November Events at Christ Church

November 8
Service of Evening Prayer, 4:00pm
The Bach Society sings Cantata 185 by J. S. Bach, *Barmherziges Herze der ewigen Liebe* (Merciful heart of eternal love)—a beautiful cantata about the compassion of God and our call to love and serve the neighbor; and we worship with the beautiful liturgy of Evening Prayer. All are welcome to this Music Series event. There is no charge—an offering will be taken for the outreach ministry of the church through music.

November 22 – Christ the King Sunday
Eucharist Worship, 9:30am
On this last Sunday of the church year, we rejoice in the 104th anniversary of the founding of Christ Church Lutheran, welcome new members, present Bibles to children ages 3 and up, and Bible story board books to children ages 0-3 (see article on p. 9), and celebrate Stewardship Sunday (see article on this page).

At 3:00pm on 22 November, the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran invite everyone to a presentation and book signing by Larry Millett, whose new book offers a history lesson as entertaining as it is enlightening. *Minnesota Modern – Architecture and Life at Midcentury* provides a close-up view of a style that penetrated the social, political, and cultural machinery of the times. Light refreshments will follow.

November 26, Thursday
Thanksgiving Day Worship, 10:00am

November 29—First Sunday of Advent
Eucharist Worship, 9:30am—A New Church Year

Fall Stewardship Campaign

*God’s Abundance, Our Thanksgiving!* – Our stewardship theme this year.

The first three Sundays of November will feature a stewardship talk in our worship service: Kevin Olsen, Rachel Mann, and Gene and Jan Radloff Bruss will share thoughts about the abundance of God and the joy of giving in their lives.

On Sunday 22 November, immediately following worship, everyone (and we mean everyone) is invited to our stewardship luncheon. *It is our gift to you, but we need your reservation so we know how much food to prepare.* Please sign up at church after worship, or call the church office, or respond through the email Evite invitation. We are expecting the entire congregation to come.

You will receive a letter from the stewardship committee that includes a chart to help you grow in your giving (we invite you to increase your giving by 1% for 2016), and a pledge card. Bring your pledge card with you to the stewardship luncheon on 22 November. You may fill it out in advance, but we encourage you to fill it out during the stewardship luncheon. There will be extras if you forget to bring yours along.

If you cannot attend the stewardship luncheon, you can put your pledge card in the box at the back of the sanctuary or mail it to the church office. We invite your prayers for this important stewardship effort of our congregation and encourage your participation.
Retirees
There is no meeting in November, due to Thanksgiving. Check the December Courier for the date of the Christmas party.

Baptism
Jude LaFond Carroll, daughter of Ashley Ann and Zachary Charles Carroll, was baptized on Sunday 18 October at Christ Church Lutheran. Pastor Carlson presided. See page 6 for photos.

November Birthdays
11/1  Michael Jefferis
11/5  Taylor Brorby
      Brook Collins Williams
11/7  Matt Byers
11/12 Kevin Reuther
11/17 Lucille Buelow
      Luna Kjome
11/19 Myrna Murken
11/22 Lucy Woestehoff
11/23 Todd Brandon
      Riley Jenkins
11/26 Fred Bentz
11/27 Samantha Rice
      Darrell Anderson
11/28 Gary Skrivseth
      Matt Woestehoff

If you are not named above and should be, or if your birthdate is inaccurate, please contact the church office.
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 everyone once again for the amazing show of generosity in your pledges to the Second Century campaign. Your solid show of support places our congregation on a firm foothold as we propel ourselves toward new horizons. As the excitement of the campaign slowly recedes, we need to turn our attention back to the less spectacular—yet equally important—matter of our annual budget. Our member giving is lagging behind our targeted goal of $300,000 for the year. The deficit is currently at $30,000. Last year’s council worked hard to put together a responsible budget that allows us to maintain high-quality programs and take care of our worship space. And this year’s council has worked diligently to remain faithful to the limits imposed in the budget. Fortunately, through everyone’s efforts our expenses remain under budget thus far in 2015. In order to end the year in the black, we will need everyone to remember the pledges they made back at the end of 2014. If you are able, please consider your current donation totals for the year and the amount you pledged and consider developing a plan to make up any difference by the end of the year. Any additional gifts from members who have already met their pledges would be greatly appreciated as well. Your generosity is what makes our wonderful community possible.

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Helping Hands
November/December

Jason Bergquist
Dick and Naomi Bruesehoff
Sarah Brunsvold and Jeff Weispfenning
Mary Lou and Peter Doll
Hilary Gebauer
Dorothy Iverson
Marge Meffert
Chuck and Kristy Merrell
Kevin Olsen and Will Stark
Ray and Rosie Peters
Simo Sarkanen and Yi-ru Chen-Sarkanen

If you are named in the 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

Music at Christ Church 2015–16

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

November 8
4:00pm
Bach’s Cantata 185 — presented by the Bach Society of Minnesota
From the Church Council
October Council Meeting

Luann Skrivseth led devotions. She read sections from a book by Nadia Bolz-Weber about judging others. We are all both saints and sinners.

We turned our attention first to a recommendation from the mission committee about how to apportion the $50,000 from the Second Century funds that we are tithing to three good causes both at home and afar: Safe House, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, and Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA. Christ Church Lutheran has a strong relationship with Safe House, a shelter for homeless teens run by Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. As Safe House does not have as broad a base of support as the others, so the committee recommended $30,000 to Safe House and $10,000 each for the other two. We voted to recommend this arrangement to the congregation at the December congregation meeting.

The council was informed that a letter was sent to the Leipzig Synod, at that synod’s request, with guarantees that we would match Helge Voigt’s work demands with his need for continuing to recover from his medical treatments (Rev. Voigt’s arrival among us has been delayed due to treatment for kidney cancer.)

At our November meeting, we will finalize the budget that will be presented to the congregation at the December congregation meeting. In anticipation—after our treasurer, Colin Watkins gave us an overview of the budget and how it functions—we worked through a few budget items that have changed during 2015.

First, we have added new staff who are working with children—Maria Markman and Hannah Bjornstad. Maria and Hannah are both students at Concordia University. Maria leads the children’s ministry in the Red Room during sermons and during Godly Play, our children’s education program. This fall Hannah began her work leading the children in music. Their salaries have been paid thus far with money from endowment earnings and trust funds. We anticipated their salaries will move into the regular budget under the children’s education line.

Another budget change has to do with health care expenses for Pastor Carlson. Pastor Carlson’s husband, Rev. Morrie Wee, has retired from ordained ministry. We have benefited in the past because the cost of health insurance for their family was shared with Rev. Wee’s congregation, Advent Lutheran in Maple Grove. Unfortunately, his retirement means that the portion that had been paid by Advent Lutheran disappears. With retirement, Rev. Wee’s health insurance is covered primarily by Medicare, but the cost to the Carlson-Wee family of the Medicare supplement through the ELCA’s health insurance program is $348/month. He is currently serving on behalf of our synod in Leipzig, Germany, but is not being paid for these services and is not covered by the German health insurance system.

The ELCA urges congregations to pay for health insurance for all eligible family members. We have done so for the spouses of previous pastors and plan to continue our practice of guaranteeing that the families of our clergy have health insurance. So when this new situation came to the council at our July meeting, we voted then to cover this $348/month. The new cost is $999/month for Pastor Carlson’s portion (as opposed to $673 we had been paying) and the extra $348/month. For some $999/month may seem high, but that figure includes the actual cost of insurance as well as the cost sharing between congregations of the ELCA. Congregations pay a straight percentage of the pastor’s salary, so parishes with more experienced pastors drawing higher salaries pay more for health insurance coverage, which supplements the costs of smaller, struggling congregations.

The council encourages including both items in our congregation budget for 2016: our two children’s ministry part-time staff—in the red room and in children’s music; and health care expenses for Pastor Carlson and her husband.

We heard reports from our pastors and various committees about the good work going on in this congregation. As usual, we adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.
Thanksgiving for Second Century Campaign

Thank you! In this season of thanksgiving, we give thanks, with joy, to God, from whom all good things come. We also give thanks to you, with sincere gratitude, for your financial and prayerful support of the Second Century Campaign. Your participation and generosity made this campaign a success. We surpassed our ambitious $500,000 congregational goal.

As a member of the Second Century Campaign task force, I hope you know how genuinely thankful we are for your donation and pledge.

Over $511,000.00 has been pledged. With funds already received we have been able to make a down payment and secure a contract on a pipe organ with Dobson Organ Builders to be installed in 2018. We are excited to keep projects moving forward as funds are received. It is up to you now. As you fulfill your pledge, mission and projects will happen.

Serving on the committee was a commitment and responsibility that I took very seriously. It was also a privilege. Thank you for the opportunity to stretch my skills, to get to know the congregation better, and once again, to celebrate the generosity of Christ Church Lutheran.

“Now thank we all our God . . . who wondrous things has done.”
—Mary Bode

Annual Children’s Christmas Gift Sale

Each year the Plymouth Christian Youth Center sponsors a Children’s Christmas Gift Sale. For a small donation of $1, low-income children in North Minneapolis can purchase five new gifts to be given to parents, grandparents, siblings, or other loved ones and learn the joy of giving as they “shop” alongside a caring volunteer. This Spirit-filled mission is near and dear to our hearts, and Christ Church Lutheran will again be participating.

Over eight thousand gifts and three hundred volunteers are needed to transform the PCYC campus into a Christmas gift store and make the holidays brighter for 1,500 North Minneapolis youth. There are a number of ways you can help:

• donate money;
• buy gifts valued at $8 to $10 each, or re-gift new items from gifts you have received and never used;
• volunteer to set up before the sale at PCYC;
• volunteer on the day of the gift sale, December 12, to help children shop. Volunteers must be over eighteen years old.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us. With your help, we can make a difference. Watch for the mission committee’s table after church services in November or call Luann Skrivseth at 612.721.3601 for more information.

Retirees

About twenty years ago we started a group called Retirees. We usually meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 11:00am for a program, followed by a potluck lunch. Sometimes we serve a homemade or catered lunch. Our pastors help arrange interesting programs. You need not be retired to attend. Some people work out of their home, work evenings, and so on. People of any age are welcome. Check The Courier and church bulletins for information or talk to Phyllis Dunstone.
Baptism

Jude LaFond Carroll, daughter of Ashley Ann and Zachary Charles Carroll, was baptized on Sunday 18 October at Christ Church Lutheran. Pastor Carlson presided. The cake is called almond cake and is served with whipped cream and lingonberries—a Scandinavian tradition for our German-background congregation. Jude’s baptism gown was made for her by one of her grandmothers.
Leipzig Exchange: Church Group from Germany Visits Minneapolis

A group of church people from Leipzig, Germany, spent a week in October in the Minneapolis Area Synod. Their visit included a lovely lunch in the Luther Lounge, with Bishop Ann Svennungsen attending, followed by a tour of our church and a conversation about our ministry and outreach. They loved our sanctuary and the way we are welcoming people to our building. They also loved our Beer Room and want to learn more about starting their own BierKlub. The group included three pastors: Christoph Meier, Johannes Markert, Grit Markert; two seminarians, Henrik and Christina; a church musician, Eva von der Heyde; and the Markert’s teenage daughter, Eloise. Their visit also included a roundtable discussion, led by Bishop Svennungsen, about refugees in Germany and the United States, and the church’s response in these countries.
Happy fiftieth anniversary, Donna and Pete Gawreluk. Their daughter Paula hosted a wonderful party at her Woodbury home in honor of the occasion. Rita and Ken Schoenike, Melody Pauling, and Pastor Carlson had a great time celebrating with them.

Gene – 80 Years Young
Thank you to everyone for your birthday wishes and cards. Thanks to all who came to the party. It was great to share this day with so many of you. Your presence added so much to the enjoyment of the day.

What a wonderful day it was—the weather, all the friends, family, church members who attended. What a blessing.

—Gene Bruss

Bach’s Organ Pipes
Pastor Carlson brought a treat from Leipzig, Germany, for the October church council meeting—Bach’s organ pipes. In hazelnut chocolate. A foretaste of the feast to come for us . . .
Christ Church Children to receive Bibles

In worship on Sunday 22 November, every child at Christ Church Lutheran will receive a Bible—a gift from the congregation. Children age 3 and up will receive a Children’s Bible. Children under age 3 will receive a Bible story board book. Generous gifts from the congregation make this possible, and we are most grateful. When a child is baptized, parents and the congregation promise “. . . to place in their hands the holy scriptures.” We are honoring this promise with this gift of Bibles.

Maria Markman and Hannah Bjornstad

Maria and Hannah are both students at Concordia University. Maria leads the children’s ministry in the Red Room during sermons and Godly Play. Hannah leads the children in music.
**Lectionary Readings**
**November 2015**

**Sunday 1 November**
*All Saints Day*
Isaiah 25:6-9 or Wisdom 3:1-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

**Sunday 8 November**
1 Kings 17:8-16
Psalm 146
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

**Sunday 15 November**
Daniel 12:1-3
Psalm 16
Mark 13:1-8

**Sunday 22 November**
*Christ the King Sunday*
Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
Psalm 93
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37

**Thursday 26 November**
*Thanksgiving Day*
Joel 2:21-27
Psalm 126
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Matthew 6:25-33

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**Upcoming Educational Forums**
**Sundays 11:15am**

**1 November—All Saints Day**
*A Primer on the Saints*
*Pastor Haaland*
In both Lutheran and Roman Catholic calendars, November 1 is celebrated as All Saints Day. Among Catholics, however, November 2 is celebrated as All Souls—a day not included in our Lutheran calendar. What’s the difference between these two festivals? We will explore this question and many others, seeking to learn from both Lutheran and Roman Catholic perspectives. In the midst of our questions, we’ll give thanks to God for all the saints.

**8 November**
*Grief and Self-Awareness*
*Rev. David Engelstad*
When a loved one dies, the significance of that relationship continues to shape your identity, attitudes, and actions. One way of honoring these loved ones is to gratefully dedicate this process of “becoming” to them. This forum will help you to explore and (if you choose) to act on that intention. Rev. David Engelstad is the lead chaplain at Fairview Southdale Hospital (eleven years and counting). He previously served as a parish pastor for eleven years and as a nursing home chaplain for ten years. He is married to the Rev. Catherine Malotky.

**15 November**
*The Artwork of Christ Church*
*Arts Committee*
Christ Church is enriched by its collection of beautiful and unique art. The Arts Committee is gathering information to document the art collection, and we are eager to share our findings. Each piece has a story. Come and hear the stories we have learned, as well as share any stories you remember.

**22 November—Christ the King**
*Celebration of Stewardship and the 104th Anniversary of Christ Church Lutheran*

**29 November**
*The Spirituality of Poetry*
*Anders Carlson-Wee*
Every Advent we turn again to readings from the Hebrew prophets—some of the most profound poetry in scripture. This forum will explore the spirituality of poetry itself—the importance of listening and silence in poetry, the basic nature of poetry as song, and the way the musicality and breath of poetry embodies the subject matter within the reader, creating an experience that is communal and external and at the same time deeply private and internal. Anders Carlson-Wee’s first volume of poetry, *Dynamite*, was published this summer by Bull City Press. He is the son of Pastor Carlson and Rev. Morrie Wee.
## November 2015

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*Courier Deadline*
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<th>November 15</th>
<th>November 22</th>
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Sunday Worship Services - 9:30am

- Thanksgiving - Worship at 10:00am

Volunteer Schedule

- Naomi Bruhn, Dave Kruzick, Dan Mueller, Pat Baehler, Gene Bruss
- Mary Bode, Mary Bode, Deane Lagerquist, Pat Baehler, Harvey Leuning

Date

November 1
November 8
November 15
November 22
November 26
November 29
December 6