Saint Francis Commemoration

Sunday 4 October is the commemoration of Francis of Assisi, one of the church’s beloved saints. October 4 marks the 789th anniversary of his death. Because Francis’s commemoration falls on a Sunday this year, we’ll be remembering him in our worship and learning about him in the forum.

Later that afternoon, everyone is also invited to the Basilica of Saint Mary for their annual Blessing of the Animals liturgy. If you’ve never been, it’s a sight to see! Read the description from the Basilica below, and contact the church office if you’d like to be part of a carpool.

All Creatures of Our God and King
Sunday 4 October, 1:30pm
Basilica of St. Mary, 1600 Hennepin Ave.

Continued on page 7

Music for a Masterpiece

Five of the finest musicians in the Twin Cities area are playing a benefit concert for Christ Church Lutheran on Tuesday 2 February, 2016, and we’re telling you about it first. As a friend of Christ Church Lutheran, we’re giving you the first opportunity to purchase tickets for this once-in-a-lifetime event and to contribute to the Christ Church Lutheran Second Century campaign to preserve this landmark building.

If you’re a fan of the Minnesota Orchestra (MO) and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO), you’ll know the names: Maestro Osmo Vänskä of the MO will put down the baton and pick up his clarinet for the evening. Erin Keefe, MO concertmaster, and Steven Copes, SPCO concertmaster, will join forces to lead a string quartet that also includes SPCO principal violist Maiya Papach and MO principal cellist Anthony Ross. This will be an evening to remember. On the program are Prokofiev’s Sonata in C Major for 2 violins, Bernard Crusell’s Clarinet Quartet, and Brahms’s Clarinet Quintet in B Minor.

Buy tickets online now at friendsofccl.org. Share the news with friends to give them this same early opportunity. Our concert sponsors have made it possible for every dollar you contribute to go to work repairing, maintaining, and upgrading the Eliel and Eero Saarinen designed building. Choose a $100 seat and you’ll be invited to a VIP reception following the concert. Other tickets start at $40.
Announcements

Retirees
Program at 11:00am on Wednesday 28 October. A German-style lunch will be served. No potluck. Everyone welcome.

Baptism
Cameron Anthony and Makenzie Hope, children of LeAnn and Cory Marudas and siblings to Grace, were baptized on Sunday 2 August. They were sponsored by aunts and uncles: Cameron – Jason Bergquist and Amanda & Tom Robbins; Makenzie – Bryan and Britney Marudas.

More Welcome Sunday photos on page 8
**Finances Update**

The finance committee wants to provide the most current information about our congregation’s finances so will provide a quick report on the state of our operating budget in each issue of *The Courier*.

Thanks to all for your generosity with the Second Century campaign. The nutshell will return in November.

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**More Day of Service**

photos on page 5

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**Helping Hands September/October**

Jeff Adams & Denise Morelock
Darrell & Jeanne Anderson
Mary Bode
Gary & Stephanie Gustafson
Wynn & Marilyn Johnston
Jeannette Kretzmann
Donna Lindberg
Dan & Sharon Mueller
MariLu Peters
Marion Williams

*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

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**October Birthdays**

10/6  Gene Bruss
      Matthew Courtney
10/9  Nathan Bier
10/11 Sarah Selden
      Kinzie Wiklander
10/16 Kate Haugen
10/17 Jill Shingledecker
10/19 Sylvia Bergquist
10/21 Colin Watkins
10/22 Jason Bergquist
      Juanita Burke
10/23 Hilary Gebauer
      Rosie Peters
10/27 Eleanor Uglum
10/29 Ashley Carroll
10/30 Tim Hokkanen

If you are not named above and should be, or if your birthdate is inaccurate, please contact the church office.

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**Music at Christ Church 2015–16**

Look for a series brochure, coming soon. Mark your calendar for the first events:

**October 26**

*Accordo* — see page 7

**November 8**

Bach’s Cantata 185 — presented by the *Bach Society of Minnesota*
From the Church Council
September Council Meeting

For devotions, we learned some more German. Pastor Carlson taught us the pastoral greeting, “The Lord be with you,” and response, “And also with you,” in German. She then read a letter her husband, Rev. Morris Wee, had written from Leipzig describing the situation there with the influx of refugees and how the country and its churches were responding.

The pastoral support committee reported that they are recommencing plans for Pastor Carlson’s sabbatical, which was scheduled for this past summer but had to be postponed when her father became ill and died. For the most part, the basic plans will follow the same model as the plans for last year. The council authorized the committee to move forward.

Will Stark reported that the project management task force is deliberating about whether to adjust the amount of money in their legacy grant request for replacement of the roof on the education wing. We expressed our confidence in their expertise and capacity for making this decision as the process moves along.

Looking ahead to our December congregation meeting, we set the date for the meeting (December 13) and for the council forum before the meeting (December 6). Each year at this meeting the congregation approves a budget. In anticipation we had some preliminary discussion about the budget, including new line items that may need to be included in the 2016 budget.

The children’s music task force reported that Hannah Bjornstad has been hired to begin introducing music into our children’s programming at Christ Church Lutheran. Hannah is a student at Concordia St. Paul. Thanks to the members of this task force for their hard work and welcome.

We are still uncertain when Helge Voigt will be coming to join us in Minneapolis. Pastor Carlson leaves this week for Leipzig. The council signed cards for her to take to Rev. Voigt and to others in our partner district in Leipzig. We wish him a speedy recovery.

We approved the use of $200 from visioning funds to cover the honoraria for some of the members of the bluegrass band that played on Sunday 6 September. We received reports from our pastors and various committees. Much good work is a happening among us.

Second Century Celebration

What do you do when you set a challenging goal for yourself and then meet that goal in less than a year? You celebrate. And so we did, after worship on Sunday 20 September. The Second Century Campaign aims to raise $1.55 million for a new organ, for work on the building, and for special mission projects. The goal for giving from within the congregation was $500,000. So far we have raised $511,873, and still counting.

So we celebrated with champagne and sparkling cider, and delicious cookies beautifully shaped like our Christ Church Lutheran logo (a big thank you to MariLu Peters for her artistry). The Band of Praise played Dixieland and jazz music as we gathered in the courtyard, young and old and in between.

There were speeches, of course, and many toasts to the numerous people who played a role, starting with the members of Christ Church Lutheran for their generosity and including members of the task forces that planned and carried out the campaign, that did the hard work of finding the right organ and organ builder for our church, and that are working their way through spreadsheets and architectural drawings of proposed renovations. What a great accomplishment. What a good day.

More photos on page 8
On September 13 we celebrated “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday, a day of service for the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Together we made two hundred lunches for residents at Our Saviour’s Shelter, an organization we have supported for many years. We assembled hearty sandwiches and put together bags of trail mix. We also donated a bunch of fresh apples from the Midtown Farmers Market. Children and newlyweds were provided special chef’s hats for the day. Thanks to the mission committee for organizing this fine event.
Greetings from Leipzig, Germany. I’ve been here since mid-August as the “exchange pastor,” part of the Global Mission Partnership of the Minneapolis Area Synod with the District of Leipzig. I am serving the Sophienkirchgemeinde Leipzig (the “wisdom congregation” of Leipzig) that consists of four communities and five church buildings that have been united with a single staff and council, but still continue with worship and other traditions of the previous, separate, 800-year-old congregations.

Everything in Germany these days seems to be about the refugees (“Flüchtlinge,” those “in flight”). Germany had expected to receive 800,000 refugees this year; now it will be more. Everyone recognizes that this is hugely problematic, but people here are committed to helping these refugees (many from Syria, but also from Eritrea and Afghanistan). Every worship service includes prayers for the refugees. Every sermon includes exhortations to welcome the refugees. Special offerings are received to support refugees, nearly every time we worship. In early September, we had a march from downtown Leipzig in support of refugees. Yesterday’s Sunday edition of the Frankfurter Allgemeine, a major paper here, has a huge front-page lead article entitled “A new politics of asylum for Europe.” Underneath it is a second article (the two comprising the entire front page) entitled “Coalition agrees to emergency program.” These agreements extend the commitment of Germany and other European countries. They are committed to getting a roof over the head of every refugee before winter, a huge project with a price tag in the neighborhood of ten billion Euros ($12 billion US dollars). By way of comparison, I have heard that the US will receive 200,000 immigrants this year, into a population that is much greater than the population of Germany.

The European Union and the Euro-zone are extremely impressive to me. Despite long-standing and ongoing differences, jealousies, biases, variations in “work ethic,” and expensive commitments to their own elderly, sick, retired, and young—far beyond what the US government spends on comparable programs—these nations are joining together to receive unprecedented numbers of refugees with traditions very different from and sometimes alien to their own. At great cost. At very short notice.

Of course some people are saying “we can’t afford this,” “we can’t possibly manage this,” but the general feeling seems to be “we cannot leave human beings standing in the cold at our door.” At this point the resistance to this seems to be silent.

In the past year, we have heard a lot about the economic problems of the EU, about the bailouts of Greece and the uncertainty about the sustainability of the Union. Yet today, we hear about the humanity and gracious invitation of these countries, including Greece, to people in desperate need. It’s very moving to be here these days.

Today I had coffee with an eighty-five-year-old woman, my neighbor in the little suburb of Leipzig where I live. She told me about the children’s home where she had first worked and the home for the elderly after that, both during the forty-year era of the socialist DDR. She said, “In those days we didn’t have the rules and the limits that came after the Wende (the turn when the iron curtain fell in 1989). It was homier, and we took care of everyone. Our income did not depend on how many we had in the children’s home or the nursing home. With capitalism came many new rules and regulations—for safety, for more regulated and dependable service—and the pressure to increase the numbers you were serving.”

It may be that the more socialist history of Eastern Europe and the social welfare practices of Western Europe have prepared these people to make the sacrifices they are now making for the refugees pouring over their borders. And, of course, churches have stood at the center of these communities for a thousand years. The gospel is alive here, too.

Your partner in Christ,
Rev. Morrie Wee
10 September 2015
At the end of the summer, Stephanie Gustafson made a beautiful card for Rev. Helge Voigt—the pastor in Leipzig, Germany, who was hoping to come here for a year but has been delayed by surgery for cancer and his recovery. The card featured a photo of Christ Church Lutheran on the front, and everyone at Sunday worship that day signed it. Rev. Voigt sent this thank you note:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, dear Christ Church Lutheran, dear Kristine,

Thank you so much for your wonderful card we received. It is a joy for us and we feel like members of your (our) congregation in Minneapolis.

I feel better every day. I have to learn to be more patient and let it all be. I got a second chance for a new life. It is a life with cancer remarkably scarred, but I am free of any tumors today. Perhaps I can find a deeper understanding being liberated by God’s grace feeling beloved. Praying, quietness, reading, walking, time with my wife and children, these are deeply appreciated ways of recovery.

This Sunday Pastor Morris Wee will be welcomed and installed in our Lutheran congregation “Sophienkirchgemeinde.” We are connected in Christ, a great pleasure to us and hopefully an experience to many of our synods.

Rev. Helge Voigt, and Anke, Marie and Hannah Voigt

Accordo Returns to Christ Church for Another Season

Now in its seventh year, Accordo (recently named “Best Chamber Ensemble” by the Minneapolis Star Tribune) is composed of Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Minnesota Orchestra principal string players Rebecca Albers, Ruggero Allifranghini, Steven Copes, Erin Keefe, Kyu-Young Kim, Maiya Papach, and Anthony Ross as well as former SPCO principal cellist Ronald Thomas.

Accordo’s first concert of the 2015–2016 season is coming up on Monday 26 October at 7:30pm here at Christ Church Lutheran. Tickets are available through the Schubert Club website. Here is their program.

Milhaud: Sonatina for Violin and Viola, Opus 226
Beethoven: String Quartet in F Major, Opus 59, No. 1
Mendelssohn: Piano Trio in C Minor, Opus 66

With guest pianist Rieko Aizawa

Saint Francis cont. from page 1

Our annual Saint Francis Festival celebrates the sacredness of all creation. It is held this year on October 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. In the spirit of Saint Francis, the celebration honors animals that share our lives and touch our hearts. It also acknowledges and encourages respect for all of creation. Animals and humans mingle on the lawns and plaza before entering the Basilica in a grand procession, celebrating creation. The service consists of scripture readings, prayers, and songs and culminates in a general blessing. After the service individual blessings are available on the Basilica lawns.

Bluegrass at Christ Church
Welcome Sunday and Second Century Celebration
A New Partnership for Christ Church—The Sheridan Story

This fall the mission committee is excited to begin a new outreach program in our community. Along with St. Peder’s Lutheran Church, we will be partnering with an organization called the Sheridan Story. We will be providing weekend meals for kids at Howe Elementary school—a school right here in our neighborhood. Our two churches have pledged enough money to provide weekend food for up to twenty-five children for the 2015–2016 academic year. We are also committed to providing volunteers to distribute the food each Friday before the end of the school day. Watch for more details. We will be glad for your help and support.

Here is some history of the Sheridan Story:

The Sheridan Story began in 2010 when the school administration at our namesake, Sheridan Elementary School, discovered that students were stealing and hoarding food on Fridays so that they would have something to eat on the weekends. After learning of this need, the Sheridan Story was launched as a project of Mill City Church. In our first month in fall of 2010, we provided a bag of non-perishable food each weekend to twenty-seven students. Two years later we were able to open the program to all students at Sheridan School, reaching over three hundred students. Spring of 2013 brought our first expansion into another school, Delano Elementary, increasing our impact to some three hundred fifty children.

As we launched our second program in Delano Elementary, we began also developing a larger growth strategy. How can we reach the children living in food insecurity who go to other schools in the Twin Cities? What emerged is our network model of weekend food programs.

In fall 2013, we launched pilot programs in three additional schools in Minneapolis reaching a total of five hundred children in five schools. Our pilot programs were successful, and with a few tweaks we were ready for a full launch.

Since fall 2013, the Sheridan Story has seen incredible growth in our impact on child hunger in the Twin Cities. Through incredible partnerships in the community, one year later (fall of 2014), the Sheridan Story operated in twenty-nine schools reaching nearly 1800 children.

As we look back at our history and look forward to the future, we are struck by the fact that food insecurity is a problem throughout the state and is not a one- or two-school issue. Over two hundred thousand children in Minnesota live in food insecurity: over one hundred thousand of those children reside in the Twin Cities. Our mission is to fight child hunger through developing more partnerships between the community and schools.

Remembrance of the Faithful Departed

All Saints Sunday
November 1, 2015

The Festival of All Saints, celebrated on Sunday 1 November, is a time when the church gives thanks to God for the lives and witness of those who have died in the faith. It is a time to remember with fondness those “most dear to us” who have died and to rejoice in God’s promise to us all that we will share in the resurrection with them.

Traditionally, one of the ways the church remembers these saints is to mention them by name during the tolling of a bell on All Saints Sunday. We continue this tradition at Christ Church this year by naming all in our congregation who have died since November 1, 2014.

If you would like us to list others in your family who have died in the past year, we invite you to fill out the form below and return it to the church office by Sunday 25 October.

Name(s) of Deceased _________________________________
Your Relationship to Deceased _________________________
Your Name _________________________________________
4 October
Francis of Assisi and Martin Luther
Martha Stortz
This Sunday we commemorate Francis of Assisi, one of the church’s most beloved saints. Today marks the 789th anniversary of Francis’s death. Dr. Stortz will consider the teaching and legacy of Francis—particularly through the perspective of the reformer Martin Luther, who received him with both admiration and amendment. Martha Stortz serves as the Bernhard M. Christensen Professor of Religion at Augsburg College, a position she has held since 2010. Prior to that she was in theological education at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

11 October
The Leipzig Exchange
Pastor Carlson
Just back from spending two weeks in Leipzig, Germany, Pastor Carlson will lead a forum about her time there: the situation of the refugees (Flüchtlinge) in Germany and Eastern Europe; the gifts and challenges of the Lutheran Church of Saxony; the Leipzig Exchange program and updates on the work of Rev. Morrie Wee at the Sophienkirchgemeinde (the Sophia Church) in Leipzig, and on the recovery and plans of Rev. Helge Voigt.

18 October
Exodus Lending
Meghan Olsen Biebighauser
Last spring an exciting new ministry opened in our community. Exodus Lending, a ministry that started at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, began making its first no-interest loans to neighbors caught in the cycle of predatory payday lending. Many of these payday loans charge annual interest rates as high as 500%. Meghan Olsen Biebighauser, executive director of Exodus Lending and community organizer at Holy Trinity, will talk about predatory lending in our community, the push to regulate the payday loan industry, and the exciting new work of Exodus Lending.

25 October
Eric Barreto
Surveys demonstrate that ethnic diversity is only increasing in recent days and yet many of our churches remain culturally homogeneous. What might a church that invites diversity look like? We will turn to the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles to wonder together how God’s gift of diversity might take root in our lives together. Too often, our tendency has been to imagine that our faith “solves” the "problems" of diversity by making us all one, the same. In contrast, the author of Luke-Acts views our differences as a gift to be treasured not a difficulty to be overcome. Eric D. Barreto is Associate Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and an ordained Baptist minister. He is the author of Ethnic Negotiations: The Function of Race and Ethnicity in Acts 16, among many other books.
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October 2015
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