



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

September 2026



Finally Home

A Place to Breathe. A Place to Belong.

Dear Church,

There is something about September that has always felt a little bit like coming home. Summer begins to loosen its grip. Vacations wind down. School starts again. Calendars fill up. Choirs return. Ministries begin again. People who have been scattered in a hundred different directions start finding their way back through the doors.



And suddenly, you look around on a Sunday morning and think: *There you are.*

I love that...that return to community and connection. And this September, there is something else in the air at Christ Lutheran.

We are growing.

New faces are becoming familiar faces. New people are finding their way into worship, into conversations over coffee, into ministries, into friendships, and into the life of this church. There is an energy here right now that is hard to describe but wonderful to experience.

God is doing something among us.

And I don't say that because numbers are the most important thing. They're not. I say it because every number has a name. Every person has a story. Every person who walks through our doors is someone God already knows and loves.

What a privilege that God entrusts us with one another. What a privilege to be church with one another.

Cont. pg. 2

Pastor Stephanie Newman
pastorsteph@christwaterford.org
Secretary Edelyn Rose
office@christwaterford.org
Treasurer Lisa Kargol-Stephens
treasurer@christwaterford.org
Bookkeeper Karen Hillestad
Custodian Dave Kane
Music Ministers
John Joannette and Tracy Hoffman
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

Maybe that's why this feels like exactly the right time to introduce our theme for the coming year.

Each year, we choose words that help tell the story of who we are and, even more importantly, who God is calling us to become. We've spent the last several years talking about belonging and what it means to make space for one another. This year, those conversations led us to one word: **Home**.

Not home as in a building. And not home as in a place that is perfect all the time, because no home is.

We also know that *home* isn't a warm word for everyone. For some of us, family language carries complicated memories, grief, rejection, or trauma. Some of us have discovered that family isn't only something we're born into. Sometimes family is something we find. Sometimes it is something we choose. Sometimes home is something we build with the people who love us exactly as we are. So when we talk about home this year, we're talking about creating something together:

A place where you can exhale.

A place where you don't have to pretend.

A place where you are known and loved.

A place to breathe. A place to belong.

And so, our theme for this year is:

FINALLY, HOME

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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

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

September Birthdays

9/1 Anna Findley

9/1 Linda Jensen

9/2 Emily Lund

9/3 Sam Schaeffer

9/4 Pat Kinnison

9/6 Sharon Morse

9/10 Lisa Head

9/12 Florence Haynes

9/17 Connie Keating

9/18 Jacen Schnitzer

9/18 Jennifer Hess

9/18 Pastor Stephanie Newman,

9/19 Charlotte Leinonen

9/24 Zachary Hess

9/25 Scott Fahr

9/29 Kim Harris

9/30 Korenda Schaeffer

August Wedding Anniversaries

9/5 Charlie & Geri Moritz

9/18 Bill & Yvonne Meyer

9/23 Scott & Sue Regentin



Cont. from pg. 4

Dear ones, remember that home isn't only something we find....

Home is something we create for one another.

Not a slogan.

A way of being church.

And I, for one, cannot wait to see what God does next—and *who* God brings through our doors next! So let's keep opening doors. Keep setting places at the table. Keep making the circle bigger. Keep expecting God to surprise us.

And those of us who are already home? **Scoot over.** Someone else is coming.

And when they arrive, may we be ready to smile, open our arms, and say:

“There you are. Welcome home.”

With love and great excitement for what's ahead,

Pastor Steph



Maizey joins the children's sermon
"Love like Dolly"



Mutual Minsitry Team outreach



CLC out in the wild!



River Ladd is the newest
member of CLC!



2027 Vision Planning



There is something powerful about the word *finally*.

Finally means there was a journey.

Finally means you've been searching.

Finally means there may have been some wrong turns along the way.

And then?

Finally....Home.

Scripture gives us beautiful language for this in Ephesians:

**“You are no longer strangers... but members of the household of God.” —
Ephesians 2:19**

I think there are a lot of people longing for exactly that.

Some have never had a church home. Some had one once, but somewhere along the way it stopped feeling like home. Some were hurt by the Church. Some simply drifted away. Life happened. Grief happened. Disappointment happened. One Sunday away became two, and two became twenty, and eventually coming back felt harder than leaving ever did.

And some people aren't even sure they're looking for a church.

Maybe they're looking for connection. They're looking for people who will know their name. They're looking for somewhere they don't have to pretend. They're looking for a place to breathe.

In short, they're looking for home.

Jesus had this remarkable way of creating home wherever he went. He made room at tables for people who weren't supposed to be there. He noticed people everyone else overlooked. He welcomed questions, crossed boundaries, fed people, forgave people, and gathered a wonderfully imperfect group around himself.

Jesus kept making the circle bigger.

And friends, I believe that's part of what God is doing among us right now.

The circle is getting bigger....Praise God for that!

So **"Finally Home"** isn't simply something we're going to print on banners and put on our sign this year. It's an invitation to participate in what God is already doing.

And I want to invite those of you who already call Christ Lutheran "home" to do something very intentional this year:

Pray for the people who haven't arrived yet.

Think about that for a moment.

There are people we haven't met yet who will walk through our doors this year who will soon be part of our Church home. How exciting!

We don't know their names. We don't know their stories. We don't know what will bring them here. Maybe a friend will invite them. Maybe they'll see our sign while driving past. Maybe they'll be lonely. Maybe they'll be hurting. Maybe they'll be giving church one last chance.

Maybe they'll sit in the parking lot for ten minutes before finding the courage to come inside.

Let's start praying for them now...and say, "In Jesus name we pray for you and your peace."

Pray that God is already preparing the way. Pray that when they arrive, we notice them. Pray that we learn their names. Pray that we don't just tell them they are welcome but *show them they belong*.

Pray that, whatever their story has been, **church might feel like home again, and that God will heal broken hearts.**

And when they finally walk through those doors, I hope we look at them with Spirit-led familiarity and the same delight we feel when an old friend returns:

"There you are...We've been praying for you."

We may not know their names yet. We certainly don't know their stories.

But God does.

And God is entrusting us with both an incredible gift and a sacred responsibility. We get to look at each and every person who walks through our doors and say, in our own way:

"There you are."

We've been hoping for you. We've been praying for you. And we are so glad you're here.

That's what I hope *Finally Home* becomes this year.

WORSHIP SERVANTS-AUGUST

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

9/6 – Edelyn Rose

9/13 – Ole Anderson

9/20 – Pat Scott

9/27 – Stephanie Radke

Ushers

9/6 – Gerry Cleasby, Julie Zarenba, Sharon Morse, Jacen Schnitzer

9/13 – Ron Goetze, Kris Goetze
Todd Cooper, Cathy Roller

9/20 – Jim Austin, Vicki Hill
Norm Kinnison, Anna Findley

9/27 - Jill Jones, Elisabete Nestor
Hanne Forbing, Riane Forbing

Counters for September

Gerry Cleasby - Head Counter
Jim Austin, Betty Lotan
Walter Schoenbach

Greeters

9/6 – Jill Jacobson, Jill Jones
Ruth Korhonen, Elizabeth Nestor

9/13 - Linda Jensen, Linda Martin
Mary Catherine Gadany, Karen Hillestad

9/20 – Elisabete Nestor, Vicki Hill
Julie Zarenba, Sheri Riverd-Baker

9/27 – Mary Vatherine Gadany
Karen Hillestad, Cindy Edwards
Jill Jacobson

Coffee Hour

9/6 – CLC

9/13 – Council Team #1
Charlie Moritz, Edelyn Rose
Kathy Reddeman, Stephen
Cooperrider

9/20– WELCA
Linda Greiser- Chair

9/27 – Men's Group

Altar Team for August

Linda Jensen
Kathy Reddeman
Betty Lotan

WORSHIP SERVANTS-AUGUST

Tech Team

9/6

Switcher: Ole Anderson
Projection: Kyrstal Edwards
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Emmet Morse
Andy Nestor

9/13

Switcher: Christopher Nestor
Projection: Tara Ondusky
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Brian Domain
Doug Keisman

9/20

Switcher: Ole Anderson
Projection: Krystal Edwards
Sound Up: Edelyn Rose
Cameras: Tracey Barney
Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

9/27

Switcher: Ole Anderson
Projection: Tara Ondusky
Sound Up: Charlie Moritz
Cameras: Kim Harris
Emmet Morse

Communion Assistants

9/6 - Karen Hillestad
Mary Bratun, Vicki Hill

9/13 – Stephen Cooperrider
Paula Corrin, Linda Geiser

9/20 – Donna Butora, Phyllis Folsom
Joan Kossman

9/27 – Hanne & Riane Forbing
Pat Scott

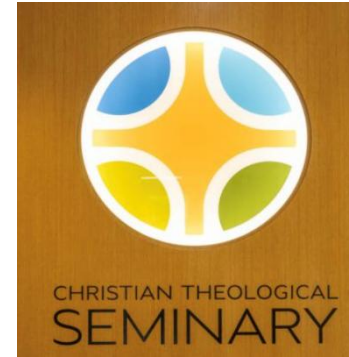
Join Our Tech Team!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to give back to our church? We need YOU to help us enhance our services by joining the Tech Team!

No skills or experience? No problem! We will provide all the training you need.

Your support will help us create a welcoming and engaging environment for our congregation. This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved and make a difference!

Interested? Please contact the office for more details or to sign up.



Congratulations, Pastor Steph!

Pastor Steph has officially begun their **Doctor of Ministry (DMin)** program at Christian Theological Seminary! This degree is designed for pastors already serving in ministry, providing advanced study and practical tools to strengthen their leadership, preaching, and pastoral care.

And don't worry—**Pastor Steph isn't going anywhere!** This journey is about becoming an even better pastor and leader right here at Christ Lutheran and bringing everything she learns back home to us.



Peace Garden Workdays

Saturday September 12th & 19th
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.

Hymn Sign Sunday

September 20th

PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR HYMN SUGGESTIONS ON THE INFO SHEET



WELCA AND MEN'S NIGHT

COMBO POTLUCK & GAME NIGHT

BRING A DISH TO PASS
A FAVORITE GAME TO PLAY
OR JUST COME FOR FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

SEPT 28TH SEE JERRY OR LINDA FOR DETAILS



Back to School



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 2026		1	2 1pm Bible Study 5 pm Weiner Wednesday 7:00pm Emmaus 8pm AA	3 9am Quilting Group TOPS 5-6pm	4	5 8pm AA
6 10am Service Pent 15	7 	8 	9 	10 	11 	12 Peace Garden 10am-12pm 8pm AA
OFFICE STAFF WILL BE WORKING REMOTELY						
		7pm MS Support Group	8pm AA			
13 10am Service Pent 16 God's Work Our Hands Blessing of the Backpacks	14 7pm Scouts	15	16 1pm Bible Study 5 pm Weiner Wednesday 7:00pm Emmaus 8pm AA	17 9am Quilting Group TOPS 5-6PM	18 Pastor Steph's Birthday	19 Peace Garden 10am-12pm 8pm AA
20 10am Service Pent 17 Noisy Offering-Red Rover	21 6:45pm ALS Support Group 7pm Council Meeting 7pm Scouts	22	23 1pm Bible Study 5 pm Weiner Wednesday 6pm SCSA 7:00pm Emmaus	24 9am Quilting Group 11am Yoga TOPS 5-6PM	25	26 8pm AA
27 10am Service Pent 14	28 6:30 Men's Food & Fellowship/WELCA 7pm Scouts	29	30 1pm Bible Study 5 pm Weiner Wednesday 6pm SCSA 7:00pm Emmaus			

PARKING LOT CONSTRUCTION
SEPTEMBER 8TH to 11TH