



This Week at Christ Lutheran

Celebrating 92 Years in Forest Hills

December 14, 2025

Christlutheranfh.org

Facebook: ChristLutheranChurchFH

BULLETINS, SERMONS AND LIVE WORSHIP: Bulletins and sermons are available for download on our website. A live stream of worship services is available on our Facebook page. See the top of this page for our website and Facebook locations.

FLOWERS: The flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God by Norm and Nancy Johnson to celebrate Holly's birthday.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: 2026 Offering envelopes are on the counter in the library. Please take yours.

WOMEN'S SERVICE GUILD DATES TO REMEMBER:

Now 'til January 25: Food and medical equipment gathering: boxes will be in the Narthex.

December 17: Advent dinner will be pot luck. Free will offering for Pastor Vincent Mroz and the deaf ministry.

January 10: Undecorate Fellowship Hall and WSG meeting at 10am.

AS WE GATHER: It is certainly easy to complain. We all do it. We look around and see all those things that are not what we think they should be. We look in the mirror and we see what we lack. When John sent his disciples to Jesus, Jesus called them to rejoice in what is already present. Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, had come. He brings healing and salvation to all who will receive Him. Quite literally, these miracles are still happening all around us. Those wounded by affliction and despair find healing in Christ. The dead in trespasses and sins are raised up to life. The weak are made strong, the poor are made rich, and those with only a past are given an eternal future. What do you see and hear? Look at the world, and you will find only complaint and fear; but look to Jesus, and you will find peace that surpasses all understanding and joy without end.

ISSUES, ETC.: ANSWERING ARGUMENTS AGAINST CHRISTIANITY... The Christian God is Misogynistic, The Meaning of Life Is Found in Using Technology, We Don't Need the Christian God to Be Good. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to responses to common objections to Christianity at issuesetc.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

WELCOME VISITORS! Please fill out a Welcome Card (located in the card holders in pews) and give to Pastor after the service and receive a special welcome gift. A mother's room and restroom are located at the left rear of the church. May you find this a place of spiritual rest and renewal.

St. Nicholas: In the midst of the Advent Season and our preparations for the Christmas holiday there are three saint's days on our Lutheran Calendar. Most people are not aware of these days, or the story associated with each of these saints of God who set before us an example of Christian faith & life. As stated in the Augsburg Confession, "Our churches teach that the remembrance of the saints is to be commended in order that we may imitate their faith @ good works according to our calling." (Augsburg Confession 21). We often neglect such commemorations unless they fall on a Sunday, and even then the common practice is to remain with the regular lectionary. But perhaps remembering these "three saints of Advent" can help us remain spiritually grounded in this exceptionally busy time of year.

The three saints commemorated each December are St. Nicholas (feast day December 6th); St. Ambrose (feast day December 7th); & St. Lucy (feast day December 13th).

St. Nicholas is probably the most well-known of the saints. In fact, there are more churches dedicated in his honor than any other saint. So much legend and tradition have been placed upon the story of his life makes it necessary for us to peel away the superimposed layers to get at more verifiable information concerning his life.

Nicholas was born in the village of Patara in what is now Turkey. At that time the area was thoroughly Greek in its culture and language. His parents were wealthy & raised him in the Christian faith. Apparently when they died in an epidemic, they left him a large estate, which enabled him to help the poor, sick, & suffering, leading to his reputation as being generous & charitable. His uncle, who was also named Nicholas & was bishop of Patara, took young Nicholas in & provided for the furthering of his education & spiritual life. It happened that young Nicholas was in the city of Myra when the clergy & people were meeting to elect a new bishop, & he wound was elected. This was the time of Emperor Diocletian's persecution of Christians. Nicholas was arrested, imprisoned, & tortured. When Constantine became emperor, Christians, including Nicholas, were released.

Nicholas was bishop when a heresy known as Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ, was spreading. Nicholas was a staunch defender of orthodoxy & was present at the **Council of Nicaea** in 325 A.D., 1700 years ago. He argued ferociously on the basis of Scripture that Jesus Christ was both God & man. Nicholas also took strong measures to combat paganism in his district, tearing down many pagan temples & replacing them with churches. He died December 6th, 343 A.D. in Myra & is buried in his cathedral church.

In a year in which we commemorate the formulation and signing of the Nicene Creed, it is important for us to remember that St. Nicholas was there. He was staunch and consistent in his defense of the Christian faith and sets before us an example to follow when persecuted for our faith. More about the other saints next week.

WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, & SERVICE

at

CHRIST LUTHERAN

December 14-December 21, 2025

SUNDAY—

8:45 AM Adult Bible Classes
 10:00 AM Divine Service
 11:30 AM Sunday School
 11:30 AM Confirmation Class

MONDAY

7:00 PM AA Meeting
 7:00 PM Vocal Choir

TUESDAY

6:30 PM Girl Scouts

WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM Crafting
 5:45 PM Advent Dinner
 7:00 PM Advent Service

SUNDAY—Holy Communion

8:45 AM Adult Bible Classes
 10:00 AM Divine Service
 Children's Program
 11:30 AM Sunday School
 11:30 AM Confirmation Class

To make contributions online, visit
christlutheranfh.org and click on DONATE.

Date	Attendees	Offering	To date	Budget
12-7-25	51	\$3,089	\$77,553	\$84,019

This Week in Prayer

Frank Elaschat	Lynn Fisher
Carol Sapanara	Sandy Uram
Bill Hite	Mike and Barb Lis
Rosalie & Glenn Filler	Linda Kuenzi
Jim Law	

Shut Ins

Jim & Evelyn Wise	Ann Tubbs
Bob and Bette Hamill	Russell Long
June Kolb	Katherine Mastrocola
Carol Logsdon	Cathy Ertman
Audrey Karpinsky	Bob Lindke
Audrey Marvenko	

Serving Our Country

Kyle Schoenthal	Miguel Bright
David Lisovich	Carson Starke

Family and Friends

Rich Little friend of Janice Polidora
 Deb, James, Tim Bassett, Kim Powers friends of the
 Elaschats
 Michelle Lydon (sister-in-law of the Catons)
 Pat Ricketts
 Nathan Glasser (son of Randy and Cathy Glasser)
 Alex Russo (friend of Lee & Stephanie Caton)
 Justin, Christian, Joshua & Matthew Riddle (nephews
 of Mike Lis)
 Greg Filotei (friend of Norm & Nancy Johnson)
 Deb Albaugh (Tatia O'Connor's friend)
 Megan (friend of Lee and Stephanie Caton)
 Ruth Johnson (Norm's sister-in-law)
 Donna Madia (friend of Kathy Ertman)
 The Rev. Ernest Knoche
 Ken Stern (brother-in-law of Gloria)
 Jake Benedum (friend of Tammy Donaldson)
 David Kaclik (Kathy's husband)
 Dan Johnson (Norm's brother)
 Shelly Winfrey (Tammy Donaldson's sister)
 Larry Lamp (friend of Nancy Johnson)
 Linda Augustine (friend of Georgia Hanley)

The purpose of this congregation shall be to seek the honor and glory of God. The congregation exists to this end as a community of baptized Christians wherein the following is provided for: Worship, Nurture, Fellowship, Outreach and Service.