Stewards of the Story

Dear Friends,

A decade or so ago, Joan Borysenko and Elizabeth Lawrence came to Minnesota to conduct a women’s spirituality weekend. Joan spoke of the importance of storytelling, starting with meditation, journaling and sharing experiences with others.

Back in the very early stages of civilization, before written language—when humans were hunters and gatherers and lived in extended family community or clans, storytelling was essential for survival. During spring, summer and autumn, the community worked long and hard to prepare for survival in winter. When days grew short and there was great darkness, the clan gathered in shelters around a fire to share stories. The young could learn from the elders. The older ones benefited from new adventures of the young. If an individual died without sharing stories, it was a loss to the community because the experiences and insights were lost. They all knew that the survival of the community depended on the values of the young; the young learned from stories. They were stewards of the story of their community.

During the past year, we have heard many stories from the 100-year history of Christ Church. We have indeed seen God’s abundance at work in our congregation! It is a blessing to have these stories because they root us in our history and continually remind us of who we are as a community.

The most exciting and important stories now are the stories, observations and insights of the younger members—stories from Erik, Taylor, Grace, Will and others—because their energy, enthusiasm and commitment will carry the CCL community into the future.

In ancient times, the members of the community huddled closer around the fires while the darkness of the winter increased. They were sharing stories and waiting for the light to return.

During this winter season, we, like ancient people, want to be intentional about sharing our stories of God’s presence in our midst with those around us as we seek warmth from winter’s chill. We have just celebrated the beginning of one of the greatest stories ever told, the story of Jesus Christ. When we gather and share our own stories, as well as the stories of the faith, we, too, become stewards of the story.

Blessings,
Marilu Peters
Stewardship Committee
Contacts and Information

3244 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406-2185

Phone: 612.721.6611
E-mail: mail@christchurchluth.org

Fax: 612.728.0552
Web: http://christchurchluth.org

Office Hours
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday–Friday

Worship
9:30 a.m. each Sunday
Education hour follows at 11:10 a.m.

Contacts
Pastor: Pastor Kristine Carlson
Music: Pastor Robert Buckley Farlee
         Pastor Martin Seltz
Youth: Luann Skrivseth
Office: Stephanie Okoneski
Facilities: Chuck Merrell
Courier: Lynn Larson

Officers
President: Gene Bruss
Vice President: Kevin Olsen
Secretary: Jan Radloff
Treasurer: Melody Pauling

Council
Mission: Brian Odlaug
Property: Gary Gustafson
Stewardship: open
Worship: Erik Haaland
Education: Rita Schoenike
Member-at-large: Dan Mueller

Announcements

Are We Learning Yet?
We are eager to receive your feedback on the adult forum programs. Please complete an adult forum survey and place it in the basket on the back table of the church. Blank surveys are included within the Sunday bulletins through January 15.

Building Tours
Beginning January 2012, docent-led tours of Christ Church will occur the second Sunday of each month, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the courtyard.

Courier Deadline
The next submission deadline is January 15. To submit content, send an e-mail to Jan Radloff at: jan.radloff@mpls.k12.mn.us or give to the church office.
Readings and Psalms

Date: January 1
First Lesson: Num 6:22-27 or
   Isa 61:10—62:3*
   Psalm 8 or 148*
Second Lesson: Gal 4:4-7 or Phil 2:5-11*

Date: January 8—Baptism of Our Lord
First Lesson: Gen 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Date: January 15
First Lesson: 1 Sam 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Second Lesson: 1 Cor 6:12-20
Gospel: John 1:43-51

Date: January 22
First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
Second Lesson: 1 Cor 7:29-31
Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Date: January 29
First Lesson: Deut 18:15-20
Psalm 111
Second Lesson: 1 Cor 8:1-13
Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Date: February 5
First Lesson: Isa 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Second Lesson: 1 Cor 9:16-23
Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

*Please contact the church office about which option will be used.

President’s Message
by Gene Bruss

As I write this note, Christmas will be here in a few days.
I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas. I wish all of you a happy new year!

Our annual congregation meeting will be held Sunday, February 19, at 11:15 a.m. At this meeting, any business which happened in the past year can be brought up.

The synod assembly will be held on February 17 and 18 at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake.
The deadline for early registration is January 5, 2012.
Christ Church Lutheran will be sending two voting members, one male and one female. One youth member of our congregation could also attend.

Thank you to everyone who helped put up our Christmas tree in the sanctuary—Darrell Anderson, Pete Gawreluk, Peter Doll, Clayton Smith, Vicar Will Starkweather and Cathy Sieving.

Thunderous Applause

Special thanks to Mike Jefferis who quietly volunteers his time every week to plan, shop, set up, decorate, clean up, and do the dishes from the Sunday morning coffee cart.
Thank you, Mike, for faithfully caring for us each and every week.

Thank you also to all who donate treats, especially Don Walmann. Anyone is welcome to contribute to the Sunday morning treats. Simply drop off your ready-to-serve food item prior to worship on the cart in the Education Building.
Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Again, thank you Mike from all of us!

Thank You Note

Thank you to the volunteers who organized, prepared, and served our Advent dinners; Joanne Seltz, Erik Haaland and Josh Messner. The 50 weekly attendees enjoyed the time around the table each Wednesday with the delicious meal and wonderful conversations.
If you are not listed here, or, if your birth date is incorrect, please contact the church office.

1/2  Raymond Peters
1/4  LeAnn Marudas, Dylan Larson, Rachel Lokken
1/5  Dorothy Hewitt
1/6  Evelyn Wermager
1/10 Meyer Schoenike, Christian Schoenike
1/18 Amanda Jenkins-Buegel
1/19 Micah Buckley-Farlee
1/20 Daniel Holmgren, Allison Weimer
1/21 Marvel Walmann
1/25 Kylie Tindell
1/26 Caleb Jenkins-Buegel

Retirees

Join us on Wednesday, January 25, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Please check the bulletin for further notice. A potluck lunch will cap off the gathering. Everyone is welcome.

– Bill and Phyllis Dunstone

Isn’t There Anything to Eat?

Christ Church has committed to prepare 13 monthly dinners (January 2012 to January 2013) for eight hungry youth at the Lutheran Social Service (LSS) Safe House in St. Paul.

It is not too difficult to prepare a meal for eight and it is a great joy to serve the community in this manner. However, one can become “over-joyed” by doing it too often, so let’s share the joy and pass it around.

Prepare a meal or deliver it around 7:30 p.m. The meal can be delivered cold; there are some simple guidelines and your expense can be reimbursed.

Our turn to prepare and serve the meal is the second Thursday of each month. The exact dates are: January 12, February 9, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13 and, in 2013, January 10.

To sign up, please contact Mike Jefferis, Mission Committee.

Thank you.

New Members

On December 11, 2011, Christ Church Lutheran received several new members. We welcome:

Norma Hunley
Noah Niermann
Clayton Smith
Jonathan and Carmina Stensland
Bob Victorin-Vangerud
Molly Wright Starkweather

Helping Hands

The complete schedule for the year is posted in the Concordia room. The coordinators are Phyllis Dunstone and Juanita Burke.

January and February 2012

John & Virginia Buegel Lynn Larson
Ted Buegel & Greg & Kay Madson
   Amanda Jenkins-Buegel Cynthia Neubecker
Bob Farlee Kathy & Terry Rong
Carol Flanders Marni Schmidt
Roger & Liz Gomoll Rita & Ken Schoenike
Paul Hanson Cathy Sieving
Committee Reports

Education: Vicar Will will be working out a program for the confirmation student; would like a speaker system (wireless) installed in the upstairs nursery; are planning for the pick-up Christmas pageant.

Mission: Have not met; are continuing their mission of serving meals at Our Saviours Shelter and the Safe House in St. Paul.

Property: Darrell Anderson is requesting $4,200 for engineering and bidding on the elevator project. Having a plan in place would give us three more years to renovate the elevator. Moved by Kevin, second by Dan, that $4200.00 be taken out of the Reaching New Heights money for the elevator project. Motion passed. Gene complimented the Property Board/Darrell Anderson for doing such a great job getting the money within $300 of the matching grant for the tower project.

Stewardship: Grace Duddy and Marilu Peters are making follow-up phone calls to the pledge campaign.

Worship: Have ordered four new albs, using funds from the Worship, Music and Arts trust fund. Are planning for Advent mid-week worship services—theme this year is “All Things New,” based on our new icon.

Council at Large: Visioning planning is moving forward. Had a good adult forum on November 6; received good ideas, which will help to firm up plans for the coming year. Will meet in early December.

Treasurer’s Report: Council members reviewed the January–October 2011 profit & loss budget vs. actual report and the CCL balance sheet as of October 31, 2011. Envelope giving is approximately $22,000 less than we had hoped it would be.

Pastor’s Report (not available)

Vicar’s Report (not available)

Old Business

Preservation, Property Committee and the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran (FCCL) Priority List: Kevin Olsen presented the priority list from the Preservation Committee. The list included major projects, less major projects and special projects. This list gives a sense of what the Preservation Committee is thinking about. It was stated that the committee should be working closely with the Property Board.

Synod Assembly: The synod assembly will be February 17 and 18 at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake. CCL needs two voting members (one male, one female) to attend; we could also send a youth member.

Organ Project: Erik provided copies of the November 8 Organ Committee meeting. They have had communication with Chris Holtkamp and have met with CCL committees; need to think about preliminary fundraising. They will have a presentation at the December 4 adult forum. It was suggested that Pastor Carlson devote time in December to making one-on-one pastoral visits with approximately 20 households to have conversations about the life and vision of CCL and the organ project. This would give us a chance to get feedback from the people and hopefully obtain an informed sense of whether or not the congregation can fund the organ project.

Motion: That Pastor Carlson be released from some of her usual worship duties in December—with volunteers to help cover those duties—to give a portion of her time to making pastoral visits with people interested in the organ project to explore its financial feasibility, with $500 for expenses. Moved by Erik, second by Melody. Motion passed.
Summary of Council Meeting Minutes continued…

### New Business

**2012 Budget:** Kevin distributed copies of the CCL 2012 preliminary budget plan. Four year ago, CCL made a commitment to achieve a balanced budget, hoping for increased giving and a decrease in expenses. This has not happened. There is a sense that envelope giving is down due to the Reaching New Heights Campaign. The 2012 preliminary budget is currently at a $10,000 deficit. Council is giving preliminary approval of the budget; will be worked on by the executive committee before the congregation meeting on December 11.

Kevin would like some money set aside from the endowment interest dedicated for the future and growth. Motion: That money be set aside from the endowment interest targeted for future and growth. Moved by Kevin, second by Rita. Motion passed.

**Nominating Committee:** The committee met last Sunday; members include Lucille Buelow, Jeanne Anderson and Taylor Brorby.

**Announcement:** Melody said that as part of CCL’s 100th anniversary celebration, flowers will be placed on the altar of Trinity First Lutheran Church (our “mother” church). An announcement will be placed in their Sunday bulletin; we will also include an announcement in our bulletin on November 27.

### End of Council Minutes

**Upcoming Adult Forums**

Our focus this winter and into the spring is on reading and interpreting the Bible. God’s word challenges and comforts us and holds our community together. We hope to grow in Christian faith and community through our learning and reflection in these sessions.

**January 8 and 15.** Vicar Starkweather will start us off with a two-session introduction to the Book of Faith materials, a program for reading and interpreting scripture developed by Augsburg Fortress.

**January 22.** Eminent biblical scholar Neil Elliot—a Paul expert and Biblical Studies editor at Fortress Press—will teach us about the many new perspectives on the Apostle in the church and in academia.

**January 29.** We return to the Book of Faith materials with a build-your-own-bible-study session that will help us understand Lutheran methods of interpreting scripture. Scott Tunseth, our guest teacher, is a pastor, biblical scholar and expert developer of Christian education materials.

**February 5.** We conclude our work together with Book of Faith materials and guest speaker Diane Jacobson of Luther Seminary. The Book of Faith family of resources includes many wonderful materials for individual Bible study, some of which will be available free of charge at CCL later in December and through January.
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<td><strong>9:30 AM Eucharist</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:10 AM Education</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Common Committees</td>
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<td>LSS Safe House Meal&lt;br&gt;7:00 PM Choir</td>
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<td>9:30 AM to 12:00 PM Cabin Fever</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day&lt;br&gt;Office Closed</td>
<td>7:00 PM Executive Committee&lt;br&gt;7:30 PM Council</td>
<td>9:00 AM Stationery</td>
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*Good Design is Forever*
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