

# PARISH LIFE • WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 28, 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 third 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.

**MENGO RAFFLE DRAWING THIS MORNING! Buy tickets outside!**

## 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 28

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

7:00 p.m. EFM – Teen Center  
9:00 p.m. Compline – Facebook Live

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

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

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

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  
7:30 p.m. LGBTQ+ Theology and Faith – Library

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

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

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live  
7:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting – Meade Room

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

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

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

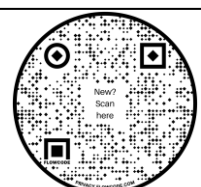
7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer – Facebook Live  
12:05 p.m. Holy Eucharist – Chapel  
4:30 p.m. Canterbury Choir – Choir Room  
5:30 p.m. Cherub Choir – Choir Room  
7:00 p.m. Have Mercy Discussion – Crosier Room  
7:00 p.m. Covenant Class – Library

### 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

### 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.

### 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).

### Cemetery Cleanup | October 4

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!

### Celebrating 20 Years of Jason | October 5

Jason Abel has been the Director of Music at Christ Church for 20 years, which means it is time for a party! Directly following our first Evensong of the season on October 5 at 5:00 p.m., we will have a party in the Auditorium to honor Jason. All are welcome and encouraged to attend to show our Maestro how much we love and appreciate him.

### Knit & Crochet on October 5 and November 2

Please join us in the Teen Center after the 10:00 a.m. service for a skill building session as we make hats and scarves for the Christ Child Ministry. Bring your projects, questions, tips, patterns, needles/hooks and love of the craft for a time of fellowship and learning. Supplies available for those picking up needles/hooks for the first time, with experienced crafters on hand to help you get started! For questions, contact Sandra Thomson [smbthomson@gmail.com](mailto:smbthomson@gmail.com).

### 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)

### Betsy's Breakfast | October 19 | Auditorium

Breakfast is served in the Auditorium from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.!

## 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 September 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

**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).

## 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)*

### **All Are Welcome in Sunday School**

Sunday School began again on September 14. It's never too late for your child to join us! Sunday School takes place almost every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Fowler House, is available for kids age three and up, and invites children into the story of God's love through scripture, games, crafts, music, service, and more. Email [sundayschool@ccalex.org](mailto:sundayschool@ccalex.org) for more information.

### **Fellowship for Parents of Infants and Toddlers**

Raising tiny Christians is no easy feat! One Sock On is a space for parents to come together and share the triumphs and trials of parenthood in a loving, relaxed environment while little ones get to know church friends. One Sock On meets during Sunday School (9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.) in Room 103 in the Fowler House. Come whenever you can, for as long as you like. Email Jaclyn Hagner ([jackie.hagner@gmail.com](mailto:jackie.hagner@gmail.com)) if you have questions or would like to be added to the email list.

### **Serve God, Serve the Church, Wear Cool Robes**

Children and youth in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and above are invited to join the acolyte team! Acolytes assist during worship by lighting candles, leading the procession, receiving the gifts (bread, wine, offering), and more. Training is available for all new acolytes and no one ever serves alone. Schedules are assembled on a month to month basis. Email acolyte leaders Matt Zahn ([matthew.zahn@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.zahn@gmail.com)) and Aaron Nelson ([c09aaron.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:c09aaron.nelson@gmail.com)) to get involved.

### **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. 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.

### **Help a Child Learn to Read!**

Alexandria Tutoring Consortium needs volunteer reading tutors in Alexandria's public elementary schools, with the most openings at Ferdinand Day, Patrick Henry, and John Adams schools in Alexandria's west end. Tutors work one-on-one with a kindergarten, first, or second grade student in 35-minute sessions, once or twice a week, during the school day, October through May. Contact Alexa Allmann [aallmann@alexandriatutors.org](mailto:aallmann@alexandriatutors.org) or visit [www.alexandriatutors.org](http://www.alexandriatutors.org) to learn more or to register: [bit.ly/4pDRc2T](https://bit.ly/4pDRc2T)

## BLESSINGS ON...

- Bob Carpenter, Lenny and Milly Marsico, Anne Shackleton, Joe and Carol Shull, Michaela Shaughnessy, Kris Lebras, Barbara Boehm and Robin Campbell for shopping, cooking, and serving dinner at the Carpenter's Shelter.
- Emily, Ian, Max and Evelyn Bryan and James and Jessica Hughes for gleaning at the Old Town Farmers Market.

## 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.*

Welcome fall with a visit to the Gift Shop. We have plenty of peanuts, jams, chutneys and pickles for fall get togethers. We have fall napkins and decor for your table. We have hand cream, lip balm and lip smoothies for chapped hands and lips. Come by the shop and see what's new! 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  
Van Bridgers, Glen Curry  
Kevin Lawyer