Summer 2012 Forums Address Same-Sex Marriage

In case you missed it, the following was included in August Sunday bulletins.

Same-sex unions are much in the news these days. As a society, this issue has us deeply divided. Minnesota citizens will soon vote on a constitutional amendment to outlaw same-sex marriage. Yard signs are everywhere. What are we to think of all this? Two summer forums—one past (August 19) and one ahead (September 2) were designed to be opportunities for same-sex couples in our congregation to tell the story of their relationship and to share how they view these partnerships in light of their Christian faith.

Past August 19 Forum: The Story of One “Gay Marriage”

Erik Haaland and Daniel Holmgren met at Saint Olaf College nearly 10 years ago. In June of 2006, they celebrated their commitment to each other with what felt like a big old wedding at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Roseville. They have been members of Christ Church Lutheran since November 2010. Daniel spends his days working for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota in the human resource department. For the last few years, Erik has been finding work as a house painter while seeking a pastoral call in the ELCA. Currently, he also serves as president of our congregation.

September 2 Forum Ahead: Trusting the Heart God Gave Me

Clayton Smith grew up in a Baptist family of four in Atlanta, but quickly found his way to the Lutheran faith after arriving at Saint Olaf College in 2006. Since graduation, Clayton has worked in the development department at the Minnesota Orchestra. He joined the choir at Christ Church Lutheran a year ago and became a member last December. On August 27, Clayton celebrated his two-year anniversary with his boyfriend, Jared. He will share how he has learned to trust his heart when making big life decisions (as big as they get when you’re 24) and how we might all consider our hearts a little more when wrestling with the issue of marriage equality.

Editor’s Reflection

I just finished the novel, The Help, which, if you’re not aware of it, is set in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, telling a story of two black maids and one white socialite who come together to write a book about what it’s like to work as a black maid in white homes. Black people had few rights during that time; Mississippi, like other states, outlawed marriage between a black person and white person. This part of U.S. history seems crazy now, doesn’t it? I can’t help making a comparison to today’s same-sex marriage debate. Down the road, what will we see when looking back to the 2010s?
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.
(excluding summer months)

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

Officers
President: Erik Haaland
Vice President: Kevin Olsen
Secretary: Josh Messner
Treasurer: Melody Pauling

Council
Pat Baehler
Grace Duddy
Michael Jefferis
Dan Mueller
Rita Schoenike

*Next submission deadline for the Courier: September 15
To submit content, e-mail Lynn Larson at: kevlar2955@hotmail.com or give to Stephanie in the church office, who will pass along to Lynn.

Announcements

Retirees
Join us on Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 11:00 a.m. for Bingo. Please bring a wrapped white elephant prize if you have something. A potluck lunch will follow. Everyone is welcome.

– Bill and Phyllis Dunstone

Our Church is on Facebook
Are you one of the 900 million users of the social networking network, Facebook (FB)? We are eager to make a FB connection with you! Find Christ Church Lutheran on Facebook and “like it.”
Readings and Psalms

Date: September 2
First Lesson: Deut 4:1–2, 6-9
Psalm 15
Second Lesson: James 1:17–27
Gospel: Mark 7: 1–8, 14–15, 21–23

Date: September 9
First Lesson: Isa 35:4–7a
Psalm 146
Gospel: Mark 7: 24–37

Date: September 16
First Lesson: Isa 50:4–9a
Psalm 116:1–9
Second Lesson: James 3:1–12
Gospel: Mark 8:27–38

Date: September 23
First Lesson: Jer 11:18–20
Psalm 54
Second Lesson: James 3:13—4:3, 7–8a
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Date: September 30
First Lesson: Num 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29
Psalm 19:7–14
Second Lesson: James 5:13–20
Gospel: Mark 9:38–50

Date: October 7
First Lesson: Gen 2:18–24
Psalm 8
Second Lesson: Heb 1:1–4; 2:5–12
Gospel: Mark 10:2–16

Christ Church Lutheran Receives Preservation Award

Christ Church was recently selected to receive a 2012 Minnesota Preservation Award from the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM). Out of more than 50 nominations, we were one of only 10 to receive an award.

This award honors our tower restoration project in 2011. The jury was very impressed with the collaborative work of the congregation and the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran, the involvement of the wider community, and the potential for our efforts to serve as a model for other organizations.

Todd Mack, of MacDonald & Mack (the architectural firm with whom we worked), submitted our nomination with the help of Will Stark, member of the congregation and Friends Board member. Here is an excerpt from the nomination:

This inspiring collaboration between the Friends and the congregation can serve as a model for other historic sacred places in Minnesota. Further, this specific restoration project is a classic example of behind-the-scenes stewardship, of a collective effort to address many small problems before they grow into big problems in a historic building.

What separates this project from just another maintenance project was the incredible attention to detail and dedication to the value of the historic structure and preservation philosophy from every member of the team, from client to architect to contractor.

Celebration Gala

We will be presented this award and honored at the Minnesota Preservation Gala on Thursday evening, September 20, at the Ford Center.

If you would like to attend, please speak to Pastor Carlson about how to purchase a ticket.
Valparaiso University Chorale Concert

Come hear the Valparaiso University Chorale in concert!

Christ Church will host the Valparaiso University Chorale on Saturday, October 27.

Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary with a reception to follow. The Chorale will join us again Sunday morning for worship. Christ Church is hosting Chorale students Saturday night. If you are able to take two or four students, please contact Josh Messner (jmessner001@luthersem.edu).

Happy Birthday to You!

If you are not listed here, or, if your birth date is incorrect, please contact the church office.

9/2  Julie Parkos
9/4  Scott Schoenike
9/5  Zachary Swanson
9/11 Tyler Larson
9/12 Tim Brandon, Barb Revsbeck
9/14 Prince Faulk, Giselle Schoenike, Will Painter
9/15 Susan Schuett
9/17 Dori Brandon
9/18 Dorothy Koop
9/19 Molly Starkweather
9/20 Brian Woestehoff
9/24 Amanda Gregg, Kathleen Rong
9/26 Kevin Olsen

Death

Long-time CCL member Don Swenson passed away on August 18. His funeral was held August 21 with Pastor Carlson officiating.

Transportation To/From Christ Church

A number of our congregation members receive rides to church from dedicated, volunteer drivers. We are grateful to these drivers for their many years of service. If anyone needs a ride or would be willing to drive occasionally, please contact Bill Dunstone.

Helping Hands

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

September and October 2012

Darrell & Jeanne Anderson  Donna Lindberg
Mary Bode  Josh & Sally Messner
Ben Cherland  Dan & Sharon Mueller
Gary & Stephanie Gustafson  Marilu Peters
Wynn & Marilyn Johnston  Dick Thompson
Jeannette Kretzmann  Marion Williams
Summary of Council Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2012
Tactfully submitted by Josh Messner, council secretary

Committee Reports

Property: Changing phone services; we are improving the quality of service and reducing our monthly phone expenses.

Stewardship: Grace and Will have created a robust stewardship campaign for the fall centered on the idea of generosity.

Organ Task Force: SHPO declined most recent proposal. Feasibility study is arriving this week. Next steps will be discussed soon.

Treasurer’s Report: Income deficit is growing slowly but steadily.

Pastor’s Report

Submitted in writing

Vicar’s Report

Submitted in writing

Business

Vision Implementation Update

- Structure. The mutual ministry proposal is in revisions and a new proposal will come after further discussion.
- FIGs. Meeting Monday 27 August.

Other

- Ongoing discussion of Sunday’s forum and related matters.
- Continued discussion of proposal regarding the coalition working against the marriage amendment. Council expressed formal thanks to Daniel and Erik for their faithful and generous presentation.

End of Meeting Minutes
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<td>9:30 AM Eucharist</td>
<td>Labor Day</td>
<td>7:00 PM Property Committee</td>
<td>9:00 AM Staff Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM Choir</td>
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**Minnesota Watercolor Art Show**
September 30—November 2
in the Atrium of Christ Church Lutheran
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>Pat Baehler</td>
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