



5987 Williams Lake Rd
Waterford, MI 48329

All are welcome...

...no really!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10AM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday
9:00am to 2:00pm

PHONE

248-673-7331

CHURCH EMAIL:

office@christwaterford.org

WEBSITE:

www.christwaterford.org

WATCH ONLINE

<https://christwaterford.org/online-worship/>

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

www.facebook.com/ChristutheranWaterford

INSTAGRAM

@christlutheranwaterford



Parish Caller

CLC's Monthly Newsletter

October 2026



Finally Home: The Front Porch

This year at Christ Lutheran, we are living into our theme: **Finally Home: A Place to Breathe. A Place to Belong.**

And we're going to have a little fun with what "home" can mean. Throughout the coming year, we'll bring a little imagination to our theological reflection and explore different spaces of a home, asking what these familiar places might teach us about God, about one another, and about our own journeys of faith.

For example: what can a "doorway" teach us about welcome? A table about belonging? A quiet room about rest? What if we imagine the places that make up a home as opportunities to discover what God may have to say about grace, community, change, generosity, and faith? **That is our invitation this year.** So, without further ado, we begin at the front of the "house."

This fall, we are going to spend some time on the **"Front Porch."**

There is something about a front porch in the Fall.

Maybe it is the particular slant of the afternoon light. The sound of leaves skittering across the sidewalk. The first evening when you realize you should have brought a sweater. The smell of the air changing before you can quite name what has changed. It feels crisp and relaxing, and yet somehow invites you to sit for a while and notice.

And maybe that is exactly what our souls need.

I love the image of a front porch because it is neither completely inside nor completely outside. It is a threshold...a place between where you have been and where you are going.

Cont. pg.2

Pastor Stephanie Newman
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Secretary Edelyn Rose
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Treasurer Lisa Kargol-Stephens
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Bookkeeper Karen Hillestad
Custodian Dave Kane
Music Ministers John Joannette
music@christwaterford.org

Church Council

President: Charlie Moritz
Vice President: Scott Fahr

Administrative
Charlie Moritz
Children & Youth
Kathy Reddeman
Community & Cong. Life
Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach
Communications
Edelyn Rose
Education
Stephen Cooperrider
Finance
Lisa Kargol-Stephens
Property
Kate Smith
Worship and Music
Cindy Edwards

Cont. from pg. 1

And thresholds can be holy places.
On a front porch, we notice things...if we pause long enough to notice. **“Be still and know...”**

We notice the neighbor walking by. We notice that the tree across the street has somehow turned brilliant orange overnight. We notice the chill in the air. We make space to converse with a friend or family member, to ask, “How are you doing?”...and stay long enough to hear the answer. We can also notice ourselves, too.

Because while the world outside is changing, **something inside of us may be changing as well.**

Fall reminds us that change can be beautiful and uncomfortable at the same time. Trees release what they have carried all summer. The landscape we have grown accustomed to begins to look different. And somehow, none of this means that life has stopped. **It means life is becoming something new.**

And this month, it made me wonder if faith is a little like that.

We sometimes imagine faith as having everything figured out...that true faith should mean knowing exactly what we believe and exactly where God is leading. But much of the spiritual life is lived on the “porch”...,in those threshold places where something is changing but we cannot yet see what will grow from it.

Cont.pg. 3

In Our Prayers

Members lifted in prayer, Cindy Edwards, Jane Madsen, Karen Kush, Barb Harris, Paula Corrin, Jack Negele, Jamie Schutt, Carol Segal, Scott Fahr, Robin Hansen, Steve Fante, Christopher Nestor, Arlene Mikolowski Page, Michael See, June Swain.

Our Armed Service and support personnel: Aaron Butora; Cole Nichols (Fred & Jill Jones), Kurtis Barney (Terry Young), Logan Head (Lisa Head).

October Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 10/1 Andrew Nestor | 10/2 Diane Harris |
| 10/3 Terry Young | 10/5 Khristian Kargol-Stephens |
| 10/5 Tristian Kargol-Stephens | 10/7 Krystal Edwards |
| 10/9 Harper Harris Newman | 10/10 George Leinonen |
| 10/11 Elizabeth Beer | 10/16 Ashley Wichtman |
| 10/18 Doug McKnight | 10/19 Jim Austin |
| 10/21 Tracey Barney | 10/29 Hunter Middleton |
| 10/29 Lisa Newman | 10/30 Walter Schoenbach |



October Wedding Anniversaries

- | |
|--------------------------------|
| 10/2 Andrew & Elisabete Nestor |
| 10/6 Robert & Linda Greiser |
| 10/7 Walter & Julia Schoenbach |
| 10/10 David & Ann Rogers |
| 10/20 Don & Pat Scott |
| 10/28 Diane & Donald Harris |



This summer, we tried something different with our Sunday bulletins. We moved to a simple one-sheet format, and over the course of the summer, that change saved Christ Lutheran more than **\$1,200** in printing costs. That matters.

As we returned to our fuller Sunday worship bulletin this fall, you may have noticed something else: some of them have been printed in color. That matters, too.

I want to take a moment to explain the thinking behind both decisions, because they actually come from the same place: **good stewardship**. Stewardship does not mean that we always choose the cheapest possible option. It means that we use what God has entrusted to us thoughtfully, intentionally, and responsibly. Sometimes that means saying, “We can accomplish what we need with one sheet of paper instead of several.” Sometimes it means saying, “This is a special Sunday, and adding color will make this more beautiful, welcoming, or meaningful.” And sometimes it simply means remembering that we have a color-capable printer for a reason.

Our plan is not to print every bulletin in color every week. Nor is our plan to avoid color because using it automatically means we are being wasteful. We anticipate approximately **12–16 Sundays each year** when using color in the bulletin makes sense. By making this switch, we will save approximately \$3600 over last year. The rest of the year, we will continue to make economical choices wherever we reasonably can. That balance is important to me. Dear ones—hear this..there is a difference between **scarcity** and **stewardship**. Scarcity asks, “How little can we possibly spend?” Stewardship asks, “How faithfully can we use what we have?” As a congregation, we are called to be wise with our resources, but we are also called to live from a place of abundance rather than fear. We can save \$1,200 by making one decision and then decide that occasionally spending a little more somewhere else helps us create worship that is beautiful, accessible, and welcoming. Those ideas are not contradictory. In fact, I think that is exactly what responsible stewardship looks like.

Not every decision will be the decision every one of us would personally make. That is part of being a community with leaders trusted to prayerfully lead us. We have staff, council members, ministry leaders, and volunteers who spend a great deal of time considering how best to use the resources entrusted to Christ Lutheran. Sometimes leadership means making small decisions that balance cost, ministry, hospitality, beauty, and practicality. And part of being a healthy congregation is allowing one another the grace to do that work.

So, yes, sometimes the bulletin will be smaller. Sometimes it will be bigger. Sometimes it will be black and white. And every once in a while, **it is going to be in full beautiful color**.

Through all of it, the goal remains the same: to be faithful stewards of what God has given us while refusing to confuse faithfulness with scarcity.

God has blessed this congregation with resources for ministry. Our calling is not simply to preserve them. It is to use them wisely, joyfully, and faithfully for the sake of the Gospel.

That is the balance we will continue striving for together. Christ Lutheran continues to grow.

Praise God for that! **Pastor Steph**

It is in these times that faith invites us to sit still long enough to notice.

It is there that we are invited by the Spirit to pause long enough to ask yourself: Where is God moving in my life? What am *I* being invited to release? What is changing in me? Who has God placed beside me that I haven’t taken the time to know? Am I making time to talk to that friend...or even to God?

The “porch” can be where relationships begin, too. Someone walking past becomes someone whose name you know. A wave becomes a conversation. A conversation becomes, “Would you like to sit down?” And eventually, perhaps, “Come on in.”

That matters for us as a church.

If Christ Lutheran is going to be a place where people can be “**Finally Home**,” then we need a good “front porch”...not one made of wood and railings, but a spiritual front porch. A place for community... where there is room to linger. A place where there is room for questions and room for quiet conversations. A sacred space to meet someone whose story is different from ours, or for someone who isn’t quite sure they are ready to come all the way inside yet.

Our front porch can be a place that says:

“Welcome...there’s room here for you. Sit awhile.”

Dear ones, Jesus spent so much of his ministry in places like that...along roadsides, beside wells, around tables, on hillsides, in the ordinary places where people’s lives were actually happening.

He noticed people. He listened. He made space...and I believe we are called to be like Jesus, don’t you?

So this Fall, I hope we become **porch people**. I pray we meditate on what that means. That we become people who slow down enough to notice the leaves changing and our hearts changing with them. People who make time for meaningful conversations with one another and with someone new.

Most of all, I pray we become people who listen...**really listen**...to each other, to God, and to the needs of our community. People who pay attention when God may be quietly doing something new.

Cont. from page3

And when change feels strange, as it sometimes will, **remember the trees.** Think about the brilliance of their changing colors and the way they eventually release every leaf, trusting that bare branches are not the end of the story. New life will come again.

So pull up a chair. Make space to sit still. Feel the Spirit's wind... Notice who's walking by. Pay attention to what is changing around you...and within you. Invite God into your heart and mind, knowing **God is already here**...right here on the front porch.

And perhaps that is when we begin to realize that home begins long before we ever walk through the door.

I believe that if we are open to it that there is something *profound* that God wants to show us here, in this in-between place...in the person beside us whose story we need to hear, in what we have been holding tightly and are finally ready to release, and even in the changes we have resisted that may be making room for something new.

Or, for now, perhaps you simply need to sit...to breathe...to notice.

To remember that **God does not only meet us once we have arrived. God meets us in the becoming, in the changing, in the waiting, and in the spaces between what was and what will be.**

So this fall, let's spend a little time with me on the front porch.

There's room for all there...

God's peace dear ones,

—Pastor Steph



WORSHIP SERVANTS-OCTOBER

If you cannot be there on your scheduled day, please switch with someone or find a substitute and let the church office know of the change.

Lay Assistants

10/4 – Edelyn Rose

10/11 – Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

10/18 – Donna Butora

10/25 – Kate Smith

Ushers

10/4 – Gerry Cleasby, Julie Zarenba, Sharon Morse, Jacen Schnitzer

10/11 – Ron Goetze, Kris Goetze
Todd Cooper, Cathy Roller

10/18 – Jim Austin, Vicki Hill
Norm Kinnison, Anna Findley

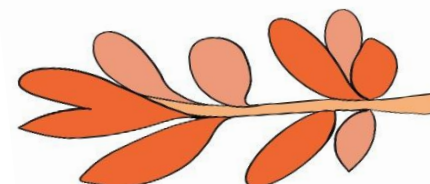
10/25 - Jill Jones, Elisabete Nestor
Hanne Forbing, Riane Forbing

Counters for October

Deborah Fahr - Head Counter
Scott Fahr
Kerri Kinneberg

Altar Team for October

Mary Bratun, Marsha Fante
Janet Dennis, Mary Catherine Gadany



Greeters

10/4 – Jill Jacobson, Jill Jones
Ruth Korhonen, Elizabeth Nestor

10/11 - Linda Jensen, Linda Martin
Mary Catherine Gadany, Karen Hillestad

10/18 – Elisabete Nestor, Vicki Hill
Julie Zarenba, Sherri Rivard-Baker

10/25 – Mary Vatherine Gadany
Karen Hillestad, Cindy Edwards
Jill Jacobson

Coffee Hour

10/4 – CLC

10/11 – Council Team #2
Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach
Scott Fahr
Cindy Edwards
Lisa Kargol-Stephens

10/18– WELCA
Geri Moritz - Chair

10/25 – Men's Group



WORSHIP SERVANTS-OCTOBER

Tech Team

10/4

Switcher: Ole Anderson
Projection: Krystal Edwards
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Andy Nestor
Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

10/11

Switcher: Christopher Nestor
Projection: Tara Ondusky
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Tracey Barney
Emmet Morse

10/18

Switcher: Krystal Edwards
Projection: Edelyn Rose
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Andy Nestor
Christopher Nestor

10/25

Switcher: Ole Anderson
Projection: Tara Ondusky
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Tracey Barney
Emmet Morse



Communion Assistants

10/4 - Karen Hillestad
Mary Bratun, Vicki Hill

10/11 – Stephen Cooperrider
Paula Corrin, Karen Hillestad

10/18 – Donna Butora, Phyllis Folsom
Joan Kossman

10/25 – Stephen Cooperrider
Linda Greiser, Vicki Hill



Trunk or Treat

Join us for our upcoming Trunk or Treat event on *Saturday, October 24, from 2:00–4:00 p.m.* Families are invited to enjoy an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and safe trick-or-treating. We will also have a **petting zoo** for everyone to enjoy!

Please join the fun and consider decorating your vehicle and handing out candy. If you do, please plan to provide approximately 150–200 pieces of candy. You can also join the fun by donating candy after each worship service. Thank you for helping make this a fun and memorable event for our church family and community!!

A word From Our Seminarian

Dear Beloved Church Family,

I want to share my deepest and most heartfelt thanks to the dear person(s) who blessed me recently while choosing to remain anonymous. Your kindness came at a time when I truly needed it, and your generosity touched my heart more than words can express. I may not know your name, but please know that I will always remember your loving gift and hold you in my prayers.

I am equally grateful for this wonderful congregation—a family that so beautifully embraces the teachings of Jesus. Your compassion, generosity, and willingness to lift one another up are living examples of Christ's love.

Thank you for reminding me that God often works through the loving hearts and helping hands of His people. May He bless you abundantly, just as you have blessed me.

With all my love and gratitude,
Edelyn Grace Rose



Peace Garden Workdays

Saturday October 4, 11, 18
10am – 12pm
Weather Permitting

SAVE THE DATE

Registration open until October 31 or until spots are filled
Email or text maize19758@gmail.com
586-662-2566 to get registration link

First Congregational Church UCC
2026 Women's Retreat

RECONNECT & RECHARGE

What pain have you been carrying?
What would it feel like to finally let go?
What might be possible if you released it all?

Power of Forgiveness: Let it Go!

- All materials & meals included
- Single (\$215) or Double Rooms (\$185)
- Private Bathrooms
- Nature Walks and beautiful grounds

Nov 6 - 8, 2026
Maryville Retreat Center
Led by: Pastor Stephanie "Ash" Harris Newman

Pastor Stephanie Newman is the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Waterford, Michigan. She is an engaging speaker and loves creating meaningful, interactive experiences that help people grow in faith and encounter God's transforming love.

Classes Begin Thursday October 1st

BASIC SEWING CLASSES

Thursdays 6-8pm

October 1, 8, 15, & 22

FOOD FRIENDS CULTURE COMMUNITY BELONGING

Taste of the World

3rd Annual

Different Cultures. Shared Table. Stronger Together.

A Fall International Luncheon
OCTOBER 25TH
IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHURCH

BRING A DISH • SHARE A STORY • TASTE THE WORLD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH



OCTOBER 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9am Quilting Group 11am Yoga TOPS 5-6PM 6 pm Sewing Class	2	3 Peace Garden 10am-12pm 8pm AA
4 10am Service Pent 19 12:30 Blessing of the Pets	5 7pm Grief & Loss Support Group 7pm Scouts	6	7 1pm Bible Study 7:00pm Emmaus 8pm AA	8 9am Quilting Group 11am Yoga TOPS 5-6PM 6 pm Sewing Class	9	10 9am-3pm SEMI Synod Justice Summit 10am-12pm Peace Garden 8pm AA
11 10am Service Pent 20	12 7pm Scouts	13 7pm MS Support Group	14 1pm Bible Study 6pm SCSA 7:00pm Emmaus 8pm AA	15 9am Quilting Group 11am Yoga TOPS 5-6PM 6 pm Sewing Class	16	17 Peace Garden 10am-12pm 8pm AA
18 10am Service Pent 21 Noisy Offering Oakland County Foster Closet	19 6:45pm ALS Support Group 7pm Council Meeting 7pm Scouts	20	21 1pm Bible Study 7:00pm Emmaus 8pm AA	22 9am Quilting Group 11am Yoga TOPS 5-6PM 6 pm Sewing Class	23	24 2-4pm Trunk or Treat Fall Festival 8pm AA
25 10am Service Pent 22 11:30am International Dinner	26 6:30 Men's Food & Fellowship 7pm Scouts	27	28 1pm Bible Study 6pm SCSA 7:00pm Emmaus 8pm AA	29 9am Quilting Group 11am Yoga TOPS 5-6PM	30	31