

# PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 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.

### Care of Creation: A Christian Call

Join Rev. Noelle for the second in a four-part series where we will look carefully at Old and New Testament passages to help us better understand how we can be stewards of creation, instead of merely users.

## 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, SEPTEMBER 21

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
9:00 a.m. Lectionary Study – Library  
9:00 a.m. Sunday Forum – Meade Room  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School – Fowler House  
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour – Meade Room  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

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

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

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

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live  
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist – Chapel  
4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir – Choir Room  
5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir – Choir Room  
7:00 p.m. Covenant Class – Library  
7:00 p.m. EFM – Teen Center  
9:00 p.m. Compline – Facebook Live

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

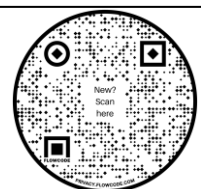
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live

### 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).

### Giving Makes us Feel Good!

Neuroscience proves that giving makes us feel good. Practicing generosity releases oxytocin and dopamine: the feel-good hormones that promote happiness, trust, and community. Giving makes us cheerful - and as everyone at Christ Church knows, "God loves a cheerful giver!"

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

Wanna try? You can give through - wait for it - cash, check, ACH, debit card, credit card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, Benevity, DAFs, RMDs, and stock. Don't see your favorite option listed here? Let us know!

See our QR codes in Parish Life and the bulletin, or connect with Julie Simonton at [jsimonton@ccalex.org](mailto:jsimonton@ccalex.org) or 703.778.4935

### The Mengo Raffle | Final Week to Buy Tickets



Help our partner Mengo HIV/AIDS Clinic in Kamapala, Uganda offer care to over 9,000 patients per year by purchasing raffle tickets. Tickets are on sale online now: [bit.ly/MengoRaffle2025](https://bit.ly/MengoRaffle2025) and in-person. The winning tickets will be announced on

September 28. You do not need to be present to win. The grand prize is a \$500 gift card to Trader Joe's. Second place prize is a \$200 gift card to Signature Theater and a \$100 gift card to the Carlyle Restaurant. Additional prizes include restaurant gift cards at a variety of places in the area. Please note, raffle ticket purchases are not tax deductible. If you would like to make a separate tax-deductible donation to support Mengo Hospital, please visit [bit.ly/GivetoChristChurch](https://bit.ly/GivetoChristChurch) and select "Mengo Hospital" from the fund dropdown.

### 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).

### 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 with the purpose of understanding and strengthening for the long-term U.S. Constitutional democracy. Our next

meeting is Sunday, September 21 in McMurray Commons. Please contact Libby Witt ([ewitt@hotmail.com](mailto:ewitt@hotmail.com)) and Susan Marquis ([sanmarquis70@gmail.com](mailto:sanmarquis70@gmail.com)) for more information.

### Dinner Church | October 1

The first Wednesday of the month means Dinner Church! From 5:45 to 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium, we will offer a special dinner for everyone. There will be a short "Service of Word and Table" during dinner for everyone to participate in together, and a special craft corner for kids.

### Cemetery Cleanup: The fall Christ Church Wilkes Street

Cemetery cleanup will be conducted from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, October 4, at the 1500 block of Wilkes Street. Bring your favorite garden gloves and tools (e.g., rake, clippers, shears, saw, shovel, etc.) to help keep our cemetery and nearby cemeteries tidy, attractive, and safe. Questions: contact Glen Hewitt at email: [hewittglen@gmail.com](mailto:hewittglen@gmail.com).

### Blessing of the Animals | October 5 | 3:00 p.m.

Our annual Blessing of the Animals for animals of all shapes and sizes will be held in the churchyard. There will also be a special prayer for beloved pets who have died. Bring their retired collars, leashes, or photos for a blessing.

### Choral Evensong | October 5

The first Choral Evensong of this program year will be on October 5 at 5:00 p.m. We are excited to welcome Simon Thomas Jacobs, who will be our guest organist. Simon won the St. Albans International Organ Competition in 2013, considered one of the most prestigious competitions in the world. He holds degrees from Cambridge University in the U.K. as well as from Oberlin College. He has played recitals at Notre Dame de Paris, Westminster Abbey, and a host of other prominent locations. He will play an extended prelude beginning at 4:40. The choir will then sing works by Charles Stanford, Balfour Gardiner, Ivor Novello, and Edward Bairstow. A festive reception will follow the service. Invite a friend to join you for a wonderful evening of inspiring music!

### Monday Concert Series | 12:15 p.m. | October 13

Second Monday of the Month | October through May |  
The first concert in the series will be Organ Works of Bach, Willis, and Bridge featuring Paul Byssainthe, Jr. There is no admission for these concerts, though we hope audience members will support the series with a goodwill donation of any amount (suggested amount: \$10). These 45-minute programs include solo performers and chamber musicians based in DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia. The full schedule is here: [www.historicchristchurch.org/music](http://www.historicchristchurch.org/music)

## FAITH FORMATION

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

**Care of Creation: A Christian Call | 9:00 a.m. | Meade Room**  
Sunday September 21, 28, and October 5

The way we interpret our scriptural mandate to care for God's world drives the way we protect it. Join Rev. Noelle for a four-

part series where we will look carefully at Old and New Testament passages to help us better understand how we can be stewards of creation instead of merely users.

**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.

**Rob Radtke | Meade Room | October 12 | 9:00 a.m.**

On Sunday October 12 we will welcome Rob Radtke, President & CEO of Episcopal Relief & Development as guest preacher and to lead Sunday's forum. Episcopal Relief & Development facilitates healthier, more fulfilling lives in communities struggling with hunger, poverty, disaster and disease – and the organization is committed to demonstrating a measurable impact in three transformative program priorities: women, children and climate.

**Virginia Interfaith Power and Light | Meade Room  
October 26 at 9:00 a.m.**

Virginia Interfaith Power and Light's mission is to collaborate among people of faith and conscience to grow healthy communities by advancing climate and environmental justice. Come learn about VAIP's work with over 200 faith communities in the Commonwealth, the issues they are tackling and how we can collaborate

**Love God Love God's World**

Love God, Love God's World is a nine-session, film-based curriculum created by the Episcopal Church for anyone who wants to learn more about creation care and environmental ministry. The structure of the program is similar to Sacred Ground. Beginning on Tuesday, September 23, Libby Witt will be leading the group, meeting every other Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. For more information, please email Libby Witt at [ewitt@hotmail.com](mailto:ewitt@hotmail.com).

**Have Mercy Webinar from VTS | Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m.  
October 1-29 | In person at Christ Church or on Zoom**

Confused about the intersection of faith and politics in this chaotic moment? Join Dr. Kyle Lambelet, friend of Christ Church and director of the Saint Nicholas Center for Faith and Justice, for a webinar series that makes plain the political implications of the Christian tradition. Designed for clergy, lay folk, teachers, activists, citizens, and anyone looking to sharpen their theological understanding of politics. If you would like to join a small group at Christ Church to watch and discuss together, email Rev. Noelle, [rector@ccalex.org](mailto:rector@ccalex.org). If you would like to join the VTS Zoom on your own, please register here: [bit.ly/4maGP3u](https://bit.ly/4maGP3u).

**Women's Retreat: Save the Date | March 6-8, 2026**

Calling all women of Christ Church! Mark your calendars for a Spirit-filled weekend away at Chanco on the James Retreat Center. We will be joined by The Rev. Mary Hemmer, priest, author, and storyteller. More information, including sign-up links, will be available in December. This retreat is made

possible by a generous donation from the family of Martha Wilcox, to help inspire our formation in Christ.

## 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)*

**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: [bit.ly/SundaySchool2025](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).

**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](mailto:darrinahostetler@gmail.com).

## OUTREACH & MISSION

*For information, contact Melanie Gray at*

*[mgray@ccalex.org](mailto:mgray@ccalex.org) or 703.778.4937*

**SEPTEMBER OUTREACH: PANTRY STAPLES**

This month, consider helping us stock the Lazarus Food Pantry with some of our most popular canned offerings: soups, stews, tuna and sardines. 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.

## BLESSINGS ON...

- JoAnn Ackerman, Jane Baird, Marie Cataffo, Glen Hewitt, Jeanne Hoenicke, Liz Jones, Kirk Kitchen, Bob McIntyre, Michele Smith, Ann Spitler, and Maude Williams for delivering Meals on Wheels on Wednesday, September 17.
- Our Facilities Assistants, Glen, Kevin, and Van, for all of their hard work both seen and unseen.

## WELCOME SEMINARIAN ABBY MERK

Abigail Merk is a Master of Divinity student at Virginia Theological Seminary. A postulant from the Diocese of New Jersey, Abby was led to the ordination process through a love of sacred music and the leadership of female clergy in her life. Abby is so eager to get to know you, serve, and worship with you. She firmly believes that God has planted her exactly where she needs to be, right here.

## 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.*

*Thistle Farms* is a Nashville based organization offering a support system for women who have endured addiction, incarceration, poverty and abuse. It offers housing and job training in a healing environment. The women produce quality, skin-care products to support their community. Come to the Gift Shop to see our selection of their products and choose one for yourself. We are proud to offer their products and hope you will help us support their organization.

## 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  
Van Bridgers, Glen Curry  
Kevin Lawyer