



This Week at Christ Lutheran

Celebrating 92 Years in Forest Hills

December 28, 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 our church members.

THANK YOU: Pastor and Linda express their sincere appreciation for the Christmas cards and gifts received from members of Christ Lutheran!

THANK YOU: Thank you to all who have contributed flowers during this Christmas season.

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

ORNAMENTS: If you would like this year's Christmas ornament, they are available in the office. 2 for \$10 or 1 for \$7.

LIBRARY CHRISTMAS TREE: Check out the cards that are on the tree in the library which are from our members. You can give a card also rather than mailing it to individual members. Just drop it off in the office.

WOMEN'S SERVICE GUILD DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

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

AS WE GATHER: The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God's dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.

ISSUES, ETC.: STUDY GOD'S WORD IN 2026... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. You can listen by phone, (618) 262-0078. You can also listen at thewordendures.org.

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.

DECEMBER SAINTS CONTINUED: And finally, **St. Lucy**—“Santa Lucia.” She is a favorite in historically Lutheran Scandinavian countries, especially Sweden, where villages observe her day with a procession led by a young girl wearing a white robe with a crown on her head with four candles. This tradition actually tracks back to the historical record regarding St. Lucy dating back to the third century! According to the story, at a time when Christians were being persecuted by the Roman Emperor Diocletian, Christians met in secret, down in the catacombs, the underground burial chambers under the Roman cities. They would carry with them bread and wine to celebrate Holy Communion, and the sacred scriptures for preaching and teaching. Apparently, St. Lucy was a “supply” person for such gatherings, carrying these items to Christians through the long, dark passageways to where worship was being conducted. In order to keep her hands free for carrying food and supplies, she placed lights on her head, to light the way. Well, she was caught and put to death by the sword. Hence the white robe in Santa Lucia celebrations, a reference to the Book of Revelation, written during the persecution under Diocletian—John's vision of the saints in white robes, coming out of a time of great tribulation, now dwelling in the land of light, and in the presence of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us all. Hence St. Lucy, held in high regard for since the early days of Christianity as a model of faithfulness to Christ.

Three saints for Advent—calling us, through life, example, and testimony, to steadfastness and faithfulness as we await the coming again of Christ in glory.

WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, & SERVICE

at

CHRIST LUTHERAN

December 28-January 4, 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

TUESDAY

6:30 PM Girl Scouts

WEDNESDAY

New Year's Eve

THURSDAY

Happy New Year!

SUNDAY—Holy Communion

Epiphany Sunday

8:45 AM Adult Bible Classes
10:00 AM Divine Service
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
12-17-25	25	\$189		
12-21-25	59	\$4,732	85,081	\$91,325

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

Family of Dave Hoff (Laura Schumm's husband)
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.