



Christ & St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



FROM THE RECTOR

For the past few years we have been focused on regathering and rebuilding our church community and campus and that has been wonderfully successful. Now, as we move into the 2025-2026 program year, we are ready to build on that foundation and turn ourselves even more outwards—establishing, nurturing, and growing our relationships with, and our impact on, the world outside our walls.

So, for this year at Christ & St. Luke's, we are going to take as our focus not a statement or phrase, but four verbs which encapsulate the cycle of what it is we do and how we as a church want to operate:

Come - See - Go - Be.

(Continued on the next page)



1 COME

We gather, we invite, we include, we welcome. This has always been an important part of who we are and it will continue to be key to everything we do.

2 SEE

When we come together, we have an encounter with something holy whether it be a sermon or song or sacrament; in times of service, education, or fellowship. In all that we do, we aspire to transmit the transcendent - the power and presence of God made recognizable and real.

3 GO

Having had that encounter we are then sent back out into the world. This is where we hope to grow in the coming year, in how we go out and reach out to other people and organizations with whom we can work to change this world for the better.

4 BE

Our mission when we go is to embody those aspects of God which we encountered when we came together as a church. To work for love and justice, to help and to heal, and to bring comfort and compassion to those who need it.

Then we gather again, and the cycle repeats.

This is what discipleship looks like. Distilled to its essence, these words show us the shape of the life of faith; an ever-widening gyre which draws us and the world more fully into the life and work of God.

We're excited to explore these four ideas over the course of the coming year and to incorporate them more fully into our common life. We invite you to look through the pages which follow that and join us as we are drawn into this cycle of discipleship

The Rev. Noah Van Niel
Rector

JIM SELL COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: MARGARET RENKL

The Jim Sell Community Conversation is an annual event designed to honor former Christ & St. Luke's Rector Jim Sell and his desire to bring people together, from inside and outside the parish, to spark conversations that make a difference on topics that matter.

We are pleased to welcome award winning author and *New York Times* contributing opinion writer Margaret Renkl to speak on Environmental Stewardship, Saturday, September 20 at 5:00 p.m. A reception will follow.

Margaret Renkl is one of the most graceful and powerful authors on our relationship with the natural world working today. She is the author of *The Comfort of Crows: A Backyard Year*, which won the 2024 Southern Book Prize. Her other works include *Late Migrations: A Natural History of Love and Loss* and *Graceland, At Last: Notes on Hope and Heartache From the American South*, both of which have won several environmental and literary awards. Since 2017, Renkl has served as a contributing opinion writer for *The New York Times*, where her essays appear on the first and third Mondays of the month.



Margaret Renkl, author

Her voice is the perfect match to help us recognize and cherish the beauty of God's world and take steps to address the issues that threaten our communities, such as climate change and sea level rise. Norfolk has the highest sea level rise on the East Coast, a distinction which is no surprise to those of us who live and work here. Margaret is someone who has thought deeply about our human relationship with the natural world and has expressed those thoughts in beautiful and inspiring ways that we hope will help inspire change.

As part of the follow-up to Margaret's visit with us, we will have a series of Sunday Adult Forums with local environmental groups to showcase their work and highlight local efforts to better engage with the issues of climate change. See page 7 to learn more.

2025 FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Musical Highlights

The musical offerings at Christ & St. Luke's are always a highlight of the program year! Make sure to join us for the following concerts and events this fall.

Friday, September 26, 12:00 p.m.
Midday Music

Monday, October 6, 7:30 p.m.
Norfolk Chamber Consort

Friday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.
Silent Movie: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Sunday, November 2, 5:30 p.m.
Mosaic Requiem

Friday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.
Stephen Coxe & Friends

Sunday, November 30, 5:30 p.m.
Advent Lessons & Carols

NEW! Rector's Book Study

Let's read and discuss interesting books together. This fall Fr. Noah will be leading a monthly book group on the 4th Friday at 4pm (except for months where holidays interrupt that pattern). The plan is simple: read the book and come ready to talk about it. Books will be chosen to align with activities of the parish that month. The schedule for the first few months is as follows:

September 26
The Comfort of Crows, Margaret Renkl

October 24
This Sacred Life, Norman Wirzba

November 21
Zero at the Bone, Christian Wiman
(Note this is the 3rd Friday of the month because of Thanksgiving the following week.)



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday, September 7
Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 14
Ministry Fair

Saturday, September 20
Jim Sell Community Conversation:
Margaret Renkyl

Sunday September 21
Adult formation restarts

Sunday, September 28
Newcomers Brunch



Third Annual Ministry Fair

Join us September 14 after the 10:15 a.m. liturgy as we celebrate our numerous ministries and recruit new volunteers. The Ministry Fair will be held in the driveway off of Stockley Gardens. We have many active ministries which will be offering information on how you can get involved with important aspects of our life together. This is the perfect opportunity to deepen your connections at Christ & St. Luke's and to celebrate the wonderful volunteers that make our ministries possible!





ADULT FORMATION SERIES: CARING FOR CREATION

We live on a planet that is dying and in a city that is drowning. And it's our fault. Human created climate change is causing a warming of our planet that is having disastrous effects. As people of faith, we believe that the world is a work of creation by the one Creator, but instead of stewarding it responsibly, we are exploiting it.

This fall we are going to take a good, hard look at the realities of our relationship with Creation seeking out ways to take action to heal the pain and respond to the problems we have caused. We know from our Holy Listening conversations that this is a topic of importance to this parish, it is also a core component of our Bishop's initiatives and central to the teaching of The Episcopal Church.

In our Sunday morning adult formation sessions, you will hear from your clergy reflecting theologically on this issue and from special guests who are leaders in the field of environmentalism in this area. We hope this will inspire us all to take further and more meaningful action in support of this fragile earth, our island home.

All sessions run from 9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. in Lloyd Hall.

September 21

A Theology of Creation (part 1)

September 28

A Theology of Creation (part 2)

October 5

Composting with CSL's Caring for Creation team

October 12

From the Front Lines: a panel featuring Wetlands Watch, The Elizabeth River Project, The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Lynnhaven River Now

October 19

Norfolk Botanical Gardens: a special presentation on *The Garden of Tomorrow*

October 26

What then shall we do? A Wrap-up Conversation

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Thursday, October 2
First Thursday Supper

Saturday, October 4, 5:30 p.m.
Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 5
Creation Sunday

Sunday, October 5
Episcopal 101
(through Nov. 9)

Monday, October 6, 7:30 p.m.
Norfolk Chamber Consort
Concert

Thursday, October 9
Take a Dip Baptismal Prep
(Oct. 9, 16, 23)

Sunday, October 19
Our Feast of Title

Friday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.
Dorothy Papadakis,
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde



EPISCOPAL BASICS

Episcopal 101

Sundays, October 5 - November 9

Episcopal 101 is a basic introduction to life and worship in the Episcopal Church. It's designed for anyone who wants to know more about what we do and why we do it, and it is highly recommended for those joining the church and coming from other traditions. We'll explore topics such as Baptism, Eucharist, liturgy, and other aspects that constitute the Episcopal identity. Episcopal 101 also serves as our prerequisite course for those seeking Confirmation or Reception. Learners from all levels of Episcopal knowledge are welcome! This class starts on October 5 directly following the 10:15 service and runs through Nov. 9.

Take a Dip into Baptism

Thursdays, October 9, 16, 23

Let's get our hands wet and learn about the sacrament of Baptism! This class is offered twice a year (Fall and Spring) to help prepare baptismal candidates, their families, and their sponsors/godparents for the sacrament of Baptism. This three session class covers the history of Baptism, the spiritual gifts we receive, and the promises we make for our children and ourselves in this sacred rite.

Take a Dip serves as the prerequisite class for those seeking to be baptized. Anyone seeking Baptism in the coming year, whether adult or child, is encouraged to sign-up. Additionally, if your child was baptized as an infant and learning more about baptism sounds like fun for the whole family, this is for you too! Childcare is provided for younger children (under 3).





NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday, November 2 (All Saints Sunday)
5:30pm All Souls Requiem

Thursday, November 6
First Thursday Supper

Sunday, November 16
Bishop Visitation and Confirmations

Friday, November 21, 7:30 p.m.
Steve Coxé & Friends concert

Thursday, November 27, 10:15 a.m.
Thanksgiving Day Service

Sunday, November 30
The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30, 11:45 a.m.
Advent Wreath Making

Sunday, November 30, 5:30 p.m.
Advent Lessons and Carols

Ingathering Sunday

Sunday, November 9

November 9 is In-Gathering Sunday during which we will celebrate and give thanks for the financial commitments we have made to our Parish for 2026. Your annual pledges bring the mission of Christ & St. Luke's to life, and are far and away the largest source of revenue in our operating budget. As we look ahead to next year, we invite you to join us in making a financial pledge to support our vibrant and growing community. To make your pledge, please visit christandstlukes.org/give. Pledge materials will be mailed the week of October 6, 2025.





NOVEMBER ADULT FORUM

Grave Matters - Adult Forum

Sundays, November 2, 9, 9:15 a.m.

Back by popular demand, our series on end-of-life issues will return for two Sunday mornings this November, a season when our church calendar asks us to call to mind those beloved saints and souls who have gone before and whose company we will one day join.

November 2

It's Your Funeral: how to plan your funeral and why it is one of the most faithful things you can do.

November 9

Getting Your Affairs in Order: Legal, Financial, and Medical things to consider when it comes to end-of-life planning.

Guest Speakers

Sundays, November 16, 23, 9:15 a.m.

November 16

A visit with Bishop Susan Haynes: Our Annual Bishop visitation will take place this Sunday. Join us for an open Q&A with your Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Susan Haynes.

November 23

Tidewater Friends of Foster Care: Every year Christ & St. Luke's collects presents for Tidewater Friends of Foster Care to distribute at the holidays. Join us for a special Sunday morning presentation to hear from the head of that organization about the work they do and other ways you might be able to help those involved in the foster care system.



Christ & St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Worship Schedule

Sundays

Holy Eucharist, Rite I: 8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, Rite II: 10:15 a.m.

This service includes childcare, Children's Chapel, and choir.

This service is live streamed at christandstlukes.org/live.

Thursdays

Holy Eucharist, Rite II: 7:30 a.m.

Get in Touch

757-627-5665

office@christandstlukes.org

560 W. Olney Rd., Norfolk, VA 23507

christandstlukes.org



@CSLNorfolk



@CSLNorfolk



@ChristandStLukes