



The Spire

The Newsletter of
Christ Lutheran Church - Wantagh, NY
Web site: www.CLCWantagh.org
February 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we put the events of 2020 behind us, both good and bad, we look with anticipation to the new opportunities that we will have in 2021.

First, and foremost, we want to acknowledge the thirteen years of dedicated service that Elaine Diciara provided to our congregation as our administrative assistant. A few months ago, Elaine announced to the church council that it was her intention to retire at the end of the year. The pandemic caused many celebrations to be dramatically curtailed or eliminated entirely. This was the case with Elaine, who has not been able to join us on Sunday mornings since we began worshipping again in person in the sanctuary. Since Elaine was to become a grandmother in December, she felt it was important that she protect her daughter and her yet to be born granddaughter by not being at gatherings where a lot of people were present. For that reason, we were unable to celebrate her retirement in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning as we had done with Pastor Nale. We hope that we can have that celebration for both of these dedicated servants of Christ Lutheran Church in 2021. For now, we wish Elaine many happy years of retirement in this new chapter of her life. We are grateful for the many things that she has done to help keep our church running smoothly, and the kindness she always showed to everyone entering our church office.

Since Pastor Nale's retirement at the end of October, we have been able to have supply pastors preside at our worship services. With the help of Bishop Egensteiner, an interim pastor, John Krahn, was appointed to Christ Lutheran Church. The church council voted on December 14th to accept the Bishop's recommendation. Pr. Krahn began his time with us on January 11th.

Also starting in January was our new Church Business Administrator, Christian DeRuiter. This position is a new one for our church. It combines a lot of what Elaine Diciara's work was, combined with many duties that Pastor Nale took upon himself. We are adding many new responsibilities in order to grow our church and expand our presence on social media. Under this new arrangement, we hope to allow our next pastor to focus more on his/her liturgical work and leave the administrative work of the congregation with the Church Business Administrator. Throughout this year, we will constantly evaluate how things are progressing and where we might need to adjust things.

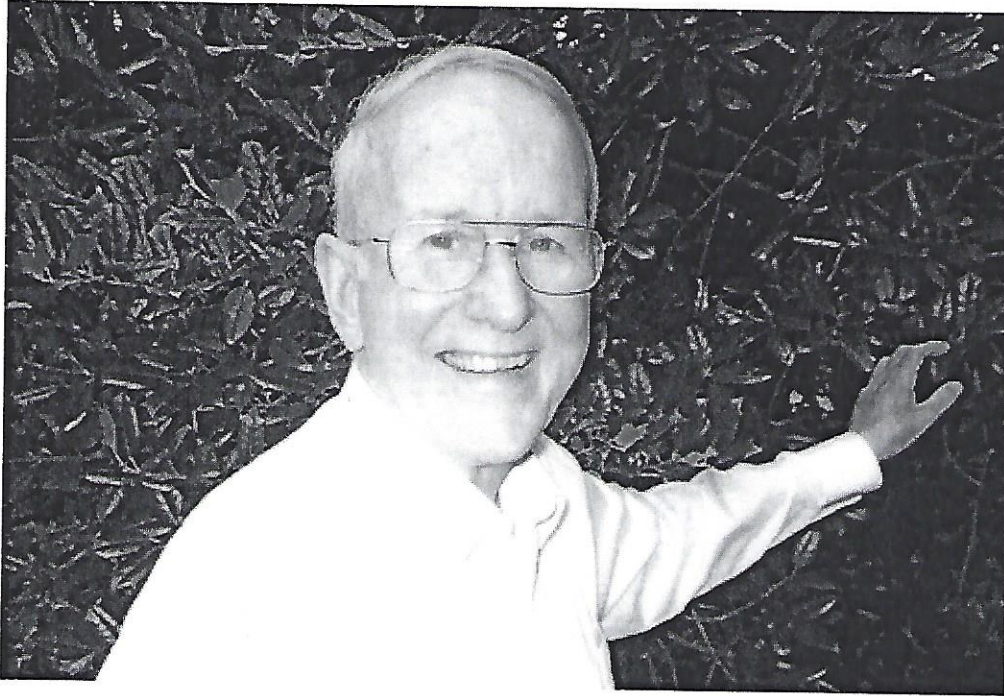
With the new year, we are also moving forward with the transition process with the establishment of a call committee. First, there is some preliminary work that must be initiated. The next few months promise to be busy ones. Please feel free to ask members of the Transition Task Force any questions or concerns that you might have about our future. We want to be able to be as transparent and available to the congregation as we can be.

Hans Vogel, on behalf of the Transition Task Force

Some New Faces at Christ Lutheran Church

If you were able to get to church in January, you may have seen some faces you didn't recognize. As a very brief introduction:

Meet Pastor John Krahn



Pastor Krahn took on the position of interim pastor of our church on January 11th, though he did conduct two services here after Pastor Nale retired. You can see these on our YouTube channel (Nov. 29, 2020 and Dec. 20, 2020) He will be leading our church until we find a permanent pastor. Although he has taken the position as part-time, he will be conducting services, making visits or placing calls to members in hospitals or shut-ins at home, and performing other pastoral duties. He will be involved with the confirmands and Christian Education.

He has a lot of experience in these areas, having served as an ordained pastor for nearly fifty years. He has served both larger and smaller congregations during his ministry. Pastor Krahn is currently a church consultant working with congregations that are struggling to survive.

A graduate of Concordia College New York, he has also earned three Master's degrees (Union Theological Seminary) and a Doctorate (New York Theological Seminary).

Though officially retired, he has served the Church as a parish consultant and continues to write books, the most recent of which are entitled "From Surviving to Thriving-A Practical Guide to Revitalize Your Church" and "Special Stories Along Life's Journey". His published works include poetry, plays, professional articles in education, opinion pieces, devotional writing, and sermons. He is also a much sought after speaker and seminar leader.

He grew up in Fork, MD (named after a fork in the road) but now lives in Dix Hills with his wife, Doris. They have two daughters and three grandchildren and enjoy both travel and tennis.

Please help him to feel welcome as he helps us to grow our faith and church.

Christian DeRuiter

Christian DeRuiter started his work in the new position of Church Business Administrator for Christ Lutheran on January 19, 2021.

He will be responsible for all business operations of the congregation and assist the Pastor. You will find him in the church office managing the operations of the church from Monday to Friday from 10-6. His technical skills will be put to good use in managing a data base of our members, prepare up-to-date directories, maintain our websites and coordinate and distribute our video ministry. He will manage the preparation and distribution of communications from church, including the Spire, bulletins, annual reports and others either by mail or electronically or both. He will also be responsible for working with vendors on various church projects or activities.

There will be a lot on his plate but he has had a lot of experience and training for these tasks. Christian comes to us after spending nearly nine years at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City as the Pastoral Events Coordinator, Assistant to Canon Pastor/Vicar and Columbarium Arrangements Secretary. He more recently worked for two years at Grace Church in Brooklyn Heights as Parish Administrator.

Christian studied history at Johns Hopkins University and has continued to study church administration and education for ministry. He is a member of the NYC Chapter of Church Administrators and is involved in the National Eagle Scout Association.

Please welcome Christian and introduce yourself to him and let him know about the activities you are involved with in the church. We will all need to work together to fulfill our mission especially in these trying times of the pandemic.

Parish Register MEMORIALS

General Memorial

In Memory of: Rory Dunne
Given by: Marcia L. McCarroll

In Memory of: Rory Dunne
Given by: Joyce E. Ott

Bell Memorial Fund

In Memory of: Fred Lorenzen
Given by: Cliff Verity

Prayer List

The following people are on our Prayer List. We remember them in our prayers ~

Jose Alves, Tom Anderson, Ellen Bacotti, Debbie Becker, James Cathcart, Kay Charon, Danielle Chillemi, Donna Chillemi, Ann Curtis, Marge Dahlberg, Mike Dauth, Joan Drake, Ann Fisher, Jerry Fitzgerald, Travis Gentile, Betty Gibberman, Barbara Grieser, Mary Lynn Kirby, Florence Kirch, Karen Klose, Elaine Lupo, Suzanne Marshall, Kathy McKinnon, Janet McShea, William McShea, James Pallas, Gary and Barbara Proce, Eunice Rischon, George & Marylou Steele, Natalie Stone, James Toomey, Saul Wein, Kathy Wicks, Jimmy

We ask that you please keep us updated and let us know of any changes. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list who is in need of prayers, please call the Church Office at 516-221-3286.

Good News & Blessings. . .

February Birthdays

2/5 Gabriella Grieser 20th
2/9 Martha Schlobohm
2/13 Sofia Marie Segur
2/15 Kaitlyn Kuchynskas
2/21 Steven Joseph Achatz
2/22 Betty Jane Callahan
2/27 Hannah Proce
2/28 Elianna Rose Feder 10th
2/28 Elise Sheridan (nee Henderson)

February Anniversaries

2/14 Ralph & Thitporn Pollock 34rd
2/16 Lisa & Michael Soethout 29th
2/28 Erika & Michael Harrington 12^h

Good News. . .

Many thanks to the volunteers who delivered the Poinsettias to our shut-ins, friends and members after the Christmas Day Service. It was very much appreciated!

CLC Youth

PLEASE NOTE:

Also, on Saturday, April- time TBA – stuff Easter eggs.

All children in the neighborhood are welcome to come to the Annual Easter Egg Hunt weather permitting to make it an outdoor event. Masks will be required.

If you have any news you would like to share, you may e-mail it to CLCWantagh.org or send it to the Church office - 3384 Island Rd., Wantagh, NY 11793 (516) 221-3286. You may also give it to Pastor. Thank you!

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

If any Thrivent Members or associate members wish to lead a Christian Action Team, please contact Jan Eastlund, Joan Drake or Pastor with any questions. Other members of the congregation or groups who wish to propose and work on a project can contact one of these people to see if they can establish a Christian Action Team.

As always, please remember to designate any "Choice Dollars" you may have. (You can help our congregation in a big way!) Eligible Thrivent members are designated Choice Dollars, based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars can be directed to our church or other enrolled organizations. It is easy to make your designation:

1. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or
2. Call 800-Thrivent (800-847-4836) and say "Thrivent Choice"

REMINDER

Our Thrift Shop is open:

Fridays - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Thank You

Our family would like to thank all of our friends for the nameplates sewn on the seasonal banners in memory of Lynn Geestmann Cerra. This will ensure Lynn will always be remembered whenever the banners are up.

Thank you again,
The Gross and Proce Families

It was with mixed emotions that we said "good-bye" to **Elaine DiChiara**, our Administrative Assistant on December 31, 2020 after 13 years on the job. She retired from CLC to enter a new chapter in her life - Grandma.

We will miss her happy smile as we walk into the office and her soothing voice when we call.

Elaine, thanks for all you did for all of us. Good luck and much love from us all.

Your CLC Family

January Church Council Highlights

We welcomed the **Rev. Dr. John Krahn** as our Interim Pastor.

We accepted the budget which will be submitted at the Annual Meeting for 2021.

We also welcomed **Christian DeRuiter** as our Church Business Administrator.

Nicole Nicholson is now our Director of Music.

Ten Proven Ways to Kill Your Church The Rev. Dr. John H. Krahn

- 1) Attend only when you absolutely feel like it.
- 2) When you do attend, find fault with something.
- 3) Do not give generously to the Lord's Work.
- 4) Only make your regular weekly offering on the Sundays you actually attend.
- 5) Volunteer for nothing.
- 6) Do not pray daily for God to bless your church and its ministry.
- 7) Do not read your Bible regularly and never attend a church Bible study.
- 8) If you do not like something the pastor of the church leaders are doing, do not tell them, but tell everyone else of your displeasure.
- 9) Never invite an unchurched person to your church.
- 10) Never ask the Lord, "What do you want me to do as a member of my church?"

A note from the Knitwits ~

Since a number of our Knitwits have moved or are unable to help any longer, more hands are needed to continue our work. For those who want to help and already know how to knit or crochet, there are kits in the back of the church. Just take one. If you know anyone who would like to help, please encourage them to do so. If you need yarn, needles or hooks, let me know. My thanks to all who have helped and to those who will:)

Oh the weather outside is frightful,
But this yarn is so delightful,
And since we've no place to go.....
Another row, Another row, Another row

Lilly Ann Munnich
516-826-3663

Congregational Christmas Card 2020

The following members and friends sent holiday greetings to Christ Lutheran Church. All monetary donations received for this year's card (we collected \$) were designated and sent to the Grace Lutheran Church - New Life Center - Lutheran Social Services Food Pantry in Uniondale. Thank you for your greetings and donations.

Kathy & Fred Ackermann & Family, Marilyn Beck,
Regina Coons, Marge & Ginny Dahlberg,
Lynn & Leroy Deere, Joan Drake, Sandie &
Scarlet, Jan & John Eastlund, Doris Gannon,
Claudia & John Gross, Bob & Lynn Hastaedt, Jean
Leib, Norma Mantay, Rick & Mary Ellen Massaro,
Doris & Roger Ohlander and Family, Pisani Family,
Rich & Sharon Speckmann,
Roxanne Toomey

A BIG THANK YOU:

To Debbie Benson, Jeri Hallgren's daughter, for setting up a sharing table at her home at 1471 Washington Ave, in Seaford. She invited neighbors to donate food if they could or take food if they needed it. She must have a large network of generous friends because the tables were filled with all sorts of items. She

invited us to come over several times over the last few weeks to pick up bags and bags of food for the St. Johns Food Pantry, The Interfaith Nutritional Network (INN) and the New Life Food Pantry run by Lutheran Social Services in Uniondale.

This last year has caused a tremendous strain on local food pantries. There has been a great increase in the number of people needing help to put food on their tables. At the same time, the source of much of the food for the pantries has dried up. Many churches and temples have been closed or the numbers of people attending have been significantly reduced so the donations are way down. Thank you to all who have made donations of food or money to help their neighbors. The list of items most needed are listed below in the Spire, but all non-perishable food items are appreciated.

Should you need food, please call the church office at St. Johns Lutheran Church, Merrick (516-379-3858) to arrange to receive needed items. Also, Debbie's sharing table is open during the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Food Pantry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Merrick is in need of the following items:

Hash, canned stewed tomatoes, Evaporated milk, pancake syrup, dish soap, facial tissues, Coffee, egg noodles, stew, salad dressing, cooking oil (48 oz).

The collection bins are in the hallway outside the Library. Please check your donations for expiration dates. **Thank you. All donations are very much appreciated.**

PROPERTY REPORT – FEB 2021

Our **Small Aging Retiree Group** has resumed our Pre-Pandemic activities. We have now caught up with most of the items on the To-Do list.

Our activities recently have included:

- We **moved the Altar** for the NS practice and **NS Pageant**, a few times.
- We removed the **collapsed Corner Sign** inside frame with all the pieces. We worked in room 10 to make a **repair by riveting** all the rails to the frame. We then secured the frame back into the sign. We installed the basic letters with the Christmas and future messages handled by Kathy and Jerry Fitzgerald.
- **We thank Martin** for **volunteering and placing the Manger cutouts and lights** on the front lawn. We found the missing Shepherd and lambs during the decorating of the Church and the retirees placed them with the manger.
- We removed six (6) broken screens from the windows in the Gym, ordered the necessary screening and spines, and re-screened them. We installed them into the window sashes and lubricated all the window sashes to glide better.
- We removed a broken “double pane” lower classroom window sash, installing a temporary cover and had the sash repaired during the winter NS break. We ordered replacement side spring parts and will install them as access permits.
- We assisted John Gross, and thank Roy Stone for his help, in removing some heavy items from the old youth room for special pick-up.
- We refilled all the Ice Melt containers following the first storm.
- We installed the spotlights in front of the Stained glass windows for Christmas Eve and returned them to storage after.
- We removed the lights from the ELCA lawn tree and placed back into storage.
- We returned the lawn manger and lights back to storage.
- We cleared a rusty hot water situation from the Sanctuary Water Heater.
- We replaced a chirping Smoke Detector battery in the lower hallway.
- We changed the Thermostat battery in Room 10, restoring the heat.
- We changed a “U” florescent bulb in the 2000 bathroom.

Retiree Group

THINGS TO DO

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

- *Clean the ceiling light covers in room 10.
- *Arrange for the **inspection and tagging of all the Fire Extinguishers.**
- *Paint the Sliding Closet doors in the Gym South access area.
- ***Power Wash** the front Steinbicker stairway, north 10-20 wall, etc “greens”,
- *Scrape and Paint the white trim above the Library and 2000 kitchenette.
- *Arrange to grow grass on the East side of Steinbicker. Stones to pit?, Topsoil?, Sod?, Labor.
- *Repair numerous **Cement issues** around the property. (Pointing, washes, loose items, price professional intervention?).
- *Prepare/Paint the outside **Room 20 North window** frame (Professional?).
- *Clean and refurbish the vinyl replacement windows all around checking for smooth operation, weather stripping and locking capability. (Wkg)
- ***Research and arrange** for a “Seal coating” and re-stripping of the parking lot and the Parsonage driveway. (spring)
- * Touch up the Roof top Air duct “Rust spots” with Silver paint on hand.
- * Refurbish **Communion tables** and replace the “red” felt shelf covers.
- * Repair a broken **double pane NS window** during winter break. (Cmplt)
- * Remove and repair the **Broken Gym Screens.** (Cmplt)
- * Investigate the repair needs of **corner sign.** (Cmplt)
- * Install a mailbox outside the Steinbicker entrance. (wkg)
- * Repair the thrift shop entrance door threshold.

Research for Potential Projects

- * Research and report on the possibility of Siding on the 10/20 building.
- * Research the installation of white vinyl ornate trim covering (Pilasters/Door Surrounds) in the front area outside the Sanctuary in lieu of continuously painting.
- * Research the possibility of new lighting for the Sanctuary.
- * Research the replacement of the wine stained Altar Carpeting.
- * Research extending the lawn sprinkler to cover the East side of Steinbicker after grass restoration.
- * Research installing Solar panels for electric on the Steinbicker building.
- * Survey and Research all cement sidewalks, steps, ramps, and washes for professional intervention.
- * Research having the lower two Steinbicker NS classroom Floor tiles removed, floor sealed and re-tiled. (NS issue)



Nursery School News

February 2021

January brought us colder temperatures and crafts that were winter white. Snowmen filled many of the classrooms as it became abundantly clear that winter was indeed here.

In the pre-nursery classes the children are getting along beautifully and are really learning to play with one another. They are following directions and learning to take turns. It is such a pleasure to watch these little ones grow though out the year.

The threes were very busy painting melted snowmen and adding snowy white glitter to snowflakes to decorate their classrooms. They continue learning their colors, shapes and how to spell their names. The goal is that they know all their colors, shapes and how to spell their names by June. They have also started cutting and following the directions on how to hold a scissor and use their helping hand.

In our four-year-old classrooms the children are well on their way to being Kindergarten ready. They are doing wonderfully with their letter writing and in January we started learning how to write our numbers. They have all mastered cutting and are pros now.

They listen and execute 4-5 step directions in a large group to make some beautiful projects. Some of the projects included snowmen complete with falling snow and a unit on penguins. The fours also celebrated the Chinese New Year with dragon masks and a parade around the school singing gung hay fat choy (happy New Year in Chinese).

In January we also had our picture day. Everyone looked wonderful and it was a huge success.

January is the month we do our assessments of the children to see where they stand and what needs to be done to get them ready for the following year. All the children were on target and meetings were available for the parents to come to speak with the teachers and address any concerns they might have.

Open enrollment for all our nursery programs started on January 11th 2021. We have a variety of programs to offer 2's, 3's and 4 year olds. Please feel free to reach out to me at CNSdirector@clcwantagh.org for any further information on our programs, or to register your children.

January 8, 2021

Members of the Christ Lutheran Church Congregation,

I wish to thank the church and our members who ordered Scout wreaths this past Christmas. The wreaths help offset the costs of providing the scouting program to our youth which includes events, equipment, awards, etc.

The scouts work very hard decorating the wreaths and have a fun time "creating their designs". On behalf of the adult leaders, youth members and myself, we thank you for your support, as without you we would not be able to have a troop or pack.

A special thank you to Pastor Martin and Elaine for the "extra" time that they spent working with me this past year to help our youth and our strong scouting units. This was particularly difficult this past while trying to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. We wish them the best in retirement.

I've included a listing of our Cub Scout Pack 191, Boy Scout Troop 656 and our newly chartered Scout Troop 656G which now serves our female youth, who combined have been providing over 122 years of service to our church and our youth.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dee Bloomfield



BSA Scout Troop 656
Chartered May 1, 1963
57 Years of Service

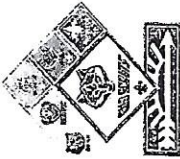


Adult Leaders

Eileen Adee
Luke Benedetto
Dorothy Bloomfield
James Bloomfield
Margaret Bloomfield
Fran Bruno
Stefanie Fields
Tom Fields
Michael Latsko
Theresa Latsko
Paul McNamara
April Mei
Peter Mei
Corinna Diver
Judy Mun
John Neverka
Margaret Neverka
John Osullivan
Paul Diver
Robert Treiland
Cassy Santomauro

Youth Members

Jack Benedetto
John Bloomfield
John Bruno
Liam Fields
Jake Latsko
Ethan Mei
Ryan Mei
Jayden Mun
Hayden Naitra
John Osullivan
Theodore Osullivan
Tyler Santomauro
Justin Treiland
Shane Adee
Thomas Christoforidis
Andrew Diver



Cub Scout Pack 191
Chartered August 1, 1954
67 Years of Service



BSA Scout Troop 656G
Chartered February 1, 2021
Inaugural Year



Adult Leaders

Dorothy Bloomfield
 James Bloomfield
 Mike Kelly
 Fran Bruno
 Alex Fichtl
 Doug Bange
 Maribeth Widelo
 Christopher Kugler
 Katie Pellegrino
 Merrie Ober

Youth Members

Nicholas Albanese
 Joseph Bange
 Nicholas Bange
 Jayden Clark
 Matthew Creason
 Dylan DiChiara
 Matthew Dichiarra
 Alexander Fichtl
 Christopher Fichtl
 James Giovanniello
 Charles Hartmann
 Juliet Kelly
 Dylan Kregler
 Ethan Kugler
 Aiden MacDermott
 Kellan MacDermott

Anthony Mauro
 Charlie McDermo
 Luke Moss
 James O'Brien
 Daniel Ober
 John Ober
 Jack Orr
 Alexander Pellegrino
 Michael Pellegrino
 Nicholas Pellegrino
 Zachary Pellegrino
 Caitlyn Pinto
 Michael Powell
 Taso Powell
 Christian Recinos
 Gavin Ross
 Keegan Ross
 Thomas Schneider
 Matthew Shemansk
 Jack Sicoli
 Christopher Widelo
 Evan Winsper
 Carson Zuckerwis

Adult Leaders

Paul Diver
 Corinna Diver
 Dorothy Bloomfield
 James Bloomfield
 Margaret Bloomfield
 Fran Bruno
 Stefanie Fields
 Tom Fields
 Paul McNamara
 Neil Macdermott
 Renee Macdermott

Youth Members

Emma Bloomfield
 Mary Bloomfield
 Ashley Breslin
 Grace Fields
 Rilyn Macdermott
 Ashley Diver
 Faith Stallone