“Let the Children Come”

We love children at Christ Church Lutheran! Our Lord said, “Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs” (Luke 18:16). Like Christ, we welcome children and their families to the life of our community of faith. We seek to include children as fully as we can; to join with their families in their faith formation; and to have eyes to see the kingdom of God revealed in them. Here are some of the ways children’s ministry is happening at Christ Church now:

• **Children are welcome in worship.** Worship is at the heart of our life together, as baptized people of God. We cherish the presence of children in all our worship and seek ways to nurture children’s worship in word and sacrament. In particular, every Sunday there is sermon on the steps—a sermon addressed especially to children, based on the scripture readings of the day. And children of all ages are welcome at the Lord’s table. Practices vary, depending on parents’ preferences: some of our children receive communion as soon as they are baptized, others when they begin to reach for the bread, others come for a blessing and will be welcomed at the table when they and their parents decide it is time. But all are welcome.

• **Children’s leadership is welcome in worship.** With parents and grandparents, children serve as greeters, standing at the sanctuary doors on Sunday morning to welcome people to worship. When there is a baptism, children serve as acolytes—holding the pitcher of water, the baptismal cloth, the candle, the oil—helpers to the presiding minister. At Easter, children served as gift bearers, carrying the bread to the table. We learn each week from children’s insights offered in sermon on the steps. We continue to look for ways to include children’s participation in worship leadership at Christ Church.

• **Children are God’s hands at work.** During Lent, children were each given a “poor box” to bring home and put coins in, to help feed hungry children. Our children brought these boxes to worship the Sunday after Easter—an offering that totaled $71.04, which was given to our local food shelf. We continue to seek ways to help children be involved in doing God’s work in the world.

• **Children are a valued part of our community.** We treasure intergenerational relationships at Christ Church. Babies are held in worship and cared for by surrogate aunties and uncles, “omas” and “opas.” Children have significant relationships with people of all generations and come to church, in part, so that they can see their older friends at church. As well, children are forming friendships with one another as they dance in the halls, play with pebbles together in the courtyard, and enjoy the fountain. We are grateful for the life and joy they bring to our community.

• **We seek to help children and their families grow in faith and understanding.** Children are learning much about faith and the Christian life as they worship and participate in our life together. In addition, during the sermon, there has been a short time of instruction for older children who want to leave worship for a while. Each week, Pastor Carlson has been preparing a lesson plan based on the scripture readings in worship; parents and grandparents have been taking turns leading these sessions with the children; the children return for communion and the end of the service. We are also

*Continued on page 3*
Retirees
Retirees will meet at 11:00am on Wednesday 25 June in the Concor- dia Room. A cold salad/dessert potluck lunch will follow program.

Wedding
April McMillan and Lynn Tollef- son were married at Christ Church on Saturday 3 May. Pastor Carlson officiated.

Funerals/Memorials
Betty Williams, mother of Karen Woestehoff, died on Monday 3 March. A memorial service was held for her on Saturday 10 May at Christ Church Lutheran. Pastor Carlson presided. Betty’s nephew—a Methodist minister—preached.

Orv Bruss died on Monday 19 May at the age of 96. His last time at Christ Church was on Easter Sunday this year. His funeral was on Saturday 24 May at Christ Church Lutheran. Pastor Carlson preached and presided.

Dick Gliem died on Thursday 6 February. A memorial service was held for him on Saturday 31 May at Christ Church Lutheran.

Baptism
Simeon Paul Markus Messner was baptized on Sunday 11 May by his grandfather Paul, assisted by Pastor Carlson.

New Members
Mary Brown and Luther Johnson, Dawn Dankers, and Alan and Patti Schmidt joined the congregation during worship on Sunday 18 May.
Finances Update

The finance committee wants 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 envelope (member) giving is less than we had budgeted by about $8,200. Our expenses are about $9,200 over what we had budgeted, due almost entirely to the high cost of heating this past winter. This year we have spent almost exactly twice as much for natural gas as we had at this time last year. Ouch. See page 9 for more about a special appeal to help cover these additional and unexpected heating costs.

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Helping Hands May/June

Gene Bruss
Bill & Phyllis Dunstone
Clyde Hanson
Muriel Heller
Michael Jefferis
David Kutzbach
Leo & Anselma Lopez and family
Kevin Reuther & Gerry Tyrrell
Jan Radloff
Bob & Ute Swenson
Evelyn & Wally Wermager
Max Wipperman

If you are named in the June helping hands chart, please help with Sunday morning coffee fellowship in the form of set up, clean up, or treats. Contact Michael Jefferis for details. michael.jefferis@gmail.com

Children at Christ Church

Continued from page 1

preparing to offer Sunday School in the fall for the older children.

• **We have outreach ministries for children in our neighborhood.** KidArt is a program led by Sally Messner that meets on some Saturday mornings during the school year to provide a fun time for children with music and art. For three weeks during the month of June, we are offering a summer school program for preschool and young elementary school children—with mornings of learning about music, art, science, and drama. Sally Messner is the director of this program, and she will be helped by many volunteers from our congregation.

We are very grateful for our children and their families—treasures for us in the body of Christ.

—Pastor Carlson

One of our children, Prince.
From the 20 May Council Meeting

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 council approved a request for $2,650 in visioning funds from the weaving group. The money will be used for looms, instruction, and materials for weaving projects for use at the church. $10,000 of endowment fund interest is set aside each year for visioning funds. Congregation members can apply for grants for new initiatives in the areas of worship, congregational community, and outreach.

In light of the recent gift from the estate of Dick and Doris Gliem, the council discussed ways to show our thanksgiving for this generous contribution. We agreed that since the upcoming capital campaign will address the organ and the building and since the money from the Gliems will go to these areas, this gift of thanksgiving should focus on mission. We are requesting that the capital campaign task force include a mission component in the upcoming campaign as a way to give thanks for what we have received and maintain a sense of balance between our three priorities: worship, congregational life, and mission.

During the discussions of the budget last December, the council made a commitment to review the state of congregational finances after Easter. Melody Pauling assembled a comparison of the first four months of this year with the same period from 2013. Current giving by the congregation is ahead of the previous year, but we are a bit further behind in our budget than was the case last year at this time. The largest factor is the amount of money spent on natural gas during the intensely cold weather this winter (almost $7,000 more than this time last year). The council requested that the stewardship committee plan a quick “mind the gap” campaign to help cover the cost of the cold winter of 2013–14. See page 9 for more about a special appeal to help cover these additional and unexpected heating costs.

Updates were provided about the work of the capital campaign task force and the audit committee task force.

The first group has met once and is gathering information about what other congregations have done in their campaigns. The second group is planning the best way to conduct a routine audit of the 2013 books. Currently, an audit by an outside agent seems best because it has been some time since an audit was done and also because we have received significant donations over the last two years.

Reports by our pastors demonstrate the richness of the life of our congregation. Reports from other committees highlight the good work being done by the members of Christ Church Lutheran. Please do not hesitate to contact the members of the church council with your questions and comments.

Floor Work This Summer

Floor Tile Replacement in Lower Level of Education Wing

Flooding in the lower level last summer damaged some of the floor tile. This tile is more than fifty years old and some is broken or loose and no longer glued down to the floor properly. The exact tile color and size is no longer manufactured. Much study has been done to determine the best replacement options. The project is further complicated by the existence of asbestos in the original tile.

The gray tile in the hallways will be replaced with square tiles of a different size and color. It has been a slow methodical process to review this change with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Tile replacement will begin on 14 July. The lower level will be closed for about a week during asbestos abatement. Then, during the time that new tile is being installed, there will be limited access to the lower level. Most of the cost of this work will be paid by insurance funds.
Font Changes This Summer
Proposed Renewal of the Saarinen-Designed Christ Church Lutheran Baptismal Font

The condition of the baptismal font is of particular concern to us now, as documented in the historic structures report completed by MacDonald and Mack Architects. Access a copy of this report in the church archives room—the green room off the atrium.

A detailed assessment by Nicole Grabow of the Midwest Art Conservation Center indicates plating failure largely due to the marriage of dissimilar materials: iron and silver and an inherent weakness at the interface between them. However, this “inherent vice” is exacerbated by the essential use of water. As a result, the interior bowl of our font is “pitting” (see photo below).

Preserving both the aesthetics and the functionality of our font will require some measure of replacement with more permanent materials. We are considering two options for the renewal of our baptismal font:

- The objects could be completely remade from more stable materials and the existing pieces retired from use, but that would replace the originals with ones that are fundamentally different.
- Or the originals could be conserved according to accepted museum conservation standards, which would mean they no longer could hold water and could not be used as intended.

The recommended treatment is a combination of these two approaches:

- The top section of the basin will be remade using a silver-plated copper alloy instead of the ferrous metal.
- The original will be archived at Christ Church Lutheran.
- The lower section of the basin will be re-plated.

The proposed cost for this project is $8,760 and is being considered by the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran Board as their next fund-raising project.

—Preservation Committee
Bob Davis, Chair; Aaron Amosson, Fred Bentz, Mary Bode, Jody McGuire, Joanne Seltz, Will Stark, Pastor Carlson

Pitting on the inside of our baptismal font.
**Synod Assembly Report**

This year’s Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly touched on some interesting, insightful, and important topics. We discussed our roles as people of faith in combination with our roles as members of a democratic society and how these facets of our lives interact. Included in that conversation were questions regarding our stewardship of God’s creation as well as relating respectfully with our neighbors who have differing views from our own. Overall, I think those topics were met with an eagerness and enthusiasm for change both in the way we relate to our natural environment and additionally making active efforts to be courteous and gracious even though we might disagree with another’s view.

One of the larger points that was touched on was discussed by David Hahn in his presentation “The Promise of Listening.” It outlined a study in which he asked people of faith to talk with their trusted friends who were not church-goers. He said at the beginning that he didn’t quite know what he was looking for by doing this experiment other than figuring out how to bridge the gap between his deeply devout audience and those new-comers to faith. What was revealed through his process (something that we all in attendance practiced during the presentation) was that by listening to the individual, validating their experience, and providing ourselves as a source of trust and comfort to our neighbors, we can learn more than we ever could have hoped to if we had set out to learn one very particular thing. This idea was reflected in the passage from Luke 10 that we read, in which Jesus says, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them.” Colin and I entered this assembly meeting not knowing what to expect and have, in a way very similar to the disciples, seen and heard much that makes us feel blessed to be members of the ELCA and our congregation at Christ Church.

—Hillary Watkins

**Strengths Workshop**

When was the last time you shared the stories of your “good experiences”—times in your life when you did something well, enjoyed doing it, and felt proud of it? It is a “good experience” and a deep joy to be part of a community where we are invited to explore and engage our great variety of strengths—in our worship and in service to one another and to our neighbors. I give thanks for this.

—Rachel Mann

**Save the Date: Eat for Equity Event**

This summer the Midtown Farmers Market is partnering with Eat for Equity to hold a community meal and fundraiser at Christ Church Lutheran. The event will feature a dinner prepared by Eat for Equity and market volunteers, local music, and a silent auction. A donation of $15 to $30 is requested per attendee and may be given at the door—no tickets needed. The event will take place Saturday 7 June from 7:00–10:00pm at Christ Church. To reserve a seat or to learn more, go to midtownfarmers-market.org or search on Facebook for Eat for Equity benefiting the Midtown Farmers Market.

**BierKlub Update**

We had a good turnout on Saturday 17 May, with seven brewers in attendance putting together a batch of Czech pilsner, which is now in the fridge fermenting. BrewMaster Marcus Nooney got the temperature controller installed, and it seems to be holding temperature well. Prost!
Music that Makes Community Returns to Christ Church

Last month, Wednesday 14 May through Friday 16 May, Christ Church again hosted Music that Makes Community. This is an endeavor that started at Saint Gregory of Nyssa Church in San Francisco in the 1990s and is focused on helping congregational leaders build community through teaching songs without use of paper or, in most cases, instruments. Pastor Carlson and I first attended one of these workshops in Los Angeles, along with our vicar at the time, Aimee Appell. This is the second workshop we have hosted at Christ Church. Our hospitality is so amazing that, though the organization normally rotates through sites, they asked if they could return to Christ Church this year.

The days are led by a team of presenters that is always changing. This time it included people from San Francisco, New York, Chicago, Ontario, Illinois, and Wisconsin. They teach the basics of paperless singing, but most of it is hands-on: participants leading and even creating their own songs. The whole is grounded in liturgy, which happens throughout the event. Participants this time came from Minnesota but also from Wisconsin, Kentucky, Alaska, and Slovakia, among other locations. The learning and the spirit are just amazing.

And that was helped by the work of Christ Church–related people. Pastors Carlson and I were primary hosts, but the food was again prepared by Chris Tou and Molly Tulkki, who (by the way) are getting married in June. And again, it was exceptional. Soups, sandwiches, caramel rolls, and much more—all made from scratch. Ben Cherland helped out by capturing photographs for Music that Makes Community to use in their publicity.

The experience has again sparked the enthusiasm of Christ Church people for this way of singing, so you can expect more use of these techniques in coming months. And from the participants to our congregation, a great—and oft-repeated—thank you!

—Robert Farlee

Thank You from Ben Jacobson

Ben Jacobson, a student at Luther Seminary, has been doing his field work at Christ Church Lutheran for the past two years—preaching at a Lenten midweek service, serving as lector and offering Intercessory Prayers in worship, helping to teach a class on Lutheranism, doing some visitation, and meeting regularly with Pastor Carlson for mentoring time and with Pastor Haaland for conversation too. Here is a thank you note from him as he leaves us now for his vicar year:

People of Christ Church,

I want to express my gratitude for your welcoming and open spirit. Christ Church Lutheran has been a place for me to learn and grow for the past two years. It is here that I have had opportunities to get to know you, to participate in the rich worship Christ Church offers, to preach, to teach, and to enjoy the fullness of God’s grace in this community.

In a few weeks, I will be married in Fargo, North Dakota, but will return soon after to Saint Paul to continue my seminary education. The next phase of this is internship (or what you folks call vicarage). I will be serving at Mount Calvary Lutheran in Eagan for one year before returning to Luther Seminary to complete a final year of studies.

Again, I cannot thank the community of Christ Church enough for fostering the learning of seminary students. It is important work, and you have done it so well. To Pastors Carlson and Haaland and the entire congregation, I say thank you.

Sincerely,
Ben Jacobson
Prayers for Nigerian Girls

Bishop Babba of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria (LCCN), our companion synod, has asked the churches of the Minneapolis Area Synod to pray for the people of Nigeria as they reel from the news that nearly three hundred school girls have been abducted by Boko Haram.

Bishop Babba asks particularly for prayers for church-related schools, where concern is high. The Minneapolis Area Synod is the only ELCA synod that has this relationship with the LCCN. And about fifteen Minneapolis Area Synod congregations have partnerships with congregations in Nigeria.

In an effort to personalize the tragedy, Bishop Svennungsen of the Minneapolis Area Synod invites each congregation to pray for one of the girls who has been kidnapped. Christ Church has been asked to pray in particular for Anthonia Yahonna. We hold this girl in our prayers and entrust her health and well being to Christ our Lord. The synod suggests this prayer to be offered corporately and individually:

Oh, Good Shepherd, we know you weep over those from your flock who have been kidnapped in Nigeria. This day we pray for those girls and young women separated from their families simply for wanting to be educated. Protect these children. Comfort their mothers and fathers. Grant wisdom to community leaders who seek a peaceful return of the girls and the reunion of families. We pray for our brother, Bishop Babba, of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, as we seek to walk with him and his sisters and brothers in Nigeria. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

June Birthdays

6/3 Clyde Hanson
6/5 John Buegel
6/7 Amanda Girard
6/8 Harvey Leuning
6/10 Melody Pauling
6/12 David Polsfuss
6/14 Julie Brandon
6/15 June Johnson
6/16 Allan Mahnke
6/19 Erik Haaland
6/20 Roger Gomoll
6/21 Lynn Speiker
6/23 Sarah Brunsvold
6/24 Marge Meffert
6/25 Ken Schoenike
6/26 Tatum Nooney
6/27 Samantha Hoss
6/28 Edward Lief
6/29 Paul Flanders

Celebrate Pentecost at Christ Church
Don’t Forget to Wear Red

Sunday 8 June is Pentecost, “the fiftieth day,” the Greek name for the Feast of Weeks, a prominent feast in ancient Israel celebrating the giving of the Law on Sinai. In the Christian tradition, it became a feast commemorating the Holy Spirit’s descent upon the Apostles and other followers of Christ as described in the book of Acts. Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the church. One traditional way of celebrating this festival is to wear red clothing to worship.
Budget Needs Stoking after Long, Cold Winter

The extra-long, extra-cold winter combined with higher natural gas prices has left the Christ Church budget with a ten-thousand-dollar deficit. We need your help to melt this deficit away.

We did not anticipate the cold nor the higher prices, and our lean budget cannot absorb this unexpected overage. Please consider making an extra gift this month so that we can pay this bill without compromising other areas of our budget.

If we can raise $10,000 in June, we will be back on track. Making a gift is easy:

• Return the remitter envelope enclosed with the letter sent to you from the stewardship committee. If you haven’t received a letter by the end of the first week of June, please call the church office.

• Bring a check to church and drop it in the “gas bill” box at the back of the sanctuary.

• Click on the “donate” button on the Christ Church website and designate your gift to the “gas bill.”

And remember, your gift is tax deductible. Thank you for being generous.

—Stewardship Committee
Wine Tasting a Success

Nineteen Christ Church members and friends enjoyed learning about and tasting eight wines from South America, including a few whites, a rosé, and then several reds. Congregational friend and trained oenologist Scott Tunseth developed the list of wines, researched the presentation, and offered food pairings along the journey, including some homemade cheesecake squares that complemented the final offering, which was an excellent dessert red. The crowd favorite was probably a carménère—Chile’s signature grape (pictured to the right) that until recently was thought to be and marketed widely as merlot!—from the Alpatagua Enervo vineyard in the Colchagua Valley.
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<td>9:30 AM Eucharist</td>
<td>9:00 AM Stationery</td>
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<td>1:00 PM Tai Chi Chih</td>
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<td>FATHERS DAY</td>
<td>HOLY TRINITY</td>
<td>7:00 PM Exec. Board</td>
<td>9:00 AM Font removal from Sanctuary</td>
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<td>9:30 AM Eucharist</td>
<td>7:30 PM Council</td>
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<td>Summer Begins!</td>
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<td>9:30 AM Eucharist</td>
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<td>Acolytes</td>
<td>Lectors</td>
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<td>Simo Sarken</td>
<td>Gary Skrivseth</td>
<td>Kevin Olsen</td>
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<td>Bob Davis</td>
<td>Will Stark</td>
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<td>Jason Bergquist</td>
<td>Phyllis Mattil</td>
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<td>Sarah Brunsvold</td>
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<td>Dave Kutzbach</td>
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<td>July 6</td>
<td>Ben Cherland</td>
<td>Jason Bergquist</td>
<td>Phyllis Mattil</td>
<td>Mary Loman</td>
<td>Gary Skrivseth</td>
<td>Luann Skrivseth</td>
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**Sunday Worship Services – 9:30am**

**Date Assisting Ministers**
- June 1: Pat Baehler, Ben Cherland, Simo Sarken
- June 8: Pat Baehler, Sisko, Sarah Brunsvold
- June 15: Pat Baehler, Jason Bergquist, Sarah Brunsvold
- June 22: Pat Baehler, Jason Bergquist, Luann Skrivseth
- June 29: Ben Cherland, Jason Bergquist, Mary Loman
- July 6: Ben Cherland, Jason Bergquist, Mary Bode

**Volunteer Schedule**

- **Assisting Ministers**
  - June 1: Pat Baehler, Ben Cherland, Simo Sarken
  - June 8: Pat Baehler, Sisko, Sarah Brunsvold
  - June 15: Pat Baehler, Jason Bergquist, Sarah Brunsvold
  - June 22: Pat Baehler, Jason Bergquist, Luann Skrivseth
  - June 29: Ben Cherland, Jason Bergquist, Mary Loman
  - July 6: Ben Cherland, Jason Bergquist, Mary Bode

- **Madonnas**
  - June 1: Blaine
  - June 8: Jan Radloff
  - June 15: Sisko
  - June 22: Jason Bergquist
  - June 29: Ben Cherland
  - July 6: Jason Bergquist

- **Acolytes**
  - June 1: Phyllis Mattil
  - June 8: Phyllis Mattil
  - June 15: Phyllis Mattil
  - June 22: Phyllis Mattil
  - June 29: Phyllis Mattil
  - July 6: Phyllis Mattil

- **Lectors**
  - June 1: Simo Sarken
  - June 8: Daniel Holmgren
  - June 15: Sarah Brunsvold
  - June 22: Clayton Smith
  - June 29: Sarah Brunsvold
  - July 6: Marni Schmidt

- **Head Ushers**
  - June 1: Gary Skrivseth
  - June 8: Bob Davis
  - June 15: Max Wipperman
  - June 22: Max Wipperman
  - June 29: Max Wipperman
  - July 6: Gary Skrivseth

- **Greeters**
  - June 1: Kevin Olsen
  - June 8: Will Stark
  - June 15: Max Wipperman
  - June 22: Max Wipperman
  - June 29: Max Wipperman
  - July 6: Gary Wahlstrom

- **Prayer Writers**
  - June 1: Paul Hanson
  - June 8: Will Stark
  - June 15: Gary Wahlstrom
  - June 22: Gary Wahlstrom
  - June 29: Gary Wahlstrom
  - July 6: Gary Wahlstrom