



Christ Lutheran Church
The Reverend Susan F. Sprowls, *Interim Pastor*
Church Office: (516) 221-3286
Email: church@clcwantagh.org
Website: www.CLCWantagh.org

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2025

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AND CANDLE LIGHTING
5:30PM & 8:00PM

WELCOME!

It is an honor to have you here for worship. We hope you will feel safe and comfortable in this holy house. A few notes to help you along the way:

- Most of what you will need is printed in this bulletin.
- *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) is the source for hymns which are listed by number in the upper right- or left-hand corner of the page.

PROVIDING FOR THE YOUNGEST SAINTS

Children learn to worship by participating in the liturgy. The worship of the whole community is enhanced by their involvement. Should your little one need a break, please feel free to move about, to step out for a moment, or to make use of the prayer-ground as may be helpful.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

All are welcome to receive the Sacrament. You may commune in either or both elements of bread and wine. The ushers will direct you forward via the center aisle. You have options!

- You may take an empty cup from a tray and hold onto it. You will then be given the bread to consume before approaching a minister who will fill your cup from a pouring chalice. After consuming the wine, please place the cup in the receptacle as you return to your place.
- You may bypass the small cup, receive the bread, then dip it into the chalice before consuming it.
- If you prefer not to receive the Sacrament, please cross your arms before your chest and you will be offered a blessing.

A star () invites you to stand as you are able.*

CAROLS IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

- ELW #290: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
- ELW #279: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM
- ELW #300: THE FIRST NOEL

* GATHERING HYMN #283: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

* GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, be with you all.
People And also with you.

Pastor Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept for reflection.

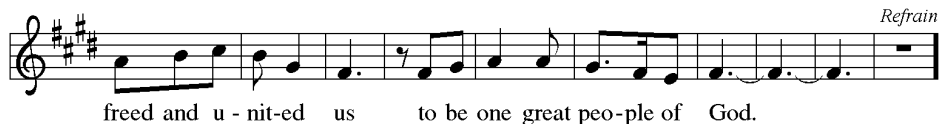
Pastor Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE: NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION (HAUGEN)

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96

*The congregation is invited to read the text in **bold** type.*

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

Proclaim God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!

The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming,
O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.

You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

MEDITATION: HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING BY MENDELSSOHN (BELLS)

THE SECOND LESSON: TITUS 2:11-14

Lector A reading from Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: CELTIC ALLELUIA



* THE GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-14 [15-20]

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: "to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,

who is the Messiah, the Lord. "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" [When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

Pastor The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Silence for reflection follows the homily.

*** HYMN OF THE DAY #289: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**

*** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition concludes, "Hear us, O God..." to which the people are invited to respond, "Your mercy is great."

Pastor With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People Amen.

THE MEAL

*** THE PEACE**

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OFFERTORY: ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT, ARR. RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
(CHOIR)**

*** OFFERTORY HYMN: GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE**



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*** OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Deacon God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

People Amen.

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*** SANCTUS**

The musical score for the Sanctus hymn is written on a single staff in treble clef. It begins with a 6/8 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score includes a repeat sign with the word 'All' above it. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes, who Bless - ed is he who comes in the name, comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.' The score ends with a double bar line.

All

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the One who comes, who
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name,
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*** THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Pastor Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life... In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the

remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

People Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

People Come, Holy Spirit.

Pastor All praise and glory are yours, Holy One, Word of God incarnate
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



* THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

*** LAMB OF GOD**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

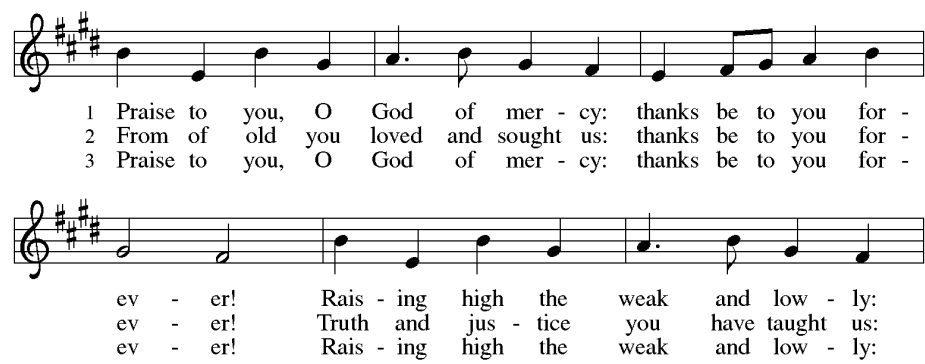
COMMUNION MEDITATIONS

- ELW #272: LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING
- O HOLY NIGHT/IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (INSTRUMENTAL MEDLEY)
- DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR? BY REGNEY AND SHAYNE


*** POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**


Pastor May this, the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you ever in his grace.
People Amen.

*** SONG AFTER COMMUNION: PRAISE TO YOU, O GOD OF MERCY**




1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

3rd time to Coda  1 2




thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -




Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -



mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us. *to stanza 3*

 Coda



ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Deacon Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

People Amen.

* CANDLE LIGHTING

Lector A reading from the Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

*** HYMN #281: SILENT NIGHT**

- 1 Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*** BLESSING**

Pastor *The blessing is pronounced.*

People Amen.

*** SENDING HYMN #267: JOY TO THE WORLD**

*** DISMISSAL**

Deacon **Glory to God in the highest!**

People And peace to God's people on earth!

Deacon Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

People Thanks be to God!

The Nativity of our Lord: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025

Welcome, Visitors!

Please introduce yourself and sign the guest book on the desk in the Sanctuary.

Serving Tonight

Presider: The Reverend Susan F. Sprowls

Lector: Roxanne Toomey

Director of Music: Nicole Nicholson

Organist: Kamelija Galijan-Curry

5:30PM Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: All Groups

Communion Assistant: Kirsten Duprez

Ushers: John Gross and Craig Sparke

8:00PM Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: All Groups

Communion Assistant: Barbara Stone

Ushers: Jim and Emma Bloomfield

We are especially thankful for **all our talented music ministry members**.
You truly make the Christmas season magical!

Weekly Announcements

Are you an active member? The ELCA defines active members as those who commune and make a financial contribution *of record* during the calendar year. We encourage all church members in attendance tonight to fill out the Communion card enclosed in your bulletin. Extras may be found in the pews. Please place completed cards in the offering plate.

Thank you to all who sent warm wishes for our congregational Christmas card. Proceeds from this year's card benefit families affiliated with CLC who are experiencing times of special need.

Please note that the church office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Christmas Day. The Thrift Shop will be closed on Friday, December 26th.

Volunteers are encouraged to help deliver **poinsettias and ornaments** to shut-ins. Please see the bulletin insert for details. Deliveries may start **after the 8:00PM service**. There is a sign-up sheet in the library.

St. John's Food Pantry

As SNAP and other benefits are being reduced or rescinded, donations of food and personal care items are needed now more than ever. Please place donations in the box in Room 2000. Needed items include beef/chicken stew, canned chicken, cooking oil, coffee, corned beef hash, noodles, hot cereal, hot chocolate, ketchup, mustard, pancake mix & syrup, toilet paper, peanut butter & jelly, salad dressing, birthday cake items, shelf-stable milk, facial tissue, paper towels, shampoo, toothpaste, and feminine hygiene items. *Please check the expiration dates before donating.*

The 2026 Annual Meeting

Save the date! The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held after 9AM worship service on **Sunday, January 25th**. Church committees and organizations should be in the process of completing their 2025 Annual Reports. Please speak with a Council member if you have any questions. Annual Reports **must** be submitted to the church office **by end of day (2:30PM) on Friday, January 16th**. 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 on decisions made here!*

2025 Christmas Flower Memorials

With Our Thanks to Borella Nursery of Nesconset

Christ Lutheran Church ♦ Wantagh, New York

The Poinsettias lovingly displayed in the sanctuary are given...

In Thanksgiving to God

- June & John Fahey
- Louise Kuchynskas
- Doris & Roger Ohlander

In Memory of Loved Ones

- *Our Parents and Grandparents by Kathleen & Fred Ackermann and Family*
- *Richard Gurniak, Norma Mantay, and Nathaniel Wynn by Gabrielle Balduf*
- *Ed & Ruth Bloomfield, Betty A. Nyholm, and Neal & Marion Nyholm by Pete & Dee Bloomfield and Family*
- *George & Margaret Bertram by Jim & Margaret Bloomfield and Family*
- *Mary & Joseph Boniello, Barbara & Ray Schenke, and Candi Villani by Linda & Jim Boniello*
- *Dennis Colton and Betty & Frank Meier by Eileen, Erin, and Meghan Colton*
- *Roland & Lillian Eastlund by John and Janice Eastlund*
- *Verna & Bill Carrier by The Engel Family*
- *Our Loved Ones by June & John Fahey*
- *Robert E. Freyer, Wilma & Martin Freyer, and Catherine & Jacob Moelius by Eleanor Freyer*
- *Bill & Eva Gilmor and George Klemm by BJ, Bill, and Billy Gilmor*
- *Our Parents and Grandparents by Brian, Colleen, Connor, Brian, and Cassidy Gilmor*
- *Albert Grenzrig by Emmy Grenzrig*
- *Emilie & Peter Geestmann and Caroline & John H. Gross by Claudia & John Gross*
- *Arnold & Hilda Howard, Carolyn Howard, and Walter & Elizabeth Matthes by Arnold Howard*
- *Our Parents by Ruth Kollar*
- *Lucille Clapper, Gunther Hesse, and Rev. Robert E. Nale by Pr. Martin & Heidi Nale*
- *Lynn (Geestmann) & Robert Cerra by Jennifer, Craig, and Hannah Proce*
- *Robert Rath, Grandparents, and All Other Loved Ones by The Rath Family*
- *Warren & Roberta Sparke by their Children, Grandchildren, & Great Grandson*
- *Robert E. Freyer, Catherine Moelius, and Jacob H. Moelius, Jr. by Jacob, Ryan, and Angelina Steinmetz*
- *Otto & Myrna Roepke by Barbara & Roy Stone*
- *Members of the Wilcox, Wisotzke, and Chillemi Families by Roxanne Toomey*

“We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son.” - John 1:14



We Remember Those on the Prayer List

Judy Angeloch, Kathleen Cardone, Becky Carlson, Regina Coons, Sal and Sue Costanzo, Alison Daurio, Joan Drake, Kelly Dempsey, Lynn Deere, Logan Dunne, Betty Gibberman, Bill Gilmor, Emmy Grenzig, Barbara Grieser, Theresa Heenan, Arnold Howard, Ruth Kollar, Susan & George Kremer, Jean Leib, Chris Mantay, Mary Ellen Massaro, Janet and William McShea, Marilyn Miller, Lilly Ann Munnich, John Nittoli, James Pallas, Joy Polet, Barbara and Gary Proce, Catherine, Terri and Della Rao, John Reardon, Emmett and Rose Reilly, Ann and Barbara Reimer, Della Dorn Rice, Bob Rimbo, Kay Riese, Anne Scheirer, Joseph Arthur Skorupski, Donna Smith, Natalie Stone, James Toomey, Nancy Valenti, Laura Vogel. To update a name on the prayer list, please contact the church office.

Congregation Council

The Reverend Susan F. Sprowls, *Interim Pastor*

Matt Murphy, *President* • Kirsten Duprez, *Vice President*

Claudia Gross, *Secretary* • Robert Ahearn • George Balduf

Regina Coons • Jeri Hallgren • Roxanne Toomey