



The

SEPTEMBER 2026

Trumpeter

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Weekly Schedule

Sundays

8 am - Holy Eucharist Service

10:15 am - Holy Eucharist Service



Message from the Senior Warden...

Hello to all the members of Saint Christopher's church and friends of our church. I hope your summer has been going well and you have enjoyed your time. We have been busy at church, getting the air-conditioning working again and we are happy that we have finally accomplished that.

Now we are in the middle of the Ally Challenge. By the time you get this, we hope to say that we've been able to accomplish another year of the challenge and hope that we will soon hear about options for next year's challenge. It's been a very busy time and we are thankful for the help that we have gotten from members and staff of the church. We will report on the amount of money that we have been able to raise from the parking at Saturday night.

We are still attempting to collect money for the replacement of Windows, should you be interested? Please fill in the form on the front table in the entryway and make sure to write windows on the bottom of your check. The Executive Committee and the Vestry are looking into other ideas for income for the church. Should you feel that you have a good idea for collecting income for the church? Please let us know either through the suggestion box or by talking to one of the Vestry members.

Now, we are about to start the process of building our budget for next year, hopefully you've received a copy in the mail of a pledge form so you can review it and think about what support you can provide to the church. If you have questions please let us know.

Thank you and God bless you.

Chapin

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
9020 S. Saginaw Road
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(810) 694-3600
Email: office@stchrisgrandblanc.org

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

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



Vestry 2026

Chapin Cook, *Senior Warden*

Rod Bytwerk, *Junior Warden*

Louise McAra, *Clerk*

Jane Brewer, *Co-Treasurer*
Dale Rice, *Co-Treasurer*

Karen Carr (2027) Dave Miller (2027)
Janice Convis (2027) Colleen Shrank (2029)
Diane Stellrecht (2029) Louise McAra (2028)
Jane Brewer (2029) Rod Bytwerk (2028)
Chapin Cook (2028)

Upcoming Lessons

September 6

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

September 13

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 20

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jonah 3:10:4-11
Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

September 27

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25:1-8
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October 4

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-14
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

Find the readings every week at lectionary-page.net



FROM THE PRIEST'S DESK

I thought I would take this opportunity to do some teaching. The Rector and Vestry work hand in hand to make our parish run as smoothly as possible. One cannot exist without the other. We also cannot function properly without the congregation taking an active role in all aspects in the life of the parish.

The Role of the Rector

In an Episcopal Church, a rector is an ordained priest chosen and called by a self-supporting parish to serve as its settled spiritual and administrative head. The rector holds primary responsibility for the congregation's worship, pastoral care, teaching, and overall mission.

Spiritual and Liturgical Leadership

- * Directs all worship services and administers the sacraments using the Book of Common Prayer.
- * Holds final canonical authority over the parish's liturgical and musical practices.
- * Provides pastoral care, counseling, and spiritual guidance to parishioners.

Administrative and Governance Role

- * Serves as the chief ecclesiastical authority of the self-supporting parish.
- * Manages church buildings, property, and physical furnishings.
- * Presides at meetings of the vestry (the lay governing board) or designates a representative to do so.
- * Selects, hires, and oversees assistant clergy and lay staff members.

Relationship to the Diocese

- * Partners with the bishop, operating under the pastoral direction of the diocesan bishop and church canons.
- * Differs from a vicar, who is appointed by the bishop to lead a mission church rather than being called by a self-supporting parish.

The Role of the Vestry

An Episcopal vestry is the legal representative and lay governing board of a parish, working alongside the rector to define the church's mission, manage finances and property, and lead long-term planning. Specific duties and titles are outlined in official resources like the Episcopal Church Glossary.

Core Responsibilities of the Vestry

- * **Mission and Vision:** Articulate and help guide the spiritual and structural vision of the parish in partnership with the clergy.
- * **Financial Oversight:** Approve the annual operating budget, monitor monthly financial statements, ensure an annual audit, and manage endowments or major contracts.
- * **Property Management:** Oversee the maintenance, insurance, and use of church buildings, grounds, and rectories.
- * **Personnel and Leadership:** Participate in the search and call process for a new rector, set clergy compensation, and support lay staff.
- * **Governance and Compliance:** Act as legal trustees for the parish corporation, ensuring obedience to civil law and church canons
- * **Key Vestry Roles and Officer Descriptions**
- * *The Rector:* Serves as the presiding officer and president of the vestry, holding spiritual and operational leadership authority.
- * *Senior Warden:* Acts as the primary lay leader, partners closely with the rector, runs meetings in the rector's absence, and leads the parish during a transition or interim period between rectors.
- * *Junior Warden:* Typically focuses on the physical upkeep of the parish buildings, facilities, and grounds.
- * *Clerk / Secretary:* Records, maintains, and distributes accurate minutes of all vestry meetings and handles official corporate correspondence.

Continued...

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- * **Treasurer:** Oversees the receipt and disbursement of funds, maintains financial books, and delivers periodic financial reports to the vestry.
 - * **Vestry Members (At-Large):** Attend regular meetings, serve as liaisons to various parish ministries or committees, and model Christian stewardship through worship, time, and financial pledging.

Typical Requirements and Time Commitments

- * Must be confirmed communicants in good standing, of canonical age (often 16 or 18 depending on local diocesan canons), and regular financial pledgers.
- * Expected to attend monthly or bi-monthly meetings, an annual parish retreat, and the annual congregational meeting.

The Role of the Congregation

In an Episcopal Church, the congregation is an active participant in worship, shared ministry, and democratic governance. Far from being passive observers, lay members (the congregation) work alongside ordained clergy to guide the spiritual and physical life of the parish.

Active Worship

- * **Liturgy Participation:** Services from the Book of Common Prayer rely on the congregation to respond, sing, pray, and share the peace.
- * **Liturgical Roles:** Laypeople serve as chalice bearers (Eucharistic ministers), lectors (readers), acolytes, ushers, greeters, and members of the altar guild.

Church Governance and Leadership

- * **The Vestry:** The congregation elects a governing board called the vestry, which manages the church's finances, property, and secular business.
- * **Calling a Rector:** The vestry and congregation participate directly in selecting and calling a new head priest (rector) in cooperation with the regional bishop.
- * **Diocesan and National Representation:** Lay delegates chosen by the congregation attend annual diocesan conventions and the triennial General Convention to vote on major church policies and budgets.

Daily Ministry and Outreach

- * **Community Service:** The congregation drives local outreach, volunteering, and charity work within the wider neighborhood.
- * **Pastoral Care:** Members support one another through visits, prayer chains, and local fellowship groups.

We all have a role in making our parish successful. We all have input and a responsibility for one another. Running a parish is not an easy task for the Rector and Vestry. But we do it collectively and we do what we feel is best in helping to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. That is our primary purpose for existing.

May God continue to guide us all as we move forward!

Blessings,

Jerry+



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.



Armed Forces and Federal Ministries Cycle of Prayer

Armed Forces and Federal Ministries

Under the direction of Bishop Ann Ritonia, Armed Forces and Federal Ministries provides pastoral care and support to members of the military and federal agencies. This week's updates include:

Cycle of Prayer 2026. You can find the complete cycle at www.episcopalchurch.org under Armed Forces and Federal Ministries.

In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, and for the following:

Week of September 6. In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, and for those serving in Alabama at Maxwell Air Force Base, Redstone Arsenal, Fort Rucker, Anniston Army Depot, Federal Correctional Institution Aliceville, and the Birmingham VA Medical Center.

Week of September 13. In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, all our Air Force service members on their 79th birthday, and those serving in Alaska at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Eielson Air Force Base, Fort Wainwright, Clear Space Force Station, and the Anchorage VA Medical Center.

Week of September 20. In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, and for those serving in Arizona at Fort Huachuca, DavisMonthan Air Force Base, Luke Air Force Base, Yuma Proving Ground, Federal Correctional Institution Phoenix, and the Phoenix VA Medical Center.

Week of September 27. In the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries cycle of prayer, we pray for our chaplains, military members, their families, Bishop Ann Ritonia, and those serving in Arkansas at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Camp Robinson, Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Federal Correctional Complex Forrest City, the Fayetteville VA Medical Center, and the Little Rock VA Medical Center.



Please note that the next Healing Services will be held on Friday, September 4, 2026 and Friday, October 2, 2026 at Noon.



Thank you to everyone who hosted coffee hour in August: Diane Stellrecht, Mary Little, Jane Yorks and Dave & Karen Miller. 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 next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 9 am @ Escamilla Amigos, 10006 S. Saginaw St., Holly, MI. Please sign up on the Kiosk.



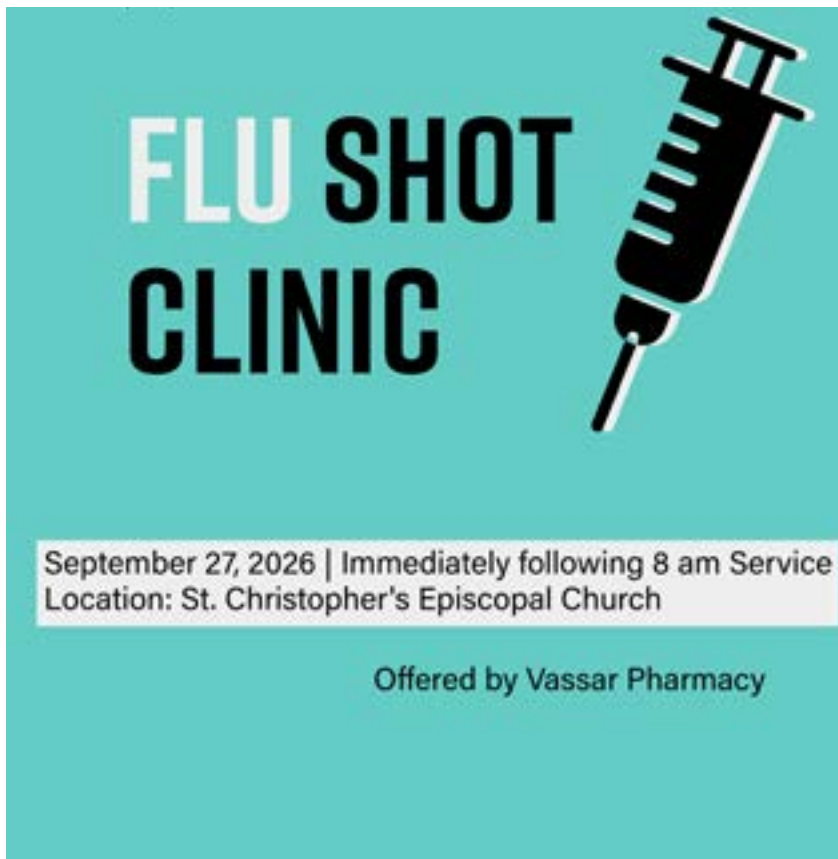
The next Ladies' Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, September 9th at 11:45 am at Brick Street, 1223 E. Grand Blanc Rd., Grand Blanc.

If you plan on attending, please sign up on the kiosk or contact Louise McAra at (810) 287-4334.



Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Annual Food Distribution...will be held the third Saturday of each month, May through October located at 7234 Fenton Road, Grand Blanc. There are no specific income requirements that people have to meet in order to receive food. However, a representative of the household has to be present to receive the food. If you know of anyone in need, please share this information.

If you know of anyone that would like to volunteer to help distribute - they need 40-50 volunteers each distribution. Volunteers should arrive at 8 am and park in the Sikh Temple lot directly south of Holy Spirit. You will be fed lunch following the distribution, which usually concludes around 11 am.



From the Music Room...



Greetings from the Music Room!

Was so thrilled when Father Jerry shared the good news with me, that the choir room was free of mold, and that I am now allowed to resume residency there!

I love that space. I will never forget how the very kind Dr. Charles Safley set me up with my desk; how kindly he explained that he was going to have to drill the lock out of the top drawer, but that the desk would still work! He showed me the heater that it has for those cold winter days, and that all I needed to do was to plug it in and I should be good! Dr. Safley was a wonderful member of the choir and truly did his best to welcome me to St. Christopher. I will always be grateful to him.

Thank you everyone, for your enthusiasm about the vocalists we have had singing over the summer. They have worked very hard, and they really were so happy to get to contribute to our church service vocally. Too, I would like to thank Dr. Carl Angelo for holding down the proverbial fort all summer! Gosh, he is such a terrific player and selects such beautiful repertoire! The closing postlude this week, the Buxtehude Gigue and Fugue in C Major was so fun to get to hear! For those of you who may have been wondering about the person who carries the name 'Buxtehude', well, he was a pretty famous organist/composer in Northern Germany, who greatly influenced Bach, Telemann and Haendel! Should you want to know more about Diderich, catch me at our coffee hour and I will regale you with stories about how he had to marry the daughter of his predecessor at the Marienkirche in Luebeck! True!

As summer wanes and September is approaching, our choir is eagerly preparing to sing the Dirksen "Rejoice Ye Pure In Heart" on September 13th. It will be wonderful having everyone back singing beautifully for our services. And please remember, sing out on our hymns! I want to hear you ---our congregation---our congregational sound! Take a good breath and have at it!

In Christ, I am yours,

Nadja

Graceful Living Event

Enjoy a community gathering to help you or your loved ones live well, plan ahead, and navigate the senior years with confidence!



September 24th

11am-1pm



Please join us on September 24th at St. Christopher's for the Graceful Living Event.

Please RSVP to Angela in the Church Office no later than Thursday, September 17th.

Hope to see you there!





Hello, September!



Worship Leaders for September 2026						
	LECTOR / LEM	GREETERS	TECH	ALTAR GUILD	COFFEE HOUR	ALTAR FLOW- ERS
<u>September 6</u>						
8 am	Nancy Wells (LEM)/ Jane Brewer	Dale & Sharon Rice	-----	-----	Chapin Cook & Ellen Safley	Colleen Shrank
10:15 am	Karen Miller	Jane Yorks & Christine Jacob		Jane Brewer		
<u>September 13</u>						
8 am	Jacob Stuart (LEM)/Susan Armstrong	Neuman & Jan Convis		-----	Available	Neuman & Jan Convis
10:15 am	Frank Burger	Bill Anderson & Mike Latesky		Sharon Rice		
<u>September 20</u>						
8 am	Dave Butler (LEM)/Dave & Melissa Butler	Jane Brewer & Jacob Stuart	-----	-----		Available
10:15 am	Linda Rathburn	Flo Gjerstad & Kim Parker		Cindy Donner	Jeff & Kim Parker	
<u>September 27</u>						
8 am	Nancy Wells (LEM)/Susan Armstrong	Dale & Sharon Rice		-----	Available	Brewer
10:15 am	Ellen Safley	Louise Des- granges & Bill Anderson		Sharon Rice		