Synod Assembly Report

The Minneapolis Area Synod assembly was held this year on 6 and 7 May at Saint Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie. The theme was “Can I Get a Witness?” More than six hundred congregational representatives and rostered leaders attended and participated in the gathering. Worship opened and closed our two days together, during which we experienced engaging presentations related to the theme and conducted the necessary business of the synod. Along with our pastors, Pat Baehler, Matthew Courtney, and Ben Cherland were our Christ Church representatives.

Three resolutions were passed: One for the dissolution of Lutheran Campus Ministries of Minnesota (LCMM), one to authorize the synod council to begin a process for a potential capital campaign in the Minneapolis Area Synod alongside the upcoming capital campaign of the ELCA, and one addressing racial justice. This last resolution is a statement of support of Bishop Ann Svennungsen and our synod for its congregations to engage in difficult conversations regarding race.

Two memorials were also passed overwhelmingly: One urging the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery—the Christian doctrine that justified the domination and seizure of Native American lands during the colonial expansion across North America—and one urging stewardship of the gift of water.

In the midst of the business conducted during the assembly—which also included various administrative reports, elections, and welcomes to new clergy and congregations—Christ Church was honored with the Lutheran Social Service Servant of Christ Award. Presented by Jodi Harpstead (CEO of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota), the award recognizes Christ Church for the many ways we support the work and ministry of LSS in our outreach and various justice initiatives.

The theme of the 2016 Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, Can I Get a Witness?, was expounded upon by two presenters whose talks gave flesh to the theme. Mike Mann, parishioner of our church neighbor Holy Trinity, presented strategies and techniques for telling captivating and effective stories. Barbara Lundblad’s presentations were stories from the Bible: She told us familiar, beloved stories extemporaneously by entering in rich detail the living interaction of people with Jesus, characters you don’t typically hear much from, including Zaccheus and the woman at the well.

The story of our beloved Christ Church and the story of our synod took some quiet turns during synod assembly this year, in the form of the Servant of Christ Award and the various memorials and resolutions. These turns are a reflection of the growing response we and our synod are making to the story of what is happening in this society and God’s good creation. The stories of Jesus, and God’s work and witness to us through him, call us to attend to the suffering of the world and to reach beyond our church and synod toward our neighbor.

—Ben Cherland

See Pastor Haaland’s update on page 4 about our plans to help a refugee family resettle. And wish your Muslim neighbors a blessed Eid al-Fitr on 5 July. The Ramadan fast can be especially challenging when it falls in these summer months.
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

Announcements
Retirees
Join us Wednesday 27 July at 11:00am for a program, followed by an indoor picnic lunch—no potluck. On Wednesday 31 August we will meet at 11:00am for a program, followed by potluck lunch—cold foods preferred. Everyone welcome.

Helping Hands
July/August
Pat Baehler
Vivian Bartsch
Fred Bentz
Dori Brandon and family
Lucille Buelow
Bob and Ann Davis
June Johnson
Ken Koense
Rachel Mann
Phyllis Mattill
Sandra Tindell

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
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. The difference between what we had budgeted for member giving and what has been received is growing. We may need to reassess our budget assumptions. The difference between income and expenses is actually about $10,000, since there are about $15,400 in transfers that have not yet been taken.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>ACTUAL</th>
<th>BUDGET (5 mos.)</th>
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<td>Member Giving/ Envelopes</td>
<td>$103,127.11</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>$(25,493.58)</td>
<td>$(1,499.56)</td>
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New Fridge
A new side-by-side True brand refrigerator has replaced the broken one in the main kitchen. We are ready again to accommodate events. Thanks to Ken Schoenike and Joanne Seltz for their research. We are grateful to have this new, efficient replacement unit that fits perfectly. For this purchase the council approved the use of memorial funds given in honor of Lucille Ebel, Marvel Walmann, and Orville Bruss. We give thanks for the memory of these saints.

On page 5, learn more about volunteers from Christ Church who have been helping Safe House build a new fitness room.
From the Church Council
At our May meeting we decided that during this time of sabbatical the council would not meet during June and July. (In normal years council does not meet in July.) We handled what business we needed to address via email. The summer has been gracious in terms of lightening the load a bit. We did endorse the idea of posting signs on the church yard wishing a blessed Ramadan to our Muslim neighbors. The rest was normal business like approving minutes and receiving reports. Here’s hoping you are having a relaxing summer, too.

Celebration and Farewell
Sunday 7 August will be a big day at Christ Church. We will welcome Pastor Carlson back from her sabbatical and will say goodbye to Pastor Voigt and his family as they return to Leipzig. There will be smiles and tears. And of course there will be good food and beer. The meal will include classic American cuisine, to give our guests a taste to remember this country by, and the beer will be a classic German Schwarzbier, brewed by Christ Church Lutheran’s BierKlub especially for the occasion, based on a recipe for a favorite German Bier from the Leipzig area. Come and help us say goodbye to our dear friends from Deutschland and welcome Pastor Carlson back among us.

Refugee Resettlement Report
On Thursday 16 June, Pastor Haaland and Daniel Holmgren attended a fundraising dinner for Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota Refugee Services. The meal was an iftar dinner, led by a cleric from a local mosque. Iftar is the meal at which Muslims “break fast” each day during the month of Ramadan. This year it is about as late as it can be—just after 9:00pm. It was a wonderful occasion to learn more about Ramadan traditions and to raise support for LSS Refugee Services. At the fundraiser Pastor Haaland was able to talk with Cate Anderson, the LSS staff person who has helped us prepare to sponsor a refugee family. She said that most of the refugees arriving in June have been single people but that it is likely some families will arrive in July. It is likely that we will be helping to resettle a family very soon!

—Pastor Haaland

Construction Updates
Project Management Task Force
Six projects are underway at Christ Church at this time funded by the Second Century Campaign and a grant from the State of Minnesota. The new roof work is mostly complete with a correction punch list along with cleanup still underway. A sample of the tuckpointing on the brick work is waiting for the Historic Preservation office to approve before we begin three weeks of work replacing deteriorated mortar. New support steel beams and a column have been installed in the mechanical room ceiling, and now work will start on the alley entrance waterproofing and concrete replacement. Work will start soon on a new ramp at the tower door and repair work on the door frame. The church will be installing a new fence on the north side of the gymnasium brick wall. This will allow us to reclaim the five feet of property that was identified on a survey as belonging to the church.

—Bob Davis

Midtown Farmer’s Market
Save the Date
Christ Church Lutheran and the Friends of Christ Church are again sponsoring a day at the Midtown Farmer’s Market. This year it is Saturday 27 August, 8am –1pm. Please plan to come, greet your neighbors, and enjoy a great morning at the market, which is at the corner of Lake Street East and 22nd Ave South in Minneapolis.

Thank You from Polsfuss Family
Thank you to all of Erla’s friends who celebrated her life on 24 May. Your love and compassion surrounded us and gave us comfort. A special thank you to Pastors Farlee and Haaland and all the staff and volunteers that made it such a wonderful service and reception. For all the cards, the memorials, and encouragement that we received we express our everlasting gratitude.

—Howard Polsfuss and family
A New Fitness Room for Safe House

At our annual meeting in February we designated $30,000 of our Second Century capital campaign funds for Safe House, a local shelter for homeless youth run by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. We’ve had a relationship with and delivered meals to Safe House for many years.

Over the past few months, volunteers from Christ Church have been working at Safe House to complete our first project: a new fitness room. Upgrades to the space included a new rubberized floor and additions such as lamps, mirrors, an exercise bike, punching bag, TV, DVD player, and new artwork for the walls. Thanks to the volunteers who helped plan and set up the room—and thanks to all who contributed to the Second Century Campaign, making this project possible.

Kelly Ramer, program director at Safe House, had this to say about their new space: “Since the Christ Church exercise room opened to youth on 1 June, it has been a big hit. Youth are regularly using the bike and punching bag as a healthy way to de-stress and work out pent up energy. One youth told me the other night ‘I like to watch a movie while I am on the bike, ‘cause it’s quiet down there and I don’t even feel like I’m exercising!’”

This is the first of a number of projects at Safe House that will be completed over the next five years. Contact Pastor Haaland if you’d like to get involved with upcoming projects.

Photos:
Rachel Mann, Michael Jefferis, and Pastor Haaland spent a day cleaning and organizing; Marcus Nooney put down the new floor; the finished product. Marcus Nooney selected and installed the electronics; Kevin Larson purchased and set up the punching bag.
Lectionary Readings
July 2016

Sunday 3 July
Isaiah 66:10-14
Psalm 66:1-9
Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday 10 July
Deuteronomy 30:9-14
Psalm 25:1-10
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Sunday 17 July
Genesis 18:1-10a
Psalm 15
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Sunday 24 July
Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm 138
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

Sunday 31 July
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Psalm 49:1-12
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Meet One of Our Architects
Second Century Campaign

Talented people are working on our building projects. Congratulations to MacDonald & Mack principal Angela Wolf Scott, AIA, who has been selected as one of this year’s three AIA Minnesota Young Architects Award winners.

The citation recognizes Angela’s “insight, creativity, knowledge, professionalism, and passion, exemplifying the profession of architecture. She is highly deserving of this honor because of her dedication to her work, profession, students, and clients.”

Highlights of Angela’s work include the Gale Mansion (Minneapolis), Christ Church Lutheran (Minneapolis), state monuments around Minnesota, the Municipal Building clock faces (Minneapolis), and the Washburn A Mill complex (Minneapolis). Photo credit: AIA Minnesota

July Birthdays

7/1 Muriel Heller
   Alvin Weber
   Jason Weber
7/2 Margaret Doll
7/3 Eli Nooney
   Zander Nooney
7/4 Heather Weimer
7/5 Nicholas Boser
   Cora Selden
7/7 Mary Bode
   Dorothy Iverson
7/8 Adam Schmidt
7/9 Calvin Jenkins-Buegel
   Dick Strom
   Janice Wahlstrom
   Alexandra Wall
7/11 Chuck Merrell
   Nate Williams
7/13 Kelly Brandon
7/16 Ute Swenson
7/19 Donna Gawreluk
7/21 Christine Warner
   Patti Shingledecker
7/23 Marilyn Johnston
   Marcus Nooney
7/24 Todd Schoenike
7/25 Molly Boes
   David Doll
   Donna Lindberg
7/26 Sophia Hendren
7/27 Jon Woestehoff
7/28 Makenzie Marudas
7/29 Chloe Rice
   Augustus Byers
7/30 Leah Skrivseth
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<td>4:00pm Wedding Rehearsal</td>
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<td>6:00pm Visioning</td>
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<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>7:00pm FCCL Board</td>
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<td>St. John’s Lutheran Youth Group Overnight</td>
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