So Many Gifts

Christ Church Lutheran has been blessed so many times and many of these blessings have come to us as monetary gifts. As you may have heard, on Christmas Day the church received $120,000 from the estate of long-time member Ella Marie Dammann. This is the second sum we have received from Marie’s estate for the church endowment fund. The first, in the amount of $150,000, came to us at Christmas time in 2012.

With the recent Dammann gift, the endowment fund principal amount invested has passed the half-million dollar mark. The interest earnings from this increased amount are expected to reach levels that will allow us to do many good things for our congregation, church building, and surrounding community.

When council president Bob Victorin-Vangerud heard about the gift from Marie he said, “We are fortunate to have these kinds of resources to work with. Our job is to be the best possible stewards of them for the mission and ministry of our church.”

The Christ Church Lutheran endowment fund bylaws state that fund earnings can be used for special ministries, capital improvements, or to sustain the normal operations of the congregation. According to Marie’s niece Louise, this is why Marie wanted her gifts designated to the endowment fund. Although Marie said she wanted her gift to be used in any way needed, she especially wanted to ensure that the burden of caring for the sanctuary and education building did not interfere with the congregation’s mission.

What a wonderful legacy Marie has left. In a thank-you letter that Pastor Carlson wrote to Louise Dammann on behalf of the congregation, she said, “Marie was a wonderful woman who will be missed by all of us who knew her during her more than fifty-eight years as a member of Christ Church Lutheran.” Marie returned the blessings she received from the church and people she loved, through a gift that can be used for good well into the future.

So much good has already been done with endowment fund earnings: paying part of the salary for our new part-time associate pastor Erik Haaland; beginning work to upgrade our elevator; and buying new computers for Pastor Farlee and Pastor Haaland.

The council also approved $10,000 of “seed money” to be taken out of endowment fund earnings every year for visioning efforts that foster the congregation’s growth in worship, hospitality, and community outreach. With full or partial support from this fund, in 2013, Christ Church Lutheran sponsored the Midtown Farmers Market; brought in excellent speakers for educational forums; provided a music series featuring vespers worship and performances by local artists; and supported a website redesign. Our increasing endowment fund allows us to do more of these things today. Imagine what we’ll be able to do with them in the future.

Christ Church Lutheran is growing for good. And you can be part of that growth. There are many ways to give to the endowment fund, either through planned giving or as an outright gift. For more information, contact one of the pastors or an endowment committee member— Birgitte Christianson, Leo Lopez, Melody Pauling, Gerry Tyrrell, Colin Watkins, or Donna Lindberg. Thanks be to God for so many gifts at Christ Church Lutheran.

—Donna Lindberg, Endowment Committee Chair
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

Announcements

Retirees
On Wednesday 26 February at 11:00am, the retirees will gather for a program hosted by the endowment committee, who will also provide a delicious meal (no potluck this month). Everyone welcome. Meet in Concordia Room. Freewill donation.

New Members
New members Chad and Marlyse, Elliot and Joseph Blihovde, and April McMillan and Lynn Tollefson were welcomed Sunday 26 January.

Memorial Service
Long-time Christ Church member Marvel Walmann died on Friday 24 January. A memorial service at Christ Church Lutheran is scheduled for Wednesday 5 February at 2:00pm. Visitation begins at 1:00pm. A reception in the Luther Lounge will follow. All are welcome to attend.

Accordo Date Change
The Accordo concert at Christ Church scheduled for Monday 17 February has been moved back one day to Tuesday 18 February. Please plan to attend this wonderful event featuring Alessio Bax on piano and the wonderful string players of Accordo.

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 (provisional) report on the state of our operating budget in each issue of *The Courier.*

See the annual report for final figures for 2013, but these are close. Lots of good news: “Envelopes” (giving by members) was over $7,500 above budget! Bottom line is $10,794.66 to the good! Excellent job, Christ Church supporters!

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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 February 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

Remember to wear your name tag . . .
Beer Enthusiasts Welcome

All beer enthusiasts and curious onlookers are invited to the BierKlub’s next brewing session on Saturday 1 February beginning at 1:00pm in the basement main kitchen. We will do an extract batch (instead of all-grain), a particularly good way to get introduced to brewing because of the simpler process and the significantly shorter brewing time. An extract recipe takes about half the time as an all-grain brewing process. So you know what you’re in for, here is a brief overview of extract brewing;

1. Some kits come with a bag of specialty grains, a small amount relative to all-grain brewing intended to add complexity to the body and flavor of the beer. All that is required is steeping the grains in hot water for about twenty minutes in two and a half gallons of water. Then we crank up the heat and bring it to a boil. ~30 minutes

2. Once it’s boiling, we remove the brew kettle from the heat and slowly stir in the malt extract using either dry malt extract or malt extract (syrup). Bring it back to a boil. This step replaces the all-grain mashing process. The sugar is already extracted for us. ~30 minutes

3. When it's boiling again, we start the hop additions. The hop addition process takes about an hour, with the bittering hops going in right away and the flavor/aroma hops going in at later stages, some as late as five minutes prior to shutting off the heat. Similar to the all-grain process except you usually make hop additions to the full wort volume. ~60 minutes

4. Now we want to cool the wort as quickly as possible. Several methods are available in extract brewing. We can add cold water or ice to top off the wort (our goal is five gallons final volume), and if still too warm, we can put the wort chiller in and chill it down to yeast pitching temperature. Same as all-grain process except you need the chiller since you will be chilling your full final wort volume. ~30 minutes

5. Pitch the yeast. Wort temperature should be around room temperature. Some people wait until the next day to pitch, but others argue this provides too much opportunity for undesirable wild yeasties to get in.

   —Marcus Nooney, Brewmaster

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Wednesdays

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New Processional Cross

For the past few weeks we have been using a new processional cross in our worship. The silver-plated cross itself was brought from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by Pastor Farlee, and the pole and stand were prepared by Bob Davis. The cross comes from the Ethiopian Orthodox tradition, one of the oldest parts of the Christian church. There it would have been used as a handheld cross with which the priest or bishop would bless the people. Typical of Ethiopian metalwork, it features finely detailed cut outs. The colored scarf displayed with it also comes from Ethiopia. We will be using this cross in alternation with the lovely processional cross by Bob Rickels, a gift from Vivian Bartsch.
Finding a Community

I’ve always taken community for granted. I come from a close-knit family in a small town. I went to a small private university where I was more often than not on a first-name basis with my professors. I especially loved my university because there was such a campus-wide rapport between the students, the faculty, and the campus organizations. You’d go to an a cappella concert, staged play reading, and international dance showcase all on the same night. We were all equal, all important, and all accepted. Well, kind of.

It was around the time that I met my husband that I started to see the cracks in the all-accepting veneer of my perfectly diverse bubble. After dating for a short time, Colin and I decided that we wanted to start going to church. We had both taken the customary liberal arts “question everything” approach and had taken a brief hiatus from going to church, which is probably why it took so long to see. We hesitated to tell our friends. We went to Islamic Student Union dinners with the rest of campus. We made excuses to leave Saturday night parties early. By the end of Colin’s senior year, only a couple of his friends knew we went to church. Their reactions were always surprise followed by awkward silence and head nods. It was difficult for me, by the end of the next year, to pretend like I wasn’t hurt by this. I had friends who had known me for years suddenly stop talking to me or, worse yet, belittle my faith by smothering me with hopeless atheistic rhetoric.

In some ways, this made graduating easier. It was almost impossible to talk to some people I’d grown very close to over the last few years. But then again, weren’t we all liberal arts students? The desire to explain myself and have my opinion and beliefs respected, just like everyone else’s, was so overpowering that I wanted nothing more than for us all to be trapped on that campus until I was heard. Now, being the densely concentrated mass of non-confrontational matter that I am, I don’t think I said a single thing to anyone other than Colin.

I know that sounds very gloomy, but don’t worry. This is the bit when the clouds part and the sweet sunshine of realization bursts onto the scene. Colin and I shopped for churches and, in time, found an ELCA church in Wisconsin. Living in Wisconsin didn’t stick, but once we finally got settled in Minneapolis, we took to finding a new congregation to call home. A friend recommended Christ Church Lutheran to us and I think our decision to stay was solidified when we first experienced the sharing of the peace. For the first time I felt an almost tangible sense of community.

It’s only now, after being a member of this wonderful congregation for such a short time, that I realize that community is a delicate balance of happenstance and persistence. As a newly inducted member of the communications committee, organ task force, and choir, I see how hard the members of CCL work and how richly their efforts are rewarded.

As Colin and I rang in 2014, we couldn’t help but compare our lives now to where we were just a year ago.

—Hillary Watkins

Forum and Nursery Space

In the category of “good problems to have,” we have outgrown the nursery space adjacent to the forum space. More and more families have joined Christ Church, and so the space the children occupy during some or all of worship needs to be larger and set up for various kinds of educational activities. The council has approved a plan to move educational forums into the Kretzmann Library on the lower level of the education wing and to make the current forum space into a multi-purpose children’s space.

Children under three will continue to use the south third of the room. Children three and over will use the other two-thirds, which will be set up with tables, chairs, shelves, a piano, supplies, and so on. The bathroom on the north end of this space will be cleaned out and set up again as a bathroom. This space will be called the Silver Room, keeping with the color theme but indicating that this is a different space than the “rainbow-named” classrooms.

We are looking for a new nursery coordinator to find at least two nursery assistants for each Sunday and to assist pastoral staff with other logistical matters. Please contact Pastor Carlson if you are interested in this role.
Giving in 2013—Christ Church Lutheran

In addition to our regular giving through ELCA Mission Support, in 2013 we also were able to support the following organizations with regular giving from our budget:

- Bread for the World
- Community Emergency Service
- ELCA Disaster Response
- Global Health Ministries
- Metro Lutheran Newspaper
- Our Savior’s Housing
- Plymouth Christian Youth Center
- Seward/Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership
- South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels

Beyond this, several special projects extended our giving in the community: In January, our Epiphany Drive collected over three hundred pounds of toiletries, diapers, laundry soap, and other personal times for Community Emergency Service of Minneapolis. These are necessary items that cannot be purchased with food stamps.

During Lent we collected many, many gallons of fats, which was our contribution to a community-wide food collection campaign for the Minnehaha Food Shelf.

In November we partnered with the Music Series to raise money for Our Lady of Peace Home, a hospice home in Saint Paul where a good number of Christ Church members have received exceptional care. From the freewill offering at our Vespers in Remembrance service on 10 November, we were able to send Our Lady of Peace Home a check for nearly $1,500.

In December Christ Church hosted a concert of the Lake Wobegon Brass Band. Not only was it a wonderful concert, but it raised over $2,500 for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota and their work with homeless youth. Also in December Christ Church Lutheran bakers made and sold dozens upon dozens of delicious Christmas cookies. This year all proceeds were given to South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels. Last year the cookie bakers raised $500 for Community Emergency Service.

Thanks for your part in all of this!

—Mission Committee

Back-to-School Drive in February?!

On any given day during the year, homeless children arrive at our neighborhood schools and are placed into classrooms for the very first time. For them it’s as if it’s the first day of school, and many are in need of basic school supplies to do their school work. Did you know?

- During the 2012–2013 school year, 6,822 children and youth were identified as homeless and highly mobile in Minneapolis, an increase of 5.7% from the previous year.
- 3,923 of these children were enrolled in Minneapolis public schools, representing 9.8% of the total enrollment in Minneapolis public schools.

- Local Longfellow schools are continually welcoming homeless and highly mobile children into classrooms, attempting to create stability and foster learning in very chaotic and stressful situations.

- School social workers like to be able to give away backpacks, clothing, and school supplies on a moment’s notice, helping to facilitate these stressful transitions.

The Longfellow Faith Forum (an interfaith community group in which Christ Church participates) has initiated a project to help provide these local schools and social workers with supplies to help homeless and highly mobile children in our neighborhood.

Throughout February we will be collecting the following items:

Backpacks, three ring binders (2- and 3-inch), folders, notebooks, pencils, pens, battery-powered clip-on reading lights (for long mid-winter bus trips), and alarm clocks (both battery and plug-in). All items should be new or like-new.

We will also gladly take financial contributions. Please make checks out to Christ Church Lutheran and mark the memo line “School Supplies.” The money will be used to buy needed supplies for students at Sullivan Elementary, Sanford Middle School, and South High School.

Leave your donations at the display in the back of the church, or place your properly marked checks in the Sunday offering plate. Thank you in advance for helping with this neighborhood Back to School Drive!
January 12, 2014

Pastor Kristine Carlson & Dr. Kay Madson
Christ Lutheran Church
3244 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Dear Kristine and Kay,

Please accept my heartfelt “thank you” for the welcome you and your congregation gave in November to the students enrolled in my “Global Christianity” class. The church visitation project is an integral part of this required course and gave the students an opportunity not only to experience one of the essential aspects of what it means to be Christian—communal worship—but also to reflect on the relationship between beliefs and worship.

I had a particularly lively group of students last fall who embraced this assignment with enthusiasm. Here are a few comments from their course evaluations that speak of the value of the assignment for student learning:

“Church visits were a great idea.”

“I appreciate ... understanding more of the background of Christianity and also the church visits that we were required to go to. It was an interesting, yet fun experience.”

“What you walk away with at the end of the course is more than just what we read in our textbooks.”

The students enrolled in this course come from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from those reared in devout Christian homes to those with little knowledge of Christianity. Your warm welcome to them was a profound witness to the beliefs and values of the Christian faith. I am deeply grateful for your partnership in the students’ learning.

Cordially in Christ,

Dr. Rhoda Schuler
Dear Friends in Christ,

On Sunday 16 February 2014, Christ Church Lutheran will hold its regular congregation meeting at 11:15am. At this meeting, we will conduct the business of the church, including receiving reports from various committees and bodies in the church and from the pastors and cantors.

We will also consider a recommendation from the council to adopt a new welcome statement for the purpose of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Reconciling in Christ congregations are churches that have chosen to welcome all persons regardless of sexual orientation by officially approving a statement making that welcome explicit.

The agenda also includes a review of the liaison system we are using for communication between the council and the congregation; a review of the vision funds process by which you can request seed money for funding new or existing programs; updates about the different funds and investments we have; and an overview of the current state of planning for the upkeep and improvement of our building based on the Historic Structures Report.

If you receive emails from the church, you should receive a digital copy of the annual report soon. Hard copies will be available a week before the meeting.

The agenda also includes one last item, labelled “a nice surprise” and saved for last, of course. I invite you to come and share in the work of the church.

Sincerely,
Bob Victorin-Vangerud
Congregation President

Welcome new members April McMillan and Lynn Tollefson.
Remembering Gary Gliem

A celebration of the life of Gary Gliem—son of Dick and Doris Gliem of our congregation—was held on January 18, 2014, at the Loring Park Community Center.

Gary was born and baptized in 1944 at Christ Church Lutheran and was later confirmed here. He was Dayton’s top model in the 1970s and a buyer for the Guthrie Theatre Gift Shop in the 1980s. For the past twenty years, he served as wedding coordinator at Saint Mark’s Cathedral; for the past four years as President of Citizens for a Loring Park Community. He died on December 26, 2013.

Friends, colleagues, and family members gathered to remember Gary, including Pastor Carlson who spoke on behalf of Christ Church. His cousin Lynn shared this favorite memory of Gary and his mother Doris: *Eighteen years younger than Gary, she remembers idolizing him; she loved being around him. She remembers being in Dick and Doris’s backyard in south Minneapolis—Gary was picking pretty flowers, and his mother brought out their favorite treat, lemon bars.*

Hearing this story, Pastor Carlson became intrigued to find the lemon bar recipe. And here it is! From the Christ Church Cookbook, 1989, edited by Phyllis Dunstone and Doris Gliem. The recipe is from Edna Bull.

**Lemon Bars**

1 cup butter  
2 cups flour  
½ cup powdered sugar  
Combine as for pie crust. Pat into 9x13 pan.  
Bake at 350 degrees, 15 minutes. Cool.  
Then combine:  
6 tbsp. lemon juice  
4 eggs, beaten  
2 cups sugar  
4 tbsp. flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
¼ tsp. lemon rind  
Pour over cooled crust. Bake at 350 degrees, 25 minutes. Cool.  
Then make the frosting. Beat until smooth:  
1-1/2 cups powdered sugar  
3 tbsp. milk  
1 tsp. vanilla  
2 tbsp. butter  
Spread the frosting on the bars.  
Make your own good memories with these lemon bars. Enjoy!

A drawing by Gary's cousin Lynn showing Gary and herself and Doris with a plate of lemon bars in the backyard.
Lectionary Readings
February 2014

Sunday 2 February
Presentation of Our Lord
Malachi 3:14
Psalm 84
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

Sunday 9 February
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]
Psalm 112:1-9 [10]
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday 16 February
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119:1-8
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday 23 February
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm 119:33-40
1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

Upcoming Educational Forums
Sundays 11:15am

February 2
Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership
Michele Braley

Criminal justice asks, “What law was broken and what punishment is deserved?” Restorative justice asks, “What harm was caused and how can that harm be repaired?” Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Partnership receives referrals of juveniles arrested in our neighborhood for shoplifting, theft, property damage and other low-level offenses. Using a restorative conference process, SLRJP includes the youth, parents, those directly impacted, and community members in a conversation to explore the harm caused and to develop an agreement with the youth to repair the harm. Michele Braley, Program Manager for SLRJP, will talk about her organization’s unique and important work in our neighborhood. This forum is presented in conjunction with the Music Series event Presentation Vespers later that afternoon. All offerings received during this vespers service will go to support the work of SLRJP.

February 9
Preparing for Our Annual Meeting
Announcements, details, and discussion led by church council to prepare for next week’s annual meeting.

February 16
Annual Meeting
After coffee and fellowship, come back to the sanctuary for the annual meeting. We will receive official 2013 reports, welcome new council members, and conduct any new congregational business.

February 23
Caring for Creation: Climate Change and Coral Reefs
Chuck Dayton

Chuck Dayton, a retired environmental lawyer with a strong interest in the climate crisis, spent two and a half months this past summer sailing across the South Pacific to study the health of coral reefs. On that trip he visited French Polynesia, the Cook Islands, and Tonga and became a firsthand witness of the impact of rising temperatures in the ocean. He works with Interfaith Power and Light to address the importance of creation care among people of faith.

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

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 Todesstunde. 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 cheese and wine reception in the Luther Lounge follows.

February Birthdays
2/3 Alan Ebel
2/4 Cathy Polsfuss
2/6 Noah Niernmann
2/7 Lee Schuett
2/11 Sharon Mueller
Alexander Jenkins-Buegel
2/14 David Kutzbach
2/15 Gary Gustafson
2/16 Leonard Rabe
2/18 Jane Buckley Farlee
2/22 Henry Painter
2/23 Robert Buckley Farlee
2/26 Bob Victorin-Vangerud
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**Christ Church Lutheran—February 2014**
Welcome new members Marlyse and Chad Blihovde (and their boys Elliot and Joseph, not pictured). Congratulations, Marlyse, on becoming an American citizen!