

ST. JUDE JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 2026

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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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Parish Office

526-221-2505

Mon.-Thu.

9:30am-1:30pm

* * *

HEALING SERVICE 2nd WED

11:00 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 A.M. HE

10:15 A.M. HE



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Parish,

Welcome back! I hope these past weeks have brought moments of rest, renewal, and time with those you love. As we return from summer rhythms and step into a new program year, I am filled with gratitude for the life we share as a parish and with excitement for all that is ahead.

There is a wonderful energy around the church right now. Worship continues to be the heart of who we are, drawing us together Sunday by Sunday to hear God's Word, break bread, pray for one another, and be sent back into the world in love. Around that center, so much is beginning again: formation opportunities, ministries of service and care, fellowship gatherings, outreach, and

the many quiet acts of faithfulness that make this community a sign of Christ's welcome.

If you have been away for a while, please know how glad we will be to see you. If you are new, curious, or still finding your way, there is a place for you here. And if you have been faithfully present through every season, thank you for the steady gifts of your prayers, presence, and service.

In the coming weeks, I encourage you to look for ways to reconnect and participate. Come to worship. Invite a friend or neighbor. Join a ministry. Try out an offering. Share your gifts. Reach out to someone you have missed. Our common life grows stronger when each of us brings who we are and what God has given us.

Most of all, I pray that this season will be one of deepening faith, renewed hope, and generous love. God is at work among us — in our worship, in our conversations, in our service, and in the new beginnings that come when we open ourselves to the Holy Spirit.

Welcome back to church. I am grateful to walk this road with you, and I look forward to all that God will do in and through us in the days ahead.

Faithfully,
Mo. Jimmie Sue



VESTRY VIEWS by Alan Hecht



Over the years, many people have asked me, “What, exactly, are the responsibilities of the Vestry?” This is an excellent question and is one that requires a good deal of thought and reflection.

From an historical perspective, for many centuries, in the absence of an incorporated city or town council, the Vestries were the sole local government and presided over communal fundraising and expenditure until the mid or late 19th century under local established Church chairmanship.

They were concerned with the spiritual and physical welfare of parishioners and their parish amenities, both secular and religious, by collecting local taxes and taking responsibility for functions such as the care of the poor, the maintenance of roads, minor law enforcement, civil registration, and maintenance of the church building.

Our Vestry is basically responsible for pretty much the same thing. We meet monthly to discuss an agenda that covers a variety of issues which includes outreach to the needy, building maintenance (an ongoing responsibility), a Treasurer’s report (that covers a number of assets and liabilities), a Rector’s report and a host of other items that are actually similar to those mentioned above.

During the Tudor period (1485–1603), parish Vestries were given increased statutory duties: for example, the compulsory parish register of baptisms, marriages and burials was introduced in 1538, and under the Highways Act of 1555, the Vestries became responsible for the upkeep of roads in the parish. Of course, our church is only responsible for the upkeep of our parking lot and the entry and exit roadways. A necessary task, nonetheless.

So, over the centuries, the task of running the church has fallen on the elected members of the Vestry. We take our duties very seriously and endeavor to serve the Parish in any way that we can. We are always here for you and welcome your input and suggestions at any time.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Treasurer's Report: Brian presents updated Treasurer's Report.

- Motion to accept Treasurer's Report. **Unanimous approval.**

Business:

- Liaison reports where given, asked CAP to conduct drills outside because Parish Hall floors are starting to look rough.

Action Item:

- N/A.

Rector's Report:

- I made pastoral care calls and visits.
- Fr. Jiha Lim will be covering Sunday services on August 23rd.
- I will be attending the Diocesan Clergy Luncheon with the Presiding Bishop.
- I will be attending Bishop-Elect Shoemaker's consecration.



TREASURER'S REPORT By Brian Quinn

- July Net Operating Income deficit of **\$2,887**
 - 3 Payrolls
- July YTD Net Income deficit of **\$21,363**
 - Last year was a deficit of \$30,586 at this same time
- July YTD Net Income deficit of **\$45,287**
- Pledge status:
 - Pledge ahead of Finance Committee target as \$145,227 thru July projected would be \$143,373
 - May only \$17k and June only \$12k pledge dollars
- Investment Fund increased to \$128,796
- Reporting clarification
 - Candles donations are under Line Item 200 Altar Donations (\$420 YTD)
 - Flowers are also under Line Item 200 Altar Donations
- Flower expenses under Line Item 050 Worship both checks to Florist and to any Flower Guild team member if a requisition form is submitted

JUNE 2026 Financial Summary



	Yearly	Jun Actuals
Operating Income	312,120	155,587
Altar Donations	3,813	1,768
Special Offerings	3,490	1,598
Miscellaneous Contributions	21,740	3,061
Building Use	1,300	1,000
Outreach & Mission Income	4,100	4,309
Total Income	346,563	167,323
Expense		
Worship	4,493	3,098
Formation	870	35
Outreach & Mission	30,180	15,975
Stewardship	2,690	1,349
Hospitality	1,000	0
Building Maintenance	53,010	32,648
Rectory Maintenance	9,525	5,834
Loans and Bank Fees	200	94
Office & Office Supplies	9,955	4,495
Insurance	39,871	14,092
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,300	439
Personnel	214,582	106,554
Total Expense	370,146	184,613
Surplus/(Deficit)	(23,583)	(11,791)



The Church of St. Jude's Country Fair

SEPTEMBER: It Takes a Village: Volunteer Roles at the Country Fair

Behind every great community event is a team of people who show up, roll up their sleeves, and make it happen. Our St. Jude Country Fair is no different. In fact, it is one of the finest examples of what this parish can do when we work together — and we need you to be part of that team this November.

There is truly a role for everyone. Whether you're a natural organizer, love working with children, prefer being behind the scenes, or just want to spend a few hours helping out, we have a place for you. Volunteer opportunities include: setup and breakdown, games and activities, children's crafts, baking, making homecooked meals, welcoming guests, and cleanup crew. No special skills are required — just a willing spirit and a friendly smile.

Volunteering at the fair is also a wonderful way to include the whole family. Many parents bring their older children and teenagers, who gain valuable experience serving their community. If your child's school requires community service hours, our fair coordinator can provide documentation.

Get Involved

Volunteer Sign-Up or Questions: See Barbara Thompson

Community Service Hours: Available for students — ask Jenn Garbowski



HEALING SERVICES



11:00 am to 11:30 am Healing Service will be on Wednesday, September 16th in the Chapel with Ken Norian and Chris Vanenburg.

CONVERSATION & DINNER: SEPTEMBER 16th



The idea is to get together and have conversations. The format is simple: food, conversation, and God. Come bring your questions (and not too worry – I'll have questions at the ready), your curiosity, and pull up a chair. Be ready to engage with people of varying religious and philosophical perspectives and life experiences. You'll be able to share your own wrestlings and thoughts while learning something new along the way.

Location: Miller's Ale House located at [3046 Hempstead Tpke. Levittown, NY 11756](#)

Time: 7:00pm

Date: Wednesday, September 16



WEDNESDAY EVENING HEALING EUCHARIST

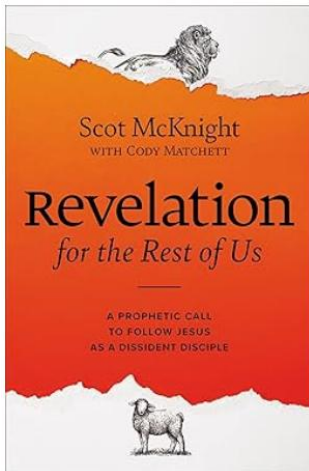


As Episcopalians we view the Eucharist itself as medicine for the soul, and combining it with healing prayer, forms an holistic approach to pastoral care and wholeness.

We will be trying out holding monthly Healing Services. The first two dates set are: September 9th & October 14th in the Chapel at 7:30pm.



BIBLE STUDY - THE BOOK OF REVELATION



What the book is about:

"The last book of the Bible frustrates and frightens many people with its imagery and apocalyptic tone. In *Revelation for the Rest of Us*, Scot McKnight with Cody Matchett explore the key message of Revelation and how it:

- Calls us to be faithful and hopeful witnesses to Jesus.
- Stimulates our imagination to see the world through the eyes of God and excite our faith.
- Challenges us to stand against the militarism, economic exploitation, oppression, and injustice of worldly authorities.

McKnight addresses the popular misconceptions about the book, explaining what John means in his use of the images of dragons, lambs, and beasts; and how the symbolism of Revelation

spoke in the days of Rome and still speaks powerfully to the present day — though not in the way most people think.”

DETAILS:

- We'll meet on the following Wednesday Evenings at 7:30pm via Zoom
 - September 23rd + October 21st + November 18th
- Before our first meeting please read Part 1: Reading Revelation as if for the First Time
- At the September meeting we will discuss the pace with which we want to read and discuss this book together.

Zoom Link for the Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88271703032?pwd=dG6awFH5rUdhNjE0kTf7kOWK2Y1da.1>

Meeting ID: 882 7170 3032

Passcode: 051385



SUNDAY SCHOOL by Barbara Arnold

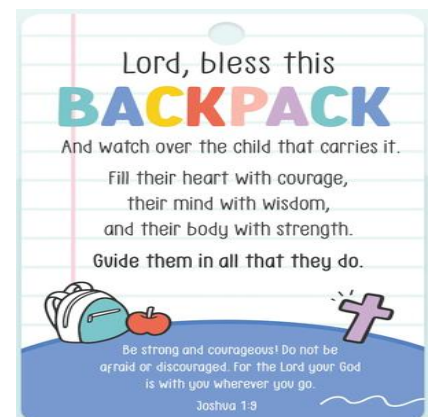
Registration is open!

Sunday School: Prek-8th grade

Confirmation: 8th-12th grade

Join us on September 13th as we celebrate the start of the school year with blessing of the backpacks, meet and greet with teachers and the

parish picnic. We hope to see you there.



Register at: <https://forms.gle/YzxFm1hNhgRQ8Zwu5>

or scan the QR code:



Vacation Bible School – How it Went

This July our Vacation Bible School was filled with faith, fellowship, learning, and fun as children and families came together to grow in God's love. We are especially grateful for our young people who stepped forward in leadership, serving with enthusiasm, responsibility, and hearts willing to make a difference. With the engaging theme of the Knights of North Castle, our registration was the highest recorded in several years.

Our VBS staff is incredible! Thank you to all of the staff for all of your hard work, time and contributions that have helped VBS continue to grow. Our new music station was very successful. This year we even impressed Sandra Senior, Episcopal Ministries of Long Island, during her tour of our program.

During VBS our knights took on the mission of collecting schools supplies. We were able to support students in our community as they prepare for the new school year and were blessed to have collected over 600 items and filled 85 backpacks with the help of VBS families, St. Jude and also the Coach Doc Summer Ball Training Academy. The Little League team brought donations, helped pack backpacks, and wrote back to school letters for each of the recipients. We appreciate their support and efforts to make such a positive impact on the community.

We look forward to seeing you "On the Boardwalk" next year: July 5-9, 2027.

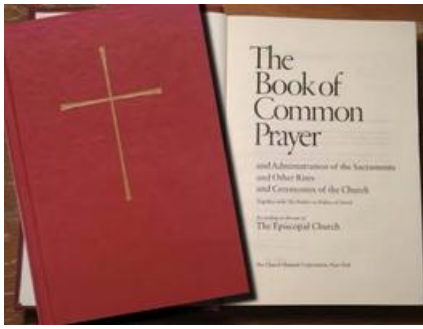
Thank you!

Barbara Arnold

PICTURES ARE ON PAGE 18



WHY WE HAVE A PRAYER BOOK



Have you ever reached for the Book of Common Prayer on a Sunday and wondered where it came from or why it's shaped the way it is. Starting this month, our newsletter is going to slow down and look closer, using as our guide one of the finest resources any Episcopalian can own: Marion J. Hatchett's *Commentary on the American Prayer Book*, first published in 1980.

Hatchett taught liturgics and church music for decades at the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and served on the Standing Liturgical Commission that produced our current 1979 Book of Common Prayer. Few people alive have understood the "why" behind our worship better than he did, and his *Commentary* remains a standard reference in Episcopal seminaries — walking through the prayer book page by page, tracing each rite back through its historical sources.

Our prayer book has a long lineage. Thomas Cranmer compiled the first English Book of Common Prayer in 1549, distilling centuries of Latin monastic and Mass texts into services people could pray in their own language. A revision followed in 1552, and the book settled into something close to its lasting English form in 1662 — the version still authorized in the Church of England today.

The American story branches off after the Revolution. Freed from ties to the Church of England, American Episcopalians assembled their own prayer book in 1789, shaped partly by the Scottish Episcopal Church, whose bishops had consecrated Samuel Seabury as the first American bishop in 1784 after the Church of England initially declined to do so. That Scottish influence — especially in the shape of the eucharistic prayer — still marks our worship today. (NOTE: Further American revisions followed in 1892, 1928, and finally 1979, the book most of us hold in the pew rack now.)

It helps to remember that the prayer book was never meant to be a rulebook so much as a school of prayer. An old Latin phrase sums up the idea: *lex orandi, lex credendi* — the law of praying is the law of believing. What we pray, Sunday after Sunday, quietly forms what we believe. That's really the whole reason this book has been fought over, revised, and cherished for nearly 500 years: it isn't just describing our faith, it's shaping it.

Over the coming twelve months we'll open a different door — the daily rhythm of Morning and Evening Prayer, the shape of the church year, the collects, the Eucharist, and the rites that mark our lives from the font to the grave. Keep your prayer book handy; you may find yourself reaching for it differently by next August.



HOSPITALITY REPORT By Kathy Hecht

Many thanks to Lauren and Andrea and the Hospitality Committee members – Pam, Madeline, Jane and Rich - who hosted Coffee Hour during July. Christmas in July was a festive day to gather, share treats and fellowship and enjoy the Christmas spirit.

Thanks also to all those who volunteered to host in August. September 6th still needs a host for Coffee Hour.

Mass-on-the-Grass and the End-of-Summer Picnic are just around the corner on **September 13th**. As usual, the church will provide meats and meat substitutes for the grill, charcoal, paper goods etc.

Sign-up sheets for hands-on volunteers and food donations will be on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall in mid-August. Volunteers are especially needed for set-up and **clean-up** (particularly packing up left overs) Thank you in advance for volunteering 😊

After so many years of devotion to St. Jude, our beloved Deacon Walter will be retiring. On **September 20th**, during Coffee Hour, we will celebrate Walter in thanks for all the years he has given us. Mark it on your calendar and please be there.

We hope you're enjoying your summer. See you in September..



If you would like to host a Coffee Hour and haven't before, Amy will host with you 😊 Also, it's absolutely okay to Host with a friend or as a group 😊



MASS ON THE GRASS – SEPTEMBER 13TH

The 10:15am Sunday Service will be held in the Rectory backyard. Seating provided, and/or you're welcome to bring your own chair. The 8am Sunday Service will be held in the Church.

PARISH PICNIC – SEPTEMBER 13TH



St. Jude's End-of-Summer Picnic will be held on SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 following Mass-on-the-Grass on the rectory lawn.

Burgers, hot dogs, charcoal, etc. will be provided by St. Jude. There will be sign-up sheets for Volunteer help and donations of drinks, rolls, side dishes, desserts and ice outside the Parish Hall in mid-late August. A Picnic donation jar will be available during Coffee Hours before the day of the picnic.

Don't miss the opportunity to have Fun, Food and Fellowship with your parish family.

Kathy Hecht is coordinating the picnic. Jon Mortagua is coordinating Mass-on-the-Grass.

Both leaders need volunteers to help. If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate person.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



All animals welcome! On Sunday, October 4th at 3pm we will be outside in the parking lot, or inside the Parish Hall depending on the weather.

Parishioners and guests, please have your animal on a leash or in a crate, and we will bless our animals as they bless us with their love and companionship. People are also welcome to

bring photos of their animals for a blessing too.

ST. JUDE'S SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM



The Social Justice Team looks for ways to support our immigrant and marginalized neighbors. It was inspired by watching how communities came together peacefully to protect their neighbors in Chicago, Minneapolis and Portland. It's been a challenge to find practical ways to help but let's put our heads together and take a fresh look at these needs and issues.

If you are available and interested our next meeting will be

during coffee hour in the Chapel on September 6th.



THANK YOU'S



- Thank you in advance to everyone who brought food to share, donated food items, AND help with setup and cleanup for the Parish Picnic!
- Thank you to our Church School Teachers!
- Thank you, always, to everyone who has hosted and who has signed up to host a Coffee Hour!



ST. JUDE'S LGBTQAI+ GROUP

What our group is about



We get together for discussions and events celebrating, discussing, and helping each other complete the connection between God and the LGBTQAI+ community in the Church.

If anyone would like to be added to the LGBTQAI+ emailing list, Facebook group or if you have any questions about our group, feel free

to contact Mo. Jimmie Sue.

Remember ALL are welcome, the A stands for Ally! You are already a member of our group if you are a member of St. Jude's welcoming community of faith!



MISSION CENTER



The Little Red Barn at St. Jude continues to serve many families each week. Thank you to everyone who has donated and continues to donate! The families were so happy to receive the school backpacks we distributed!

While we currently have plenty of certain items, we often run out of the following **NEEDED ITEMS:**

Diapers sizes 5, 6 & 7; individual 1lb bags of rice; pasta sauce; yellow Enfamil; individually wrapped school snacks; individual juice boxes; shelf stable milk such as Parmalat; shampoo for adults and children/babies; sanitary napkins; household cleaning supplies.

DATES OPEN: We are open every other Sunday as follows: 9/6/26; 9/20/26; 10/4/26; 10/18/26. **Fresh fruits and veggies can be donated at church on those days.**

If you would like to volunteer please contact Barbara or Patty. Your generosity is so greatly appreciated!! Sincerely, Barbara Rice Thompson and Patty Doll.



CLOTHING COLLECTION BIN



We collect used clothing and shoes in our Collection Bin. None of the donations are made into rags. Also, St. Jude's receives ten cents per pound of any items donated. Please share about our Clothing Collection Bin with your family and friends 😊



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- Office Closed – September 7
- Healing Service with Eucharist in the Chapel – September 9, 7:30pm
- **Mass on the Grass & Parish Picnic – September 13**
- Healing Service in the Chapel – September 16, 11am
- Conversation & Dinner @ Miller's Ale House – September 16, 7pm
- Dcn. Walter's Retirement Luncheon – September 20
- Revelation for the Rest of Us (Zoom) – September 23, 7:30pm
- October Journal Deadline – September 21

FIND ST. JUDE'S ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram: search for @stjudeepiscopal

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StJudeWantagh/>

YouTube: Search for @stjudeepiscopal

<https://www.youtube.com/@stjudeepiscopal>

A simple way to boost our online presence is to like and share all the wonderful events and pictures we post. Please consider giving us a "like" and a "follow".

CHURCH OFFICE CORNER

2026 Sanctuary Lamps/ Altar Flowers (Live or silk)/ Altar Candles / Mass Cards signup is online or call the office: <https://forms.gle/Q7DqqaCHm5LrvLFX6>

Please print the name of the individual(s) you wish to remember or honor. If looking for a whole month, please choose the month-long option; or for a specific date choose this instead. Please make a new form for each month (all December on one form) or choose a specific Sunday.

FROM YOUR EDITORS

If you would like to write an article, please contact Mo. Jimmie Sue. If you know someone who would like a copy, please contact Sue Heilig.



THE BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano

THE BISHOP-ELECT

The Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker

THE RECTOR

The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe

WARDENS

Charles Garbowski (2028)	Alan Hecht (2027), Clerk
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VESTRY

Michael Nersesian (2028)	Adrienne Comito (2028)
June Gerbracht (2027)	Maria Smith (2029)
Jon Mortagua (2029)	Janine Scarlatos (2027)
Laura Anne Loud (2027)	Lauren Wangner (2029)
Ken Norian (2028)	Brian Quinn, Treasurer

STAFF

Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Walter H. Fuller
Music Director: Shira Fishkin
Parish Administrator: Susan Heilig
Sunday School Coordinator: Barbara Arnold



Office is Closed for Labor Day

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8am Worship 10:15am Worship	31 CAP P.H. 7pm	1 AA 7:30pm	2	3 AA 7:30pm	4 9:30am Mice Makers AA 7:00pm in Chapel	5
6 8am Worship 10:15am Worship	7 CAP P.H. 7pm	8 AA 7:30pm	9 7:30pm Healing Service w/Eucharist in Chapel	10 AA 7:30pm	11 9:30am Mice Makers AA 7:00pm	12
13 8am Worship 10:15am Worship 	14 CAP P.H. 7pm	15 AA 7:30pm 7:30pm Vestry Meeting	16 11am Lay led Healing Service - Chapel 7:00pm Conversation & Dinner @ Miller's Ale House	17 AA 7:30pm	18 9:30am Mice Makers AA 7:00pm	19 Consecration of our 9 th Bishop!
20 8am Worship 10:15am Worship START OF SUNDAY SCHOOL  Dcn. Walter's Retirement Luncheon	21 CAP P.H. 7pm Journal Deadline	22 AA 7:30pm	23 7:30pm Book of Revelation on Zoom	24 AA 7:30pm	25 9:30am Mice Makers AA 7:00pm	26
27 8am Worship 10:15am Worship	28 CAP P.H. 7pm	29 AA 7:30pm	30	1 AA 7:30pm	2 9:30am Mice Makers	3

SJ CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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- Dcn. Walter's Retirement Luncheon – September 20
- Revelation for the Rest of Us (Zoom) – September 23, 7:30pm
- October Journal Deadline – September 21

The Church Office is open from 9:30am to 1:30pm, Monday through Thursday; at other times please call the office and leave a message - 516-221-2505. You can always email the office. at SJWantagh1@gmail.com.

CHURCH OF ST. JUDE (EPISCOPAL)

3606 Lufberry Avenue

Wantagh, NY 11793

O: 516-221-2505

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

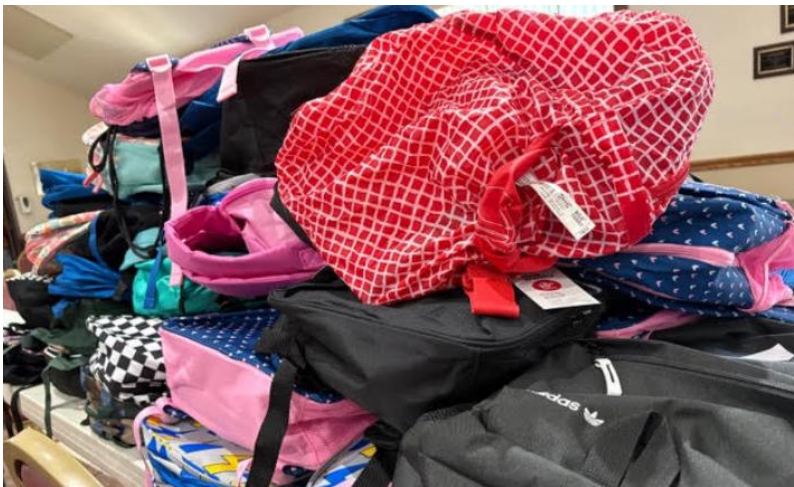
TO:

CELBATING ST. JUDE'S IN PICTURES
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL









NOAH'S BAPTISM

