Celebrating the Fifty Days of Easter

As we enter the month of May, we find ourselves right in the middle of the season of Easter. While the season of Lent lasts for forty days (a biblical number suggesting a time of waiting, endurance, trial, and temptation) the season of Easter lasts for fifty days. Fifty has its own meaning. The fifty days of Easter encompass seven full weeks—a week of weeks! As the biblical number seven suggests wholeness, beauty, and goodness—think of the creation story—seven times seven must signify goodness unbounded.

The season of Easter also includes eight Sundays (Easter Sunday through Pentecost). Early Christians spoke of Sunday as the “eighth day”—a day not only of creation but also of new creation—the number eight taking us out of our normal seven-day cycles and ushering us into something radically new. Time outside of time. The goodness of God’s promised future breaking in upon us now. The justice and peace of the reign of God breaking in upon our world, through the power of Christ’s resurrection from the dead. And so throughout these days of Easter we continue to proclaim: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

An Easter Forum Series—Sharing the Hope within Us

On two of the Sundays of Easter (10 May and 17 May) join us after worship for two special forums (see forum schedule on p. 10). The biblical book of 1 Peter encourages us: “Be ready to make your defense…for the hope that is in you.” This seems like a wonderful way to talk about Easter faith: “the hope that is in us.” Join us as six members of Christ Church share stories of their lives and how they have experienced the gospel realities of faith, hope, and love at work in their own lives. May their stories inspire you to share some of your own. Participants include Bob Victorin-Vangerud, Rachel Mann, Howard Polsfuss, Hillary and Colin Watkins, and Melody Pauling.

Pentecost—Sunday 24 May

On the fiftieth day of Easter, we celebrate the Spirit, through whom and in whom the people of God are created and re-created. Pentecost is sometimes called the church’s birthday but might more appropriately be called its baptism day, since the gift of the Spirit is the fullness of baptism.

On Pentecost, come to worship at 9:30am. Wear red! And with wind and fire, we will pray together: Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Then come to the forum at 11:15am, where Jordan Sramek, Founder and Artistic Director of the Rose Ensemble, will share his knowledge of Pentecost liturgical traditions. Come and learn the history of the forms of prayer we’ll be experiencing together in Pentecost Vespers, a Music Series event led by the remarkable Rose Ensemble later that day at 5:30pm in the Christ Church sanctuary.
Announcements

Retirees
Join us at 11:00 on Wednesday, April 29, for a program (check bulletin for more information). Potluck lunch will follow. Everyone welcome.

Funerals
A funeral service for Roald Carlson, father of Pastor Carlson, was held on Saturday 21 March at Christ Church Lutheran.

Lori Rosenkvist passed away on Wednesday 25 March. Her funeral was Saturday 18 April, with Pastor Carlson officiating.

Helping Hands
May/June
Gene Bruss & Jan Radloff  
Bill & Phyllis Dunstone  
Kate Haugen & Carlton Hunke  
Michael Jefferis  
David Kutzbach  
Lynn & Kevin Larson  
Kevin Reuther & Gerry Tyrrell  
Bob & Ute Swenson  
Dick Thompson  
Evelyn & Wally Wermager

If you are named in the above helping hands chart, please help with Sunday morning coffee fellowship in the form of set up, clean up, or treats. Contact Mary Bode or Joanne Seltz for details. mhbode@gmail.com | seltz4@aol.com
**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 congregational giving is lagging slightly behind budget, but our overall net income is actually not too far off budget. We have built into the budget for 2015 the ability to take some funds from the endowment’s earnings (up to $7,950 through March), but have not needed to do so thus far. So our actual shortfall is much closer to $7,000—a very manageable number.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>as of March 31, 2015</th>
<th>ACTUAL</th>
<th>BUDGET (3 mos.)</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>Total Surplus (or Deficit)</td>
<td>($13,272.92)</td>
<td>($7,951.53)</td>
<td>($5,321.39)</td>
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**Lori Rosenkvist**

Christ Church member Lori Rosenkvist passed away Wednesday 25 March after a life-long struggle with diabetes and kidney disease. Lori was born in Staples, Minnesota, to Bertha Viola (Jenssen) Johnson and Milton Harold Johnson. She graduated from Augsburg College in 1981 and worked as an editor and writer of religious publications for more than thirty years with Logos Productions and Augsburg Fortress Publishers. She is preceded in death by brother Joseph Milton Johnson and survived by daughter Claire Rosenkvist, sister Julie (Johnson) Antolak, cousins, nieces and nephews. She was an activist for social justice, a woman of strong Lutheran faith, a supporter of the fine arts, an appreciator of state parks, and a lover of music. Her inner strength, positive attitude, and sense of humor were inspirational to all who knew her. Her funeral was held at Christ Church on Saturday 18 April and her interment was at Staples Cemetery.
From the April 21 Council Meeting

We began our April meeting with devotions led by Pat Baehler, who read the poem “My Heart Is a Holy Place” by Patricia Van Ness and offered a prayer. We spent the first fifteen minutes of the meeting discussing goals and began a discussion of issues that will need our attention after the Second Century Campaign. A big priority is children and families. A renovated building and new organ will need to be put to use in various ways to maximize their value. We expect to focus also on staffing, mission, and environmental sustainability.

Pastor Farlee gave the council an update on the proposal for the new organ that the organ task force received from Lynn Dobson. The proposal looks quite positive. The next step is an assessment by an acoustician, scheduled for late April.

The church is growing and the building is being used more and more. Demands on staff continue to increase. The council voted to reassemble a staffing task force to assess our staff needs in the near future and suggest ways we can meet these demands. The goal is to anticipate these needs ahead of time.

We still hope to be able to host Pastor Helge Voigt for a year in an exchange with the Leipzig district of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany. Discussions are still underway.

We heard numerous reports from our pastors, committees, and task forces. The project management task force reported that work on various entrances to the church is beginning. The finance committee told council that an assessment of church finance records has been completed by MAPS for Nonprofits. The committee received many helpful suggestions about a variety of finance practices. Much good work is happening here. We offer thanks to all members for their commitment and support.

Sabbatical Postponed

Pastor Carlson announced the news of her father’s illness in worship on Sunday 8 March. In light of this recent development—and his subsequent death—the pastoral support committee, along with Pastor Carlson, have decided to postpone the sabbatical activities that had been planned for 2015. We will continue to keep Pastor Carlson’s sabbatical, as well as the time of congregational sabbatical, as a priority and will move forward with planning when the timing is right.

FoodShare a Success

Thanks to all who contributed to the Wheelbarrow Drive for Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. We collected 236 pounds of food, hygiene and baby supplies for Community Emergency Service (CES)—a wonderful local organization that provides food and other assistance to neighbors in need. Additionally, Christ Church Lutheran members contributed over $500 to help CES purchase food to restock their shelves. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Thanks to Luther Johnson and Mary Brown for delivering the supplies and snapping the photo above.
Living in Community
Mission Series, Part 3

The Mission Committee Courier series has been on a two-month hiatus, but we are glad to pick it up again in this month of May. In January we discussed the problem of isolation in our society—and along with that we wrote about the gift of Christian community. In February we brought up the difficult issues surrounding racial inequality and the effects of racism in our communities. This month we turn our attention to hunger.

According to the USDA, 1 in 10 Minnesotans, or more than 500,000 state residents, experience food insecurity on a regular basis. Nationwide, more than 49 million Americans, including more than 16 million children, live in households that do not have access to nutritious food. In Minnesota, almost 200,000 children live in poverty. In addition, in 2012, 8.6% of seniors in Minnesota reported being threatened by hunger. There were more than 3 million visits to Minnesota food shelves in 2013. And in Minnesota each day, 3,500 children are served by food shelves. All of this exists in the midst of our affluent society, where so many of us truly have far more than we need.

Here at Christ Church, hunger is an area on which we have focused our time and resources over the years. Last month we collected food, hygiene, and baby products for the Minnesota FoodShare March campaign. We are regular contributors to Community Emergency Service (CES), our local food shelf. We provide monthly meals for SafeHouse, an LSS shelter for homeless youth. We also provide bimonthly meals at Our Saviour’s Shelter. For many years Christ Church has also been a supporter of South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels, providing financial support as well as drivers to deliver hot meals to local seniors. In addition, one of the recipients of our upcoming Second Century Campaign is All Things New—a campaign of the ELCA—nearly half of which benefits ELCA World Hunger.

Being a part of our broader community’s efforts to feed the hungry is very important to us here at Christ Church. Why is that? Perhaps it’s because hospitality, and sharing food together around the Lord’s table, is at the heart of our life together. When we come to worship on Sunday mornings, we come together as hungry, broken people—keenly aware that the daily bread we need comes not by our own goodness, wealth, or accomplishments but by God’s grace alone. Life comes to us as a gift. Christ’s welcome at his table comes to us as a gift. How then could we not be part of the work of sharing that welcome, and that gift, with our neighbors? Sharing food with our neighbors flows naturally from the gifts we receive at Christ’s table. May we at Christ Church continue to find ever more ways to share the abundant gifts we’ve been given.

—Pastor Haaland
The Suburban Church
Modernism and Community in Postwar America

This fall the University of Minnesota Press will release *The Suburban Church: Modernism and Community in Postwar America*, a book by Gretchen Buggeln, a professor at Valparaiso University in Christ College—the Honors College.

After World War II, America’s religious denominations spent billions on church architecture as they spread into the suburbs. In this richly illustrated history of midcentury modern churches in the Midwest, Gretchen Buggeln shows how architects and suburban congregations joined forces to work out a vision of how modernist churches might help revitalize Protestant worship and community. The result is a fascinating new perspective on postwar architecture, religion, and society.

Drawing on the architectural record, church archives, and oral histories, *The Suburban Church* focuses on collaborations between architects Edward D. Dart, Edward A. Sövik, Charles E. Stade, and seventy-five congregations. By telling the stories behind their modernist churches, the book describes how the buildings both reflected and shaped developments in postwar religion—its ecumenism, optimism, and liturgical innovation, as well as its fears about staying relevant during a time of vast cultural, social, and demographic change.

While many scholars have characterized these congregations as “country club” churches, *The Suburban Church* argues that most were earnest, well-intentioned religious communities caught between the desire to serve God and the demands of a suburban milieu in which serving middle-class families required most of their material and spiritual resources.

Gretchen Buggeln holds the Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg Chair in Christianity and the Arts at Valparaiso University. She writes and teaches about the intersection of Christian belief and the material world, and her primary research interest is American sacred spaces. She has published numerous essays on the religious landscape. Her book *Temples of Grace: The Material Transformation of Connecticut’s Churches, 1790–1840* won national book awards from the Vernacular Architecture Forum and the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic. Before coming to Valparaiso in 2004, she worked at the H.F. du Pont Winterthur Museum in Delaware, and she continues to be active in the museum field by reviewing exhibitions and writing about how museums interpret religious artifacts and belief. Recognize at least one of the churches on the cover of the book?

A World Transformed
Exploring the Spirituality of Medieval Maps

In the fall of 2012, author and teacher Lisa Deam led a forum and afternoon workshop at Christ Church Lutheran on medieval maps and how they relate to our journeys of faith. As she tells it, her day with the people of Christ Church encouraged her to push on with her work on maps, including ongoing research and writing. She now sends the good news that Cascade Books, a division of Wipf & Stock, has just release *A World Transformed: Exploring the Spirituality of Medieval Maps*.

On the edge of medieval maps, monsters roam. In the west, pilgrims take well-traveled roads to Rome and Compostela. In the east, Old Testament history unfolds. And at the center, in the city of Jerusalem, Jesus saves the world. In *A World Transformed*, Lisa takes us on an incredible journey through medi-
eval maps. Despite their curious appearance, these maps are surprisingly modern. In their monstrous, marvelous sights lie treasure troves of wisdom to guide twenty-first-century Christians on their walk with God. Each chapter in this geographical journey links medieval maps to biblical concepts and spiritual practices that transform our faith and our world. For a short time, the publisher is offering 40% off on their site with the code MAPS.

The following is an excerpt from the book: *I always find it fascinating when a work of art reveals something about the way it was made. In a Rembrandt painting, for example, globs of paint ride the surface of the canvas, revealing each dab and stroke of the master’s brush. Paintings in medieval manuscript books, by contrast, can be so transparent that the artist’s preliminary sketch peeps out from under the surface. In both cases, we see a bit of the creative process at work.*

*Medieval maps sometimes reveal their making, too. In the center of the Hereford Map, there is a small pinprick or hole that is clearly visible to the naked eye (as long as you are close enough to the map to see it). Scholars believe that this rupture in the parchment marks the spot on which the mapmaker anchored his compass as he drew the circumference of the earth. Given the map’s four-foot diameter, that must have been some compass!*  

*This small record of the map’s making has a great deal of meaning. The little pinprick lies in the exact center of the world. And there, in that spot, an artist drew the city of Jerusalem. Above the city, another artist sketched in a small picture of the Crucifixion.*

*We can almost compare the hole in the parchment to the holes in Christ’s hands, feet, and sides as he is nailed to the cross. The map’s makers may not have thought of the pinprick in this way, but they certainly knew the significance of Jerusalem. With their pinprick and picture, they were following a time-honored tradition that placed this most sacred of cities in the center of the inhabited world.*

*What a beautiful way to make a map! Begin with the cross. Let Jerusalem shape the contours of the earth. The map’s making contains an echo of what God did in the beginning, creating the world and ordering it around his son.*

*It also leads to questions about our world. Each day, we give shape to our world through our beliefs and our way of life. What does our world look like? Does it begin with the cross? Is it given form and coherence by Jesus Christ? Or has it begun to lose the perfect shape the creator gave it? These are challenging questions, even for Christians. So many things clutter our world—so many distractions, competing beliefs, and false promises—that Jesus sometimes gets crowded out. We forget the place that he once occupied in our life, the passion that we once had for him. Our world may no longer be recognizable to us.*

*Maybe it’s time to reshape our world. Time to order it, chart it, plot its contours anew. To do so, we need to think like cartographers of old. We need to think medieval. That is the task of the present chapter. As we become familiar with medieval maps, we will discover how mapmakers saw their world, especially its sacred center. In the process, we may get the urge to become cartographers, too. By chapter’s end, we may find ourselves pulling out our own compass and redrawing our little world.*
**Christ Church Lutheran**  
**Summer School Program—2015**

*Daily curriculum includes craft activities, gross motor skills, academics, free play, songs, and a snack.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Preschool</th>
<th>Summer Elementary School</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>33 months to 5/pre-K, potty-trained</strong></td>
<td><strong>kindergarten to 3rd grade</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| **June 8–12: Seasons with Ali**  
Children will make “snow” and snowmen, plant plants and make butterflies, go camping in the classroom, and make apple creatures. | **June 8–12: Storytelling with Bronte**  
Children learn storytelling topics the first day, create pieces of their own story each day, and perform their final product on the last day. |
| **June 15–19: Storytelling with Bronte**  
Children learn storytelling topics the first day, create pieces of their own story each day, and perform their final product on the last day. | **June 15–19: Drama with Maria**  
Children will create their own play and act in it. They will also discover how to make costumes and build a set. |
| **June 22–26: Dinosaurs with Ali**  
Children learn about dinosaurs, paleontologists, skeletons, and food, make dino teeth and skeletons, create recycled-goods dinos, and go on a dino dig. | **June 22–26: Globetrotter with Bronte**  
Children discover a new country and culture each day and make crafts that represents each. |

**Instructors**

Ali May has worked with children as a nanny, in a childcare center, and as a hostess and event planner at the Minnesota Children’s Museum. She has a degree in child psychology and studio arts.

Bronte Metzger currently attends the University of Minnesota for Youth Studies. She has been working in Luxton Park in Prospect Park for the past two years, coaching sports teams, and teaching an arts and crafts class.

Maria Markman attends Concordia University and teaches Sunday School at Christ Church. Before attending Concordia she toured with Young Americans, a children’s theater group.

Cost is $12 a day per child. Choose from one to five days a week. Class is from 9am to noon and meets at Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Avenue South in Minneapolis. Daily curriculum includes craft activities, gross motor skills, academics, free play, songs, and a snack. Register by calling 612.721.6611 or emailing at mail@christchurchluth.org. Tell your neighbors!
Pentecost Vespers  
Sunday 24 May | 5:30pm

The Rose Ensemble

The Rose Ensemble presents a traditional vespers service celebrating the festival of Pentecost. Join us for a contemplative invocation of the Holy Spirit at the close of the day.

Founded in 1996 and based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, the Rose Ensemble performs vocal music that strives to stir the emotions, challenge the mind, and lift the spirit. Each performance illuminates centuries of rarely heard repertoire, bringing to modern audiences research from the world’s manuscript libraries and fresh perspectives on history, languages, politics, religion, and world cultures and traditions. With ten critically acclaimed recordings and a diverse selection of concert programs, the group has thrilled audiences across the United States and Europe.

Early on Easter Morning . . . at Christ Church

Beginning to gather for Easter Sunday worship, some photos from Pat Baehler this year showing our beautiful sanctuary ready for a big crowd and much joyful worship and fellowship.
Lectionary Readings
May 2015

Sunday 3 May
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Sunday 10 May
*Sixth Sunday of Easter*
Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Sunday 17 May
*Seventh Sunday of Easter*
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Sunday 24 May
*Day of Pentecost*
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Sunday 31 May
*The Holy Trinity*
Isaiah 6:1-8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17

Upcoming Educational Forums
Sundays 11:15am

3 May
*Take Off Your Shoes! This Is Holy Ground*
*DeAne Lagerquist*
We will explore the notion that not all places are the same, that some are sacred. Of course that is a debatable assertion. So we’ll consider specific examples of places widely regarded as holy—some constructed and some natural—and pay attention to both our own experience and scholarly perspectives. Our travel to these places will be via our imagination stimulated by photographs.

L. DeAne Lagerquist teaches religion at St. Olaf College. Although American religion is her original academic field, in recent years she has led several January Interim courses studying sacred places in Greece and Turkey.

10 & 17 May
*Sharing the Hope within Us – Parts I & II*
At Christ Church Lutheran we have begun what we are calling our Second Century Campaign. As we work to ensure the longevity of our place of worship (and support some wonderful ministries outside our walls), what is the faith and hope that we proclaim? At these two forums, hear stories of faith and life from Christ Church members young and old. May they inspire you to share your own stories as we enter together this Second Century of life as a community of faith and hope. Presenters include Bob Victorin-Vangerud, Rachel Mann, Howard Polsfuss (Part I), Hilary and Colin Watkins, and Melody Pauling (Part II).

24 May (Pentecost)
*Pentecost Liturgical Traditions*
*Jordan Sramek*
Jordan Sramek, Founder and Artistic Director of the Rose Ensemble, shares his knowledge of Pentecost liturgical traditions ahead of the Pentecost Vespers Service that evening. Come and learn the history of the forms of prayer we’ll be experiencing together in Pentecost Vespers, a Music Series event led by the Rose Ensemble later that day.

May Birthdays

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<tr>
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<td>5/2</td>
<td>Cliff Siewert</td>
<td>5/18</td>
<td>Anders Carlson-Wee</td>
<td>5/26</td>
<td>Stephanie Gustafson</td>
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<td>5/3</td>
<td>Kara Middleton</td>
<td>5/20</td>
<td>Bill Dunstone</td>
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<td>5/10</td>
<td>Annalies Messner</td>
<td>5/21</td>
<td>Birgitte Christianson</td>
<td>5/27</td>
<td>Zack Carroll</td>
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<td>Tillie Wiklander</td>
<td>5/22</td>
<td>Donna Torgerson</td>
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<td>5/12</td>
<td>Elias Selden</td>
<td>5/23</td>
<td>Liv Nelson</td>
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<td>Patricia Solie</td>
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<td>Tony Girard</td>
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<td>Eb Revsbeck</td>
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<td>5/16</td>
<td>Naomi Bruesehoff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eucharist, Holy Baptism</td>
<td>Tai Chi Chih</td>
<td>Mission, Preservation, Property</td>
<td>Children’s music</td>
<td>Choir</td>
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<td>Mothers’ Day</td>
<td>1:00pm Tai Chi Chih</td>
<td>5pm Pr. Carlson Pastoral Support</td>
<td>9:00am Stationery, 7:00pm Project Management</td>
<td>Ascension Day</td>
<td>Synod Assembly</td>
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<td>9:30am</td>
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<td>Eucharist</td>
<td>Tai Chi Chih</td>
<td>Exec. Board, Council</td>
<td>Organ Task Force, Choir</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pentecost</td>
<td>Memorial Day Building Closed</td>
<td>7:00pm FCCL Board</td>
<td>11:00am Retirees</td>
<td>7:00pm Choir</td>
<td>5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
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