

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.

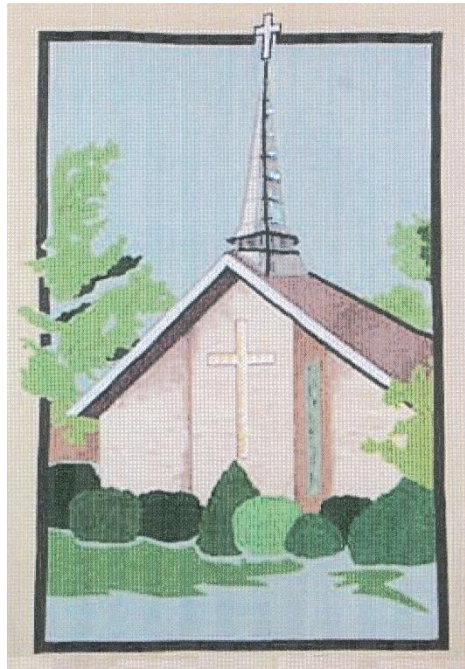
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Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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MAY 2024



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



May 2024

Dear Members and Friends,

On Sunday, April 28 at the 10 a.m. worship service, we were pleased to have Pastor Marie Jerge as our guest preacher. As we have been celebrating the 100th anniversary of our congregation, Pastor Jerge's sermon was so special as she lifted up cherished memories of our church when she was growing up. Her Mom and Dad, (Helen and Charles), were faithful leaders of this congregation, and it was good for us to welcome Pastor Jerge and to enjoy social time together in the fellowship hall.

Continuing our 100th anniversary celebration, on Sunday, April 28 at 4 p.m. we were blessed to hear a magnificent concert at our church. The level of talent in our congregation is amazing. I thank all who participated (see page 11). Special thanks to Anita Meserole, Bell Choir Director, and Tony Wevers, Festival Ensemble Director. Very special thanks to our Minister of Music, Rossina Zacarias, who worked hard to coordinate a fabulous program to glorify God. We also thank Diana and Michael Schnugg, Jean Wevers, and Eeva-Liisa Bulger for help with our social gathering in the fellowship hall following the concert. We thank God for the wonderful talent which was displayed and appreciated by all in attendance.

Thursday, May 2 marks the National Day of Prayer in our country. The Babylon Interfaith Clergy Cluster will offer prayers at the gazebo across from Argyle Park on Montauk Highway at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 2. All are welcome to attend.

The Confirmation "Day Retreat" will be held Saturday, May 4 in our Fellowship Hall. We thank all who donated much needed items for the Lutheran World Relief personal care kits.

On Nurse Recognition Sunday, May 5, we will thank God for all who work in healthcare with special recognition to our Parish Nurse, Jean Wevers.

The Ascension of Our Lord will be celebrated on Thursday, May 9. The Ascension of Our Lord is the 40th day of the Easter season, celebrating Christ's ascension to heaven. We read about the Ascension of Our Lord in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 24 (verses 44 – 53).

On Mother's Day, Sunday May 12, we will thank God for all women of God.

On Sunday, May 19, we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday. This festival derives its name from the Jewish festival of Pentecost, observed fifty days after Passover. On the fiftieth day of

Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us that heals, forgives, inspires, and unites. In Acts (Chapter 2, Verses 1 – 21), images of wind and fire describe the Spirit poured out on disciples of all nations. In John’s Gospel (Chapter 20, Verses 19 – 23) the risen Christ breathes the Spirit on his followers on Easter evening. In the one Spirit, we are baptized into one body, and at the Lord’s table, the Spirit unites us for witness in the world.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, Confirmation will take place at the 11:30 a.m. worship service.

On Trinity Sunday, May 26, First Communion will take place at the 10 a.m. worship service.

Vicar Marilyn Dolloway will be serving $\frac{3}{4}$ time at Trinity, Wyandanch and $\frac{1}{4}$ time here with us at Cross of Christ as she fulfills the one-year pastoral internship requirement of our synod. (See her brief bio on page 12.)

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



Pentecost



Ascension
OF OUR LORD

Jesus Leads Us into Heaven

On Thursday after the sixth Sunday of Easter — May 9 in 2024 — the church celebrates the Ascension of Our Lord. John Donne (1571-1631) wrote the poem “Ascension,” which contains an important reminder: When Jesus returned to his Father, it was the culmination of all he had done to prepare the path to heaven for us.

... Joy at the uprising of this Sun, and Son ...

He first enters the way.

O strong Ram, which hast batter'd heaven for me!

Mild lamb, which with Thy Blood hast mark'd the path!

Bright Torch, which shinest, that I the way may see! ...

May we follow our strong-yet-mild, brightly shining Savior into God’s eternal presence.

On Tuesdays, The Sun Comes Out

By Jennifer Schell Podoll

We're in that time of year: graduations and concerts and ceremonies and recitals. There's a lot of parental pride that comes with this season of culmination, commendation, and celebration. I'm as guilty as anyone of posting to the socials all the sunshine my heart is bursting with – and maybe that creates a lopsided view of my life from the outside looking in. But I think it's important to acknowledge two things.

First: that sunshine feels so good because we — each of us, in our own way — have walked through the storms of parenthood. Middle school with my oldest was freaking hard. It was a physical, emotional, hormonal metamorphosis. (And I mean that in the Kafka-esque way: Did a giant cockroach just come out of my eldest child's room? Nope. A teenager.)

There was one week – now this is high school, mind you, *after* the metamorphosis – that my oldest had a temper tantrum on Monday so massive that it made me question all the parenting decisions we did and didn't make. The same day, #2 had the blues and the youngest, who is neurodiverse and challenged in all the ways, just had a stupid, hard day. Were we creating humans who couldn't function IRL? Could we do this at all?

And then Tuesday dawned: the oldest was an angel ready to run the world, #2 had an awesome band concert *and* the youngest managed to sit through that concert without melting down. That day, the literal and figurative rain held off. So, I posted that Tuesday sunshine to all the socials. Days like that feel like hard-won victories and when I post, I'm sharing my boundless pride but also telling you: *We made it to Tuesday – there is a Tuesday.* Social media gets all the sunshine moments, and most of those stormy days never make it to the permanent record. But I think that's OK. I want to share in your sunshine, too. I love your beautiful children, your happy anniversaries, your funny cats and your spring gardens. Keep sharing your sunshine. The world needs it. We need to see you making it to Tuesday.

Here's the second thing: I hope my sunshine never seeds your storm. I get it. I have a kid who we held back (and will do so again this year). A kid who didn't talk until he was five years old and still needs help wiping his mouth. He will likely not win varsity letters or be lauded for leadership. (Just typing those words is so painful.) For our youngest, just getting to the finish line is a victory — even if he comes in last. For all you moms and dads of kids with special needs, kids who look different, who think different, who act different: your sunshine is just as bright. You earned it. I see it.



Jennifer, far right, enjoying a foggy day with her family.

Parenthood — life — is not a competition. Together, our collective sunshine can warm up this cold, Kafka-esque world. Let's be there for each other to celebrate our wins, our mediocrity and our I-barely-survived but-I'm-still-here moments.

Life is hard ... but when the sun comes out, even for a minute, it sure feels good ... so let's celebrate together.

This month's Guest Contributor is Jennifer Schell Podoll, a heart-bursting-with-sunshine-on-Tuesdays mom of four kids: three on earth, one in heaven. She has spent her career in the nonprofit sector raising lots of funds for important causes. Jennifer lives in Westchester County, where she tends her shady gardens, sings in the VLC choir and is beyond grateful for her husband and partner of 24 years.

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 schedule an appointment with a Christian counselor, please call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or send an e-mail to Center@lccny.org.



It's May! The children in the preschool are busy learning about flowers, planting seeds, and exploring letters and numbers! Each class will have caterpillars so that they can learn about the Life Cycle of Butterflies. The children have also been busy creating special Mother's Day crafts.

Enrollment is going well for September 2024 and classes are filling up quickly. We will again partner with North Babylon and Babylon School Districts and host Universal Pre-K classes for each district. Our programs have very limited openings for 2, 3, and 4-year-old children. Please tell your friends and neighbors about our wonderful preschool.

Need more information? Please call the Preschool Office at 631-376-0773 or email preschool.director@cclchurch.com.

Yours in Christ,
Allison Fischer, Preschool Director

Sunday School News ~ May 2024

The Sunday School children are such an inspiration! They share their talents graciously and are always happy to help others! We enjoy spending time with your children and teaching them about Jesus.

The children's choir inspires us during worship, and we are so amazed when one will offer a solo or duet right in the front of the sanctuary before the congregation.

May brings joy with the preparation for First Holy Communion by the children of 5th grade (and older) -- an important step in their Christian development. Parents *and* children will meet for class on Sunday, May 5 at 11:30 a.m. Children (only) will meet Wednesday, May 22 at 5 p.m. to practice at the altar for First Holy Communion.

The children will receive First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 26 at the 10 a.m. Worship Service. They will be given individual banners to decorate, and the banners will be placed at the beginning of their pew in the sanctuary for the First Holy Communion Worship Service, Sunday, May 26.

Last call for our Lenten Project, "Filling Our Pantry" with items listed in the Sunday bulletin. If you have any questions regarding this endeavor, please call or text me (631 572 1259).

The Sunday School Garden will be dedicated in May, the date to be announced.

Yours in Christ,
Deacon Sandy Miller, Sunday School Superintendent
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 assemble ***Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief***

SPECIAL THANKS to everyone for your generous donations towards the **Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits** that will be assembled by Confirmands at the Confirmation "Day Retreat," Saturday, May 4! Thank you for your continued support and thank you for helping us to help those in need!



~ **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

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.



Feeding the Flock

- **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.

Looking ahead



NURSE RECOGNITION SUNDAY is scheduled for **Sunday, May 5.**



Bike Rides around Belmont Lake State Park

Will resume **Sunday, May 5** following the **10 a.m. service**. For more information, please speak with Bill Riegel or Marie Bohrer.

**ATTENTION
Bicyclists!**



*A brief **HEALING SERVICE** will be held in the sanctuary on **Sunday, May 26** following worship service and brief time in coffee fellowship.*



**Memorial
Day** ★ ★

On **Memorial Day, Monday, May 27**, let's all remember the sacrifices made by our Armed Forces and remember all those who have given their lives to ensure our freedom. (The Church Office and Preschool will be closed that day.)



**Congregational
Budget Meeting**

Please mark your calendar for the **Annual Congregational Budget Meeting, Sunday, June 2, 2024**, following the 10 a.m. Worship Service.



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).

**We thank all who participated Sunday, April 28 in the 100th Anniversary Concert
and all members of our choirs, men's chorus, and festival ensemble:**

Senior Choir:

Stephen Beck
Marie Bohrer
Daniel Foisset
Trudi Guarino
Anita Meserole
Elisabeth Meserole
Anthony Wevers
Jeanne Wright
Melody Wubbenhorst

Handbell Choir:

Trudi Guarino
Anita Meserole
Beatrice Meserole
Elisabeth Meserole
Anthony Wevers
Rossina Zacarias
Jean Zore

Youth Choir:

Connor Flynn
Genevieve Herzing
Elisabeth Meserole
Abigail Meyerdierks
Tristan Rivera
Owen Smrek

Men's Chorus:

Stephen Beck
Daniel Foisset
Bill Reichert
Bill Riegel
Anthony Wevers

Junior Choir:

Summer Doeschner
Sadie Jackson
Rosina Padrone
Vivian Padrone
Ariana Klobetanz-Reyes
Kaitlyn Reyes
Elizabeth Rivera
Jack Zore

Festival Ensemble :

Anthony Wevers, Director
Anita Meserole
Beatrice Meserole
Scott Meyerdierks
Debbie Goodwin
Tristan Rivera
Elizabeth Rivera



Special thanks to:
Rossina Zacarias, Minister of Music
Anita Meserole, Bell Choir Director
Anthony Wevers, Director of Festival Ensemble



The Babylon Interfaith Clergy Cluster
invites you to a
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE
Thursday, May 2 ~ 6 p.m.
The Gazebo at Argyle Park, Babylon, NY

From:

Vicar Marilyn Dolloway



Dear Pastor Bond and Members of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church:

My name is Vicar Marilyn Dolloway. I emigrated to the United States in the early 1980s and I am married to Ellis Dolloway. We have been married for twenty-six years and we have five children and five grandchildren. I have worked in major law firms in Manhattan, as a legal secretary, secretarial manager, word processing coordinator, and supervisor for thirty-five years. I answered God's call to ministry by returning to school at CUNY York College.

At York, I received a double major in Psychology/Anthropology with a Minor in African American studies. I received a Master of Divinity, a Master of Art in Christian Ministry, and a Doctor of Ministry from Liberty University. I also completed one year of Lutheran studies at United Lutheran Seminary. I Interned at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and have since completed two years of Fieldwork at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Roosevelt, New York, and one year of Internship at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Cambria Heights, NY.

I grew up in Guyana South America in a small Bauxite mining community named Kwakwani, located along the Berbice River (one of the four main rivers in Guyana). Bauxite is composed of aluminum-bearing minerals). I have twelve siblings. Both my parents and one of my brothers are now deceased.

Regards,
Vicar Marilyn Dolloway



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church proudly presents
THE VICAR'S CUP 2024 GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday, May 18, 2024 ~ Tee off at 10:00 am

E. Donald Conroy Golf Course
75 Cedar Street, Babylon, NY 11702

Prizes for Low Score for Youth, Confirmando, Adults, Seniors.
Reception to follow at the golf course.
(A sign-up sheet is in the church hallway or call 631-661-7245.)
