Worship and Mission Forum Series

Worship is a central part of how we learn about the Christian tradition and how to share and teach our faith in Christ. Worship is a central part of our life together and something to which we commit a tremendous amount of time, energy, and other resources. But we often have trouble articulating exactly how the liturgy helps us teach the faith. And how does worship form us into a community that can reach out confidently to build up, heal, and preach faithfully in our neighborhood and beyond?

Thanks to a visioning seed-fund grant from the church council, this April and May we are offering a six-part forum series on the connections between worship and mission. Paul Westermeyer will start us off on 7 April with a vision of how the church’s song fills the world with love and grace, alternatives to the noise of a broken world. On 14 April, Fred Gaiser will lay out the biblical groundwork for understanding what it means to praise God and how this can relate to witness and mission. Melinda Quivik joins us on 21 April as our guest preacher and to help us unpack the theological connections between worship and mission. Thomas Schattauer comes on 28 April to teach us about the life and work of Wilhelm Löhe, the founder of the modern deaconess movement in Lutheranism. Löhe was deeply concerned with the question of how liturgy turns us out into the world for service to the neighbor.

In May we will continue with a presentation on Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s views on worship and then a capstone presentation and discussion, led by Cantor Robert Farlee, on what all this can mean for us. See page 4 for more details, including the April schedule.

—Josh Messner
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Office Hours
Monday–Friday 9:00am–2:00pm

Worship
Sunday 9:30am, followed by fellowship education forum from 11:15am–12:15pm
September through June

Leadership
Pastor Pastor Kristine Carlson
Music Pastor Robert Farlee,
Pastor Martin Seltz
Vicar Will Starkweather
Office Stephanie Okoneski
Facilities Chuck Merrell
Courier Editor Josh Messner

Council Officers
President Bob Victorin-Vangerud
Vice President Dan Mueller
Secretary Naomi Bruesehoff
Treasurer Melody Pauling

Council Members
Pat Baehler Noah Niermann
Ann Davis Rita Schoenike
Josh Messner Luann Skrivseth

Announcements
Retirees
April spring “shower” brunch! Wednesday 24 April at 11:00am. No potluck—freewill donation. Bring a “Shower” gift (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, etc.) for the food shelf. Door prizes. Everyone welcome!

7 April
Baptism of Alayna Young, daughter of Charles and Kim Young

13 April
Funeral for Doris Gliem

14 April
Blessing and sending of eucharistic ministers.

20 April
New members class

21 April
Baptism of Hans Adams, son of Denise Morelock and Jeff Adams; new members received during worship; guest preacher Melinda Quivik

28 April
Vicar Will Starkweather’s last official Sunday. Will is preaching and there is a farewell coffee fellowship before the forum, which begins at 11:30am this morning.
Helping Hands
March / April
John and Birgitte Christianson
Erik Haaland and Daniel Holmgren
Harvey and Cheryl Leuning
Melody Pauling
Howard and Erla Polsfuss
Joanne and Martin Seltz
Cliff Siewert
Gary and Luann Skrivseth
Dick and Elayne Strom
Robert and Annette Swanson
Gary and Janice Wahlstrom
Marvel Walmann

Thank You!
Lynn Larson
For eight years of faithful service as
editor of The Courier

April 21 | 4pm | Kretzmann Library
The Wines of Spain
With guest oenologist Scott Tunseth
An introduction to some of the world’s finest wines.
Fee is $20 per person, and attendance is limited.
Please sign up soon! A sign-up sheet is in the forum
room, or email jmessner@christchurchluth.org.

Simply Giving, Contribution Update
Please consider making your donations to Christ Church through Simply Giving. In the first two months
of 2013, over half of our contributions from members came through Simply Giving! The form is not
difficult, and once you are set up, your gifts will come to the church automatically from your checking
or savings account. This way, you can be a faithful giver and all you need do is earn the money! The
deductions are automatic, but if your circumstances change, you can easily change or stop your deduc-
tion. For further information, or to sign up for Simply Giving, contact congregation treasurer Melody
Pauling. You can contact Melody at 612.625.7399 (working hours) or pauli001@umn.edu. Simply
Giving forms are also available from the church office.

On a related note, as of the end of February, our congregation donations were lagging behind our budget by
$6,386. It makes things easier for our finances if our giving is regular (see Simply Giving for one option).

Giving Goods
If you make a donation to Christ Church by giving goods (such as food items), this can be “converted”
into a tax-deduction by turning in your receipt to the church office. In addition to the receipt(s) with the
donated items marked, you will need to indicate your name, the total cost of what you contributed, and
the purpose. You can save up your various donations and turn them in at the end of the year, or you can
turn them in as you donate. The acknowledgement letter from the church office will be included with the
giving statement you receive at the end of the year.
Upcoming Educational Forums
Sundays 11:15am

7 April
Singing amid the Clamor
Paul Westermeyer

The church’s song is for God and neighbor, providing an oasis and an undertow in the midst of the world’s clamor, where music is an overgrown thicket and emotional flood for the self.

14 April
Enthroned on the Praises of Israel
Frederick Gaiser

“You are holy,” sings the psalmist, “enthroned on the praises of Israel” (Ps 22). Could Israel’s praise “enthrone” God? Or exalt God? What is the mission of biblical worship and our own?

21 April
How Is Worship Missional?
Melinda Quivik

Worship has been under pressure in recent decades to perform the miracle of keeping the church alive. Is this an appropriate demand of worship? What is the church’s “mission”?

28 April
Wilhelm Löhe on Worship and Mission
Thomas Schattauer

The nineteenth-century German Lutheran pastor and liturgical reformer Wilhelm Löhe had a profound vision of the place of worship in the church’s mission. What might we learn from Löhe about the church’s worship and its mission today? This week forum begins at 11:30.

All four of these forums are part of our series on worship and mission. See the article on page 1 and the forum brochure for more information.

Council Liaisons

At the December congregational meeting, Christ Church adopted a new administrative structure organized around various areas of activity. For each area, one council member serves as liaison between the council and groups working in that area.

The council invites you to communicate with the appropriate liaison about your work in the congregation. You can find a chart detailing the different areas of activity on the church council bulletin board.

Worship—Pat Baehler
Congregational Community: Social—Anne Davis
Congregational Community: Education—Josh Messner
Outreach: Invitation—Luann Skrivseth
Outreach: Service—Noah Niermann
Support: Administration—Dan Mueller
Support: Building—Rita Schoenike
Support: Stewardship—Naomi Bruesehoff
Support: Finances—Melody Pauling
The Vicar's View

Grace and Peace. Nearly two years ago, these were the words I reflected on when I began my time as your vicar. At the time, I reflected on these words as words of blessing and welcome, and related that these are the words that mark my skin at the wrists. They were words that spoke of a hope for what we would share together these years.

I read that reflection today, and as I think back on my time with you, I can say that my hopes were more than exceeded. Molly and I have been welcomed and blessed by this community in ways that I struggle to describe in words. You have shared your very lives with us, inviting us into the fullness of the grace and peace that abound at Christ Church Lutheran. We have found with you a home when we were far from the houses we grew up in. We have found with you a family when we were separated from our relatives. And time and time again, I have seen the presence of God lived out in this community—a community that is in so many ways the Body of Christ. And it is my deepest prayer that we have been for you even half the blessing you have been for us.

These past two years, it has been my great honor to walk with you in times of joy and of sorrow. And you have walked with me as I have learned to preach and to teach, to listen and to love. It has been my great privilege to be welcomed into homes and hospital rooms and hearts.

I have grown so much these past two years both pastorally and personally. I am, and will always be, deeply grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as your vicar.

Molly and I have been assigned to the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA. As I write these words, we still don’t know any details about where we will be called or what our ministry will look like. But I do know that it will be marked with the rhythms of grace and peace that we have learned and lived during our time at Christ Church Lutheran.

And so, it seems fitting that we return to Grace and Peace. For just as they are words of welcome and blessing, they are also words of sending and benediction. In this time of transition, we mourn the ending of this part of our life together, even as we look forward with excitement to the new thing God is doing, both here in and among Christ Church, and also wherever Molly and I might end up. But our life together does not end with our absence. Know that you are in our hearts and minds and prayers wherever we go, and that we look forward to seeing you again. So may God be with you until we meet again. And may Grace and Peace be with you all, our sisters and brothers of Christ Church Lutheran.

—Vicar William Starkweather
Christ Church Member an LSTC 2013 Distinguished Alumni

Each year the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) Distinguished Alumni Awards honor five outstanding leaders who serve the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The 2013 Distinguished Alumni are Rev. Dr. Javier R. Alanis, Rev. Richard Bruesehoff, Rev. Emmanuel Jackson, Rev. Nancy Feniuk Nelson, and Rev. Linda Norman. An awards ceremony and reception was held on Monday 11 March in Chicago.

Richard Bruesehoff (MDiv, Christ Seminary-Seminex, 1974), recipient of the Faithful Servant Award, currently serves as outreach coordinator for Portico Benefit Services. He previously served as director of lifelong learning of the ELCA and as assistant to the bishop for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, where he helped start the synod’s Lay School of Ministry. He was pastor of several congregations in Wisconsin and was a staff member for the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Pastor Bruesehoff is a founding member and part of the leadership team of the Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation based at Luther College. After completing the Shalem Institute Spiritual Guidance Program he became a spiritual director and retreat leader. Pastor Bruesehoff is the author of two books, Clergy Renewal: The Alban Sabbatical Planning Guide (Alban Institute) and Pastor and People: Making Mutual Ministry Work (Augsburg Fortress). He and his spouse, Naomi, are the parents of two adult children, and they are very active members of Christ Church Lutheran. Congratulations, Dick!

Council Vision Grants Still Available for 2013

A key feature of Christ Church’s new vision for our ongoing ministry together is the church council’s seed-fund grant program. Each year $10,000 is put aside from endowment interest to fund creative initiatives for our life together—$5,000 for outreach and $2,500 each for community and worship. If you have an idea for a new ministry, a new activity, or a new variation on an old theme, please consider discussing it with a council member and bringing a proposal to the council. There is no application deadline, but funds are going fast!

April Birthdays

4/1 Dick Bruesehoff, Nancy Hokkanen
4/2 Hans Adams, Len Johnson
4/7 Sebastien Lewis
4/9 Kayla Parkos
4/10 Simo Sarkanen
4/12 Elizabeth Bryan
4/14 Terry Rong, Elaine Pilon
4/19 Liz Gomoll, Max Wipperman
4/20 Pastor Carlson, David Seltz
4/22 Lynn Larson
4/23 Donna Peterson
4/25 Emily Schuett
4/26 Jeanne Anderson, Rebecca Dodd, Dan Mueller
4/27 Kylie Larson
4/29 Phyllis Dunstone, Brittany Sampson, Gerry Tyrrell
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<td>Easter Monday Office Closed</td>
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<td>6:00 PM Herbalist Guild</td>
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<td>9:30 AM Eucharist with Holy Baptism 11:15 AM Education</td>
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<td>1:00 PM Tai Chi Chih</td>
<td>7:00 PM Property Committee</td>
<td>9:00 AM Stationery 7:30 PM Endowment</td>
<td>5:30 PM Staffing Task Force LSS Safe House No Choir</td>
<td>11:00 AM BierKlub 2:00 PM Doris Gliem Funeral</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>9:30 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM Bldg. Tour 11:15 AM Education 12:30 PM Eucharistic Ministers Lunch</td>
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<td>1:00 PM Tai Chi Chih Courier Deadline</td>
<td>7:00 PM Executive Board 7:30 PM Council Meeting</td>
<td>7:00 PM RIC Task Force</td>
<td>7:00 PM Choir</td>
<td>10:00 AM New Member Class 10:00 AM Finnish School</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>8:30 AM Altar Guild 9:30 AM Eucharist with Holy Baptism and New Members Received 11:15 AM Education 4:00 PM Wines of Spain</td>
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<td>1:00 PM Tai Chi Chih</td>
<td>Monday-Friday Meals on Wheels</td>
<td>11:00 AM Retirees Spring “Shower” Brunch (not potluck)</td>
<td>7:00 PM Choir</td>
<td>10:00 AM KidArt</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>9:30 AM Eucharist 10:45 AM Farewell Reception, Vicar Starkweather &amp; Molly 11:30 AM Education 1:00 PM MHS Tour</td>
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### Lectionary Readings

**7 April 2013**  
*Second Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 5:27-32*  
Psalm 150  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31  

**14 April 2013**  
*Third Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 9:1-20*  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19  

**21 April 2013**  
*Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 9:36-43*  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30  

**April 28, 2013**  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 11:1-18*  
Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35  

* During Eastertide a reading from Acts is often substituted for the lesson from the Hebrew Bible.