Servant of Christ Award
Christ Church Receives 2016 LSS Award

Christ Church Lutheran was honored at the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly on 6–7 May—at St. Andrew Lutheran in Eden Prairie—for our social service ministry as we received the 2016 Servant of Christ Award from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.

Each year, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota recognizes a congregation in each of the six ELCA synods in Minnesota as the recipient of this award. These congregations are leaders in social ministry and social justice in their community, have a connection to LSS services in their area, and faithfully provide financial support for the service ministry of Lutheran Social Service.

“We are thankful for each of these extraordinary congregation’s leadership and service on behalf of our Minnesota neighbors,” said Pastor Kathryn Tiede, director of Church Partnerships and Philanthropy for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. “We express deep gratitude for the generosity and kindness they continue to offer our community.”

In particular, Lutheran Social Service had these things to say about our recognition: Among its many significant contributions, Christ Church Lutheran prepares community meals for LSS of MN Safe House, an emergency shelter for youth experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities. Care and concern for their neighbors goes further as church members collect clothes and toys for children and families. Christ Church Lutheran’s pastors show great energy and appreciation for children, continuing to teach the church’s youngest members the value of volunteering time and giving resources to people in need. Pastor Kristine Carlson took special interest in LSS adoption services, delivering a sermon about the importance of helping children around the world find loving homes and forever families.

In addition, Christ Church was recognized at the award ceremony for our Second Century Capital Campaign contribution of $30,000 to Safe House for improvements in their facility, including a fitness room that is just being completed.

Receiving this award on our behalf at the synod assembly were Pastor Haaland, Pastor Voigt, and Pastor Carlson; our lay delegates to the assembly, Pat Baehler and Matthew Courtney; and Ben Cherland, who attended the assembly as a visitor.

In our visioning process five years ago, we identified outreach in service ministries as a “growing edge” of ours—something we wanted to develop into a more robust part of our life together. That we are seen now, in our community, as worthy of this award is an honor indeed. We receive it with thankful hearts and a commitment to keep growing in giving ourselves away for the sake of the gospel and the needs of the world.

Delegates from Christ Church Lutheran were presented with the Servant of Christ Award by Jodi Harpstead, CEO of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.
**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

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**Announcements**

**Retirees**
The Retirees group will not meet in June. They will meet next on 27 July at 11:00am.

**Funerals**
- John Virum, 20 May—Pastor Haaland.
- Hannelore Wanger, 20 May—Pastor Haaland at Bradshaw Funeral Home.
- Erla Polsfuss, 24 May—Pastors Farlee and Haaland.
- Dorothy Hanson, 27 May, Pastor Haaland.

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**Helping Hands May/June**

- Gene Bruss and Jan Radloff
- Bill and Phyllis Dunstone
- Kate Haugen and Carlton Hunke
- Michael Jefferis
- David Kutzbach
- Lynn and Kevin Larson
- Kevin Reuther and Gerry Tyrrell
- Bob and Ute Swenson
- Dick Thompson
- Evelyn and Wally Wermager
- Brook and Nate Williams

*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*
Next Book Club Meeting

The Christ Church book club will meet Saturday 18 June to discuss Jane Austen’s *Northanger Abbey*.

What happens when a novelist of Jane Austen’s caliber, with her keen social intelligence, her wit and feeling for character, takes on the popular convention of the nineteenth-century gothic romance novel? Find out by reading her *Northanger Abbey* and coming to a free-wheeling discussion of the book at the next meeting of Christ Church Lutheran’s book club. We meet on Saturday 18 June from 10am to noon in the Luther Lounge. All are welcome. For more information, contact Bob Anderson at 952.937.8656.

The Leipzig Connection

**Synod Assembly Address, 7 May 2016**

*The following is the text of an address given by Pr. Helge Voigt to the 2016 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly.*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to speak to you. Let me introduce myself. I am Helge Voigt, a Lutheran Pastor from Leipzig. My home city is the place where the peaceful revolution in 1989 started, resulting in the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain. Leipzig is also well known as the city of Johann Sebastian Bach, about two hours south of Berlin. I was raised up there in a typical East Block family atheistic. When I became a Christian, my question was less how to be saved but rather how to take up responsibility for my life and for others. As soldiers in the East German army, we were supposed to be enemies. That’s what our officers thought. What a change! I am so thankful. Now I am in Minneapolis, serving at Christ Church Lutheran, as part of the Leipzig Connection, the companion-synod partnership between the Minneapolis Area Synod and the Leipzig District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony.

If you get in contact with the Church in Leipzig, you will meet people with experiences of oppression and the power of faith. It is more the freedom of thinking and speaking than traveling that shaped us in the Lutheran parishes. You’d also meet politically engaged people. Justice, peace, and the maintenance of all creation are important values for us.

I get amazing and vital experiences within your Synod. With you I feel connected to the worldwide church, Christ’s family. As a stranger I learn every day and I get fresh ideas for my congregational life at home. In Leipzig I am senior pastor of the Sophia parish with nearly three thousand members and five churches, four of them between 800 and 1000 years old. Right now Pastor Morris Wee from Minneapolis is serving my parish in Germany. In Minneapolis I have been learning a lot about the liturgy and your amazing welcoming culture. Morrie says that in Leipzig he has learned much

*continued on page 6*

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**Finances Update**

Here is an overview of our operating budget as of the end of last month. Please remember to keep up your contributions during the summer. Our operating deficit is increasing, although it’s not as bad as it looks. There are $12,333 of transfers that could be made at any time which make the deficit appear larger than it is. The actual deficit is $10,550.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget (4 mos)</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<tr>
<td>Member Giving/ Envelopes</td>
<td>$84,065.45</td>
<td>$102,000.00</td>
<td>$(17,934.55)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$22,738.14</td>
<td>$30,280.35</td>
<td>$(7,542.21)</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
<td>$106,803.59</td>
<td>$132,280.35</td>
<td>$(25,476.76)</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$129,687.15</td>
<td>$133,480.01</td>
<td>$(3,792.86)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Surplus (or Deficit)</td>
<td>$(22,883.56)</td>
<td>$(1,199.66)</td>
<td>$(21,683.90)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
From the Church Council

May Council Meeting

Pat Baehler led us in devotions. She read from Thomas Paine’s *The Age of Reason* regarding God’s handiwork in the beauty of the natural world.

The property committee presented a proposal for a replacement refrigerator for the kitchen. We approved the request and voted to use money from three different memorial trust funds to pay the $3,389.75 cost. Thanks to the property folks and Joanne Seltz for their careful work finding the right unit.

In order to ensure good communication about the building projects of the Second Century Campaign, the project management task force requested that the council schedule a council forum near the end of July. We approved this plan and will include a few non-campaign items as well, including the organ, the columbarium, and River-song Montessori Preschool.

The council receives requests for money from groups in the congregation. During our April meeting we discussed formalizing this request process. This month we approved a new form for financial requests that we would like to use in the future. The added information will help us in our deliberations. Forms are available from the church office or the liaison for the group’s area of focus.

We approved a plan for investing some of the money from the Second Century Campaign until it is needed to make payments on the organ. Thrivent Financial is helping us with this work. We heard an account of a meeting Pastor Carlson, Will Stark, and Bob Victorin-Vangerud held with our insurance representative from Church Mutual. Coverage seems to be adequate for now. For a number of reasons our annual insurance costs will be going down about $1,200 a year.

We heard updates about the columbarium and the organ. In light of a meeting to discuss possible locations for the columbarium, our architect, Angela Wolf-Scott will draw up designs using the cloak area beneath the narthex.

We looked at drawings of the proposed organ console from our organ builder, Lynn Dobson. They were received quite favorably. Dan Mueller informed us that the organ production process is beginning ahead of schedule and that this could result in the new organ being available earlier than the expected date of April 2018. At the moment we anticipate we will be without an organ for as long as eleven months, beginning around Memorial Day of 2017.

We heard many good reports about work happening at Christ Church Lutheran. In the spirit of sabbatical we agreed that we would plan not to meet in June and July, unless pressing business that can’t be dealt with by email comes up. (The council traditionally does not meet in July but has had to do so the last two summers.) Thanks for your support and communication.

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**Project Management Update**

**Building Projects for Spring and Summer**

The education wing roofing project will continue through the first or second week of June, depending on the weather. Each rain day will extend the schedule one day into the future. There will also be three weeks of tuck pointing work on the education wing brick walls. The contractor for these projects is Jackson and Associates.

Starting on 25 May, work will begin on three entry door ramps as well as on the mechanical room ceiling. The metal framing on the tower door will also be repaired. The contractor for this work is Watson Forsberg.

The completion date for these projects is about 4 July.
Supporting a Refugee Family

Christ Church Lutheran and St. John’s Lutheran of Northfield have formed a partnership to support a refugee family through Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. In addition to providing funding, Christ Church’s primary contribution to this partnership has been to form the Core Mentoring Team that will meet weekly with the family once they arrive. Thanks to the following volunteers who have agreed to take on this significant responsibility: Marilyn Kochsiek, Rachel Slater, Ron Johnson, and Pastor Helge Voigt. Thank you for this good work on behalf of our whole community!

On 10 May, Cate Anderson from LSS provided training for the refugee mentoring team at Christ Church. The group talked about experiences and expectations, hope and boundaries, as well as legal matters. Sharon Flaten from St. John’s Lutheran was also present at the training session.

We do not yet know when the family will arrive—or even what country the family will be from. The family could arrive in June or July, but we don’t know. We are grateful to the entire community here at Christ Church and at St. John’s for supporting this endeavor. May God bless this resettlement work—and may God bless all who are fleeing turmoil and violence and seeking a home in a new land.

—Pastors Helge Voigt and Erik Haaland

Music Series Brings Artists, Listeners to Christ Church

A performance by local ensemble the WolfGang closed out another successful season for Music at Christ Church, our congregation’s music series. The WolfGang specializes in music by Mozart and his contemporaries, played on “period” instruments—that is, instruments that are constructed as they were in Mozart’s time. So, on May 14, we heard a wooden flute, cat-gut strings on violin, viola, and cello, and a pianoforte. Their softer sound is both more authentic and transforms the listening experience, making it easier to hear inner parts that get covered up by the bolder sound of modern instruments.

Other concerts in this year’s series included two solo cantatas presented by the Bach Society of Minnesota and a packed-house performance by the Rose Ensemble. In addition, the acclaimed ensemble Accordo completed its multi-year run at Christ Church, and the gala “Music for a Masterpiece” concert in February brought music lovers and contributions for the Second Century Campaign.

The Music Series has proven to be a wonderful way to put Christ Church on the map for Twin Cities music lovers. Planning is underway for next year’s season—look for announcements, and consider how you can support this outreach that brings great music into our community and our building.
about the power of a national church that is tightly organized and united. And he is experiencing Christian faith function within an atheistic milieu. In Leipzig we have about 80% atheists. That’s why Christians there have learned to focus not on differences. Lutherans are not much divided, even though it is hard to go along with different views about the Bible, faith, and politics. Roman Catholics and Lutherans have cooperated for more than two generations. We don’t care a lot about difficult church policies but appreciate each other. If you worship in one of our churches you still can see our congregations were once Roman Catholic before the Reformation. You also could say Lutheran congregations are catholic but catholic changed by the Reformation.

I highly appreciate the Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialog and the proposal of the common prayer to remember the five-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation. I am not proud of any kind of division in history. Leipzig is in the middle of Luther country, and I appreciate what a colleague of mine once said: “Lutheran is not what Luther just said or did but what brings Christ near to us.”

Let me thank you all for this partnership. Especially Christ Church Lutheran and Mount Olive Lutheran Church. Thank you for bringing Christ near to us. Both congregations were incredibly supportive and provided a heartfelt welcome. Thanks to Bishop Svenningsen and the staff of the Minneapolis Area Synod. You can’t imagine the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. Without the synod we couldn’t create such a partnership. Thanks to Pastor Bill Russell and Pastor Paul Rogers for keeping the contact with Leipzig in such a refreshing and joyful way. Thanks to Pastor Morris Wee. He is doing a great job there in the “Kirchenbezirk Leipzig.” And thanks to Pastor Kristine Carlson, his wife, my senior pastor here in Minneapolis, for encouraging Morrie and me along with my family. She has been one of the most important participants in this first pastoral exchange. But most of all we thank God for your support and friendship. May the deep peace of Christ bless you all.

—Pastor Helge Voigt

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**June Birthdays**

6/3 Clyde Hanson  
6/5 John Buegel  
  Yi-ru Chen-Sarkanen  
6/7 Amanda Girard  
6/8 Harvey Leuning  
6/9 Cameron Marudas  
6/10 Melody Pauling  
6/12 David Polsfuss  
6/14 Julie Brandon  
6/15 June Johnson  
6/16 Allan Mahnke  
6/19 Pr. Haaland  
6/20 Roger Gomoll  
6/21 Jude Carroll  
  Lynn Speiker  
6/24 Marge Meffert  
6/25 Sarah Brunsvold  
6/26 Tatum Nooney  
6/27 Samantha Hoss  
  Edward Lief  
  Gregory Tindell  
6/29 Paul Flanders

Pastor Voigt and Dr. Ibrahim Bitrus (companion synod Theologian-in-Residence from Nigeria) at the companion synod table at the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly
## June 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 9:30am Eucharist | Office Closed | 7:00pm  
  ● Preservation  
  ● Property | 1:00pm Staff | LSS Safe House Meal  
  7:00pm Project Management |     |     |
| 11:15am Pop-Up Visioning Session |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 9:30am Eucharist | Office Closed  
  9:00am Stationery |     | Courier Deadline  
  (July & August Edition) |     |     | 10:00am Book Discussion Group |
| 11:00am Bldg. Tour |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 11:15am Pop-Up Visioning Session |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| FATHER’S DAY | Office Closed |     | 1:00pm Staff |     |     |     |
| 9:30am Eucharist |     | 7   |     |     |     |     |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  |     |     |
| 9:30am Eucharist | Office Closed |     |     |     |     |     |
| 28:00pm FCCL Board |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| **Meals on Wheels** |     |     |     |     |     |     |

- Meals on Wheels
- June 2016
- Meals on Wheels
Volunteer Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assisting Ministers</th>
<th>Ministers</th>
<th>Prayer Writers</th>
<th>Greeters</th>
<th>Head Ushers</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Crucifer</th>
<th>Acolytes</th>
<th>Property Committee's Spring Cleanup Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>Jason Bergquist</td>
<td>Pat Baehler</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mary Bode</td>
<td>Bob Davis</td>
<td>Matthew Courtyard</td>
<td>Dick Thompson</td>
<td>Phyllis Matill</td>
<td>Thanks to all who helped with the property committee’s spring cleanup day on 21 May.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>Pat Baehler</td>
<td>Mary Bode</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mark Jensen</td>
<td>Cliff Korenbach</td>
<td>Samantha, Chloe Rice</td>
<td>Max Herberg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>Jason Bergquist</td>
<td>Ben Cherlund</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Dick Thompson</td>
<td>Nick Thompson</td>
<td>Kevin Olson</td>
<td>Jan Radloff</td>
<td></td>
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<td>June 26</td>
<td>Pat Baehler</td>
<td>Hilary Gebauer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Matt Courtney</td>
<td>Mary Bode</td>
<td>Melody Pauing</td>
<td>Jan Radloff</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Bob Victorin-Vangerud</td>
<td>Phyllis Matill</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Matt Courtney</td>
<td>Mary Bode</td>
<td>Melody Pauing</td>
<td>Jan Radloff</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Thanks to all who helped with the property committee’s spring clean-up day on 21 May.