

THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Upon the Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23, 2023

Christ Lutheran Church + East Moriches, NY + clcem.net

Opening Hymn

*Come, Thou Almighty King*



1 Come, Thou al - might - y King, Help us Thy  
2 Come, Thou in - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy  
3 Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sa - cred  
△ 4 To Thee, great One in Three, E - ter - nal



name to sing; Help us to praise; Fa - ther all -  
might - y sword; Our prayer at - tend. Come and Thy  
wit - ness bear In this glad hour! Thou, who al -  
prais - es be Hence ev - er - more! Thy sov - 'reign



glo - ri - ous, O'er all vic - to - ri - ous,  
peo - ple bless, And give Thy Word suc - cess,  
might - y art, Now rule in ev - 'ry heart,  
maj - es - ty May we in glo - ry see,



Come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.  
And let Thy righ - teous - ness On us de - scend.  
And ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of pow'r.  
And to e - ter - ni - ty Love and a - dore.

Text: English, before 1760, alt.  
Tune: Felice de Giardini, 1716–96  
Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** Pronounces Absolution, then the congregation responds:

**C** Amen.

## Introit

### Kyrie

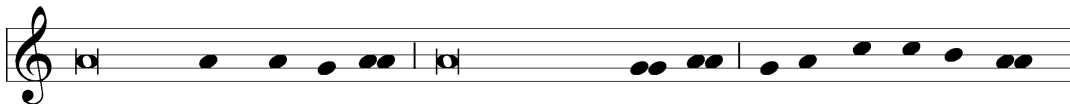
LSB 168



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



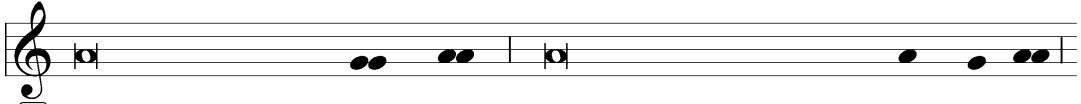
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



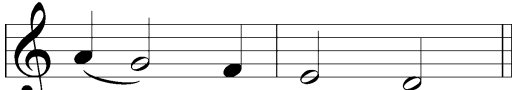
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



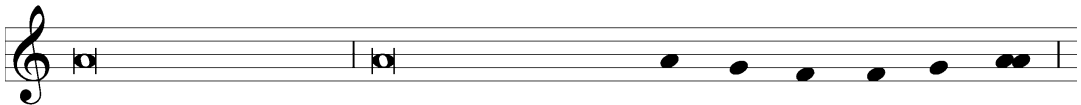
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



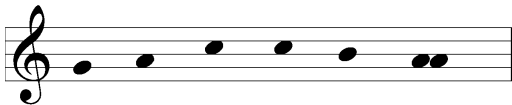
and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



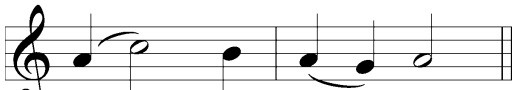
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



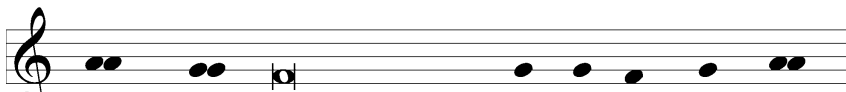
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

### This Is the Feast

LSB 171



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



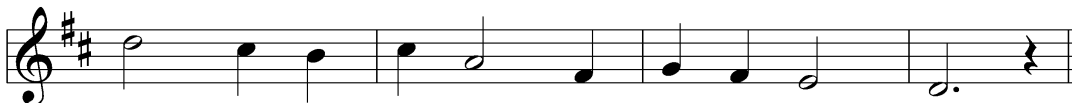
**C** Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



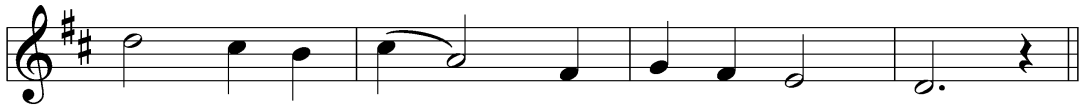
lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



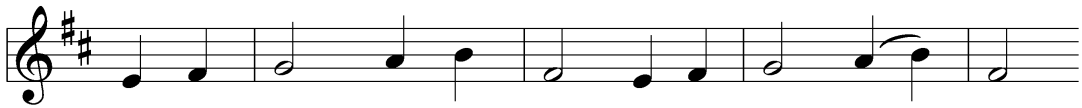
Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic - to-ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray..... one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

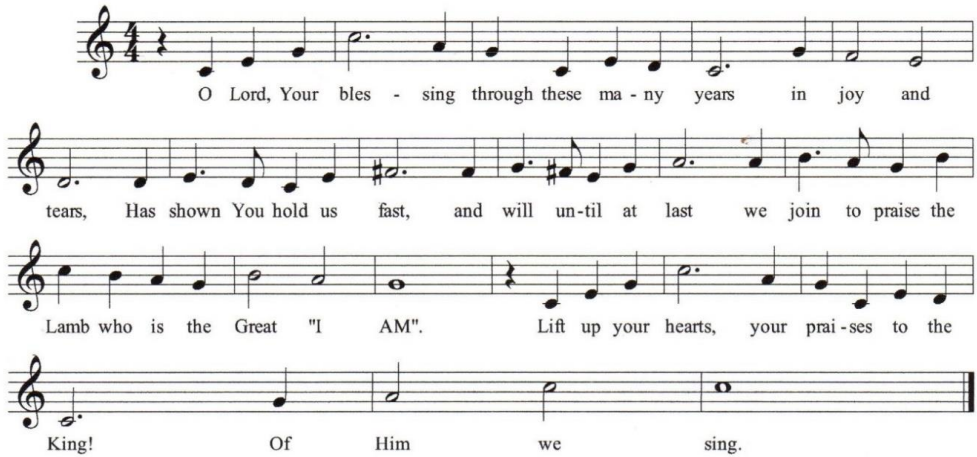
**Old Testament Reading**

1 Kings 8:22-30

*When the reading is completed:*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

# O Lord, Your Blessing Through These Many Years



O Lord, Your bles - sing through these ma - ny years in joy and  
tears, Has shown You hold us fast, and will un-til at last we join to praise the  
Lamb who is the Great "I AM". Lift up your hearts, your prai - ses to the  
King! Of Him we sing.

For faithful pastors who proclaimed Your Word, We praise You, Lord.

They preached the Savior's strife and pointed to the life  
That comes through Jesus' Cross Despite our pain and loss.  
Their words are Yours – to change a sinful heart Your grace impart!

Here at the font, we died with Christ, our Lord: The water poured  
To drown the life of sin And all that lurked within,  
That we might rise anew To life so pure and true.  
This gift is life, this fresh and lavish flood In Jesus' blood.

The Feast to Come, now on the altar spread, Mere wine and bread,  
Now bear the Savior's Blood, And Body for our good;  
True Bread from heav'n above Brings mercy, peace and love.  
Until He comes again, His death proclaim, In Jesus' Name!

Now lead us forth, unfurl your Banner high, And draw us nigh  
That we Your Cross would bear, Your Saving Gospel share,  
And boldly shine your beams of Light Into the night.  
Within Your Body, bind us all as One, O Risen Son!

*After the reading:*

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse**

*LSB 173*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 19:1-10*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

*Then, after the Gospel is proclaimed:*

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*



Hymn of the Day

*With High Delight Let Us Unite*



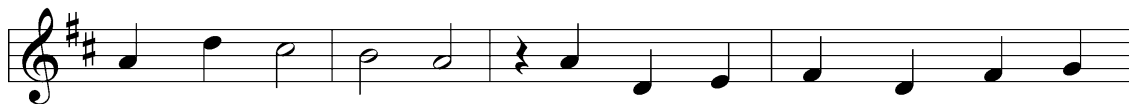
1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great  
 2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,  
 3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord



ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,  
 all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van - quished lie;  
 ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed



Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us  
 His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall  
 To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His



free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's  
 be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who  
 love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set



ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.  
 gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.  
 free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–99; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76

Tune: Cinquante Pseaumes, 1543, Geneva

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004056

Tune: Public domain

Sermon

*Stand*

## Nicene Creed

☐ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Anthem**

**Offering**

**Prayer of the Church**



**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the




courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface


LSB 177



**P** The Lord be with you.




**C** And al-so with you.




**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and ....with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 178



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 178

### The Words of Our Lord

### Proclamation of Christ

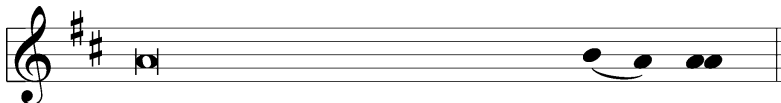
- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

**C** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Pax Domini

LSB 180



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 180



**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the

sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of  
 God, You take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Sit*

**Distribution**

**Distribution Hymns:**

*466 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

*603 We Know That Christ Is Raised*

*680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise*

## Thank the Lord

LSB 181

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what  
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -  
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-  
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.....

*After the collect:*

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you..... and give you peace.

LSB 183

**C** A - - - - - men.



## 644 The Church's One Foundation

sts. 1-5



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der The world sees her op - pressed,  
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion And tu - mult of her war  
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion With God, the Three in One,



She is His new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.  
 Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
 By schisms rent a - sun - der, By her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
 She waits the con - sum - ma - tion Of peace for - ev - er - more  
 And mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion With those whose rest is won.



From heav'n He came and sought her To be His ho - ly bride;  
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,  
 Yet saints their watch are keep - ing; Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious Her long - ing eyes are blest,  
 O bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by Your grace



With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.  
 And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
 And soon the night of weep - ing Shall be the morn of song.  
 And the great Church vic - to - rious Shall be the Church at rest.  
 That we, like saints be - fore us, May see You face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900, alt.

Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-76

Text and tune: Public domain

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# From the Pastor

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*The Rev. John G. Fleischmann, Vacancy Pastor, 1990-1991; Pastor 1991-Present*

Epiphany: A most blessed event in the life of the Church. It is the day when we observe the coming of the Wise Men to the Infant Jesus, tucked away in that house in Bethlehem, when Jesus was presented with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Epiphany is a day when the Light of Christ blazes upon the Gentiles, when the Kingdom of God expands beyond the Children of Israel, showing that Israel was but a type of something much greater: The Church, of which Israel was but a forward – pointing shadow. Fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Church is His Bride and Body, living and reigning on earth with the forgiveness of sins, and in perpetual Advent, waiting, watching and hoping for the return of Her Bridegroom.

It is most fitting, then, that on the Feast of Epiphany in 1962, (celebrated the day after) a handful of Lutherans in the area of the Moriches, Long Island, New York, gathered together for their first worship service in a hall rented from the Women’s Club on Lake Avenue in Center Moriches. A year and four months later, in April, 1963, Christ Church-Evangelical Lutheran was chartered by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

A Parsonage was built. Land was purchased. On July 19, 1966, the people of God at Christ Church worshiped for the first time in their new chapel.

The Chapel was nestled onto the Southwest corner of a nearly 14 acre plot of land on Frowein Road in the adjacent community of East Moriches with the strong intention to build a Church as well. However, that plan never materialized, and the Congregation has remained in the Chapel throughout the years.

Christ Lutheran Church has had four pastors who have faithfully served her over the past half-century.

Initially, Pastor Alfred Hofler was called by the Atlantic District in 1961 to canvass the area of Center Moriches, New York, to plant a new Lutheran Congregation, midway between two existing congregations in Mastic Beach and East Quogue (now in Hampton Bays). Faithful to this calling, Pastor Hofler gathered enough interested Lutheran families to begin worshiping in 1962. A year later, the Congregation was officially formed, the anniversary which we are celebrating today.

Having served as a mission developer, Pastor Hofler was officially called as the Pastor of Christ Church in late 1963 and installed on January 26, 1964 as Pastor. The installation service was held in an existing church: Grace Lutheran Church, Mastic Beach.

Pastor Hofler served faithfully until 1969.

In September of 1969 the Rev. Ronald Smith accepted the Call as Pastor and was installed. The Church continued to grow under Pastor Smith, who after 17 years of faithful service, took the call to be Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bayside, Queens.

In the Spring of 1987, the congregation approved calling a pastoral candidate through the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Council of Presidents, who placed new seminary graduates into the parish. That summer, the congregation welcomed the Rev. Ronald Saatkamp. He had been ordained in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and then Installed as Pastor. He served faithfully until 1990, when he took a call to be Pastor of LCMS Congregations in Utah. He then served faithfully as Pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church, Hammond, Indiana. He was called to be with the Lord two years ago.

In the Spring of 1991, Christ Lutheran Church called me, and I have been blessed to serve as your Pastor since that time. Much has happened over the past 32 plus years (I served for a year as vacancy pastor in 1990), I've seen the congregations profile change many times over the time with you. The majority of the present members of our congregation have come since I arrived, yet more than a handful of faithful servants of the Lord who predated my time of service here remain.

Perhaps the hardest part for me is the great sense of loss experienced from the deaths of so many Saints that paved the History of our Congregation. Going through the records of our Church brought an intertwined sense of grief and joy. Through it all what really stood out was the true evidence that our Lord Jesus has kept His promise to us. He has been with us all along, and we have prevailed against such odds that there is no other explanation. He is faithful!

As you meander through the pages and pages of history- gleaned from Church records, bulletins from almost every year, annual reports, interviews and any other sources we could find, I pray that you will also see that hand of the Lord still hard at work.

God has blessed us so much! And He will continue to do so as we remain faithful to Him, His Word, the Lutheran Confessions, being a Light on a Hill to the

community, "Caring and Sharing in Word and Sacrament: Knowing Christ and Making Him Known."

In Christ,

The Rev. John George Fleischmann, II, M.Div. D.Min,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Pastor Fleischmann". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light-colored, textured background.

Pastor

## A Brief Early History of Christ Church

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*Written in 1969 by the Rev. Alfred Hofler as a part of a report to the Rev. Dr. Rudolph P. Ressmeyer, President, the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod.*

Christ Church was begun as a mission project in January 1962 after a rather extensive survey and canvass of the area by the present pastor. Many of our original members were Lutherans who live in the area and had never joined a church in the area, or else, had attended certain churches for a number of years without formally joining them. There are still many ex-Lutherans who have become involved in local non-Lutheran congregations who are simply unable to leave to join our church because of their commitment to their adopted churches. No effort has ever been made to urge such people to join Christ Church.

Our congregation number around 40 people for the first few years, and the average attendance was always close to the communicant membership total. At present, we have over 65 people on the church rolls, although our attendance has not really increased proportionately. These figures rather accurately reflect the rather stable character of the congregation.

Since our congregation started small, and has continued to remain small, it has always been rather difficult to gain good leadership from this rather restricted group. Consequently, the Church Council usually consists of almost all the active male members of the church. This has rather hampered our growth (inward and outward). Some of the Council members are rather aged, and come from long periods of membership in other Lutheran congregations. They tend to bring with them many pre-conceived views and attitudes which rather restricts any fresh attempts to make the church relevant to current needs of our community and age. Other Council members are rather new to the church, having never been very firmly involved in the past. These members tend to defer to the older members who are more out-spoken, and perhaps, a bit too dogmatic. This situation is slowly changing for the better.

Our congregation worshipped for over four years in a rented building located in the heart of town, just a few feet off the Main Street, and adjacent to the local schools, shopping center and local stores. By the summer of 1966 we moved into a new church building located on the Moriches By Pass in East Moriches. The By-pass is about a half-mile north of the Main Street. The church is now about 2 ½ miles away from the heart of town in an undeveloped area. The congregation is still adjusting to this change in location. We have not yet realistically resolved the transportation problem for our Sunday School children and for our young people. We had hoped to get a bus (free) in order to handle this problem, but the congregation rather overwhelmingly disapproves of this idea on the grounds that serious Christians should make the effort to get to the church on his own power.

Our congregation is obviously undergoing growing pains, and it will be a few years before it can make some progress in its outreach. Most of our people have given specifically, and have worked hard to get the church to its present position. It will take some time before our people cease acting so possessive with regard to their church, and begin to look for ways to truly be the church in this community.

The population statistics clearly indicated that this area will grow tremendously in the future, but this will not come true for some years to come. It is rather unrealistic to expect any dramatic growth in the near future in this area, or for our church.

We also face the problem of existing in a rather heavily-churched area. A number of the local churches are over 100 years old, and one almost 200! People moving into the area still send their children to the Sunday School which is closest to their home. Many people still join the churches which are well-established and have roots in their past

history of our community. People who join our church are either fervent Lutherans moving east on Long Island or else, people who have no real church-backgrounds, but have been contacted by the pastor in some personal manner during times of stress.

*Pastor Alfred Hofler*

## Notes from Years Past

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*Taken from Church Bulletins, Annual Reports and Newsletters, 1962-Present. Our thanks to Mrs. Doreen Brennan and Pastor for the hours spent compiling this from Church Records, begun in 2012 There are a few years for which little information was available so they were skipped. Every effort was made to insure the accuracy of what has been included.*

### **1961**

Pastor Alfred J. Hofler was called by the Atlantic District Missions department to canvass the area of the Moriches to plant a new congregation in the area.

### **1962**

After months of Pastor Hofler canvassing the area, the first service was held on Epiphany Sunday, January 7, 1962 at the Women's Club on Lake Street in Center Moriches.

The first Sunday School classes were held on January 14 with 5 students.

The first Baptism performed in our Congregation was Heidi Kupke

The initial officers for the Congregation were: President Dr. Ormond Seibert, Vice President Ernest Ashfield; Secretary Allan Haas; and Treasurer, Carl Schmidt. .

### **1963**

The Charter Vespers service held Epiphany, 1963. Preacher was the Rev. Robert A. Biegner, Holy Comforter Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon; Officiant, the Rev. Charles Ruhnke, Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Middle Island; Organist: The Rev. Paul Holls, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Riverhead. 44 new members signed the charter.

The Holy Eucharist began to be celebrated at “every major service” on January 6. Weekly communion is the norm of the Lutheran Confessions.

The Initial Church Council met on Wednesday evenings. The officers were: Dr. Ormond Seibert, Mr. Ashfield, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Alan Haas. Ushers were Mr. E. Ashfield, Mr. C.G. Schmidt, Mr. R. Johannesen, Mr. A. Haas, Mr. H. Liede, Mr. F. Gadeberg, Mr. P. Meyer, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. H. Lipinsky, Mr. P. Abrahamsen, Mr. W. Ashfield, Mr. A. Feiler.

Christopher Gregory Hofler was born to Pastor and Mrs. Hofler on January 7.

Those unable to sign the original charter at the January 6 service were able to sign it on January 20 in the South Room of the Women’s Club.

A series of Congregational meetings began on January 27 to discuss building a new Church.

Evangelism teams were formed to canvass the community. They began meeting on February 13 at the Pastor’s home, 23 Inwood Road.

The Congregation established “demand loans” of \$25 per share through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

The property drive began on March 3. People were encouraged to gather lump sums of cash at the beginning so “that we might put as large a down-payment on this property as possible.”

An incorporation meeting was held on March 24 at 7:30pm to approve the new Congregation’s constitution and bylaws.

Dr. Seibert and Pastor Hofler met with the owner of the property the church would purchase, committing to the purchase the week of March 10.

The Constitution of the Congregation was approved paving the way to become an “incorporated congregation.” A complete Council was elected: President: Dr. Ormond Seibert; Vice President, Mr. E. Ashfield; Secretary: Mr. Allan Haas; Treasurer: Mr. Carl Schmidt; Financial Secretary: Mr. Henry Lipinsky; Trustees: Mr. R. Trautwein, Mr. Frank Gadeberg and Mr. Ernest Ashfield.

The Congregation of Christ Church-Evangelical Lutheran was officially received into membership in the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod in April.

The Lutheran Women's League was formed, with Mrs. Robert Bucciano as its chair. The first meeting was held at the parsonage, 23 Inwood Road, Center Moriches on May 6.

The first Confirmation took place at Church. The first class: Charles Meyer, Barbara Meyer, Randy Hall, and Reed Lipinsky).

Mr. Henry Leuthardt, Sr., from whom the Church purchased our property, was present in Church on June 16 to sign the contract for the land with the Congregation. A section of the property will be cleared and paths cut through the woods so that members can see the property.

On June 16, the bulletin read, "We are seriously interested in the idea of constructing a simple, temporary chapel on our property. The District Secretary of Missions has agreed that this seems to be the best possible approach to our needs..." (Our present church was to be a temporary chapel).

## **1964**

Pastor Hofler officially accepted the call to serve as Pastor of Christ Church. He was installed at a festival service on January 26 at Grace Lutheran Church, Mastic Beach.

In February, land was purchased from Daisy and Thomas Lainis on Ocean Avenue in Center Moriches to construct the new parsonage.

In November, the LWML was formed. Officers were: President: Mrs. Werner; Secretary, Mrs. Bucciano; Treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Gadeberg.

## **1965**

Original Pews for our church came from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Roosevelt, NY.

Lenten Service on March 16 held on March 16 at St. John's Episcopal Church, Railroad Avenue, as there were too many people for the Women's Club

Requirements for Acolyte: "Any boy, 10 or older, is eligible to become an acolyte".

The nominations for officers for 1966: President E. Ashfield; Vice President F. Hezinger Secretary: R. Johannesen; Treasurer G. Johnson; Financial Secretary Ormond Seibert; Trustees Paul Meyer, C. Schmidt and H. Lipinski.



In February the parsonage was dedicated. In August, the Church broke ground for the new Chapel.

## **1966**

The Last service at Women's Club was on June 12.

The First Sunday in New Church was on July 19. The Formal Dedication of the Church building took place on July 10 with a special service in the afternoon. An open house was held on the following Sunday.

Confirmation was on June 19. Gwen Lipinski and Debbie Mueller were the first to be confirmed in the new Chapel.

The first Baptism in New Church was Dorothea Helen Leek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Leek.

The first pews had kneelers.

A Joint Picnic of Christ Lutheran, Holy Trinity Middle Island and Christ Our Savior, East Quogue was held on Sunday, July 31 at the Little Flower House of Providence in Wading River.

The First Sunday School classes in new building began on September 25.

The first Sunday School Staff in the new Church: Kathy Slade, Gwenn Lipinsky, Debby Muller, Joycelynn Held, Geoffrey Leek.

Thanksgiving services were held on Thanksgiving Eve, November 23 at 8pm.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant took place on December 18 at 3pm.

The Sunday School Children sang in church on Christmas Day.

Council elected for 1967: President Frederick Hezinger, Vice President Ralph Johannesen Recording Secretary Rudolf Hogner; Financial Secretary Dr. Ormond Seibert; Treasurer George Johnson; Trustees: Carl Schmidt (2 year term) and Henry Bunke (3 year term).

## **1967**

The Congregation held open discussion nights on "Vietnam and War" and "Church and Community" on January 11 and 18 at 8pm.

The new Baldwin Organ was installed in the Church Balcony.

## **1968**

February 9, Pastor Philip Wagner was installed as a part time associate pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. Pastor Hofler and Pastor Wagner will collaborate on certain specific projects involving contemporary music, study groups and worship.

Food Pantry started by LWA

## 1969

Several pleas went out for women to serve on the Altar Guild.

An effort was made to forge an alliance between Christ Church and Holy Trinity Middle Island, to be served by three pastors: the Rev. Alfred Hofler, the Rev. Charles Kenreich and the Rev. Phil Wagner. Pastor Kenreich would be full time; Pastors Wagner and Hofler would serve part-time.

The Youth Group made scenery for the Easter Program.

The Landscaping of the new Chapel began. A chart was placed on the bulletin board for donations of shrubs.

The discussion meetings continued. Another theme discussed was, "the Philosophy and Origin of Religion", based on a Time-Life filmstrip.

A special Congregational meeting was held on May 11 discussing "the future role of ministry in this Congregation as well as to make preparation for the future program of this church".

The Rev. Victor Albers met with the Council of the Church on June 30 to discuss the future of the congregation.

The Congregation bade adieu to Pastor Hofler. Pastor Louis Wagner became the Vacancy Pastor during the interim period on July 20, 1969.

The Congregation called Pastor Ronald E. Smith as the new Pastor of Christ Church. He was installed at 3:30pm on Sunday, September 14.

The biography of Pastor Smith as found on the installation bulletin reads:

*"Ronald E. Smith, son of Earl and Caroline Smith, Easton, Pa., was born in Allentown, Pa. on December 6, 1936. He attended public schools in Eston; Concordia Junior College, Bronxville, N.Y.; Rutgers University; Pennsylvania State University; graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., in 1961. He vicared at First Immanuel Lutheran Church, San Jose, Calif., 1959-1960; he began a mission church, Christ Lutheran of East Lyme, Conn. In 1961 and served as its pastor until 1965; pastor of Love Lutheran Church, E. Greenbush, NY, 1965-1966; taught at L.I. Lutheran High School, Brookville, NY, 1966-1969; pulpit assistant at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Amityville, NY, 1966-1969.*

The official Newsletter, *Excelsis* began. The title meant, *Ex* ("from") Christ Evangelical Lutheran Saints In Service.

Pastor Charles Kenreich was installed as pastor at our sister Congregation, Holy Trinity, Middle Island on October 12 at 3:30 pm.

A special Reformation offering was taken to assist with bills.

Pastor Smith moved his office from the parsonage to the Church.

The entire Lutheran Women's Association was involved in adorning the Altar at Christmas.

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant was held on Sunday, December 21 and was entitled, "*Children, Tell of Christmas*".

The Sunday School decorated a Chrismon Tree which was in the Church Undercroft.

## **1970**

A budget of \$21,000 was adopted at the congregational meeting on January 4.

The Church Council for 1970 was: President: Ralph Johannesen, Vice President: Dr. Ormond Seibert, Secretary: Henry Neimeier, Financial Secretary: Carl Schmidt, Treasurer: R. Henry Bunke; Trustees: David Busick, Rody Hogner, and Robert Unger.

An Evangelism Festival was held on Sunday, February 8, using a pre-printed bulletin from the LCMS.

Scout Sunday was observed, with Scouts wearing uniforms to Church.

The Congregation had a Lenten Hymn-Sing on March 18.

"Saint Peter Pins" were presented during the service on March 15 to those who sponsored a non-member through the Lenten course of study.

The Congregation continued the practice of a Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Service during Holy Week.

The Sunday School children were divided into two choirs, and sang at the 11am service on Easter Sunday, March 29.

The Congregation observed the Ascension on Thursday, May 7 at 8pm.

Sunday School Award pins were presented to children with outstanding attendance on Sunday, June 7.

The Church and Sunday School held a picnic on Fathers' Day, June 21 at Southaven Park.

A Two-Week VBS was held from July 20-31 from 9am to 11:45am. A closing service was held on Friday evening, July 31.

The summer schedule ended on August 23; services resumed their normal schedule the first week in September (one service at 11am).

Pastor William J. Meyer was installed as Pastor of Emanuel, Patchogue on October 4.

Members of Christ Lutheran participated in the Circuit-Wide Reformation Service at Messiah Lutheran Church, Setauket, on November 1.

The Congregation ran a "Thanks-living, Thanks-giving" Dinner on Sunday Evening, November 22.

The Congregation celebrated Thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Eve, November 25.

St. John's, Holbrook dedicated their new Church on December 6.

Midweek Advent services were held at 8pm each Wednesday in Advent.

The Sunday School Christmas program was held on December 20 at 4pm. It was entitled, "The Story of God's Love."

The Church was open on Christmas Eve Day from 3pm to 9pm for members to come and pray in a program called "Christmas Pilgrimage". The Christmas Eve service took place at 9pm. Holy Communion was celebrated on Christmas Day at 10am.

## **1971**

The Feast of Epiphany was celebrated on January 3 at the Sunday Service.

The following individuals were elected to office at the January 10 Annual Meeting: Dr. Ormond Seibert, President; Ralph Johannesen, Vice President; Fred Hezinger, Recording Secretary; Paul Meyer, Financial Secretary; Henry Bunke, Treasurer; Harry Slade, Trustee.

During the week of February 7, the Church basement suffered a major flood. The East Moriches Fire Department pumped over 2 ½ feet of water out of the basement, and many members of the Congregation assisted with the cleanup. The oil burner was damaged.

A choir was formed and began rehearsing after the Ash Wednesday Service on February 16.

There was a special Sunday School program on Palm Sunday, April 4.

Holy Week services were held on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Evening and Good Friday.

The Christ Lutheran Memorial Fund was proposed. The purpose was to help hardship cases in the congregation; for capital or special needs for the church; Financial aid to a member of the Church studying for the Holy ministry; Aid in a community

emergency. Donations can be made in memory of a loved one or an esteemed friend, for an anniversary or birthday or other special occasion, for a good will offering, or a gift to the Glory of God. Specific items donated must be approved by the Pastor or Church Council.

A new record: Easter Sunday, April 11, saw a total of 179 worshipers, a record for our Church.

The Church celebrated Ascension on Thursday, May 20.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church of East Quogue broke ground for their new Church in Hampton Bays on June 6.

The Church Picnic was held on June 27 at Southaven Park. Pastor Smith was honored for his 10 year anniversary of Ordination at the picnic. Almost 100 people attended.

The Sunday School ended its year with 61 Students.

The Church went to its summer schedule, one service at 10am through Labor Day.

VBS was the last two weeks of July, July 19-30. The theme was "Talking to God." The closing service took place on Friday evening, July 30. 54 Children were enrolled, with 35 having perfect attendance. 128 people attended the closing service.

The Mortgage on the Church was paid off.

## **1972**

The ten year anniversary of the first service of Christ Church- Evangelical Lutheran was held on January 9 at 11am with a dinner at 2pm. The preacher was the Rev. Victor Albers, executive Secretary for Church and Community of the Atlantic District of the LCMS. It was under Pastor Albers and his committee that Pastor Alfred Hofler was sent to begin the work in this area.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church dedicated their new building on Terrace Drive in Hampton Bays.

Pastor Robert Ernst of Long Island Lutheran High School was guest preacher on January 23.

A Children's Choir was formed at the home of Mrs. Kupke, 19 Chichester Ave., Center Moriches.

The officers for 1972 were: Dr. Ormond Seibert, President; Mrs. Lillian Sedate, Vice President; Mr. Ralph Johannesen, Secretary; Mr. Fred Hezinger, Treasurer; Mr. Paul Meyer, Financial Secretary. Trustees were Mr. Rudolf Hogner, Mr. D. Gilbert Pitcher,

Mr. Roch T. Bell and Mrs. Eleanor Neimeier. The congregation thanked Mr. R. Henry Bunke, Mr. David Busick and Mr. Harry Slade for their past service on the Church Council.

A new group, "Chi-Rho Fellowship" began meeting in February. The purpose of this group was to foster fellowship among the adults of the Church.

A Churchwide cleanup was held on Saturday, March 18.

A skit was performed on Palm Sunday.

A second service was added on Easter Sunday at 9:30am. The Sunday School Choir sang at this first service. There was no communion at this service; Communion was celebrated at 11am.

The Youth Group was once again re-formed on May 7.

Ascension was observed on Thursday, May 11.

There was an adult Bible Study on Wednesday nights. The topic for May was "Capital punishment."

Pastor Smith and Fred Hezinger attended the Atlantic District Convention at Bronxville representing the Church June 9-11. At this convention, the Atlantic District was split into three different Districts: The Atlantic District (New York); the New Jersey District, and the New England District.

The summer service schedule began on July 2, with one service at 10am.

The church went, as a group, to see the showing of *The Cross and the Switchblade* about the Rev. David Wilkerson at the Three Village Theater in Setauket.

A drain and raise in ground level around the back of the church to divert water was constructed to prevent future flooding.

In between, the LWML was busy packing cookies for the hospitalized and producing a cookbook.

The less-fortunate were helped with a collection taken for the Wilkes-Barre flood victims.

The church members had some old-fashioned fun at a church picnic at Southaven park.

Thomas Michael Stears, son of Ralph and Joan Stears, was baptized

## 1973

The highlights of 1973 included the start of some familiar entities: the new Atlantic District operations were marked by a day of consecration and a worship service was held at the new Cedar Lodge nursing home.

Some worship innovations here included a Lenten Vespers caroling service and the Good Friday Tenebrae service concluding with the seven last words of Christ. Being both good stewards and symbolic –minded, Lenten crosses were made of Christmas tree trunks.

We were very ecumenical: conducting a canvas of the Newport Beach area of Center Moriches with the Methodist Church in East Moriches, and participating in a community interfaith bazaar and mini-auction held at the Jewish center.

We kept those young ones busy with a children’s choir and a VBS program that ran for two weeks. The youth group even scared up a Halloween party for the Sunday School students.

Unlike currently, confirmation was conferred on Palm Sunday.

The following individuals served as officers of the church: Dr. Ormond Seibert as president, D. Gilbert Pitcher as vice president, Ralph Johannesen as secretary, Fred Hezinger as treasurer, Paul Meyer as financial secretary, and Eleanor Neimeier, Harry Slade and Milton Stenzel as trustees.

## **1974**

Our worship life remains the same: Lenten and Advent Vespers were celebrated, Good Friday was solemnized by the service of Tenebrae. And, we worshipped a little differently: Maundy Thursday featured a special communion service around a table, and Easter morning dawned with a sunrise service. Even then, worship shifted to a summer schedule and offerings suffered a seasonal slump.

For our personal devotional life: Portals of Prayer was available, Adult Bible class was held (at the parsonage). We were a little stricter with our Sunday School students: attendance was taken both on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday (but, it counted toward their attendance awards).

The LWMS sponsored some interesting events: a Potluck Supper on Ascension Day for which you were instructed to bring your own plates, cups and one dish of food to share. And, a Father’s Day Box Social Supper to which you were to bring a box supper to be exchanged with someone else.

Some familiar names were newcomers, first approved for adult communicant membership: Frank and Elizabeth Doroski and Alma and Ed Williams. Two charter members were honored with a service of thanks and a reception: Niels and Helene Gadeberg.

The nominees for church offices were D. Gilbert Pitcher for president, Paul Meyer for vice president, Dr. Ormond Siebert for the secretary (he was also the organist), Fred Hezinger for treasurer, Milton Stenzel for financial secretary, and HHarry Slade, Eleanor Neimier and Rudy Hogner for trustees.

The sad schism within the Synod occasioned a day of repentance and prayer.

And for those of you who wondered: “the word *evangelical* in our church name has nothing to do with any particular branch of the Lutheran Church. Rather, it signifies that this church is committed to preaching of the Gospel (Evangel) of Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation.”

## 1975

The Church Officers remained the same with the exception of Mr. Paul Meyer becoming treasurer, and Mr. Fred Hezinger becoming Vice President.

There was a pulpit exchange between pastors from the Circuit Churches for the Midweek Lenten Services.

The Basement of the Church was opened to Alcoholics Anonymous on February 3.

There was an All Lutheran Skating Party at the roller rink in Hampton Bays.

A meeting of all congregational presidents within the circuit was held at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Holbrook on March 16 at 3pm.

On Maundy Thursday, the pews were “pushed back” and the congregation gathered around tables for the Lord’s Supper.

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Services were held during Holy Week.

Ascension was observed on May 8 with a potluck supper preceding the service.

The presidents of the circuit’s 10 congregations met at Christ Lutheran Church with the Atlantic District President, Rudolph P. Ressmeyer regarding the Synodical situation.

VBS was held July 14 to 25.

The “Prayer Pyramid” was established at Church on July 8.

Principal Paul Albert, Emanuel Lutheran School, preached on July 27, August 3, 10, 17 and 24th during Pastor Smith’s vacation.

There was a special District Convocation at Bronxville on September 6 discussing the resolutions of the LCMS Convention and their impact on congregations, officers and



members of the District. The word “split” appears for the first time with regard to Synod.

The District’s shared ministry program was explained by Mr. Hans Nepf, a member of the Committee. Interestingly enough, Mr. Nepf was the original architect that the Church consulted with regard to the new building in the 1990s.

The Thanksgiving Eve Service was held on November 26.

The Rev. George Altvater was installed as Pastor of St. John’s, Holbrook.

There was only one Midweek Advent Service in 1975.

There was a “Congregational Christmas Card” that all were encouraged to sign. The money saved on postage could be given to the Lord in the Christmas offering.

The Sunday School Christmas program, “What Can I Give Him?” was held on December 21.

Christmas services were held on Christmas Eve at 9:30pm and Christmas Day at 10am.

## **1976**

An Evangelism Workshop was held at Trinity, Hicksville on January 18. Several of our members attended.

Officers for 1976: Gil Pitcher, President; Harry Slade, Vice President; Dr. Ormond Seibert, Secretary; Paul Meyer, Treasurer; Milton Stenzel, Financial Secretary. Trustees: Rudy Hogner, Ralph Johannesen and John Johnsen.

A Mission and Ministry Committee was formed to determine from God’s Word what our congregation can do to carry out Christ’s work most effectively.

Lenten Vespers were held at 7:30pm. There was a Special Palm Sunday Children’s Service at 9:30am, with the regular service at 11am. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday completed Holy Week. There were 2 services on Easter, 9:30am and 11am. An Ascension Service was held on May 27.

The Atlantic District cut our subsidy as mission congregation by \$1,000 for the year.

The Youth Group sponsored a bike trip to Southaven Park and back on May 23. 13 youth participated.

The Rev. John Kenreich was installed as Pastor of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hampton Bays on June 27.

The Bicentennial of the United States of America was celebrated on July 4, 1976.

The Tenth Anniversary of the Dedication of our Church, which took place on July 10, 1966, was celebrated with a thank offering. The congregation was struggling with funds at this time.

Walter and Marion Winkelstern joined the congregation on July 11.

Coreen Williams and James Huey were united in Holy Marriage on August 21.

From a letter sent to Sunday School parents: "There is a difference between going to Sunday School and going to Church. Sunday School is for learning about our Lord and Savior, while the Worship Service is exactly that, for worshipping that Lord about which we learned in Sunday School. Children should get into the habit of doing both."

Pastor T. Hanus was installed as Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centereach.

District President Rudolph P. Ressmeyer resigned as District President.

The LWA had their 8<sup>th</sup> Annual "Harvest Sale" on Saturday, October 9, with vegetables, home baked items, preserves and Christmas items.

Once again, the Church had a "Thanks-living/ Thanks-giving" program with a dinner on November 14, and Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 24 at 7:30pm.

The PA system was installed in Church.

Loyalty Sunday was celebrated on November 21, Christ the King Sunday. Pledges were received for time, talents and treasures for 1977.

The LWA held their Christmas Luncheon on December 6. Ann Meyer was in charge.

The Sunday School Christmas Service was on December 19, 4pm, entitled "Come, Lord Jesus." Christmas Eve services were at 9pm on Christmas Eve. A festival Christmas service took place on Christmas Day, 10am with Communion. There was a New Year's Eve Communion service on December 31.

## **1978**

The Officers for 1978 were: John Johnsen, President; Gil Pitcher, Vice President; Ralph Johannesen, Secretary; Milt Stenzel, Treasurer; Ray Rabeler, Financial Secretary; Trustees: Harry Slade, George Sandberg, George Kelly, Walter Winkelstern, Tom Leigh-Manuell and Fred Schneider.

The basement flooded once again.

The Ash Wednesday service on February 8 was snowed out.

An emergency offering was authorized by the Council on February 26 due to the inability to pay bills.

Kelly Leigh-Manuell was the youth leader. The first youth even of the year was roller skating in Hampton Bays.

Holy Week services were held, including a special Children's service on Palm Sunday.

"NBC will not allow *The Lutheran Hour* to present its scheduled topic on abortion next Sunday..." (April 9, 1978).

The Youth Group had a "Gong Show" on April 23.

Pastor Dunker, St. John's Sayville, died in office. The funeral was April 29.

Harry Slade accepted the appointment as Financial Secretary to fill the unexpired term of Ray Rabeler who moved. John Johnsen agreed to serve out the unexpired term of Milton Stenzel who moved to Florida.

Pastor Holsten, Grace Mastic Beach, died in office. Funeral services were held the week of September 24.

The Youth Group had a bike ride to Westhampton Beach and back, approximately 30 miles. Riders were sponsored, the money went to purchasing lights and ornaments for the Chrismon tree.

Pledges were received on November 19.

The Wedding of Pastor Smith and Barbara Schmitt took place on Saturday, November 25 at 2:30pm. The congregation was invited.

The LWA hosted their Christmas Luncheon at the Sunrise Restaurant on December 5.

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant was held on December 17, entitled "Good News for All People."

Christmas Eve fell on a Sunday. Advent services were held in the morning, with a candlelight Christmas Eve service at 9pm that evening. Christmas Day Eucharist was held at 10am on Christmas Day.

The year ended with a New Year's Eve communion service.

## **1979**

1979 was blessed with some innovations. A Prayer Pyramid was created. The new baptismal font made by Wally Winkelstern was dedicated. A planning/coordinating committee was authorized to keep track of all of the churches activities.

Old thorns continued to agoad us. A questionnaire was distributed by the self-study committee about the future of the ministry of the congregation brought on in part

by the lack of funds to pay bills. A special Memorial Day offering was authorized to meet that need.

New members included Bernard and Ann Schwarting.

The movie *Martin Luther* was shown.

A familiar plea was heard: "Get out of the church basement, you filthy mildew".

The Church Council was John Johnsen, President; D. Gilbert Pitcher, VP; Raymond Fillman, Secretary; Donald Fowler, Treasurer, Harry Slade, Financial Secretary; and Trustees Thomas Leigh-Manuell, George Sandberg, Fred Schneider and Charles Wohr.

## 1980

New ways to worship abounded in 1980: a Wednesday evening service of prayer, praise and sharing began and end of summer was celebrated with an outdoor evening worship service.

A nursery was available downstairs for pre-schoolers to enable their parents to worship. Multiple opportunities to grow one's faith were presented, including bible study at the Sandbergs' home.

A joint *Witness Workshop* with Grace Lutheran, Mastic Beach promised "to provide a painless learning experience in how to tell others what Christ means to you."

Youth were welcomed to a gathering to learn about cults "(Moonies, etc.)" and have fun.

Many chances for Christian fellowship were scheduled, from a Father's Day Family Picnic at Indian Island park in Riverhead featuring a ladies volleyball game and men's horseshoe tournament., and a Game night for the entire family, to which you could bring your own cards or games, but no gambling.

Our worship experience was enhanced by new paraments made possible through the Mother's Day Folder Project.

Families had an opportunity to connect with the pastor through half hour conversations.

We reached out to feed the hungry through the coins placed in our family love loaves.

Tradition was broken when early communion -pre-confirmation- was approved.

A familiar face was new when Marie Paxson served as guest organist.

The following persons served as officers of the church: Gil Pitcher as president, Don Fowler as vice president, Ray Fillmann as secretary, Harry Slade as financial secretary, John Johnsen as treasurer, and Charles Wöhr, George Sandberg and Tom Leigh-Manuell as trustees.

## **1981**

1981 was a year for anniversaries: The Twentieth Anniversary of Pastor Smith's ordination, and the nineteenth anniversary of the first service of our Congregation. Thirteen charter members were still with the congregation as of that date.

It was also a year of beginnings: A second, earlier Sunday morning service debuted at 8:15am.

The Church Council was reorganized with the creation of Boards, like Christian Education and Stewardship under the leadership of the trustees.

Opportunities for fellowship abounded. The Youth sponsored a spaghetti dinner and Gong Show, and a Christmas Craft Day for the Sunday School students, (while parents went to do their Christmas shopping).

We were fed more than just spiritually: a Farmer's Market featured fresh veggies grown by Church Members; and Thanksgiving Baskets were filled and distributed.

We were blessed with the largest Sunday School census: over 90 students!

## **1982**

The highlight of 1982 had to be the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Service on March 21, with District President, Ronald Fink preaching, an founding pastor, Alfred Hofler pronouncing the Benediction. The service included a reaffirmation of the charter promise. A special banner made by Trudy Kusche graced the sanctuary. Some familiar faces took parts in the service: lectors included Joan Stears, prayer leaders included Betty Doroski and Karl Kusche. Paul Ferguson was the acolyte. A repast of coffee, cake and sandwiches followed.

A special anniversary offering was taken to pay off the interest arrears on the loan from the Church Extension Fund.

Reformation Sunday was celebrated with only one service of Reformation and Renewal so that the entire congregation could be together.

Congregational members were encouraged to sign one big Christmas card in the church to each other and use money saved to make an extra offering.

Jesus' words, "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least" were brought to life with the establishing of an "Inasmuch" box to stock a food shelf for the hungry and emergency needs.

The Church Council was: Larry Rothamel, President; Ray Fillman, VP; Dawn Lehman, Secretary; Pat Oster as Treasurer, Harry Slade as financial secretary. Trustees were Vinny Cigna, Ann Meyer, Charles Woehr, David Dennis and Ed Lehman.

## 1984

Great Commission Sunday was held on January 22. Members were asked to consider attending the Synod's "Great Commission Convocation" in St. Louis in October.

Christ Lutheran Church was featured in the Atlantic District "Sharing" bulletin insert. In part it read:

*Christ Church-Evangelical Lutheran, one of the easternmost congregations in the Atlantic District, was established in January, 1962 in the sprawling community on Long Island's south shore in and around Center Moriches. Ministry in this area is at once very different, and very much the same, as that in congregations throughout the State. A striking contrast to many city congregations is the geography – most of the land around the church building is potato and duck farms, beaches and waterfront. Like many rural areas, the community is spread over 15 miles so that most members must travel to the church by car. Yet here, as in both Biblical and modern times in many areas of the world, Christ Church continues to function as a mission church, taking its task very seriously – to make disciples via reaching out, preaching the Gospel, teaching and baptizing in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ....*

*Membership has risen sharply, from about 90 to 160, and since 1979, the Sunday School has expanded to include 94 children...*

Ash Wednesday was observed with Holy Communion.

Pastor Smith's wife, Barbara, started a Bible Study at the Parsonage that began on Thursday, March 15, called "New Me." She also offered a daytime study.

A Choir was formed for the Easter Early Service.

Midweek Lenten Services were held on Wednesdays at 11am and 7:30pm.

Holy Week was observed. Easter saw the addition of a Sunrise Service that used contemporary hymnody. Easter was on April 22.

A special "Service of Oneness" was held on April 29. There was only one service. In place of the sermon was an explanation of the Lutheran liturgy and worship.

Confirmation was held on May 20, the Fifth Sunday of Easter. Dr. Dwayne Mau, Missions director for the Atlantic District was the preacher.

Ascension service was delayed a day and was celebrated on Friday, June 1. There was a potluck supper that preceded the service. The Children built and flew kites at the dinner.

The Church Picnic was held on the Church Grounds on June 10.

The LWA hosted a guest speaker, Mrs. Eleanor Leone, President of the Suffolk Zone LWML on July 2.

The new council was elected. Positions were not indicated. The new members were: Ed Lehman, Lissi Schneider, Larry Rothamel, Joy Sandberg, Anne Schwarting, Dr. Helmut Zeiger, Herbert Fredericks, Steve Vargo, Ann Meyer, June Ferguson and Hilda Brownrigg. Thanks was given to those who served in the past year and left their positions: Harry Slade, Dawn Bradshw Lehman, Dave Dennis and Vincent Cigna.

There was a luncheon at Church on September 15. Anny Fredericks was in charge.

A Spiritual Gifts Workshop was held at Church on October 7, 2-5pm. Movies were shown, and members were asked to bring their own dinners.

The long-time Church organist, Dr. Ormond Seibert, was called to eternal rest the week of October 7. Mr. Charles Boehm, former organist at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hicksville, was the substitute organist for the week.

On October 28, the Youth Group and their parents were encouraged to attend a special meeting where a movie on sex education would be shown.

Reformation Sunday was observed on October 30.

Mrs. Marie Paxson began as Church Organist on All Saints Sunday, November 4.

A "Gay 90's Ham Dinner" was held on November 11. June Ferguson was in charge.

Thanksgiving Eve was celebrated with a service on November 21.

Advent began on December 2. An "Advent Event" was held the evening of December 9, where attendees learned how to make Chrismons.

Christmas services were: Christmas Eve Family Service, Candlelight Service. And Christmas Day Eucharist.

A New Year's Eve Communion Service was held on December 31.

## **1985**

A Self-Study meeting was held on January 6.

The Congregation participated in the Synod's, *His Love, Our Response* stewardship program.

A Junior-High Youth Fellowship was formed on January 27.

The Rev. Ronald Fink, President of the Atlantic District, preached at our Church on February 3.

A Family Service was held at 9:30am for Sunday School Families. This was in addition to the 11am Service.

The *His Love, Our Response* banner was dedicated on Transfiguration Sunday, February 17. Members also rededicated themselves to the Lord and to being His Stewards.

The Ash Wednesday service was held on February 20 at 7:30pm

The Congregation held a Corned Beef Dinner on March 17. Double Features of old time movies were shown. June Ferguson was the coordinator.

Another Congregational Meeting was held to discuss the sale of the back acres of the Church property.

The Congregation participated in the Love Loaf program. Money collected was sent to the Children of Ethiopia.

Holy week went well.

A Lutheran Men's Retreat was held at Camp Paquatuck on May 3 and 4.

The Confirmation Students had public examination on Friday evening, May 17; Confirmation took place on Pentecost Sunday, May 19.

The Church Picnic and Olympic Day was held at Church on June 9.

A Cleanup Day was held on Sunday, June 30, with a single service in the morning. The service was entitled, "Sanctuary Scrubdown Sunday". After worship, Members cleaned the entire sanctuary inside and out.

A Prayer and Praise service was held on the evening of August 4.

For those who have difficulty with drinking from the Chalice, the practice of intinction is introduced.

St. Michael and All Angels was celebrated on September 29.

A Special Men's Rally was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Islip. Several men from our Congregation attended.

Thanksgiving Eve Service was held on November 27. For the first time in the history of Christ Church, there was a baptism at this service.



The Ladies' Christmas Luncheon was held on December 2 at the Pine Grove Inn in East Patchogue.

Dr. Jean Garton, president of *Lutherans for Life* gave a presentation at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Patchogue. Dr. Garton was the wife of the Rev. Horace W. "Chick" Garton, Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ, who ordained Pastor Fleischmann.

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant was held on December 22 and was entitled, "Gifts for Jesus."

On Christmas Eve, there was a Family Service at 7:30 and a Candlelight Service at 11pm. Christmas Day Eucharist was held on December 25 at 10am.

A New Year's Eve Prayer and Praise Service took place on December 31.

## 1986

A Ham Dinner was held on January 12 as part of the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Congregation.

A special congregational meeting was held on February 2 to consider information on offers for part of our land.

An "Inasmuch" box was created to help emergency needs of people.

The Lenten Midweek services were entitled, "Trivia or Truth".

Holy Week was observed with services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. There were 2 Easter services, 9:30am and 11am, with a breakfast between services.

The Adult Fellowship Group held a pizza night on March 15.

"Bibles for the Church", a program aimed at putting Bibles in the Church was initiated on April 6. Bibles were \$5 a piece. The program was coordinated by Liz Zeiger and Hilda Browning.

Debbie Cigna and Janis Dennis made the Palm Sunday Banner used in Church.

There was a "Holy Spirit Conference" at Calvary Lutheran Church, East Meadow on May 2 and 3.

An evening of Prayer and Praise was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Islip. The preacher was Dr. Donald Matzat.

Confirmation took place on Pentecost Sunday, May 18.

A men's retreat was held on May 30 and 31 at Camp Paquatuck in Center Moriches. Men from several other Lutheran Churches were invited.

There was a pot luck dinner sponsored by LWA on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

The LWA began sewing Quilt Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Betty Doroski was in charge.

A special Fathers' Day program was held with a worship service and reception for Fathers and families that followed on June 15.

The Adult Fellowship group went bowling on June 21.

Officers elected at the Meeting on June 22: President Steven Vargo; Vice President Barbara Walters; Secretary Gayle Klein; Treasurer, Randolph Cruse; Financial Secretary Joy Sandberg; Trustees: Charles Bennett, Gilbert Pitcher, Ann Meyer, Donna Melazzi and Trudy Kusche.

Summer worship services began on July 6 at 8:30am and 10am with a coffee hour in between.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of the Ordination of Pastor Ronald Smith was held at 3pm on July 20. From the bulletin: *Pastor Smith was ordained on July 2, 1961 in his home church, Faith Lutheran Church, Easton, PA by Rev. Clarence Roth. His first assignment was as a missionary of the Atlantic District of the LCMS to East Lyme, CT, in August, 1961. This mission church held its first service on January 7, 1962, the same day his present church held its first service in the Women's Club of Center Moriches. On September 15, 1963, he was installed as the first pastor of Christ Lutheran Church, East Lyme, CT. He left there in September 1965 to serve as pastor of Love Lutheran Church, East Greenbush, NY. He was installed on October 3, 1965. In 1966 Pastor Smith accepted a call to LI Lutheran High School, Brookville, NY, to serve as a teacher of English, Religion and Music. His love of music became evident as he directed the school's choirs and established the Junior High Choir. He also served as a part-time assistant to Pastor Bohm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Amityville, NY. During this time he accepted the call to serve the congregation of Christ Church Evangelical Lutheran, East Moriches, NY. He was installed in September, 1969. Along with his desire to serve Christ Church, he served as Circuit Counselor for seven years. With his assistance, 9 vacancies were filled....*

85 Students were enrolled in the Sunday School program.

"Picnic Music Festival" was held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at 5pm on August 3. Members were encouraged to attend and perform music.

A Stove fund for the parsonage was initiated in August.

The Rev. John Fleischmann was ordained on August 10, 1986 at Martin Luther Chapel in Pennsauken, NJ, and installed as Assistant Pastor at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Patchogue on Saturday, September 20.

The regular Church picnic was on September 21.

The Rev. David Wackenhuth was installed as assistant pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Islip.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee was formed on September 28. The Church took an offering for LWR to provide aid for victims of the El Salvador Earthquake on October 26.

Marie Paxson asked for instrumentalists to assist with the Thanksgiving Eve Service.

A vote was taken on November 23 concerning the sale of the back 9 acres of the Church. However, there was an error in procedure, and all votes cast were null and void.

Thanksgiving Eve service was celebrated on November 26. Fellowship followed the service.

The LWA Luncheon was held on December 8 at Pine Grove Inn, East Patchogue.

The Advent Midweek services were entitled, "Conversation with the Angels"

The Sunday School program, "The Old, Old Christmas Story" was held on December 21.

A Family Service was held on Christmas Eve at 7:30pm. The candlelight service was held at 11pm. The Pre-service music was an arrangement of "O Jesus, So Sweet" by Pastor John Fleischmann, assistant pastor at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Patchogue, and hymn/music writer. The Christmas Day Communion service was held at 10am.

There was no New Years' Eve Service due to poor attendance in previous years. A "Homecoming Service" was held on the Sunday after Christmas, welcoming all "members, former members but "home for the holidays" to worship.

## **1987**

On February 17, Atlantic District President Ronald Fink will be present to discuss the upcoming pastoral vacancy of the congregation.

Pastor Smith preached his farewell sermon on Sunday, February 22.

David Dennis accepted the position of Vice President of the Congregation.

Dr. Frederick Miller, True Light Educational Ministries, presented a program on Understanding and Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses at Emanuel, Patchogue, February 27 and 28.

On March 1 the Congregation voted on issuing a call for a candidate from Seminary to be the next pastor. The congregation also voted on putting up the rear

portion of the Church property for sale. The motion on the sale of the land was defeated. The congregation voted in favor of calling a candidate for a pastor.

Pastor Robert Ernst, Grace Lutheran Church, Mastic Beach taught confirmation classes during the vacancy in 1987. Pastor John Kenreich of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Hampton Bays, led the Lenten Vespers.

Pastors who served Christ Lutheran during this vacancy were: The Rev. Edmond Bohm (retired); The Rev. John Fleischmann (Emanuel, Patchogue); The Rev. David Wackenhuth (Trinity, Islip); Ronald Smith (Redeemer, Bayside); the Rev. Charles Kenreich (retired); the Rev. Bruce Rudolf (Emanuel, Patchogue);

Debbie Cigna was thanked for her 6 years of accompanying the congregation with guitar as she took a leave of absence.

Services were held on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday during the Vacancy.

The Twenty Fifth Anniversary of Christ Lutheran Church was observed with a dinner on May 3 at the Pine Hills Country Club.

Ten students were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday by Pastor Charles Kenreich.

Candidate Ronald Saatkamp was called as Pastor. He was a student at the Synod's Fort Wayne Seminary. Installation is set for July 12. The Installation Committee was: Trudy Kusche, Hilda Rausch, Food: Marge Alberts, Decorating: Bea Pedersen; Worship: Gayle Klein; and Set Up: Betty Haas.

Pastor Saatkamp arrived on July 12. He was originally from Washington, NJ. He attended Concordia College, Bronxville (now Concordia-NY) and Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, IN. He also attended Rutgers University, receiving a B.A. He vicared at Atonement Lutheran Church in Seattle, Washington. He and his wife, Ann have two children, Karen and Kevin. He was installed at 3:30pm on July 12.

Participants in the Installation service were: Steve Vargo and Rev. John Kenreich, Liturgists; Rev. Robert Ernst, Circuit Counselor, Preacher; The Rev. Ronald F. Fink, President of the Atlantic District, LCMS, Installing Officer; Mrs. Hilda Rausch, and Rev. Bruce Rudolf, lectors; Mrs. Marie Paxson, Organist; Mrs. Debbie Cigna, Mrs. Linda Lombardo, Mrs. Donna Melazzi and Mrs. Gayle Klein, "Morningstar" (Guitarists); Miss Laura Sandberg: Crucifer; Miss Donna Sandberg: Acolyte; Otto and Dorothy Seyfarth: Ushers.

Vacation Bible School was held for two weeks beginning on July 13.

The following individuals were elected to Congregational Office: Steve Vargo, President; David Dennis, Vice President; Gail Meyer, Treasurer; Joy Sandberg, Financial Secretary; Gayle Klein, Secretary; Trustees: Ann Meyer, Trudy Kusche, Ed Klein, Hilda Rausch, Otto Seyfarth and Kirsten Vogel.

An Adult Bible Study began during the Sunday School hour in the Sanctuary on September 20. The topic was: "The Church: A Scriptural View." Also, a Wednesday Evening study began the same week on "The Gospel of Matthew."

Communion was offered weekly: at the 11am service on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays; and at the 8:15am service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

The Annual Christmas Fair was held on November 7 from 10am to 3pm. Handmade Christmas gifts, jams and jellies, baked goods, greeting cards and napkins available.

The Thanksgiving Service was held on Thanksgiving Eve, November 25.

The LWA had their Christmas Luncheon at the Pine Grove Inn, Patchogue, on December 7.

Midweek Advent Vespers were held on Wednesday evenings.

The Sunday School Christmas Pageant was held on December 20 at 3pm.

Christmas was celebrated with Vespers on Christmas Eve; A Festival of Lessons and Carols at 11pm; and Holy Communion on Christmas Day.

## **1988**

The following officers were elected in the LWA: President Marge Alberts; Vice President Elizabeth Zeiger; Secretary Marilyn Bodenmiller; Financial Secretary, Madeline Snyder; and Treasurer: Betty Doroski.

Midweek Matins and Vespers were held during Lent.

A Pot Luck supper was held on February 27, 6pm. The Congregation watched the video of Pastor Saatkamp's Ordination in Ft. Wayne.

Holy Week Services were held on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

An Easter breakfast was served from 7am to 10:30am. Tickets were available through Marge and Ben Alberts and Otto and Dottie Seyfarth.

An Ice Cream Social was sponsored by AAL the evening of April 24.

Having been Confirmed on Pentecost, the Confirmands received First Communion on Trinity Sunday, May 29.

The Church Picnic was held at Sears Bellows Park in Hampton Bays.

At the June 26 Voters' meeting, the following members were elected to office: Larry Rothamel, President; Otto Seyfarth, Vice President; Gail Meyer, Treasurer; Eileen Warnken, Financial Secretary. Trustees: Ben Alberts, Trudy Kusche, Ann Meyer and Fred Schneider. Ann Meyer agreed to serve as recording secretary until a permanent secretary could be found.

A fund was established to purchase new front doors for the Church in July.

The Rev. C. Scott Gress was installed as Assistant Pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Aquebogue on September 11.

A new typewriter was purchased the week of September 25. It was capable of justifying margins and printing in **bold**

The Church had a pot-luck Supper on October 15. Members were asked to bring their own place settings, silverware and their favorite recipe.

The LWA Holiday Fair was held on December 5.

Thanksgiving Vespers were held on Thanksgiving Eve, November 23.

Midweek Advent Services were held.

The Sunday School Pageant was held on December 18 and entitled, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Christmas Eve Vespers were held at 7:30pm; A Festival of Lessons and Carols was held at 11pm; Christmas Day Eucharist was held at 10am.

## 1990

Pastor Saatkamp accepted a call to an LCMS Church in Utah.

Pastors and Individuals assisting during the Pastoral Vacancy: Pastor Bruce Nathan, Pastor David Wackenhuth (Assistant, Trinity Islip); Pastor John Fleischmann (Associate, Emanuel, Patchogue); Pastor Wayne Olson; Vicar Todd Rappe; Mr. Donald Eliot, Lay Minister, Grace Mastic Beach; Dr. Frederick Trinklein, Teacher, Grace, Mastic Beach; and Mr. Oscar Block, Lay Minister, St. Luke, Dix Hills.

The Church Picnic was held on September 23 at the home of Mrs. Marie Eberhard in East Moriches.

The LWA Christmas Fair took place on Saturday, November 3.

The LWA Christmas Luncheon was on December 3.

The LWA sent a check of support to Vicar Todd Rappe, St. John's Sayville the week of December 2.

A Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion was conducted at 10pm on Christmas Eve by Pastor Fleischmann.

## **1991**

The 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Congregation was celebrated with a dinner on January 6. Over 50 members attended.

Interim Pastor, John Fleischmann installed the new Council Members on February 3. They were: President James Stucchio; Vice President George Sandberg; Treasurer Rick Mignerey; Trustees: Robert Kamps and Susanne Zimmerman.

Maundy Thursday services were led by the Rev. John G. Fleischmann, Associate Pastor, Emanuel Lutheran Church, Patchogue on March 28.

Easter Services were led by the Rev. Wayne Olson on March 31.

A Call meeting was held on April 21 at 1pm. The Congregation called the Rev. John G. Fleischmann of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Patchogue.

Pastor Bruce Nathan was scheduled to preach and preside on Mothers' Day. However, on the afternoon prior, his son Eli – who had been with him at Church the previous Sunday – was tragically killed on his bicycle. Pastor Fleischmann filled in for Pastor Nathan, and also announced to the Congregation that he had accepted their call to become pastor.

Pastor John Fleischmann and his family moved into the parsonage on June 15. The congregation had done a wonderful job in preparing the house. He began serving the Congregation on July 1, 1991. As the District Presidency was in vacancy (following Rev. Ronald Fink taking a call back to a congregation in Florida), the installation could not occur until September 15. Rev. Charles Froehlich, representing the interim District President, James Zwernemann installed Pastor Fleischmann. The Installation took place at 3pm with a dinner that followed at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Center Moriches.

## **1992**

The Church sponsored an Explorer post that eventually became a 4H club. It was run by Robert Schernus and Robert Kamps. 15 boys were involved.

## **1993**

The congregation jumped to 212 members, with 120 member households. We bid adieu to Harry and Madeline Snyder, who moved to Florida.

Joan Nathan, wife of Pastor Bruce Nathan, was employed as our part-time secretary.

For the first time, records indicate that we “need to build additional space” for the Church.

The new Galanti Organ was purchased for Twenty Thousand Dollars. The congregation raised the money in two weeks, and the organ was installed on Ascension Day, 1993. The new organ actually plays back a digital recording of pipe organs, and has a built in sequencer and RF remote so that it can be played without an organist sitting at the console as necessary.

All auxiliary groups came under the jurisdiction of the Church Council in June, 1995. Up to that point there was little coordination among groups within the Church.

A revised Constitution was written and submitted to the Congregation. It was approved.

The Church joined the Wartburg Lutheran Services. George Sandberg and Pastor attended their meeting at Concordia College, Bronxville.

Jonathan Bernd of Jews for Jesus gave a presentation to the congregation entitled *Christ in the Passover* on February 7. Many were able to attend.

The Youth Group sponsored Easter Breakfast.

Due to 2 break ins, the Church Council opted to put a burglar alarm system in the Church.

The Sunday School had a closing presentation by Christian Magician, Phil Ucci.”

For the first time, the Church purchased a computer in June.

Christ Lutheran Church had the Sunday morning devotions each week in August on WALK Radio.

The first “Men’s Bible Breakfast” was held on September 11.

President David Benke preached at our church on Sunday, September 12.

On September 26, the Congregation began having an 8am Service during the regular year.

The Congregation had its first “Harvest Fair” under the capable leadership of Linda Stucchio. Over \$3,000 was netted for the Congregation.

Pastor Fleischmann was one of the leaders for the District-Wide Reformation Service at Concordia, Bronxville.

94 people attended the Thanksgiving Eve Service at which the Sunday School children sang.



The Congregation participated in the “St. Nicholas Day” program, providing gifts to the children at a local women’s shelter in Ridge.

Several members of St. John’s, Holbrook, were transferred into our Congregation.

## 1995

The Lord granted us 37 new members in 1995. Bernard Schwarting was called to eternal rest on January 21 and the funeral was held at Church. Ann Meyer moved to Minnesota to be with her son, Charles.

There was record attendance at the weekly Lenten services, with an exquisitely beautiful performance of the choir with flute obbligato on Good Friday. During the season of Eastertide Pastor preached on the Churches of Revelation and composed a new hymn, “Seven Golden Lampstands.” The hymn and the sermons were published for the Congregation’s devotional use.

Eagle Scout Robert Crawford constructed and donated two picnic tables to the Church for his Eagle Project. They were dedicated in memory of his grandfather, Donald Elberth.

The Stewardship Committee completed an “Every Member Visit” during the month of October.

Fred Velsor, our Social Ministry Chair along with Maryam and Robert Zettwoch continue to run a very active food pantry from our Church basement. The needs in the community are great, particularly with the closing of the Grumman plant in Calverton. In 1995, our Church was approved to be a distribution point for the regional Food Bank, *Long Island Cares*.

Handbells were purchased for the Church in loving memory of Bernard Schwarting by his family. A handbell choir was assembled and played at the Thanksgiving Service in November. It was directed by Pastor.

For years, our Women’s group was independent from the national group. In 1995, under the leadership of Bonnie Sherwood and Dottie Saul, our women officially joined the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

A CEF program was initiated for our Sunday School Children.  
Saturday Evening Services began on January 13.

Pastor wrote the curriculum and was one of the first two teachers in the Atlantic District Lay Ministry training course. Classes alternated location between Christ Lutheran Church, East Moriches, and Grace Lutheran Church, Central Islip. The other teacher was Pastor Jeff Walther. Additionally, Pastor wrote an extensive study on the Letter to the Romans for the class which became a District-Wide text.

For the first time, Christ Lutheran sponsored a Treore service (“three hour”) on Good Friday from noon to 3pm. Pastors participating were: Pastor Francis D. Bonadonna (Pastor, St. Mark’s, Ridge) Pastor Harry T. Schenkel (Assistant Pastor, Our Redeemer, Aquebogue) and Pastor Fleischmann.

In our struggle with Earthgrow and Long Island Composting (our former neighbors to the West), a community hearing before a judge, was held at the East Moriches Fire Department. We were represented by Capt. George Sandberg; Pastor and many members of the Congregation attended the meeting.

Pastor Paul Wagner retired from Holy Trinity, Middle Island.

The Sunrise Fires take place to our East, but do not come near our Church or its woods.

Friendship Sunday is held in September; Confirmation classes are held on Tuesday afternoons along with students from St. Mark’s Church in Ridge.

A luncheon is held in November in honor of Ann Meyer before she moved to Minnesota.

**Council:** George Sandberg, President; James Stucchio, Vice President; Robert Kamps, Buildings and Grounds; Elsa Ledwith, Worship; Al Birnstein, Stewardship; Trudy Kusche, Parish Ministry; Christian Education, Marty Getzelman; Flo Caron, Financial Secretary; Eileen Warnken, Treasurer.

## 1996

Worship attendance during 1996 averaged about 110 a Sunday.

During the Pastor’s Forum we took up controversial issues including: Homosexuality, Right-to-Die Issues, Church-State relationships, and other Constitutional issues.

A study of the Formula of Concord took place.

Vacation Bible School was held under the theme, “Friendship Adventures with Jesus”. Over 50 children attended with over 10 staff.

The Choir, under the direction of Raymond Rueger, continues to beautifully sing the Gospel of Christ to our people, leading them in worship. Marie Paxson continues to faithfully serve as our organist and Children's Choir director.

Handbells were purchased from the Mallmark bell Company in Pennsylvania. The Bell Choir started rehearsing in September and made its debut on Thanksgiving Eve.

Fred Kuehl and Wally Winkelstern constructed the new retable behind the altar for the Office Candles and Crucifix.

Pastor John Oberdeck of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, preached on Memorial Day weekend. Pastor Oberdeck was Pastor Fleischmann's supervising Field Work Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield, IL while Pastor was in Seminary. Pastor Oberdeck also baptized Pastor's youngest daughter, Laura, in 1985 at Zion, Litchfield.

The Saturday Evening service was started during 1996.

The Congregation approved a motion to begin planning a new church/facility.

Four of our Saints were called to eternal rest: Charlie Wagner, Marie Eberhard, and Liz and Helmut Zeiger. We commended them all to the Lord, trusting in His promises.

On July 17, TWA Flight 800 crashed over the waters south of our Church. Pastor and our Congregation were involved in ministering to those who were involved in the recovery of bodies over the next six months. There was a memorial held at Soldiers and Sailors park in East Moriches that many of our members attended.

Pastor received a call to Calvary Lutheran Church, Medford, NJ in May. After visiting the congregation and prayerful deliberation, he declined the call.

Fred Kuehl served as Sunday School Superintendent.

The candles on the Altar were replaced with Kerry Oil Candles. During Advent, oil candles were purchased for the wreath as well.

A Tree Cross was made from the Christmas Tree from last year. It remained in the sanctuary from Ash Wednesday through Good Friday.

The updated revision of the Church Constitution was approved.

## **1997**

Christ Lutheran made the switch to every Sunday communion.

Dr. Frederick Miller, Grace Lutheran Church, Mastic Beach, led a 6 week Bible study on witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses that was well attended.

Pastor held Bible classes on the Psalms and on Prayer during the week. The Sunday Pastor's Forum continues.

Confirmation classes switched from Tuesday evenings to Saturday Mornings. Dorothy Saul is assisting Pastor in teaching the classes.

For the first time, Confirmation is moved from Pentecost Sunday to Reformation Sunday in October. Students are asked to return for two months in their 9<sup>th</sup> Grade year.

We began a "Family Service" on the fourth Sunday in each month. This was for Sunday School Families and would be done in place of the Sunday School class that week.

There was a sermon series on the Ten Commandments during the summer. Pastor composed a hymn, *Promised Land*, that interpreted and applied the Ten Commandments, used with this sermon series.

The Church took a leap of faith and purchased a 4 acre lot at Wading River Road and South Street in Manorville. On the day of the closing, Pastor went to the property and blessed it.

We bade farewell to secretary Sandy Hassett, and welcomed Janice Savarese as our new secretary.

George Sandberg, Jim Stucchio, and Trudy Kusche were thanked for all of their faithful years of service on the Church Council as their terms expired.

The LWML circles have "taken off". A special thanks was given to Lissi Schneider, Dorothy Saul, and Joan Stears, who assisted in this noble task. Several of our women were able to attend the Women's Retreat at Cor Maria in Sag Harbor.

Sunday School teachers included: Pre K/Kindergarten: Karen Rose, Margaret Wallace and Pat Cloughen; 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades: Dora Heim, Louise Passie, Hazel Tyrie; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grades: Jay Wallace and Coreen Huey; 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grades: Dorothy Saul Ellaine Antippas and Carol Bialecki; 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades: Pastor.

## 1998

The weekly "Pastor's Forum", Sunday morning adult Bible Study began.

The Sunday School utilizes "every square inch" of the Church each Sunday morning, including the Choir Balcony, upstairs back room, the entire basement, the Kitchen and the Church itself. This displays a deep need for more space, and shows why the congregation needs to build.

The Congregation is into its first year in “Forward in Faith” and seeks as a goal to raise \$350,000 toward the construction of a new parish hall and/or church. Pledges to date total \$250,000!

On October 4, the congregation consecrated the new property recently purchased at the corner of South Street and Wading River Road in Manorville. Nearly 100 people attended the service under tents, including representatives of the LCMS and Atlantic District.

Mr. David Holz, financial coordinator for the Lutheran Church Foundation assisted us in initiating the Forward in Faith program.

Weekly communion continues at all services, bringing our practice back into conformity with the Lutheran Confessions.

A brass choir was formed and played at Christmas and Easter.

The congregation was introduced to the Evening Prayer service from *Lutheran Worship*, which was used for Advent and Lenten evening services.

During the summer, Pastor initiated a sermon series entitled “You are Not Your Own”. Written in response to a non-Biblical statement on sexuality by one of the major Lutheran Church bodies, and based upon the Biblical response of the American Lutheran Publicity bureau, the sermons focused on purity in singleness, the commitment of marriage, child bearing and rearing, raising children in the knowledge of the Lord, and aberrancies such as divorce and homosexuality, stressing the Lord’s forgiveness. For the series, Pastor wrote the hymn, “You Are Not Your Own” which was published by Concordia Publishing House later that year.

Carol Bialecki ran the VBS during the summer with 45 children and 12 adults attending.

The Youth Group was resurrected by Chris and Kathy Dittmeier, and were involved in many service projects including serving at the Trinity Inn (soup kitchen) at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Patchogue.

Pastor Bruce Nathan and Mr. August Paxson represented our circuit at the Synodical Convention in July.

Robert and Maryam Zettwoch continued serving faithfully in the Food Pantry. A stand-up freezer was donated to the Church for the pantry.

Laurie Rowan took over the production of *Saints in Service*.

David DeJohn did an expert job of keeping the lawn looking great, Bob Kamps continued to make things work at church with his behind the scenes expertise, we are blessed!

Council: Al Birnstein, President; Gary Pecorino, Financial Secretary; Sheila Otten, Treasurer; Fred Kuehl, Head Elder; Bonnie Sherwood, Worship chair; Roger Overton, Stewardship Chair and Emphasis Chair; Tom Pfalzer, Christian Education; Bob Kamps: Buildings and Grounds; Maryam Zettwoch, Social Ministry; Chris and Kathy Dittmeier, Youth;

## **1999**

The Vision Statement for the Church was written at the request of our architect, Hans Nepf, focusing on the need for a new facility. He began his discussion by saying, “you have ideas of what a building should look like, but that is my job. Your job is to outline what you believe you need to have to continue your ministry. My job is to build a building that both serves the congregation and gives glory to God through Jesus Christ.”

The planning committee came up with the following thoughts: The need for a working Sacristy with sink and refrigerator; Two side Aisles to assist in processions and the distribution of Communion; The Organ and the Choir should remain in the balcony; The Narthex should be large enough to accommodate fellowship; there should be a large, enclosed coat closet for worshipers. A soundproof cry room would be desired. A vesting sacristy should be included at the rear of the church for choir and pastoral staff; There should be a large fellowship hall available. Educationally, our desire was for each Sunday School and Confirmation Class to have its own classroom. The classrooms should be built “to code” to accommodate a nursery school for the public. A Library is an essential component of every Church. Youth should have their own space. There should be a professional sized kitchen properly outfitted. There should be a parish hall that would seat at least 150 people with a stage. There should be provision to have a soup kitchen for the needy. The food pantry should have a separate entrance, isolating it from the main building. Administrative offices would include a study for the Pastor, a Church Office, a Machine Room, a Leadership office; an office for a Vicar or Assistant Pastor, and a pre-school office. There should be copious amounts of storage space.

Hans took these ideas and created a beautiful new Church and Campus that worked on the “A-Frame” theme of the present Chapel.

We began our “Forward in Faith” capital fund raising campaign in 1999. The word “Faith” was both a statement and an acronym: “Future Abounding in Today’s Hearts”! In order to begin this program, our Congregation contracted with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, whose representative trained our members to run the campaign.

Several of our active members went to be with the Lord in 1999: Ingrid Abrahamsen, Viola Emmer (Hoshyla); and Walter Winkelstern. Several families moved away including Paul and Susan DeLeva, Mike and Judy Wood and Audrey Hogge.

In 1999 the Youth Group blossomed under the leadership of Chris and Kathy Dittmeier. We had a Valentines Day dinner and over 100 people attended. Dinner was cooked by our member, Dave Frenke. The Youth Group formed an “E-Team”, a pantomime team. On Pentecost weekend, 45 youth and 15 adults attended our first-ever retreat at Camp Paquatuck in Center Moriches. We were joined by youth groups from Grace Lutheran Church, Mastic Beach, and the Center and East Moriches United Methodist youth. The youth group also sponsored a fishing trip, coordinated by Bob Kamps.

Vacation Bible School saw 40 children and 20 adults. Next year we will try a parents’ class as well.

The Sunday School, likewise, flourished under the capable leadership of Tom Pfalzer.

At both the Christmas Eve and Easter Services, the music was outstanding. We had a 29 voice choir on both holidays, and complete instrumentation including brass, woodwinds, timpani and organ – all in the balcony! A special thanks to Raymond Rueger and Marie Paxson was given.

The planning committee, formed in April, 1998, continued on with their work on the new building.

Concern was raised over “Y2K” - that computers, cars, clocks and the infrastructure of the world would collapse as the calendar hit the next millennium.

The Council in 1999: Al Birnstein, President; Walter Gebhardt, Vice President; Fred Kuehl, Head Elder; Bonnie Sherwood, Worship; Tom Pfalzer, Christian Education; Roger Overton, Stewardship; Maryam Zettwoch, Social Ministry; Lauren Rowan, Evangelism; Chris Dittmeier, Youth; Joseph L. Stozetto, Buildings and Grounds; Gary Pecorino, Financial Secretary; Sheila Otten, Treasurer.

## 2000

One year ago, our Church Council banded together and made a motion to the Congregation to take a step of faith and increase our giving to Missions to a percentage of the total annual budget amount instead of the small, arbitrary amount that had been given in years past. As I remember, it was kind of a rough meeting. Consider this: For the first time ever we were solvent through even the “low” months of summer, and we finished the year with funds left over from the very budget that we increased to further the Lord’s work away from home. Coincidence? I don’t believe so for a moment. Rather, it was a blessing from the Lord, who goes all the way to the Cross to show us that we don’t have to worry!

Worship attendance remained very stable averaging 125 per Sunday in 3 services. We continue the Family Worship service on the Fourth Sunday of each month, encouraging attendance of non-member families who are associated with the Sunday School. Congregational participation at special services (Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter and Christmas) has steadily risen over the past several years.

Worship continues to be enhanced by an excellent musical program. We are blessed to have Marie Paxson and Ray Rueger as our musical directors and have a music program that is as ambitious as those of large churches. The Senior choir sings at the late service from September through June. The Children’s Choir also meets weekly and sings at the 8am Service, Family Services and some holiday services.

Our Sunday School is stronger than ever this year, and our enrollment is the highest it has been in years.

Thirteen of our youth were confirmed this year and 16 are presently in class preparing to stand before the Lord and the Congregation and reaffirm their Baptismal vows.

Twenty of our members have embarked in *Today’s Light*, a Bible Study which enables participants to read through the entire Bible in 2 years.

Two sessions of Inquirers’ Class were held this year. Each class had 8 members.

Social ministry continues to flourish with the Food Pantry. Robert and Maryam Zettwoch faithfully come to church each Monday, administrate the required paperwork and provide for those in need with food.

Several fellowship events took place in 2000. The Youth sponsored a “Valentines Dinner”, and a very popular “Murder-Mystery” night. In July we had our very first



“Cornell Chicken BBQ” and hope that it will become an annual event. In October the AAL sponsored a movie night featuring the movie *Bonhoeffer* along with a German Food Fest.

In 2,000, Christ Lutheran had a vicar. Seminarian Kenneth Hoglund, enrolled in the Synod’s “Distance Education Leading to Ordination” (“DELTO”) served for the year. He attended Gettysburg Seminary in the 1970s and reactivated his preparation for the office of the Holy Ministry.

In May, 2000, Robert Saul and Lynn Hoglund graduated from the Atlantic District Deaconate Training program. Bonnie Sherwood entered the program in 2000 as well to prepare to become an Atlantic District Deacon.

Trials often come our way. Scripture assures us that at the end of time they will increase as the Lord purges His Church. For the Christian, trials simply drive us closer to the bosom of our beloved Lord Jesus. As painful as they are, for you and me they are times of growth. I constantly remind myself of this as I ponder the events in my personal life over the past year, and know that through all of this the Lord’s forgiveness stands for me, and that He will see my family and me through this time in His way.

**The 2000-2001 Sunday School Staff:** Superintendent, Thomas Pfalzer; Beth Keating, Pre-K, Nadine Livoti, Pre-K; Karen Rose, Kindergarten; Marge Wallace, Kindergarten; Vera Trick, Primary A Teacher; Joan Stears, Primary B Teacher; Hazel Tyrie, Primary B Teacher; Amy Damelio, Primary B Assistant Teacher; Jay Wallace, Third Grade Teacher; Lisa Rice, Fourth Grade Teacher, Music Director; Kathy Dittmeier, Music Assistant, Assistant Secretary; Deborah Taylor, Music Assistant; Marie Paxson, Music Assistant, Pat Cloughen, Secretary; Suzanne Breitenbach, Assistant Secretary and Sunday School Store; Bonnie Swanson Sunday School Store.

**2000 VBS Staff:** Beth Keating, Director; Pat Cloughen, Teacher; Nadine Livoti, Teacher; Kathy Dittmeier, Teacher; Lisa Rice, Teacher; Hazel Tyrie, Teacher; Vera Trick, Teacher; Assistants: Monique Stozzetto, Kiersten Wallace, Brian Cloughen, Anthony Savarese, Holly Tyrie, Marybeth Roehrig, Ryan Roehrig, Katrina Roehrig, Samantha Walther, Laura Fleischmann; Specialty Teachers: Lisa Ferguson, Trudy Kusche, Bob Kamps. Music Director: Marie Paxson; Refreshment Coordinator: Lori Mellina. Pinch Hitter: Pastor Fleischmann; Behind the Scenes Helper: Joseph Stozzetto and Thomas Pfalzer; “Snack Procurer” Roger Overton.

**Other Servants of the Church:** Elders: Pastor Fleischmann, Fred Kuel, Robert Saul, Roger Overton, Bertram Saul (Elder Emeritus). Worship Committee: Bonnie

Sherwood, Chair; Sheila Otten, Altar Guild; Alfred Birnstein, Head Usher; Marie Paxson: Organist and Children's Choir Director; Raymond Rueger, Choir Director. Planning Committee for New Church: Pastor Fleischmann, Alfred Birnstein, Bonnie Sherwood, Margaret Overton, Roger Overton, Joseph Stozzetto, Robert Saul, Fred Kuehl. Church Architect: Hans Nepf, Stony Brook, NY. Church Memorial Fund: Gladys Kuehl. LCMS Church Extension Fund Representative: Susanne Zimmerman.

**Council:** Mr. Alfred Birnstein, President; Robert Saul, VP; Sheila Otten, Treasurer; Susanne Zimmerman, Secretary; Bonnie Sherwood, Financial Secretary and Worship Chair; Fred Kuehl, Head Elder; Thomas Pfalzer, Christian Education Chair; Kathy and Christopher Dittemeier, Youth Leaders; Joseph Stozzetto, Buildings and Grounds; Roger Overton, Stewardship Chair; Maryam and Robert Zettwoch, Social Ministry.

## **2001**

In reflecting back on the year 2001, most of us are met with mixed emotions. Indeed, for our Country, it was a tragic year. We are still grappling with the enormity of the terrorist attacks on September 11 which have forever changed the face of America. On the evening of the attacks, our church organized an "ad-hoc" vespers service, contacting each member family by phone. Over 100 people attended the service. The church continued to have weekly services on Thursday evenings until Thanksgiving, praying for those involved in the recovery efforts at Ground Zero and the Pentagon.

30 new members were received into the Congregation.

Due to his participation in the prayer service at Yankee Stadium, District President David Benke was suspended by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod from his position. 10 members of our Church attended a meeting at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, where the situation was explained to members of Atlantic District Congregations.

The second Chicken BBQ was held; our Council voted to make it an annual event. It generates wonderful fellowship, brings in extra funds that can be used in ministry, and the chicken is great!

The Congregation voted to sell the rear 8 acres of our property to Mr. Ross Cassata for the development of a senior citizens' village. In return, the congregation will receive the fair market value for the land as well as an agreement that our site-work for the new building will be performed by Mr. Cassata's construction crews, and the church has arranged to be connected to their sewer system.

The planning committee has been meeting bi-weekly with our architect, Hans Nepf, and will be making a presentation to the Congregation shortly.

A highlight was Pastor's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Christ Lutheran, celebrated with a dinner on a Sunday evening in September.

The Congregation adopted the new constitution and it is in the process of being implemented.

Our stewardship was very good, and for a second year in a row the congregation remained solvent, even in the low summer months. The congregation, once again, was in "the black" at the end of the year, largely due to our commitment to giving a portion of the congregational income to missions. We are grateful for all of the families who give 10 percent of their income to support the work of the Lord in this place. We have come so far from where the congregation was just a few short years prior.

One problem noted is that while social events seem to draw large crowds, Bible studies still have many empty chairs. This is troubling as it misses the mark about what our mission is.

We continue to own the land in Manorville, however the Congregation decided to sell it, as the composting facility was closed and construction begun on the new "Walden Pond" apartments. The congregation is seeking to sell this land.

Bonnie Sherwood continues to train in the Atlantic District Deacon Program. She remains in charge of the LWML.

**Sunday School Teachers:** preschool: Beth Keating, Nadine Livoti, and Deborah Taylor. Kindergarten: Karen Rose, Marge Wallace; Primary A: Vera Trick; Primary B: Hazel Tyrie; Third and Fourth Grades: Jay Wallace; Fifth and Sixth Grades: Lori Mellina; Music teacher: Lisa Rice; Substitute teachers: Joan Stears and Eileen Warnken.

The Food Pantry served a total of 248 Households in 2001, which included 331 children and 365 adults. Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets were given out to 15 families.

The Church received a new roof in 2001. The roof over the offices was rebuilt with a pitch (the original roof was flat) with new beams, plywood and shingles. The parsonage received vinyl siding, and the downstairs bathroom was redone. New steel doors were placed on the parsonage.

## **2002**

Some of the highlights of 2002 included: 20 members of Christ Lutheran Church attended the Atlantic District's program, *Grace at Ground Zero* - a program of speakers, a

banquet and a concert held at the Marriot Hotel a block away from Ground Zero to observe the first anniversary of the attack on our Country by Muslim terrorists. It was a powerful day, and the first time that many of our members actually saw the ruins of the World Trade Center for the first time.

On October 19, Pastor married Susan Rudz Cacioppo, with a huge festival worship service and reception held at the Church. Dr. David Benke, President of the Atlantic District LCMS Officiated.

On the First Sunday in Advent, December 2, Bonnie Elizabeth Sherwood was commissioned as a Lay Deacon in a festival worship service on that afternoon. Bonnie was the first Deacon commissioned at our Church.

## **2003**

The Sunday School is “busting at the seams” under the leadership of Thomas Pfalzer, our Superintendent. Space remains a major challenge – once again, every square inch of the Church building, downstairs, upstairs and in the balcony is utilized for class space.

Beth Keating led a creative and successful VBS program, “Rancho Roundup”. Some of the highlights included a maze through the church and a day with Gerard and Eileen Reiss showing the children their nifty wheel-chair equipped “techno van.”

We had the fourth annual BBQ during the summer. Once again a smashing hit!

Several major Bible Studies took place during the year. Fred Miller ran a summer class on “deception” and how Christians can respond. He also ran a class on witnessing to Cult Members in October. In the Sunday Morning Pastor’s Forum we studied Galatians and Acts.

A year long series of Catechetical sermons were preached by Pastor. The series, entitled “Back to the Basics” went through each and every part of Luther’s Small and Large Catechisms and much of the Book of Concord, reviewing and renewing what we as Lutheran Christians believe, teach and confess.

We had three active choirs throughout the year: The Adult Choir, the Children’s Choir and the Handbell Choir. Additionally, we had instrumentalists including recorder, flute, clarinets and bells accompanying with the organ at several services.

We bid farewell to our Choir Director, Raymond Rueger, who retired. Fred Schneider was appointed as the new Choir Director.

We introduced a new service on Good Friday: A Children's Service with a "Lutheran" version of the Stations of the Cross. We took about 30 children and adults to the Eastport Shrine, and joined thousands of pilgrims throughout New York State who came. While it was a wonderful experience, the leaders discussed doing this next year at our own Church, as we have the property needed. This was the birth of our Children's Good Friday Service that has continued through the years each Good Friday morning.

The Voters' Assembly unanimously approved the plan that our new building would be first and foremost an educational building – not a Church – though there would be provision to use it for worship.

In November, our neighboring congregation, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Ridge, closed. 18 of the members of our Congregation joined in attending the final service that was held in their church building. It was a sad day.

After the closing of St. Mark's our church received all of their pews, their pulpit, their Altar Rails, their presiding chairs, their eternal flame, hymn boards, audio system and other items. Because we had no place to store them, the Church purchased a large storage trailer which is located on the back of the parking lot.

An anonymous, wonderful donor provided a new floor for our church. Then a group of about 10 people brought in the pews and furnishings on December 13, changing the entire "feel" of our church building. The people of St. Marks were gladdened when they knew that the furnishing of their church would continue serving the Lord.

The old pews from our church were sold and given away to anyone who wanted them.

2003 was a year of loss. In January, our former Head Elder, Elder Emeritus, Choir member and true, humble servant of the Lord, Bertram Saul, was called to his eternal rest. Past President Richwood Schurig, likewise, received his eternal reward. Jack Cloughen, father of our member Roy Cloughen and husband of Ruth, passed as well. Jack was one of the first members of our Handbell Choir. He also was one of those "behind the scenes" people doing so much for the church in an unnoticed way. Ruth Schaefer was a part of our LWML. She was remembered by many of the women for her entertaining spirit at the Cor Maria retreats. Lissi Schneider, beloved member of our Church, past Secretary of the Congregation, and active member in the LWML was welcomed Home. Shortly after Lissi died, Elizabeth Siebrecht, mother of Wilma Conklin, died after a day long vigil was held with her in her room at Cedar Lodge. And two days

before Christmas, our beloved member, Council member, Food Pantry Director and behind the scenes man, Robert Zettwoch received the Crown of glory that will never fade.

The congregation began considering requesting a vicar from the Seminaries. It was discussed, but not acted upon.

Mary Kamps, wife of Robert Kamps, completed adult instruction and was confirmed and received into the Lutheran Church. This made Bob smile broadly!

Robert Saul completed the Atlantic District Diaconate Program and is eligible for commissioning. Bonnie Sherwood observed her first anniversary of commissioning in December.

## **2004**

Christ Lutheran Church received 13 members from St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Ridge (ELCA). After years of faithful worship and service, St. Mark's was forced to close their doors. Their Pastor, the Rev. Francis Dominic Bonadonna, was a close friend of Pastor's and a dear friend of our congregation. It was decided that the eternal flame that burned in the Sanctuary of St. Mark's would continue burning at Christ Lutheran Church. At the time it was mounted over the pulpit, with the intention of bringing it into the new Church building after construction.

Several significant deaths occurred in 2004. Charter member Meta Plisko was called to eternal rest on January 15. A Memorial service was held at Christ Lutheran on February 1, with many in attendance. Beatrice Pedersen, died on Memorial Day, May 30. Her funeral was held at Church on June 4. As Pastor Fleischmann was away on vacation, Pastor David Wackenhuth conducted the Funeral Service. This was fitting, as Pastor Wackenhuth was at one time a teacher at Emanuel Lutheran School, as was Mrs. Pedersen. On Labor Day, September 6, the Lord called to himself our recently retired Choir Director, Raymond Rueger after battling cancer throughout the summer. Services were held the Friday after, utilizing the facility of the Bellport United Methodist Church, but conducted by Pastor with the assistance of Deacon Sherwood. It was a service of music, hymnody and joy, giving thanks to God for Ray's contribution of music to both the Lord and the Community.

The Congregation supported Brian Cloughen and Sarah Back to go on a mission trip to Panama during the Summer.

The Suffolk Zone of LWML held their Prayer Service at our Church. During the time of the service there was a serious accident in front of our church in which one of our members was injured.

Again, the congregation realized her need to build if it was to grow. Pastor warned against a shift in attitude when the underlying drive switches from reaching out for the Kingdom of God into paying the bills.

In June we gave thanks to God for the faithful service of Thomas Pfalzer, who after many years, decided to step down from the position of Sunday School Superintendent. Debi Taylor was appointed the new Sunday School Superintendent, assisted by Mrs. Beth Keating.

The Chicken BBQ once again was a hit.

In the Fall, the annual yard sale was held during a hurricane! We were forced to move the sale inside, but it still went on.

Brian Cloughen and Sarah Back gave a presentation on their mission trip to the Congregation at a special dinner.

New Member packets were put together by Kathy Dittmeier.

Our Sunday School Music director, Lisa Rice, requested a new piano in the Church for Sunday School use. The piano was purchased and remains in the Sanctuary.

The contract with Hans Nepf, Architect, was terminated as it was determined that the Church could not afford what he designed.

Suffolk County Water Authority put waterlines on Frowein Road up to Pine Street. There are now fire hydrants on the Bypass. Our Church had a tap put into the pipe for future connection.

## **2005**

Christ Lutheran Church sponsored an ongoing "*Christian View*" series of presentations. The first took place on Saturday, May 22 with the topic, "A Christian Response to Embryonic Stem Cell Research. Featured speakers included Dr. Maureen Dadonna, professor of science at Nassau County College; Father Randolph John Geminder, Rector of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Amityville; Raymond Keating, journalist and author, member of Christ Lutheran Church; and Pastor.

On October 15 the Christian View presentation was entitled, "Contemporary Culture: A Christian Wasteland?" Speakers were Dr. David Hahn, Principal of Long Island Lutheran High School, Pastor, and Raymond Keating. Fred Schneider continues to be our Choir Director. The Choir undertook some difficult pieces this year.

The Council for the year: Fred Kuehl, President; Joseph Stozzetto, VP; Sheila Otten, Treasurer; Toni Hoffmann, Secretary; Suzanne Breitenbach, Financial Secretary; Jim Stucchio, Planning Committee Chair; Ed and Carol Baumann, Buildings and Grounds; Roy Cloughen, and Dawn Obermeyer, Evangelism.

Several of our members died: Dorinda \*Dee" Townley (June 16), Helen L. Cozine (September 17), Anna Koetzner (November 24); and Frank Dorosky (December 23). We also bid adieu to Bob and Mary Kamps who moved to the Dominican Village in Amityville. They transferred to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Farmingdale. Marge Alberts moved to North Carolina, and Chris and Kathy Dittmeier were granted a peaceful release as they prepared to move to Illinois. Their contribution to the growth of our congregation over the years and their faithful work in the areas of youth and Christian Education were a blessing to us. All have been missed.

## 2006

Members who joined the Church Triumphant during 2006 were: Katherine Krombs (March 17); Mary "Mae" Rita Iverson (June 8) and Edna Schernus (September 2). We give thanks to God for their faithful service and commend them to Him.

The Congregation received a grant from the Long Island Lutheran High School to purchase media equipment for the church, including a digital projector, new screen, and AV Cart.

On February 12, all services were canceled due to a blizzard that blanketed the Northeast. However, Mollie DeJohn was scheduled to be baptized that day. We postponed the baptism to the afternoon, and the DeJohns, Sandbergs and Pastor and Sue plowed through the storm and had the baptism in the blizzard!

The first Christian View Symposium of the year was held. It was entitled *The Role of Christian Education*. The speakers included Robert E. Gustufson, Headmaster of the Stony Brook School (Character in Education), the Rev. Andrew Jagow, Pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, East Meadow ("Kids really want to talk about their faith! No Really!) Brother Kenneth M. Hoagland, S.M., Principal of Kellenberg Memorial High School, Uniondale, and Raymond J. Keating.

Our Handbell Choir joined with the Handbell Choirs of Emanuel Lutheran School, and St. John's Lutheran Church in the first annual "Handbell Vespers" held at Emanuel Lutheran Church. The musical director for the program was Mr. Rex Holden, Handbell Director at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sayville.

Lent and Easter were once again observed and celebrated dramatically.



In April the church basement experienced major flooding due to a leak in the heating system. The Youth Group mopped up and scrubbed the floor. The leak was located and fixed professionally.

In May, 30 members of our Congregation attended the movie *The DaVinci Code* at the Theatres in Mastic. We returned to the Church to watch short video about the errors of the film, and discussed the book, *The DaVinci Code* by Dr. Paul ML Maier and Hank Hanegraaff.

The Church began to post audio copies of all sermons to the website in May, 2006.

For the first time, our VBS was held in the Evening. "Camp CLC" was a hit with the children. The closing each night was held around a camp fire.

The Chicken BBQ was held in August.

A midweek Matins Service was begun each Wednesday throughout the Academic year at 12 Noon.

The Church Yard Sale took place the second weekend in September.

Pastor was the keynote speaker at the Rosedale Eucharist Conference. His topic was an evaluation of the Eucharistic Services in the new *Lutheran Service Book*. His thesis was published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau in *Lutheran Forum* magazine later that year.

The Congregation sponsored a major symposium entitled *The Reformation: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*. Our two speakers were the Rev. Dr. G.R. Steinberg, Professor Emeritus, Concordia College, Bronxville, NY; and the Rev. Larry M. Vogel, STS, pastor of Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ. Dr. Steinberg gave an excellent presentation on the context of the Lutheran Reformation; and Pastor Vogel gave an evaluation of where Lutheranism is today and the need to remain confessional into the future. The Lutheran Voice must still be heard.

The Symposium was held at the MacArthur Radisson in Holtsville with a scrumptious buffet meal. The Church offered a book table sponsored by Eerdmans Publishers. Several local Lutheran Schools had booths as did the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau. The ALPB's executive director and editor of their devotional series, *For All the Saints*, the Rev. Dr. Frederick J. Schumacher, was present and had nothing but positive comments about the "enormity of a project like this taken on by a small congregation. Over 80 people attended the event.

The second event, and perhaps the highlight of the year was the Atlantic District Reformation Service at West Point. With the help of the Rev. Dr. Henry Koepchen and his wife, Louise, our congregation was able to sponsor a bus to West Point. The service there was glorious. Concordia College, also celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, gathered an alumni choir that provided music that transcended earthly beauty!

Nine youth were confirmed on All Saints Sunday.

On December 2, the new Hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book* was introduced to the Congregation with a “sing through” led by our organist, Marie Paxson. The hymnals were dedicated the following day, December 3, the First Sunday in Advent, and replaced *The Lutheran Hymnal* that the Congregation had used since 1962.

On Saturday, December 9, our Sunday School Children and Confirmands marched in the Center Moriches Fire Department’s “Parade of Lights.” With a living nativity on a trailer, the children played the parts of the original Christmas scene. Hundreds of candy canes with cards indicating service times were distributed throughout the crowds inviting them to worship the Newborn King with our Congregation.

Deacon Sherwood attended a seminar entitled “Marriage” at our Synod’s Fort Wayne Seminary. It took up some serious issues facing the Church today to assist in her ministry with women in our Congregation.

Sharon Tanzi and Doreen Brennan coordinated the Food Pantry during 2006.

## **2007**

In January our Handbell Choir, with Marie Paxson, director, participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Handbell Festival at St. John’s Lutheran Church, Sayville. They played along with choirs from St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Dix Hills; Emanuel Lutheran School and St. John’s Lutheran Church, Sayville.

The Congregation was introduced to the new Service of Prayer and Preaching for the Lenten Midday Services.

Once again we had the children’s “Stations of the Cross” service on the front lawn of our Church. This service has continued to grow over the past several years. In this service, the children move from station to station, (trees marked with palm crosses from Palm Sunday) and hear the story of Jesus’ betrayal, trials, suffering and death. It is told in a way that Children can understand and reinforced with object lessons at each station. Each child carries an egg carton, and tokens of each station are given to them to

place in the 12 different spots in their carton. Following the service, the participants came back into the undercroft for a craft and a meatless lunch.

On May 6 the congregation celebrated the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Congregation (The actual anniversary of the first service of the Congregation was January 7). During the service, congregational members pledged for the *Building with Boldness* capital fund raising campaign, pledging nearly \$300,000. The single service was followed by a celebratory dinner at the Polish Hall in Riverhead. It was truly a wonderful afternoon. Mrs. Dorothy Saul directed a play that reminded us of our calling as Stewards of God's gifts. A video was shown on the history of Christ Lutheran Church. Proclamations were given to our congregation by Ed Romaine and Carol Bissonette.

In May we celebrated the 26 years that Mrs. Marie Paxson faithfully served our church as organist and director of several different choirs. Due to health reasons, Marie retired as our organist.

Camp CLC, our trademarked evening VBS, once again was a huge success.

A decision was made to move our annual yard sale from September to July.

Brian Mosior became our new organist in September. He is the minister of music at Our Savior, Centereach, but is organist only on Sundays when they have no instrumentalists. It will be a shared position.

In October, Pastor Dave Horn conducted worship at both services and Sunday School, and gave a concert in the afternoon. The concert packed the Church. Members and friends of our congregation truly enjoyed the quality performance.

Following the concert, members were invited to the Undercroft for our Oktoberfest, with German food and beverage.

In November, Pastor Fleischmann received a call from Zion Lutheran Church, Litchfield, IL, as Senior Pastor. Zion is a large, Midwestern congregation with a large Lutheran School. After prayerful deliberation, Pastor declined the call.

Christmas was celebrated with "all the stops pulled out."

Joseph L. Stozetto, Jr. was elected as the President of the Congregation. He served for multiple years as our buildings and grounds director, keeping the church in "tip-top" shape.

## 2008

The building project continues. One article Pastor wrote encouraged members to keep their eye on the goal: "Our goal is not to 'build a building'. It is to nurture our members and to reach the lost for Christ. We need the building to accomplish this better.

But the building is not our goal. It is a *means* to an end. It is so important for you to understand this. I get upset when so much passion is put into this project at the expense of our ongoing ministry at altar and in the classroom.”

New shirts were ordered by our Evangelism Committee. They were first introduced at the Center Moriches Street Fair.

The Council of 2008: Fred Kuehl, President; Anne Gemellaro, Social Ministry; Dawn Obermeyer, Evangelism; Carol and Ed Baumann, Trustees/Buildings and Grounds; Planning Committee Chair: Jim Stucchio; Lori Mellina, Board of Christian Education; Sheila Otten, Treasurer; Suzanne Breitenbach, Financial Secretary.

## **2009**

Two new rooms were constructed in the Undercroft: A beautiful, spacious food pantry, and an office for Christian Education and Sunday School. Particular thanks to Fred Kuehl, who spear-headed this project.

We connected to “city-water” in 2009; no longer dependent upon our failing well.

Pastor commented on the new building, “I remind you that this new building is no luxury. We’re not building it because we want something new; we are building it because we need it to move forward in ministry. We need it so that we can grow our membership. We need it so that our senior citizens are not faced with steep stairs to use the restrooms or attend church functions. I believe that the Lord has led us to this point, just as He led the Children of Israel to the Red Sea. We are now called to step out and truly move ‘Forward in Faith.’”

The Lord called Roger Overton and Ken Bjornstad home to heaven during 2009.

The Church initiated the Early Communion Program for children in Grades 6-8. Participants were required to be a part of the Sunday School Program, and promise to attend the 3 years of Confirmation Instruction to be admitted. First Communion took place on All Saints Day, November 1.

Church Council: Bill Townley, President; Bob Mellina, VP; Marion and Chris Smith, co Treasurers; Rachel Wyneken, Secretary, Diane Jackman, Stewardship; Suzanne Breitenbach, Financial Secretary; Lori Mellina, Christian Education; Joseph Stozetto, Buildings and Grounds.

Sunday School Teachers: Pre K and Kindergarten: Lisa Ferguson and Vita Stears; First and Second Grades: Karen Pedersen and Dawn Noonan; Third and Fourth Grades:

Debbie Valenti; Fifth and Sixth Grades, Joseph Stozzetto, Jr.; Seventh and Eighth Grades: Lori Mellina.

June Ferguson is the Handbell Choir director. The Handbells played at services throughout the year. In May, they played for the Communion Service at the LWML Retreat at Cor Maria. In October, they played at the Oktoberfest.

The Food Pantry was directed by Penny Tennant Bozok.

## **2010**

The membership rolls stand at 273 Baptized members, 218 Confirmed Members. Average Sunday attendance was 87.

During the Advent Soup Suppers, Liz Mignerey led members in creating and painting Christmas ornaments for their home Christmas Tree.

Susanne Zimmerman was commissioned as an Atlantic District Lay Deacon on March 13, 2010 by Rev. Charles Byer, Regional VP of the Atlantic District LCMS.

Fayth Vollrath, a Doctoral Candidate in Musical Performance at Stony Brook was our organist through the Spring. She moved at the beginning of the summer. Brian Mosior continues to play for us, and Pastor records the services when Brian is not available.

Pastor taught the Diaconate Program in Dix Hills throughout 2010.

Pastor continued to serve as Circuit Counselor of the Suffolk East Circuit.

Pastor was the Circuit Delegate to the National Convention of the LCMS in Houston, Texas for 10 days in July. Rev. Matthew C. Harrison was elected as president of the Synod.

The weekly Friday eNews began to be composed and sent out frequently. This has proved popular with our members.

Audio editions of each sermon continue to be posted online so that members can listen to them. This is particularly helpful for our shut in members.

## **2011**

Norma Wagner died in January, 2011. Due to a blizzard and the location of her funeral, none of our members except Pastor were able to attend her funeral.

On February 18, Pastor's father, John J. Fleischmann, was called to eternal life. Pastor gave thanks to God for his father, who ensured that Pastor and his brother were brought up knowing Jesus, active in Church, and fervent in service to others. Several

members of our Congregation attended the funeral service at Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ, Pastor's home congregation.

Mr. Elio Zupcich began as our new organist on April 3.

The Saturday Evening Service was reinstated. Average attendance is about 20 members.

Our congregation joined with others in the Circuit for a joint Ascension service at St. John's Lutheran Church, Holbrook.

In June, Pastor Fleischmann received two calls. The first was to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tonawanda, NY, outside of Buffalo. The second was to St. John's Lutheran Church, Staten Island New York. St. Johns has one of the largest Christian Day Schools in the Atlantic District. After visiting both churches and deliberating, Pastor returned both calls and remained at Christ, East Moriches.

In June we lost two strong members of our church: Gladys Breitenbach, mother of our secretary, Suzanne Breitenbach; and Ruth Merkent- who was very active in LWML as well as the Moriches Historical Society in the community. Funerals took place for both as the congregation was saddened for their loss, but rejoiced in the hope that Jesus brings at times like this.

In July, June Stozzetto also passed and the funeral was conducted. June was the mother of our past president Joseph Stozzetto.

Pastor's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination was on August 10. The congregation celebrated it with a Festival Eucharist at Church and dinner at Sunset Harbor in East Patchogue on November 5.

## **2012**

Three Saints joined the Church Triumphant: Joseph Stozzetto, Sr., William Rehm and Margaret Overton. Each are missed for who they were in Christ Jesus, and commended to the Great Shepherd of the Sheep.

We celebrated New Years' Day with a Eucharist, as it fell upon a Sunday. Normally, the New Year is only celebrated on New Year's Eve.

At the Lenten Services, we introduced songs from *Taize*, with nearly 20 members of the Congregation playing instruments to accompany those worshipping.

Pastor withdrew his name from the election for Circuit Counselor. He served in this capacity for three years prior. He was subsequently elected to the Board of Directors of the Atlantic District.

On Mothers' Day, the LWML gave flowers to all women in the Church.

In May, the congregation gave approval for the purchase and installation of solar panels on our roof. Our roof is facing the exact right direction and at the exact pitch needed for a very efficient system. The panels were installed in July.

Pastor conducted the renewal of vows for Rick and Liz Mignerey, who celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Pastor had married them 25 years ago.

The Chicken BBQ was moved to September to avoid competition with other BBQs in the area.

The Congregation began a “Lutheran” version of the Alpha program in September. It met every Sunday night from September through December. We had several non-members of the Church attend.

Hurricane Sandy hit our area with a vengeance on Monday, October 29. Neither the Church nor the parsonage suffered any significant damage. Several of our members were severely affected, however. Many of our members were without power for up to several weeks.

We bid adieu to Elio Zupcich as organist. In November, 2012, we began utilizing a new program, run by an iPad, to control our organ. Hymns, liturgy and incidental music are expertly recorded by *Church Music Solutions* of Marine, IL – A Lutheran musical company- which literally “plays” our organ through the miracle of MIDI. It has added a new dimension to our worship. Unfortunately, very few hymns come with an “Amen” at the end, our only criticism.

The Handbell Choir continues to play almost every Sunday under the direction of June Ferguson.

In December, Pastor dedicated a new Habitat for Humanity home on Lincoln Blvd in East Moriches. During that dedication, a Bible and the new set of keys were handed to the new owners of the home.

Christmas was celebrated elegantly and powerfully.

## **2013**

Pastor Fleischmann was invited to attend a special Synodical Hymn Writing convocation outside of Saint Louis in January, 2013.

All services were canceled on Sunday, February 9, due to the largest blizzard to hit the area in years.

We gave thanks to the Lord for our members Hans Ratje and Hilda Spence, who went to be with their Savior this year.

After nearly four years, our Congregation's application for a new building permit with the Town of Brookhaven was approved by the Town Planning Commission. We presently await the final approval of the Building Department of the Town to complete the process.

This was the first year in many that the congregation was unable to host a Vacation Bible School. We will resume VBS in the summer of 2014.

A 4 week Wednesday Evening Bible Study was held at Church during July. Entitled, *At Your Front Door and Out Your Back*, it showed how to deal with both cults and atheists. It was sponsored by TLEM, and taught by Dr. Frederick Miller.

The Chicken BBQ was the best ever.

The church hit some financial constraints during the summer. For the second year in a row we sponsored the *Adopt a Bill* Program. We continue to pay off debts incurred while members were away. Members were reminded, "staying away from Church in the summer leads to the Fall..."

The Church celebrated her 50 years of being a Chartered Congregation on October 19.

## **2014**

2014 was one of our "snowiest years" with several services canceled during the year.

The theme for Lent was the Ten Commandments.

40 Children attended our Stations of the Cross Service on Good Friday.

Longtime member, Robert Kamps, who served on Council as our Buildings and Grounds supervisor for years, and also as an advisor to our Explorer/4H program died on Maundy Thursday, April 15. His funeral was held at his new church in Nassau County. As Bob was a retired Nassau County Police Officer, he was given full police honors at the funeral. Pastor Fleischmann offered a eulogy at the invitation of Bob's current pastor.

The Lord called to Himself Charlie Tyrie on April 27.

Pastor authored prayers in the "Let Us Pray" series of prayers sent out to churches each week by the LCMS Commission on Worship.

Pastor authored the background on four hymns in CPH's new *Handbook to the Lutheran Service Book*.

Pastor Authored five Bible Studies on the Hymns of the Day published by CPH.

The Congregation suffered some financial issues during the summer of 2014.



After a long and tumultuous history of multiple hearings and large expense, the Congregation received the Building Permit from the Town of Brookhaven for our new building. However, as most of the money was spent in making their demanded changes the Congregation voted to cancel the project altogether. It was a sad day for the church, especially for those who had given so much time and effort to the project.

The LWML purchased new individual communion trays for the Church.

June Ferguson stepped down as director of the Handbell Choir due to health issues.

## **2015**

2015 was a difficult year for Christ Lutheran Church. We lost seven of our beloved members including Gerard Reiss (1/29), Deaconess Bonnie Sherwood (6/29), Elizabeth Dorosky (7/2), Paul Ferguson (7/3), Marie Rybke (7/18), Mildred Krawcheck (10/20), and Ruth Cloughen (10/24). As a congregation we came together in thanksgiving for the Resurrection of Jesus that comforts us in our loss.

The Congregation undertook an extensive renovation of the Church and the Parsonage.

It was decided that we would have a new “Chi-Rho” constructed in loving memory of Bonnie Sherwood and June Ferguson. This would not be completed for several years.

Council: Anthony Filetto, President, (No VP), Flo Caron, Financial Secretary, Judy Seyfarth, Secretary, Robert Seyfarth, Treasurer, Michael Pedersen Buildings and Grounds, Steve Ansbach, Christian Education, Priscilla Bjornstad, Stewardship, Ralph Stears, Jr., Evangelism

LWML held a “Spring Tea” that was extremely well-attended.

Our Evangelism committee staffed tables at both Street Fairs in Center Moriches.

The Church held a yard sale in August

## **2016**

The Church continued to experience multiple losses due to death and members moving away.

Those who passed during 2016 were Eileen Reiss (1/31), June Ferguson (2/14), Joy Sandberg (3/15), Doris Kettelhodt (5/16), Henry Alberts (6/14), Barbara Miller (6/18).

One of our active families, Brian and Vita Stears and their daughter Grace, were transferred to their new church in Florida.

Our member, Joe LeDeoux, who served as the assistant director of our Handbell Choir, and retired FDNY Firefighter died in a tragic accident on September 16. His funeral was held at Church with over 300 FDNY Firefighters in attendance- most who had to stay in the parking lot. The FDNY Family unit assisted with this funeral.

Thank you, Jesus, for your resurrection, our only hope and stay.

Church was canceled on January 24 due to a snowstorm.

Pastor taught a class for Fire Chaplains at the New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls, NY in Critical Incident Stress Management on January 25-27.

Saturday Evening Services were moved from 6:30pm to 5:30pm.

Evening services were moved from 7:30pm to 7pm.

The Annual Chicken BBQ was held in September, raising \$2,500 for the Congregation.

The Sunday School began using the curriculum from *Answers in Genesis*.

Mrs. Gioia Ansbach became our Sunday School Superintendent.

A Pastoral Information class was held. Michael Kelly and Dorothy Ogus were officially brought into membership in our Church.

An adult baptism was held on November 6.

The LWML held their luncheon at Water's Edge.

The Rev. Kenneth Schnepf was received as a member of Christ Lutheran Church and given the title "Assisting Pastor." However, soon after joining, the Atlantic District assigned him to be an interim pastor, first at Holy Trinity Middle Island, and then at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Amityville. He also began serving as the Circuit Visitor for Circuit 9 (Western Suffolk).

Council: Anthony Filetto, President, (No VP), Flo Caron, Financial Secretary, Judy Seyfarth, Secretary, Robert Seyfarth, Treasurer, Michael Pedersen Buildings and Grounds, Steve Ansbach, Christian Education, Priscilla Bjornstad, Stewardship, Evangelism was vacant.

## **2017**

Church was canceled on January 8, the Baptism of Jesus, due to snow.

Once again, the Congregation's litany of death continued. Those who passed in 2017 were Margaret Zbrozek, Charlotte Madden, Kay Vicik, Jack Peter Voellm (Grandson of Joyce Voellm tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident), Former

President and Elder William Townley, Robert Quaglio, Richard Klein, Linda Bullock, Dorothy Saul, and Virginia Kettelhodt. May the Lord's peace continue to rule in the hearts of their families.

The Church received new red paraments for Reformation in loving memory of Bonnie Sherwood that were dedicated on Reformation Sunday, October 29. They are stunning. The set included a Red Frontal for altar with Luther Rose pattern in the cloth and symbols for the Six Chief Parts of the Catechism. There was also a pastoral and deacon stole of the same material, pulpit and lectern throws, and burse and veil for the Chalice and Paten.

The Church celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation with Festival Worship on October 29.

Several members of our Congregation participated in the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Choir, singing at Carnegie Hall on June 25. The rehearsals took place at Concordia College (prior to its closing). Members of our Congregation participating were: Lori Mellina, Sally Mellina, Nichole Stuart, Pastor Ken Schnepf, and Pastor. It was a grand experience! The featured piece was J.S. Bach's cantata on "A Mighty Fortress is our God."

A.J. Lannerd completed his Eagle Project resealing picnic tables, painting the back of the Church building, and constructing a beautiful fire pit.

## **2018**

We bid adieu to Lois Delio and family who moved to Pennsylvania.

Pastor had the honor of hearing a deathbed confession of Christ and baptizing James Harold Hendersen- a long time East Moriches resident and fireman who was a friend of Pastor and several members of our Congregation. Jimmy died on July 31 and was given Christian Burial from our Church on August 6.

Other deaths included Sharon Sahl (whose funeral took place on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels), and John Zimmerman (husband of Dcn Susanne Zimmerman).

New Advent Paraments, also from Ecclesiastical Sewing, and given in loving memory of departed loved ones by Priscilla Ratje, were dedicated on the First Sunday of Advent. They are blue, also with the Luther Rose brocade, and the set includes the frontal (the City of Jerusalem), the pulpit and lectern throws, stoles, chasuble, and the burse and veil for the chalice and paten.

Steven Ansbach and Susan Bayles Fox graduated the Atlantic District Diaconate Training Program during the Atlantic District Convention at Village Lutheran Church,

Bronxville. They were installed as congregational deacons on October 28 during our Reformation Service. That afternoon the congregation celebrated the LWML Oktoberfest.

Doreen Brennan, Lisa Rice, and Sue Zimmerman represented Christ Lutheran's LWML at the district convention in Suffern.

Our Buildings and Grounds chair, Michael Pedersen, oversaw the installation of a new awning over the basement doors to prevent flooding of the stairway well.

Gioia Ansbach continued as Sunday School Superintendent.

## **2019**

The Lord called to Himself our former organist and music director, Marie Paxson on March 16. She was given Christian Burial from our Church with an overflow crowd. She is reposed at Washington Memorial Cemetery with her husband, "Gus."

Our longtime food pantry coordinator, Maryam Zettwoch died on September 18. Pastor conducted her funeral at the Branch Funeral Home in Miller Place, NY.

Two services were canceled due to snow- March 7 and March 21.

Steven Ansbach was commissioned as an Atlantic District Deacon on October 13.

The face of the Council changed a bit. We bid adieu to Bob and Judy Seyfarth, who had served faithfully for many years. Council: Anthony Filetto, President, (No VP), Flo Caron, Financial Secretary, Danielle Dempsey treasurer, and Michael Pedersen Buildings and Grounds, Due to strict rules from the Atlantic District, a Commissioned deacon cannot serve on Council in an elected capacity. Because of this, Steve Ansbach stepped down and his wife (and Sunday School Superintendent, Gioia, was elected Christian Education, Priscilla Bjornstad, Stewardship.

## **2020**

Pastor's mother died on March 10 at Cooper Hospital in Camden, NJ.

For the first time in the history of Christ Lutheran Church the Church was forced by the government to close for 9 weeks due to fears about the Corona Crisis that was unleashed on the world. This included most of Lent, Palm Sunday, all of Holy Week, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. Services were conducted online. It should be noted that this truly is not the worship that the Lord intended with the saints gathered (physically) around Word and Sacrament.

While some of our members contracted Corona Crisis after this time over the past 2 years, no one contracted it while the Church was closed, or after it reopened. It is

also significant that Christ Lutheran Church had **no deaths** in 2020 due to Corona Virus, especially with our elderly population.

The governor of NY allowed Churches to open on Ascension Thursday, April 29. We were the first church in the Atlantic District to reopen. (Some of our Churches opted to never close and had no cases either). Due to attendance restrictions of 10 people per service, Gioia Ansbach acted as our registrar. We re-introduced in-person worship on Ascension Thursday, and had 5 services that day, all of them filled. As time went on, restrictions were lifted, and our worship returned to normal. It was a very difficult time, very hard on our members. However the offerings continued and the closure had no effect on our budget during 2020.

During the Corona Crisis the Church Council met electronically. Several motions were passed including the reelection of officers that was to occur in June. The elections were moved to the "First possible meeting of the Voters' Assembly" that would take place in November 2020.

The Church received a free, brand new video camera for the purpose of transmitting our services via the internet from LCEF.

During the Corona Crisis Pastor began nightly devotions for the Congregation and a wide-range of viewers throughout the world on FaceBook. Devotions were also placed on the Church FaceBook Page.

Longtime member Trudy Kusche was transferred to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centereach after she moved to Selden and had difficulty in driving the distance to East Moriches. We miss her!

During the Corona Crisis our Christian Education board stepped up to the plate! (All classes were canceled from March on, including the summer). Sunday School lessons were sent out each week. For VBS there were 19 take home boxes that were picked up by families so that the children could still learn.

In-person classes resumed in September 2020 with 8 children. We were grateful for this, as many Sunday Schools in our area closed, some for good.

The only death in 2020 was Robert Schernus on November 19. He was given Christian burial from the Church the following Saturday, and his ashes were interred at Calverton National Cemetery with full military honors on November 30.

The New Council was elected at the November Voters' Meeting. President: Michael Brennan, Secretary, Lori Mellina, Financial Secretary Flo Caron, Treasurer

Louise Passie-Colon, Christian Education chair Gioia Ansbach, Evangelism Sally Mellina, Buildings and Grounds Michael Pedersen, Stewardship Priscilla Bjornstad.

## **2021**

We welcomed Richard and Carolyn Leuenroth into congregational membership, transferring from St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Sayville.

We bid adieu to Steven and Gioia Ansbach, who moved to Tennessee during the year. Lisa Rice became the appointed chair for Christian Education. Lisa and Sue Zimmerman continued running the Sunday School without missing a day.

We commended Lillian Ludwig, Richard Mignerey, and Danton Bos to our Savior's loving bosom as they await the resurrection of all flesh on the Day when Jesus returns.

The memorial service for Pastor's mother, Hedwig Scherzer Fleischmann, took place at Martin Luther Chapel, Pennsauken, NJ (Pastor's home congregation) on July 24, 2021. This was over a year after she had gone to be with the Lord, but due to the severe Corona restrictions placed on churches in New Jersey, it was the first available date. There was an overflow crowd, as Hedwig was very involved as a Sunday School teacher, an advisor for GLEEM (a project that helped Vietnamese and inner City students learn the basics of life), Dorcas Guild (their version of LWML), and many other groups.

The Council for 2021: Michael Brennan, President, Melissa Pedersen, Secretary, Anthony Filetto was appointed as Financial Secretary, Louise Passie-Colon, Treasurer, Penny Tennant, Evangelism Chair, Michael Pedersen, Buildings and Grounds, Lisa Rice, Christian Education, Priscilla Bjornstad, Stewardship.

## **2022**

During 2022 the Congregation mourned the loss of Deacon Susan Bayles Fox, whom the Lord called to Himself on Epiphany, January 6. Her funeral was held at Church on January 14, with burial in Port Jefferson. Susan was a truly gifted woman. Having been a High School English teacher for many years, studying abroad, and was an expert in Church history and liturgy. We commend her to our Lord. We will see her again.

We also commended Leslie Taylor Lewin to the Lord's hands. She died on Sunday, November 13 after a years-long battle with cancer and other diseases. Leslie

was a social worker, who had an enormous heart. In 1988 she initiated Trinity Inn, a soup-kitchen for the homeless at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Patchogue, that still operates (albeit in a different location) today. She ran a shelter for women who were abused. Plus, she was a confidant of pastor, to whom he often consulted for counsel. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

After decades of the Congregation looking to sell the property or build, the Congregation finally closed on an offer with the Town of Brookhaven to sell them the back 9 acres of the property for \$873,000.00. The property will be kept as "open space" and will remain forested with no construction on it. The congregation is determining how the offering on this money will be used to further God's Kingdom.

In October the Congregation repaved the driveway and parking lot. Gates have been installed at the entrance way to block trucks that often use our lot as a turnaround.

There were no changes in the Church Council. Appointed individuals were elected.



## Charter Members of Christ Lutheran Church

Listed in order of signatures:

Nancy Schmidt, Dorothy Schmidt, Frank Gadeberg, Niels Gadeberg, Margaret Gadeberg, Louise Mannel, Ann C. Meyer, Carl J. Schmidt, Carl G. Schmidt, Marie Foulkes, June Ferguson, Julia Liede, Herman W. Liede, Elizabeth Haas, Alan Haas, Susan Feiler, Joan Feiler, Elsie Feiler, Athongy Feiler, Robert E. Trautwein, Meta Plisko, Alma Pendzick, Dorothy Asfield, Aernest Ashfield, Paul F. Meyer, Dr. Ormond Seibert, Alexandra Seibert, Elise Johnnesen, Karen Hofler, Fayne Lipinski, Peter S. Abrahamsen, Stanley I. Abrahamsen, Ingrid Abrahamsen, Helen Burst, Mary J. Ashfield, Walter A. Ashfield, Rose Marie Bucciano, The Rev. Alfred Hofler, Jean Kupke, Kathe Garich, Joyce Plisko, Gary Cunningham, Charles Meyer, Randall Hall, Velma L. Hall, Reed Henry Lipinsky, Barbara Meyer, George Johnson, Muriel Johnson

Organists at Christ

Dr. Ormond Seibert  
Mrs. Marie Paxson  
Mr. Brian Mosier  
Mr. Elio Zupcich  
Pastor Fleischmann

Choir Directors at Christ

Dr. Ormond Seibert  
Mr. Raymond Rueger  
Mr. Fred Scheider  
Mrs. Barbara Van Scoy  
Mrs. Lisa Rice

Handbell Choir Directors at Christ

Pastor Fleischmann  
Mrs. June Ferguson  
Mr. Joseph LeDeoux

Lay Deacons at Christ (since 1995)

Mr. Robert Saul  
Dr. Frederick Miller  
Mr. Kenneth Hoglund  
Ms. Bonnie Sherwood  
Mrs. Susanne Zimmerman  
Mr. Steven Ansbach  
Ms. Susan Bayles Fox

Assisting Pastor

The Rev. Kenneth Schnepf, M.Div., STM



## Confirmation Classes at Christ

### **Confirmed by the Rev. Alfred J. Hofler**

June 9, 1963 Charles Otto Meyer, Reed Henry Lipinsky, Randal Keith Hall, Barbara Meyer, Velma Louise Hall

May 17, 1964 Donald Feiler, Peter Abrahamsen, Joyce Seibert, Robert Bucciano

April 18, 1965 Marcia Marie Schwarting, Nevada Anne Schwarting

June, 1966 Debby Muller, Gwen Lipinsky

*No classes listed for 1967 and 1968.*

### **Confirmed by the Rev. Ronald Smith**

June 28, 1970 Daniel Bucciano, Patricia Busick, Victoria Langdon, Gilbert Raynor, Jr., Harold Sahl, Victor Slade, Lois Tyrie

May 14, 1972 Jeffrey Busick, John Paul Cavanaugh, Charles Tyrie

April 15, 1973 James Raynor, Gary Gunther

June 2, 1974 Michael Cavanaugh, Robert Ferguson, David Olczak, Georgene Pitcher

May 18, 1975 Laurie Carlesco, James Cavanaugh, Cheryl Ferguson, William Gunthner

April 11, 1976 Kris Berger, Roger Sahl, Harold Steuerwald, Sherri Williams

April 17, 1977 Patricia Ferguson, Frank Naase, Brian Smith, Linda Steuerwald, John Tyrie  
Winston Wohr

June 26, 1978 Lisa Ahl, Kenneth Cavanaugh, Kevin Steuerwald, Alex Urgelowich, Marlene Wohr

June 1, 1980 Linda Ahl, Martha Bos, Allan Haas II, Glenn Karrmann, Eugene Olczak, Deborah Schmitt, Kirsten Troch

June 7, 1981 Michele Bos, Robert Cozine, Robin Henninger, Karl P. Kusche, Jr., Tracy Steiber  
Laura Tyrie, Andrew Wohr, Christopher Zeh

May 30, 1982 Brenda L. Cozine, Paul Grant Feguson, Timothy E. Holzmacher, Wendy Cathleen Schmitt, Linda Kirsten Schneider, Jennifer Diane Smith, Rodney Klaus Troch

May 15, 1983 Karoline Bremerman, Gretchen Haas, Faith Hanson, Andrew Olczak, Carol-Jo Wink

May 20, 1984 Kristen Allen, John Combs, Jr., Paul Horstmann, Jr., Kristopher Kusche, Denise Lepsis, Erika Sandberg, John Schneider, Ralph Stears, Jr.

May 19, 1985 Tanya Berger, Diana Bos, Marc Bremerman, David Scott Forman, Ilse Haas, Brian Hanson, Susan Karrmann, Tanya Troch, Lisa Tumbrello

July 7, 1985 Donna Alberts

May 18, 1986 Jason Coppola, Tanya Cruickshank, Robert W. Henninger, Jr., Melissa Horstmann  
Kimberly Otis, Thomas Stears, Donna Sandberg, Laura Sandberg, Steven A. Vargo, Lee D. Wink

June 7, 1987 Justine Bonnano, Rochelle Branker, Craig Bremermann, Michael Freeman, Eric Haas  
James Irving, Susan Lepsis, Cindy Molesso, Heather Otis, Heidemarie Ratje

***Confirmed by the Rev. Ronald Saatkamp***

May 22, 1988 Heather Ann Cruse, Kyle David Horstmann, Brian Gary Pecorino, Dennis Leonard Warnken

May 21, 1989 Brian David Dennis, Andrew Alex Rich Pastewski, Jennifer Linnea Ramsay, Sonja Ellen Schneider, Brian Patrick Stears

June 3, 1990 Michael Joseph Pastewski, Margaux Maria Haas

***Confirmed by the Rev. Dr. John Fleischmann:***

June 2, 1991 Matthew Ramsay, Thomas Vaughn, Thomas Voellm, Cheryl Zimmerman, Mark Robert Schernus (October 31, 1991)

June 7, 1992 Mark Caron, Dawn Fein, Beth Ann Limmer, Jeffrey McGarry, Lynn Vahle, Danielle Voellm, Daniel Warnken, Philip Pecorino, Stacey Alstead, Sarah Grier, Kelly Johnson

June 6, 1993 Greg Beardsley, John Birnstein, Matthew Bragg, Donald Branker, Marjorie Crawford, Robert Crawford, Matthew Dennis, Kelly Evanecko, Jason Gross, Nancy Molesso, Candace Rosato, David Vaughn, Erik Walters, Kim Zapasek, Woody Gary Schurig

1994 Kyle Johnsen, Danielle Naughtin Todd Saul, Leianne Walters, Erik Warnken, Robert John Zimmerman

1995 Christopher Beardsley, Cyndy Lynne Caron, Cheryl Anne Evanecko, Salvatore Albert Gough, Charisse Marie Loder, Diane Marie Tumbrello, Patricia Connelly Vaughn

June 2, 1996 Drew Albano, Erik Andersen, Brian Crawford, Becky Huey, Melissa Loder, Joseph Molesso, James Naughtin, John Naughtin

1997 Carol Ball, Timothy Channing, Lisa Cloughen, Melissa Grier, Miranda Isaaksen, Jocelyn Maningo, Janice Voellm, Megan Williams

1998 Nicole Albano, Kristofer Andersen, Stephen Ball, Katherine Lorraine Fleischmann Henry Ford, Bryan Korth

1999 Jake Back, Heather Carroll, Lisa Cascone, Laura Elizabeth Fleischmann, Keri Ann Gough, Joseph LeDeoux, Lauren Huey, Kiersten Wallace, Ronald Conard

2000 Kari Andersen, Sarah Back, Victoria Channing, Erin Connelly, Christine Fischer, Lynda Ford Jenna Rae LeDeoux, Lorin Riley, Roger Rose, Jr., Nicole Stuart, Keith Williams

2001 Brian Roy Cloughen, Kerry Katherine Connelly, Jamie Lee Macdonald, Douglas Martin Maningo, John Craig Marschhauser, Roy Joseph Nevins, Marissa Lee Stanek, Elise Maria Tyrie, Kristen Williams

2002 Daniel Fisher, Melanie Korth, Megan Riley, David Siegfried, Scott Stuart, Monique Stozzetto Heidi Wallace

2003 Kirk James Andersen, Sabrina Susanna Baldwin, Stephanie Renee Bruner, Lauren Michelle Cascone, Holly Marie Cheser, Amanda Cunningham, Timothy David Gebhardt, Lindsay Elyse Hoffmann, Kevin Patrick Marsschauser, Kali Ann Monaco, Kristina Marie Serra, Scott Garrett Williams

**2004** Matthew Cunningham, David Rose, Natalie Tese. Kathryn Wallace  
**2005** Katharina Louise Bruner, Jacob Charles Ozman, Katherine V. Pompasello, Julie Stuart  
Heather Lee Swanson  
**2006** Nicholas Gerace, Nicole Brittany Loder, Emma Mueller, Emma Jane Ozman, Sarah Rice,  
Brittany Lynn Stears, Ryan Matthew Stears, Jeffrey Tyler Valenti,  
**2007** Dylan Hoffmann, Matthew Kenning, Brandon Marschhauser, Danielle Swanson, Charles  
Tyrie  
**2008** David DeLong, William C. Mead, Scott L. Rose, Samantha Valenti, Ariana Wallace  
**2009** Gregory Ferguson, Alex Johnson, David Livoti, Savanna Lynch, Ariana Monaco, Ryan  
Noonan, Brian E. O’Sullivan, Christine E. Pedersen, Robert Rice, Joseph Rubio  
**2010**  
Sarah J. Getrost, Amanda Johnson  
**2011** Christopher Ferguson, Bryan Filetto, Cassie Loeben, Kelly Mead, Sally A. Mellina, Paige  
Monaco, John E. Pedersen III, Zachary Valenti  
**2012** Dion Kennedy, Mikayla Weybrecht  
**2013** Kevin Filetto, Jake Getrost, Jacob Grier, Nicholas Hillman, Taylor Pedersen, Shawn Cornell-  
Schurig  
**2014** Armond J. Lannerd, Megan Noonan  
**2015** Damien Rabstjenek, Kyra Weybrecht  
**2016** Hallie Joy DeJohn, Nicholas Hunter Hillman, Nicolas Cole Serra, Ashley Marie Stadnicki  
**2017** Veronica Catherine Connelly, Cassidy Connor, Emily Ann Ferguson, Emma Rose Michalski  
Collin Joseph Weick  
**2018** Jordan Isabella Lannerd  
**2019** Mollie DeJohn, Abigail Schaming, Jesse Weick  
**2020** Robert Fahie, Mikayla Filetto, Alexa Loben, Jenna McDonald  
**2021** Trinity Lannerd, Connor Stears  
**2022** Thomas Machin, Jake McDonald

*Who Killed Jesus on the Cross*

*And did I thrust that piercing spear  
to verify Your death?  
And did I Drive those goring nails  
that spiked you to a tree?  
Ad did I jear at your last breath  
Your sacrifice for me?  
Oh the enormity of my crime  
To be a part of sin-  
The sin you came to free me from  
That heaven might let me in.  
There is a debt to pay, dear Lord,  
Alas! I cannot pay-  
But power comes through God Himself,  
Forgiveness is the way*

*By Alexandra Seibert, March 2, 1986*