

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool

576 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702

Office: (631) 661-7245 ~ Preschool: (631) 376-0773

Website: www.CCLChurch.com ~ Email: Office@CCLchurch.com

Sunday Worship Service ~ 10 a.m.

Sunday School ~ 10 a.m.

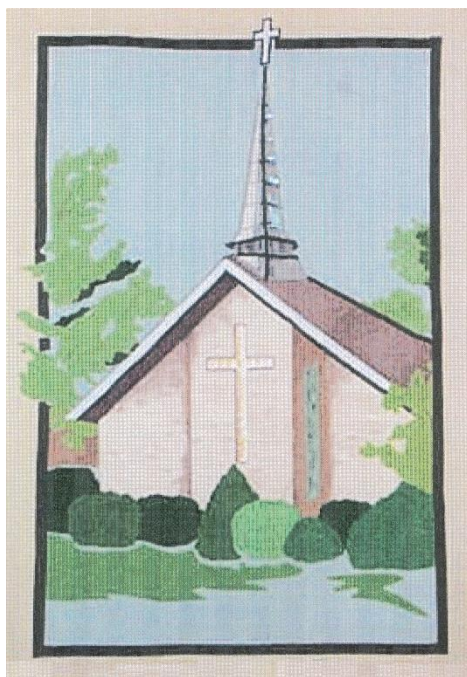
(children come to church with family)



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

W
CROSS
R
D
S



FEBRUARY 2024



*We are a community united in Jesus Christ,
sharing God's love through word and deed.*

Dear Members and Friends,



February 2024

On Sunday, January 28, the Congregational Meeting took place at Cross of Christ immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service. A quorum was present. At this year's meeting, a Council election was held. The new Church Council members (some whose terms are not over and others newly elected) are listed in this issue of *Crosswords*. Outgoing council member, Marilyn Vidoni, deserves our sincere appreciation for her years of service.

On Monday, January 29, I will be leaving for a trip to Florida to visit with my sister. On Sunday, February 4, Vicar Gavin Schwen will lead worship and preach God's word. I am grateful Vicar Schwen can lead us on February 4. I know you will warmly welcome him and tell him how much we miss him. Also, on Sunday, February 4, Scout Sunday, we will recognize scouts. I return to New York on Monday, February 5. Please call the church office if there are any pastoral emergencies while I am away.

Looking ahead: Transfiguration Sunday, February 11, is the last Sunday in the season of Epiphany. During the worship service, we will dedicate a new pouring chalice to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Schaper. After worship, please join us for our "Waffles & Ice Cream" special coffee hour before the Lenten fast. Please bring your favorite board games.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14. On Ash Wednesday, worship services will be held at 11 am and 7:30 pm. Both services will offer the imposition of ashes and the celebration of Holy Communion. Ashes will be burned the previous evening using last year's palm branches. (You may bring in your palm branches from last year, to be burned on Tuesday afternoon for Ash Wednesday.)

Trinity Lutheran Church in Wyandanch has a relatively small congregation that gathers for worship each Sunday. The Mercy Inn Soup Kitchen, which resides in their church basement, feeds over 125 people each day of the week. Trinity's Church Council is converting to gas in their building. Since this is rather costly, the congregations of Western Suffolk Conference have decided to sponsor a Choir Concert on Sunday, February 25 at 3 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church. If you are able, please join us. If you are unable to attend, we will be making Trinity Wyandanch our Lenten mission project this year. So, you may donate change, dollars, or checks (payable to Cross of Christ) as we try to help our sister congregation.

Lent is a season in the church year whereby we may look inwardly and improve our relationship with God. It is a time to reflect on God's ultimate love for us, revealed by the Cross of

Christ. How will you spend the weeks of Lent? It is believed that the more meaningful your Lenten journey is, the more meaningful your Easter celebration will be.

Some choose to give up something for Lent. Sometimes giving up something in a small way helps us to reflect on our Lord's giving up His life for us. If giving up something assists you in your Lenten discipline, it is fine to practice the habit of giving up something for Lent. It is only wrong to give up something if it is self-serving (i.e.: giving up smoking or sweets when we already feel we should be doing so for ourselves).

Another Lenten discipline could involve the adding of something..... such as devotional time with the Lord, or special activities of helping others in need. Another devotional practice during the season of Lent is to be part of our Bible Study on Mondays at 11 a.m., which will resume on Monday, February 26 at 11 a.m. We will be studying "Soul Sisters: Women in Scripture Speak to Women Today" by Edwina Gateley and Louis Glanzman. I hope you can join us. Please call the church office if you would like to participate.

During Lent, we drape the cross in the sanctuary and the cross on the front lawn in purple. The purple veil acts as a means of expressing Lent's austerity. The practice derives from the eleventh century. It has often been interpreted as a "fast for the eyes".

Special Lenten devotional booklets will be available for your use. Wishing you a most meaningful season of Lent.

In these cold, dark days of winter, in this season of Epiphany, we see Jesus as the light of the world. As the three kings brought gifts to Jesus, may we bring our gifts of love to God by sharing with others the love of Christ. I look forward to seeing you in church.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joanne Bond

Pastor Joanne Bond



*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.
And, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

THIS ELECTION YEAR, BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

By Rev. Thomas Taylor, LCSW-R, Ph.D., LCC Pastoral Counselor

For years, I never knew my neighbor's politics. Then political flags popped up all around us. We've always had plenty of US flags but these flags were different and felt different – they were political, for one politician or another.

One of our neighbor's politics was hard to miss. In addition to flying his flag in support of his favorite candidate, talk radio blared throughout the day so neighbors couldn't avoid hearing about his political views. Despite our different views, we still greeted him cordially whenever we saw him out with his dog. Then one day he stopped my wife and struck up a conversation. He asked about her mom. He said he hadn't seen them out walking for a while and wondered if she was alright. Touched, my wife told him her mom had died. He said he was sorry to hear that and that he'd always enjoyed seeing them out walking. Although my wife's feelings about his politics had not changed, she felt more connected to him. Their brief talk humanized them both.

We are now in an election year and tensions are going to mount among those we consider our neighbors and those we do not. According to the American Psychological Association, 68% of Americans reported feeling stressed leading up to the last presidential election. This increase in stress requires that we deliberately find ways to ground ourselves. Looking for our common humanity is one way to ground ourselves, especially when faced with difficult conversations around politics. Rachael Dunkel-Dodier, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Founder of Bridger Peaks Counseling in Bozeman Montana*, observes "The more that we create disconnection, even in our differing values, the more we create pain and hurt in our country." To counter this tendency to disconnect, Dunkel-Dodier recommends we pivot and ground ourselves by leaning "into saying, yes, you are different than me, and I still

honor who you are as a human, and honor where you're coming from, without creating more of a divide.”

The Gospel message is we are all children of God who share a common humanity and the same neighborhood – God’s neighborhood. Find an excuse to talk with your neighbors so we can appreciate and enjoy our shared humanity. What a gift!

Happy New Year and here’s praying for a more connected and less stressful election year.

Tom Taylor
Interim Co-Executive Director, LCC

* Carroll, Bryanna “Mental health counselors offer tips to cope with Election Day stress,” NBCMONTANATV, November 7th 2023.

The Rev. Thomas S. Taylor, PhD, LCSW-R, STM, is currently Interim Co-Executive Director of the LCC. He is a Certified Psychoanalyst and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. He is currently President of the National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis (NPAP) and a Clinical Supervisor for LCC. He is counselor-in-residence at Advent Lutheran Church in New York City. An ordained pastor of the ELCA, he has extensive experience working with individuals and couples and as a seminar presenter.

For an appointment with any of our counselors or for more information, call LCC at 1-800- 317-1173. For safety, all sessions are currently provided using a secure, HIPAA compliant virtual video and/or audio platform.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is now a membership congregation of Lutheran Counseling Center (LCC). One benefit is that professional counseling is available to our congregational members and their families at reduced rates for the first four sessions.

For more information, or to set an appointment with a Christian counselor, please call the LCC main office at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173. LCC is currently providing confidential, HIPAA compliant virtual counseling sessions. In normal times, the LCC also has nine sites over the metropolitan NY area for in-person sessions.

CROSS OF CHRIST  CHURCH COUNCIL

2024

Jackie Smrek, President
Pastor Bond, Vice President
Trudi Guarino, Treasurer
Bill Riegel, Secretary

Eeva-Liisa Bulger
Debbie Carter
Derek Doeschner

Donna Jackson
Carol Johnson
Bill Reichert

Joe Rivera
Diana Schnugg
Jean Wevers

2024



What are your children doing for **FUN** this summer?

Registration is underway for the

CROSS OF CHRIST SUMMER FUN PROGRAM.

Children 2 years old to 6 years old (just having finished Kindergarten) are welcome.

July 9th - August 1st

9:30 a.m. to Noon

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

Cost is \$345.00

Children will participate in recreational play in our gym, outdoor play on our playground, water play, a daily craft, story time, and free play in our spacious classrooms. A snack will be provided daily.

***Register early to ensure your child's placement in this program. Class sizes are limited.
For more information, call the church office (631.661.7245) or go to our website
(www.CCLChurch.com).***



Happy Valentine's to all! We have had a very successful first half of the year, and we look forward to the second half with great excitement and anticipation. During February, we will talk about how God loves us and how he wants us to love and care for others. We

will discuss how we can show kindness, fairness and forgiveness to people and things. The children will celebrate Valentine's Day by creating special Valentines and enjoying yummy Valentine snacks.

Enrollment has begun for the 2024/2025 school year! Many families in our preschool have re-enrolled their child and we will be welcoming many new students to our preschool family. Our classes are starting to fill up. Please tell your friends and families about our preschool.

If you would like more information about our preschool, and a tour of our wonderful facility, please call 631-376-0773.

Yours in Christ,
Allison Fischer
Director

**Preschool is closed for Winter Recess
Monday, February 19 - Friday, February 23.**

Sunday School News ~ February 2024



It does not seem possible that Lent is almost upon us, seems like we just finished celebrating the birth of Our Lord! On Epiphany, the Sunday School children presented a short pageant to the congregation. They donned costumes, and Mr. Skip Schumann, Mr. Bill Reichert, and Billy Reichert graciously played the Three Kings.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. A special family activity book will be sent home concentrating on the meaningful way of participation in Lent. The children will be involved in activities to spread love in the communities surrounding us.

Our Lenten project will involve collecting food for the pantry. It would be most appreciated if your child could participate by bringing a food item each week. The list of food is always presented in the bulletin, and I will send home a copy as well.

Valentine cards and crafts will be on the creative agenda, made with love for shut-ins and Nursing Home residents.

Please join us (before the Lenten fast) for the **Ice Cream & Waffles Social** on **Sunday, February 11th** in the fellowship hall, following Worship and Sunday School. This event is always enjoyed by all! Bring board games.

Wishing you a meaningful and holy Lent.

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Sandy Miller, Sunday School Superintendent
Mrs. Denise Gagan, Mrs. Anne Maurice, and Mr. Bill Reichert



Ash Wednesday
— Lent Begins



DID YOU KNOW

Cross of Christ Lutheran Preschool

- **Is one of the few preschools in our community that has New York State Certification by Office of Children & Family Services**
- Has a fine Director, Mrs. Allison Fischer
- Employs a fine staff of Teachers and Assistant Teachers, who meet high standards of Office of Children & Family Services
- Enjoys a newly expanded, beautiful playground
- Utilizes a “Smart Board” for educational purposes
- Partners with Babylon and North Babylon School Districts for two Universal Pre-K classes
- Includes a fine music program for children with Miss Rossina
- Provides ample parking in our private, off-street parking lot
- Has a brightly lit full gymnasium
- Is in a safe, secure environment
- Shares the “Good News” with children at chapel services as Pastor Bond teaches children about God’s love for them

**Please call to arrange a tour, or meet with our Director,
and find out why our school is a cut above.**

Preschool: (631) 376-0773 Church: (631) 661-7245

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool
576 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702**





The Lenten Mission Jar will be out beginning Sunday, February 18. Congregations of the Western Suffolk Conference of the MNYS are assisting Trinity Lutheran Church, Wyandanch with a conversion to gas at the church. Change, cash, and checks (payable to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church) are gratefully accepted for this project.



- **SUPPER** - Tuesdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. with “grab & go” meals. We can use more volunteers. **If you can assist, please call the church office. Thank you!**
- **PANTRY** - Tuesdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. For a list of pantry needs, please look in the Sunday bulletin or call the church office. **All donations are greatly appreciated!**



Confirmation Classes ~ Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

“Hang – Out” Time ~ Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. prior to Confirmation class with pizza and snacks. All Confirmands are welcome!



- **Junior Choir** ~ Sundays following Sunday School. All children who like to sing are welcome! Rehearsals are about 20 minutes and are held in the Luther Room.
- **Youth Choir** ~ Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. All confirmands are welcome to join.
- **Senior Choir** ~ Wednesdays, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. All are welcome to join.
- **Bell Choir** ~ Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. All are welcome to join.



Pastor’s Bible Study will resume, Monday, February 26 at 11 a.m. We will be studying **“Soul Sisters: Women in Scripture Speak to Women Today”** by Edwina Gateley and Louis Glanzman. Please call the church office or let Pastor know if you wish to join us.



Prime Timers ~ Wednesdays at 12 noon. All who are 50 years or older, please join us Wednesdays at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch. Enjoy coffee, cake, fun and fellowship with us. **SAVE THE DATE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31:** A speaker from the Suffolk County Police Department will discuss **“Senior Scams”**. Hope you can join us!



TAI CHI CLASSES ~ Fridays at 7 p.m. Fee: \$10 per class. Good for the mind, body and spirit! For more information, call the Church Office (631-661-7245).



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOURS ~ Would you like to sponsor Coffee Fellowship time following worship on Sunday morning? You may celebrate an occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.). Call the Church Office (631-661-7245) with any questions, or to schedule your coffee hour dates.



2024 Offering Envelopes are available on the table in the hallway! If you have not done so already, please pick up yours! If you do not receive envelopes and would like to, please call the Church Office (631-661-7245).



2024 Lutheran Church Year Calendars are available on the table in the hallway courtesy of Boyd-Spencer Funeral Homes.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A WORSHIP ASSISTANT? We invite you to prayerfully consider serving as a **Lector (Reader), Communion Assistant,** or **Usher** at worship. Please speak to Pastor or call the church office.



If you are having surgery or a medical procedure, please call the church office so that we can include you in the Sunday prayers **or** if you would like a pastoral visit.

Looking ahead



Sunday, February 4 is “Scout Sunday”!

We recognize all Scouts and their families with appreciation for all the good they do. Boy Scout Troops 175, 194, and 399 will co-sponsor Coffee Fellowship time following the 10 a.m. service.



Sunday, February 11 is “Soup-er” Bowl Sunday

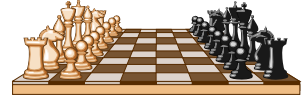
Please bring in a pop-top can of soup, or a meal in a can such as stew, ravioli, etc. to replenish our pantry. ***Thank you!***



Sunday, February 11

(following 10 a.m. Worship Service)
All Welcome!

Please join us before the Lenten Fast
for "Ice Cream & Waffles"
Please bring board games!



Wednesday, February 14 is *ASH WEDNESDAY* (the first day of Lent) ~
Worship services will be held at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Both services will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

SAFE DRIVING CLASS



When: Saturday, February 17, 2024 – 9 am start time
Where: Cross of Christ Lutheran Church (Room TBD, enter by Gym)
Cost: \$36.00 (Cash or Checks payable to Cross of Christ)

Bagels, coffee, and tea will be provided!

This class will save each attendee 10% on collision and bodily injury coverage for 3 years from the date of completion.

There is a 20-person minimum class size, so please sign up on the sheet in the hallway and give a check to the Church Office. Call the office at 631.661.7245 to grab a spot or call Bill Riegel at 631.335.4707 for further details.



Help Save a Life!
GIVE BLOOD

BLOOD DRIVE *Sunday, March 3 ~ 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.*

Look for information and Donation Registration Forms in the Church hallway. You may register during Coffee Hour following the 10 a.m. service. If you have any questions, please contact our Parish Nurse, Jean Wevers or the church office.



Thrivent Members: Did you know you have Thrivent Choice Dollars to direct?

In this season of giving, make a Choice that matters. By directing Choice Dollars, you can recommend where some of Thrivent’s charitable outreach funds go. It’s your opportunity to spread joy to a cause you cherish.

Direct Today!

Visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice to direct your Choice Dollars today! Need inspiration? The Thrivent Choice catalog includes organizations who are eligible to receive Thrivent’s charitable outreach funds, including Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. **Deadline to direct 2023 Choice Dollars is March 31, 2024!**

Need Help?

If you have questions, please email fraternal@thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice”.



Dear Cross of Christ Lutheran Church: Thank you for your gift of \$1,600.00 to your synod, received by Lutheran Disaster Response in November 2023. Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities that are reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you!



**The Western Suffolk Conference
of
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
presents a



CHOIR CONCERT
Sunday, February 25, 2024 ~ 3 p.m.



Ascension Lutheran Church
33 Bay Shore Road, Deer Park, NY 11729
(Parking is across the street)

Choirs will offer anthems to the glory of God and to raise funds for Trinity Lutheran Church, Wyandanch to assist with gas conversion at their church. If you attend the concert, please make checks payable to Western Suffolk Conference. Checks for our Lenten Mission Jar (see page 9) should be made payable to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. **Thank you!**