



The

SEPTEMBER 2025

Trumpeter

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Weekly Schedule

Sundays

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service

10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service



The Priest's Desk

A Season of Change and Opportunity

September. Already. Yikes! September is a time of transition for the world around us and for each of us as individuals. The leaves will soon be falling, the mornings will have glimpses of cool weather, and the afternoons will be comfortably warm. We know that change is inevitable. Without change, we no longer exist.

We often resist change. Change can make us uncomfortable. Is there one thing about us, about our world, that has not changed? Change can be either good or difficult. One of the biggest changes came because of Covid. We became isolated physically, emotionally and even spiritually. The pandemic forced more alone time. And we changed as a world.

In my opinion, it did not change us into something better. Because we were so isolated, we became more entrenched in our personal beliefs about life, about our loved ones, about our faith and about our politics.

We live in a world that is broken. We can choose to be a part of the solution, or we can choose to be part of the problem. All of us must examine our own thoughts and actions. Change is never easy, especially when it comes to our beliefs about the way the world should be.

Are we happy with the world as it now is? If not, what exactly are we willing to do to make our world safer, more tolerant, healthier, more kind? We proclaim to be followers of Jesus and that demands of us many things. We must remove our thoughts of "Is it good for me?" and change our thinking to "Is this good for everyone?" Picking and choosing what parts of Jesus telling us to love one another is not an option. We can't choose to love one person and not the next.

As I mentioned a few weeks ago, we are often very critical of others without ever knowing their life situation and how they ended up who and where they are. Our world has quickly become a people of judgement and never trying to understand one another. Entrenched in our own thoughts and beliefs is not the way of Jesus Christ.

Continued on Page 3

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
9020 S. Saginaw Rd., Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(810) 694-3600

Staff

The Reverend Jerry Lasley
Rector
Rector@stchrisgrandblanc.org

The Reverend Dr. Michael Carr,
Priest in Residence

The Reverend Dr. Donald F. Davidson
Priest in Residence

Nada Radakovich, *Director of Music*
Nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Jeffrey Walker, *Organist*
Jeffrey@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Angela Zinsli, *Administrative Assistant*
angela@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Vestry 2025

Chapin Cook, *Senior Warden*
SeniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Rod Bytwerk, *Junior Warden*
JuniorWarden@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Louise McAra, *Clerk*

Jane Brewer, *Co-Treasurer*
Dale Rice, *Co-Treasurer*
Treasurer@stchrisgrandblanc.org

Myrtle Duck (2027) Dave Miller (2027)
Janice Convis (2027) Bill Hartley (2026)
Linda Rathburn (2026) Louise McAra (2028)
Jane Brewer (2026) Rod Bytwerk (2028)
Chapin Cook (2028)

Upcoming Lessons

September 7

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 1

Philemon 1-21

Luke 14:25-33

September 14

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 51:1-11

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

September 21

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

September 28

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31

October 5

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Psalm 37:1-10

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

October 12

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

Find the readings every week at lectionary-page.net

FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK CONTINUED...

Jesus calls us to love one another. Our black neighbor, our immigrant neighbor, our transneighbor, our Democrat or Republican neighbor, our homeless neighbor. Too often people who are not like us are judged without ever trying to get to know them. The pandemic led us to believe that we are always right. Always?

As Christians, we are called to be counter cultural. Living for this world and "what's in it for me" has never been the Christian way. Part of the problem lies in our unwillingness to think about viewpoints other than our own. Every single fact can be twisted to "prove our point." We listen only to news outlets that make us think that our prejudices are justified.

Jesus went against the religious leaders of the time. I wonder if he wouldn't do the same today. Jesus never once forced people to believe in him. Today, many religious leaders expect their flocks to "think and do as they do." There is always the tendency to stick around folks that believe and act just like we do. But our world has been diverse from the beginning of time.

Jesus respected that. Jesus commanded us to love one another. Period. No exceptions, no qualifiers. We must choose to follow this command. To love unconditionally. To respect others. To pray for one another. Instead of closing our dining room doors, we must begin by building longer tables. Where everyone has the same tools, where their beliefs are not required to be just like ours. The only ones that Jesus condemned were those who used religion to exert power over others. By doing so, they were making the lives of others difficult, while making certain that their own lives were safe and protected.

My dear people of God, we are better than all this division. I've seen who we are. We are called to be in the world without letting the world guide us. We are called to serve one another, without exception. We are called to love one another, without exception. We are called to make the Kingdom of God known in this world and to make this world a better place. We can. We must. Let's leave judgement up to God.

Throughout history, God has saved us. He continues to save us. He continues to love us. Even though we sometimes turn away from God and God's commandment to love all people. We have the opportunity to change. We can become more like Jesus. We must open our hearts, our minds. We must get to truly know one another and to see each other as a child of God. A seemingly little known fact is that God loves us all and wants us to be one with God and with one another.

Change. Opportunity. Both are ours for the taking. It is up to us to take the first step. God will not force us. God invites us. It is up to us to accept or decline that invitation. We often fret about the condition of the world. It is up to each of us to change it. Can we change the entire world? Probably not. But we might change the world for one person, making them feel welcomed, respected and honored. What would Jesus do? Go likewise and do the same!

Blessings,

Jerry+





Please note that the next Healing Service will be held on Friday, September 5, 2025 at noon. Next one will be Friday, October 3, 2025.



Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in August: Bill Anderson, Dianne & Tom Trevino, Bill, Jan and Rene.

There is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please consider signing up to host! You only have to make coffee/tea and perhaps provide a small snack or treat item if desired.



The latest Vestry Meeting Minutes and Financial Statement are located on the kiosk in the narthex for review.

As announced at the Annual Meeting, all funds given toward pledges received in the current calendar year must be deposited and posted to the same calendar year. We can no longer accept advanced payment of pledges for the next calendar year. Thank you for your understanding.



The next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, September 13, 2025 at 9 am @ Hill Road Grille, 2160 W. Hill Road, Flint. Please sign up on the Kiosk.



A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Ally Challenge successful. Whether you spent time directing traffic, baking treats and providing salads for the workers, painting stripes on the lawns, counting money, running errands for change, bringing extra cold water, or passing out ice cream on hot days-know that you are appreciated! The tournament set a new record for us with a Grand Total of \$33,303.10 raised. The funds will go a long way in balancing our annual budget. Thanks be to God for a week of beautiful weather and, again, many, many thanks to all of you!

Ellen Safley



The next Ladies' Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, September 10th at 11:45 am at Atlas Valley Golf Club, 8313 Perry Road, Grand Blanc. If you plan on attending, please sign up on the kiosk or contact Louise McAra at (810) 287-4334.

From the Music Room...



September is upon us! Can you believe it?

As I write this note, it might interest you to know that I just closed my over-full trunk which is brimming with needing-to-be-washed choir robes!

We had a water condensation problem in the choir room a few weeks ago, and many of our wonderful robes got 'rained' upon---and so, now to my basement and my trusty Maytag washing machine we go! Hopefully I will be able to get these all taken care of before we resume choir duties! (I feel rather like Papa Hadyn and his job of caring for his orchestra musicians and their garb at the Esterhazy Palace).

In August, we were treated to several musical highlights during our Offertory music from volunteers in our church. Thank you Andrew Wilson for singing those pieces from The Messiah a few weeks ago. How thrilling! Thank you Dianne Trevino for playing the beautiful "For the Beauty of the Earth" on the piano earlier in August. It was so lovely of you to share your talent with us. And Bobbie Goergen and Judith Conyers and Audrey Ditri--we all are looking forward to hearing the glorious Mendelssohn trio, "Lift Thine Eyes" from you ladies on August 31st.. Such great music, such beautiful voices!

Our choir will be back in full form on September 7th. If you happen to have time in your schedule this Fall to join our ensemble, please either drop me a note (nada@stchrisgrandblanc.org) or come down to the choir room or come talk with me at coffee hour following one of our services on any given Sunday. If you can find the notes on the page, we can find a choir folder for you!

Also, please, I would like to take a moment to thank Jeff Walker for the countless hours he spends maintaining both the organ and the piano we use at St. Chris.. Your great kindness and generosity in caring for these instruments for us is greatly appreciated by everyone here. Thank you, Mr. Walker.

In Christ, I am yours,

Nada



From the Senior Warden



Hello to all the members and friends of Saint Christopher's church, over the last month we have accomplished a lot of the activities we needed to get done. We have sanded and painted the doors at the church and hopefully they will last another 10 years. Thank you, Rod Bytwerk junior warden, for all your hard work. This project has been completed at no extra cost to the church thanks to donations of time and money by our members.

We have been attempting to solve our HVAC, heating and cooling system, problems as expeditiously as possible. As we all know, the present system has not been providing the heating or the cooling that we need. As a result of this identified need, we have contacted our heating and cooling contractor, Comfort Control, and discussed this situation at length. Following these discussions, we have decided to move ahead with a split system in the sacristy at the front of the church. We are doing this because the present system which is up in the ceiling is not working and has never worked properly, poses of continuing fear of collapsing into the room. Therefore, we have obtained donations and are implementing a shut down of all of that system in the ceiling and replacing it with a system in the wall that will handle heating and cooling and be able to use the existing electrical connection in that general area.

Next, we have asked our HVAC contractor to provide us with a proposal to fix our existing boiler and air conditioning systems for the rest of the church building. In response to our request, the company has suggested that the existing system can be saved and we don't have to spend a quarter of \$1 million to replace it all. We do have to, however, do major maintenance on the system. That maintenance will start with representatives from the company in the building every week for the next year to bring the controls to our system up to an effective level. This includes identifying all of the different parts of the system, there are very many, and numbering them, and then placing those numbers on the computerized control system that runs the entire system. This will be a two person job and will hopefully get us to the point where we can identify problems, more easily, solve those problems and effectively move our system forward.

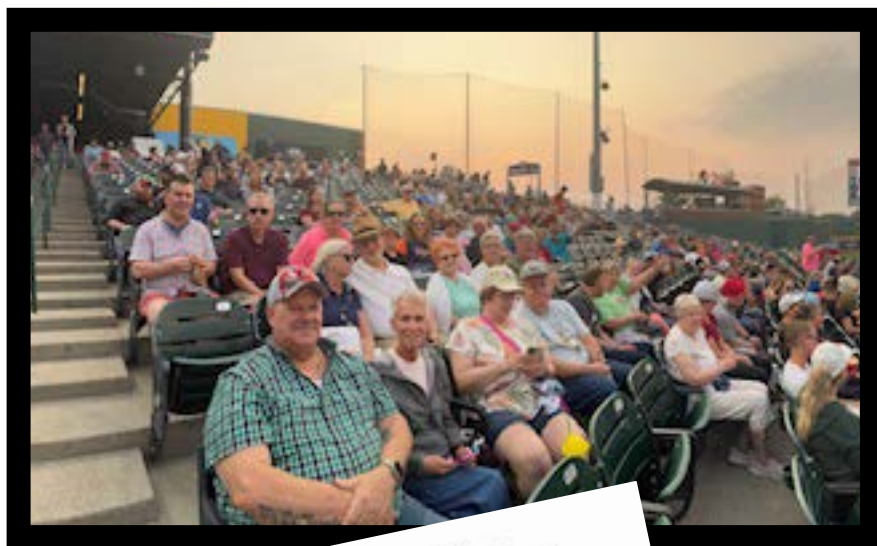
This contract will also include required boiler inspections, and hopefully maintain our boilers into the future. As an aside my friends at the First Congregational Church of Grand Blanc tell me they have just been required to replace their 2 boilers at the price of \$90,000.

The contract will also include replacing all belts and filters in the system, and there are many, allowing us to then get our system into an operational mode over the next year. We will receive a 10% discount on all parts and materials and labor will be included for any required installation during this process at no extra charge.

Hopefully by completing this maintenance contract, we will have our system up and running effectively and maintaining it so we do not have major replacement costs in the near future. However, we have to be realistic and understand that the majority of this equipment is 25 years old.

The cost of this proposal is \$30,000 for the first year. If we can collect money from other sources by October 1, we will be able to have a 10% reduction to a total of \$27,000. There is no money in our budget to cover this expense so we are appealing to all of our members and friends to donate money and help us accomplish this goal. I will be coming around to the next church services and explaining this need and more depth and appreciate your understanding, questions and hopefully support. Thank you very much and God bless you.

Chapin Cook



GOOD
times 



Coat Closet Trivia

Q: What do the following people have in common?

1.Louise McAra, 2.Flo Gjerstad, 3.Bill Hartley, 4.Ellen Safley, 5. Karen Miller

A: Each has volunteered to serve as Team Lead for your Coat Closet, taking responsibility for two hours one Saturday a month October thru January

Q: What small thing can I do to help make this mission continue to thrive?

A: Offer to help the Team Lead of your choice for one two hour shift
 Donate a pair of mittens, a scarf or warm hat, a child's or teen coat
 Donate a rolling cart (we're growing rapidly)
 Thank the team leads and their crew for making it all work.

Q: Who tends to the donations that come in weekly (year round)?

A: Intake coordinator Louise Desgranges hangs and sizes all donations in her "staging room" Inspecting zippers, pockets etc, readying them for their new owners.
 She selflessly comes every week and would welcome an extra pair of hands to make this labor of love continues to run smoothly. Do you have an hour to help her once a month?

Q: What should I do if I know someone who is in need of a coat?

A: The Coat Closet is staffed Saturday mornings Oct - Jan 10AM-noon however, coats are Available year round by making an appointment with the office.

We always welcome your questions and suggestions

Jane Yorks - Coordinator janeyorks01@gmail.com


The CHOSEN

ITS THAT TIME.....

- If you want to become a better Christian
- If you want to discover a fresh way of seeing the scripture characters
- If you want to grow in your religious prayer life through the scriptures
- If you want to draw nearer to the Christ

JOIN US AS WE JOURNEY THROUGH THE SERIES OF "THE CHOSEN"

We will begin Thursday, September 18th at 10 am with a recap of series 4 episode 7. We will continue with episode 8 and then begin series 5. Our format is: Watch an episode, discussion and then pitch in soup luncheon. Hope you will join us!



**JOSEPH
AND THE
AMAZING
TECHNOLOR
DREAMCOAT**

Thursday, Oct 2, 2025

A lively and colorful journey through ancient Egypt, Andrew Lloyd Weber's beloved biblical rock n' roll masterpiece follows the rags to riches story of Joseph and his coat of many colors.

Cornwell's
PROFESSIONAL
DINNER THEATRE

Tickets are LIMITED, Cost is \$55/per person. Turn in your check to the church office made payable to St. Christopher's with "Turkeyville" clearly noted in the memo. Due on or before September 7th.

We will enjoy a full turkey dinner, shopping and the play performance. On October 2nd at 9 am, we will carpool from St. Christopher's and return to the church at approximately 6 pm.

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:00am In-Person Communion Service 10:15am In-Person Communion Service with Livestreaming on Facebook	1	2	3	4	5	6 11:00am - 1:00pm The Messiah - Solo Auditions
7 8:00am In-Person Communion Service 10:15am In-Person Communion Service with Livestreaming on Facebook	8	9	10 11:45am - 12:45pm Ladies Luncheon - Atlas Valley Golf Club	11	12	13 9:00am - 10:00am Men's Breakfast 11:00am - 1:00pm The Messiah - Solo Auditions
14 8:00am In-Person Communion Service 10:15am In-Person Communion Service with Livestreaming on Facebook	15	16	17 10:00am - 11:00am Worship Team Meeting	18 10:00am - 11:00am The Chosen Study	19	20
21 8:00am In-Person Communion Service 10:15am In-Person Communion Service with Livestreaming on Facebook	22	23	24	25 10:00am - 11:00am The Chosen Study	26	27
28 8:00am In-Person Communion Service 10:15am In-Person Communion Service with Livestreaming on Facebook	29	30	1	2 Turkeyville Culing	3	4



Worship Leaders for September 2025						
	LECTOR / LEM	GREETERS	TECH	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR FLOWERS
<u>September 7</u>						
8 am	Debbie Mo- ses(LEM)/ Jane Brewer	Neuman & Jan Convis	-----	-----		-----
10:15 am	Flo Gjerstad/ Karen Miller(L)	Bill Anderson & Rebecca Stermer		Jane Brewer	Jane Yorks	Colleen Shrank
<u>September 14</u>						
8 am	Dave Butler (LEM)/Jacob Stuart	Dale & Sharon Rice		-----		-----
10:15 am	Rod Bytwerk (LEM)	Flo Gjerstad/ Rene Carpenter		Shirley Showler	Available	Neuman & Jan Convis
<u>September 21</u>						
8 am	Debbie Moses (LEM)	Jane Brewer & Susan Arm- strong	-----	-----		
10:15 am	TBD	TBD		Anne Naber	Available	Chapin Cook & Ellen Safley
<u>September 28</u>						
8 am	Nancy Wells (LEM)/Kay Van Natta	Dave & Melissa Butler	-----	-----		-----
10:15 am	TBD	TBD		Mary Van Duyne	Available	Jane Brewer

