



JANUARY 2026 VOLUME 145

THOMAS LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - NO DOUBTS

INSIDE THIS
MONTH'S ISSUE:

- **News**
- **Pastor's Corner**
- **Ministry Moments**
- **Faith Formation**
- **Prayers & Dedications**
- **Calendar**

JANUARY

NEWS

- Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 25**, following worship. This meeting provides an opportunity for members to gather, hear updates on the life of the church, discuss future plans, and vote on matters that affect our congregation. All are welcome to attend, though voting is limited to church members.
- There will be no Taizé Service during the month of January.
- Our women's gathering, Martha's Mondays, resumes on **January 19th at 7pm** in St. Thomas Lutheran Church. We will continue our discussion of Chapters 7 and 8 of *It's All Under Control*.
- Our mid-week Bible study resumes on **January 7th at 10:30 AM** at Christ the King Lutheran Church, along with our St. Thomas Lutheran Church bible study on **January 8th at 10:00 AM**.

2026

PASTOR'S CORNER

By: Rev. Wynemah K. Hinlicky



The Hospice doctor told my 100-year-old mother, she has another 40-50 Christmas celebrations still left in her. (This is where the emoji with two wide eyes popping out of the surprised face would be inserted if this were a text message.) I affirmed his statement with the following response: You may be right, doctor, since we celebrate the birth of Christ EVERYDAY in our lives!

We are, at least for the next five days, still in the Christmas Season. And I, for one, am so glad the celebration of Emmanuel, which means God is with us, is not limited to one day of the year. How blessed we are to rejoice and be glad in the good news of great joy that Christ offers; remembering God takes flesh and lives among us every day, moment by moment, breath by breath.

Liturgically, the Christmas season does come to a close on January 6th, the Epiphany of our Lord. In addition to marking the magi visit to the Christ child, this feast day celebrates the glory of God revealed to all nations through Jesus Christ. As baptized children of God, the light of Christ shines in and through us as we share the good news of God's love to all people. As the appointed Prayer of the Day reads:

*God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations
by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your
presence in our lives and bring us at last to the full vision
of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen*

May this be our guiding prayer every day in 2026.

Merry Christmas! Blessed Epiphany! Happy New Year!

Pastor Wynemah +

MINISTRY MOMENTS

GATHERED IN WORSHIP

Throughout December 2025, we were blessed by a meaningful season of special worship services that invited reflection, community, and hope. On **December 14th**, we had our annual **Blue Christmas Service**, a quiet and contemplative service held in collaboration with Christ the King Lutheran Church. This reflective service offered comfort and space for prayer during the often-busy holiday season, with our own *Shanda Mazzorana* serving as assisting minister.



During this **Advent season**, we gathered for weekly worship services, marked by the lighting of the Advent wreath as we moved together through the season of waiting and expectation.

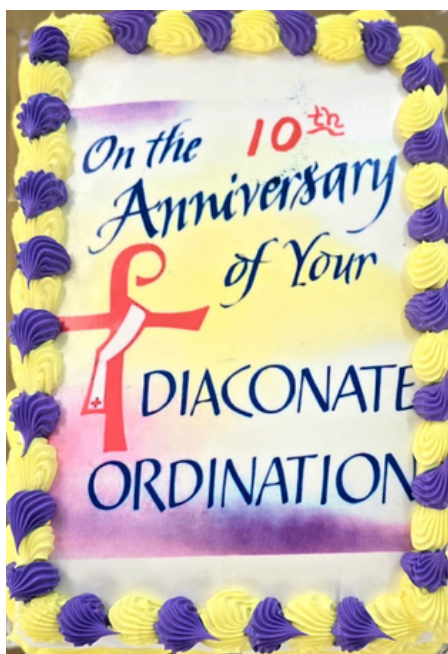


In addition, our **Advent Taizé services**, held each Wednesday evening, provided a candlelit setting of prayer, song, and silence. Members generously prepared soup for those attending the soup, study, and Taizé gatherings, strengthening our sense of fellowship and care for one another.



A DECADE OF DIACONAL MINISTRY

During worship, we joyfully celebrated the 10th anniversary of *Deacon Carol Petrusky's* diaconate ordination. Following the service, the congregation marked this milestone with a special cake and words of appreciation, giving thanks for Deacon Carol's decade of faithful ministry, leadership, and service among us.



A BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED CHRISTMAS

This Christmas season, our church was beautifully transformed thanks to the dedication and generosity of our members. Volunteers decorated both the nave and fellowship hall, including setting up, lighting, and adorning the nave's Christmas tree, and generously loaned nativity scenes to enhance our worship spaces. We also celebrated the season with poinsettia dedications from members for our Christmas Eve service.



A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who helped decorate, donated, or shared their time and resources to make our church a welcoming and joyful place this holiday season.

FUN, FOOD, & FESTIVE CHEER

Our annual church Christmas party was a joyful celebration of fellowship and holiday cheer! Members enjoyed festive outfits, fun games, and a sneaky Santa gift exchange, all while sharing delicious food and laughter. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a church family and celebrate the season.





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 **Sunday, January 18th**, after service as we assemble our annual Lutheran World Relief health kits. Monetary donations are accepted through offering, and supply donations of nail clippers, bath towels, toothbrushes, and sturdy combs are being accepted in the narthex.

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.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/5 Diana Orme
1/8 Astrid Hoffmann
1/10 Louise Yankowskas
1/11 Rebekkah Mar
1/20 Lois Plehn
1/28 Miranda Soto



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 Diana Orme's birthday,
from The Schmekels

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

1/4 In memory of mom's (Helen's) birthday.
by Dawn & Kelli Marlar
In memory of Kimmie.
by Dennis Derr
1/11 In honor of my granddaughter Natalie's 7th birthday.
by Damaris Gonzalez
1/25 In honor of my grandson's 1st birthday.
by Damaris Gonzalez



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.

JANUARY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3
4 9 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship Service	5	6 <i>The Epiphany of Our Lord</i>	7 10:30 am Bible Study (CTK)	8 10 am Bible Study (St. Thomas)	9	10
11 9 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship Service	12	13 2 pm Council Meeting	14 10:30 am Bible Study (CTK)	15 10 am Bible Study (St. Thomas)	16	17
18 9 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship Service After Service LWR Kit Making	19 7 pm Martha's Monday @ St. Thomas	20	21 10:30 am Bible Study (CTK)	22 10 am Bible Study (St. Thomas)	23	24
25 9 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship Service After Service Congregational Meeting	26	27	28 10:30 am Bible Study (CTK)	29 10 am Bible Study (St. Thomas)	30	31 

WELCOME

JANUARY

MAY THIS NEW
MONTH AND NEW
YEAR BE FILLED WITH
GOD'S BLESSINGS AND
GOODNESS.

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

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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

