

The Spire

December 2022

Dear Friends,

Advent is here and once again we hear certain words more than at other times of the year. The ones that come to mind for me are preparation and anticipation. Once again it is time to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. In our secular world we are busy preparing for Christmas by shopping, whether it's at the mall or online, for gifts for those we hold dear in our lives. We have to find a tree at the local nursery or pull out the artificial tree that was put in storage about 10.5 months ago. If we are hosting the family dinner, there are lots of cookies to be bake, gingerbread houses to be decorated and dusting off those recipes that we only pull out at this time of the year.

At church, the right banners have to be pulled out of storage, the poinsettias have to be bought and properly watered until December 24th. The choirs are busy rehearsing in order to make these important days truly special.

But when do we allow ourselves time to prepare ourselves for what is the most important activity of all, reflecting on the Nativity of Our Lord and the importance that that signifies? All too often we get caught up in the busyness of the day and only realize that we have run out of time for that as we are putting our decorations away for another year. Give yourself some time to savor the anticipation that many of us have not felt since we were much younger. It's never too late to take the time to do that during this Advent season.

Here at Christ Lutheran Church, the word anticipation is a heavily-used word. We of course anticipate the coming of a new pastor at a time yet unknown to any of us. This Christmas Eve, we are fortunate to welcome back Pastor Martin Nale to lead us in worship at the 5:30PM and 8:00PM services. For those of you who really believe in planning ahead, Pastor Nale will also preside at the worship services during Holy Week in April. You see, I too believe in being prepared should we not have a pastor by then.

We are slowly trying to return to normal with what we do here at church. With the coming of the new church year, acolytes are returning as part of our worship service. We had hoped to be able to have the ushers passing the offering plate again, but out of a sense of caution, we will try to find other ways to make it easy for you to make your contributions to the church. One practice that is returning is the placement of fresh flowers on the altar. During the pandemic we were utilizing artificial flowers for the altar. Flowers, just as everything else, have become more expensive. Florists are unwilling to make deliveries for what they had been paid previously (\$40 per week) so we will be forced to find other alternatives. For now, flower memorials will stay at \$15 but that is likely to change some time in the new year. The Church Council has also determined that the annual transfer of funds from the Flower Fund to the Operating account of \$2,000 will be discontinued in order to provide more available funds for the purchase of flowers. That \$2,000 in the past was used to help pay for the landscaping that was done around our grounds. Since we are likely to end the year with a surplus in our operating fund, it was determined that those funds would not be needed for 2022 and not proposed for the 2023 budget.

It is a busy time of the year at your home and at the church. We hope that you will allow yourselves sufficient time to reflect on this important time of preparation and anticipation and put everything into the proper perspective.

Hans Vogel

PARISH REGISTER MEMORIALS

Sanctuary Memorial

In Memory of: **Donald Reuter Sr.**

Given by: **Kathy & Fred Ackermann and Family**

GOOD NEWS & BLESSINGS

December Birthdays

- 1: Roxanne Toomey
- 2: Lois Fogal
- 2: Kathy Ackermann
- 3: Lyndsay Mae Franz
- 9: Roger Ohlander
- 10: Gracie Franz
- 23: Terri Rao
- 25: Pete Bloomfield
- 25: Eileen Colton
- 27: John James Bloomfield



REMINDER: If you would like a special date to be printed in the Spire, please contact the Church office no later than 30 days prior.

Good News

- Our **Tech Literacy Workshop** is underway! We are very excited that this highly-requested course is off the ground. Two identical classes are taught each week, on Tuesdays at 5PM and Sundays at 11:30AM, both in Room 2000. No sign-up is needed. All are welcome!
- Advent is here! The church is abuzz with activity as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Some **new worship settings** will go into effect this season to accommodate for a larger turnout. Starting on November 27th, we will

have **two ushers per service**, and we will once again **pass the offering plates** around the congregation. Also on the 27th, we will re-instate the practice of **continuous Communion**. The congregation will be directed to one of two wine stations on either side of the altar, after receiving the host from Pastor in the center aisle. **Additional Communion assistants are welcome**; please speak with a member of Worship & Music or contact the Church office if you'd like to help. **Starting in December, our Confirmation students will serve as Acolytes again!** Thank you to **Jim Spiegle and Barbara Stone** for coordinating and training our newest worship assistants.

- The holiday season is "the time of giving." Our outreach volunteers have been hard at work preparing for several of our annual special collections. Once again, we will assemble care satchels for the mariners served by **Seafarers International House**. For the first time, we are adding a special touch, as our Sunday School students will write out Christmas cards to include in each satchel. We are also collecting for **Mr. Mittens**, as well as our **Book Drive**, both of which serve the pediatric patients at Nassau University Medical Center. We are immensely thankful to **Regina Coons, Jan Eastlund, and Jim Spiegle**, who have each played a role in coordinating these heartfelt projects. Please see the "Parish Outreach" and "Thrivent Financial" sections of your Spire for important donation details and deadlines. Thank you!
- Speaking of annual events, October's **Country Fair** turned out to be one of our most successful! We had a fantastic turnout, with many new faces. We are so proud of the work put in by WELCA's **Fair Committee**, as well as the many volunteers from the congregation and the thrift shop who happily lent a hand. If you'd like to be involved in the 2023 fair, please let us know. Planning is already underway!
- One of our big goals for this church year is to play a more active role in community networking. As we've seen with our involvement in the St. Patrick's Day and Fourth of July parades, the events held by our friends in the **Wantagh Chamber of Commerce** are a great opportunity for us. We are excited to be participating in the Fourth Annual **Winter Wonderland Fair**. The fair

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Nicole Nicholson, Music Director • Kamelija Galijan-Curry, Organist • Dana Antonette, Nursery School Director



will be held on **Saturday, November 26th, from 12:30-5:30PM at the Wantagh Historical Preservation Society (the train museum on Wantagh Avenue).** Those arriving by car are asked to park at Wantagh High School, and take the Christmas trolley over to the fair. Attendees are also asked to bring a **new, unwrapped toy** for the John Theissen Children's Foundation. Featured at the fair will be a Christmas tree lighting, a visit from Santa Claus, refreshments, and craft items sold by local businesses. Featured at our table will be two raffle prizes, a 50/50 raffle by our Nursery School, a selection of hats and blankets for sale from the Knitwits, and our condo raffle. We will also debut our new Church pop-up sign, made by our friends at **Fast Signs of Wantagh**, and our new brochure. It would mean a great deal for our members to show their support for us and our community. Bring a friend!

- And, just a little reminder... The drawing for the condo raffle will be held on **Sunday, December 4th during coffee hour.** Tickets are \$5 each. **Thank you to Hans & Laura Vogel** for offering their vacation home to us!
- With Christmas around the corner, we invite all our members and friends to remember the true reason for the season. Let us show our Christian spirit by giving to those in need, paying it forward, and always looking for ways we can live by Jesus' example. Remember, **Christmas giving envelopes** were sent out in the November Spire, and are available in the Sanctuary. Your generosity is what allows us to thrive. Thank you for your lovingkindness!

May Your Christmas Be Filled with Light and Love!

CLC Youth News

- Our Scouts participated in their annual **Fall Cleanup** on Saturday, November 19th. We thank them for always going the extra mile to keep our property pristine. Eagle Scout candidate **Emma Bloomfield** has officially started work on the new church gardens, which will allow us to grow fresh vegetables for local food pantries. We can't wait to see them bloom! Finally, if you placed an order for a **Christmas wreath**, please keep an eye out for information regarding pickup.
- The Christian Nursery School's **fall fundraiser** with White Post Farms was a great success! Thank you to everyone who ordered fresh treats for Thanksgiving.
- Rehearsals are underway for our Sunday School's Annual Christmas Pageant. Please join us on **Sunday, December 11th during worship service.** Our students are very excited to participate in telling the Nativity

story. Thank you to **Jessica Heron** for coordinating, and **Nicole Nicholson** for her assistance!

On behalf of our church's youth, Merry Christmas!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Altar Flowers:** Fresh flowers will now be placed on the altar in two-week intervals. Well-preserved flowers may be delivered to our shut-ins; a current list is needed, as well as volunteers for delivery. Jeri Hallgren is working to assemble a flower committee. Lilly Ann Munnich and Carol Shoemaker will continue to co-chair for special occasions (e.g., Easter flowers).
- **Worship & Music:** Beginning on The First Sunday in Advent, November 27th, we will pass out the offering plates during worship again. To accommodate, two ushers per service will be required. Also on November 27th, we will reinstate continuous Communion. The congregation will walk up the center aisle to receive the host from the pastor, and then will be directed to either the left or right of the altar to receive the wine. In addition to Roxanne, one Communion assistant will be needed. **If you would like to volunteer as an usher or Communion assistant, contact the Church office.**
- **Christmas Worship:** Two Christmas Eve services will be held, at 5:30PM and 8:00PM, led by Pastor Martin Nale. Communion will be offered at both services. A Christmas ornament for distribution has been selected.
- **Lessons & Carols:** A Lessons & Carols service is planned for New Year's Day, January 1st, at 9:00AM.
- **Bel Canto Christmas Concert:** On Sunday, December 11th at 7:30PM, we will host Bel Canto for a Christmas concert. All are welcome to attend for a sing-along of familiar Christmas songs, as well as a performance of selections from Handel's "Messiah." A reception will be held afterwards in Room 2000. Help us to welcome the Christmas season!
- **Pop-Up Sign:** Council has approved the purchase of a large display sign to be used for future ministry events. The sign features a new photograph of our church, with our contact information below. This sign will be available for all future community outreach events.

Council wishes everyone a blessed, Merry Christmas!



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" is on December 3rd.** We are open on Friday, December 23rd and Friday, December 30th (the Fridays before Christmas and New Year's). We encourage you to "shop small" this holiday season. Donations are always accepted and appreciated!

Thank you for your kind support. Merry Christmas!

ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY

Your donations are appreciated. Thank you!

Cold Cereal - Cooking Oil - Hot Cereal - Crackers

Pudding Mix - Coffee - Tea Bags - Progresso Soup

Egg Noodles - Spaghetti - Chef Boyardee - Tuna Helper

Instant Mashed Potatoes - Chicken Broth - Canned Chicken

Stewed Tomatoes - Canned Salmon

Please check the expiration dates on packaged foods before donating.



PRAYER LIST

We Remember Especially...

Debbie Becker - Ellen Bello - James Cathcart

Danielle Chillemi - Sal Costanzo - Sue Costanzo

Marge Dahlberg - Mike Dauth - Joan Drake

Joanne Drenkhahn - Charlie Fisher - Bob Freyer

Travis Gentile - Betty Gibberman - Barbara Grieser

Joe Hanna - Bill Henderson - Arnold Howard

Carolyn Howard - Jennifer Kenning

Elaine Quigley Levano - Suzanne Marshall - Janet McShea

William McShea - Bill Miller - Marilyn Miller

James Pallas - Barbara Proce - Gary Proce - Catherine Rao

Bob Rath - Emmett Reilly - Rose Reilly - Ann Reimer

Barbara Reimer - Della Dorn Rice - Helga Richert

Eunice Rischan - Christopher Schwarz - Doris Spiegle

Michael Steadman - Natalie Stone - James Toomey

Laura Vogel

REMINDER: To add a name to our prayer list, please contact the Church office. It will remain on the list for six weeks per request.



WELCA

The ladies of WELCA thank everyone who assisted with or attended the Country Fair. All of our hard work was worth the success. We're already looking forward to next year! Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 7th at 1:00PM in Room 2000**. All ladies are welcome to join us for our Christmas celebration!

The ladies of WELCA wish you a Merry Christmas!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School: Happy Advent! Our Sunday Schoolers are very excited to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a few short weeks. We have a big group, and we've noticed how much the older children enjoy helping out with our youngsters. They all really enjoy our weekly word puzzles, and they're often better at them than their teachers! We're happy to have a great dynamic going into this busy time of year. On December 4th, our students will make Christmas cards for the **Seafarers**. We also have a treasure trove of Advent crafts, and now the real work is deciding which to use! Our children are also rehearsing for the upcoming Christmas Pageant, which will be held on **December 11th during worship service**. After sadly having to cancel last year, we had such a positive turnaround, with each of our Sunday Schoolers now being involved. We're grateful to **Jessica Heron and Nicole Nicholson** for working to create a beautiful show. We know you'll love it! Our class schedule going into the new year is a bit hectic due to the holidays, so we encourage all parents to stay on top of their emails for updates. Also, we'd like to remind you that registration is still open! We recently welcomed three new students, and there's always room for more. To learn more, please speak with Claudia Gross or Della Rao.

From our classroom to your home, Merry Christmas!

Confirmation: As we approach the midway point of the year, our Christian Education Coordinator, Ms. Della, will be reaching out to all of our Confirmation parents to set individual progress assessment meetings. They will be held ahead of the issuing of formal progress reports in January. These meetings can be held in person or on Zoom. After some delay, we are happy that our Acolyte program is officially off the ground. We're grateful to **Jim Spiegle and Barbara Stone** for training our students and supervising the program. Starting with this issue, students may find their Acolyte schedule in the liturgical calendar of the Spire.



This schedule will also be sent to parents via email. Because this is a **required component** to making Confirmation, it's important for all families to stay on top of the schedule. We are very excited to mention that we are now offering a **home-based Confirmation study program** for older students, or for students who cannot participate in the traditional program model. There are specific guidelines for who qualifies for this program, but if you believe this may be an option for you or your child, please speak with Della Rao. For general inquiries, please speak with Della Rao or Roxanne Toomey.

We wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas!

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Fighting Food Insecurity: Thank you to everyone who participated in our Fall Food Drive, by volunteering their time and contributing nonperishable food items for our local food pantries. On October 29th, members of our congregation and students from our Confirmation Program spent the morning at Stop & Shop in Merrick asking shoppers for donations. Students were able to see firsthand how this critical outreach ministry functions. The food we collected will feed the clients at St. John's Food Pantry in Merrick, and will also be used for the Thanksgiving baskets and turkey dinner provided by the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN)'s soup kitchen. Your generosity allows us to put our faith into action right here in our community.

Seafarers: *Show that we care for the unseen essential workers- Support the Christmas at Sea Program of Seafarers International House!* Since 1873, Seafarers has provided mariners around the world with emotional, spiritual, and tangible support. This year, our congregation continues its tradition of assembling care satchels for these often-overlooked essential workers, many of whom spend many months at a time at sea or in foreign lands. This leads to loneliness, especially during the holiday season. Your charitable giving allows the port chaplains of Seafarers to deliver compassionate support to visiting crews from around the world. Help us to help those who have given so much, especially through the pandemic and supply chain issues. Items for donation may be purchased in-person and dropped off at 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](https://www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea) and clicking "Christmas at Sea wish list." Note: 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. Each completed care satchel will contain these items. Please consider giving:

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

In addition to these items, our Sunday School children will participate by making Christmas cards to place in each care satchel. Volunteers are needed to assist in assembling the care satchels, which we will do on **Monday, December 5th**. If you are interested, please contact the Church office or speak with Regina Coons. **In order for the satchels to be completed on time, donations must be received by Thursday, December 1st.** We are grateful to Thrivent Financial for their generous grant of \$250, which will be used to purchase any missing items for the care satchels.

Thank you for helping to bring the joy of the Christmas season to all those who are far from home!

PARISH OUTREACH

Shut-Ins: The Church office is looking to update our list of homebound members. If you or a loved one is currently on that list, please contact the Church office by **December 10th**. We ask that you confirm your current contact information at that time. Additions or removals to the list can also be made by contacting us by the 10th. Thank you!

Flower Deliveries: With our reintroduction of fresh altar flowers for worship service and our Christmas poinsettias arriving shortly, we are looking to the congregation to help us deliver flowers to our shut-ins. Our homebound members are always so thankful when we take the time to check in on them, especially during the Advent and Christmas seasons. The majority of our shut-ins live only within a few miles of Christ Lutheran. There is no minimum requirement on the number of deliveries you can make. If you are able to help in any way, please contact the Church office or speak with Regina Coons. For Christmas poinsettias, please notify us by **December 15th** so we may plan accordingly.

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, who has so graciously stepped in for us, at (631) 720-6179.

Seafarers: Please see “Thrivent Financial” for further information and the list of needed items. A special thank-you goes to our **Knitwits** for their donation of knitted hats. We are grateful for everyone’s continued support of this outreach project.

Mr. Mittens: The winter winds are here, which means it’s time for Mr. Mittens to appear! This year, we continue our tradition of collecting new or gently used winter weather items for the children of Nassau University Medical Center. There are many illnesses which can leave children immunocompromised, especially during cold and flu season. Your generosity helps them to feel comfortable and protected. We are so thankful for our **Knitwits**, who have donated over forty handmade items to this amazing cause. Donations of children’s gloves, mittens, hats, sweaters, and scarves may be dropped off in the designated box in the Narthex. You may also shop online and ship to Christ Lutheran. **Please have all donations in by December 4th.** Thank you!

Book Drive: Also being delivered to the children of Nassau University Medical Center are new or gently used children’s books. We are grateful to the ladies of the **Thrift Shop**, who have set aside so many books for us to donate. If you would like to make a heartfelt gift this Christmas season, please leave your donated books in the designated box in the Narthex by **December 4th.** Thank you!

On behalf of our many volunteers, thank you for spreading joy and charity. Have a Merry Christmas!

FROM THE KNITWITS...

We are so grateful to all who came to the Country Fair and purchased some of our handiwork. We raised twice as much as last year! The upcoming Christmas season is a happily busy time for us. On Saturday, November 26th, CLC and the Nursery School will participate in Wantagh’s Winter Wonderland Fair. Featured at our table will be a selection of knitted items for sale, just in time for your holiday shopping! This is the season of giving, and we are very proud to be donating ninety-two sets of neonatal blankets and matching hats to Nassau University Medical Center and Pregnancy Options. Also going to the Medical Center are five large bags of lap robes for patients in their rehab unit. In partnership with Parish Outreach, we are happy to donate eleven sweaters and thirty-five hats of all sizes for Mr. Mittens. The Seafarers will receive seven blue and black hats to keep our mariners warm on the high seas. We send a special thank-you to **Kevin Coons, son of Regina Coons**,

who delivered four large bags with eight afghans to Northport Veterans Medical Center.

With all the help of our many angels, known and unknown, we have had a banner year! Many thanks to all of you. If you would like to contribute, please call me. I still have yarn!

Wishing you all a warm and Merry Christmas!

- Lilly Ann Munnich, 516-826-3663

CLC HISTORY



Here is a look at our beautiful Christmas decorations from 1963. This year, we will decorate the Sanctuary after service on **December 18th.** Volunteers are welcome!

2022 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. Funds received from this year’s Christmas card will be donated to the Lutheran Social Services New Life Center. **Please send your card and contribution to the Church office by Sunday, December 18th.** Our mailing address is 3384 Island Road, Wantagh, New York 11793. Thank you!



O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

Save the Dates for Christmas Worship!

Pageant: Sunday, December 11th, During 9:00AM Service

Watch our Sunday Schoolers perform the Nativity Story.

Bel Canto Concert: Sunday, December 11th, 7:30PM

Join the Bel Canto Chorale for "Handel by Candlelight and Sounds of the Season," featuring excerpts from Handel's "Messiah" and our favorite Christmas carols. All are invited to a reception in Room 2000 following the concert.

Christmas Eve Services: 5:30PM & 8:00PM

Presided by Pastor Martin Nale. Please note that there is no worship service on Christmas Day.

Lessons & Carols: Sunday, January 1st, 9:00AM

Led by Nicole Nicholson and Roxanne Toomey. There will be no communion administered during this service.

All services will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and uploaded to YouTube on the next business day.

THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date! The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held after service on **Sunday, January 22nd**.

Reports are due no later than Friday, January 13th. Please speak with Council or with the Church office if you have any questions.

Year-end 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 Education 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 first official written notice of the 2023 Annual Congregational meeting.

DEFICIT REDUCTION

A deficit reduction envelope is included with this issue of the Spire. Please give generously to support our mission.

ARE YOU AN *ACTIVE* CHURCH MEMBER?

Are you an active church member? This means:

- You worship regularly;
- You serve God and other members of your community responsibly and faithfully;
- You give your time, talent, and treasure to further the church's mission in your community and throughout the world.

According to CLC's Constitution and Bylaws, an active member is defined as an individual who, during the past three years (**not** including the present year):

- Received Communion with the congregation or from Christ Lutheran's Pastor(s);
- Made a contribution of record to the congregation.

Please fill out a Communion card once per year. Cards are always kept in the Sanctuary. Your card may be left in the offering baskets during worship. If you do not have an envelope number to record your contribution, please contact the Church office or speak with Barbara Stone. Thank you for your cooperation!

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHURCHES!

- **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Levittown** will open their Christmas tree lot on Friday, November 25th. Please see their Facebook page for operating hours. The lot will be open seven days a week through Friday, December 23rd.
- **St. John Lutheran Church in Bellmore** will hold their Annual Christmas Fair on Saturday, December 3rd from 10AM-4PM.
- **Faith Lutheran Church in Syosset** invites you to their "I'll Be Home for Christmas" Concert on Friday, December 16th at 7PM. Wine and cheese reception to follow. Admission cost is a freewill donation.
- **Saint Frances de Chantal R.C. Church in Wantagh** will hold a Candlelight Carol Sing on Sunday, December 18th at 7PM.



THANK YOU TO...

Dear Members of the Social Ministry Committee,

It is a pleasure to write a letter of gratitude to you, the ladies of Christ Lutheran, Wantagh, and those who make the desserts. Especially at this time of year we look to give thanks for our many blessings. Please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your faithful generosity. Your support reminds me of this saying by Sister Peggy Costa: "The way we take care of each other in life...in rain or sun...in hard times and easy times.... all the time!"

St John's monthly donations aren't just about good food. They "speak" to the guests of respect and dignity. They let people know how much someone cares. While our guests voice their appreciation with many thanks, our Grab and Go operation leaves no room for a personal reaction to the lunch itself. Before Covid, the guests would leave the dining area and tell the cooks and servers how delicious the food was that day. Now the guests don't know what's for lunch until they leave the soup kitchen.

St John's entrée lunches are like none other we serve. I don't know how many times our talented cook remarks about your turkey tetrazzini, saying, "It smells so good and is delicious!" From April to July, your wonderful ham tetrazzini (a break from beef and chicken) was the meal du jour. Your cold pasta salad didn't arrive until August. If it wasn't for St. John's, the third Monday of the month wouldn't have any dessert for the lunch bags.

Your food donations help us immensely. Our food donations as a whole, of all sorts, are changing. With things in constant flux, we have to be more flexible. Even as the number of guests per day averages 100, with an increasing number of children, the food we receive from LI Cares and Island Harvest has declined significantly, in spite of the strong demand at many pantries and soup kitchens.

St John's also gave us two surprising bonanza donations. In early April I came by to return your half size trays and lids used for the March meal. I left your parking lot with a windfall for the soup kitchen—a huge shopping bag loaded with all sorts of popular snack-sized candy and a tall stack of full-size, like-new aluminum pans. What a Godsend! Except for Valentine's Day we hadn't received any candy donations, and we were pricing out trays as we were down to a bare minimum. St John's enabled us to add two pieces of candy to the bagged lunch for weeks to come and saved a considerable expense.

Last, but not least, we want to give Bill Wilson and his back up, David Schmidt, special thanks for delivering, like clockwork, your food donations.

Again and again, you have come to the assistance of the soup kitchen. Your kindness has literally followed our very change. We couldn't be more grateful.

May your hearts be filled with peace and happiness!

Most Sincerely,

Marian Hart

Volunteer and Treasurer

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your contribution of ninety-six pounds of food. Your donation is helping Lutheran Social Services of New York to serve more than 5,000 individuals in need every day. Your continued support of the work we do through this compassionate gift ensures that we can continue to fulfill our mission of encouraging and helping all people to reach their full potential.

We are blessed for you and countless others who have supported our ministries, giving us the resources to assist our neighbors in need to improve their lives. Gifts such as yours help improve the lives of our neighbors in need.

Thank you for the commitment you have shown to our program over the years; *you make lives better every day through our shared mission of service.*

Sincerely,

Damyn Kelly, JD, Ph.D.

President & CEO

BE THE GIFT!

Help to spread the true spirit of Christmas by showing kindness to those less fortunate. Your gift of time, treasure, or talent is of immeasurable value. The organizations listed below provide critical outreach right here on Long Island.

- Long Island Crisis Center
- Thrive Recovery Centers
- Long Island Coalition for the Homeless
- The Safe Center LI
- L.I. Against Domestic Violence
- Semper 4 Veterans
- The John Theissen Children's Foundation
- Birthright of Long Island
- The Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN)
- The League of Yes
- Hope for Youth
- Share the Voice



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 GOOOOLLLDEN 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!



PROPERTY REPORT – DEC 2022

Our **Volunteer Retiree Group** continues to perform any maintenance and/or improvement items on the “Office” To-Do list, or that we uncover ourselves, and can accomplish ourselves without professional help.

Our recent activities have included:

- We continued a project to restore the Thrift Shop, Sanctuary, and 2000 stairway side cement “Washes” and cracks. Winter will curtail this effort.
- We responded to a **“No Pit Lights”**, needed for that evening’s NS parent meeting. We uncovered a bad photo sensor in the “Pit” door fixture and bypassed it so the bulb would stay on. We also uncovered a cracked and faulty Motion unit we managed to set “always on”. We ordered a new motion unit and parts to repair both lights and installed them with a proper inside “switch” control and switch guard.
- We staged all the material for the “Tool Time” Fair area, to the Loggia and Room 10. **The Boy Scouts to moved it to the Gym and we thank them for this effort.**
- **For the Fair...** We re-arranged some tables, set-up the “Tool Time” area, activated the Gas stove, set out the “Fair” signs around the neighborhood and removed them after, and managed the “Tool Time” table with our limited force.
- **We activated the Education Building heat, and set the “Roof Top” thermostats to “Heat” and to reflect Choir/Bell hours.**
- **We activated the Sanctuary side boilers** and oiled the circulators,
- We replaced a slow running Gym clock. We **replaced the batteries** in a hands free faucet. We replaced the Thermostat batteries in the loggia and Room 2000.
- We shut down the Education Building De-humidifiers and Room 10 for the winter.
- **We closed the Parsonage and Church lawn sprinkler systems**, evacuating the water with the compressor and powering down the controllers.
- We shutdown the hose bibs and drained the hoses before removing them to storage.
- **We turned back the time on 10 Telephones and numerous wall clocks with the time change** and replaced the batteries in a few units. The Thermostats and Computers change automatically.
- We activated and deactivated the **Advent wreath and Christmas flower stands.**
- We moved the leftover Fair items from the main hallway to proper storage.
- We removed desks and cabinets from the office area for Special Pickup.
- We disassembled the lock on the rear yard door to access and tighten the loose outside cylinder.
- We installed the Christmas lights on the lawn tree while the weather was mild.
- We placed the Manger cutouts and Door Frame light bars in time for Christmas.
- **We shut down the Parsonage Hot water heater and activated the Heat to minimum.** We installed a **new 7-day thermostat**, to replace the non-working one.
- We activated the **Snow Blower** to be ready if needed.

Retiree Group

RESEARCH FOR POTENTIAL LONG RANGE PROJECTS

- * Research the possibility of **new lighting for the Sanctuary.**
- * Research the replacement of the wine stained **Altar Carpeting.**
- * Research extending the **lawn sprinklers** to cover the East side of Steinbicker **after grass restoration.**
- * Research the possibility and costs to remove and **refurbish the Original Steeple Bell and Cradle.**

MISCELLANEOUS THINGS TO DO

See Roger, Bob R, Bill, Craig, Gene, Bob H, or Vinny if you can help:

- *Paint the Sliding Closet doors in the Gym South access area.
- ***Arrange to grow grass on the East side of Steinbicker.** Stones to pit?, Topsoil?, Sod?, Labor. "Scout Project?"
- *Repair numerous **Cement issues** around the property. (Back walk, Pit wall, Pointing, Washes **(WKG)**)
- * Price professional intervention to repair a rear yard broken and sinking sidewalk square,
- ***Research and arrange** for a "**Seal coating**" and re-stripping of the parking lot and the Parsonage driveway. **(Council - DELAYED)**
- * Cleanup and clean out the lower shop area. **(WKG)**
- * Cleanup and clean out Room 100.
- * Gather and discard all the "old" latex paint for the next "STOP" date.
- * Investigate and strengthen the **Altar screen Filigree panels** which are **showing signs of looseness and cracking.**
- * Prepare and paint the **Front Education building entrance trim.**
- * **Touch-up the Room 10/20 trim**, missed by the painters and paint the new flagpole light socket
- * Prepare and paint the rusting "Loggia - Yard" steel door frame
- * Prepare and paint all the steel window header mantles.
- * Prepare and paint the Room 2000 back door frame and rear shed frame.
- * Spray additional "Flex-Seal" on the Southeast and South wall bases of the Ed. Building to prevent leakage.
- * Install the sanctuary light bars and set the timer. 7A-11A, 4P-12M. **(WKG)**
- * Install lawn Manger cutouts and spotlights before Christmas. **(WKG)**



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 19**.

✂ -----

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 19.

3384 Island Road, Wantagh, New York 11793



HANDEL BY CANDLELIGHT AND SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Presented by the Bel Canto Chorale

Nicole Nicholson, Musical Director Accompanist, Kamelija Gelijan-Curry

Featuring Choral and Solo Excerpts from Handel's Messiah and our favorite Christmas Carols

Sunday December 11 at 7:30

Christ Lutheran Church, 3384 Island Road, Wantagh

Feel free to bring your score and join in on the "The Hallelujah Chorus"

A post concert reception will follow



Bel Canto will be presenting Karl Jenkins'

"The Armed Man" this spring. We invite

new singers to join us. Email us at

Belcanto@gmail.com. Rehearsals will begin in

January. Mark your calendars for May 6, 2023!

It's sure to be a wonderful musical event.

2022-2023 WORSHIP DATES	ACOLYTE	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTERS	COFFEE HOUR HOST(S)
Sun. December 4, 2022 Second Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM Service (Blue)	Gracie Franz	Craig Sparke Robert Ahearn	E. Colton/L.A. Munnich's Group	J. Eastlund J. Eastlund J. Fitzgerald	Music Ministry
Sun. December 11, 2022 Third Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM Service (Blue)	James Heron	Roger Ohlander Eric Juergens	D. Ohlander's Group	J. Fahey B. Henderson R. Ohlander D. Ohlander M. Soethout	Thrift Shop
Sun. December 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00 AM Service (Blue)	Elly Kuchynskas	John Gross Craig Sparke	B. Rath's Group	R. Ahearn J. Gross H. Vogel	The Retirees
Sat. December 24, 2022 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30 PM Service (White)	Madeline Murphy	Robert Ahearn Roger Ohlander	E. Colton/L.A. Munnich's Group		NO COFFEE HOUR
Sat. December 24, 2022 CHRISTMAS EVE 8:00 PM Service (White)	Kyler Biesma	Eric Juergens John Gross	D. Ohlander's Group		NO COFFEE HOUR
NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY	NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY	NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY	NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY	NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY	NO SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY
Sun. January 1, 2023 First Sunday of Christmas LESSONS AND CAROLS 9:00 AM SERVICE* *No Communion* (White)	Charlotte Heron	Craig Sparke Robert Ahearn	B. Rath's Group	D. Ohlander R. Ohlander B. Rath B. Rath	Open- Speak with Jan Eastlund if available.
Sun. January 8, 2023 The Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 AM Service (White)	Charlie Kuchynskas	Roger Ohlander Eric Juergens	E. Colton/L.A. Munnich's Group	J. Eastlund J. Eastlund J. Fitzgerald	The Ciro's

*Communion Assistants are needed- Please contact the Church office if interested. There are no greeters until further notice.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				10am - TOPS: Rm. 10 1pm - Nursery Board Meeting	9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10	10am - Thrift Shop Saturday 6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9am - Sunday School 9am - Worship 10:15am - Confirm	7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and	7:30pm - BSA O.O.T.Arrow 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	1pm - WELCA: 2000 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	10am - TOPS: Rm. 10 5pm - Finance Meeting	9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10	6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9am - Christmas Pageant 9am - Sunday School 9am - Worship 10:15am - Confirm 7:30pm - Bel Canto	7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and 7pm - Worship & Music 8pm - Council Meeting @	7:30pm - BSA O.O.T.Arrow 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	January Spire Deadline 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	10am - TOPS: Rm. 10	9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10	6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9am - Sunday School 9am - Worship 10am - Christmas Decorating 10:15am - Confirm	7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and	7:30pm - BSA O.O.T.Arrow 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	9:30am - Spire Mailing Rm. 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	10am - TOPS: Rm. 10	9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10	Christmas Eve 5:30pm - Worship Service 6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8pm - Worship Service 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Christmas Day NO WORSHIP	7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and	7:30pm - BSA O.O.T.Arrow 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	10am - TOPS: Rm. 10	9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10	6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10

Nursery School News



At the Nursery School, in November, all the children are learning about how 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. Leaves, Turkeys, and Indian corn; they have been having a great time learning about what November brings. The shape of the month was a square. We are excited to announce that we have 12 children in our Monday/Friday class, 12 in our Wednesday class and 11 in the Tuesday/ Thursday class. We will be opening a class in January on Mondays and Fridays to accommodate any additional 2-year-old children that would like to join our school.

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 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.

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 expert 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 children 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.

HAVE A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!

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 2022

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

Coming in December...

December 1st: Nursery Board Meeting, 1:00PM

December 3rd: Thrift Shop Saturday, 10AM-2PM

December 7th: WELCA, 1:00PM, Room 2000

December 8th: Finance Meeting, 5:00PM

December 11th: Christmas Pageant, During 9:00AM Worship

December 11th: Bel Canto Concert, 7:30PM, Reception to Follow

December 12th: Worship & Music, 7:00PM and Council Meeting, 8:00PM

December 14th: January Spire Submission Deadline

December 18th: Sanctuary Christmas Decorating, After 9:00AM Worship

December 21st: January Spire Mailing, 9:30AM, Room 2000

December 24th: Christmas Eve Worship, 5:30PM and 8:00PM (No Worship Christmas Day)

Wednesdays: Bell Choir, 7:00PM and Adult Choir, 8:00PM

Tech Literacy Workshop: Sundays at 11:30AM (no class 12/11 and 12/25) and Tuesdays at 5:00PM

