

## Please pray for...

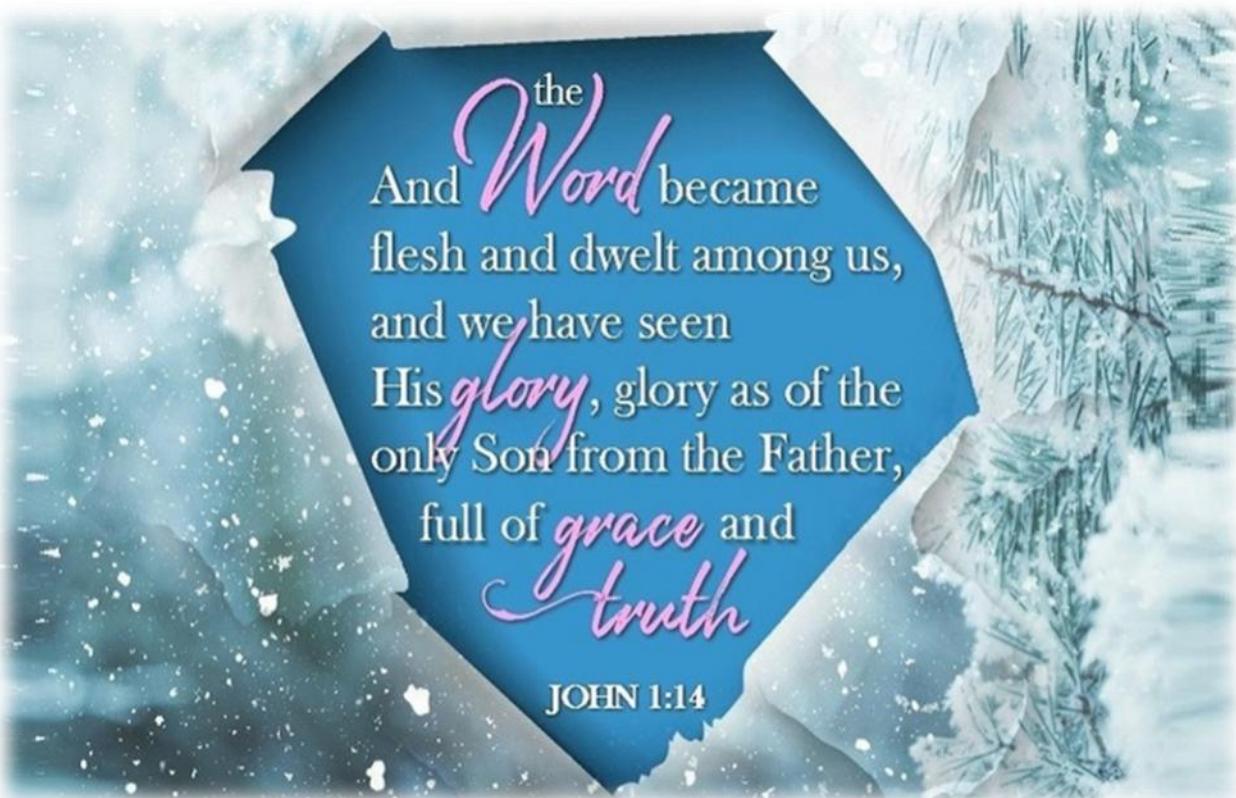
**Our Church Family:** Week of 12/22/25 Dusty Naaktgeboren 12/7/25 Jennifer Fischer, Margo Kiepert, Jackie Possel 12/1/25 the family of Marie Bingaman, Tee Callan



**Our friends and relatives:** Week of: 12/22/25 Linda Urbanczyk, Mara Elena, Mary Roberts, Zack Lewis, Butch Reid 12/17/25 Natalie Kiepert 12/15/25 Sofia Azelton, Tony Bilotta, Jason White 11/30/25 Andrew Wolf, Nat. Guard survivor in DC, the family of Sarah Beckstrom, WV National Guard member, Gura Mandy McDonald, Yvonne & Greg Cambray, John Schwerdtfeger, Joe & Brenda Sproul

**Ongoing church family, friends and relatives:** Barbara Frische, Joanne Donaldson, Darlene Foster, Mary Lou Burke, Kaitlin Burke, Jim MacDonald, Annette Morden, Helen Higgins Kline, Jenny Carangelo-Rule, Scott and Peggy Torgerson, Bill Lotito, Marilyn Johnson, Bill Rose, Courtney Adams, JoAnne Coe, Susan Leroux, Dick Vercruyse, Lori Allen, Diane Massa, Jackie Walsh, Ed Palmer, Joan Forreidor, Sharon Faulkner, Doreen Panyard, Mona Argentini, Larry Thomas, Jon Dickey, Margot Simmons, Karen Smith, Piper Jandola

**Please also pray for our** Homebound members, Ministry of Faith Preparatory School, Ministry of Tender Hearts, Ministry of Blue Butterfly Hospice, all who serve in the military and their families, all law enforcement officers and first responders and their families.



## "Our Mission"

Welcome All  
Grow Faithfully  
Serve God and Our  
Neighbors

**December 28, 2025**

**HOLY TRINITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2565 Tamiami Trail, Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
(941)625-5262  
Email: [office@htlchurch.org](mailto:office@htlchurch.org)  
Web address: [www.htlchurch.org](http://www.htlchurch.org)



First Sunday  
Of Christmas

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP! We are glad YOU are here!

**Are You a Visitor or Guest?** We welcome you in the name of our risen Savior and we rejoice that you are here today to praise God with us. Please complete a CONNECTION CARD in your pew. Either place it in the offering plate or give it to one of our pastors so we can serve you better.

**Holy Communion**—We believe that Christ is present in this meal freely given to all who are baptized. Please approach the altar as directed. Receive the host and then dip the host (gluten free wafers are available for the asking) into either the red wine or the white grape juice and eat, or place the host in your mouth then pick up a cup of either the red wine or the white grape juice and drink. Deposit your empty cup in the basket at the end of the line. All children are invited to come forward for a blessing if they do not normally receive communion. Return to your seat (or pause at the altar) for a time of prayer. If you are unable to come to the altar and would like communion in your pew, please let an usher or a pastor know.

**Large Print Service Slide Binders**—do you have trouble seeing the screens? We do have the slides printed in a binder for those who need it. Please ask an usher by the sanctuary doors for the binder, then return it at the end of worship.

**Hearing Assistance** – To connect to the sound system, please download the AUDIOFETCH app, (see barcode) and connect to the **audiorefchexpress** wifi on your cellphone. Refer all questions to Phil Deel.



### CHURCH STAFF

**CO-PASTORS**  
Pastor Andrea Barrios  
[pastorandrea@htlchurch.org](mailto:pastorandrea@htlchurch.org)

Pastor Ken Barrios  
[pastorken@htlchurch.org](mailto:pastorken@htlchurch.org)

**VISITATION PASTOR**  
Pastor Carl Fischer

**CELEBRATION WORSHIP LEADER**  
Miles Mancini

**ORGANIST/HANDBELL DIRECTOR**  
Cecil Buchinger  
[htlorganist@gmail.com](mailto:htlorganist@gmail.com)

**CHOIR ACCOMPANIST**  
Jean Sutton

**CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR**  
Sonja Rozier

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**  
Margaret Rose

**FINANCE SECRETARY**  
Debbie Nigliaccio

**MISSIONARY**  
Rev. Eric Twine, Uganda

**SYNOD PARISH DEACONS**  
Marianne Click  
Gail Hintz  
Steve Wuckert

# SUNDAY STAR

## Volunteers

### TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

10:00am:

Greeters: Ronette Rogus      BULLETINS: \_\_\_\_\_

Reader: Richard Schnur

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Diane Boettcher, Rob White, Richard Schnur, Marianne Click

OFFERING: Richard Schnur, \_\_\_\_\_

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS: Pat Morgan

SUNDAY FLOWER DELIVERY: Ralphie Parker

**SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR NEXT MONTH ARE POSTED IN THE NARTHEX**

### TODAY'S WORSHIP:

Our services are projected on the screens—The congregation responds with the **bold, black** print.

**BIBLE READING:** Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; John 1:1-14

10:00 Christmas Hymns

### Church Council Members

You can recognize a church council member by their "YELLOW" nametag.

President—Theda Bunker, Vice-President—Phil Deel,

Secretary—Jeanne Gaston, Treasurer—Shawn Hernandez.

At large: Beau Beaudine, Mike Felt, Richard Schnur, Jan Schroeder, Lisa Mohr, Mandy Knollenberg

### In-person Attendance

Dec. 21, 2025— 274      Last year 2024— 331

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### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday—Dec 29

9:00a—Food Pantry

Tuesday—Dec 30

10:00a—Bible Study—*Cancelled*

Wednesday—Dec 31

Food Pantry—*Cancelled*

Thursday - Jan 1

New Year's Day

*Office Closed*

Friday—Jan 2

*Office Closed*

Saturday – Jan 3

*Office Closed*

Sunday - Jan 4

9:00a—Celebration Service

9:15a—Let's Talk

9:45 Sunday School

10:45a—Traditional Service

Today's altar flowers and communion wine are presented by **Rosemarie Conklin** in memory of the **Pawliczak and Conklin Families**



### THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Dec 28—	Austin Bird
	Heather Furnas
Dec 29—	Heidi Beaudine
	Ellen Vercruyse
	Rob White
Dec 30—	Carol Hunter
Dec 31—	Jolaine Roberts
Jan 1—	Lenore Conenello
Jan 3—	Steven Erlenback



### **Fall in Love With Your Life in 2026:**

1. Wake up early
2. Make your bed
3. Enjoy the morning sun
4. Set intentions for your day
5. Speak kindly to yourself
6. Enjoy your coffee
7. Go on a walk without your phone
8. Talk to your friends and family
9. Learn something new
10. Fuel yourself with whole foods
11. Practice gratitude
12. Surround yourself with people who lift you up.

2026

### THIS WEEK'S ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 29	Carolyn & John Young	52 yrs!
Jan 1	Jim & Charlotte Loving	50 yrs!

### Our Financial Stewardship

DONATIONS YTD: Actual vs needed (000s)

NOV Actual \$516.8

Needed \$540.6

Over/(Under) (\$ 33.8)



ACTUAL NET YTD:

NOV 25 (\$23.2)

NOV 24 \$20.5

Diff: (\$42.7)

15 year Mortgage

on 1/1/25 \$213.3

on 10/31/25 \$ 83.9

Reduction \$129.4

## Council Highlights from November 2025

**MOTION** To accept the corrected minutes from October 2025, was carried.

**FINANCE:** Through October our donations are \$19,248 below our spending, which includes the Fellowship balance of \$5178. This is \$41,986 below last year when we had a positive difference of \$22,738. Through October, envelope offerings are \$27,049 below last year (7% dec.), plate offerings are up \$2348, and holiday offerings are down \$646. Total income is down \$22,908 compared to last year (4.7% dec.). Through October, our expenses are \$1,114 below our 2025 spending plan showing we are doing a good job of holding expenses down. Expenses are above last year by \$21,849 (4.6% inc.). Due to another \$50,000 received toward the mortgage principal, we are on schedule to have it paid off by early May 2026. Donations are down. We are \$14,000 below our spending plan. Even though the mortgage will be paid off, we have some higher dollar 'household' expenses that will continue, such as taxes and insurance.

**PROPERTY:** Ditch by back drive is being worked on to try to fill in. Security company came to review what is in place (he mentioned that many churches do not have even 10% of our security), though there is room for improvement. A written assessment is forthcoming.

**MUTUAL MINISTRY:** Council reviewed spending plan. Recommended 3.5% staff increase.

**MOTION:** to increase church staff salaries by 3.5% passed with one decent. **MOTION:** to accept the spending plan with an increase of \$200 for the organist that was not on original spending plan passed with one decent.

**PASTORS' TIME:** Pastor Ken presented the Membership report. **MOTION:** to accept membership report passed.

**YOUR INPUT: THOUGHTS, CONCERNS FROM THE CONGREGATION**—A parishioner suggested more time between services.

**NEW BUSINESS:** 1. Nominating committee completed nominations. Mission Endowment: Joe Anderson, Judy Platz, Pat Isom. Council: Richard Schnur, Doug Buuck, Beau Beaudine.

**CORRESPONDENCES:** Thank you's received from: Tender Hearts for the Halloween candy/goody bags; from CARE for our support; AGAPE for \$405 donation; from Back Pack Kidz for support and generosity; from Gateway Center for World Mission/Eric Twine for gift of \$3600; to Women's Bible Study for sending birthday cards to Crossroads kids and \$405 donation. A request of support of the Native American Outreach Program for American and Alaskan native people; Harry Chapin request for contribution to their Thanksgiving matching funds campaign.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Phil & Mary Deel for all they do around the church. Food pantry volunteers.

Next meeting 12/17/2025 at the Barrios home.

grandpa

WISE WORDS

1. Don't sell your mule to buy a plow.
2. Most stuff people worry about never happens.
3. Don't judge people by their relatives.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.

# 12 The Hidden Meaning of the Days of Christmas



December 25

**A Partridge in a Pear Tree**  
The One true God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ



December 26

**Two Turtledoves**  
The Old and New Testaments



December 27

**Three French hens**  
Faith, Hope and Love



December 28

**The Four Calling Birds**  
Four Gospels



December 29

**The Five Gold Rings**  
Recall the Torah (Law) the First Five Books of the Old Testament



December 30

**Six Geese A-Laying**  
Six Days of Creation



December 31

**Seven Swans A-Swimming**  
Sevenfold Gifts of the Spirit



January 1

**Eight Maids A-Milking**  
Eight Beatitudes



January 2

**Nine Ladies Dancing**  
Nine Fruits of the Spirit  
(See Galatians 5)



January 3

**Ten Lords A-Leaping**  
Ten Commandments



January 4

**Eleven Pipers Piping**  
Eleven Faithful Disciples



January 5

**Twelve Drummers Drumming**  
12 Points of Belief in the Apostles Creed

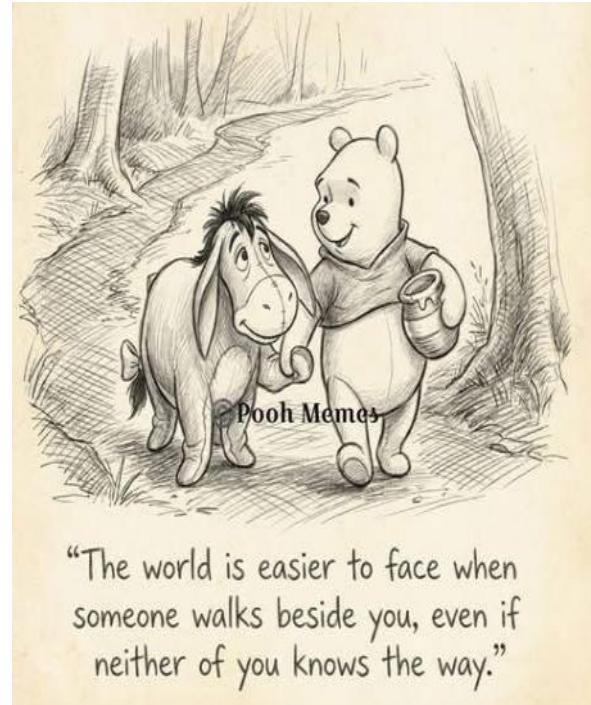
## "HOLY CHOW!"

Holy Chow dinner groups are soon to be formed again. What wonderful fun has emerged from these gatherings. All is geared as an informal way to have a meal in your own home with other church members. The emphasis is on fun and fellowship, so you don't have to be a great cook to participate! In fact, your group of 6-8 can be as creative or simple as they choose in the 3-4 times that they meet. Sign up is easy. **Complete the sign up card** (at Ministry Center in the narthex) **or email your name and contact info to the church office** ([office@htlchurch.org](mailto:office@htlchurch.org)). The goal could be to start our dinner "assignments" by early January 2026.



## 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2026 Offering Envelopes on a table in the narthex. **They are in order according to envelope number.** If you don't know your number, there is an alphabetical list available to check with the numbers. **NOTE:** If you have a 300 number, your number has changed for next year. Check for your new number. **PLEASE be sure to check your number against the envelope label.** Notify the office if there is an error. If your envelopes are not there **OR** if you want envelopes, please write your name on the paper.



"The world is easier to face when someone walks beside you, even if neither of you knows the way."

## 'Tis the season'

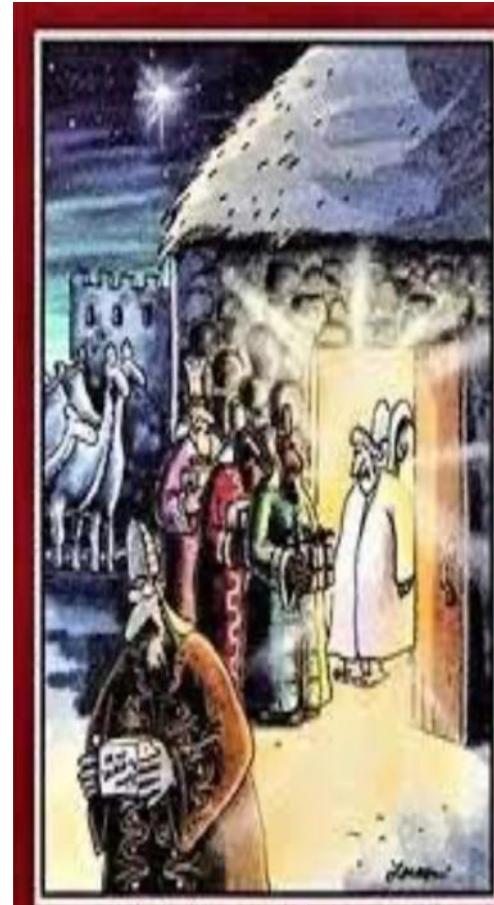
Just a reminder, please beware of 'phishing' scams. Tis the season for phishing using clergy 'accounts'. Neither pastor will send anything by email asking for help with **something requiring**

**discretion**'. Make sure that any message is from an email address or number you already have. You're always welcome, and we encourage it, to double check that it was either Pastor Andrea or Pastor Ken. Let us all have a safe and blessed Christmas season!



Bible study is **CANCELLED** for Tuesdays 12/30/25 and 1/6/2026.

**It will resume on Tuesday January 13th at 10:00 am.**



Unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wiseman, who was turned away for bringing fruitcake.

## IT'S NOT 9, HOW MANY BIRDS ARE THERE, THEN?



**In English, we say,  
"Memories remain."**

**But in poetry, we say,  
"Memory is time that will not leave,  
A gentle art of how we grieve.  
It keeps the past both near and kind,  
A living text within the mind."**