Presentation of LSS Award

On Sunday 9 October, in our worship service, we will welcome Rev. Peter Samuelson, the Senior Director of Foundation Relations and Strategic Impact at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. He will preach and then present us LSS’s Servant of Christ Award. Out of all the congregations in the Minneapolis Area Synod, we were the congregation chosen to receive this award this year. It recognizes and celebrates our leadership in social ministry and social justice in our community; our connection to LSS services in our area; and our faithful financial support for the service ministry of LSS.

Representatives from our congregation were presented this award at our Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly this past May. Now Rev. Samuelson is coming to present it to the whole congregation.

This is a great honor for us. 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 a joy. 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.

My Neighbor Is Muslim

Last year Mary Brown, an ordained pastor and member of Christ Church Lutheran, helped to create a study guide entitled My Neighbor Is Muslim. Working with local Lutheran scholars, her intention was to create a resource to help Christians understand the basic tenants of Islam and learn to be better neighbors to the Muslim members of our community.

This study has received widespread use nationally and even internationally. Come to Christ Church for a workshop on Saturday 29 October from 9:00 to 11:30am. Mary will tell us the story of this remarkable resource, lead us into its content, and help us learn more about Islam, the faith of so many of our neighbors here in Minnesota. She will be joined by one of her colleagues from the Muslim community. All are welcome. There is no cost for this workshop.

The study guide is offered through Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota and is available at lssmn.org/refugeeservices/study. Paper copies will be available at the back of the church. Reading the study guide is encouraged—but not required—to attend the workshop.

Brass Concert to Benefit Sheridan Story

Join us for a fun evening with the Lake Wobegon Brass Band on Friday 7 October at 7:30pm, right here at Christ Church Lutheran. Come for an evening of great music in our beautiful sanctuary and stay after the concert for a reception and visit with members of the band.

The concert is free, and a freewill offering will be collected to benefit the Sheridan Story weekend food program at Howe Elementary. The concert is presented as a part of Music at Christ Church. Invite family, friends, neighbors—all are welcome.

Arts Committee Update

Atrium Gallery Exhibit Opening
Sunday 16 October

Fred Bentz, longtime Christ Church Lutheran member and Minnesota architect, will highlight his long, remarkable career with an exhibit of photographs of his work. He will also present a forum on Sunday 16 October.
Announcements

Retirees
On Wednesday 26 October we will meet at 11:00am for a program, followed by potluck lunch. Everyone welcome.

A Unique Gift
Check out the hand crafted stationery by the women of Christ Church. A table is set up by the Yellow Room in the education wing each Sunday. Buy cards to send yourself or give a packet of cards as a gift.

Helping Hands September/October
Jeff Adams & Denise Morelock
Darrell & Jeanne Anderson
Mary Bode
Molly Boes
Matthew Courtney & Vanessa Rempel
Gary & Stephanie Gustafson
Wynn & Marilyn Johnston
Donna Lindberg
Dan & Sharon Mueller
MariLu Peters

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. Unfortunately, our deficit is still growing in the August financial report. We are hoping for better news now that the summer months are over.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Big Day at the Sheridan Story

On Sunday 11 September, as part of “God’s Work. Our Hands”—our ELCA day of service—a crew of hard workers from Christ Church and St. Peders’s spent several hours that afternoon filling almost one thousand lunch bags for hungry school children in the Twin Cities. We hand these out each Friday at our local Howe School to provide weekend food for needy children. Each bag contains pasta or rice, a can of fruit, a can of vegetables, and a can of meat. The need is great and we want to help. Thanks to our mission committee for organizing these efforts and to all who participate. If you want to get involved, speak to Pastor Haaland.

See page 8 for more Sheridan Story photos and photos of our children as they assembled bags of snack mix for our neighbors over at Our Saviour’s Shelter, also on “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday.

Thanks a Bundle

Ever wonder who stuffs your bulletin every Sunday? It’s Michael Jefferis! He comes over to the church every Friday, lays out all the pieces, and puts them together into a beautiful bulletin for everyone who comes to worship. Thanks, Michael, for this important ministry.
From the Church Council
Sarah Brunsvold opened the meeting with devotions. She talked about the many troubling events in our nation and world and turned our attention to John 16:33 and Joshua 1:9, verses that speak of peace and courage.

Maria Markman begins her seminary field placement work at Christ Church Lutheran this fall. Maria has been leading children’s activities during worship for some time now. The council approved shifting her paid responsibilities in children’s ministry to a more administrative role. This change responds to growth in the children’s program and will also allow her to be available during worship so she can carry out the activities required by a seminary field placement. The field placement is in addition to her work with our children and is not compensated work. We are pleased to play a role like this in educating future pastors of the church.

As the congregation continues to grow and operations become more complex, many processes that were once handled informally and on an occasional basis now seem to require a more formal structure. This issue comes into play in the next two actions taken by the council this month.

First, the council voted to reestablish a personnel committee at Christ Church. This committee would draft personnel policies, make recommendations about staff compensation, develop job descriptions, and participate in the process of hiring lay staff.

Second, we heard again from the staffing task force about their recommendation that the congregation consider hiring an administrative assistant to work in communication and building management. The task force had met again to investigate some questions raised by the council in response to the task force’s report at our August meeting. To make this decision, the council feels it needs a clearer picture of the financial considerations. So we voted to form the finance review and analysis task force to investigate the question and report back to the council.

We received reports from our pastors and from various task forces and committees. There is much good work going on in this congregation. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Journeying toward Justice
Privilege and Race in Our Church
Over the course of two days, October 7-8, two five-member teams from Christ Church Lutheran will participate in a conference on privilege and race at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Participants include Hilary Gebauer, Daniel Holmgren, DeAne Lagerquist, Dan Mueller, Rachel Slater, Colin Watkins, Hillary Watkins, Bob Victorin-Vangerud, Pastor Carlson, and Pastor Haaland. In addition to sending two teams to the conference, Christ Church is supporting this event with a benevolence gift made through the Mission Committee.

Here is a description from the event’s Facebook Page: “This weekend conference will provide congregational teams the opportunity to explore racial justice issues, better understand and confess the white privilege that is at work in the Lutheran church, and identify action steps to take as a team, a congregation and a denomination. Keynote speakers Rozella White and Deb Rodgers will frame our conversation and professional facilitators will lead a variety of workshops. Each team of five will commit to at least one preparation meeting and will participate together over the course of the weekend.”

Fall Fellowship Dinner
Saturday 15 October, 6:00pm
Remember the song “Getting to Know You”? Here’s a chance to spend a relaxed evening over dinner with other Christ Church members and visitors—laughter, good food, great conversation. Our next fellowship dinner is Saturday 15 October at 6pm. If you can seat 6–8 people (including yourself/yourselves) around a common table, please consider being a host. Hosts invite others assigned to join them, prepare the main entrée for dinner, and ask others to bring appetizer, salad, vegetable, or dessert to round out the meal. Couples (married/partnered), singles, members of Christ Church, and visitors can share in this fun opportunity to get to know one another. Look for a sign-up sheet in the atrium of the education building. Hosts will be notified of their guest list by Tuesday, 11 October. Every effort will be made to consider driving distance when assigning people to a host’s home. If you have questions or would like to sign up via email, please contact johndschmidt@usfamily.net with your name/s, home address, email address, phone number, and any dietary restrictions the hosts need to know about. Enjoy an evening out with your Christ Church Lutheran family!
“Let the children come to me.”

We are excited to begin another season of Sunday School at Christ Church, on Sunday mornings from 11:05 am to 12:05 pm. This year we are offering Godly Play for ages 3–6. We are adding a new curriculum for our older children ages 7 and up—Spark!—a lectionary-based curriculum produced by Sparkhouse, part of Augsburg Fortress Publishing House. Godly Play meets in the Blue Room. Spark meets in the Red Room. Thanks to all who are serving as Storytellers, Doorkeepers, mentors, and helpers in this education program for our children. If you would like to get involved in this important and wonderful ministry, speak to Pastor Carlson or Maria Markman.

Welcome Maria Markman

Maria Markman is someone we have come to know and value very much these last two years. She worked every Sunday with children ages 3 and up in the Red Room during the Word section of our worship service, nurturing their relationships with one another and engaging them in learning about Jesus. She also served as a Godly Play Storyteller. Maria did this while she was a student at Concordia University. We continue to be so very grateful to our dear Kay Madson—former Vice President and Professor at Concordia University—for connecting us with Maria in the first place.

Last spring Maria graduated from Concordia University and was accepted into the MDiv program at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul. There she is preparing herself for ordained ministry. As part of her studies, she has requested Christ Church for her field work assignment (known as Christian public leadership, CPL). We are delighted to welcome her as our seminarian-in-training! This will involve five hours a week, with Maria involved in a broad range of leadership opportunities at Christ Church. Pastor Carlson will be her pastoral mentor for this field work and will work closely with Maria on it.

In addition, at its September meeting, the council approved a new position for Maria. She will receive a stipend for four to five hours a week to work in children’s ministry at Christ Church. This will involve being in the Red Room some Sundays each month and working with Pastor Carlson as an administrative assistant to oversee children’s ministries. We are excited to have Maria working in this important and growing ministry in our congregation. We’ll be seeing a lot more of Maria at Christ Church and that makes us glad.

Welcome Maria!
Welcoming Guests from Saxony

Here are some scenes from Sunday 18 September, when we welcomed two guests from Germany. From Dresden, Pfarrer Peter Mais, who is the Oberlandeskirchenrat im Landeskirchenamt (Chair of the Council of the Church of Saxony, the Theologian of the Church of Saxony). And from Leipzig, Pfarrer Martin Henker, Superintendent des Kreis Leipzig (Superintendent of the Leipzig District and the bishop of Helge Voigt).

Superintendent Martin Henker brought a greeting to Christ Church during worship, speaking in German. His translator was Rev. Morris Wee, back now from serving this past year as the pastor in Helge Voigt’s parish, the Sophienkirchgemeinde.

After worship and a great time at the activity fair, the clergy went out for brunch and conversation about the Leipzig Connection. Around the table you can see Pastor Robert Farlee, Rev. Morris Wee, Rev. Paul Rogers, Pastor Martin Seltz, Rev. William Russell, Superintendent Martin Henker, Pfarrer Peter Mais, and Pastor Erik Haaland. Pastor Kristine Carlson is taking the photo!

Earlier, at the activity fair, Martin Henker was given a packet containing a new church photo directory for Helge and Anke Voigt—he will hand deliver it to them. We are very grateful to them for their time among us, and to Anke for her excellent work overseeing our new directory. Vielen Dank!

Retirees Welcome

Come to the monthly retirees gathering for good friendship and fellowship, and for good learning. They meet on the last Wednesday of the month from 11:00am to 1:00pm for a program and a potluck lunch. For information call the church office—or just come. You are always welcome.

Save the Date

Sunday 20 November 2016

Roots and Wings

Christ Church Lutheran Stewardship Brunch

Good Friends and Good Food
immediately following worship
All are welcome

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
—Psalm 1:3

Retirees Welcome
The Good News

“the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . 2 Cor 13:13

Grace is fabulously beautiful. “Rejoicing through giving” is the deep meaning of the word “grace” in the Bible. Lutherans in the US have chosen the grace of God as the core of their message. One recognizes Lutheran congregations by this “be joyful because God has turned to us.” To experience grace through Jesus, we celebrate worship. In Holy Communion, we receive God. Also in preaching, which God blesses with spirit. And also in social service, in the help that we give or receive. Grace is colorful and varied. More than the normal use of the word suggests.

In Minneapolis I encountered a man who complained passionately about some pastors. “Why do pastors conceal this treasure?” He was very energetic. Blood rose into his face and his eyes filled with tears. “Why don’t pastors tell their congregations that in Holy Communion we really encounter God? That we receive and take in God is such a treasure!” The man impressed me. He is no theologian. And I learned from him that he had many struggles. This closeness to God he had very much needed—and found. For him it was a saving grace.

Martin Luther stressed three essentials of faith: grace, Christ, and the Holy Word. He describes beautifully how we can grasp and hold grace: “Just as the sun is easy to see in still water and warms it powerfully, so in moving, rushing water is it hard to see clearly. Therefore, if you want to be enlightened and warmed by the gospel, go where you can be still and allow the picture to sink deep in your heart; there you will find wonder upon wonder.”

The German word Gnade (“grace”) makes it hard for us to understand this beauty of God’s friendship. Gnade sounds too much like sin and forgiveness. But that is only one part of the friendship and grace of God. It is reasonable to see the matter this way because people are sinful, and we are always in need of forgiveness. But also one restraint: gnade is also a gift that makes us original (thus pure and blameless).

The English word “grace,” more than our German word Gnade, stands for the gift through God, for the gifted attractiveness. God gives us quality. The charm (or attractiveness) of a person is closely bound up with this understanding of grace.

How beautiful it was for us to be able to experience, in the Lutheran congregations of the United States, the good Spirit of God. One speaks one’s strongest and best. One exudes a good feeling. We Germans can do that also, but most of us do not. We often try to improve something with criticism, even when it is impolite or causes someone pain. In the end,

we Germans believe, it goes toward the matter at hand or the greater goal. This has some good in it. In this way, Germans are able to build effective organizations and systems.

But I have noticed how much the kindheartedness of others has helped me. One receives the good wishes and the acceptance (Zuwendung) deep into oneself. It is simply beautiful. We rejoiced in it. It was a gift. The deep impression remains. Lutherans stand for Gnade, for the grace of God, that wants to flow out of the heart of God into our hearts.

“Rejoicing through giving” is the deep biblical meaning of the term “grace of God.” Our friendliness is Christ turned toward all of us. How can we grasp that better than this, that we tell others about it and that we extend kindness to others? Grace is never wasted. It comes back to us. We find kindness in the deep connection with Christ and with God.

We are so thankful to God for the experiences of seven months in the United States. We found there in the ELCA friends and a new piece of home. If one concentrates on grace, many things become easier. As a preacher, one is heard with good will and attentiveness. And if there is a problem in the congregation, one addresses it calmly. One hesitates to criticize someone harshly. The choir may sing badly. The assisting minister may forget a Sunday. The pastor may arrive too late. The administrators may make errors. One doesn’t get agitated over this but strengthens oneself and encourages the others. Because those who can do it better give their ability. They give joy to others through grace. They do not humiliate anyone.

One recognizes Lutherans by the message of grace. Grace is fabulously beautiful.

—Pastor Helge Voigt

Trans. Morris Wee
A Busy Sunday of Service
September 11 was “God’s Work. Our Hands” Sunday, a day of service for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. After worship, our children assembled bags of snack mix for our neighbors over at Our Saviour’s Shelter. Later that afternoon, volunteers from Christ Church Lutheran joined volunteers from St. Peder’s Lutheran at the Sheridan Story warehouse in Saint Paul. Together we packed about one thousand bags of goods to be delivered to children throughout the metro area.
New Directories

New photo directories are received with smiles on Welcome Sunday. They are available from the church office. A $5 donation per copy to offset the printing costs is appreciated.

Remembrance of the Faithful Departed

All Saints Sunday—November 6, 2016

The Festival of All Saints, celebrated on Sunday 6 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 1 November 2015. If you would like us to list others in your family who have died in the past year, we invite you to contact the church office by Monday 24 October.

Weaving Class Open to All

Interested in weaving? Come to a new beginner class starting this fall. The class will be led by Traudi Bestler, a well-respected local instructor who is excellent with beginners and creates a no-stress, enjoyable working environment. Traudi has worked with Christ Church before and calls us her “favorite church weaving group.” Thanks to generous Christ Church vision funding, we have simple, portable looms for participants.

The Christ Church weavers are a group of beginning weavers who meet regularly to have fun creating new fiber art for Christ Church. You may have seen the group’s last piece, “Northern Lights,” in the chapel last Advent.

Our current project is new paraments—altar cloths, stoles, banners, and so on—for the green season. Everyone has their own project so you can express your creativity and work at your own pace and/or at group sessions.

All ages and skill levels are welcome. Questions? Contact Kevin Olsen at klolsen2@gmail.com or 612.554.5401 or anyone else in the weaving group.
October 2

Godly Play
Rev. Suzanne Burke

Suzanne Burke, a trainer in Godly Play—a Sunday School curriculum that we use here at Christ Church—will help us learn about and experience this imaginative method for presenting Scripture stories to children. “The invitation is given not for play in general but for play with the language of God and God’s people; our sacred stories, parables, liturgical actions, and silences. Through this powerful language, through our wondering, through the community of players gathered together, we hear the deepest invitation of all: an invitation to come and play with God” (Jerome Berryman, founder of Godly Play).

October 9

Bearing Witness to Grace:
Hymns and Vocation
Jeannette Lindholm

Jan Lindholm will focus her remarks on hymns’ relation to Christian vocation, both in terms of her own work as a hymn writer and in terms of the lives and work of all those who desire to live out Christ’s call. As part of her talk, she will lead us in singing six of her hymns. Lindholm’s texts, including the Advent hymn “Unexpected and Mysterious” in ELW, have been published in a number of denominational hymnals or supplements and set to music as choral anthems. Lindholm’s texts, including the Advent hymn “Unexpected and Mysterious” in ELW, have been published in a number of denominational hymnals or supplements and set to music as choral anthems. Lindholm is a graduate of Concordia College ( Moorhead) and holds degrees from the University of Minnesota, Indiana University, and Boston University School of Theology, where she studied hymn writing with Carl P. Daw. She is currently a professor of English at Salem State University in Massachusetts.

October 16

Form Follows Function:
An Architectural Odyssey
Fred Bentz

Fred Bentz will show some slides of his architectural work, highlighting his long career as a Minnesota architect beginning with his graduation from the University of Minnesota in 1948, through his years at Long and Thorshov, Thorshov and Cerny, Cerny Associates, and culminating in forming his own practice, Bentz/Thompson/Rietow Associates in 1971. Together with former Pastor Al Neibacher and architectural historian Rolf Anderson, he facilitated Christ Church Lutheran’s nomination to the National Historic Registry. Fred also served on the Commission on Architecture (Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod) for six years, advising congregations on the church building process.

October 23

Sabbatical Time
Pastor Carlson

Pastor Carlson will talk about her recent three-month sabbatical and reflect on this gift of time for rest and renewal. She will share photos and stories about her experiences in Leipzig, Germany; her journey to her ancestral homeland, Norway; her new friends in these places, and her many relatives.

October 30

Art and the Reformation: The MIA and Germany Connection
Ann Davis

Many of the greatest art treasures of the Reformation will be coming from Germany to the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA) for an exhibition that will be on view this fall and winter. MIA docent and Christ Church member Ann Davis will discuss this upcoming exhibit, illustrated with pictures of some of the treasures as well as her own photos taken on a recent trip to Lutherland.
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<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>9:30am</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eucharist</strong></td>
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|     |     | 1:00pm Tai Chi Chih | 5:30pm Visioning | 7:00pm  
- Mission  
- Preservation  
- Property | 5:30pm Nominating | 7:30pm  
Lake Wobegon ©  
Brass Band Concert |     |     |
| **9** | **9:30am** | **Eucharist** | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|     | 1:00pm Tai Chi Chih | 1:00pm Stationery | 9:00am  
Staff  
Executive Board  
Council  
Stewardship | 7:00pm Choir | 7:00pm Choir | 9:00 am Council Retreat | 10:00am Finnish School |
| **16** | 8:30am Altar Guild | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |     |
|     | **9:30am** | **Eucharist** | 1:00pm Tai Chi Chih | 7:00pm Executive Board | 11:00am Retirees  
FCCL Board  
Staff  
Choir | 7:00pm Choir |     |     |
| **23** | **9:30am** | **Eucharist** | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
|     | 1:00pm Tai Chi Chih | 7:00pm FCCL Board | 11:00am Retirees  
Staff  
Choir |     |     |     | 9:00am  
“My Neighbor is Muslim” |     |
| **30** | **9:30am** | **Eucharist** | 31 | Nov. 1 | Nov. 2 | Nov. 3 | Nov. 4 | Nov. 5 |
|     | 1:00pm Tai Chi Chih | 7:00pm  
Mission, Preservation, Property | 5:00pm  
Wedding Rehearsal  
Staffing  
Choir | 5:27pm  
Wedding of Alissa Carsten  
and Jeremy Gustafson |     |     | 10:00am Finnish School |     |
| **31** |     | **Nov. 1** | **Nov. 2** | **Nov. 3** | **Nov. 4** |     | **Nov. 5** |     |
|     |     | 7:00pm  
Mission, Preservation, Property |     | 5:00pm  
Wedding Rehearsal  
Staffing  
Choir | 5:27pm  
Wedding of Alissa Carsten  
and Jeremy Gustafson |     |     | Set Back Clocks |     |

**Meals on Wheels**
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<th>Lectors</th>
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<th>Greeters</th>
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<td>Mary Bode</td>
<td>Phyllis Matilll</td>
<td>Chuck Merrell</td>
<td>Gene Bruss</td>
<td>Bob &amp; Ute Svenson</td>
<td>Melody Pauling</td>
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<td>Phyllis Matilll</td>
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<td>Mark Jensen</td>
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<td>Dan Mueller</td>
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