

The Spire

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

September 2025

From the Pastor

People were bringing even infants to (Jesus) that he might touch them, and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 17 Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ~ Luke 18:15-17 (NRSVue)

In my sermon on Sunday, August 31, I pondered how we are to demonstrate a hospitality in worship that declares, "This church of ours is open to all. There will be no outcasts." (The Most Rev. Edmond L. Browning, of blessed memory, the 24th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church) St. Luke was particularly adept at helping to demonstrate the manner in which Jesus turned the world upside down, exalting the humble and humbling those in positions of power. That has prompted the folks who plan Worship & Music and lead Christian Education to engage in conversation about how God is calling this community of faith to participate in God's upending of the world's ways.

Among those who are not always welcome in worship are the youngest members of the Body of Christ. So, beginning on Rally Day (aka Homecoming aka Kick-Off) you'll see small but significant changes in the ways in which children are invited into worship at Christ Lutheran Church. You'll see children participating in leadership roles more frequently than in the past. Expect to be delighted when children greet you at the door, provide you with bulletins, read the lessons, and lead the congregation in song.

There will be occasional children's sermons and kids will be offered "church bags" filled with activities related to the lessons of the day. Most notably, you'll see that one rear corner of the sanctuary is being transformed into a "pray-ground" - an area where children can sit together, wiggle, giggle, and participate in the liturgy in age-appropriate ways.

Children learn by doing. The worship of the whole community is enhanced by their participation. Worship is the "pray-ground" where we all learn to live out our calling as the baptized people of God. Let us help the children to do so, knowing that when we foster their growth in faith, ours is sure to grow as well.

Rally Day Highlights

On Sunday, September 7, Christ Lutheran Church will welcome everyone back from summer break with spirited worship, a lavish coffee hour, and outdoor activities for children and youth (and the young at heart).

- The Adult and Bell Choirs will be back!
- We'll be blessing backpacks and briefcases as students head back to school and working folks get back into the fall routine.
- Children will be actively involved in worship, enjoy a sermon just for them (but adults can listen in), explore the new pray-ground, lead the congregation in song, and enjoy fun, games, and goodie bags after worship.


We are blessed by God that we may be blessings to others. Let us lift up one another so that we may be strengthened for our journey in faith.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

"No Day Shall Erase You From the Memory of Time."

-Virgil

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."



PARISH REGISTER MEMORIALS

General Memorial

In Memory of: **Rev. Ronald Klose**

Given by: Jan and John Eastlund

In Memory of: **Thitiporn Pollock**

Given by: Jan and John Eastlund

In Memory of: **Liz Wagner**

Given by: Jan and John Eastlund

In Honor of: **Lilly Ann Munnich**

Given by: Claudia & John Gross

In Memory of: **Jeffrey Stad**

Given by: Claudia & John Gross

In Memory of: **Liz Wagner**

Given by: Claudia & John Gross

Property Improvement & Maintenance

In Memory of: **Thitiporn Pollock**

Given by: Jeri Hallgren

In Memory of: **Liz Wagner**

Given by: Roger & Doris Ohlander

In Memory of: **Rev. Ronald Klose**

Given by: Barbara Rath

In Memory of: **Thitiporn Pollock**

Given by: Barbara Rath

In Memory of: **Liz Wagner**

Given by: Barbara Rath

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GOOD NEWS & BLESSINGS

September Birthdays

2: Kaley Ann Bloomfield

6: Michael Murphy

7: Carina Corrison

7: Kristoffer Kuchynskas

7: James Ackermann

13: Samantha Scibelli

16: Michael Soethout

17: Grace Ackermann

23: Doris Ohlander

28: Lisa Soethout

28: John Reardon

30: Jan Eastlund

September Anniversaries

4: Amy and Kristoffer Kuchynskas

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

- **Rally Day: Save the Date!** Rally Day will be held on September 7th. A back-to-school/work backpack and suitcase blessing will be held during the service. Weather permitting, family-friendly activities will be held on the church lawn for all to enjoy. Help us to kick off a new church year!
- **2025-2026 Coffee Hour:** The 2025-2026 coffee hour sign-up sheet is now available. If you would like to volunteer, please speak with Jan Eastlund.
- **Blessing of the Animals:** To celebrate the feast of St. Francis, CLC will have a blessing of the animals on **Saturday, October 4th at noon** on the church lawn. All are invited to bring their pets!
- **Save the Dates!** The **2025 Country Fair** will be held on Friday, October 24th and Saturday, October 25th in **Room 10, Room 2000, and on the church lawn (weather permitting)**. More information can be found on the flyer included in your Spire. If you would like to volunteer, please see the volunteer form also included in your Spire, or call Barbara Rath at 516-318-9275.

CLC Youth News

- **Scouts:** Join Scouting America! The Scouts of Cub Scout Pack #191 and BSA Troops 656 and 656-G will be giving a fun presentation on the church lawn after Rally Day worship service. Any families interested in

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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

joining scouting are invited to participate. If you would like more information, please speak with Dee or Jim Bloomfield.

- **Nursery School:** The 2025-2026 school year begins the week of Sunday, September 7th. We gently remind church volunteers to follow security protocols by not leaving doors open or unlocked, or entering the school wing of Steinbicker Hall while classes are in session. We wish all students and staff a successful year!
- **Youth Choir:** The youth choir will have its first performance of the year during worship service on Rally Day. If your child would like to join, please speak with Nicole Nicholson. All children are welcome!
- **Prayground:** On Rally Day, a new “prayground” will be unveiled in the Sanctuary. This will be a special, child-friendly area open for use to all young families attending worship services. Goodie bags and activity sheets based on each Sunday’s gospel will also be available for their use.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

General Worship Updates

- **Welcoming Children in Worship:** W&M is working on projects to help make worship at CLC more welcoming for children. These include young people's choir, children's sermons, church bags, and the creation of a pray-ground where children can worship using appropriate materials.
- **Livestream:** Most churches have discontinued livestreaming as it discourages members from coming to worship in person. The video upload quality of the church’s Sunday recordings are also very poor, as Facebook records at a low resolution. Worship & Music will need to continue if the church should revert back to recording a video on the iPad (or investing in better equipment), and then uploading the recording to YouTube on the next business day.

Nursery Updates

- **Name Change:** The Nursery School Advisory Board has been entertaining possible new names (preference given to Wantagh Preschool if allowed by law) and a new logo for the school.
- **Flooring:** Vinyl flooring will be installed in the school hallways and remaining classrooms, and the Steinbicker stairwells ahead of the new school year.
- Families will be invited to join the congregation on Rally Day.

Christian Education Updates

- The first day of Christian Education will be September 14th, so that children can be fully involved in the Rally Day celebrations.

Outreach Updates

- **Coffee Hour:** Ruth Kollar’s 101st birthday was celebrated on August 3rd. Thank you to the Eastlund’s and the Gross’s for hosting. For Bishop Foster’s visit on August 10th, lemonade and cookies were served after worship service in lieu of a full coffee hour. A special photo-op was held with the oldest member of the congregation, Ruth, and the youngest member, nine-day-old Luna Ryder Fogal-Lane.

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 September 6th.**

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!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Welcome to a new school year! We are excited to welcome our students back and to have them involved in worship. All families are encouraged to attend worship service on Rally Day. Our youth choir will perform, and there will be plenty of activities for the children to participate in after service. Classes will officially begin the following Sunday, September 14th. Sunday School will meet downstairs at 9AM, and Confirmation class will meet in the Church office at 10:30AM. As always, registration is open and free! For more information, please speak with Della Rao.

ST. JOHN’S FOOD PANTRY

Please place donations in the bin in the hallway adjacent to the library. Needed items include beef/chicken stew, canned chicken, cooking oil, coffee, conditioner, corned beef hash, elbow noodles, facial tissue, hot cereal, hot chocolate, ketchup, mustard, pancake mix & syrup, paper towels, peanut butter & jelly, salad dressing, and toothpaste. *Please check the expiration dates before donating.*

THRIVENT

Last year, we were blessed to have volunteers from the New Vision Pioneers, Paumanak Chapter # 85, Sagamore Club support our efforts in supplying personal care kits to Lutheran World Relief to help victims of natural disasters and political upheaval in the US and around the world. The Pioneers are a group of retired phone company workers who do a variety of service projects during the year. This year, they are preparing to make Christmas at Sea satchels to augment Christ Lutheran’s annual Seafarers project. We are asking for donations of **men’s large or extra-large hoodies, thermal or sports socks, knit hats or scarves (no fringe or pom-poms), and cans of nuts or large chocolate bars** to help these essential workers get through the holidays with some Christmas spirit. With the start of the school year, this may be a good time to find one or more of these items on sale. A box for the Seafarers will be placed in the loggia for any donations. Thank you to all who donate and to all the Pioneers for their work.

The summer is winding down and the heat is lessening. However, the calendar is heating up. We are planning for the Country Fair on October 24th and 25th. We will be

looking for everyone to volunteer to do something to make it a success. One thing each family can do is find their favorite cookie recipe and get set to make them for our famous cookie walk. We look forward to including your yummy cookies in our cookie containers. Also, all sorts of help will be needed, (setting up, making or selling crafts or raffle items, jewelry, cookies, Christmas items, clean-up, etc.). If you can spare an hour or two or more, please contact Barbara Rath to sign up. The fair will benefit several worthy causes: Lutheran Disaster Relief, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, the U.S.O., and the Interfaith Nutrition Network (the INN) as well as the ministries of Christ Lutheran Church. One of the biggest benefits is the fun we have working together, so don't miss this opportunity.

Thrivent has been very generous in the past and provided some seed money to start up both of the projects above. We are planning to apply again this year.

WELCA

WELCA will have its first meeting of the year on Wednesday, September 3rd at 1PM. Much discussion will be had regarding plans for the upcoming Country Fair. As always, all ladies are welcome to attend. WELCA will also continue its tradition of hosting coffee hour on Rally Day this year. If you would like to make a contribution or help with hosting, please speak with Jan Eastlund or Claudia Gross.

Save the Date!

Wednesday, November 26, 2025

Our 100th Anniversary Celebration Kick-off



begins with a brief
Devotional Prayer Service
at 6 p.m.

St. John of Jerusalem Church
500 Wantagh Ave., Wantagh.

The celebration will continue with a
worship service at our Church
at 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome!

Refreshments to follow.

* If you cannot attend the Devotional Prayer Service, please join us for worship at 7:30 p.m.

*The 100th Anniversary will be a year-long celebration. Watch the Spire for more upcoming events.



PRAYER LIST

We Remember Especially...

Judy Angeloch, Rebecca Breckel, Kathleen Cardone, Becky Carlson, Danielle Chillemi, Regina Coons, Sal and Sue Costanzo, Joan Drake, Kelly Dempsey, Betty Gibberman, Bill Gilmor, Emmy Grenzig, Barbara Grieser, Theresa Heenan, Arnold Howard, Steven Koch, Ruth Kollar, Susan & George Kremer, Jean Leib, Chris Mantay, Janet and William McShea, Marilyn Miller, Lilly Ann Munnich, John Nittoli, Anne Palkovich, James Pallas, Tyler Phelan, 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, Nancy Valenti, Laura Vogel. *To update a name on the prayer list, please contact the church office.*

HELP WANTED!

THE 29TH ANNUAL
Country Fair

Volunteers are needed as we host one of our most successful fundraisers of the year. If you would like to lend a hand, please return this form to Barbara Rath by Sunday, October 19th, or give her a call at 516-318-9275. Men and women of all ages are welcome to volunteer. You can make the Fair a resounding success!

Yes! I would like to volunteer at the Fair by:

- Selling raffle tickets on Friday, October 24th
- Selling raffle tickets on Saturday, October 25th
- Staffing a table on Friday, October 24th
- Staffing a table on Saturday, October 25th
- Cleaning up on Saturday, October 25th at 3PM
- Donating an item or craft to be sold
- Other: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE 29TH ANNUAL


Country Fair

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25
9AM-3PM BOTH DAYS · RAIN OR SHINE!
3384 ISLAND ROAD, WANTAGH, NEW YORK

JOIN US FOR:

RAFFLE BASKETS FULL OF GREAT PRIZES
CHRISTMAS GIFTS, DÉCOR, & MORE
BOUTIQUE ACCESSORIES & COSTUME JEWELRY
REFRESHMENTS AT OUR CAFÉ
THE ANNUAL "COOKIE WALK" (SATURDAY ONLY)
THE ANNUAL "TOOL TIME" TABLE & SALE
DEALS & STEALS AT OUR THRIFT SHOP

**PLUS... ENTER OUR VACATION RAFFLE TO WIN
A 7-DAY CONDO STAY IN SUNNY ORLANDO!
ONLY 10 MINUTES AWAY FROM DISNEY WORLD!**

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WANTAGH, NEW YORK

IN ADDITION TO OUR MINISTRIES, PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT:

**The Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN) • Lutheran Disaster Relief
Tunnel to Towers Foundation • U.S.O. (United Service Organizations)**
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (516) 221-3286 OR EMAIL CHURCH@CLCWANTAGH.ORG

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025 LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Date/Description	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Comm. Assistant	Counters	Ushers	C.H. Hosts
Sun, September 7, 2025 13 th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00AM Service (Green) RALLY DAY	N/A	E. Colton/L.A. Munnich's Group	Nancy Pisani	J. Eastlund J. Eastlund J. Fitzgerald	J. Gross M. Murphy	WELCA
Sun, September 14, 2025 14 th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00AM Service (Green)	TBD	D. Ohlander's Group	Dee Bloomfield	J. Fahey B. Henderson D. Ohlander R. Ohlander	R. Ahearn C. Sparke	<u>Open</u>
Sun, September 21, 2025 15 th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00AM Service (Green)	TBD	B. Rath's Group	Hans Vogel	R. Ahearn J. Gross H. Vogel	M. Murphy Ml. Murphy	<u>Open</u>
Sun, September 28, 2025 16 th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00AM Service (Green)	TBD	E. Colton/L.A. Munnich's Group	Della Rao	D. Ohlander R. Ohlander B. Rath G. Veltri	R. Ahearn J. Gross	Music Ministry (Tentative)
Sun, October 5, 2025 17 th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00AM Service (Green)	TBD	D. Ohlander's Group	Barbara Stone	J. Eastlund J. Eastlund J. Fitzgerald	M. Murphy C. Sparke	<u>Open</u>

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
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Labor Day - Church Office	8pm - AA: Rm. 10	1pm - WELCA: 2000 4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	Church Office Closed 10am - TOPS: Rm. 10	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
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Rally Day 9am - Worship	7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	7pm - Council Meeting 8pm - AA: Rm. 10	4pm - Cub Scouts: Rm. 10 7pm - Bell Choir 8pm - Adult Choir	Patriot Day 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
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9am - Sunday School 9am - Worship	7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and 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	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9am - Sunday School 9am - Worship	7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and 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	
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
9am - Sunday School 9am - Worship	7pm - Scouts-Steinbicker and 8pm - AA: Rm. 10					

Nursery School News: September 2025



It's that time of year again, where the excitement of a brand-new school year with endless possibilities is buzzing in the air! The teachers and staff of the Nursery School are excited to begin the 2025-2026 school year!

On September 8th, the Nursery School will once again open the front doors to welcome the children back into the school building. The halls will be filled with smiling faces and children's laughter. There will be some old friends returning who we will be happy to see again and some new friends that will be just starting that we were eager to meet. On September 15th, our youngest friends will be joining us with the start of our two-year-old program.

There are some exciting changes happening to our building. We have updated the flooring in the hallways, the Sunday school classrooms, and the school library, and had the stair treads on both staircases in Steinbicker replaced. Now all the flooring matches throughout the classrooms into the hallways.

The Nursery School is still accepting applications for enrollment this year. There are limited spaces available. Please spread the word about our wonderful Nursery School. If anyone is interested in registration, please contact me as soon as possible. The Nursery School office phone number is 516-679-8425, you can also reach me by email at cnsdirector@clcwantagh.org. You can also check us out on Facebook at The Christian Nursery School at Christ Lutheran Church.

Christ Lutheran Church

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CONTAINS TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

September 2025

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

Coming in September...

September 1st: Labor Day, Church Office Closed

September 3rd: WELCA Meeting, 1PM, Room 2000

September 3rd: Choir Rehearsals Begin (7PM Bells, 8PM Adult)

September 4th: Church Office Closed for Renovations

September 6th: Thrift Shop Saturday, 10AM-2PM

September 7th: Rally Day

September 8th: Nursery School Classes Begin

September 9th: Council Meeting, 7PM, Room 2000

September 11th: Patriot Day

September 14th: Christian Education Begins

September 24th: Spire Mailing, 9:30AM, Library

