

The Spire

The Newsletter of
Christ Lutheran Church - Wantagh, NY
Website: www.CLCWantagh.org

June 2025

If we cling to
the past, the
future is closed
to us.

Joan Chittister
The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21st Century

Dear Friends,

In March, Bishop Paul Egensteiner met with pastors and deacons in each quadrant of the Metropolitan New York Synod in order to share some of the things he has learned during his term as Bishop. While I was aware of the clergy shortage, it was helpful to hear more specific details from Bishop Egensteiner. As of March, 2025:

- There were 322 active clergy profiles across the ELCA. In other words, 322 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service have updated their professional profiles and are seeking new calls.
- Of those 322, 49 indicated an openness to serving in the Metro New York Synod.
- The Synod staff reviewed those 49 profiles and concluded that, for various reasons, only five are viable candidates for service in this Synod.

That, my friends, is the context in which Christ Lutheran Church, Wantagh, finds itself during this time of transition. What are the implications for the congregation? In short, the congregation needs to do the work of interim ministry and, at the end of that time, to demonstrate that it is ready to move forward into the future.

I've heard many a church say, "We want to grow but we don't want to change." Churches can't have it both ways. Change must take place in order for growth to occur. It is as simple - and challenging - as that.

Next year, Christ Lutheran Church will celebrate 100 years of ministry. That is a great opportunity to take stock of the past and to discern God's will for the congregation's future. That will require the members of CLC to step out of your comfort zones, to go forth in faith, to welcome changes that foster growth, and to trust that the future is safe in the everlasting arms of God.

Are you ready? Are you willing? If so, I believe that you are able. May the Holy Spirit guide the path forward.

Pastor Sprowls



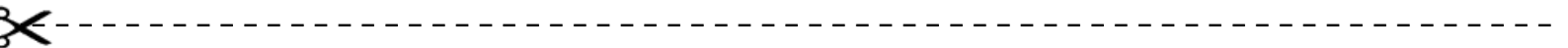
The Festival Day of Pentecost

"They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

- Acts 2:3-4

On **Sunday, June 8**, we will celebrate the Festival Day of Pentecost. The Liturgical color for Pentecost is **red**. The color red symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit given to the Disciples, which fueled the beginnings of the Church. **This year, the Worship & Music Committee will continue our tradition of adorning the Sanctuary with red geraniums.** Geranium memorials will be printed in the Pentecost bulletin. Following the service, the geraniums will be planted in our Church gardens.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the form below and return it to the Church office with your donation no later than **Wednesday, June 4**. We look forward to sharing this day with you!



Christ Lutheran Church Pentecost Geraniums

Please order _____ 4" red pot geraniums at **\$8 each**.

I am enclosing \$_____ **Envelope #** _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Given by: _____

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

I wish to give my geraniums (please check all that apply):

- In Thanksgiving to God
- In Honor Of: _____
- In Memory Of: _____

***You may attribute more than one memorial to a plant.**

Please make all checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church and put **geraniums** in the memo.
3384 Island Road, Wantagh, New York 11793





Father's Day 2x4 Sunday

Have you started searching for that great Father's Day gift yet? Are you looking for a special way to honor or remember your father, grandfather, or paternal figure in your life? Why not try something different and meaningful this year?

Christ Lutheran is providing a unique opportunity to show your love. It is called "Father's Day 2x4 Sunday." For a donation of **\$5.00 per person**, the names of those being honored and remembered will be listed in the worship bulletin on Father's Day and displayed in the Narthex. **All proceeds will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.**

If you would like to be part of this special tradition, please enclose the tear-off form below with your donation to the Church office by **Wednesday, June 11th**. Checks may be made out to Christ Lutheran Church; please indicate "Father's Day 2x4 Sunday" in the memo. Thank you!

⌘ -----

Father's Day 2x4 Sunday: June 15, 2025

Envelope #: _____ Phone #: _____

Given By: _____

In Honor Of: _____

In Memory Of: _____

of Donations: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please return to the Church office by Wednesday, June 11th.

3384 Island Road, Wantagh, New York 11793

WELCA's Spring Luncheon

All Ladies are Invited to Join Us on June 11th!

Villa D'Aqua

2565 Bellmore Avenue, Bellmore

\$28 per Person (Gratuity is Included)

Our Menu Includes a Selection of:

Soup or Salad

Main Course

Dessert

Soda, Coffee, Tea

Please submit the RSVP form below with your payment (cash or check made out to WELCA) to Claudia Gross by Sunday, June 8th.

⌘ -----

WELCA's Spring Luncheon

Your Name: _____

Phone Number:

(____) _____

I have enclosed \$28 in:

____ cash

____ check payable to WELCA.

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

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

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

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



PARISH REGISTER MEMORIALS

General Memorial

In Memory of: **Norma Mantay**

Given by: *Joyce & Steve Bivone*

In Memory of: **Norma Mantay**

Given by: *Doris Gannon*

In Memory of: **Norma Mantay**

Given by: *Claudia & John Gross*

In Honor of: **John Garvey**

Given by: *Fred & Norene Parola*

In Memory of: **Norma Mantay**

Given by: *Martha Schlobohm*

Property Improvement & Maintenance

In Memory of: **Norma Mantay**

Given by: *Eleanor Freyer*

In Memory of: **Norma Mantay**

Given by: *The Hallgren Family*

In Memory of: **Norma Mantay**

Given by: *The Rath Family*

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GOOD NEWS & BLESSINGS

June Birthdays

4: Danette Fitzgerald

4: Joseph Scibelli

6: June Fahey

19: Nancy Gephardt

19: Joseph John Corrison

20: Zoey Lane

29: Ralph Pollock



June Anniversaries

23: Lynn and Keith Franz

27: Margaret and Jim Bloomfield

29: LuAnn and Joseph Corrison

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

- **Prayers Are Needed!** A few weeks ago, CLC member and beloved volunteer Jeri Hallgren suffered a string of heart attacks. Jeri remains in the care of a skilled medical team, but has a long road to recovery ahead of her. She and her family are grateful for the outpouring of support, and ask that
- **Pentecost:** The season of Pentecost is nearly here! Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated on **June 8th**. As in the past, special Pentecost Sunday memorials will be offered to adorn the Sanctuary with beautiful red geraniums. A memorial form is included in your Spire.
- **CLC Centennial:** The Centennial Committee will hold its next planning session on Sunday, June 8th at 10:30AM in Room 2000. All are welcome to attend!
- **Father's Day 2x4 Sunday:** Father's Day 2x4 Sunday will be held on June 15th. A memorial form is included in your Spire. All proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity.
- **Community Involvement:** Plans are underway for the **Wantagh Fourth of July Parade. Youth participants are especially needed this year!** If you would like to volunteer or participate, please speak with George Balduf or Della Rao.
- **Save the Dates!** The **2025 Country Fair** will be held on Friday, October 24th and Saturday, October 25th. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Barbara Rath or Lilly Ann Munnich.

CLC Youth News

- **Congratulations!** Congratulations to the following young members of the church for their achievements:
 - **Ethan Mei** was promoted to the rank of Eagle Scout on Sunday, May 18th.
 - **Dylan Kennah** will receive his First Communion on Sunday, June 1st.



- The Christian Nursery School's **Class of 2025** will have their graduation ceremony on Wednesday, June 18th.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

General Worship Updates

- **Holy Week:** C. Gross thanked all of the volunteers who were involved with Holy Week. Pastor Sprowls presented tokens of thanks to Pr. Andrea Hickey from Our Redeemer, who presided at Maundy Thursday and on Easter Sunday since Pastor Sprowls was ill.
- **Guest Preaching:** Thank you to Pr. Kenneth Davis, who visited CLC and preached on May 4th. Pastor Davis' alter ego, Spider-Man, visited the Nursery School children the following day.
- **Liturgical Season:** The Easter season will conclude when we celebrate Pentecost on June 8th. **Volunteers will be needed that week** to help take down the Easter banners and putting up the Pentecost banners.

Nursery Updates

- **Summer Program:** Enrollment currently stands at 47 students.
- **2025/2026 School Year:** Two's and Four's enrollment is full. The Three's has a few spots remaining in one class. 82 students total are enrolled as of now.

Christian Education Updates

- **Holy Humor Sunday:** Holy Humor Sunday was held on April 27th. Sunday school students and Confirmands participated as junior worship assistants. Reception was overwhelmingly positive and the students would like to participate more in worship during the next school year.
- **Mother's Day:** Students gave out flowers to the mothers in attendance. Sunday school hosted coffee hour and had a special "Doughnuts for Dads" station since school won't be in session on Father's Day.
- **First Communion:** Dylan Kemnah will receive his First Communion on Sunday, June 1st. He will have special preparation lessons with Pastor Sprowls and Della in the weeks leading up to it.
- **Last Day:** The last day of Sunday school is May 18th. Children will bring in individually-wrapped snacks for potluck goodie bags. Maddie Murphy will work with any students who show up during the summer (as long as she is planning to be there already). Acolytes will finish for the summer on Pentecost Sunday, June 8th.

Miscellaneous Updates

- The **CLC Centennial Committee** will have its next planning session on Sunday, June 8th.
- **Emergency Services:** Council recently enacted the policy that, in the case of a medical emergency or a suspected medical emergency occurring on church property, 911 must be called immediately. This will be shared with the congregation and the information posted widely.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop volunteers continue to pray for the recovery of Jeri Hallgren. We love you, Jeri!

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 June 7th.**

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

ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY

Your donations are appreciated. Thank you!

Canned Stew - Canned Tuna - Chef Boyardee
Chili with Beans - Coffee - Cookies - Cooking Oil - Crackers
Egg Noodles - Instant Mashed Potatoes - Juice
Pancake Mix & Syrup - Peanut Butter
Pasta (Penne/Spaghetti) & Sauce - Pork & Beans - Rice
Salad Dressing - Shelf-Stable Milk - Spam - Tuna Helper
Please check the expiration dates on packaged foods before donating.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School had its final class of the school year on May 18th. We celebrated with summer-themed crafts and snacks to enjoy. Confirmands will conclude their Acolyte duties for the summer on June 8th. Registration information for the 2025-2026 school year will go out next month. We wish everyone a safe and happy summer!



CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Mother's Day Caring Sunday: \$235 was raised for the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. Thank you everyone!

Father's Day 2x4 Sunday: Please participate! All proceeds will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

Home/Hospital Visits: If you would like a visit from Pastor Sprowls and/or Roxanne Toomey, whether it is to receive Communion or just for a friendly chat, please contact the Church office.

WELCA

WELCA continues to pray for the recovery of Jeri Hallgren and Lilly Ann Munnich. We love you both!

At our last meeting, WELCA discussed this fall's Country Fair, which will be held on Friday, October 24th and Saturday, October 25th. More details will be available over the summer. If you would like to get involved, please speak with Barbara Rath or Lilly Ann Munnich.

All ladies are welcome to join us for the upcoming Spring luncheon. An RSVP form is included with your Spire. We hope to see you there!



PRAYER LIST

We Remember Especially...

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

THANK YOU TO...

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,
With warmest thoughts, this brings a note of gratitude your way, because your kindness meant much more than words can ever say. Thank you all for the lovely Easter flowers! – *Yours in Faith, Betty Gibberman and Family*

IN THE COMMUNITY...

St. Francis Hospital will be offering **free health screenings** on their outreach bus at St. Frances de Chantal R.C. Church on Thursday, June 26th from 10AM-2PM. No appointment is required.

CLC HISTORY



Happy Anniversary to Steinbicker Hall! The groundbreaking ceremony for the church's education and office building was held on June 7th, 1953.



JUNE/JULY 2025 LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Date/Description	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Counters	Ushers	Coffee Hour Hosts
Sun, June 1, 2025 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:00AM Service (White) FIRST COMMUNION	J. Kemnath	D. Ohlander's Group	Della Rao	R. Ahearn J. Gross H. Vogel	R. Ahearn C. Sparke	WELCA
Sun, June 8, 2025 Pentecost Sunday 9:00AM Service (Red)	M. Murphy	B. Rath's Group	Barbara Stone	D. Ohlander R. Ohlander B. Rath G. Veltri	MA. Murphy MI. Murphy	The Murphy Family
Sun, June 15, 2025 The Holy Trinity 9:00AM Service (White) FATHER'S DAY 2x4 SUNDAY	N/A	E. Colton/L.A. Munnich's Group	Hans Vogel	J. Eastlund J. Eastlund J. Fitzgerald	J. Gross C. Sparke	Volunteers Needed!
Sun, June 22, 2025 2nd Sunday After Pentecost 9:00AM Service (Green)	N/A	D. Ohlander's Group	Barbara Stone	J. Fahey B. Henderson D. Ohlander R. Ohlander	R. Ahearn MA. Murphy	Volunteers Needed!
Sun, June 29, 2025 3rd Sunday After Pentecost 9:00AM Service (Green)	N/A	B. Rath's Group	Nancy Pisani	R. Ahearn J. Gross H. Vogel	J. Gross MI. Murphy	Volunteers Needed!
Sun, July 6, 2025 4th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00AM Service (Green)	N/A	E. Colton/L.A. Munnich's Group	Hans Vogel	D. Ohlander R. Ohlander B. Rath G. Veltri	R. Ahearn C. Sparke	Volunteers Needed!

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>First Communion Day</p> <p>9am - Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10am - TOPS: Rm. 10</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10am - Thrift Shop Saturday 6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>9am - Worship 10:30am - Centennial Rm.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Church Unavailable (CNS) 7pm - Council Meeting 8pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Church Unavailable (CNS) 1pm - WELCA Luncheon @ 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Church Unavailable (CNS) 10am - TOPS: Rm. 10</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Flag Day 6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Father's Day 2x4 Sunday</p> <p>9am - Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Church Unavailable (CNS) Spire Submission Deadline 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Church Offices Closed 10am - TOPS: Rm. 10</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9am - Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am - Spire Mailing 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10am - Health Screenings @ 10am - TOPS: Rm. 10</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9am - Thrift Shop @ Room 10 7pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:45pm - AA: Rm. 10 8:15pm - AA: Rm. 10</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9am - Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>

Nursery School News: June 2025



May was an amazing month here at the nursery school. The weather has been warming up and the children are enjoying all their time outside! They love exploring nature and admiring all the new flowers blooming, birds chirping and the beautiful nature all around them.

The children loved showering their special ladies with wonderful Mother's Day gifts that they made with love. All the children brought home flowers, handmade cards and gifts from the heart to show their Moms how much they love and appreciate them. The four-year-old classes enjoyed a special day of "Muffins with Mom," where the children had the opportunity to serve their moms, take lots of pictures with our Mother's Day Banner and entertain them with some songs.

We ended the month with a "Red, White and Blue Bash" before Memorial Day! All the children dressed in red white and blue and enjoyed a picnic on school grounds where they had special red and blue ices!

The children in the nursery school have just released their butterflies! The children in each class enjoyed visiting the cups and watched with amazement as each day the caterpillars grew larger; than transformed into a chrysalis and emerged as beautiful butterflies. The four-year-old class not only watched the miracle of caterpillars to butterflies but they also enjoyed raising ladybugs! While we watched this transformation take place, we also filled our classrooms with beautiful ladybug, caterpillar and butterfly crafts.

Our four-year-old classes are excited to participate in field day. This is our fourth year doing field day. It is always a big hit enjoyed both by the children and staff! The children love making tie dye shirts and showing them off on field day. Field day will take place on May 20th.

It feels like just yesterday the children were entering the building for the first day of school and now we are preparing for the last! The last day for our two-year-old program will be on June 4th, 5th and 6th. The children in our three-year-old program will have their moving up ceremony on June 10th, 11th and 12th. And last but not least, the children in the four-year-old program will have their graduation ceremony on June 18th.

Summer Program

There are a few spots available in our summer program. Please visit the website <https://www.ChristianNurserySchoolWantagh.org> for all the information and forms that are needed to register.

September Enrollment

We have limited space in our classes for September. Feel free to call the Nursery School office at 516-679-8425 or email us at CNSDirector@clcwantagh.org for more information or to set up a tour.

We look forward to hearing from you!!

Christ Lutheran Church

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

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CONTAINS TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

June 2025

Please note: If you would not like to receive this mailing or would prefer to receive it electronically, please contact the Church office.

Coming in June...

June 1st: First Communion Day (During Worship Service)

June 7th: Thrift Shop Saturday, 10AM-2PM

June 8th: Pentecost Sunday; Centennial Meeting, 10:30AM, Room 2000

June 10th-12th: Church Unavailable (CNS)

June 10th: Council Meeting, 7PM, Room 2000

June 11th: WELCA Luncheon, 1PM, Villa D'Aqua

June 14th: Flag Day

June 15th: Father's Day 2x4 Sunday

June 18th: Church Unavailable (CNS); Spire Submission Deadline

June 19th: Church Office Closed

June 25th: Spire Mailing, 9:30AM, Library

June 26th: Health Screenings, 10AM-2PM, St. Frances R.C. Church, Wantagh

