Updating Our Congregation’s Vision

It is time to revisit our congregation’s vision and goals to guide our work for the next two to three years. The church council has appointed a task force to lead this effort over the next several months. We will be seeking widespread congregational participation in updating the vision and goals. Initial steps in the process include the forum on Sunday 10 April and the retirees group meeting on Wednesday 27 April, as described below.

By way of background, our current vision statement, covering the years 2012–2016, has been helpful in providing direction for our congregation’s activities. Very briefly, it includes three areas of focus: worship, congregational community, and outreach. Worship is at the center. Our life together as a congregational community flows out of and is shaped by the experiences and qualities of our worship (for example, welcoming and hospitality, openness, caring, music, and the arts). Similarly, our outreach efforts flow out of worship and are guided by the question, “How are we transformed in worship, and how can we take this to the broader community and world?”

Goals were set for worship, congregational community, and outreach to develop, strengthen, or keep vital our efforts in each of these three areas. Many accomplishments associated with these goals were realized in the past four years, including: contracting for a new organ, launching and sustaining a music series, developing programming for children, starting groups based on member interests, improving our website, becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation, and increasing our outreach to the local community through service projects and donations.

The 10 April forum will kick off our effort to update the congregational vision and goals. The forum will discuss the process to be followed and get us thinking about who we are as a congregation and what we see or hope for in the future. The 27 April meeting with the retirees group will follow a similar format. After compiling and analyzing the results of these two meetings, the task force will conduct a series of small group discussions during the summer with children and adults from the congregation.

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Christ Church Lutheran
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mail@christchurchluth.org
www.christchurchluth.org

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation | A National Historic Landmark

Office Hours
Monday–Friday 9:00am–2:00pm

Worship
Sunday 9:30am, followed by fellowship

September through May:
Godly Play for children ages 3–12, 11:05–12:05
Educational forum 11:15am–12:15pm

Announcements

Retirees
We meet on Wednesday 27 April at 11:00am. Dan Mueller and Pat Baehler will lead a discussion of the CCL vision and the vision task force’s work on revising it. Potluck lunch will follow.

Baptism
Nora Ruth Katz, daughter of Marc Katz and Hilary Gebauer, will be baptized on Sunday 3 April.

Funeral
Christ Church will host the funeral of Bill Bowler on Saturday 9 April at 2pm, with visitation at 1pm in the chapel.

Helping Hands
March/April

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

Staff
Pastors
Pastor Kristine Carlson
Pastor Erik Haaland
Pastor Helge Voigt
Cantors
Pastor Robert Farlee
Pastor Martin Seltz
Office
Stephanie Okoneski
Facilities
Chuck Merrell
Courier Editor
Josh Messner

Council Officers
President
Bob Victorin-Vangerud
Vice President
Will Stark
Secretary
Pat Baehler
Treasurer
Melody Pauling

Council Members
Marcus Nooney
Sarah Brunsvold
Luann Skrivseth
Matt Courtney
Dan Mueller
Finances Update

The finance committee wants to provide the most current information about our congregation’s finances. Here is their overview of our operating budget as of the end of January. The member giving ("envelope") shows a shortfall. Easter offerings traditionally are good. The $16,423 difference between income and expenses does not include an upcoming $6,000 deposit.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ACTUAL</th>
<th>BUDGET (2 mos.)</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Member Giving/ Envelopes</strong></td>
<td>41,390.13</td>
<td>51,000.00</td>
<td>-9,609.87</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>$7,636.40</td>
<td>$15,140.16</td>
<td>($7,503.76)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>49,026.53</td>
<td>66,140.16</td>
<td>17,113.63</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$65,449.93</td>
<td>$66,740.02</td>
<td>$1,290.09</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Surplus (or Deficit)</strong></td>
<td>($16,423.40)</td>
<td>($599.86)</td>
<td>$15,823.54</td>
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Happy 80th Birthday

On Sunday 3 April, enjoy a piece of birthday cake during coffee hour, a treat from Phyllis Mattill to celebrate her milestone birthday. She has been creating the worship assistants schedule for twenty years, arrives each Sunday before 9am to serve as our sacristan to assure worship assistants are prepped for worship, and serves each week as acolyte. Thank you, Phyllis, for your faithful service to Christ Church Lutheran. We wish you a happy eightieth birthday and many more.

E Street Band Members Visit Christ Church

We were honored and delighted to welcome two members of Bruce Springsteen’s band—drummer Max Weinberg and keyboardist Roy Bittan. Jonathan Leck, a friend of Bob Davis and an expert in restoration arts, brought them. Max and Roy are both interested in architecture and love to see significant buildings and homes in the cities where they tour. Max is a great admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright. He also is good friends with a woman who used to live in Stillwater and built her own Usonian home there (by hand!) many decades ago. He and Roy have also been to the Frank Lloyd Wright home on Cedar Lake where our chapel statue came from. We had a great time showing them the church, which they liked very much. Roy even sat down at the piano in the narthex and played an impromptu piece. We also talked a bit about Brooklyn, where Roy grew up, and New Jersey, where Max grew up and first met Bruce.
From the Church Council
March Council Meeting

Our meeting this month had a full agenda. Pastor Haaland offered devotions to begin the evening, with reflections on water from *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans. We heard the latest plans for Pastor Carlson’s sabbatical, which begins in May and runs through the beginning of August. She will spend time in Leipzig and will travel to Norway with members of her family. This sabbatical was originally planned for last summer but was postponed due to her father’s illness and death. In her absence during the summer, Pastor Haaland will increase his duties from half time to three quarter time. Pastor Voigt will take on responsibilities that Pastor Carlson would otherwise do. Pastor Harvey Leuning will also be available to help. Increasing Pastor Haaland’s time will cost $5,000. The council voted last spring to fund this sabbatical with money from an unexpected gift by Betty J. Anderson. The sabbatical committee will present a final budget at the April council meeting.

For some time we’ve entertained the idea of constructing a columbarium at Christ Church Lutheran. A columbarium is a bureau of niches in which human ashes can be interred. Just as churches have often had graveyards on their grounds, a columbarium provides a final resting place on the grounds of the church. Recently this conversation has begun again in a more serious manner. Our architects at MacDonald and Mack have offered to provide the design and oversight work for such a project at no cost to the congregation. This is a very generous gift on their part. Initial plans would place it beneath the narthex in the old bookstore or the cloakroom. The expense of construction would eventually be covered by the fees for the niches. In the meantime a member of the congregation has offered to provide provisional funding until payments for the niches come in. Initial estimates suggest that the fees for the niches would more than cover the cost of construction, so there would likely be no congregation dollars involved in the process. The council voted to form a task force to proceed to the next stages of this process. Eventually such a project would be brought to the congregation for its consideration.

We heard a proposal to rent space to a new preschool, called Riversong Montessori. This school would use the nursery and the room currently used for Godly Play, as well as the kitchen and gym on a more limited basis. We discussed the needs of our own children’s education program and felt that we could accommodate Riversong while still keeping our children’s program the number-one priority. The initial contract would be for one year. The council voted to proceed toward an agreement with Riversong.

A new tenant in the building would add administrative demands in the life of the congregation. This is an area that has been stretched already. The staffing task force that recommended calling an associate pastor back in 2013 had already identified added administrative help as the next priority for the congregation. More recently we have been reminded that we are at the limit of our capacity to handle especially communications and building management under our current arrangements. The executive committee therefore recommended to the council that we investigate hiring a part time parish administrator on a trial basis. Funding for this position would come from revenues from the new preschool and from money that is part of the Betty J. Anderson gift.

St. John’s Lutheran Church in Northfield has asked if we would consider partnering with them to resettle a refugee family through Lutheran Social Services. Our share of the expense is estimated to be $1,000–2,000. The recent concert by the Rose Ensemble already raised $2,400 that was earmarked for this project, pending approval. The council voted to go ahead with this partnership.

We heard an update from the visioning task force about plans for a forum on 10 April. This forum would start a conversation about our sense of our identity and mission as a church. The council voted to contract for a professional survey of the church grounds. This survey is in relation to the building projects involved in the Second Century Campaign. We heard many reports about the good work going at this church. Pastor Carlson announced that Christ Church Lutheran has been chosen by Lutheran Social Services to receive the Servant of Christ award for the Minneapolis Area Synod this year. One congregation is selected each year for outstanding work in social ministry. We will be honored at the Synod Assembly in May and at the LSS gala in the fall.

A busy night indeed. Thank you for your trust and support.
Thank Yous

The hospitality committee is grateful to the members who helped with Lenten meals and Easter receptions. Thank you to the Lenten soup makers, the baking crew who made hot cross buns for Palm Sunday, the people who made pies for Alleluia a la Mode, and to all who brought Easter coffee cakes. Your generosity is appreciated. Special thanks also to those who helped prepare and clean up from these events. We could not host these events without you.

Bob and Ute Swenson want to thank everyone at Christ Church for helping to make Chloe’s participation in her Girl Scout cookie drive a success.

Thank you to the Christ Church Choir. Your music enriches our worship each week.

New Members Join Christ Church

On Sunday 24 April new members will be welcomed into the Christ Church family. Clockwise below are: Nikki, Viivi, and Kent Bodurtha, Barbara and Ron Johnson; DeAne Lagerquist; and Maria Markman. Not pictured: Rachel Slater.
### Upcoming Educational Forums
Sundays 11:15am

#### Sunday 3 April
**Second Sunday of Easter**
- Acts 5:27-32
- Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150
- Revelation 1:4-8
- John 20:19-31

#### Sunday 10 April
**Third Sunday of Easter**
- Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]
- Psalm 30
- Revelation 5:11-14
- John 21:1-19

#### Sunday 17 April
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**
- Acts 9:36-43
- Psalm 23
- Revelation 7:9-17
- John 10:22-30

#### Sunday 24 April
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**
- Acts 11:1-18
- Psalm 148
- Revelation 21:1-6
- John 13:31-35

### Lectionary Readings
April 2016

**3 April**
**Reflections on a Pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine**
Nancy Victorin-Vangerud

In January, Rev. Nancy Victorin-Vangerud participated in an interfaith pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine that incorporated visits to sites of religious, political, cultural, and environmental significance. The visit also helped her understand more deeply the multiple narratives of people living in Palestine and Israel. Past, present and future—Israel and Palestine comprise a land that involves our identity as Christians.

Nancy Victorin-Vangerud serves as University Chaplain and Director of the Wesley Center for Spirituality, Service, and Social Justice at Hamline University in St. Paul.

**April 17**
**Spirituality and Poetry, Part II – Death and Resurrection**
Anders Carlson-Wee

This past December, Anders Carlson-Wee led a forum on modern poetry, exploring themes of Advent. He returns to Christ Church this Spring to share poems that probe themes of death and resurrection.

Anders Carlson-Wee’s first volume of poetry, *Dynamite*, was published last summer by Bull City Press. He has two forthcoming volumes of poetry, both coauthored with his brother Kai Carlson-Wee.

**24 April**
**Nurturing Wholeness and Holiness in Cedar-Riverside**
Jane Buckley-Farlee

Trinity Lutheran Congregation is the only Christian congregation in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood. Started by Norwegian and Danish immigrants, Trinity is now a strong Christian presence in this predominantly Muslim neighborhood. Join us for this forum exploring Trinity’s ministry—as both “host” and “guest”—in Cedar-Riverside.

Rev. Jane Buckley-Farlee has been Senior Pastor at Trinity since 1996. She is energized by Trinity’s emphasis on ministry and outreach and enjoys the diversity and richness of the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood.

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Happy 100th birthday to Len Johnson. April 2, 2016.
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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:30am Eucharist, Holy Baptism</strong></td>
<td>1:00pm Tai Chi Chih</td>
<td>7:00pm Mission, Preservation, Property</td>
<td>12:00pm Arts</td>
<td>7:00pm Choir</td>
<td>10:00am Finnish School</td>
<td>2:00pm Bill Bowler Memorial Service, visitation begins at 1:00</td>
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<td>11:05am Godly Play</td>
<td>11:15am Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:30am Eucharist</strong></td>
<td>1:00pm Tai Chi Chih</td>
<td>9:00am Stationery</td>
<td>LSS Safe House Meal</td>
<td>7:00pm Choir</td>
<td><strong>Courier Deadline</strong></td>
<td>10:00am Finnish School</td>
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<td>11:00am Tour</td>
<td>11:05am Godly Play</td>
<td>11:15am Forum</td>
<td>9:00am Stationery</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am Altar Guild</td>
<td><strong>9:30am Eucharist</strong></td>
<td>7:00pm Executive Board, 7:30pm Council</td>
<td>7:00pm Choir</td>
<td>7:00pm Choir</td>
<td>10:00am Book Group, 11:00am New Member Coffee, 4:00pm Victoria West &amp; Nate Prebix</td>
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<td>11:05am Godly Play</td>
<td>11:15am Forum</td>
<td>11:00am Executive Board, 7:30pm Council</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>9:30am Eucharist, New Members</strong></td>
<td>1:00pm Tai Chi Chih</td>
<td>7:00pm FCCL Board</td>
<td>11:00am Retirees</td>
<td>7:00pm Choir</td>
<td>7:00pm Human Contact Chess</td>
<td>3:00pm &amp; 8:00pm Human Contact Chess</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:05am Godly Play</td>
<td>11:15am Forum</td>
<td>11:00am Retirees</td>
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**Meals on Wheels**
April Birthdays

4/1   Dick Bruesehoff  
      Nancy Hokkanen

4/2   Hans Adams  
      Len Johnson

4/7   Sebastien Lewis

4/8   Morrie Wee

4/9   Kayla Parkos

4/10  Simo Sarkanen

4/12  Elizabeth Bryan

4/14  Terry Bryan  
      Elaine Pilon

4/18  Luther Johnson  
      Will Stark

4/19  Liz Gomoll  
      Max Wipperman

4/20  Pr. Kristine Carlson  
      David Seltz

4/22  Lynn Larson

4/23  Donna Peterson

4/25  Emily Schuett

4/26  Jeanne Anderson  
      Rebecca Dodd  
      Anna Mason  
      Dan Mueller

4/27  Dawn Dankers  
      Kylie Larson

4/29  Phyllis Dunstone  
      Brittany Sampson  
      Gerry Tyrrell

CCL Book Club

Meets 23 April

The next CCL book club pick is Anthony Doerr’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *All the Light We Cannot See*. Set in Paris, Germany, and Normandy at the end of World War II, it tells the story of a blind French girl, a young German soldier, and a mysterious diamond whose paths cross in fated ways. We will meet on Saturday 23 April, 10am–noon. All are welcome. For more information, contact Bob Anderson at 952.937.8656.

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These discussions will be helpful in gathering and refining ideas and perspectives for use in visioning and goal setting. A draft of the vision and goals will be presented for congregational feedback at the forum on Sunday 25 September. After making any needed revisions, the vision and goals will be presented to the church council for consideration in October.

The success of this effort depends on broad participation by the congregation. We invite and encourage you to attend these events and make your voice heard during the visioning process. Visioning task force members are: Matthew Courtney, Kevin Olsen, Bob Victorin-Vangerud, Pastor Carlson, Pastor Voigt, and cochairs Pat Baehler and Dan Mueller.