	'The Incarnation in a Womb and a Stable'



What's so astounding is that the Christmas event, which we think of having about a 2,000 year history, has been in the works from the very beginning (even before there was a beginning!). The amazing images coming from the James Webb telescope cannot go back far enough to capture what

John's Gospel means when it majestically beings:

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

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This is a great time to dive into your faith! Don't let the busyness distract you from the main event – the God who is above and beyond all our imaginings has become one of us, and not simply as a person but as a baby. This is indeed The Grand Miracle!

Be drawn into that miracle yourself!

**Excited for a great December,
Pastor Ralf**



Other exciting happenings in December . . .

- Read about the Advent festival, Sing-along Messiah, Christmas in Narnia, the Bethlehem Bazaar, Christmas Eve services in the rest of this Angelos! Come to everything!
- The December Thursday afternoon and Sunday morning class:

'The Christian Story in Narnia'

Since this is a 'Christmas in Narnia' year, we'll discover some of the ways that C. S. Lewis incorporated the Christian story into his Narnia tales – creation, temptation, the fall, sacrifice, death, redemption, restoration – it's all there!

- **A Christmas Open House** – Thelma recently came across a phrase she really likes: Jule Hygge (Look it up if you're not sure what it means!). I don't know anyone who can create a more 'Jule hygge' setting in a home than Thelma, and we're excited to share our Jule hygge with you.

A Christmas Open House

When: Sunday, December 21

Time: 2:00-5:00pm

Where: 6349 School St. SW Lakewood

Bring: Yourself, your family, and friends!

- Finally - A Single Worship Service on Sunday, December 28 at 9:30am. Bring some leftover Christmas treats to share!



What a great month ahead!



Honthorst, 'Adoration of the Shepherds'

**"We see here how Christ, as it were, takes our birth from us and absorbs it in his birth, and grants us his, that in it we might become pure and holy, as if it were our own, so that every Christian may rejoice and glory in Christ's birth as much as if he had himself been born of Mary as was Christ."
Martin Luther from a Christmas sermon**

Children & Families



Local Missions

In November we had another great dog food packing day. We filled 35 boxes with over 700 gallon sized bags full of dog food and it was delivered to Lakewood Methodist Food Bank, Tillicum Community Food Bank, Nativity House, The Tacoma Rescue Mission and to Nourish Food Bank. These bags will be handed out to people who have pets. A huge thank you to our Outreach Team for supporting this event, and to Roger Nelson for all his work to make it happen.



Angel Tree

The Angel Tree gives us the opportunity to share Christmas joy with children and families in need. Choose an angel from the tree, purchase a gift, and help brighten someone's Christmas.

Please have your gifts to the church by Thursday, Dec. 18th

Can you help?

Shampoo Needed

The Monday Growth Group needs Shampoo donations for their on going project, to fill pill bottles for the Tacoma Rescue Mission. Please contact Karen Claussen with any questions. Thank you for your help!

Nonperishable Food Donations

We have teamed up with the Lakewood Rotary Lions to stock the Little Free Pantry and the Tillicum Food Bank. They are in need of cereal, canned tuna/chicken, small jars of peanut butter, trail mix/nuts, canned soup, ramen, fruit or pudding cups, protein bars, and bottled water. Please consider adding a few extra things to your grocery list in the coming week and dropping them off at our foodbank box.

Altar Flowers

Interested in providing the flowers on Sunday morning? Altar Flowers are \$29.00. You can find the sign-up sheet in the Friday email, or call the church office. The 2026 Altar Flower sign-up is now available!

Adult Ed Help Needed

Our church is blessed with amazing people who have amazing gifts! Pastor Ralf and I would love to put together a schedule for our adult education classes on Sunday mornings and hopefully Thursday afternoons (February-May). If you feel called to lead or facilitate a class please call or email me, I would love to talk with you!

Remember God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called!

Michele Green

Spiritual Formation

(253)576-2076

Worship Helper Scheduling

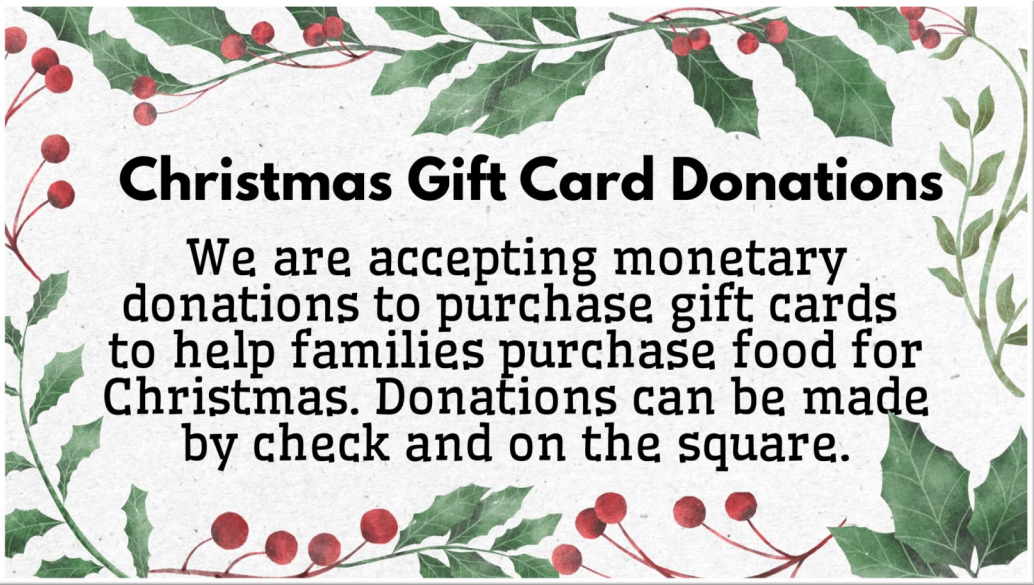
Do you have a preferred weekend that you like to serve? Would you like to have a set schedule?

If you answered, "yes"! Please email Aubrie at secretary@clc-lakewood.org or call the Church Office and I would be happy to schedule you!

Angelos

If you have any information or articles for the Angelos, please email them to Aubrie at secretary@clc-lakewood.org by the 15th of the month. Thank you!

Notes from the Office



Christmas Gift Card Donations

We are accepting monetary donations to purchase gift cards to help families purchase food for Christmas. Donations can be made by check and on the square.



Dec. 28th

One Combined Worship

9:30 AM



**OFFICE CLOSED FOR
CHRISTMAS**

12/25 & 1/1

Upcoming Events



Messiah
SING ALONG

December 7th - 2:00pm

Join us as we sing or listen along to Handel's Messiah! This is a free event - our gift to the community! We encourage bringing non-perishable food items for donation to local food banks.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
8211 112TH ST SW, LAKEWOOD



**CHRISTMAS
IN NARNIA**
AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 14th, 2-7pm

Register online by scanning the QR code, you **MUST** register to attend!

christlutheranlakewood.org
8211 112th St SW, Lakewood, WA 98498
253-582-0331



CHRISTMAS EVE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM @ 3PM

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
(WITH COMMUNION)
Contemporary Service @ 7pm
Traditional Service @ 9pm

Mark Your Calendar

CLC Seniors' Trips

2025 PLU Christmas Concert, "All Shall Be Well"
Saturday, December 6th at 2:00 & 7:30pm



Our November trip was to the Boeing Museum of Flight and Lunch at Wings Cafe.
Join us on our next adventure in 2026!

Men’s Monday Meal & a Movie At Mike's

5pm Monday, December 8th

We will be watching Season 5 Episodes 7 & 8 of “The Chosen”

Dinner will be potato bar, salad, and dessert.

Sign up in the Gathering Place.

Money Matters

October 2025 Offering and Expense Report

YTD Offerings for Salaries, Utilities & Programs	518,675
YTD Reimbursable Receipts (Book Fees, Events, Reg.)	107,955
YTD Transfer from Sustaining Fund	88,629
YTD Total General Funds Available	715,259
YTD Expenses for Salaries, Utilities & Programs	(798,817)
Estimated General Fund Balance (end of October)	(83,558)

Faith Circle

9:30am Thursday, December 18th in the Alpha Room.

Dorcas Circle and Miriam Circle will resume in January.

Monday Morning Bible Study

Bible Study meets at 9 AM in the Alpha Room. We are continuing our study of *The Gospel on the Ground* by Kristi McClelland. The author gives us a glimpse into the study of the culture, geography and lifestyle of the Early Church. Please check weekly announcements for December class meetings.

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets Monday mornings after Bible study (around 11:15 AM). If you have prayer requests, you may click the prayer request "button" in the CLC weekly email or call the Church secretary. You may also drop a written prayer request in the offering plate. We celebrate the power of prayer.

Book Group

The CLC book club meets on the third Thursday of the month (12/18/2025), in the Alpha Room at 10 AM. December's selection is a collection of original short stories submitted to Otto Penzler, owner of Manhattan's Mysterious Bookshop. There are 12 tales of Holiday intrigue.

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|----------|--|
| 12/18/25 | <i>Christmas Crimes at the Mysterious Bookshop</i> edited by Otto Penzler |
| 1/15/26 | <i>The Briar Club</i> by Kate Quinn |
| 2/19/26 | <i>Only the Beautiful</i> by Susan Meissner |
| 3/19/26 | <i>The Book of Hope</i> by Jane Goodall, Douglas Adams |
| 4/16/26 | <i>The Queens of Crime</i> by Marie Benedict |
| 5/21/26 | <i>Making the Best of What's Left</i> by Judith Viorst |
| 6/18/26 | <i>The Backyard Bird Chronicles</i> by Amy Tan |
| 7/16/26 | <i>Vera Wong's Guide to Snooping (on a Dead Man)</i> by Jesse Q. Sutanto |
| 8/20/26 | <i>The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece</i> by Tom Hanks |
| 9/17/26 | <i>The Jackal's Mistress</i> by Chris Bohjalian |
| 10/15/26 | <i>The Correspondent: A Novel</i> by Virginia Evans |

Please join us. If you use the library, always check the availability of the selection as well as the Lucky Day shelf. If you would like more information for Monday Morning Bible Study, Prayer Group or Book Discussion contact Mikel Robinson: text or call (253)307-9373 or email at mar8412@hotmail.com.

December Worship Helpers

Worship @ 9:30am

8:30am	12/07	12/14	12/21	12/28
Ushers	2 Needed	Dick Ferrell 1 Needed	Carol - Wray Sturgill 1 Needed	2 Needed
Greeters	2 Needed	Sandy Reed Carol - Wray Sturgill	2 Needed	2 Needed
Reader	Anne Cook	1 Needed	1 Needed	1 Needed
Communion Set Up	Carol Brown Robbie Courts	2 Needed	2 Needed	Veronica Hagman 1 Needed
Communion Assistant	Anne Cook Carol - Wray Sturgill 1 Needed	3 Needed	3 Needed	3 Needed
Communion Clean Up	Bob Reed 1 Needed	2 Needed	2 Needed	Sylvia Allen 1 Needed
Coffee Hour Host	Nancy Selland Cheryl Zoll	Diane Chamusco Linda Cole, Krista Kollin	John & Lisa Korsmo	Bob & Sandy Reed
10:30am	12/07	12/14	12/21	
Ushers	Jeremy Mitchell Ben Sclair	Scott Buser Jeremy Mitchell	Scott Buser 1 Needed	
Greeters	Cheryl Yannello 1 Needed	2 Needed	Cheryl Yannello 1 Needed	
Reader	Mikel Ann Robinson	1 Needed	1 Needed	
Communion Assistant	Linda Peightel Mikel Ann Robinson 1 Needed	Karen Claussen Sharon Shaffer 1 Needed	3 Needed	
Communion Clean Up	Mikel Ann Robinson Deb Sclair	Karen Claussen 1 Needed	2 Needed	

Christmas Eve	3:00pm	7:00pm	9:00pm
Ushers	2 Needed	2 Needed	2 Needed
Greeters	2 Needed	2 Needed	Jan & Jeff Brown
Reader		1 Needed	Thelma Kalms
Communion Set Up		2 Needed	
Communion Assistant		Thelma Kalms 2 Needed	Thelma Kalms Linda Peightel 1 Needed
Communion Clean Up		2 Needed	Linda Peightel 1 Needed

The Worship Helper sign up sheets are available in the Gathering Place.

DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am	2	3 Rooted Dinner 5:30pm Classes 6:00pm Youth Group 6:30pm	4 Worship Noon Education Hour 1:30pm Exec Meeting 4:30pm Council Meeting 5:30pm	5 Office Closed	6 Narnia Decorating 9am TGLS 9am
7 PB&J Sunday Traditional Worship 8:30am Adult Ed/Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am Messiah Sing Along 2pm	8 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am Men's Meal & a Movie 5pm	9 Book of Acts Study 10:30am Book of Acts Study 7pm	10 Youth Group 6:30pm	11 Worship Noon Education Hour 1:30pm MomCo 5:30pm Joyful Noise Rehearsal 7:30pm	12 Office Closed	13 TGLS 9am
14 Traditional Worship 8:30am Adult Ed/Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am Christmas in Narnia 2pm	15 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am	16	17 Youth Group 6:30pm	18 Faith Circle 9:30am Book Group 10am Worship Noon Education Hour 1:30pm	19 Office Closed	20 TGLS 9am
21 Traditional Worship 8:30am Adult Ed/Fellowship 9:40am Contemporary Worship 10:30am	22 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am	23	24 Christmas Eve Children & Family 3pm Contemporary 7pm Traditional 9pm	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27
28 Single Worship 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am	29 Women's Bible study 9am Quilters 9am Prayer Group 11:15am	30	31 New Years Eve Office Closed at Noon			

Christ Lutheran Church
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Lakewood WA 98499

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ELCA Synod

253.535.8300

swwsynod@plu.edu



Office Hours M-TH 8-4:30

Missed church last Sunday?

Did you know you can watch live worship and catch up on our YouTube page!

[Search: Christ Lutheran Lakewood](#)

Did you know you can make an offering online

www.christlutheranlakewood.com

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