Montana Synod  
2415 13th Avenue South  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
November 7, 2013  
Dear Erik,  
What a glorious day it will be for the church when you are ordained and serving in your call to Word and Sacrament! Congratulations and blessings. And thank you.  
Thank you for accepting this call to serve. Thank you for not giving up on the church, as we struggled with change, with living out God’s call to listen to the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your incredible patience, with waiting graciously. Thank you for the ways you served while waiting for the church’s call. Thank you for your forgiveness of those who made you wait.  
Thank you for your faithfulness to who you are, to who God made you to be. Thank you for your faithfulness to Daniel, to your family, to your community.  
Know that the Montana Synod will have you in prayer on the day of your ordination. This day has been a long time in coming, and we rejoice with you and with your congregation.  
As you are being ordained and installed in your new position in your congregation, I will be in your hometown of Billings, Montana, dedicating a new church building for Atonement Lutheran. In both places we will be celebrating the strength of our heritage, and the possibilities for renewal on Christ the King Sunday.  
This is a good thing, Erik. Thanks be to God!  
In peace,  
Jessica Crist, Bishop, Montana Synod  

In addition to her many duties—Bishop of the Montana Synod, Chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, on the Board of Lutheran World Relief—Jessica Crist serves on the Board of Luther Seminary in Saint Paul. A seminary board meeting will bring her to the Twin Cities on the weekend of 9 February, when she will be the guest preacher at Christ Church Lutheran. We are honored and delighted to welcome Bishop Crist.
Staff

Pastors
- Pastor Kristine Carlson
- Pastor Erik Haaland

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
- Ann Davis
- Josh Messner
- Kevin Reuther
- Rita Schoenike
- Luann Skrivseth

Announcements

Retirees
On Wednesday 29 January at 11:00am, the retirees will gather for a program to be determined. Potluck lunch will follow. Everyone welcome. Meet in Concordia Room. Freewill donation.

New Members
New Member Welcome will be Sunday 26 January.

Baptisms
Kyle Reece Swanson, son of Chad and Jill, was baptized Sunday 22 December. Kyle is the grandson of Robert Swanson. Pastor Carlson officiated.

Miriam Bethany Wieland was baptized Sunday 29 December. Miriam’s parents are Matt and Stephanie Wieland. Pastor Haaland officiated.

Submissions
Want to write an article for The Courier or submit photos or other content? Contact Josh Messner at jmessner001@luthersem.edu.
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 on the state of our operating budget in each issue of The Courier.

Our expenses are well below budget through the end of November, and our income is a little bit less than budgeted. Expenses are likely to pick up in December, but if contributions keep up, it looks like we are in good shape to finish the year in the black. Good job, Christ Church supporters!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>As of 30 November 2013</th>
<th>ACTUAL</th>
<th>BUDGET (11mos.)</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Member Giving/ Envelopes</td>
<td>$ 230,863.70</td>
<td>$ 232,833.33</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$ 41,509.05</td>
<td>$ 44,075.01</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$ 272,372.75</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$ 253,893.17</td>
<td>$ 277,083.38</td>
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<td>Total Surplus (or Deficit)</td>
<td>$ 18,479.58</td>
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Helping Hands
January/February
John & Virginia Buegel
Ted Buegel & Amanda Jenkins-Buegel
Robert Farlee
Donna & Pete Gawreluk
Roger & Liz Gomoll
Paul Hanson
Lynn & Kevin Larson
Kay & Greg Madson
Cynthia Neubecker
Robyn & Marcus Nooney
Marni Schmidt
Rita & Ken Schoenike
Cathy Sieving
If you are named in the January 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.
michael.jefferis@gmail.com

January Birthdays
1/2 Raymond Peters
1/4 LeAnn (Bergquist) Marudas
1/6 Evelyn Wermager
1/10 Meyer Schoenike Christian Schoenike
1/11 Alayna Young
1/18 Amanda Jenkins-Buegel
1/19 Micah Buckley-Farlee
1/20 Daniel Holmgren Allison Weimer
1/21 John Christianson Marvel Walmann
1/26 Caleb Jenkins-Buegel

Special Offering for Fire Victims
Christ Church Lutheran will receive a special offering for victims of the Cedar-Riverside explosion and fire on New Year’s Day. Details on page 10.

Major Endowment Gift
Christ Church Lutheran has received a gift from the Marie Dammann estate of $120,000, designated for the endowment fund, lifting the value of the permanent endowment to over a half a million dollars. A year ago, the congregation endowment had already received $150,000 from the Marie Dammann estate. We are fortunate to have these kinds of resources to work with, not to mention a church that elicits the level of commitment and enthusiasm this gift represents. Earnings from the Christ Church Lutheran endowment have helped to pay for important events and programs in our life together, including the music series and part of the salary of our new associate pastor.
Beer Club News

As 2013 comes to a close, we can reflect on our brewing activities over the past six months and be happy with our creations. On 5 August we met and brewed a batch of Imperial IPA. This was an all-grain recipe using Maris Otter Malt and a generous helping of Cascade hops (4oz bittering, 4oz dry hopping) with 1oz Summit hops for finishing. The beer fermented at a slightly higher temperature than was suggested for this yeast profile. This imparted a fruity yeast ester to the flavor of the beer, but it was still enjoyed by all. The beer room in the church basement is a little on the warm side for fermenting beer, so we may need to use a refrigerator to control temperature better. If anybody has an old refrigerator they would consider donating, it would be greatly appreciated.

On 28 September we met and brewed a batch of Scottish Ale. This was another all-grain recipe that mainly utilized Maris Otter malts as a malt base and a small amount of peat-smoked malt to give it a characteristic smoky flavor. We separated some of the wort during the boil, reduced it to caramelized, and added it back to the main batch. This process adds to the rich color and malty flavor. If all goes as planned, we should have a very nice, big beer with low hop character, smoky undertones, and pleasant maltiness. This beer is bottled in 16oz bottles and should be ready by Christmas. If you would like to sample some, please do. The beer is stored in the church basement, and all are welcome to partake. This beer has also been named “kilted cleric.”

We are looking at the later part of January for our next brewing session. The last two batches were all-grain recipes, which typically take six or seven hours from start to finish. For our next batch, we are looking at doing an extract beer kit. Rather than extracting fermentable sugar directly from the grains, this work has already been done for you. Malt extract can either be dried powder or a thick syrup. This cuts the brewing time significantly and is a great way for beginner brewers to get started. Date for this session will be forthcoming, and all are welcome.

—Marcus Nooney

December Retirees Program

Kay Madson was “the program” for the December gathering of the Christ Church retirees group. She began by talking about the fact that at one time, long ago, this group was the Young Adult Group—then the Young Couples Group—then just the Couples Club—then the BASICs (Brothers and Sisters in Christ group). Now, about six decades later, we are the Retirees Group—the amalgamation of all the “social” groups in the history of the congregation. (And we are so excited that there is a possibility for new young adult groups.)

—MariLu Peters
From the Recent Council Meetings

In lieu of reproducing the minutes of each council meeting, we are offering highlights. Complete minutes are always available for review from the church office.

- The final $5,400 of the budgeted income supplement of $10,400 from Thrivent account earnings was not needed, due to strong giving.
- Reconciling in Christ welcome statement will be polished and presented to the congregation for a vote at the February meeting.

With a light agenda, the council took the opportunity to review the work carried out in 2013 and to look ahead a bit toward 2014. Here are some of the year’s highlights.

- A staffing assessment process led to the calling of Erik Haaland as associate pastor.
- The new organizational structure for council members facilitated greater cooperation.
- Superb music/worship events have enhanced our church life and have allowed us to provide financial support to various mission partners.
- Nearing completion of the Reconciling in Christ process.
- The Brighter Greener Higher fund drive raised over $50,000 toward renovating the elevator and several other projects related to the building.
- A June deluge flooded part of the church basement; insurance covered most of the repairs.

Learn and Perform a Bach Cantata

Want to learn a Bach cantata and have the opportunity to perform it with professional soloists and instrumentalists, all conducted by the artistic director of the Bach Society of Minnesota? Well, your dream can come true this month. Join the Christ Church Choir for a handful of rehearsals and then perform Cantata 161 with us in early February for our Presentation Vespers music series event. Details on the right.

Contact Cantor Farlee or Cantor Seltz with questions.

Presentation Vespers Schedule
Repetoire: Bach’s Cantata 161
Guest Conductor: Paul Boehnke
Required Rehearsals:
  Thursday 16 January, 7:00–7:45pm, choir room
  Thursday 23 January, 7:00–7:45pm, choir room
  Thursday 30 January, 7:00–7:45pm, sanctuary
Performance:
  Sunday 2 February, 3:30 call, 4:30 service
Welcome, Pastor Haaland
Welcome, Pastor Haaland
Benefit Brass Concert a Huge Success

It was a cold night outside but a warm one inside on the evening of 7 December at Christ Church Lutheran. About 180 concert goers braved the cold and ice to attend a benefit concert for Lutheran Social Services’ Metro Homeless Youth program. This essential social ministry program is most necessary in the winter. It offers short and long term housing and counseling to youth who are on the streets and have no other place to stay.

As the estimated 180 attendees settled into their places, the thirty-piece Lake Wobegon Brass Band filed in to occupy nearly every square inch of space in Christ Church’s chancel. A full percussion section, including four tympanis, lined the front wall. Brass instruments from cornets to tubas extended from the rail to the first pews.

The opening fanfare from the cornets that were standing among the congregation was a brilliant beginning to this program, which was a mix of traditional and new holiday music. The first half ended with Drew Fennell’s setting of “‘Twas the Night Before Christmas,” featuring Christ Church’s own Roger Gomoll as narrator. Music by Minnesota composers J. Robert Hanson, conductor Mike Halstenson, and band member Mike Serber was featured.

An offering was collected at intermission that raised well over $2300 for Lutheran Social Services. The evening continued with cookies and coffee in the Luther Lounge.

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**Lectionary Readings January 2014**

**Sunday 5 January**

*Epiphany of Our Lord*

Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

**Sunday 12 January**

*Baptism of Our Lord*

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

**Sunday 19 January**

*Second Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 40:1-11
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-42

**Sunday 26 January**

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

Isaiah 9:1-4
Psalm 27:1, 4-9
1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Matthew 4:12-23

**Sunday 2 February**

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

Micah 6:1-8
Psalm 15
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

**OR**

*Presentation of Our Lord*

Malachi 3:14
Psalm 84
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

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Poster-sized crossword displayed in basement of Wilson Library (University of Minnesota) during finals week.
Joulu Was Fantastinen

On Saturday 14 December, Joulu: A Magical Finnish Christmas was held at Christ Church Lutheran. Hundreds of people enjoyed the tori (marketplace), Christmas buffet by the Finnish caterer Solie Anderson, baked goods by Finnish Bistro Cafe, children’s crafts, Finnish films, architectural tours, and more.

Maestro Vänskä made a special appearance, playing his clarinet for the crowd (top photo) during the carol service in the sanctuary. And the sanctuary hosted a performance of Tiernapojat, the traditional Finnish procession of the star boys (bottom photo).

Twelve Days of Baking

Meeting seven times in a two-week period in early December, the cooking and baking group got together for baking, fellowship, and laughter. Like little elves, we worked diligently day and night and can now sit back and sing a familiar Christmas song with our own verses:

12 Bakers Baking  
11 Pounds of Butter  
10 Bags of Flour  
9 Dozen Eggs  
8 Bags of Sugar  
7 Days of Baking  
6 Trips to Byerly’s  
5 Packers Packing  
4 Ingredients Donations  
3 Home Bakers  
2 Rolling Pins and  
1 Big Check to Meals on Wheels

Thanks to all who helped with this year’s cookie sale and for those who purchased cookie boxes. We made over three hundred dozen cookies and sold over sixty boxes of cookies. The remainder of the cookies were used for coffee fellowship after Sunday services. A total of $640 was sent to Meals on Wheels. Special thanks to Marilu for providing homemade goodies to sell on Sunday mornings, raising money to help defray our expenses.

—Rita Schoenike and MariLu Peters
January 12
Baptism of Our Lord
Pastor Haaland

We begin our forum series in this new year with a Bible study on today’s Gospel reading—the baptism of Jesus by John as portrayed in Matthew’s Gospel. Questions abound: What is the meaning of Jesus’ baptism—and why should Jesus (the Son of God!) need to be baptized? Further, how is John’s baptism related to the baptism of the early Christians—the baptisms that took place after Jesus’ death and resurrection and after the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost? Finally, what does any of this mean for us today? Pastor Haaland leads this question-filled Bible study.

January 19
The Church behind the Iron Curtain
Almut Furchert

In light of our synodical connections to the Evangelical Church in Leipzig, Germany, this forum will offer glimpses into the life of the church behind the Iron Curtain. Almut Furchert will share her experiences and impressions growing up in a Lutheran parsonage in the former East Germany.

Dr. Almut Furchert is a licensed psychologist, philosopher of religion, and practicing trauma therapist. Her latest book Das Leiden fassen explores the existential dimensions of inner sufferings spanning from despair to illumination.

January 26
J. S. Bach, Cantata 161
Paul Westermeyer

A week before our Music Series offering of Presentation Vespers, we learn about J. S. Bach’s Cantata 161, Komm, du süße Todessstunde, which will be featured at the 2 February afternoon service. This lovely cantata, “Come, sweet hour of death,” is often associated with the festival of the Presentation of Our Lord.

Dr. Paul Westermeyer is Professor of Church Music Emeritus at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he taught, served as the Cantor, and directed the Master of Sacred Music degree program.

Presentation Vespers
Sunday 2 February | 4:30pm
The Christ Church Choir
with friends from the Elm Ensemble
Paul Boehnke, guest conductor
Nicole Warner, alto
Craig Lemming, tenor

The Christ Church Lutheran Choir is joined by members of the Elm Ensemble and a chamber orchestra of the finest early-music players in the region to perform Bach’s Cantata 161, Komm, du süße Todessstunde. Paul Boehnke, artistic director of the Bach Society of Minnesota, conducts this lovely cantata that is often used for the festival of the Presentation of Our Lord. A freewill offering for a local community nonprofit will be received during the service.

Special Offering for Fire Victims

This past week, on New Year’s Day, our neighbors in the Cedar-Riverside area endured an explosion and fire that killed three people, injured fourteen people, and displaced many others. It also destroyed a thriving grocery store and the apartments above it and caused damage to a nearby mosque and other buildings.

Most of those affected are Somali-Americans or recent immigrants who left a land in turmoil to make a new life in our country. In the midst of this frigid season of Christmas and Epiphany, we can offer the warmth of compassion and help these fellow Minnesotans get back on their feet.

Next Sunday 12 January, we will collect a special offering to help the victims of this tragedy. The donations will be distributed through our sister congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church at Augsburg College. Please give generously. Make your checks out to Christ Church Lutheran and mark the memo line of your check Fire Disaster Relief.
### Christ Church Lutheran—January 2014

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<td>Building Closed</td>
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<td><strong>9:30 AM Eucharist</strong></td>
<td>1:00 PM Tai Chi Chih</td>
<td>5:00 PM RIC Task Force</td>
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<td>11:15 AM Education</td>
<td>Strands of Hope</td>
<td>7:00 PM Pastoral Support</td>
<td>7:00 PM Stewardship</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Pastoral Support</td>
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<td>7:00 PM Choir</td>
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<td>4:00pm Young Adults Epiphany Party (12 Jan)</td>
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<td>MLK Jr. Day</td>
<td>6:30 PM Exec. Board</td>
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