Introducing the Pastoral Support Committee

This past fall the church council approved a proposal to begin a pastoral support committee. The intent of this committee is to affirm and strengthen the mission efforts of the congregation and the ministry performed by the pastor.

We are currently focusing on sabbatical possibilities for Pastor Carlson. Pastor Carlson has been with us almost seven years, and her letter of call as well as synodical recommendations identify a three-month sabbatical leave after five years with the congregation. A large focus of our work around this will be engaging the congregation in discussion about what this time might look like for all of us. This sabbatical likely will not follow the model many congregations adopt, where the pastor is absent for a period of time while most or all regular activities in the congregation continue as usual. In our discussions we were particularly excited by the prospect of a sabbatical that can involve the entire congregation.

How can we shape Pastor Carlson’s and our collective sabbatical time to provide opportunities for rest and renewal for all of us?

Join us for upcoming educational forums on Sunday 22 September and Sunday 27 October to explore sabbath-keeping, and watch for more pieces from us in upcoming issues of The Courier.

In the meantime, feel free to connect with any of us on the pastoral support committee if you have questions. We look forward to the discussions and time together in the coming months.

Dick Bruesehoff
Daniel Holmgren
Donna Lindberg
Leadership

Pastor                     Pastor Kristine Carlson
Cantors                   Pastor Robert Farlee
                          Pastor Martin Seltz
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
Meet on Wednesday 28 August at 11am, followed by a potluck lunch. Check bulletin for more information. Everyone is welcome.

Wedding
Katie Swanson and Noah Niermann were married at Christ Church on Saturday 29 June. Matthew Kretzmann and Bethany Friedow will be married on Saturday 10 August.

Brewing Session
The Christ Church BeerKlub will be brewing on Monday 5 August beginning at 5pm in the basement main kitchen. Incoming brewmaster Marcus Nooney and outgoing brewmaster Noah Niermann will lead. Please stop by for a bit and help us empty old bottles even if you can’t stay long.

Welcome Sunday
Sunday 8 September is Welcome Sunday. Much of our fall programming begins that day or the following week. After worship, come to coffee fellowship in the atrium and enjoy the activities fair, where you can learn about the many small-group ministries at Christ Church.

Fall Activities Fair
See announcement above. To get a table for your committee, group, organization, or a FIG group, contact Rita Schoenike.

Submissions
Want to write an article for The Courier or submit photos or other content? Contact Josh Messner at jmessner001@luthersem.edu.
**Summer Choir**

It is not too late to participate in summer choir—there are two Sundays left! Sally and Annalies Messner will be leading a tune or two in worship on Sundays 11 August and 1 September. Come for just one of these Sundays or for both. Rehearsal starts at 9:00am in the choir room and is for that Sunday’s music only. Adults and children are welcome—this is an intergenerational ensemble!

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**Helping Hands July/August**

Pat Baehler  
Vivian Bartsch  
Fred Bentz  
Dori Brandon and family  
Lucille Buelow  
Juanita Burke  
Bob and Ann Davis  
Shawn Deresch  
June Johnson  
Ken Koense  
Rachel Mann  
Simo Sarkanen  
and Yi-ru Chen-Sarkanen  
Sandra Tindell  
Pat Solie

*If you are named in the August helping hands chart, please donate a helping hand with Sunday morning coffee fellowship in the form of set up, clean up, or treats. Your helping hand is appreciated.*

*Contact Michael Jefferis for details.*

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**Christ Church Music Series**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the fundraiser for Christ Church’s 2013–2014 Music Series. We raised over $2,000 and have a great program coming this year, including two Sunday morning events that will bring more great music into our regular worship. Please invite your friends and put the dates on your calendar too. Again this season, most of the events will be offered without an admission fee. If you’d still like to contribute, put a check marked Music Series in the offering plate. See page 10 for the dates of the 2013–2014 season.

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**Finances Update**

The finance committee is working to provide you with the most current information about our congregation’s finances. In addition to other communications, we will provide a quick report (our “finances in a nutshell”) on the state of our operating budget in each issue of *The Courier*. Please note on this month’s report that giving by members (as of June 30) is lagging behind what was budgeted. Our expenses are lagging behind budget as well.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>ACTUAL</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Member Giving/ Envelopes</strong></td>
<td>$116,424.45</td>
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<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
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**Neoteric Chamber Winds**

Neoteric Chamber Winds was founded in 2011 to explore musical compositions of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries for uncommon combinations of instruments. Neoteric takes the forces of the woodwind quintet, brass quintet, piano, and saxophone to create mixed ensembles of four to fourteen players. Neoteric’s repertoire is rarely performed due to its unique size and instrumentation. In its third season Neoteric features the music of Claude Arrieu (Dixtour), Leslie Bassett (Nonet), Anton Bruckner (Locust Iste), Jonathan Dove (Figures in the Garden,) Pierre-Max Dubois (Sinfonia da Camera) and Walter Hartley (Suite for 5 Winds). The music is eclectic and ranges from the sublime (Bruckner) to sci-fi 1960s modern (Bassett). No other group in the Twin Cities plays this variety of music at free concerts in beautiful Twin Cities venues.

Tuesday 13 August at 7:30pm at Christ Church Lutheran.
Free will offering at the door.

Check out the artwork on the utility box at 44th and Lake Street!
**Finnish Pastors Visit Christ Church**

On Sunday 16 June two pastors from Helsinki visited Christ Church Lutheran. Pastor Ilkka Mäkelä is the Church of Finland’s outreach secretary to Finnish citizens living abroad. Pastor Bror Träskbacka is coordinator for ministry at foreign tourist resorts. They felt at home during worship as we sang a Finnish favorite, always sung at midsummer—*Jo joutui armas aika* ("How Marvelous God’s Greatness").

After forum time, area musicians joined our Finnish guests, Pastor Carlson, Pastor Seltz, and Mary Bode in the Kretzmann Library for brunch where they discussed how better to incorporate the Finnish community in the worship life of the Lutheran church in the Twin Cities.

**Former Director of Music Dies**

Dr. Lawrence Allen Young of McLean, Virginia, died at age sixty-four on 19 May 2013. He is survived by wife Margot, sons Samuel, Peter, and Charles; grandson Nathaniel; sister Janice; and stepfather Clarence Caesar. An organist and computer programmer, Lawrence served on the boards of the McLean Orchestra, the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and the Organ Historical Society. Holding a doctorate in organ performance, he gave hundreds of recitals in the United States and abroad.

Larry and his wife, Margot, came from the Boston area to Christ Church Lutheran in 1971, during Pastor Kretzmann’s time. He was organist and director of the senior and junior choirs until 1981. During his tenure here, he led and performed organ and choral productions at Christ Church and was guest organist and performed organ recitals at other Minneapolis area churches. Larry and Margot’s three sons were born here.

**Calling an Associate Pastor**

Christ Church held a special-session congregational meeting on Sunday 21 July to decide whether to form a call committee to seek out a candidate to serve as half-time pastor to this congregation and, if that was approved, to designate a funding source for this position for the remainder of the 2013 budget year. The formation of such a call committee had been recommended recently by the staffing task force and accepted by the church council.

Congregation president Bob Victorin-Vangerud led the meeting and explained in some detail the status of our current financial situation and how that relates to calling an associate pastor. Congregation vice-president Dan Mueller offered an overview of the staffing task force’s work, focusing primarily on the details of the position of the associate pastor and the rationale behind their recommendation.

In order to facilitate an open conversation in which all opinions were welcome, Bob Victorin-Vangerud also led a period of informal discussion during which participants were free to ask questions, make comments, and respond to one another freely.

The Christ Church members present voted (46-yes | 7-no) to approve the recommendation that the council form a call committee to seek out a candidate to serve Christ Church as associate pastor. The second vote passed unanimously by voice, so the church council is now authorized to use up to $14,272 of endowment interest from 2013 to fund the associate pastor’s compensation (salary and benefits) during 2013 budget year.

Handouts from the meeting are available from the church office, and the minutes of the meeting are including with this edition of *The Courier*.

The church council has formed a call committee—Jason Bergquist, Dick Bruesehoff, Gene Bruss, Sally Messner, Rita Schoenike, Clayton Smith—that met Tuesday 30 July with Pastor Deb Stehlin, an assistant to the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod. Please hold them and this call process in your prayers.
On the Road

It means many things to call the Bible a book of “God’s word,” including that it is a book of stories, tales of humanity’s relationship with God. Thinking of the Bible as a book of stories—as literature—allows us to deepen our understanding of that relationship and to appreciate the nuances of plot, character, and setting that the writers of the Bible use to make those stories resonate through thousands of years of readers.

On a recent visit to the National Gallery in London, I was fortunate to see “The Road to Emmaus,” a magnificent sixteenth-century painting by Altobello Melone. The subject comes from Luke 24 and depicts the risen Christ meeting two disciples on Easter morning. Fleeing Jerusalem, the disciples are sad, afraid, and desperate to make some sense of the events of the past few days. Kept from recognizing Jesus even as he interprets scripture for them, the two disciples finally know him in the breaking of the bread.

Seeing the painting prompted me to reread the story, the first time in Luke that we see Jesus after the Resurrection. I began to think about the many works of literature set “on the road.” Geoffrey Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales are told while a group of pilgrims makes its way along the road. Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes tells of a chivalrous “knight” as he seeks adventure on the road. Scholars even have a name for it—picaresque—and it has been used by authors as diverse as Henry Fielding, Voltaire, Mark Twain, and Jack Kerouac. The form was old even during biblical times, and the Bible’s writers use the picaresque to tell the stories of everyone from Jesus to the Apostles to the entire Israelite nation.

As a setting, “the road” is awfully vague. It’s not even a place but a space between places. We aren’t anywhere when we’re on the road, an experience that can be scary, exhilarating, or both. It means that we’re heading toward something, but it also means we’re leaving something else. The road gives us opportunities to change direction and meet new people, but it cannot offer us stability.

The road is the perfect setting for these two disciples, bereft at the death of their teacher and puzzled by stories that he might be alive. They are on their way to Emmaus but leaving behind Jerusalem and the friends with whom they’d followed Jesus. Physically, psychologically, and socially they are no place.

This is where the author of Luke wants the disciples (and his readers) to first encounter the risen Christ—not in a garden, not outside the tomb, but on the road. This is not a static Jesus but one who walks, who gets

continued on next page
dusty from his travels and sweaty from his exertion, who needs to be refreshed with a meal at the close of the day. Luke’s Jesus is wonderfully unpredictable, disappearing at the moment the disciples recognize him. He is scary and exhilarating and new, asking his disciples—asking us—to change direction.

As lovely as Melone’s artwork is, it cannot fully capture the essence of Luke’s story. The painting gives us a motionless scene, the disciples and Jesus fixed in place. That was not their reality, nor is it ours. Our lives aren’t static or stable. We are always both on our way and running away. And that’s where the risen Christ comes to us, exerting himself to be with us. The author of Luke’s Gospel, by choosing to set his story on the road, uses one of the oldest literary devices to speak directly to our deepest fears. In doing so he assures us that, whether on our way or running away, Jesus is always on the road with us.

—Pat Baehler

Christ Church in the News

Morning news and feature reporter M. A. Rosko (Fox 9) and her crew visited Christ Church and interviewed Pastor Carlson about our church community and our remarkable building. The story—“Mad” for Mid-Century Modern—aired twice on Tuesday 2 July. If you missed it, you can see it here: www.myfoxtwincities.com/story/22744576/mad-for-mid-century-venues#.UdMmcENTPqR.gmail.

Then on Friday 26 July, TPT aired a fantastic feature on Christ Church’s architectural history. Tom Fisher—Dean of the College of Design and the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota and a great friend of Christ Church—was interviewed in a series on “Underappreciated Architecture in the Twin Cities,” talking about our beautiful, rare church. He praised the good work of the congregation in preserving this wonderful modernist building. We love the last line of his interview: “This church is going to be around for a long time.” The interview is about thirty-four minutes into the show: http://video.tpt.org/video/2365053674.

Big Storm, Wet Church

One industrial generator, thirty-six fans, and fifteen dehumidifiers were rented to remove and dry out two inches of water that backed up in the education wing basement. The 21 June storm knocked out power to the church for four days.

Join the Christ Church Choir!

Our church choir is recruiting for the fall season. We rehearse Thursday nights starting at 7:00pm, and rehearsals typically are just over an hour long. We are a fun and talented group, and we love to welcome new singers. If you can't be a regular, consider joining us for some special projects—Motet Sunday I (9/15), Presentation Vespers (2/2), and Motet Sunday II (4/6). Read more about us in the September Courier and look for our display at the Welcome Sunday activities fair.

An added perk this season: anyone joining the church choir gets a free private voice lesson with Sally Messner, who teaches right here at church.
Leipzig, Germany—home to Johann Sebastian Bach for the last 28 years of his life, as well as, later, to Felix Mendelssohn. Key location for the Lutheran Reformation. In more recent years, center of the Peaceful Revolution that brought down the wall between East and West Germany. And home also to Johannes and Grit, Holger and Solveig, Superintendent Martin Henker, and many other remarkable Lutheran leaders. This was the Leipzig to which you, Christ Church Lutheran, helped send Pastor Carlson and me, as part of a Minneapolis Area Synod delegation in June. It was a rich and remarkable trip! We plan to share our account (with, yes, many photos) at a forum on September 1, but here’s a brief foretaste and thank-you note.

Our synod is in partnership with the Leipzig District (or Bezirk) of the Evangelical Church of Saxony. In recognition of that, every two years a delegation travels one way or the other. This year, it was Minneapolis’s turn to travel, and they decided to do it with pastor-and-musician teams as much as possible. Though the membership kept changing, we ended up with seven travelers: Bishop Ann Svennungsen and her husband, Pastor Bill Russell; Pastor Mary Halvorson and musician Joan Christensen from Grace University; Pastor Carlson and me from Christ Church; and Cantor Mark Sedio from Central. Once there, we met with (and were hosted by) pastors and musicians from Leipzig.

They had a generous schedule planned for us—in several senses. Yes, we were kept very busy, but with such wonderful activities! We arrived just in time for the final weekend of the annual Bachfest, a celebration of Bach’s music that draws pilgrims from all over the world. We were treated to spectacular concerts and worship services presented by various performers, including the famous Thomanerchor, the very choir that Bach conducted. These were high-end seats at concerts in great demand, and they were given to us for free, even though many of our hosts had never had time or money to attend. We will never forget the thrill of being there, or the kindness of their generosity to us.

And yet, in many ways the best was yet to come. Because after those concerts were over, we had time to really dive into the partnership. We got to know our German counterparts, to compare notes on issues, frustrations and joys. We traveled to many of their churches and saw where their ministry was happening. In some cases, we got to play the organs in those churches, another high point for me! We learned, for example, that though their structure is different from ours (a small team of pastors may be responsible for thousands of members, though relatively few of those are often in church), many of the concerns and challenges are the same. Most of all, for me at least, it drove home that we are truly one church with these saints, and I want very much to do whatever we can to strengthen that unity. What can we do through our Music Series,
through hosting Leipzigers in two years, through other means to keep this partnership vital?

And finally, thank you. Pastor Carlson traveled using her continuing education allowance of time and money, part of the remuneration this congregation provides. And the church council granted me an amount to cover some of the costs of my trip. We are grateful—it was money well spent. I am convinced that this trip will continue to bear fruit in the years to come. Please come to the forum on Sunday 1 September to hear more about our amazing journey!

—Cantor Robert Farlee

Before a concert at the St. Nikolai Church, Leipzig’s largest.

Near the Thomaskirche the world’s oldest Bach memorial, donated by Mendelssohn

Touring a church in the Leipzig district. Bach dedicated the organ.
More Press for CCL

Christ Church was also featured in the June issue of *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine*. Someone please invite the author of the article to one of our music series vespers services or perhaps our Easter vigil service. He is under the impression that we don’t “serve anything much stronger than grape juice here”!

1 September
Christ Church Goes to Leipzig
*Cantor Farlee and Pastor Carlson*

In June, Pastor Kristine Carlson and Cantor Robert Farlee, representing Christ Church Lutheran, traveled to Leipzig as part of the Minneapolis Area Synod’s delegation to the German Lutheran church. They have many stories to tell and new relationships to share with us.

8 September
Welcome Sunday & Activities Fair

Much of our fall programming begins today or this week. After worship, come to coffee fellowship in the atrium and enjoy the activities fair, where you can learn about the many small-group ministries at Christ Church. To get a display table for your committee, group, organization, or FIG, contact Rita Schoenike.

15 September
Bible Study on Luke’s Gospel
*Pastor Carlson*


22 September
Sabbath: A Gift for Twenty-First-Century Christians
*Dick Bruesehoff*

Sabbath-keeping has been part of the Judeo-Christian tradition for eons. What lies at the heart of the ancient Sabbath tradition and why can this be a gift to people of faith today?

29 September & Beyond

Look for the forum brochure in late August and for further announcements in *The Courier*.

10 September
Walls: Christ Church Lutheran

If these walls could talk.

Motet Sunday I
Sunday 15 September–9:30am
*The Elm Ensemble & the Christ Church Choir*

Bach’s motet *Lobet den Herrn alle Heiden* and Schütz’s *Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt* during our Sunday morning worship.

The Land of Three Faiths
Sunday 20 October–4:00pm
*The Rose Ensemble*

The Rose Ensemble in concert sharing voices of ancient Mediterranean Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Vespers in Remembrance
Sunday 10 November–4:30pm
*The Elm Ensemble*

Bach’s cantata 106 and Schütz’s *Warum toben die Heiden.* Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

Presentation Vespers
Sunday 2 February–4:30pm
*The Christ Church Choir*

Paul Boehnke, guest cond.

Bach’s cantata 161 led by the director of the Bach Society of Minnesota.

Motet Sunday II
Sunday 6 April–9:30am
*The Elm Ensemble*

Bach’s motet *Jesu, meine Freude* during our Sunday morning worship.


save the dates!
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<th>Sun</th>
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<td><strong>CHRIST CHURCH’S NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BLOCK PARTY</strong></td>
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<td>5:00 PM Organ Task Force</td>
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<td>August 6, 6:00-9:00PM</td>
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<td>Brats, beer, veggie burgers and lemonade provided. If you wish, bring something to share. There will be activities for children. If you’re not busy with your own neighborhood events, come and join the party at Christ Church!</td>
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<td>To help, contact Erik Haaland (<a href="mailto:ehaaland001@luthersem.edu">ehaaland001@luthersem.edu</a>; 651-644-4926) or Michael Jefferis (612-721-4435).</td>
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<td><strong>9:30 AM</strong></td>
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<td>NATIONAL NIGHT OUT</td>
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<td>Eucharist</td>
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<td><strong>BLOCK PARTY at Christ Church</strong></td>
<td><strong>8</strong></td>
<td>6:00 PM Block Party at Christ Church</td>
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<td>LSS Safe House Meal</td>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td>5:00 PM Matt Kretzmann &amp; Bethany Friedow Wedding</td>
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<td><strong>2:00 PM</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Summer Choir</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tai Chi Chih</strong></td>
<td><strong>BGH Task Force</strong></td>
<td><strong>7:00 PM</strong></td>
<td><strong>7:30 PM Neoteric Winds Concert</strong></td>
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<td><strong>9:30 AM</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eucharist &amp; Baptism</strong></td>
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<td><strong>RIC Task Force</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ELCA Churchwide Assembly</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7:00 PM Stewardship</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7:00 PM Exec. Board</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friends of CCL Board</strong></td>
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<td><strong>7:30 PM Council</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Meals on Wheels</strong></td>
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<td>Lectors</td>
<td>Head Ushers</td>
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<td>Pat Baehler</td>
<td>Simo Sarkanen</td>
<td>Lynn Larson</td>
<td>Dave Kutzbach</td>
<td>Naomi Bruesehoff</td>
<td>Melody Pauling</td>
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<td>Phyllis Mattill</td>
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<td>Mary Lou Doll</td>
<td>Max Wipperman</td>
<td>Will Stark</td>
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<td>Phyllis Mattill</td>
<td>Jason Bergquist</td>
<td>Daniel Holmgren</td>
<td>Max Wipperman</td>
<td>Samantha and Chloe Rice</td>
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<td>Pat Baehler</td>
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<td>Mary Bode</td>
<td>Bob Davis</td>
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<td>September</td>
<td>Pat Baehler</td>
<td>Simo Sarkanen</td>
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</table>

**Lectionary Readings August 2013**

**Sunday 4 August**
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

**Sunday 11 August**
Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 33:12-22
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

**Sunday 18 August**
Jeremiah 23:23-29
Psalm 82
Hebrews 11:29–12:2
Luke 12:49-56

**Sunday 25 August**
Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17