Issue #666 October 2026

Christ's Communique

9:00 am Drive In Worship
Bring your own chair, device for bulletin if able. Bulletins and padded folding chairs are available. FM88.1 Live Streaming on FaceBook and on our website later,

11:00 am Traditional
Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

Christ Lutheran Church 2011 Brandon Ave SW Roanoke, Virginia 24015

A Message from the Pastor

Jesus said: "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40)

Early voting in Virginia began on September 18 and runs through October 31. Election Day is on Tuesday, November 3. Virginia voters have the opportunity to cast votes for US Senator and Representatives, local and state leaders, as well as Constitutional Amendments. Did you know that Christ Lutheran is the polling location for the Raleigh Court Precinct in Roanoke City? Serving in this way is a faithful, non-partisan way for our congregation to engage in civic life.

For members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), voting is not just a civic duty - it's an extension of our baptismal covenant to serve all people and strive for justice and peace. As highlighted in the ELCA Social Message on *Government and Civic Engagement*, government is a gift from God meant to maintain justice, protect human rights, and promote the common good. Voting, therefore, is one way we can live out our faith in the public square.

This communal responsibility is deeply rooted in our theology. In the study guide for this Social Message, Pastor Robert Blezard writes: "Our faith presupposes community life, where we are dependent on and responsible for the welfare of one another. Evidenced throughout the Bible, the principle is expressed succinctly when Jesus declares the greatest commandments are that we must love God with all our being and our neighbors as ourselves... Luther's main treatise on government ["Temporal Authority"] emphasizes that the purpose of government is to serve the neighbor, not the self." When we cast our ballots in local, state, and national elections, we are called to vote on behalf of our neighbors, particularly those who are most vulnerable. Because public policies heavily impact human dignity, the ballot box is a powerful tool for service and stewardship.

In our complex world, it is helpful to remember that Lutherans can in good conscience disagree on which specific candidates, parties, or policies best serve the common good. The ELCA does not tell its members how to vote. Instead, we are encouraged to listen to one another with humility and respect so that we can better understand how different political perspectives aim to fulfill the commandment to love our neighbor.

If you haven't registered to vote, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. If you haven't already voted early, take some time to research the various candidates and issues that will be on your ballot. Encourage friends and relatives to do the same. By participating in the democratic process, we have the opportunity to work toward a just and hope-filled nation.

In Peace and Hope, *Pastor Cindy*

FRIENDLY MAHJONG EVENT

Mahjong is open to both new and experienced players to the game on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. This month will be **October 11 & 25**.

There will be tables available for players who enjoy American-style play and for those who prefer the Chinese-style.

Players will meet from 2–4pm on these Sundays in the Fellowship Hall.

GET TO KNOW EAGLE EYRIE

For 4th, 5th, and 6th graders to VA Synod ELCA Youth retreat site.
New to Virginia Synod youth events?
Join synod staff at Eagle Eyrie Conference Center on Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. for a chance to tour the facility, meet youth leaders, and learn more about upcoming events.
Open to 5th–7th graders and their families.
Cost is $25

SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER

October 4
Blessing of the Animals, end of 9am worship
Together@10 ~ All Together Fun, Food, Learning & Fellowship (FH)
3pm ~ Creation Care @ West End United Methodist Church ~ Fundraiser

October 11
10am ~ Table Talk Groups (FH)
10am ~ Adult Sunday School (Chapel)
2pm- Youth Group Crop Walk (First Presbyterian)
2-4p- Mahjong (FH)

October 18
10am- Together@10: Sunday School for All Ages 3yrs -5th graders, Confirmation Mentoring, Adults
12pm- Unsought: grief support group (Chapel)
3pm- Confirmation Students @ St Mark's

October 25
10am ~ Adult Sunday School (Chapel)
2-4p- Mahjong (FH)

Ongoing Ministries at Christ Lutheran

Monday Morning Bible Study: Meets at 10:30am each week in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to join this group as we study the next Sunday's bible readings.

Choir: Rehearsals meet on Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the choir room. New singers are welcome to join, contact Nancy.

Handy Folk Group: Join the women & men that make up this wonderful group of people who take care of our church building. Friday, **October 2** at 8am they will meet at Famous Anthony's at Oak Grove Mall for breakfast followed by maintenance work on the church property. Contact George.

Social Club: This group has been a part of Christ Lutheran Church for more than 40 years. Twice a month (September-June), adults with emotional and mental challenges are picked up in the church van from area homes for adults, brought to the church or another designated place, and served a meal. Volunteers also assist the participants with an activity; Bingo is always an enjoyable game after dinner. Our next meetings will be on Thursday night **October 1 at 5pm, Christ Lutheran, October 22 at 5pm Dance at American Legion in Salem**. If you would like to help serve meals or drive the bus to pick up our members, please let Jeannine & Al know if you are able to volunteer.

Social Ministry Team: Meetings will resume Thursday, **October 1**, in the parlor at 1pm. Anyone is welcome to join this group to hear more about social ministry in our community and get involved.

Green Team: Will resume on Wednesday, **October 14** in the parlor at 1pm.
Our mission: "As good stewards of the earth, it is our mission to educate, act and advocate for a future where our children and grandchildren can live and thrive."
Urban Reblok'd comes to CLC in the parking lot on the second Wednesday of the month **October 14** from 5:30-7pm. Look for the BIG WHITE truck! If you have any questions about the "Green Team," contact Gudrun.

Church Council: Tuesday, **October 13** at 7pm. Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the fellowship hall. Please let Richard know if you are unable to attend.

Unsought: Grief support group, Sunday, **October 18** at noon in the chapel. Questions contact Gudrun.

RAM LUNCHES: this faithful group continues to make lunches for RAM House. This month Friday **October 30**, 8:30am. We are using Sign-up Genius for all our volunteer needs, from bread loaves to delivering lunches to RAM House. If you would like to be part of this ministry use this QR Code, or link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BA9A92FA4FD0-59091922-ram You welcome to pick one item or more on the app. Contact Pastor Cindy.

Jigsaw Puzzles Group: We are meeting together **each Wednesday**, from 11am in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to join on any Wednesday to work on puzzles.

Yarn N Prayer: This group of Knitters and Crocheters will meet on **Friday October 16, Grandin Road Co-Op**. Contact Rita, Sheila, or the church office if you have questions. Current projects are baptismal shawls, blankets to cover laps & shawls. This will be the last meeting for 2026, meetings will resume January 2027.

Supporting Our Community

ROANOKE JUSTICE MINISTRIES (RJM)

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

***October -** Throughout the month of October, members are participating in "House Meetings" to discuss and share our thoughts about the big issues in the Roanoke Community.

***November 16, 6:30pm -** Community Problems Assembly

***March 15, 6:30pm -** Justice Ministry Rally

***April 12, 6:30pm -** Nehemiah Action

***June 7, 6:30pm -** Celebration

For more information about RJM and upcoming events, contact Pastor Cindy. For more information about Faith-Based Community Organizing, check out: www.thedartcenter.org.

Church Office will be closed in Observance of Indigenous People's Day. **October 12**.

CHRIST'S COMMUNIQUE

The newsletter deadline for November edition is **October 15.**

Please have your articles emailed to: secretary@christlutheranroanoke.org

Newsletter collation is Thursday, **October 22**, at 9am in the fellowship hall.

NOAH'S LANDING PRESCHOOL

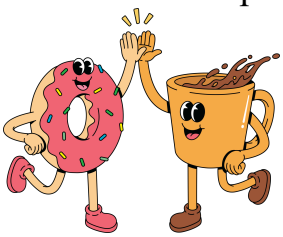
Preschool has started off very successfully. Teachers, children and parents are settling into their routines and there is laughter in the halls.

In October we're looking forward to a packed schedule with picture days, fire truck visit, halloween fun, and playground time. (No school on October 12.)

Stephanie Zewatsky, Director
540-982-2254
noahslandingpreschool.org

ELECTION DAY

Volunteers needed to share God's love with voters through coffee and doughnuts, on Tuesday, **November 3**.
Two shifts: 6am-9am & 4pm-7pm.



FAMILY PROMISE IN OCTOBER!

Mark your calendars **October 18th and 19th**.

We will be hosting unhoused families again for those two days. We will need overnight hosts, meal preparers, food providers, and evening servers.
Keep an eye on the weekly bulletin for a Sign-up Genius.
If you have any questions or want to get your name in early, contact Tom.
And thank you for your care for these folks in need.

Supporting Our Community

CarePortal

Giving to the Christ Lutheran Care Portal fund is easy as 1-2-3. You may use the URL/QR code, https://system.careportal.org/church/106625. Click on the green 'Give to Our Care Portal Fund.' Enter the amount and click 'Submit Donation.'

For the month of September Christ Lutheran responded to 2 requests. We provided a security deposit for a victim of Domestic Violence who was starting a new life with her 2 children.

We also provided Clothing, Hygiene items, and Food voucher for a local family displaced by fire.

For more information or questions, contact Jeannine.

A FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC

Singers from our faith community, and many others, are participating in All Creation Sings for Justice: A Festival of Sacred Music on Sunday, **October 4th,** at 3pm at West End United Methodist Church.

The festival features sacred music with themes that inspire care for creation. It is a fundraiser for our choirs and for Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, a statewide environmental justice organization that collaborates among people of faith and conscience to grow healthy communities by advancing climate and environmental justice. www.vaipl.org.

Questions? Contact lauramhartman@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PRAYERS

1st– Steve, **3rd–** Erin, Callie, **4th–** Gretchen, Evron, **5th–** Dave, Judy, **6th–** John, **8th–** Gretchen, **9th–** Taylor, Eric, **10th–** Penny, **11th-** Dene, **13th–** Elowen, **16th–** Janet, Donna

17th– Danielle, Betty, **25th–** Donna, Jerry, Betsy, **27th–** Leah, Susan, Jan, **28th-** Matt, **29th**- Noah, **30th–** Syd.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

Oct. 4– 19th Sunday After Pentecost: Isa 5:1-7, Ps 80:7-15, Phil 3:4b-14, Matt 21:33-46
Oct. 11– 20th Sunday After Pentecost: Isa 25:1-9, Ps 23, Phil 4:1-9, Matt 22:1-14
Oct. 18– 21st Sunday After Pentecost: Isa 45:1-7, Ps 96:1-13, 1 Thess 1:1-10, Matt 22:15-22
Oct. 25– Reformation Sunday: Jer 31:31-34, Ps 46, Rom 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

PRAYERS FOR:
Sept. 20- Dave, Andrea (continue cancer recovery at home), Rain
Sept. 13- Jean, Ashleigh, Jan, Terry, Nancy, Brigit
Sept.6- Phyllis (healing), Noah's Landing Preschool-new school year, Sharon
August 30- Tony, Barb
August 23- Lydia

Families of- 9/2- Beth, Steve, **9/6**- Dennis, **9/13**- Norma, **9/20**- Bernettie

BLESSING BOX

Have you seen the beautiful new Blessing Box outside near the ramp door (closest to Grandin Rd.)? Thanks to (almost) Eagle Scout Nick for building it! The Blessing Box contains free non-perishable food, personal items, and more that our local neighbors might need.
If you would like to make donations, you may do so at any time. Please do not give expired food items or leave donations outside the box.

What a gift to be able to care for our community in this new way!

Join our team or give at:
https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/event/roanokeva

October Financial Report

Below are the financial figures for the year through August. Larger end of year contributions are beginning to be received as evidenced by August income being the highest for any month in 2026 so far. In addition to these operating fund contributions, over $15,000 in memorial gifts were received in August.

Month	Monthly Income	Monthly Expenses	YTD Budgeted	YTD Received	YTD Spent
January	$29,635	$41,180	$58,308	$29,635	$41,229
February	$46,712	$38,466	$99,503	$76,347	$79,695
March	$54,584	$53,972	$141,223	$130,931	$133,666
April	$41,148	$46,256	$182,543	$172,079	$179,922
May	$31,582	$41,786	$224,838	$203,661	$221,708
June	$22,257	$32,875	$267,708	$225,918	$254,583
July	$29,147	$36,101	$309,028	$255,065	$306,219
August	$59,264	$40,713	$350,173	$314,329	$347,142

The investment account has $2,223,017 as of August 31, 2026.

The finance committee met July 29th and completed a mid-year review of the budget. As can be seen in the above chart, YTD actual expenses are extremely close to budget. In addition, we reviewed progress on the work of the audit team, and a final report was subsequently submitted to church council. The report concluded that "Based on a limited review we found no errors in monies received and deposited and no mishandling of paid expenses, representing genuine church obligations and stewardship." It was noted that some staff positions should be paid at least twice monthly. That change will go into effect for all employees on January 1st. Finally, at a committee meeting on September 30th a draft proposed budget for 2027 was developed.

In conclusion, the church continues to be blessed with generous giving and good financial stewardship. Thank you all for your contributions of time and treasure.

Jim
Finance Committee Chair

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, November 8 for the purpose of a first vote to amend the Christ Lutheran Constitution to reduce the number of Congregation Council members.

Voting members may attend at 9:45am or noon. Watch for more details.

News from Christ Lutheran Roanoke

EACH WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

· 9am Sunday Drive In Worship & Facebook live streaming

· 11am Sunday Traditional Worship

· Adult Bible study Mondays at 10:30am

FOLLOW US

CHRISTLUTHERANROANOKE

www.christlutheranroanoke.org

STAFF OF CHRIST LUTHERAN

Pastor: Rev. Cynthia Keyser
(O) 540-982-8334, ext#2 (C) 540-524-8430
pastorcindy@christlutheranroanoke.org

Church Office Administrator: Fiona Schulz
(O) 540-982-8334, ext#1
secretary@christlutheranroanoke.org

Organist/Director of Music: Nancy Delaney
(H) 540-597-3189

New Song Music: Kim Mucha
(C) 540-529-5456

Director of Noah's Landing Preschool:
Stephanie Zewatsky
(O) 540-982-2254, noahslandingpreschool.org

Treasurer: Linda Worman
(O) 540-982-8334, ext#3
treasurer@christlutheranroanoke.org

Financial Secretary: Diana Pilat
(O) 540-982-8334, ext#3
financialsecretary@christlutheranroanoke.org

Good news especially for:

Christ Communique
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
2011 Brandon Avenue, SW
Roanoke, Virginia 24015

Non-Profit
Organization
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Virginia
Permit #444

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 10:30a Noah's Chapel 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 1p Social Min. Team Mt (P) 5p Social Club @ CLC	**2** 8a- Handyfolk Group 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 7p AA(C/Rm) 7p Al-Anon Family (FH)	**3** 9:30a AA (C/Rm) Get to know Eagle Eyrie for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders VA Synod ELCA 1-3pm Back to Basics- planning (C/Rm)
4 ***19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*** ***St Frances Day*** 9:00a Drive-In Worship & FB Live, Nancy *Blessing of the Animals (end of sve)* **Together@10: All Together Fun** **Learning & Fellowship for all ages** 3p Creation Care @West End United Methodist Ch. A Festival of Sacred Music 11:00a Traditional Worship-Sanctuary Baptism: Liam Michael Burgess	**5** 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 10:30a Adult Bible Study (FH) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 6:30 AA Intergroup (C/Room) 7p AA (Confir/Room)	**6** 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 9:45-11 NLP Music (Chapel) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 1-2p Soccer (FH) 6-9p RSC Rehearsal (FH)	**7** 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 11a Puzzle Group (FH) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	**8** 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 10:30a Noah's Chapel 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 6:30p Wild Ones (FSH)	**9** 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 7p AA(C/Rm) 7p Al-Anon Family (Chapel) 5-9p Rehearsal Dinner	**10** 9:30a AA (C/Rm) 3p Wedding
11 ***20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*** 9:00a Drive-In Worship & FB Live, Kim **10a Table Talk Groups meet (FH)** **10a Adult Sunday School- Chapel** 11:00a Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 2p Crop Walk- Meet at 1st Presbyterian Church 2p Mahjong (FH)	**12** **Indigenous People's Day** *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED* 9-12p Noah's Landing Preschool 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 5:45/6:30 AA Dist 19 (C/Room) 7p AA (C/Room)	**13** 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 9:45-11 NLP Music (Chapel) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 1-2p Soccer (FH) 6-9p RSC Rehearsal (SAN) 7p Council (FH)	**14** 9-12p Noah's Landing Preschool Noah's Picture Day (FH) 11a Puzzle Group (FH) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 1p Green Team (P) 5:30-7pm Urban Reblock'd 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	**15** 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 10:30a Noah's Chapel Noah's Picture Day (FH) 12:15p AA(C/Rm)	**16** 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 7p AA(C/Rm) 7p Al-Anon Family (Chapel)	**17** 9:30a AA (Chapel) 9-4:30p Star Quilt sew-in day (FH)
18 ***21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*** 9:00a Drive-In Worship & FB Live, Kim **10a Adult Sunday School- Chapel** **TOGETHER@10- Sunday School** **Ages: 3yrs-5th Gde/MentoringYouth/Adults** 11:00a Traditional Worship-Sanctuary UNSOUGHT after 11am Worship-(parlor) 3p Confirmation Students- St Mark's 4:30p AA Group Concepts (C/Rm) **Family Promise**	**19** 9-12p Noah's Landing Preschool 10:30a Adult Bible Study (FH) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 7p AA (C/Room) **Family Promise**	**20** 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 9:45-11 NLP Music (Chapel) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 1-2p Soccer (FH) 6-9p RSC Rehearsal (FH)	**21** 9-12p Noah's Landing Preschool 11a Puzzle Group (FH) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	**22** 9a Newsletter (FSH) 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 10:30a Noah's Chapel 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 5p Social Club @ CLC Dance at American Legion	**23** 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 7p AA(C/Rm) 7p Al-Anon Family (FH)	**24** 9:30a AA (C/Rm)
25 ***REFORMATION SUNDAY*** 9:00a Drive-In Worship & FB Live, Kim **10a Adult Sunday School- Chapel** 11:00a Traditional Worship-Sanctuary 2p Mahjong (FH)	**26** 9-12p Noah's Landing Preschool 10:30a Adult Bible Study (FH) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 7p AA (C/Room)	**27** 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 9:45-11 NLP Music (Chapel) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 1-2p Soccer (FH) 6-9p RSC Rehearsal (SAN) 6-9p- Quilt Show Mt (C/Rm)	**28** 9-12p Noah's Landing Preschool 11a Puzzle Group (FH) 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 7:30p Choir Rehearsal	**29** 9-12 Noah's Landing Preschool 10:30a Noah's Chapel 12:15p AA(C/Rm)	**30** 8:30a- RAM Lunches 12:15p AA(C/Rm) 7p AA(C/Rm) 7p Al-Anon Family (FH)	**31** 9:30a AA (C/Rm)

All dates and times are subject to change.