



## Christ Episcopal Church

601 East Walnut Street  
Springfield, Missouri 65806  
(417) 866-5133

May 2025

# The Clarion

The Messenger of Good News

[www.christepiscopalchurch.com](http://www.christepiscopalchurch.com)

## From the Queen City to the Golden State: Celebrating Catherine

At the end of this month, we'll be saying goodbye to our brilliant and beloved Organist, Catherine, as she and her husband, Prawal, head off to California to begin an exciting new chapter together. It's a move full of possibilities for them—and while we're thrilled for what lies ahead, we're definitely going to miss her.

Catherine has been with Christ Church since 2017, hired by our former Director of Music, Dr. Allin Sorenson. From her very first Sunday, it was clear: she's the real deal. Whether leading us through a joyful hymn or adding just the right touch of magic to a quiet moment in the service, Catherine brings not just technical skill, but deep musicality and heart to everything she plays. As one parishioner put it: *"When Catherine is playing, our ears are listening and the whole church follows her lead."*



What many folks might not know is just how hard Catherine has worked behind the scenes—not just musically, but academically and professionally. Over the past few years, while never missing a single rehearsal or service, she's been pursuing her RN degree, which she completed with highest honors and flying colors. And if that weren't impressive enough, Catherine has spent many Saturday nights working overnight nursing shifts. That means she clocks out at 7am and comes straight to church to play for our Sunday services. It's the kind of grit and commitment that leaves you in awe. Catherine is, simply put, a force.

And beyond the music? Catherine's been a joy to work with. As a conductor, having an organist who just *gets it*—who can anticipate, adapt, and elevate what we do together—is a dream. That's been our partnership from day one. We've shared a lot of laughter, a lot of coffee-fueled rehearsals, and more than a few "Did you read my mind just now?" moments. It's been a collaboration I'll always treasure.

The kids have loved her too—whether she was accompanying the St. Cecilia Choir or encouraging young singers during rehearsals, she's been a steady and supportive presence for our youngest musicians. Her kindness and professionalism have left an impression on all of us. Another parishioner put it perfectly: *"I always know when Catherine is gone. She never misses a beat."* One musician recalls Catherine as *"...an exceptionally generous and gifted soul..."*

*Continue on pg. 2*

### Online Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning live at 10 a.m.  
on our Facebook and YouTube Channel  
(search Christ Church Springfield, MO)

### In-Person Worship

Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist Rite I at  
8 a.m. and Rite II at 10 a.m.

Thursday Evening Holy Eucharist Rite II  
at 5:30 p.m. (with Healing Service the last  
Thursday of the month)

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.  
(Closed for lunch 12 p.m.-1 p.m.)



*To know Christ and to make Christ known.*



We'd love for you to help us send Catherine off in style. **Join us in the Parish Hall after the 10am service on Sunday, May 18th for *Third Sunday Brunch*** that includes some cake, hugs, and a whole lot of gratitude!

As we prepare for this transition, we want to assure the congregation that plans for our next Organist are already underway, and we look forward to sharing those details with you very soon.

Catherine, thank you—for the music, the teamwork, the early mornings, and the countless ways you've enriched this community. California is lucky to have you, and we can't wait to see where your journey takes you and Prawal next.

*Humbly submitted by  
Kenny Kabak  
Director of Youth & Music Ministries*

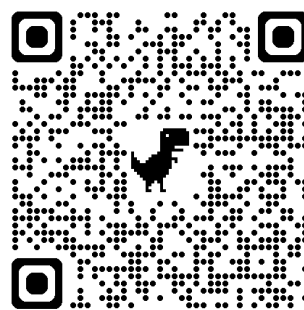
## Ordination of Bishop-elect Amy Dafler Meaux

On May 3, 2025, Bishop-elect Amy Dafler Meaux will be ordained as the IX Bishop of The Diocese of West Missouri. The service will be held at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City at 10 a.m., with overflow seating available in Founders' Hall. The Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe will administer Communion in Founders' Hall. After the service there will be a reception. If you registered, don't forget to attend!



## New Bishop Welcome Reception

Join The Diocese of West Missouri here at Christ Episcopal Church at 11 a.m. on May 10 for a reception celebrating Bishop-elect Amy Dafler Meaux's ordination. Food and refreshments will be provided. [Scan the QR code to register by May 1.](#) We hope to see you there!



**New Bishop Reception Registration**

## Mitre for Bishop-elect Amy



**Donate for Mitre Here**

The Diocese of West Missouri is accepting donations to the IX Bishop Gifts Funds. Christ Church is sponsoring the mitre which will be presented to her at her ordination. [Scan the QR Code to donate](#) (scroll down, click the "Donate" button, and select "mitre") or send a check made payable to The Diocese of West Missouri to 420 W.14th St. Kansas City, MO. Include "IX Bishop Gifts" in the memo.

## Recognition Sunday

Join us at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, May 11th where we will recognize our students and graduates! If your child (or you!) is graduating from 3rd Grade, high school/university, please let us know so that we can include you/them in our celebrations that morning. You can email Raisa at [frontoffice@christepiscopalchurch.com](mailto:frontoffice@christepiscopalchurch.com), Kenny Kabak at [kennykabak1@gmail.com](mailto:kennykabak1@gmail.com), or Val Paulette at [val@christepiscopalchurch.com](mailto:val@christepiscopalchurch.com).



## Ascension Day Eucharist

Please join us on Thursday, May 29th at 5:30 p.m. for Rite II Holy Eucharist as we celebrate one of the major feast days in our liturgical calendar year. This important day marks the ascension of Christ into heaven. We hope to see you there!



## May Outreach: Sun Protection

The Red Bag focus for May is providing sun protection for our unhoused neighbors.

The Outreach committee is looking toward to the needs of families that are unsheltered in the hot summer months to come. As we walk into summer, the sun protection needs we take for granted can be difficult for the most vulnerable among us to acquire. As we demonstrate our faith through action, we want to be able to provide the following items to our neighbors when needed:

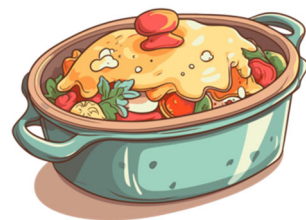
- Baseball Caps
- Wide Brim Hats
- Hats for Children
- Sunscreen SPF 15 or higher
- Bug Spray
- Unisex Sunglasses
- Children's Sunglasses
- Cooling Towels
- Reusable Water Bottles
- Umbrellas
- Chapstick



If you are interested in the Outreach Committee & want to be a part of this rewarding group, please join us at our meeting at the church on the first Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m. We would love to see you there!

*Respectfully submitted by Edith Van Hoesen*

**Helping Hands Casseroles:** Would you like to lend a Helping Hand? As a part of the Hospitality Committee, we make and freeze delicious casseroles that we take to members of the church who have had a surgery, an illness, a baby, or for any other occasion that would warrant a "helping hand" by not having to fix a main course for dinner. Call the church office at 417-866-5133 or Mary Kay at 417-860-6148 to let us know if you or a friend could use a casserole. If you would be interested in delivering a casserole and visiting with the recipient, it would be very meaningful. Our freezer is stocked and there are no needs too small, so please don't hesitate to reach out.



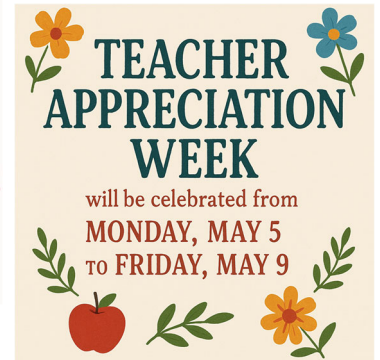
**Seniors at the Symphony:** Springfield Symphony Orchestra's newest outreach program brings residents aged 60 and up of senior communities and facilities to the symphony hall with discounted tickets for seats at the Orchestra Level. Free transportation can be provided for a minimum of 4 people within the Springfield location, though one can always be their own transport. Before a classical concert, folks may enjoy cheese, wine and crackers at the seniors' pre-concert mixer. Call (417) 864-6683 with any questions. Seniors can now attend the symphony with ease and enjoy live music with an excited crowd!

**Chat with a Priest:** Interested in having a meaningful conversation in a relaxed setting? Meet Mtr. Katherine at Potter's House near campus every Thursday from 1:30-4:30 pm, ready to chat about anything and everything. Whether you're curious about faith, The Episcopal Church, seeking advice, or just want to talk about life over a cup of coffee, this is the perfect opportunity. No pressure, no preaching – just a friendly conversation with someone who genuinely cares. Come join her and bring your questions, thoughts, and friends!





- |                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Charlie Bare             | 14 Richard Reynolds |
| 1 Riley Talbot             | 15 Mike Stevens     |
| 2 Gary Loyd                | 16 Patsy Scott      |
| 2 Kenneth White            | 16 Nicholas Larsen  |
| 3 Bob Johnson              | 16 Ethan Luke       |
| 5 Wally Munden             | 16 Liam Forbes      |
| 5 Amy Hoge                 | 17 Kathy Munsey     |
| 6 Brock Smith              | 17 Lindy Cronkhite  |
| 7 Kai Ruff                 | 17 Poppy Cronkhite  |
| 8 Courtney Heinlein        | 20 Leigh Ann Garza  |
| 8 Anne Dunn                | 20 Melissa Guldin   |
| 11 Michael Long            | 22 Cathy Long       |
| 11 Philip Robertson        | 23 Lauren McNew     |
| 11 Cody Elkins             | 25 Bobbie Donnell   |
| 14 Edna Johnson            | 26 Alice Scott      |
| 14 The Rev. John Steinberg | 28 Chris Stovall    |
|                            | 30 Mary Mills       |



Join the 30 Plus or Minus group for our final event of the program year! We will gather at Where House Bar (located inside the Metro Eats Farmers Market and Food Truck Park) on May 16th from 5:30-8pm. Join us before we say "see you later" for the summer months!



In May, the Women's Fellowship group will join the Garden Guild in celebrating Cinco Di Mayo on Sunday, May 4, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in the garden. Please sign up on the bulletin board so they know how many to expect.



The Men's Fellowship evening for the month will be held on Thursday, May 29th at the Moxy rooftop bar (located 430 South Avenue) from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Please contact Tracy Hall at [TracyHall.BSAE@gmail.com](mailto:TracyHall.BSAE@gmail.com) with any questions. See you then!

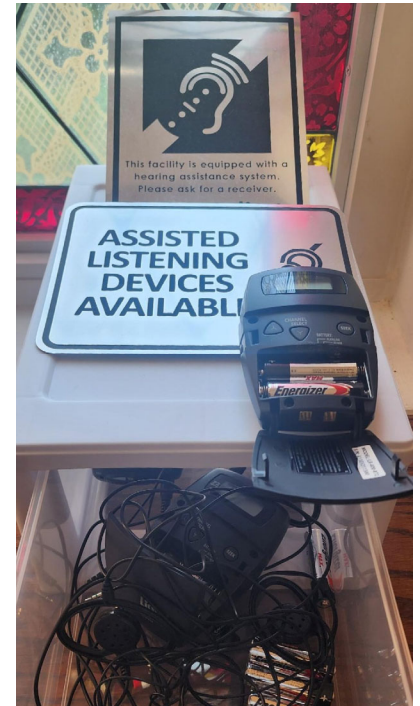


## Trouble Hearing? Our Hearing Devices May Help

For our members who may be hearing impaired, I wanted to take a moment and remind you of something that could help. At the back of the Nave, and just before you enter the side doors, we have two plastic containers full of our Listen devices. These radio devices are synced with our sound system and may help you better hear the services.

In the containers, there are batteries and over-the-ear headphones you can use. You are welcome to bring your own set of headphones to use as well. Simply place a set of batteries inside the front of the device and turn the volume wheel to the right to turn the device on. If you need help, please ask one of our parishioners, ushers, or our sexton Will to assist. When finished, please remove the batteries (so they don't corrode the Listen devices) and place them back in one of the plastic containers when finished. I would be curious to know if these devices help and would appreciate your feedback. Please let me know by emailing me at [franz@christepiscopalchurch.com](mailto:franz@christepiscopalchurch.com) or call 417-866-5133.

*Submitted by Franz Ginsberg  
Director of Operations*



## Christ Church Directory Now Available

If you haven't got your copy yet or seen our recent announcement, I am pleased to announce that the church directory is finally complete. Copies of the 2025 directory can be found in the gathering room at Christ Church. Many of you have waited very patiently with few updates, and I apologize for the lack of communication. This proved to be more challenging than anticipated, with much trial and error. I was hesitant to give update and completion dates due to the challenges, and did not want to over-promise and under deliver.



The 2025 Directory was created in-house, and now that we have a template, future directories can be done more frequently and quickly. Additionally, I am working on a digital directory for Realm (our church database, giving platform, and app) and will provide an update once it is completed.

Lastly, if you find any errors or information that needs to be updated in the directory, please email corrections to [franz@christepiscopalchurch.com](mailto:franz@christepiscopalchurch.com) so they can be fixed for the next batch of printing. Thank you all so much for your patience, and we hope you enjoy the 2025 Christ Church Directory!

*Submitted by Franz Ginsberg  
Director of Operations*

### Vestry 2025

Kris Wolford, *Sr. Warden*

Kenny Ross, *Jr. Warden*

Julia Taylor, *Secretary*

Kathy Alexander

Austin Boyland

Jenny Edwards

Ben Fisher

Nancy Hopkins

Mary Luke

Evelyn Mangan

Frank Miller

Kathy Sheppard

### Staff

The Rev. Joe Behen, *Rector*

The Rev. Katherine Mansfield,

*Associate Rector*

Mary Christiano, *Handbell Choir Director*

Franz Ginsberg, *Director of Operations*

Jennifer Hendrickson, *Director of Finance*

Raisa Hurtado-Netzer,

*Office and Communications Coordinator*

Kenny Kabak,

*Director of Music and Youth Ministries*

Tom Killingsworth, *Treasurer*

Val Paulette, *Children's Ministry Coordinator*

Catherine Thapa, *Organist*

Will Rohrer, *Sexton*

Stephanie Stolle, *Nursery*

Mary Ellen Chiles, *Nursery*

# NEXT TO NEW

416 SOUTH KIMBROUGH  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

*Gently Loved Fashions for Ladies and Gents*

**SHOP. STYLE. DONATE.**

Next to New is accepting your gently loved hats, caps, belts, scarves, jewelry, wallets, purses, and tote bags. Spring and summer clothing is currently welcome as well! Come see us Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Questions? Please call 417-862-7708. Many thanks for your continued enthusiastic support.



## Cinco de Mayo Party

Garden guild will host a Cinco de Mayo Eve party on Sunday, May 4th in the garden from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Come enjoy sangria, margaritas and yummy Mexican dishes; not just chips and dips. There will be festive décor, so come celebrate!



ArtsFest is happening Saturday-Sunday, May 3-4. There will be additional traffic around the church, so plan accordingly. Our Youth Group will be hosting their annual parking lot fundraiser; please consider coming out and supporting our Youth Group. For more information, please contact Kenny Kabak at [kennykabak1@gmail.com](mailto:kennykabak1@gmail.com).

PRESENTED BY GREAT SOUTHERN BANK  
ON HISTORIC WALNUT STREET

MAY 3-4, 2025 10AM - 5PM  
TICKETS \$5 - KIDS 5 & UNDER FREE



## SCAMMER ALERT!!

We have received a number of calls reporting a suspicious text message from an unknown number claiming to be Fr. Joe Behen. He has not sent out any mass messages at this time. If you receive a text or email from an unknown number or email address, DO NOT RESPOND. You can always call the church at 417.866.5133 and we will confirm with you if a message from one of our staff members is real or not. Thank you to those who have reached out and made us aware of this issue.



## Save the Date for VBS 2025!

Christ Church will host Waves of Gratitude—a 2 day Vacation Bible School Program created by United Thank Offering. This will take place on Thursday, July 10 and Friday, July 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Children ages 4-5th grade are invited to join us for an ocean-themed program focused on gratitude through a biblical lens. We will have water activities, crafts, music, movement, STEAM projects, and we hope to wrap up Friday with a field trip! More details and registration info to come soon, Please email Val at [val@christepiscopalchurch.com](mailto:val@christepiscopalchurch.com) with questions.

## third SUNDAY BRUNCH

This May, we will be having a *Third* Sunday Brunch on May 18th. This brunch will be in honor of our organist, Catherine Thapa, as we wish her farewell. Please join in the parish hall after the 10 a.m. service for food and fellowship. If you would like to bring a brunch dish to share please contact Kathy Sheppard at [kathy-sheppard1950@gmail.com](mailto:kathy-sheppard1950@gmail.com).