



DECEMBER 2025 VOLUME 144

THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - NO DOUBTS

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NEWS

- Join us for our **Soup, Study, & Service during Advent**. Fellowship will be hosting simple Soup and Bread suppers on Wednesday evenings (**December 3rd, 10th, 17th**) during Advent at **6:00 p.m.**, followed by an **Advent study at 6:30 p.m.**, and our **Taizé service at 7:00 p.m.** All are invited to come for a warm meal, meaningful study, and a peaceful time of worship. *If you are willing to provide a pot of soup, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.*



- With all the special activities happening in December including the **"All Is Bright" concert by Solis Vocal at Christ the King on December 15 at 7:30 p.m.**, our next **Martha's Mondays** gathering will be held on **Monday, January 19** at St. Thomas Lutheran Church.

Pastor Wynemah suggests that we **attend the December 15 concert together as a group**. *In support of the musicians, including our own Parish Secretary Carolina Escamilla, there is a \$25 admission fee. More information can be found further in the newsletter.*

When Martha's Mondays resumes in January, we will continue our discussion of Chapters 7 and 8 of It's All Under Control.



- We invite you to help beautify our sanctuary for Christmas Eve by **dedicating a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one**. Dedication forms are available in your Sunday bulletin. Please return the form and submit payment, or leave your dedication request with the church office, **no later than December 14th**. Thank you for helping us celebrate the joy and hope of Christ's birth!

PASTOR'S CORNER

By: Rev. Wynemah K. Hinlicky

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." John 1: 1 & 14



The Advent-Christmas Season has arrived. Celebrated in tandem, we find ourselves waiting and watching for the coming Messiah while rejoicing in the Divine One who came down from heaven to be our Lord, Immanuel. This sets the stage for our continued life in Christ who's coming is near for God is always with us.

We hope you will join us for our Advent Mid-week series based on Michael Horton's devotional *Heaven Came Down*. In it, Horton suggests, "We often look for God in the spectacular, but Advent reminds us he came in the ordinary." He encourages us "to see the wonder of Advent: the Almighty veiled in flesh, present with his people not to terrify but to save. The God whose glory no sinner could endure came near in humility in Jesus – Emmanuel, God with us – so that we might draw near without fear."

Martin Luther must have had similar thoughts in mind when he composed the familiar Christmas Carol "From Heaven Above." As verse 8 reads:

*"Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away, how can our thanks such love repay?"*

Remembering the eternal gift of God made flesh, may your hearts and minds rejoice with gladness this most blessed Advent-Christmas Season.

Blessings,
Pastor Wynemah +

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Stewardship Comitting. Your prayers, testimonies, thoughtful discussions, and committed giving reflect a true uniting of hearts and minds for the mission and ministry of St. Thomas Lutheran Church. We are grateful for your faithfulness and for the shared hope and peace we have in Christ.

MINISTRY MOMENTS

A CENTURY OF BLESSINGS

Our congregation joyfully celebrated **Miriam Hinlicky's** 100th birthday on *November 11*. We extend heartfelt thanks to *Pat and Phil Kuhlman* for preparing a delicious luncheon, and to all who helped decorate, plan, and carry out this special surprise celebration. We were also blessed by visiting guests from Miriam's home congregation, *Living Lord Lutheran Church* in Vero Beach, FL, including *Pastor Greg Shreaves*.

Miriam offered a special Thanksgiving note along with her stewardship gift: "Thanksgiving note for this church who preaches the Word, faithful Pastor serves, and for this congregation and for the many blessings God has bestowed upon me for the 100th Birthday: November 11, 2025. I'm so thankful and grateful, dearest Lord."

We give thanks to God for Miriam's life, faith, and joyful witness.



GIVING THANKS TOGETHER

On Sunday, **November 23rd**, our congregation gathered after worship for a joyful Thanksgiving luncheon. Members brought a wonderful variety of side dishes to share, filling the Fellowship Hall with warmth and gratitude. We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed dishes and to those who helped decorate and prepare the space. It was a beautiful time of fellowship as we shared a meal and gave thanks for the blessings God has given our church family.





OUTREACH



Mission Statement: *To share God's light by offering inspiration, hope, and affirmation to those in need within our community, nation, and world.*

Join us on **December 18th and 22nd** as we decorate for our upcoming Christmas services. More information available on our monthly calendar at end of this newsletter.

CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION - SUNDAY SCHOOL

You are invited to join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** for a half hour study prior to worship at 10:00 a.m., led by Pastor Wynemah. Together we will explore "The Parables of King Jesus." We hope you will join us!

YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Highschool and college age young adults are invited to join Cedric Mar for group bible study each

Sunday before service, **from 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.** in our youth room.

MIDWEEK STUDY

Our midweek Bible Study will meet in the Red Room at Christ the King Lutheran Church (located at 11295 SW 57th Ave) **weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.** We will continue our study of the minor Prophets, led by Deacon Carol Petrusky.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Story of Redemption is a four-volume study that walks through the entire Bible. The study highlights how each chapter of the Bible points to Jesus Christ and where it fits in the big picture story of Scripture, the story of redemption. Each lesson includes written content that covers an average of three chapters to help you understand and apply the text, as well as daily reflection questions. This study will help you understand the big picture of Scripture and how each individual book, chapter, and verse fits into it. **We are currently studying the book of Job. Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call Pastor John Roth at 786-403-5030.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/9 Sylvia Foy
12/13 Hana Smith
12/14 Linda Wright-Lewis
12/15 Damaris Gonzalez
12/17 Annemarie Zacca
12/20 Christopher Mar
12/29 Sarah Meneses



On the first Sunday of every month, we will recognize those celebrating birthdays. We offer the following birthday blessing, sung to the tune of "We Gather Together."

"We celebrate with you the life that God gave you. We thank you for letting us share in your joy. God bless you and keep you, and shine his light upon you. With love we sing together Happy Birthday to you."

PRAYERS

Prayer lists are updated weekly. Please email stthomaschr@aol.com, noting the person's name and need, if you would like to add or remove a friend or family member's name from the list. Please ensure you have the person's permission to publish his/her name and need.



ETERNAL CANDLE

Burns this month
*in honor of our 53rd anniversary,
from Rich & Carol Petrusky*

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

12/7 In memory of my parents Edith & Henry Jenkins.

by Edith Nielson

12/14 In honor of my birthday.

by Damaris Gonzalez

12/21 In honor of my sister Judy Marchand.

12/28 In honor of our son Angel Salas' birthday.

by Angel & Yvette Salas



Sign-up sheet for the Sanctuary Flower & Eternal Candle dedications are available in the Fellowship Hall. You may also call the office at **(305) 232-1227** to reserve a dedication slot.

PLEASE JOIN US:



THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Party

FEATURING A GIFT EXCHANGE:

SUGGESTED GIFT VALUE IS \$20-\$25

GAMES & FOOD:

BRING A SIDE DISH TO SHARE AND
PAIR WITH THE MEATS PROVIDED BY
OUR FELLOWSHIP TEAM

SATURDAY

DECEMBER

13

AT 6:00 PM

FELLOWSHIP HALL

RSVP TO BETH, DIANA, OR THE OFFICE
BY THURSDAY 12/11/25

The Holiday Season is hard for those
whose hearts are hurting. You are not alone.

Blue Christmas
is a gentle, contemplative service
that offers comfort and hope for those
carrying pain or loss during this
season of celebration.



Sunday, December 14 at 5:30 pm
followed by refreshments.

Christ The King Lutheran Church
11295 SW 57 Avenue
Pinecrest, Florida 33156
Ph. (305) 665-5063.



Our Blue Christmas Service is available for livestream and
rewatch here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/kZjtyZKMIpo>

Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service

4:30 PM <i>Cookies & Drinks</i>	5:00 PM <i>Performance by Miami's Top Brass</i>	5:30 PM <i>Candlelight Service with Holy Communion</i>
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A decorative graphic at the bottom of the poster featuring a lit white candle in the center, surrounded by green pine branches and two large red Christmas ornaments. The entire scene is framed within a semi-circular arch.

ST. THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

**SUPPORT OUR
SECRETARY, CAROLINA!**



PRESENTS:

**all is
Bright**

A HOLIDAY
CONCERT

Hand-drawn blue illustrations of a Christmas tree, a snowflake, musical notes, a candy cane, and a bell, scattered around the title.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH | 7:30PM

CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
11295 SW 57TH AVE, PINECREST, FL 33156

Tickets: solisvocal.eventbrite.com



@solis_vocal



Solis Vocal

Scan Here!





DECEMBER 2025



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 10:30 am Bible Study (CTK) 6 pm Soup 6:30 pm Advent Study 7 pm Taizé Service	4 10 am Bible Study (St. Thomas)	5	6
7 9 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship Service	8	9 2 pm Council Meeting	10 10:30 am Bible Study (CTK) 6 pm Soup 6:30 pm Advent Study 7 pm Taizé Service	11 10 am Bible Study (St. Thomas)	12	13 6 pm Christmas Party
14 9 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship Service 5:30 pm Blue Christmas (CTK)	15 7:30 pm Martha's Monday (Concert @ CTK)	16	17 10:30 am Bible Study (CTK) 6 pm Soup 6:30 pm Advent Study 7 pm Taizé Service	18 10 am Bible Study (St. Thomas) 7 pm Tree & Nave Decorating	19	20
21 9 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship Service	22 9:30 am Poinsettia Set-Up	23	24 4:30 pm Fellowship 5 pm Miami's Top Brass 5:30 pm Candlelight Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27
28 9 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship Service	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

it is officially
DECEMBER

AS THE DAYS GROW COLDER IN
DECEMBER, MAY THE WARMTH OF
GOD'S LOVE SURROUND YOU



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

A Christ centered Church dedicated to spreading the word of God through traditional worship, Bible based education, and service to the community.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Adult Faith Formation **9:00 a.m.**

Service of Holy Communion **10:00 a.m.**

ST. THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

17700 Old Cutler Road, Palmetto Bay, FL 33157

Ph. (305) 232-1227 **Email:** stthomaschr@aol.com

Office Hours: Tuesdays - Thursdays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Wynemah K. Hinlicky

Deacon: Carol Petrusky

Choir & Music Director: Deborah W. Mar

Parish Secretary: Carolina Escamilla

Sexton: Ned Roberts

EXECUTIVE & COUNCIL MEMBERS

Grace Engler—President Jack Hahn—Vice President
Beth Schmekel—Treasurer Annemarie Roberts—Secretary
~Deacon Carol Petrusky ~Cedric Mar
~Vicki Ross ~Richard Thompson

