

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool

576 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702

Office: (631) 661-7245 ~ Preschool: (631) 376-0773

Website: www.CCLChurch.com

Email: Office@CCLchurch.com

Sunday Worship Service ~ 10 a.m.

Sunday School ~ 10 a.m.

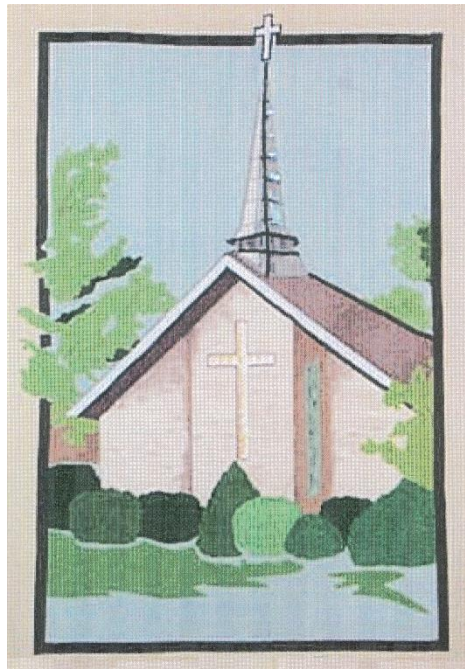
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Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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APRIL 2024



*We are a community united in Jesus Christ,
sharing God's love through word and deed.*



Dear Members and Friends,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! How great it was to gather on Easter morning to celebrate our risen and living Lord! How special it was to hear such uplifting music and singing in worship and praise to our Lord and Savior!

I sincerely thank all who helped to enhance our worship experience. Very special thanks go to Rossina Zacarias for the fine music and extra work with hymn selections, choral arrangements and organ pieces throughout Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We also thank all Choir members, Anita Meserole and Bell Choir members, and our guest organist Manuel Zacarias.

How special it was to observe the Sunday School children marching through church waving their palm branches during the procession on Palm Sunday. And the Bell Choir participating in the procession, ringing their handbells, was wonderful!

Following Easter Day worship services, Diana Schnugg and her team worked hard to offer a delicious breakfast and fellowship time. We sincerely thank all who helped (names listed in this issue of *Crosswords*).

Special thanks also go to Deacon Sandy Miller, Deacon Daniel Foisset, and Debbie Goodwin for their assistance in coordinating our Good Friday prayer vigil. Once again, it was a very moving experience.

Special thanks to Deacon Sandy Miller for the lovely bulletin boards for Lent and Easter. We really appreciate the incredible artwork and Christian expressions!

The Confirmation "Day Retreat" will be held Saturday, May 4 in our Fellowship Hall. Confirmands will be assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Care kit donations are needed by Sunday, April 28. (See page 8 for more details.) Thank you in advance for your donations!

As we continue the 100th anniversary celebration, I hope you will be present at 10 a.m. worship on Sunday, April 28 as our guest preacher will be Pastor Marie Scharfe Jerge.

As we thank God for 100 years of mission and ministry, I thank God for you. And, I thank God for the privilege of serving as your pastor.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Pastor Joanne Bond

Pastor Joanne Bond



RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, EASTER DAY

A Happy Beginning

There's a way of talking about Easter that makes it sound a bit like a surprise happy ending that brings a scary and suspenseful storyline to its resolution. On one level that's true: Easter is a day of joy! Death is defeated! It is the feast of victory of our God.

But if we think of Easter only as the final chapter in God's story of salvation, we may leave Easter Sunday worship the same way we leave a movie theater after a satisfying film: we take a deep breath, we let out a sigh perhaps, we say, "Well, that was great," and then we go back to our everyday lives. We go back to our grief. We go back to our fear about the future. We go back to a world where evil still seems to win.

Easter is something different entirely. Easter is not a momentary interruption in the general order of things, a temporary reprieve from the heaviness of death. Far from wrapping things up or simply undoing the pain of Good Friday, the resurrection of Jesus Christ opens up a whole new way of living. It is not a "sigh" but an earthquake!

"But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them," Luke writes (24:11). It takes time for the full magnitude of the empty tomb to settle in. Like the apostles upon hearing the women's news, we can scarcely imagine what it means for us that God's love is stronger than death, and that every aspect of our life together—indeed, the entire cosmos!—is changed by this good news. That's why the church gives us fifty days to unpack this mystery, not just a single morning.

But one thing is for sure: Easter is not a happy ending so much as it is a new beginning. We who are baptized into Jesus Christ are free to live with death in the rearview mirror, no longer afraid of its power.



A Note From Pastor

As you may have heard, our church will be getting a new pastoral intern. Vicar Marilyn Dolloway will be serving 3/4 time at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wyandanch and 1/4 time (or 10 hours a week) at Cross of Christ.

I will be serving as Vicar Dolloway's Intern Supervisor. She will be serving on Tuesday and Wednesday each week, beginning Tuesday, April 16.

Burnout in the Workplace

by Elizabeth Geiling, PhD, LMHC, LPC

At LCC's Annual Corporators' meeting on March 12th, Dr. Betty Geiling presented on the timely topic of "Burnout in the Workplace" with a special emphasis on the church and our church workers. Here are a few highlights:

Burnout is a syndrome or cluster of symptoms leading to emotional, physical, and mental exhaustion. Over the long term it can have devastating consequences for our health. Eventually causing exhaustion, memory loss, and lack of empathy for those we serve.

This has been the focus of much research over the past decades, with the goal of getting people back to work, developing effective treatments, and avoiding the conditions in the workplace that make us particularly vulnerable.



- Pastors, church workers, clinicians and caregivers are susceptible to burnout because they tend to be less vocal about their circumstances regarding the stress they are experiencing.
- Pastors and church workers engage in the service of others and "one way giving" which can lead to compassion fatigue.
- Caregiving professions are regularly called on to provide comfort in the midst of crisis.

We are designed to endure a healthy amount of stress from our daily tasks and environment. When balance exists, this feels energizing and results in productive work. As the inability to cope with daily stressors escalates, we begin to experience uncomfortable symptoms and difficult days in our workplace.

Effective ways to avoid burnout begin with regular check-in's regarding our own self-care. As church professionals, it is important to remember that we use ourselves as the "tool kit" to serve others. And, in order for us to be effective, we too need a "tool kit" for ourselves.

Some ways to avoid burnout involve a solid, predictable routine involving adequate sleep, limited technology exposure, exercise, learning to say "no," and surrounding ourselves with positive, supportive people/colleagues. Lastly, take care of your spiritual health by allowing sufficient time for prayer and reading the Word.

Elizabeth Geiling PhD, LMHC, LPC. – Currently acting as LCC Interim Executive Director, Betty's work experience includes counseling for college, community and school related concerns for individuals or groups. Her counseling practice includes early childhood, adolescents, early, middle, and late adulthood, and couples. Call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at Center@lccny.org for more information or to set an appointment.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is now a membership congregation of Lutheran Counseling Center (LCC). One benefit is that professional counseling is available to our congregational members and their families at reduced rates for the first four sessions.

For more information, or to set an appointment with a Christian counselor, please call the LCC main office at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173. LCC is currently providing confidential, HIPAA compliant virtual counseling sessions. In normal times, the LCC also has nine sites over the metropolitan NY area for in-person sessions.



Spring has finally arrived at Cross of Christ Preschool! Spring is a very busy time in preschool. The children are learning and observing the amazing things that happen in the Spring. We will be planting seeds and watching them grow into flowers and observing caterpillars turn into butterflies. We will thank you God for Spring and all the amazing things that grow!

Our enrollment for September 2024 is going along nicely. We still have openings in our full and half day classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-old children. Please continue to spread the word about our preschool to your friends, family, and neighbors. If you would like more information about any of our classes, please call the preschool office at 631-376-0773 or email preschool.director@cclchurch.com. We will be happy to answer any questions or schedule a private tour of our preschool.

Yours in Christ,
Allison Fischer, Preschool Director



Sunday School News ~ April 2024

Happy Spring!

I am trusting that you all had a blessed Easter. The choirs, solos, trumpets, and bells offered a wonderful gift to the congregation on Easter Sunday. Thank you!

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Sunday School children buried the Alleluia banner and on Easter Sunday, March 31, it was unfurled.

Our Lenten Mission Project, (Filling our Pantry), will continue through April. The response was a bit unenthusiastic so allowing more time will make it more fruitful. Thank you to those who have already donated!

We will be doing a "blanket craft" by breaking into small groups and tying the borders. Collaboration fosters a spirit of love among the children. The blankets will be donated to the residents of The Arbors Assisted Living in Hauppauge. The children love to do this activity and are always joyful to make others feel loved.

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Sandy Miller
Mrs. Denise Gagan, Mrs. Anne Maurice, and Mr. Bill Reichert





DID YOU KNOW

Cross of Christ Lutheran Preschool

- **Is one of the few preschools in our community that has New York State Certification by Office of Children & Family Services**
- Has a fine Director, Mrs. Allison Fischer
- Employs a fine staff of Teachers and Assistant Teachers, who meet high standards of Office of Children & Family Services
- Enjoys a newly expanded, beautiful playground.
- Utilizes a “Smart Board” for educational purposes.
- Partners with Babylon and North Babylon School Districts for two Universal Pre-K classes
- Includes a fine music program for children with Miss Rossina
- Provides ample parking in our private, off-street parking lot
- Has a brightly lit full gymnasium.
- Is in a safe, secure environment.
- Shares the “Good News” with children at chapel services as Pastor Bond teaches children about God’s love for them.

**Please call to arrange a tour, or meet with our Director,
and find out why our school is a cut above.**

Preschool: (631) 376-0773 Church: (631) 661-7245

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church and Preschool
576 Deer Park Avenue, Babylon, NY 11702**





What are your children doing for **FUN** this summer?

Registration is underway for the

CROSS OF CHRIST SUMMER FUN PROGRAM.

Children 2 years old to 6 years old (just having finished Kindergarten) are welcome.

July 9th - August 1st

9:30 a.m. to Noon

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

Cost is \$345.00

Children will participate in recreational play in our gym, outdoor play on our playground, water play, a daily craft, story time, and free play in our spacious classrooms. A snack will be provided daily.

Register early to ensure your child's placement in this program. Class sizes are limited.

For more information, call the church office (631.661.7245) or go to our website

(<https://www.cclchurch.com/summer-fun>).

Confirmation



Retreat

~ Confirmation Retreat at Church ~

Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(for all 6th graders and older)

Confirmands will be assembling ***Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief***

- ***DONATIONS NEEDED:*** Bath-size bar soap, metal nail clippers, adult-size toothbrushes, sturdy combs. Donations are needed **by Sunday, April 28** and can be left in the baskets in the Church hallway.
- ***Thank you in advance for your donations!***



~ First Communion Class ~

Sunday, May 5 at 11:30 a.m.

(for 5th graders and older)



Junior Choir ~ Sundays following Sunday School. All children who like to sing are welcome! Rehearsals are about 20 minutes and are held in the Luther Room.

- **Youth Choir** ~ Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. *All* confirmands are welcome to join.
- **Senior Choir** ~ Wednesdays, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. *All* are welcome to join.
- **Bell Choir** ~ Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. *All* are welcome to join.



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOURS ~ Would you like to sponsor Coffee Fellowship time following worship on Sunday morning? You may celebrate an occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.). Call the Church Office (631-661-7245) with any questions, or to schedule your coffee hour dates.



Pastor's Bible Study meets in-person, Mondays at 11 a.m. We are studying **"Soul Sisters: Women in Scripture Speak to Women Today"** by Edwina Gateley and Louis Glanzman. Please call the church office or let Pastor know if you wish to join us.



- **SUPPER** - Tuesdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. with "grab & go" meals. We can use more volunteers. **If you can assist, please call the church office. Thank you!**
- **PANTRY** - Tuesdays, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. For a list of pantry needs, please look in the Sunday bulletin or call the church office. **All donations are greatly appreciated!**



PRIME TIMERS meet on **Wednesdays at 12 noon.** All who are 50 years or older are welcome to join us. Bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee & cake are provided.



Confirmation Classes ~ Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
"Hang – Out" Time ~ Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. prior to Confirmation class with pizza and snacks. All **Confirmands** are welcome!

TAI CHI CLASSES ~ Fridays at 7 p.m. Fee: \$10 per class. Good for the mind, body, and spirit! For more information, call the Church Office (631-661-7245).



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A WORSHIP ASSISTANT? We invite you to prayerfully consider serving as a **Lector (Reader), Communion Assistant,** or **Usher** at worship. Please speak to Pastor or call the church office.



If you are having surgery or a medical procedure, please call the church office so that we can include you in the Sunday prayers **or** if you would like a pastoral visit.



To Thrivent Financial and all who assisted in any way for the delicious breakfast on Easter morning!

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| Marie Bohrer | Mike Schnugg |
| Sue Borg | Marilyn Vidoni |
| Eeva-Liisa Borg | Jean Wevers |
| Debra Carter | Joanne Zimmardi |
| Trudi Guarino | John Zimmardi |
| Carol Johnson | Mark Zimmardi |
| Laurie Salvo | Pete Zimmardi |

and especially ... Diana Schnugg



SPECIAL THANKS to everyone for your generous donations towards the **Easter Food Gift Cards and the Lenten Mission Jar!**

Thank you for your continued support and thank you for helping us to help those in need!



Thank you!

Thanks to all those who donated “The Gift of Life” on Sunday, March 3rd at the Blood Drive. Thirty-nine pints were collected!

Thanks also to the volunteers, all who assisted in any way, and especially our Parish Nurse, Jean Wevers!



New Member Classes are being planned. If you wish to join our church or just review basic Lutheran teachings, please call the Church Office (631-661-7245).



A brief **HEALING SERVICE** will be held in the sanctuary on **Sunday, May 12** following worship service and brief time in coffee fellowship.



TEMPLE TALK ~ SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024 **“Evangelism”**

Good morning everyone. My name is Bill Riegel. I have been a member of Cross of Christ for almost 30 years now and have served on the Church Council off and on for about 10 years. I am also currently an officer of the Church in my role as Secretary. For quite some time now, my role has been as the chairperson of the Evangelism Committee. With Covid and the 100th Anniversary of the Congregation this year, we have not generated much activity from this Committee. As Pastor Bond mentioned during her February 18th sermon, it is time to “Come Back”. Not to Jamaica, as the advertising campaign stated, but to the Cross of Christ. And bring a friend with you!

One of the goals of the recent Church Retreat is to bring more people into the Church. These could be former members, lapsed members, friends of members, newcomers to the area or others who are looking for a Congregation that fits their needs.

I cannot claim to know what most people need and what would draw them to any Church. I defer to Pastor Bond for the Spiritual portion of Evangelism. What I like to do is create events and give people more reasons to come to the Church, attend services, or just be around the Congregation. To that end, historically, we have organized Safe Driving Classes and Tag Sales, activities which have addressed some needs for the Congregation. Going forward, there are many things that we are already thinking of, but we need more ideas, more volunteers, and more Evangelism Committee participation. Right now, the Committee is Faith Schoelermann and me, with assistance and oversight from Pastor Bond and Council President Jackie Smrek.

I invite all of you to reach out to me, Faith, Pastor Bond and/or Jackie Smrek with ideas on bringing more people back into the Church, for whatever reason, either through Evangelism activities or your own doing. I ask the rest of you to make an effort, if you are able, to reach out to any new faces that you see at Coffee Hour and other events and make them welcome in whatever way you feel comfortable.

We want to channel our love of the Lord and of each other into positive energy and activities that can help us to grow our Congregation. Thank you.

P.S. I failed to mention that the reason that we came over to Cross of Christ was because we were invited. Kristina Dale Blatz invited us to attend services while the kids went to Sunday School, and we were hooked.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church presents a

*100th
Anniversary
Concert*



Sunday, April 28, 2024

4:00 p.m.

576 Deer Park Avenue

Babylon, NY

“Praising God with Music” featuring our:

Bell Choir, Senior Choir, Youth Choir, and Junior Choir

Including ~ Solos, Duets, Trios

Minister of Music ~ Rossina Zacarias

Please join us as we celebrate “100 Years of Mission”.

All are welcome! Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the concert.



***Continuing the celebration of the
100th year anniversary of our congregation
Pastor Marie Scharfe Jerge will be the Guest Preacher
at the 10 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, April 28.***
