

# PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF AUGUST 17, 2025

## Welcome to Christ Church Alexandria!

Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people, whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith. If you are new to Christ Church, please fill out a welcome card, which can be scanned via QR code in your bulletin, or at the bottom of this page. Restrooms can be found on the first floor of Memorial Parish Hall, located across the churchyard. An infant caring room is also available in the Parish Hall, up the stairs to the right of the main entrance, for children five and under. We are glad you're here!

## TODAY – SUNDAY FORUM | MEADE ROOM | 9:00 A.M.

Learn about our 14 outreach ministries and the over 200 volunteers who make them thrive. Discover how they are adapting to meet the urgent needs of Alexandrians today.

## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

For a listing of currently scheduled activities and meetings, visit [www.historicchristchurch.org/events](http://www.historicchristchurch.org/events)

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Lectionary Study – Library  
9:00 a.m. Sunday Forum – Meade Room  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour – Meade Room  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

### MONDAY, AUGUST 18

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live  
([www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAlexandria](http://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchAlexandria))

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live  
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist – Chapel  
9:00 p.m. Compline – Facebook Live

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

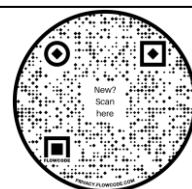
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live  
9:00 a.m. Lazarus Food Pantry – Meade Room

### AA • Al-Anon

Various groups meet regularly  
at Christ Church during the week.  
Please check our online calendar for specifics.  
([www.HistoricChristChurch.org/events](http://www.HistoricChristChurch.org/events))



118 N. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703.549.1450 • Fax: 703.549.5883  
[www.HistoricChristChurch.org](http://www.HistoricChristChurch.org)



## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send submissions of 50 words or less to [ParishLife@ccalex.org](mailto:ParishLife@ccalex.org).

### Welcome Sunday | We Need YOU!

This beloved event is a church favorite because EVERYONE can be involved. From grill to garden games & set-up crews to welcome tables - there's a place for you.

Sign up here: [bit.ly/WelcomeSunday2025](https://bit.ly/WelcomeSunday2025)  
to help host our kick-off to the program year.

We'll see you there!

With abundant gratitude,

Your Cheerful Stewardship Committee

Questions? Contact Julie Simonton at [jsimonton@ccalex.org](mailto:jsimonton@ccalex.org)  
or 703.778.4935

### Summer Socials | Sign up NOW!

Get to know your neighbors who attend Christ Church by attending one of our August Summer Socials. Parishioners are opening their homes and backyards for these special events.

To help hosts plan for the event, registration is required.

Event dates, details and the sign up available here:

[bit.ly/45fmkgU](https://bit.ly/45fmkgU). Questions? Email Julie Simonton at [jsimonton@ccalex.org](mailto:jsimonton@ccalex.org).

### Christ Church Young Adults Trivia | August 18, 7:00 p.m.

Astro in Shirlington Village, 4001 Campbell Ave

On the third Monday of every month, Christ Church Young Adults gather for Trivia at the Astro in Shirlington. We'll aim to be there between 6 and 6:30 p.m. for a 7:00 p.m. start time but join us when you can! For more information contact Robbie at [rlaughton@ccalex.org](mailto:rlaughton@ccalex.org).

### Christ Church is Starting a Democracy Circle!

Democracy Circles are an initiative of The Workers Circle, a 125-year-old secular Jewish organization that has long fought for workers' rights and civil rights. Following the Presiding Bishop's call for us to be "Christians who seek to practice our faith fully in a free and fair democracy," Christ Church's new Democracy Circle is one of nearly 100 that have sprung up nationwide. We'll meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, at 11:30 in the Library with the purpose of understanding and strengthening for the long-term U.S. Constitutional democracy—our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 17. Please contact Libby Witt ([eawitt@hotmail.com](mailto:eawitt@hotmail.com)) and Susan Marquis ([slmarquis70@gmail.com](mailto:slmarquis70@gmail.com)) for more information.

### LGBTQ+ Theology and Faith | 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

First and Third Thursday of the month | Library  
LGBTQ+ parishioners gather every first and third Thursday for conversation about the relationship between their spiritual journeys and their coming out journeys. Through prayerful study of scripture in a safe, open, and loving space, we will seek a deeper understanding of our faith, our lived experiences, and our relationship with Jesus. For more information, please contact Terry Brown at [terrymbrown1@me.com](mailto:terrymbrown1@me.com).

### Ninth Annual Rector's Address | August 24

9:00 a.m. | Meade Room

Every year, as the summer comes to a close, Noelle offers the parish a snapshot of the joys and challenges for the program year ahead. Come learn about how we are doing and where we are going this fall and spring and see how you might get involved with our beloved community in Christ.

### Welcome Sunday | September 7 | We ❤️ Picnics!

Picnic Potluck & Hot Dogs & Games & Fun - what could be better to kick off the program year?! Join us after the 10:00 a.m. service in the churchyard for lots of food and activities for kids of all ages including face painting, Christ Church swag, and lawn game. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish. Help us ensure a variety: A – E: green salads and fruit salads; F – K: chips, dips, veggie trays; L – R: desserts; S – Z: picnic favorites like coleslaw, potato salad, baked beans, etc. Bring food to the Meade Room kitchen before the service. See you there!

### Hymn Festival | September 8

On Monday, September 8 at 7:30 p.m., the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will celebrate its 70th anniversary with a hymn festival here at Christ Church. All are welcome to come and sing some wonderful hymns accompanied by various organists on our Bromley Organ. In addition to hymns being sung, there will be some readings, organ works, and reflections on the history of the chapter. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the service will recognize Ted Gustin for his 60 years as a leading member of this chapter. Ted served as organist at Christ Church for many years and we invite as many parishioners as possible to come and join in celebrating his contributions to the musical life of northern Virginia.

### Join the Christ Church Choir!

Do you read music? Would you like to join a robust community of singers who help to lead worship at Christ Church? Would you like to instantly make friends with 40+ members of the parish? Consider joining the Christ Church Choir. There are a few rehearsals happening during the summer to be prepared once the program year begins in September. If you are interested, please contact the Director of Music, Jason Abel, at [jabel@ccalex.org](mailto:jabel@ccalex.org) for more information.

### Want Your Child to Succeed in Life?

Enroll your child in one of our children's choirs this fall. Registration information will go out later in August but know that children ages 4 and up are welcome to join one of the Christ Church Choirs. Two children's choirs rehearse weekly on Wednesday afternoons (Cherub Choir for children ages 4-6/7 and Cherub Choir for children 8 and up). Research overwhelmingly reveals how children involved in music from a young age develop stronger cognitive, emotional, social, and physical skills compared to those with no musical involvement before the age of 10. Being part of a choir also helps to boost confidence while promoting discipline and cultural understanding. Additionally, singing in choir allows children

to deepen their spiritual practices while learning more about our faith traditions and customs. Please consider enrolling your child(ren) in one of our choirs this fall!

## FAITH FORMATION

*For information, contact the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons at [rector@ccalex.org](mailto:rector@ccalex.org) or 703.549.1450*

**Lectionary Bible Study | Sundays at 9:00 a.m. | Library**  
Ever wonder why that piece of scripture is in the Bible or what it means? Show up to the sermon and wish you knew more? This Bible study is for you! We'll read the lessons appointed for the day and conduct a brief study.

**Outreach Ministries Forum | August 17  
Meade Room | 9:00 a.m.**

Christ Church is home to 14 extraordinary Outreach Ministries. In these challenging times, our work in Alexandria is needed more than ever. Join Melanie Gray, Director of Outreach and Mission, Liz Denson, Assistant Director of Outreach and Mission and Cessily Smith, Refugee Ministry Coordinator, to learn about our ministries and the over 200 volunteers who make them thrive. Discover how they are adapting to meet the urgent needs of Alexandrians today.

**Join a Sunday School Team!**

The formation of our littlest parishioner is the responsibility of the whole church, and we always need more Sunday School teachers to join our ranks! No matter how much or how little time you can offer, we have a place for you on a Sunday School teacher team. Calendars and lessons are planned well in advance, materials and support are always provided. Email Ariel to learn more about how you help Christ Church's children grow in faith—and see what it does for your own!

**Education for Ministry**

Are you interested in exploring how Scripture and Christian tradition intersects with experiences in your daily life? Do you want to talk with God but are not sure how? Consider joining our Education for Ministry (EfM) group at Christ Church. Administered by the School of Theology of the University of the South, EfM is a four-year program, taken a year at a time, that surveys Old Testament, New Testament, Christian history, and questions around ethics and spirituality. New for 2025-26 will be a "Wide Angle" program that offers, in a single academic year, an overview of all four parts of EfM's newly revised multimedia curriculum. Our in-person, small (6-10 person) group meets weekly on Wednesday evenings from September to June. Learn more about the curriculum at <https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/>. For more information about EfM at Christ Church, contact Tom Hahn at [tshahn1@aol.com](mailto:tshahn1@aol.com) or 703-585-3933.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

*For information, contact*

*Children: Ariel Rudy at [arudy@ccalex.org](mailto:arudy@ccalex.org)*

*Youth: the Rev. Robbie Laughton at [rlaughton@ccalex.org](mailto:rlaughton@ccalex.org)*

**Back to School Blessing**

On Sunday, August 24, we will have a special back to school blessing at the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services for all students, faculty, and staff returning to school this fall. During this time of new beginnings and change, remember that God's love travels with you wherever you go! Custom backpack tags will be available for children and adults to take home.

**Register for Sunday School**

Sunday School begins again on September 14! Register your Sunday Schooler(s) ages three through 5<sup>th</sup> grade online today to help us prepare for the year ahead:

<https://bit.ly/SundaySchool2025>

**Youth Group, Youth Faith Formation and Confirmation Class Registration**

Registration for all things Youth Ministry is open! All youth in grades 6 and up are invited to join in on everything going on at Christ Church. To register youth for Youth Group, Sunday morning Faith Formation, and Confirmation Class, please use this form: [bit.ly/YouthMinistry2025](https://bit.ly/YouthMinistry2025). Please email Robbie with any questions at [rlaughton@ccalex.org](mailto:rlaughton@ccalex.org).

## OUTREACH & MISSION

*For information, contact Melanie Gray at [mgray@ccalex.org](mailto:mgray@ccalex.org) or 703.778.4937*

**AUGUST OUTREACH: PASTA, PASTA SAUCE, AND CANNED FAVORITES**

This month, consider helping us stock the Lazarus Food Pantry with some of our most popular staples: pasta, pasta sauce, canned fish, canned fruit and canned tomatoes. You can leave items in the white wooden donations box in the Parish Hall or order online (<https://amzn.to/40g4CaF>) and ship to

Christ Church ATTN: Outreach at  
118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

**The ALIVE! Furniture Trucks Roll Again August 30!**

Your Alexandria neighbors need you! Come out with your Christ Church friends on Saturday, August 30 for a morning of furniture deliveries for ALIVE! We will meet at the Warehouse at 801 S. Payne Street at 8:00 a.m. and expect to complete deliveries by 1 pm. Young and older, strong and less so, there's a need for you in this fun group activity. To volunteer or for more information, contact Kevin Metz [atkmetz@gmail.com](mailto:atkmetz@gmail.com).

## BLESSINGS ON...

- The Summer Cookout Planning team, Alan Adenan, Elizabeth Trigg, and Andrew Floyd.
- Megan Bower, Jody and Nicole Wireman, Jayne Osgood, Andrea McNicholas, and Cornelia Horne for volunteering with the gleaning ministry collecting beautiful produce from the Old Town Farmers Market for our Food Pantry visitors.
- Trish Fineran, Megan Bower, Sophia McNicholas and Andrea McNicholas for volunteering with the Bingo ministry at the Ladrey high-rise for low-income elderly and disabled.

## GIFT SHOP



Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to Noon and Wednesday to Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Phone: 703.836.5258

*All proceeds benefit outreach in the Alexandria community and globally.*

We now have a Treasure Box for kids in the Gift Shop! Just in time for school we have funny pencils, pens and erasers. We have backpack buddies and yes, we have lots of "squishies"! Come and choose something just for fun as we work to support our neighbors in need. All items in the Treasure Box are \$2.50 and will come in a special bag that you can select. We hope to see you soon!

## CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY, CLERGY, AND STAFF

### Vestry

Steve Reed, '26, *Sr. Warden*  
Kathleen Hickman '27, *Jr Warden*  
Cornelia Horner '26  
Ken Knapp '26  
Jay Purcell Manchester '26  
Nanette Lawson '27  
Wendy Montes de Oca '27  
Christopher Thompson '27  
Jane Baird '28, Paula Dubberly '28  
Jessica Hughes '28, Steve Slaton '28

David Rees, *Treasurer*

### Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Noelle York-Simmons  
*Rector*  
The Rev. Robbie Laughton  
*Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Abbott Bailey  
*Priest Associate*

### Music

M. Jason Abel  
*Director of Music*

### Parish Office

Michelle Baize  
Meredith Bracco  
Liz Denson, Melanie Gray  
Ariel Rudy, Lia Sanchez  
Julie Simonton

### Facilities

Pouyan Meghdadian  
Glen Curry, Kevin Lawyer