



# The Spire

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

## January 2026

Dear Friends,

As we wrap up the Christmas season and head into a new year,  
please look to the words below to guide you.

**I Will Light the Candles This Christmas**  
From “The Mood of Christmas...” —by Howard Thurman

I will light the candles this Christmas,  
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all year long.

# THE 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

**Save the date!** The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held after 9AM worship service on **Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**. Church committees and organizations are encouraged to begin compiling their 2025 Annual Reports **now**. Please speak with a Council member if you have any questions. Annual Reports **must** be submitted to the Church office by **Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**. Reports are required from the following:

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

In order to hold the Annual Meeting, a minimum of **ten percent** of the Church membership must be in attendance. Christian Ed. classes will not be held on this day. Please do all you can to be available. *The future of Christ Lutheran depends upon decisions made here!* This constitutes the **third official notice of the 2026 Annual Meeting**.

## PARISH REGISTER MEMORIALS

### General Memorial

In Memory of: **Doris Gannon**

*Given by: Claudia & John Gross*

In Memory of: **Judy Coleman Gifford**

*Given by: Claudia & John Gross*

### Sanctuary Memorial

In Memory of: Doris Gannon

*Given by: Lilly Ann Munnich*

In Memory of: Doris Gannon

*Given by: Barbara & Roy Stone*

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## GOOD NEWS & BLESSINGS

### January Birthdays

6: Jennifer Vizina

7: Ann Reimer

11: Barbara Rath

11: Alisa, Jayme, and Valerie Batcher

13: Sarah Ann Gephardt

23: Carole Padula

29: Elizabeth McGuinness



### January Anniversaries

9: Cheryl and Eric Feder

11: Doris and Roger Ohlander

**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

- **Council Members Needed!** The Church Council is looking for new members to serve beginning in 2026. No leadership experience is needed. Members must be available for monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 7PM. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Kirsten Duprez or any other current member of Council.
- **Condo Raffle:** Congratulations to this year's condo raffle winner, **Pat Healy!** Thank you again to **Hans & Laura Vogel** for donating this exciting prize.

**THE SPIRE • JANUARY 2026 • VOLUME 728 • A PUBLICATION OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



- **Congregational Christmas Card:** Thank you to all who sent in warm Christmas wishes for our congregation! Proceeds from this year's Christmas card will benefit CLC and Nursery School families in need.
- **2026 Coffee Hour:** There are **many open Sundays** available to host! We encourage you to consider hosting. As we all benefit from the fellowship Coffee Hour provides, we also benefit from lending a helping hand. Please see Jan Eastlund to volunteer.
- **Congratulations!** CLC applauds our very own Director of Music, Nicole Nicholson, on the publication of her children's book, *The Adventures of Marco: A Cat's Tale*. The best part? This story comes alive with music! Scan the QR codes throughout the book to hear special soundtracks—fluttering wings, cheerful whistles, and joyful melodies that bring Marco's world right off the page. To order a copy, visit [shopbooksdirect.com](http://shopbooksdirect.com) or Amazon, and type in *The Adventures of Marco* by Nicole Nicholson.

## CLC Youth News

- **Boy Scout Sunday** will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup>. We are grateful to all of our Scouting families for all they do!

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- As a part of the interim ministry process, CLC's constitution is in the process of being updated. The Church office will be distributing an electronic copy of the revised version via email no later than December 26<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to review it and submit your comments and concerns ahead of the annual meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>.
- As a part of our centennial celebrations, CLC will be distributing a special 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary ornament this Christmas. Due to a limited supply, distribution will be limited to one ornament per family during the Christmas Eve worship services. Shut-ins will also receive an ornament with their Christmas flowers.
- Volunteers are welcome to serve on the 2026 Church Council. If interested, please see Kirsten Duprez.
- Volunteers are also needed to deliver poinsettias and ornaments to our shut-ins, beginning after the 8PM service on Christmas Eve. See Kirsten or Della if you can lend a hand.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- On December 21<sup>st</sup>, our Sunday School students participated in a Nativity show and sing-along for the congregation. Thank you to all of the children who participated, and to Maddie Murphy for her talents as narrator!

- Please note that Christian Education classes **will not meet** on January 25<sup>th</sup> for the Annual Meeting.

## THRIFT SHOP

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

Please note that the Thrift Shop will be **closed on Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>** in observance of the New Year.

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, car seats, 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!

## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

**Homebound Communion:** Did you know that we offer Communion for the homebound? 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.

**Mr. Mittens:** Thank you to everyone who participated in this special collection for the pediatric patients at Nassau University Medical Center.

**Seafarers:** Thank you to all who contributed to the Seafarers Christmas at Sea care satchels. A total of 119 satchels were donated. We also thank our friends at LuHi and the Pioneers for their generosity and hard work in this joint project.

## THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Our congregation's contribution to the annual Christmas at Sea Program was a great success. We received enough donations to put together 119+ satchels (containing hoodie sweatshirts, t-shirts, socks, scarves, knit hats, snacks, and personal Christmas greetings) to give to Rev. Marsh Luther Drege, Executive Director of Seafarers International House (SIH). The SUV he drove from SIH got stuffed to the gunwales. The satchels are a way for Pastor Drege to introduce the seamen to his ministry when he distributes them onboard the ships during the holidays. This project is one of the many ways the Seafarers' International House, a Lutheran ministry, supports visiting seamen who spend long periods away from home. We would like to thank Thrivent for the seed money to this Action Team project.



The congregation of CLC was generous in their support with their donations of cash and goods. In addition, the Pioneers, a charitable organization of phone company retirees (one of whom is a CLC member), contributed and assembled numerous satchels for us. Students at LuHi also assembled a significant number of satchels. The women of WELCA also participated. We would like to thank everybody involved.

## WELCA

In the past, WELCA did not plan for a meeting in January because of the risk of snow or bad weather. After the recent snowstorm and frigid weather, it has been decided that we would postpone the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and hold our luncheon later in the year, so stay cozy and safe.

We anticipate that at one of the next meetings we will work on the personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Please keep your eyes open for sales on dark-colored bath towels or bath-size (4-5 oz.) bars of soap. We are also looking for adult toothbrushes, combs, and nail clippers. In the meantime, have a joyful and healthy new year.

## 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.

## CLC CENTENNIAL

The Centennial Celebration continues! The Centennial Committee designed and purchased an ornament commemorating our 100 years of service and faith. These ornaments were given to each church family who attended one of the Christmas Eve services. We hope that these ornaments adorned your Christmas trees and brought back Church memories that were shared with your families. Upcoming events for 2026 are in the planning stages. If you have a suggestion, please see Claudia Gross, Kirsten Duprez, Barbara Stone or call the Church office.

It is time to start going through your favorite recipes! Plans are in progress to make a 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recipe Book. Word has it that a member found an "older" recipe book from many, many years past. We hope to share some of their favorites. Thank you for being a part of our church community!

## CLC HISTORY



Pictured above are members and friends who attended the Thanksgiving Eve prayer service at St. John of Jerusalem Chapel. This chapel is where our congregation held its first worship service on Thanksgiving Day, 1926.

## THANK YOU TO...

Dear Friends at Christ Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for the poinsettia you gave me after the December 28<sup>th</sup> service. It adds beauty to the house. And a very big thank-you to Gabby Balduf for delivering it!

- Dee Bloomfield



## PRAYER LIST

*We Remember Especially...*

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, 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.*



## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026 LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Date/Description	Altar Guild	Comm. Assistant	Counters	Ushers	C.H. Hosts
<b>Sun, January 4, 2026</b> <b>The Epiphany of Our Lord</b> <b>9:00AM Service (White)</b>	<b>E. Colton/I.A.</b> <b>Munnich's</b> <b>Group</b>	<b>Dee Bloomfield</b>	<b>R. Ahearn</b> <b>J. Gross</b> <b>C. Sparke</b>	<b>J. Gross</b> <b>C. Sparke</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Sun, January 11, 2026</b> <b>The Baptism of Our Lord</b> <b>9:00AM Service (White)</b>	<b>D. Ohlander's</b> <b>Group</b>	<b>Elaine DiChiara</b>	<b>D. Ohlander</b> <b>R. Ohlander</b> <b>B. Rath</b> <b>G. Veltri</b>	<b>R. Ahearn</b> <b>J. Gross</b>	<b>The Schmitt</b> <b>Family</b>
<b>Sun, January 18, 2026</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany</b> <b>9:00AM Service (Green)</b>	<b>B. Rath's Group</b>	<b>Elaine DiChiara</b>	<b>J. Eastlund</b> <b>J. Eastlund</b> <b>H. Vogel</b>	<b>R. Ahearn</b> <b>C. Sparke</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Sun, January 25, 2026</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday After Epiphany</b> <b>9:00AM Service (Green)</b> <b>2026 ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>E. Colton/I.A.</b> <b>Munnich's</b> <b>Group</b>	<b>Hans Vogel</b>	<b>J. Fahey</b> <b>B. Henderson</b> <b>D. Ohlander</b> <b>R. Ohlander</b>	<b>J. Gross</b> <b>C. Sparke</b>	<b>Council</b>
<b>Sun, February 1, 2026</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany</b> <b>9:00AM Service (Green)</b>	<b>D. Ohlander's</b> <b>Group</b>	<b>Barbara Stone</b>	<b>R. Ahearn</b> <b>J. Gross</b> <b>H. Vogel</b>	<b>J. Gross</b> <b>M. Murphy</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>Sun, February 8, 2026</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany</b> <b>9:00AM Service (Green)</b> <b>BOY SCOUT SUNDAY</b>	<b>B. Rath's Group</b>	<b>Dee Bloomfield</b>	<b>D. Ohlander</b> <b>R. Ohlander</b> <b>B. Rath</b> <b>G. Veltri</b>	<b>R. Ahearn</b> <b>C. Sparke</b>	<b>Scouts</b>
<b>Sun, February 15, 2026</b> <b>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> <b>9:00AM Service (White)</b>	<b>E. Colton/I.A.</b> <b>Munnich's</b> <b>Group</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>J. Eastlund</b> <b>J. Eastlund</b> <b>H. Vogel</b>	<b>M. Murphy</b> <b>C. Sparke</b>	<b>Open</b>

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.

Christ Lutheran Church Wantagh

Jan 2026 (Eastern Time - New York)

# Nursery School News: January 2026



Our little elves were very busy at school this month. In the pre-nursery program, they filled Santa's workshop with a variety of projects. Handprint wreaths and Christmas trees adorned our walls. They created beautiful Christmas crafts for their homes and made ornaments as gifts for their loved ones to treasure for years to come. They finished off 2025 with a big Christmas party with lots of sweet treats and Christmas music.

The nursery children were equally busy this month filling our walls with all things Christmas. They made ornaments to take home, Christmas gifts for their families, as well as many other crafts that brighten up their classrooms and the walls of their homes. Of course, their party was a blast as well with lots of goodies, games and laughter. They performed an amazing sing along in the church for their family and friends as well.

As the children get older, the things they can do increase. The children in the four-year-old program were super busy learning the true meaning of Christmas as well as making lots of fun Christmas decorations. In the four-year-old class, we made a Christmas countdown, Santa, a Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer hat, ornaments that decorated our classroom, invites to our pageant, and many other Christmas-themed projects. Each child invited a special guest to school to help them build a gingerbread house. Everyone enjoyed some Christmas music and treats while they worked together building the yummiest houses you ever did see. The best part of our December traditions in the four-year-old classroom is the Christmas Pageant. The children put on a beautiful pageant in the church that was Broadway worthy. We couldn't be prouder of them! They were amazing!

All the children loved our special visitor that came straight from the North Pole! Santa took some time out of his very busy schedule to wish the children here a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! Mrs. Claus was busy looking over the elves, but made sure to send Santa in with some candy cane gifts and magical reindeer food for all!

## Come Join Our School Family... Registration Begins Soon!

Registration for the 2026-2027 school year starts Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> for in-house families and Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> for those not yet attending. Please tell all your friends and neighbors what a wonderful nursery school program we have here at The Christian Nursery School. They can schedule a tour by contacting me at 516-679-8425 or emailing me at [cnsdirector@clcwantagh.org](mailto:cnsdirector@clcwantagh.org). All information is on our website at [clcwantagh.org/cns](http://clcwantagh.org/cns).

**We Wish Everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!**

**Christ Lutheran Church**

3384 Island Road

Wantagh, NY 11793

Church (516) 221-3286

Nursery School (516) 679-8425

[www.CLCWantagh.org](http://www.CLCWantagh.org)

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## January 2026

If you do not wish to receive this mailing,

Please return this sheet to the address above.

## Coming in January...

January 1<sup>st</sup>: Church Office Closed ~ Happy New Year!

January 2<sup>nd</sup>~3<sup>rd</sup>: Thrift Shop Closed

January 10<sup>th</sup>: Thrift Shop Saturday, 10AM~2PM

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

January 16<sup>th</sup>: Annual Reports Due

January 19<sup>th</sup>: Church Office Closed ~ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 21<sup>st</sup>: Spire Submission Deadline

January 25<sup>th</sup>: 2026 Annual Meeting, After Worship Service

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

