

The Spire: December 2023

Dear Friends,

The turkey that fed so many of us just a few days ago is now a fond memory. We just completed another church year and the first candle on the Advent wreath will be lit in just a few days. Christmas is right around the corner.

During this year, eight different pastors have presided at Christ Lutheran Church's altar. Our Nursery School has 79 students enrolled, our largest enrollment in many years. Our thrift shop continues to thrive, having recently had sales of \$1,850 in a six-hour period on a Friday. 107 coats were sold on that day, as the need for warm clothes becomes more prevalent with the passing of every cold day.

As we prepare for Christmas, the Church Council has also begun discussing the 2024 budget. Members of the congregation will be asked to approve that budget at the Annual Meeting on January 28th. We will still propose a compensation package expense line for a full-time pastor, just as we will put money in the budget for supply pastors. We want to be prepared for whatever the situation calls for.

We can look back on this past year with satisfaction. We have continued to minister to our community by providing quality education for our 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old students. We have provided a lifeline with our thrift shop for people who are financially strapped and depend on us.

As we look ahead to the new year, let us remain hopeful that the right candidate will come forward soon. Remember that we are always in the hope business.

May you be reminded of the wonder of Christmas during this time of the year as well as throughout the year ahead. We hope that this Christmas season is full of peace, joy, and happiness.

Hans Vogel

O Come, Let Us Adore Him! Save the Dates for Christmas Worship!

Sunday School Pageant: Sunday, December 17th, During the 9AM Service

Christmas Eve*: Sunday, December 24th, **5:30PM & 8PM** Services

*We will have a 9AM service for the 4th Sunday in Advent. Please note that this is **not** a Christmas Eve service. All services will be led by Pastor Nale.

Our Christmas Pageant and Christmas Eve services will be uploaded to YouTube and livestreamed on Facebook for those who wish to participate from home. Please note that there will be **no in-person worship** on Christmas Day.

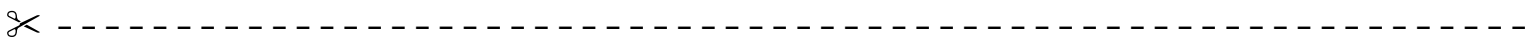


Christmas Flower Memorials

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given... And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
- Isaiah 9:6

Dear Friends,

The Season of Advent is upon us. Soon, it will be time to decorate our Sanctuary with trees, wreaths, garland, and poinsettias as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. This year, we will continue our tradition of honoring our loved ones with Christmas flower memorials. These memorial gifts will be displayed in the narthex and listed in our Christmas bulletin. The suggested contribution is **\$15 per memorial**. If you wish to participate, please complete the form below and return it to the Church office with your donation **no later than Monday, December 18**.



Christ Lutheran Church Christmas Flower Memorials

I am enclosing \$_____ for a Christmas flower memorial.

Number of Memorials Requested: _____

Please indicate: Cash Check Please make all checks out to Christ Lutheran Church.

Envelope # _____ Phone Number: _____

Given by: _____

Please print your name exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin.

I wish to give this memorial (select all that apply- please number if they are separate memorials):

In Thanksgiving to God.

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____



Please return this form with your contribution no later than Monday, December 18.

3384 Island Road, Wantagh, New York 11793



PARISH REGISTER MEMORIALS

General Memorial

In Memory of: **Jerry Cardone**

Given by: **Kathleen Cardone**

In Memory of: **Leroy Deere**

Given by: **Jan and John Eastlund**

In Memory of: **John Loeber**

Given by: **Jan and John Eastlund**

In Memory of: **Leroy Deere**

Given by: **Claudia & John Gross**

In Memory of: **John C. Loeber**

Given by: **The Kreitman Family**

In Memory of: **Leroy Deere**

Given by: **Jennifer, Craig, and Hannah Proce**

Property Improvement & Maintenance

In Memory of: **Leroy Deere**

Given by: **Jeri Hallgren**

In Memory of: **John Loeber**

Given by: **Jeri Hallgren**

In Memory of: **Leroy Deere**

Given by: **Norma Mantay**

In Memory of: **John C. Loeber**

Given by: **The Cuthbertson Band Family**

Sanctuary Memorial

In Memory of: **Leroy Deere**

Given by: **Regina Coons**

In Memory of: **Leroy Deere**

Given by: **Lilly Ann Munnich**

In Memory of: **Leroy Deere**

Given by: **Barbara & Roy Stone**

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GOOD NEWS & BLESSINGS

December Birthdays

1: Roxanne Toomey

2: Lois Fogal

2: Kathy Ackermann

3: Lyndsay Mae Franz

9: Roger Ohlander

10: Keith Biesma

10: Gracie Franz

25: Pete Bloomfield

25: Eileen Colton

27: John James 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

- **Fall Food Drive:** Our Fall Food Drive was immensely successful. It is due to the hard work and kindness of so many, including our coordinators, **Jan Eastlund and Roxanne Toomey**, that we were able to stock pantry shelves and contribute to Thanksgiving meals for our

THE SPIRE • DECEMBER 2023 • VOLUME 705 • A PUBLICATION OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Hans Vogel, President • Roxanne Toomey, Deacon • Nicole Nicholson, Music Director • Kamelija Galijan-Curry, Organist
Dana Antonette, Director, The Christian Nursery School • Della Rao, Parish Administrator/Christian Education Coordinator



neighbors experiencing food insecurity. We are happy to report the following figures:

- **692 items** were collected here at church, and through table donations at the **Merrick Stop & Shop**. Thank you to our friends and neighbors!
 - Our friends at **Twin Dragon Acupuncture** collected an additional **103 items** on our behalf! We are grateful for their generous help.
 - **\$70** of monetary donations were raised here at church, and **\$217** of monetary donations were raised at Stop & Shop, for a total of **\$287**. These funds were used to purchase additional items. We are also grateful to **Thrivent Financial Services**, who provided a generous stipend of **\$250** to put toward purchasing items.
- **Lights of Love:** Thank you to all who honored their loved ones during our Lights of Love tribute. A total of **\$290** was donated to Good Shepherd Hospice of LI.
- **Turkey Envelopes:** **\$55** of monetary donations were raised to purchase turkeys for our neighbors in need. We also thank all those who kindly donated turkeys!
- **Winter Wonderland:** Winter Wonderland was a great success! In addition to networking with our neighbors, we raised a total of **\$253** for our ministries. Thank you to the **Wantagh Chamber of Commerce** for organizing, and **The John Theissen Children's Foundation** for sponsoring this fun holiday event! We are grateful to our hardworking donors and volunteers:
- Dana Antonette, CNS Director
 - Kyler Biesma
 - Dee Bloomfield & Our Scouts
 - Regina Coons
 - Claudia & John Gross
 - Bob Hasteadt
 - Lilly Ann Munnich & Our Knitwits
 - Matt & Madeline Murphy
 - Nicole Nicholson
 - Nancy & Allen Pisani
 - Della Rao
 - Barbara Rath & Our Thrift Shop
 - Jennifer Vizina
- **Seafarers:** Thank you to everyone who has generously contributed to our Christmas at Sea Collection for Seafarers International House. We will be accepting donations through **Sunday, December 3rd**. On **Thursday, December 7th**, our volunteers will meet to assemble the care satchels. We look forward to reporting on our grand total in the January 2024 Spire.

- **Mr. Mittens:** Please consider contributing to our Mr. Mittens collection for the pediatric patients of Nassau University Medical Center. We are collecting children's books and winter weather gear (hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and sweaters). Monetary donations are also accepted. We will be accepting donations through **Sunday, December 3rd**.

CLC Youth News

- Thank you to everyone who ordered Thanksgiving treats from The Christian Nursery School's **White Post Farms Fundraiser**. A total of **\$513** was raised to continue the wonderful work of our staff and students.
- **Scout Cleanup Day** was held on Saturday, November 18th. Several bags of yard waste were cleared to keep our property pristine. Thank you to all our volunteers!
- BSA Troop 656 is thankful to all who ordered from their **Christmas Wreath Sale**. Our Scouts met on Monday, November 27th to decorate the wreaths. Those who ordered should expect a special delivery soon. Please see Dee or Jim Bloomfield if you have any questions. We look forward to reporting the fundraising total in the January 2024 Spire.
- Rehearsals are underway for our **Sunday School Christmas Pageant!** Save the date for **Sunday, December 17th**. Parents should expect to hear shortly regarding the full rehearsal schedule and their child's role. If you have any questions, see Nicole Nicholson.

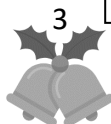


PRAYER LIST

We Remember Especially...

Becky Carlson - Ellen Bello - James Cathcart
Danielle Chillemi - Sal Costanzo - Sue Costanzo
Audrina Crochitto - Margaret Dahlberg - Joan Drake
Joanne Drenckhahn - Bob Freyer - Travis Gentile
Betty Gibberman - Bill Gilmore - Barbara Grieser
Emmy Grenzig - Theresa Heenan - Pr. John Hopkins
Arnold Howard - Irene Knapp - Ruth Kollar - Alice Li
Suzanne Marshall - Janet McShea - William McShea
John Miller - Marilyn Miller - Lilly Ann Munnich
John Nittoli - James Pallas - Jim Pawl - Barbara Proce
Gary Proce - Catherine Rao - Terri Rao - Emmett Reilly
Rose Reilly - Ann Reimer - Barbara Reimer
Della Dorn Rice - Helga Richert - Kay Riese
Eunice Rischan - Doris Spiegle
Natalie Stone - James Toomey

REMINDER: To add a name to our prayer list, please contact the Church office. Names remain on the list for six weeks per request. If you would like for a name to remain on the list long-term, please be sure to follow up with the Church office six weeks after your first request.



COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Worship & Music:

- **Christmas Pageant:** The Pageant will be held during 9AM service on Sunday, December 17th. Rehearsals are underway. Nicole Nicholson is coordinating.
- **Christmas Decorating:** Christmas decorations will start being put up early this year to accommodate for the Christmas Pageant. The Retirees will coordinate with Worship & Music and Nicole. All decorations with the exception of the Christmas altar adornments will be put up in time for the Pageant. The Advent banners and altar adornments will remain up until after the Advent 4 service at 9AM on Christmas Eve.

Christian Education:

- **Sunday School:** Sunday School will not meet on Sunday, November 26th for Thanksgiving recess. They will meet on December 3rd and December 10th for normal class. December 17th is the Pageant. They will be off for Christmas and New Year's recess on December 24th and December 31st.
- **Confirmation:** Confirmation rehearsal will be held on Thursday, December 7th at 6:00PM. Nancy Pisani took the robes to be drycleaned. Bulletin covers, crosses, and stoles have all been ordered. Della and Nicole are coordinating with Pastor Marsh Drege on the liturgy. The altar flowers are being provided by the Biesma and Kuchynskas families. A cake will be provided by Christian Education, which is hosting Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 10th, Confirmation Day.

Nursery Board:

- **Enrollment:** Three new students have been enrolled since our last meeting, bringing this year's total to 79. There are children on the waitlist for the two-year-old program, which continues to garner interest.
- **Registration:** In-house registration for the 2024-2025 school year will be held on Wednesday, January 10th.
- **Air Conditioning:** The Nursery Board is collaborating with the Retirees on researching air conditioning options for the classrooms utilized during Summer Program. This will allow us to safely use more space.

Council:

- **Eagle Scout Presentation:** Council reviewed an Eagle Scout Candidate proposal for the installation of color-changing LED spot lights on the exterior Sanctuary wall, which would illuminate the stained glass windows

and the prayer garden, which is being built by another Eagle Scout candidate. Funds for this project will be raised by a can/bottle collection drive and a restaurant fundraiser. Council approved this proposal.

- **New Meeting Time:** Council will now meet at 7PM going forward, to coincide with the Worship & Music and Christian Education reports.
- **Membership Terms:** Council reviewed the terms and outgoing years of current members.

The Church Council wishes everyone a very merry Christmas, and a safe and happy New Year!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- **Sunday School** is very busy as we count the days to Christmas! Our younger group will complete Advent coloring activities and read stories to get into the spirit of the season. Our older group is excited to create Christmas cards for the Seafarers, and to continue to learn how to read the Bible on their own. All of our students hope you will see their wonderful performances in the Christmas Pageant on December 17th. Thank you to Nicole Nicholson for coordinating!
- **Confirmation** classes are going very well. We have an enthusiastic group that always goes above and beyond in their studies and in their service. From the Food Drive, to the Seafarers, Winter Wonderland and more, our students have been such an asset to us this season.
- **Christian Education Volunteers:** Don't forget! We are hosting Coffee Hour on **Sunday, December 10th**.
- **Christian Education classes will not meet on Sunday, December 24th and Sunday, December 31st**. Classes resume as usual on Sunday, January 7th. We wish all our wonderful students and their families a magical Christmas, and a bright New Year!



Congratulations to our Class of 2023 Confirmands, who will be Confirmed on December 10th. We are immensely proud of your hard work. We look forward to sharing in your ongoing journey of faith. We also congratulate their parents, sponsors, and loved ones. May God continue to bless Kyler Biesma and Charles Kuchynskas!

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Homebound Communion: Did you know that we offer Communion for the homebound? Whether it's due to a temporary illness or injury or a long-term situation, this option is available to you. If you or a loved one is interested

in receiving Communion at home or at a care facility, please contact the Church office. You may also contact **Pastor Krahn** at (631) 720-6179, or **Roxanne Toomey** at (516) 728-7810.

Mr. Mittens: Cold weather means that Mr. Mittens is on his way! Please help us to collect warm winter clothing and cozy books for the children at Nassau University Medical Center. **The items we need (new or gently used) are:**

- Children's books
- Hats
- Gloves
- Mittens
- Scarves
- Sweaters
- Monetary donations to purchase needed items (cash or checks made payable to Christ Lutheran Church)

A donation box is located in the Narthex. **We would appreciate receiving all donations by Sunday, December 3rd.** Thank you for your generous contributions!

Seafarers: Thank you to everyone who has generously contributed to our Seafarers Christmas at Sea care satchels. On Thursday, December 7th, our volunteers will meet to assemble the satchels. We would like to particularly thank **Kyler Biesma and Charles Kuchynskas**, who will be assembling satchels as part of their Confirmation service. In order to meet our goal of assembling twenty-six care satchels, **we are in urgent need of men's gym or thermal socks, and men's scarves (no pastel colors or fringe).** Please reach out to the Church office, Regina Coons, or Jan Eastlund directly if you would like to provide additional assistance. **We would appreciate receiving all donations by Sunday, December 3rd.** Thank you for your help!

Thank you for your continued support of our projects. We wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

WELCA

Thank you to everyone who attended our Fall Luncheon. It was a lovely time had by all! We look forward to seeing everyone in church as we joyously celebrate Advent.

Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 6th at 1PM** in Room 2000. It is our "Christmas Meeting!" All ladies are invited for refreshments and fellowship.

The next **WELCA Conference Bible Study** will be held on **Thursday, December 14th at 10AM.** We will meet at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Hicksville. Please enter from the parking lot located off-road behind the church. The leader for the day will be Pastor Joann Heaney-Hunter.

WELCA wishes you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! We look forward to a bright and busy 2024.

THRIFT SHOP

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 December 2nd.**

Please note that we are **open on Friday, December 22nd.** We are **closed on Friday, December 29th** for New Year's.

Donations are appreciated! For your convenience, donations may be left in or adjacent to the donation shed next to the Thrift Shop. **No cribs or mattresses, please.** 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!

The Thrift Shop wishes you a blessed Christmas and New Year! We look forward to a prosperous new year ahead.

ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY

Your donations are appreciated. Thank you!

Canned Fruit - Canned Mixed Veggies
Canned Chicken/Salmon - Coffee - Chicken Noodle Soup
Complete Pancake Mix & Syrup - Dinty Moore Stew
Dried Beans - Mac & Cheese - Mayo - Peanut Butter & Jelly
Spaghetti - Sauce

Please check the expiration dates on packaged foods before donating.

FROM THE KNITWITS...

This has been a very busy month. We've collected many items for delivery in December. Deliveries are as follows:

- **Mr. Mittens:** 23 hats
- **NUMC Rehab:** 26 laprobes
- **NUMC Neonatal:** 25 combination hats and blankets
- **NUMC Pediatrics:** 16 blankets
- **Northport Veterans Medical Center:** 10 lg. blankets
- **Seafarers:** 11 hats
- **One-in-Nine (LI Coalition Against Cancer):** 18 hats

If anyone has anything to add, you can bring it to church on Sunday. Many thanks to **Regina Coons** for delivering the items above and our donated books to NUMC, and **Kevin Coons** for delivering to the Medical Center in Northport. A big thank-you to all who have contributed to this ongoing project. *Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*

- Lilly Ann Munnich, 516-826-3663

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

We have had a busy fall. After the Country Fair on October 20th and 21st, which benefitted the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN), the USO, Lutheran Disaster Relief, and the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, as well as Christ Lutheran's ministries, members of the church worked with our



Confirmation students and friends to conduct a Food Drive for the benefit of local food pantries. About 800 items total and over \$200 were collected and used to stock the shelves of the food pantries at St. John's Lutheran Church in Merrick, the Salvation Army in Freeport, and the New Life Center in Uniondale. St. John's also received enough food to prepare a special Thanksgiving dinner to serve at the INN, and special Thanksgiving baskets for pantry clients. We found the customers at the **Merrick Stop & Shop**, the patients of Dr. Salerno at **Twin Dragon Acupuncture**, and members of our congregation to be so generous! We are also grateful to **Thrivent Financial** for providing a \$250 stipend to purchase additional needed items. Most of all, this experience was **rewarding and fun**. Thank you to all who made contributions and who volunteered with us.

Support the Christmas at Sea Program of the Seafarers International House (SIH). For several years, our congregation has supported the ministry of the Seafarers International House, which serves mariners around the world by providing spiritual, emotional, and tangible support. Seafarers spend long stretches of time away from family, friends, and community, and sometimes need assistance finding adequate housing, medical care, food, transportation, and counseling services. The holiday season can be especially lonely far away from home, while at sea or in a foreign land. Every year, our congregation collects items for care satchels that will be gifted to crew members of visiting ships by port chaplains. The care satchels will be assembled by volunteers on Thursday, December 7th. **We ask that all donations be received by Sunday, December 3rd.** Please consider donating the following items (the items listed in bold are **urgently needed**):

- o One sweatshirt, hooded or unhooded, size M, L, or XL
- o One T-shirt, size M, L, or XL
- o **Three pairs of socks, gym or thermal**
- o One knitted winter cap (no pom-poms)
- o **One coordinating-optional scarf (no pastels or fringe)**
- o One can of nuts, chocolate bar, or healthy snack bar

This year, our Knitwits are contributing handmade hats and scarves for the care satchels. If you would like to make some, please see Jan Eastlund or Lilly Ann Munnich for fabric and a pattern. As they did last year, our Sunday School will participate in this project by writing out Christmas cards to place in the care satchels.

Items for donation may be purchased in-person and dropped off in the Seafarers box in the Narthex. If you prefer, you may also shop online and list Christ Lutheran as the delivery address. Seafarers has an Amazon wish list, which you can access by visiting sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea and clicking "Christmas at Sea wish list" (items ordered through the wish list will be directly delivered to Seafarers

International). Monetary donations are also accepted; please make all checks out to Christ Lutheran Church with "Seafarers" in the memo. Thank you to **Thrivent Financial** for providing a \$250 grant which will be used to purchase items needed to complete the care satchels. On behalf of the essential workers who have helped us to get through the pandemic and supply chain issues, thank you for bringing the joy of Christmas to those who cannot be home with loved ones.

Thank you for your continued support of our projects. We wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year!

THANK YOU TO...

Dear Members of Christ Lutheran,

Yesterday, the Social Ministry Committee of St. John's, Merrick prepared a Thanksgiving dinner for the Freeport INN soup kitchen to be served tomorrow. Seven turkeys were donated and roasted by congregants. Gravy and stuffing were prepared by the committee, and cans of cranberry sauce and yams were also sent. Donated desserts including candy rounded out the meal. We also received from Roxanne an envelope of cash donations from the food drive. For many of the guests, it will be the only Thanksgiving dinner they would have. We thank all those in your congregation who helped us make it possible with gifts of food and monetary offerings. Words can't thank you enough. - Carol Schmidt, Social Ministry Committee, SJM

The Tuesday and Friday Retiree/Volunteers thank the Congregation for their Recognition and Thoughtfulness with a Breakfast, which we accomplished recently at the Circle M Diner. Our "Aging" group enjoys the opportunity to keep the church infrastructure functioning, as we are still able. We can always use some "younger" help moving outreach items and thrift shop items up and down the stairs, and to and from the various sheds, as needed, mainly Early on Tuesday and Friday Mornings. - Retiree/Volunteers

THE 2023 CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS CARD

This year, we welcome back our annual tradition of the Congregational Christmas Card. Spare the expense on postage, and send one card with your Christmas wishes for the whole congregation. Your card will be lovingly displayed on our card holder in the Sanctuary for all to read.

As in previous years, we ask that those participating kindly send a contribution which we may use to help those in need. This year, we are interested in receiving recommendations for a **local charity** which may benefit from this offering,



and our 3% Benevolence Fund donation. If you would like to provide a suggestion, please contact the Church office, or speak with a member of Council.

Please send your card and contribution to the Church office by Sunday, December 17th. Our mailing address is 3384 Island Road, Wantagh, New York 11793. Thank you!

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER?

What does it mean to be an active church member? To serve God and your community responsibly and faithfully. We do this by attending worship regularly, but also by giving our time, talent, and treasure to further the church's mission in our community and throughout the world. The Constitution and By-Laws of Christ Lutheran Church define an **active member** as one who, *during the last three years* (not including the present year), has done **both of** the following:

- "Communed in this congregation or received Communion from Christ Lutheran Church's Pastor(s);
- "Made a contribution of record to this congregation."

Please fill out a Communion Card once a year. These cream-colored cards are kept in the church pews. You can place your completed card in the offering basket during worship service, or hand it to an usher. **Please also be sure that your monetary contributions are being recorded.** If you do not know your envelope number, or are not sure if you have one, call the Church office and leave a message for the Membership Committee. Any additional questions or concerns can be addressed with our Treasurer, Barbara Stone. Thank you for being a part of our church community!

THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date! The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held after 9AM worship service on **Sunday, January 28th.** Church committees and organizations are encouraged to begin compiling their 2023 Annual Reports **now**. Please speak with a Council member if you have any questions. Annual Reports **must** be submitted to the Church office by **Friday, January 19th.** Reports are required from the following:

Building/Property - Christian Education - Evangelism
Fellowship - Finance - Fundraising - Nursery Board
Outreach - Pastor/Parish Relations - Personnel
Social Media - Stewardship - Thrift Shop
Transition - Worship & Music - Youth - WELCA
Altar Guild - Counters

In order to hold the Annual Meeting, a minimum of **ten percent** of the Church membership must be in attendance. Christian Ed. classes will not be held on this day. Please do

all you can to be available. *The future of Christ Lutheran depends upon decisions made here!* This constitutes the **second** official written notice of the 2024 Annual Meeting.

GIVING ENVELOPES

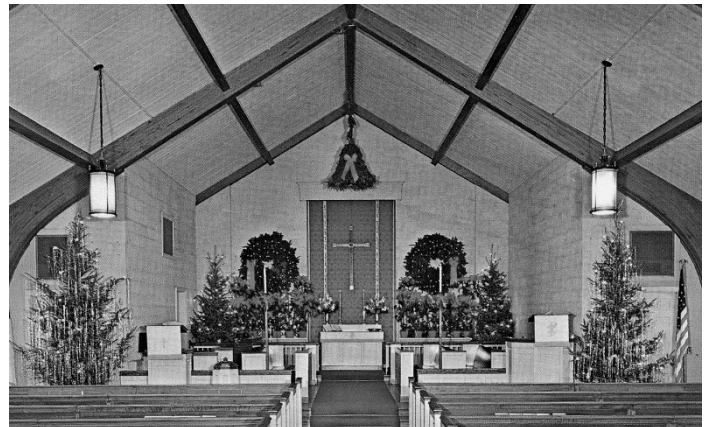
A 2023 Christmas offering envelope *and* a Deficit Reduction envelope are included with this edition of the Spire. We encourage you to prayerfully consider how your giving might continue to support our church. Thank you!

2024 CALENDARS ARE HERE!

2024 Christ Lutheran Church calendars, courtesy of our friends at **Wantagh Abbey & Bellmore Funeral Home**, are now available! Complimentary copies of the calendar will be kept in the Sanctuary and in the Church office. If you would like to have a certain number of calendars set aside, please contact the Church office.

CLC HISTORY

The Christmas season is nearly here! Enjoy these special memories of Christmases past here at Christ Lutheran. We hope this Christmastime brings you comfort and joy!



Sanctuary Christmas decorations; 1963.



Sunday School Christmas Pageant; 2016.

THE TWELVE PRAYERS OF CHRISTMAS

This season, you may find yourself humming along to a fan-favorite tune, “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” But did you know that this Christmas Carol is actually a prayer?

Dating back hundreds of years, “Twelve Days” was originally a poem used by Christian clerics to celebrate Twelve-Tide, the dozen days of Christmas. Each day’s “gift” was a symbol for different holy gifts. During the Middle Ages, when most people could not read, hearing the poem helped families to learn about the Christmas season. The poem is recorded as being printed for the first time in England in the year 1780. The poem was then set to music in 1909, and the rest... is history!

As you read on about the true meaning of this song, let us reflect on the true meaning of Christmas... and thank the Lord for our most special gift, His Son, Jesus Christ.

On the ____ Day of Christmas, My God gave to me...

1. A Partridge in a Pear Tree

The partridge symbolizes Jesus, whose birthday is the first day of Christmas. The partridge in the song is actually female, because mother partridges are the only species of bird that will sacrifice themselves to protect their children.

2. Two Turtledoves

The dove is a symbol for the Christian faith, because it’s the bird of peace. The two turtledoves represent the Old and New Testaments, the story of our faith.

3. Three French Hens

Have you ever heard that French is the language of love? Well, here, that’s not far off! This gift represents the Apostle Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians, where he writes about **faith, hope, and love**. As Paul reminds us, “the greatest of these is love.”

4. Four Calling Birds

The four calling birds are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the writers of the Gospels. The word “gospel” means **good news**, called out to all of God’s people.

5. FIIIVE GOOOOLLDEN RIIIIINGSSSS!

The five gold rings symbolize the first five books of the Old Testament. In Hebrew, and in the Jewish religion, these books are called the Torah or the Pentateuch.

6. Six Geese a-Laying

The six eggs laid by the geese represent the six days of Creation. On the seventh day, God rested... and so did the geese.

7. Seven Swans a-Swimming

Swans are symbols of beauty. So, the seven swans are naturally the seven beautiful gifts of the Holy Spirit: Fear of the Lord, Wisdom, Knowledge, Counsel, Fortitude, Understanding, and Piety.

8. Eight Maids a-Milking

In feudal England, being a milkmaid was considered the lowest-level job. It was primarily very poor women who did this work... and back then, being those two things meant you were easily overlooked. So, this gift reminds us that Jesus dearly loves and blesses those who feel alone: the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and the persecuted.

9. Nine Ladies Dancing

The nine ladies represent the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

10. Ten Lords a-Leaping

In feudal England, being a lord meant you were in charge of upholding justice in the land. So, the ten lords are code for the Ten Commandments, the laws all Christians follow.

11. Eleven Pipers Piping

The eleven pipers represent Jesus’ eleven Disciples. Remember, Judas is not included here because he betrayed Jesus.

12. Twelve Drummers Drumming

The twelve drummers represent the twelve points of the Apostles’ Creed. Each beat *drums at* a different part of the Christian faith that we profess. While different denominations say different versions of the Creed, its core points are the same.

Merry Christmas!





SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Presented by Bel Canto Chorale



Tim Carl, Music Director

Featuring Choral and Solo Arrangements from
John Rutter, Benjamin Britten, Gino Carlo Menotti,
and Vaughan Williams

We invite you to join us on a selection of our
favorite Christmas Carols!

Saturday, December 2nd
8:00 p.m.

**Wantagh Memorial
Congregational Church
1845 Wantagh Ave. Wantagh**

Tickets can be purchased at the door, \$20



PROPERTY REPORT – DEC 2023

Our Volunteer Retiree Group continues to perform the maintenance and/or improvement items from the “Office” To-Do list, Seasonal activities, or things we find ourselves, and can accomplish without professional help.

Our **recent activities** have included:

- We handled the “Tool Time” Table at the Fair and assisted in closing up after. We **thank the Scouts for Moving all the “Heavy” material up to the gym, setting up the tables and breaking them all down to storage after. “Bully”**
- We placed the “Fair Pumpkin Sign” on the lawn and removed it to Room 100 storage after. We thank Vinny for making the new date panels.
- We had to call **Bill Quinn Plumbing 826-3253** to replace a **leaking Flushometer** on a main floor Men’s room toilet (PIM \$400).
- We **activated the heating plants** for the Sanctuary and Education Building.
- Vinny unblocked the **drain hose on the South basement dehumidifier**, which was causing floor water.
- **We shut down the basement dehumidifiers** for the winter.
- Vinny installed an **additional “Security Monitor” in Della’s area.**(PIM\$138)
- Vinny and Gene **moved a storage cabinet** between lower NS classrooms.
- Vinny repaired the **damaged Plumbing wall cover** in the main floor Men’s room.
- Vinny replaced the **flood damage ceiling tiles** again after the issue was resolved.
- Vinny monitored the **new Carpet installation in Della’s area.** (PIM \$686)
- We monitored the **Sealing and Striping of the Parking lot and Sealing the Driveway.** (PIM\$2,825)
- **Another Steinbicker “Door latch Problem”** was reported. Vinny arranged for a locksmith to repair the **previous faulty installation!** (PIM \$214).
- On a **Parsonage** security check, we found one main floor **Shower Door “Shattered”**. We referred it to the Parsonage refurbishing committee to resolve.
- **We appreciate that the NS was charged for the \$1,693 Roto-Rooter expense due to the “Baby wipe” issue rather than PIM.**
- We Drained and removed all the **hoses to storage**, and shut off the front valve.
- We **“winterized”** the Rm10 Men’s room vent, Covered **the 2000 A/C unit** and Closed the **Room 10 dehumidifier**.
- **We located four of the six Gym Window fans** and are still searching for the rest.
- We adjusted the lower Thrift shop door latching mechanism.
- We uncovered some **Sanctuary chairs, not Clamped** together and clamped them.
- We activated the **“Anti-Freeze” lamps** in the 10/20 area. Repaired 10/20 doorstep.
- We **initiated**, in mild weather, the ELCA lawn tree Christmas light Power and Star.
- **We changed all the Telephones and wall clocks on the time change.**
- We found the Altar/Pulpit Microphones “unplugged” and restored and checked out.
- Attended to activating the flower stands and Advent Wreath.
- We monitored the **annual Fire Extinguisher Inspection.**

RESEARCH FOR POTENTIAL LONG RANGE PROJECTS

- * Research the possibility of **new lighting for the Sanctuary.**
- * Research a possible upgrade to the Sanctuary sound system.
- * Research a possible refurbish of the Education Building Main Floor Bathrooms.
- * Research a possible refurbish of the two Room 10 Bathrooms.
- * Research replacing the rear yard Stairway cover.
- * Research the possibility and costs to remove and **refurbish the Original Steeple Bell and Cradle.**
- * Research installing AirConditioning in the main Ed. Building classrooms.

MISCELLANEOUS THINGS STILL NEEDING WORK

- * Paint the Sliding Closet doors in the Gym South access area.
- * Repair numerous **Cement issues.** (Back walk, Pit wall, Pointing, Washes)
- * Price **professional intervention** to repair a **rear yard** broken and sinking **sidewalk square. !!!**
- * Investigate and strengthen the **Altar screen Filigree panels** which are **showing signs of looseness and cracking.**
- * **Power Wash** the “Greens”, especially on the Sheds beyond the parking lot.
- * Re-Seal the old office Duct Work to eliminate Winter drafts.
- * Check for **loose stair treads** on the Room 10 and 20 stairways and re-glue.
- * **Arrange to grow grass on the East side of Steinbicker.** Stones to pit? Topsoil?, Sod?, Labor. “**Scout Project?**” Extend the Sprinkler system into to the area.
- * Rebuild, once again, the rotting Front Sanctuary Planter Boxes. (**Scout Project?**)
- * Complete the Painting of the Thrift Shop incoming shed. (**Was Scout Project**)
- * Install a pole for power to the far Parking lot area for **Security.** (**Scout Project?**)
- * **Replace the Parsonage/Parking Lot “Post and Rail” fencing.** (**Scout Project?**)
- * Check/reset coverage of the flagpole Sprinkler head. Zn1/North of walkway.
- * Touch-up the “Rust areas” on the outside fire escape.
- * Drain and charge the two Education Building **boiler Expansion tanks.**
- * **Replace the water damaged ceiling tiles in the lower “east” bathroom.**

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024 LITURGICAL CALENDAR

2023 WORSHIP DATES	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS	ACOLYTE	COMM. ASST.	COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)
Sun, December 3, 2023 1 st Sun. of Advent 9:00AM Service (Blue) LECTIONARY YEAR B BEGINS	Robert Ahearn Roger Ohlander	D. Ohlander's Group	R. Ahearn J. Gross H. Vogel	C. Kuchynskas	Elaine Dichiarra	Della Rao, Claudia & John Gross
Sun, December 10, 2023 2 nd Sun. of Advent 9:00AM Service (Blue) CONFIRMATION DAY	Eric Juergens John Gross	B. Rath's Group	D. Ohlander R. Ohlander B. Rath M. Soethout	M. Murphy	Nancy Pisani	Christian Education Program
Sun, December 17, 2023 3 rd Sun. of Advent 9:00AM Service (Blue) CHRISTMAS PAGEANT	Craig Sparke Robert Ahearn	E. Colton & L.A. Munnich's Group	J. Eastlund J. Eastlund J. Fitzgerald	G. Franz	Dee Bloomfield	Adult Choir
Sun, December 24, 2023 4 th Sun. of Advent 9:00AM Service (Blue) <u>NOT A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</u>	John Gross Craig Sparke	D. Ohlander's Group	J. Fahey B. Henderson D. Ohlander R. Ohlander	M. Murphy	Barbara Stone	N/A
Sun, December 24, 2023 CHRISTMAS EVE (White) 5:30PM & 8:00PM Services	5:30: J. Gross, E. Juergens, R. Ohlander 8:00: <u>Open</u>	ALL GROUPS		5:30: K. Biesma, G. Franz 8:00: TBD	5:30: Dee Bloomfield 8:00: B. Stone	N/A
Sun, December 31, 2023 LESSONS & CAROLS 9:00AM Service (White) SERVICE OF THE WORD	Roger Ohlander Eric Juergens	B. Rath's Group	R. Ahearn J. Gross H. Vogel	N/A	N/A	Lynn & Bob Hasteadt
Sun, January 7, 2024 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:00AM Service (White)	John Gross Craig Sparke	E. Colton & L.A. Munnich's Group	D. Ohlander R. Ohlander B. Rath M. Soethout	M. Murphy	Elaine Dichiarra	The Rath & Baker Families

IF YOU NEED TO MAKE A CHANGE TO YOUR ASSIGNMENT, PLEASE INFORM THE CHURCH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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
26 9am - Sunday School 9am - Worship 10:15am - Confirm	27 7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and 7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and	28 7:30pm - BSA O.O.T.Arrow 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	29 1pm - WELCA: 2000 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	30 10am - TOPS: Rm. 10 5pm - Finance Meeting 5pm - Tech Literacy	31 9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10	1 10am - Thrift Shop Saturday 6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10
3 9am - Sunday School 9am - Worship 10:15am - Confirm	4 7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and 7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and	5 7:30pm - BSA O.O.T.Arrow 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	6 1pm - WELCA: 2000 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	7 10am - TOPS: Rm. 10 5pm - Finance Meeting 5pm - Tech Literacy	8 9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10	9 6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10
10 Confirmation Day 9am - Sunday School 9am - Worship	11 7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and 7pm - Worship & Music 8pm - Council Meeting @	12 7:30pm - BSA O.O.T.Arrow 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	13 Spire Submission Deadline 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	14 10am - TOPS: Rm. 10 5pm - Tech Literacy	15 9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10	16 6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10
17 Christmas Pageant 9am - Worship 10:15am - Confirm	18 7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and	19 7:30pm - BSA O.O.T.Arrow 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	20 9:30am - Spire Mailing Rm. 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	21 10am - TOPS: Rm. 10 5pm - Tech Literacy	22 9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10	23 6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10
24 No Christian Ed 9am - Advent 4 5:30pm - Christmas Eve 8pm - Christmas Eve	25 Church Office Closed Merry Christmas! 7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and	26 7:30pm - BSA O.O.T.Arrow 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	27 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	28 10am - TOPS: Rm. 10	29 Thrift Shop Closed 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10	30 6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10
31 No Christian Ed 9am - Lessons & Carols	1 Church Office Closed Happy New Year! 7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and	2	3	4	5	6

Nursery School News: December 2023



In November, all the children at the Nursery School are learning that we should be thankful for the wonderful things God has given us. They are all learning about the first Thanksgiving and why we celebrate this terrific holiday. The children are discussing the importance of family, what it means to be thankful and what they are thankful for.

The two-year-old classes are learning about the color Brown for November. They have been enjoying themselves making all kinds of Fall crafts. Lots of Leaf, scarecrow and Turkey crafts. They have been having a great time learning about what November brings, the color Brown, the number 2 and the shape of the month was a Square. We are excited to announce that we have a total of 32 children registered in our program this year and a growing waitlist.

The three-year-old classes have been working on their Thankful books, Thank You God For All Your Wonderful Gifts. Each child gets a page to show all the things they are thankful for, their mom, dad, brothers and sisters, friends, ice cream, cookies, and of course their toys. Then each child has a chance to bring the book home to show their family and friends. It is such an enjoyable activity for everyone. They have been very busy making crafts to decorate the classrooms and their homes. Beautiful Indian corn, colorful turkeys and funny scarecrows can be found all over the walls. This year we were able to bring back our afternoon three-year-old class and have a total of 36 children enrolled in the program.

The four-year-old class is getting ready for their Thanksgiving Feast. The children bring in all kinds of goodies, pumpkin bread and corn muffins to enjoy with one another. To show how thankful they are to have such a wonderful family, they are making beautiful Thanksgiving keepsakes for their parents. The children can't wait to share with their parents the Thanksgiving cookbook that they created as a class that is filled with their expertise advice on how to cook a turkey! To end the celebration, the children entertain their parents at pickup dressed up in Thanksgiving hats they made themselves. The Kindergarten Readiness program is a new and exciting program in our 4-year-old program that has been a great success. Even with UPK being available for free we still have a great group of ten children.

All of the children in the 3- and 4-year-old classes put on a quick performance with a little singing and dancing of their Thanksgiving songs that they have been so busy practicing.

December will continue with the children learning the true meaning of Christmas. The four-year-old class will be getting ready to perform at their Christmas Pageant during the month of December. All the children will be making homemade Christmas gifts for their families to enjoy.

Christ Lutheran Church

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Wantagh, NY 11793
Church (516) 221-3286
Nursery School (516) 679-8425
www.CLCWantagh.org

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CONTAINS TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

December 2023

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

Coming in December...

December 2nd: Thrift Shop Saturday, 10AM-2PM

December 6th: WELCA, 1PM, Room 2000

December 7th: Finance Meeting, Time TBD

December 10th: Confirmation Day

December 11th: Worship & Music/Council Meeting, 7PM

December 13th: January Spire Submission Deadline

December 17th: Christmas Pageant, During 9AM Service

December 20th: January Spire Mailing, 9:30AM, Room 2000

December 24th: Advent 4 Service, 9AM; Christmas Eve Services, 5:30PM & 8:00PM

December 25th: Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed

December 29th: Thrift Shop Closed

December 31st: Lessons & Carols, 9AM

Wednesdays: Bell Choir, 7PM and Adult Choir, 8PM

Fridays: Thrift Shop, 9AM-3PM

