

PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF AUGUST 24, 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 – RECTOR'S FORUM | MEADE ROOM | 9:00 A.M.

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.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST CHURCH

For a listing of currently scheduled activities and meetings, visit www.historicchristchurch.org/events

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
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 29

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 25

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 26

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27

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

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

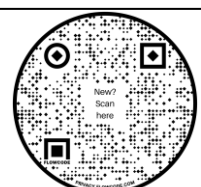
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live
9:00 a.m. Lazarus Food Pantry – Meade Room

AA • Al-Anon

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



118 N. Washington St. Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: 703.549.1450 • Fax: 703.549.5883
www.HistoricChristChurch.org



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send submissions of 50 words or less to ParishLife@ccalex.org.

Welcome Sunday | Volunteer for Welcome Sunday!

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
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
or 703.778.4935

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.

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.

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.

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 3rd Sunday of each month, at 11:30 with the purpose of understanding and strengthening for the long-term U.S. Constitutional democracy. Our next meeting is Sunday, September 21. Please contact Libby Witt (ewawitt@hotmail.com) and Susan Marquis (slmarquis70@gmail.com) for more information.

Christ Church Soccer Saturday | September 27 | 7:30 p.m.

All Christ Church members, friends and family are invited for a night out to watch DC United play the Philadelphia Union at Audi Field. Tickets are only \$30 each! Tickets are available first come, first served, no later than September 15. To reserve a spot or for more information, contact Robbie.

rlaughton@ccalex.org.

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 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. Email Jason Abe, at jabel@ccalex.org for more information. 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 or 703.549.1450

Lectionary Bible Study | Sundays at 9:00 a.m. | Library
Resumes next week!

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.

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! Email Ariel at arudy@ccalex.org for more information.

Covenant Class | Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m.

Covenant Class is a 10-week introduction for those who want to know more about being an Episcopalian & Christ Church—whether newcomers to the church or life-long Episcopalians—to get better acquainted with the clergy, staff, parish leaders, and other newcomers to Christ Church. Classes begin September 17. Contact Jessica Williams at jessicavilliams@gmail.com to sign up.

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 or 703-585-3933.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

For information, contact

Children: Ariel Rudy at arudy@ccalex.org

Youth: the Rev. Robbie Laughton at 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 5th grade online today to help us prepare for the year ahead: 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. Please email Robbie with any questions at rlaughton@ccalex.org.

It's time for Confirmation Class!

The Christ Church youth confirmation program, "Confirm Not Conform," is returning for the 2025-26 school year. All 9th graders (or above) who are interested in exploring their faith and considering being confirmed in the Episcopal Church (and, in addition, having a little fun) are welcome. Confirmation itself is not a mandatory part of the program. The class will meet throughout the year on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the Fowler House Teen Center, beginning with a brief introductory session for parents and/or students on September 14. To register for class or learn more, please reach out to the class leaders, Kelley Brooke and Darrin Hostetler darrinahostetler@gmail.com.

OUTREACH & MISSION

For information, contact Melanie Gray at
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 1:00 p.m. 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 atkhmetz@gmail.com.

BLESSINGS ON...

- All who volunteered for last week's Bag Lunch Ministry: Anne Land, Mary Dixon and Jack Hutcheson, Julie Zahn, Mary Hobbie and Jon Smoot, Emily Bryan, Christy Wyckoff, Liz Denson and family, Elaine Wick, Maude Williams, Emily Soapes, and Nancy Knapp.
- Cornelia Horner, Ann Hollingsworth, Anne Shackleton; Bradley McAllister; Mary Catherine Nelson, Jane Baird, Jessica Hughes, Susan Hahn, Maryann and Rawles Jones for shopping, cooking and serving dinner at the Carpenter's Shelter.

NAME TAGS

Personalized Christ Church Name Tags: Are you a regular attender that would like a personalized Christ Church name tag? If so, please email membership2@historicchristchurch.org with the name you'd like printed. It will then be made and posted on the name tag board in the portico.

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.

The jams and jellies are here! We have lots to choose from. Come to the Gift Shop to restock your favorites and find something new to try. And don't forget the Good and Evil pickles! We still have spring/summer honey and a variety of peanuts in large and small cans. A new dish towel will brighten up your kitchen. We have dish towels with funny dogs and cats and birds and flowers. Come by the Gift Shop and have a look!

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