

# The Spire

The Newsletter of  
Christ Lutheran Church - Wantagh, NY  
Website: [www.CLCWantagh.org](http://www.CLCWantagh.org)

## May 2025

Dear Friends,

### What's the Purpose of Interim Ministry?

Now that we are a few months into our time together, I'd like to share some thoughts about the nature and purpose of interim ministry. To some degree, interim ministry is just what it sounds like, a ministry that takes place between regularly settled calls. However, interim pastors are not merely "place holders." We are called by the Synod Council to provide intentional ministry in a particular context. While we have the same responsibilities and authority as regularly called pastors, we also address specific tasks outlined by the Synod, namely:

- Property Assessment (e.g., appraisal, evaluation of short and long-term facility needs, inventory, etc.)
- Insurance Evaluation (e.g., comprehensive liability, workers' compensation, and directors' and officers' liability insurance)
- Financial Review (e.g., audit, review of accounting practices, stewardship, and related matters)
- Update the Constitution so that it reflects the most current ELCA model constitution for congregations
- Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT)
- Anti-Racism Training

My approach to interim ministry has been shaped by specialized training through the Interim Ministry Network, 27 years of ordained ministry in large and small congregations including a decade in campus ministry, several years as a lay leader, and a number of years in various roles in Lutheran social ministry organizations. I served as interim pastor/rector at three congregations before coming to Wantagh.

As an interim pastor, I bring new eyes, new ears, and a new perspective to what is very familiar to those of you who've been at Christ Lutheran for many years. When I ask why something is done in a particular way, I'm trying to understand - and to encourage you to think about things you might not have considered in quite a while. You'll often hear me say things like: Structures create behaviors. Are the structures currently in place creating behaviors that will help the community not only to survive but to thrive? Which behaviors address the needs of the community and which do not? These questions are relevant to every aspect of ministry. Are you ready to till the soil in preparation for a future blooming with possibility? I hope so.

In Christ,

Pastor Sprowls



## Mother's Day Caring Sunday

Have you started searching for that great Mother's Day gift yet? Are you looking for a special way to honor or remember your mother, grandmother, or a maternal figure in your life? Why not try something different and meaningful this year? Christ Lutheran is providing a unique opportunity to show your love. It is called "Mother's Day Caring Sunday." For a donation of **\$5.00 per person**, the names of those being honored and remembered will be listed in the worship bulletin on Mother's Day and displayed in the Narthex. **All proceeds will be donated to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.** If you would like to be part of this special tradition, please enclose the tear-off form below with your donation to the Church office **by Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**. Checks may be made out to Christ Lutheran Church; please indicate "Mother's Day Caring Sunday" in the memo. Thank you!

✂ -----

Mother's Day Caring Sunday  
May 11, 2025

Envelope #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Donations: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to the Church office by Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

3384 Island Road, Wantagh, New York 11793

## PARISH REGISTER MEMORIALS

### General Memorial

In Memory of: **Diane Rowehl Miller**

Given by: **Eleanor Freyer**

In Memory of: **Arlene Cawley**

Given by: **Claudia & John Gross**

In Memory of: **Nathaniel Wynn**

Given by: **Kimberly O'Connor**

In Memory of: **Diane Rowehl Miller**

Given by: **Joyce & Robert Steinmetz**

In Memory of: **Kayla Knight**

Given by: **Bruce Stevens**

### Property Improvement & Maintenance

In Memory of: **Norma Mantay**

Given by: **Doris & Roger Ohlander and Family**

### Sanctuary Memorial

In Honor of: **Joan Drake and Jean Leib**

Given by: **Regina Coons**

Give online today with Vanco! Scan this QR code with your smartphone's camera or visit this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEAF>.



### Condolences

Christ Lutheran Church mourns the loss of longtime member and volunteer Norma Mantay, who passed away on April 23, 2025. We take solace in the shared hope that we will someday be reunited with Norma in the peace of Christ.

**THE SPIRE • MAY 2025 • VOLUME 721 • A PUBLICATION OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3384 ISLAND ROAD, WANTAGH, NEW YORK 11793 • (516) 221-3286 • [CHURCH@CLCWANTAGH.ORG](mailto:CHURCH@CLCWANTAGH.ORG)

The Rev. Susan F. Sprowls, Interim Pastor • Roxanne Toomey, Deacon

Nicole Nicholson, Director of Music • Kamelija Galijan-Curry, Organist

Dana Antonette, Director, The Christian Nursery School • Della Rao, Parish Administrator/Christian Education Coordinator



# GOOD NEWS & BLESSINGS

## May Birthdays

8: Matthew Soethout

11: John Gross

14: Eleanor Freyer

14: Jeri Hallgren

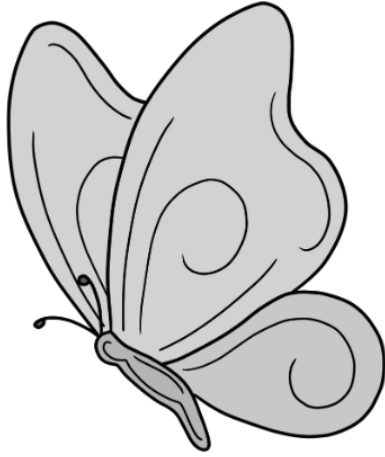
16: Dee Bloomfield

21: Cathy Fitzgerald

27: Ashley Henry

30: Lorell Ahearn

30: Kirsten Duprez



## May Anniversaries

5: Maureen Raitz and Ron Fretz

28: Kirsten and Fred Duprez

30: Kristen and Tom Bloomfield

**Would you like to include a birthday or anniversary in the Spire? All are welcome! Please call or email the Church office with the name(s) and date(s). Please do so no later than 30 days before your celebration.**

## Good News

- **Holy Week:** Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make our Holy Week worship services so successful. We especially thank **Pastor Andrea Hickey** of Our Redeemer Church in Seaford, who graciously stepped in to preside while Pastor Sprowls was ill.
- **CLC Centennial:** The Centennial Committee will hold its first planning session on Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM in Room 2000. All are welcome to attend!
- **Mother's Day Caring Sunday:** Mother's Day Caring Sunday will be held on May 11<sup>th</sup>. A memorial form is included in your Spire. All proceeds benefit the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.
- **Community Involvement:** Planning has begun for the **Wantagh Fourth of July Parade**. **Youth participants are especially needed this year!** If you would like to

volunteer or participate, please speak with George Balduf or Della Rao.

## CLC Youth News

- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. It was a big success! Thank you to all who participated and volunteered.
- **Youth Musicians:** Thank you to Dylan Kemnah, Gavin and Zoey Lane, and Freya Schmitt, who all recently shared their musical talents during worship!
- **Summer Program:** Registration for the 2025 Summer Program at the Christian Nursery School is still open! To register, please call 516-679-8425.
- **2025-2026 School Year:** Limited spots remain for the upcoming school year at the Christian Nursery School. To arrange a tour, please call 516-679-8425.

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### Outreach Updates

- **Easter Cards:** Thank you to Regina Coons, who mailed out 27 Easter cards to shut-ins.
- **Flower Deliveries:** Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to deliver Easter flowers to shut-ins. Thank you as well to Jeri Hallgren for coordinating.

### General Worship Updates

- **Holy Week:** Volunteers for decorating the Sanctuary are needed and will be coordinated by Claudia Gross.
- **Youth musicians** for the ending of Lent/Holy Week are being coordinated by Nicole Nicholson. We would also like to acknowledge the hard work and preparation of the Adult and Bell Choirs.

### Nursery Updates

- **Enrollment:** Summer Program has 43 students enrolled. 78 students are currently enrolled for the upcoming school year.

### Miscellaneous Updates

- The **CLC Centennial Committee** will have its first planning session after Easter. Details to follow soon.

## THRIFT SHOP

After 18 years of service, our dedicated Thrift Shop volunteer, Regina Coons, has decided to take a step back. A thank-you luncheon was held in her honor on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you, Regina, for all you have done for Thrift!



Our thrift shop is open on Fridays, 9AM-3PM, and the first Saturday of each month, 10AM-2PM. **The next Thrift Shop Saturday will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

Donations are appreciated! We kindly ask that donations are not left in Room 10, as other groups use that space. For your convenience, a donation shed is available for your use outside of Thrift Shop hours. **Please be sure to place your donations in the shed, not outside of it, as we cannot guarantee they will be brought inside right away.** If you are making a sizeable donation (quantity or very large items), please call the Church office ahead of time. **We are not able to accept donations of books, cribs, or mattresses at this time.** If you are unsure of whether we can accept an item, please call the Church office to be connected with a Thrift Shop coordinator. Thank you!

## ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY

Your donations are appreciated. Thank you!

Canned Stew - Canned Tuna - Chef Boyardee

Chili with Beans - Coffee - Cookies - Cooking Oil - Crackers

Egg Noodles - Instant Mashed Potatoes - Juice

Pancake Mix & Syrup - Peanut Butter

Pasta (Penne/Spaghetti) & Sauce - Pork & Beans - Rice

Salad Dressing - Shelf-Stable Milk - Spam - Tuna Helper

Please check the expiration dates on packaged foods before donating.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- A special "Holy Humor Sunday" was held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Several of our Sunday School students and Confirmants participated as junior worship assistants. It was a big hit! Thank you to all who attended.
- On Mother's Day Caring Sunday, students will continue their tradition of giving our carnations to all of the mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures in attendance. Sunday School will also host Coffee Hour.
- Christian Education classes will not be held on May 25<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day.

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

**Easter:** Thank you to Regina Coons who mailed out Easter cards to the shut-ins, and to all church members who helped to deliver Easter flowers to them.

**Mother's Day Caring Sunday:** Memorials are now being collected for Mother's Day Caring Sunday. All proceeds benefit the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.

## WELCA

WELCA mourns the loss of longtime member Norma Mantay, who passed away in late April. We also continue to pray for the recovery of Lilly Ann Munnich, who recently underwent another operation on her leg.

WELCA will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1PM in Room 2000. All ladies are welcome to join us.

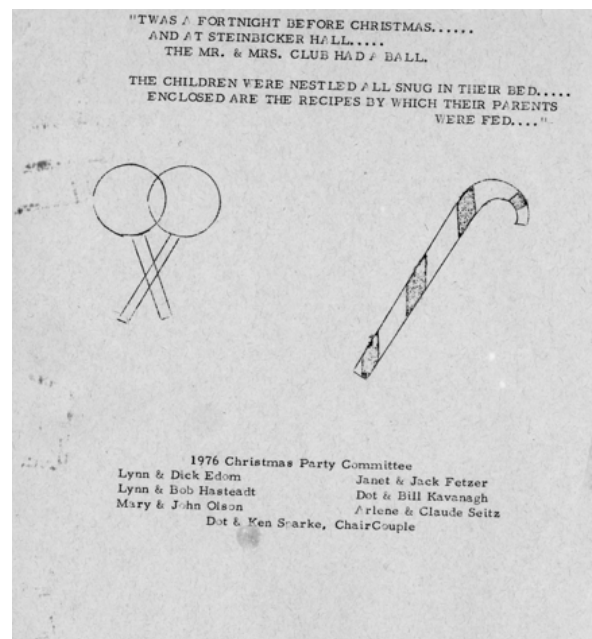


## PRAYER LIST

*We Remember Especially...*

Judy Angeloch, Rebecca Breckel, Sandra Buxbaum, Kathleen Cardone, Becky Carlson, James Cathcart, Danielle Chillemi, Sal and Sue Costanzo, Joan Drake, Betty Gibberman, Bill Gilmor, Emmy Grenzig, Barbara Grieser, Theresa Heenan, Arnold Howard, Steven Koch, Ruth Kollar, George and Susan Kremer, Jean Leib, Chris Mantay, Janet and William McShea, Marilyn Miller, Lilly Ann Munnich, John Nittoli, Anne Palkovich, James Pallas, Jim Pawl, Barbara and Gary Proce, Catherine and Terri Rao, John Reardon, Emmett and Rose Reilly, Ann and Barbara Reimer, Della Dorn Rice, Kay Riese, Anne Scheirer, Joseph Arthur Skorupski, Donna Smith, Natalie Stone, James Toomey, Hilde Uccellini, Nancy Valenti, Liz Wagner. *To update a name on the prayer list, please contact the Church office.*

## CLC HISTORY



Pictured is a flyer for Christ Lutheran's 1976 Christmas party, part of the church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Would you like to help us plan for our centennial year in 2026? If so, please join us for the Centennial Committee's first planning session on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM in Room 2000. All are welcome to help us celebrate this milestone!



**Lutheran Middle and High School Presents**

# **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**



**May 9, 7:00 pm**

**May 10, 2:00pm &  
7:00pm**

**Artistic Director:  
Mrs. Nicole Nicholson**

**Technical Director:  
Pastor Justin Vetrano**

**Choreographer:  
Miss Kara**

**Tickets: \$10 (LuHi students and Seniors are FREE)**

**131 Brookville Road, Brookville 11545**



## MAY/JUNE 2025 LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Date/Description	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Counters	Ushers	Coffee Hour Hosts
Sun, May 4, 2025 Third Sunday of Easter 9:00AM Service (White)	J. Kennach	E. Colton/L.A. Munnich's Group	Elaine DiChiara	R. Ahearn J. Gross H. Vogel	R. Ahearn J. Gross	Jan and John Eastlund, Claudia & John Gross
Sun, May 11, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00AM Service (White) MOTHER'S DAY CARING SUN.	M. Murphy	D. Ohlander's Group	Barbara Stone	D. Ohlander R. Ohlander B. Rath G. Veltri	J. Gross M. Murphy	Sunday School
Sun, May 18, 2025 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00AM Service (White)	<u>Open</u>	B. Rath's Group	Hans Vogel	J. Eastlund J. Eastlund J. Fitzgerald	R. Ahearn M. Murphy	The Schmitt Family
Sun, May 25, 2025 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:00AM Service (White)	<u>Open</u>	E. Colton/L.A. Munnich's Group	Elaine DiChiara	J. Fahney B. Henderson D. Ohlander R. Ohlander	J. Gross C. Sparke	Volunteers Needed!
Sun, June 1, 2025 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:00AM Service (White) FIRST COMMUNION	J. Kennach	D. Ohlander's Group	Della Rao	R. Ahearn J. Gross H. Vogel	R. Ahearn C. Sparke	Volunteers Needed!
Sun, June 8, 2025 Pentecost Sunday 9:00AM Service (Red)	M. Murphy	B. Rath's Group	Hans Vogel	D. Ohlander R. Ohlander B. Rath G. Veltri	J. Gross M. Murphy	Volunteers Needed!

NEW WORSHIP ASSISTANTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO LEARN MORE. CURRENT WORSHIP ASSISTANTS SHOULD CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF THEY NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE TO THEIR ASSIGNMENT.  
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HOST A COFFEE HOUR, PLEASE CALL JAN EASTLUND AT 516-781-0491.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>27</div> <div>9am - Sunday School</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10:30am - Centennial</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Finance Meeting Time TBD</div> <div>10am - TOPS: Rm. 10</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10</div> <div>7pm - AA: Rm. 10</div> <div>8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>	<div>3</div> <div>10am - Thrift Shop Saturday</div> <div>6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10</div> <div>8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>
<div>4</div> <div>9am - Sunday School</div> <div>9am - Worship</div> <div>10:30am - Centennial</div>	<div>5</div> <div>7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and</div>	<div>6</div> <div>SJU Annual Meeting</div> <div>8pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>	<div>7</div> <div>1pm - WELCA: 2000</div> <div>4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10</div> <div>7pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>8pm - Adult Choir</div>	<div>8</div> <div>10am - TOPS: Rm. 10</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Church Office Closed</div> <div>9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10</div> <div>7pm - AA: Rm. 10</div> <div>8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>	<div>10</div> <div>6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10</div> <div>8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>
<div>11</div> <div>Mother's Day</div> <div>9am - Sunday School</div> <div>9am - Worship</div>	<div>12</div> <div>7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7pm - Council Meeting</div> <div>8pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>	<div>14</div> <div>4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10</div> <div>7pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>8pm - Adult Choir</div>	<div>15</div> <div>10am - TOPS: Rm. 10</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10</div> <div>7pm - AA: Rm. 10</div> <div>8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>	<div>17</div> <div>6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10</div> <div>8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>
<div>18</div> <div>9am - Sunday School</div> <div>9am - Worship</div>	<div>19</div> <div>7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and</div>	<div>20</div> <div>8pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Spire Submission Deadline</div> <div>4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10</div> <div>7pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>8pm - Adult Choir</div>	<div>22</div> <div>10am - TOPS: Rm. 10</div>	<div>23</div> <div>9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10</div> <div>7pm - AA: Rm. 10</div> <div>8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>	<div>24</div> <div>6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10</div> <div>8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>
<div>25</div> <div>No Christian Education</div> <div>9am - Worship</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Church Office Closed</div> <div>Memorial Day</div> <div>7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and</div>	<div>27</div> <div>8pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9:30am - Spire Mailing Library</div> <div>4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10</div> <div>7pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>8pm - Adult Choir</div>	<div>29</div> <div>10am - TOPS: Rm. 10</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10</div> <div>7pm - AA: Rm. 10</div> <div>8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>	<div>31</div> <div>6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10</div> <div>8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</div>

# Nursery School News: May 2025



We are happy to welcome the month of May with sunny skies and warmer weather! The children are loving the time they get to spend outdoors exploring nature and the flowers blooming all around them.

April was a short but very busy month for all of the classes. They were busy learning about all the beautiful things Spring will bring us. The children made beautiful Spring decorations, flowers, rainbows and butterflies for their homes and their classrooms. All the classes enjoyed learning all about Earth Day, how we can help save the planet and ended the lesson enjoying a nature walk.

We ended the month with many special visitors. All the classes learned about Palm Sunday and Easter. We want to give a very special thank you to Pastor Sprowls and Miss Della Rao for being our special guests at the Nursery School. The children enjoyed their lesson in the church and each child received a palm cross. The children were captivated by the story of Easter explained to them on a level that they could understand. All the children celebrated Easter in their classes with a party filled with yummy treats, hidden easter eggs and baskets! Our three-year-old and four-year-old classes surprised their parents with some adorable Easter songs at dismissal! The children loved their special treats left by the Easter Bunny himself!

May will be an exciting month. It is our last full month of school and there will be many things to accomplish. Both the three-year-old classes and four-year-old classes will be learning about all the Spring changes, like how a seed becomes a flower and how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. They will actually see the changes that occur during a butterfly life cycle in their own classrooms with real live caterpillars. This is a favorite hands-on science project that all the children enjoy. The four-year-old classes also learn about the life-cycle of a Lady bug and watch them grow as well.

We will celebrate Mother's Day with our annual Muffins with mom and Mother's Day tea events. They will all make wonderful presents to give to their special mom. Another busy month will fly by and before you know it, it will be June!

The Summer Program registration is in full swing. We are all anticipating another wonderful Summer. We still have some spaces still available. If you are interested in either our summer program or registering for our fall semester, check out our website for some additional information and registration forms. Some of our classes for the 2025-2026 school year are already filled and a wait list has started so please contact us immediately if you are interested in joining one of our wonderful programs.

**Wishing all the Mothers out there a very Happy Mother's Day!**



**Christ Lutheran Church**

3384 Island Road  
Wantagh, NY 11793  
Church (516) 221-3286  
Nursery School (516) 679-8425  
[www.CLCWantagh.org](http://www.CLCWantagh.org)

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# May 2025

If you do not wish to receive this mailing,  
Please return this sheet to the address above.

## Coming in May...

May 1<sup>st</sup>: Finance Meeting, Time TBD

May 3<sup>rd</sup>: Thrift Shop Saturday

May 4<sup>th</sup>: Centennial Committee Planning Session, 10:30AM, Room 2000

May 6<sup>th</sup>: Room 2000 Unavailable (SJJ Annual Meeting)

May 7<sup>th</sup>: WELCA, 1PM, Room 2000

May 11<sup>th</sup>: Mother's Day Caring Sunday

May 13<sup>th</sup>: Council Meeting, 7PM, Room 2000

May 21<sup>st</sup>: June Spire Submission Deadline

May 26<sup>th</sup>: Happy Memorial Day! Church Office Closed

May 28<sup>th</sup>: Spire Mailing, 9:30AM, Library