



Winter 2025

extraOrdinary Times

this month at Christ Church

December 3

Dinner Church | 5:45 p.m.
Advent Evening Series | 7:00 p.m.

December 4

LGBTQ+ Theology & Faith | 7:30p.m.

December 6

Labyrinth | 9:00 a.m.

November 7

Lessons & Carols | 5:00 p.m.

December 8

Monday Concert | 12:15 p.m.

December 10

Advent Evening Series | 7:00 p.m.

December 13

Advent Quiet Day

December 14

Comfort Ye | 5:00 p.m.

December 16

Vestry Meeting | 7:00 p.m.

December 17

Advent Prayers by Candlelight | 6:30 p.m.
Advent Evening Series | 7:00 p.m.

December 18

LGBTQ+ Theology & Faith | 7:30p.m.

December 21

Christmas Pageant & Yuletide Feast | 5:00 p.m.

December 24 | Christmas Eve

December 25 | Christmas Day

December 28

10:00 a.m. Worship

January 7

Dinner Church | 5:45 p.m.



Christ Child Ministry 2025

Remember, as a child, the excitement of making your Christmas list? And as a parent, the joy of giving your kids some of the presents they hoped for?

With the Christ Child Ministry, we aim to make this possible for families – supporting parents in providing Christmas gifts and Christmas dinner to their children. Families we support with this ministry include members of our local Boys & Girls Club (low-cost after-school care), clients from our Lazarus Financial Ministry and Food Pantry, and families in our Refugee Ministry.

Our model has evolved over the years, with a shift toward empowering parents to choose gifts for their children. A couple of years ago we surveyed our families and overwhelmingly they preferred

going to the store themselves to pick out their Christmas gifts for their children. Which makes sense if you think about how unique each child is and the joy that comes with selecting gifts for your children. The likes, dislikes and passions of your own children are often only known by you. Many of you remember the ministry's pop-up Christmas store in the Auditorium at Christ Church, where parents could pick out toys for their child. The store was filled with toys bought by parishioners for children of all ages.

That's why today, families who register receive a \$125 Walmart gift card per child and \$75 Aldi gift card per family. Children also receive a stocking stuffed with gifts, a handmade hat or scarf and a fleece blanket. This year we have 96 families registered with 215 children.

*Inside.....
Blessings On
Rites of Passage
Christmas Worship Schedule
New Initiative by ACT for
Alexandria
Call for Lenten Meditations
November Happenings*

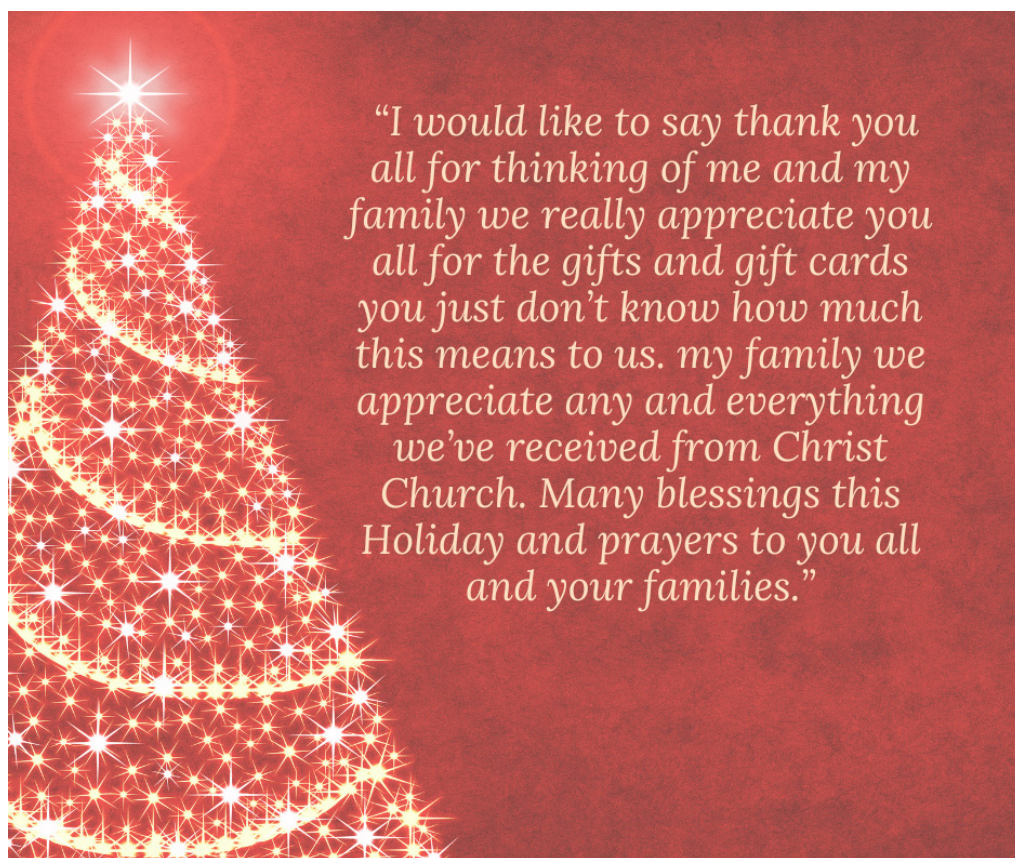
*Thank you and much love
from the 2025 Christ Child
Team -*

*Anne Ramsey, Ministry
Chair*

*Kelley Brooke Hostetler
and Darrin Hostetler,
Stocking and Christmas
Package Coordinators*

*Mary Dixon Hutcheson
and Elizabeth Trigg, Boys
& Girls Club Christmas
Party Coordinator*

*Sandra Thomson,
Handmade Hat and Scarf
Coordinator*



*"I would like to say thank you
all for thinking of me and my
family we really appreciate you
all for the gifts and gift cards
you just don't know how much
this means to us. my family we
appreciate any and everything
we've received from Christ
Church. Many blessings this
Holiday and prayers to you all
and your families."*

The Christ Church Lazarus Ministry partners with ACT for Alexandria and NeighborShare

While the government shutdown has ended, the impact continues to affect many in Alexandria beyond federal employees. From contractors, cafeteria workers in government buildings to cleaning crews, security guards, childcare providers and landscapers, many continue to suffer from the shutdown

The Christ Church Lazarus Emergency Financial Ministry serves 14-16 people per week helping with rent, utilities and medical bills. We have seen firsthand the ripple effect the shutdown continues to have on Alexandria

residents. That is why we are so pleased to be part of a pilot of three Alexandria nonprofits working with ACT for Alexandria, our city's community foundation and NeighborShare to launch NeighborShare ALX. It was launched on November 1 and will run through the end of January. It is an online platform that provides financial support to individuals impacted by the shutdown.

The NeighborShare platform encourages everyone to donate from \$5 to \$400, literally neighbors helping neighbors. The Christ Church Lazarus Ministry is honored to be part of this pilot.

From ACT for Alexandria:

With one in three households already unable to cover a \$400 emergency, even a short pause in income can trigger crises like missed rent, empty fridges, and childcare gaps. NeighborShare ALX provides just-in-time financial assistance for small but pivotal expenses like car repairs, medical bills, or utility payments — preventing them from escalating into food insecurity, job loss, or even homelessness.

NeighborShare ALX has partnered with trusted local nonprofits that identify urgent household needs that would otherwise go unmet. Alexandrians can step in and directly fulfill those needs through this simple, secure, and community-driven platform.

Rites of Passage

Deaths

Brad Roberts
Valentina Sylvestruk
Lawrence Fedewa
Michael Barrett
Paul Scott Williams

Births

Declan Joseph Murnane
Butcher, grandson of Brian
& Gwynne Butcher

Baptisms

Julian Lawrence Alterman
Walker Emerson Blaine
Graham Mitchell
Whitehead
Colin David Whitehead
Harper Grace McCabe
Alice Ayame Iwasawa

Transfers In

Virginia Russell

Blessings On...

- The Stewards of the Dirt volunteers and the work they do to care for our churchyard
- The parishioners who shopped, cooked, and served dinner at the Carpenter's Shelter Lenny and Milly Marsciso, Bob Carpenter, Joe and Carol Shull, Bradley McAllister, Cornelia Horner, Michaela Shaughnessy, Kris Lebras and Barb Boehm.
- The parishioners who made and served lunches at Meade Memorial Church, Karen Hill, Elizabeth Olson, Mary Hobbie and Jon Smoot, Maude Williams, Michele Smith, Emily Soapes, Ruth Arnold, Amy Wilczynski, Mary Dixon and Jack Hutcheson.
- Anne Alfano, Cara Alfano, and Michele Smith for shopping, cooking, setting up, serving, and cleaning up for Dinner Church for November Dinner Church and for everyone who lent support.
- Volunteers from the Properties Committee and Old Town Village for mulching the Christ Church Wilkes Street cemetery pathway from OTV Condos to Jamieson Avenue.
- All the parishioners who donated food and funds to make a Thanksgiving Pantry a Success.
- Temple Beth El Brotherhood for their generous donation of special Thanksgiving pies for the families in our Refugee Ministry.
- Linder Academy for collecting groceries and donating a portion of the proceeds from their Book Fair to the Thanksgiving Ministry.
- Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE 871) for donating all the funds needed to purchase the perishable items for our Thanksgiving Pantry.
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) for donating special Thanksgiving gift bags to our Meals on Wheels recipients.
- The volunteers who shopped, cooked, and served dinner at the Carpenter's Shelter, Bob Carpenter, Cornelia Horner, Megan Cavanaugh, Bradley McAllister, Michaela Shaughnessy, Ann McMurray, Robin Campbell, Van Ellet and Christine Jones.

Worship Services

Christmas Eve

2:00 p.m. | A Simple Service for Christmas Eve
Holy Eucharist Rite II, with Christmas hymns and homily

4:00 p.m. | Christmas Eve Eucharist
Holy Eucharist Rite II, with familiar Christmas hymns and a short sermon. This service is particularly appropriate for children and families.

6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. | The Feast of the Nativity
Holy Eucharist Rite II, with the Christ Church Choir and sermon

Livestreamed at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. | Holy Eucharist Rite II

Call for Lenten Meditations for 2026

Yes, you read that correctly. We are inviting you to contribute to our annual Christ Church compilation of daily meditations for Lent. It may seem premature to focus on Lent in Advent, much less the Christmas and Epiphany seasons; however, because Lent begins quite early in 2026, we will compile all contributions by January 16.

The times in which we live elicit a wide variety of emotions among us:

fear, anger, grief, and depression but also compassion, gratitude, and hope. The Lenten journey covers the gamut of those emotions. Here are some suggestions.

- Meditate on the concept of forgiveness and letting go of grudges.
- Contemplate the importance of gratitude and recognizing blessings.
- Focus on the call to serve others and practice acts of kindness.
- Explore the themes of repentance and personal transformation.
- Reflect on the significance of sacrifice

and self-denial.

- Consider the ways God's redemptive grace has shaped your life.
- Engage with scripture passages that highlight Jesus' journey to the cross.

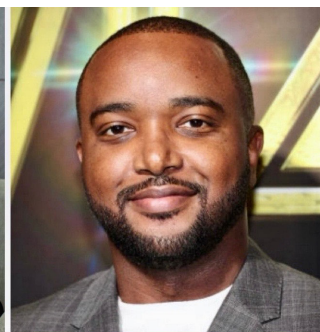
If there is a poem or work of art that has been impactful for your faith, your reflection may focus on that. Be sure to include the title and artist or author if you are referencing someone else's work.

Your thoughts can be shared in narrative or poetic style (no more than 300 words) and/or by an illustration. One

of us will be available to speak with you should you wish to discuss your thoughts and how you want to express them. When you have finalized your contribution, please email it to mgray@ccalex.org.

We strongly believe that these contributions will deepen our connection with God and our sense of community in these challenging times. Thank you in advance for considering our call.

Melanie Gray, Tom Hahn, Rawles Jones, Ariel Rudy, Sharon Schambra, and Tom Suydam



The Monday Concert Series Resumes in March

March 9

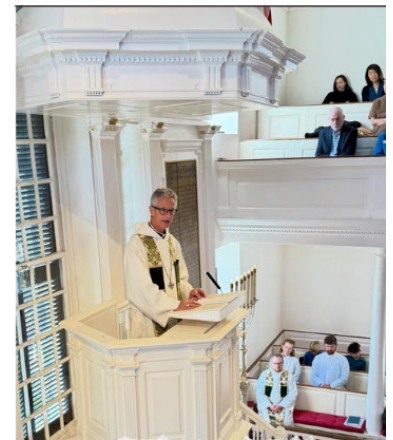
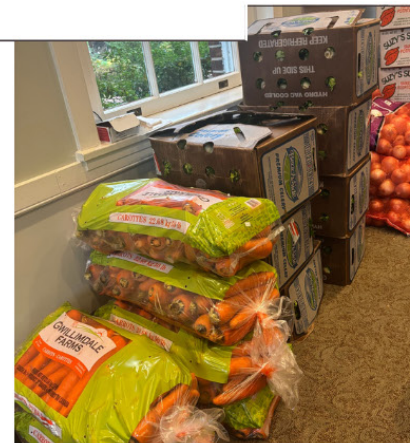
4-Hand Piano works by Mozart, Schubert, and Barber; Sean Burns and Jason Abel

April 13

Love, Loss, and Joy: Songs for New Beginnings; Nicole Plummer and Guzal Isametdinova

May 11

To Pleasures, To Delights: Songs for Voice and Lute; Aaron Sheehan and William Simms



NEW BEGINNINGS