Advent Is Here

It is Advent and, along with nature, we are a people waiting.

Far out of the south, the winter light comes thin and milky. The days grow shorter and colder and the nights long. Try as we may, we cannot fully dismiss the fundamental feelings that lie deep at our roots, a mixture of feelings dark and sweet. Will the sun, the source of our life, ever return? Has the great light abandoned us? We are anxious from the separation and feel an obscure guilt. We know there are vague disharmonies that keep us at odds. But our longing for union is passionate.

This year we want our Christmas to be different. We want to be touched this season—moved at a level that lies deep in us and is hungry and dark and groaning with a primal need. Like the receptive fields we lie fallow and wanting, waiting.

But this waiting of ours is not helpless passivity. We are willing to receive the Spirit. We wait to be impregnated. “Drop down, down, O heavens, from above. Let the clouds rain forth the Just One. Let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior.”

Adapted from To Dance with God: Family Ritual and Community Celebration by Gertrud Mueller Nelson, 59–62

Advent Waiting at Christ Church

Come on Wednesdays in Advent to worship in the chapel and share a meal together in the Concordia Room.

Wednesdays, November 30, December 7 and 14
Morning Prayer at 11:30am, followed by lunch at noon
Compline at 7:00pm, preceded by supper at 6:00pm

In our midweek worship we will reflect together on the lives of saints commemorated during these Advent weeks: Pastor Martin Seltz (Nov. 30) on Andrew, Apostle; Pastor Robert Farlee (Dec. 7) on Ambrose, Bishop of Milan; Pastor Erik Haaland (Dec. 14) on John of the Cross, renewer of the church. All are welcome!

December Sundays in Advent

Second Sunday of Advent, December 4
Worship at 9:30am. In Sermon on the Steps we will celebrate St. Nicholas. Children will receive special bags of treats in his honor.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11
Worship at 9:30am. In Sermon on the Steps we celebrate St. Lucia. Children will receive a special Scandinavian treat in her honor.

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18
Worship at 9:30am. In Sermon on the Steps we gather around the manger and celebrate the coming of the Christ child, “God with us.”

After coffee at 11:30am, come to the sanctuary for our Intergenerational Christmas Pageant. Or come to the Chapel at 11:00am that morning and get a role and a costume for the Christmas pageant. You will not want to miss this wonderful telling of the Christmas story!

Christmas at Christ Church

Christmas Eve Worship—Nativity of Our Lord
Saturday, December 24
Pre-Service Music, 4:45pm, hear carols from France performed by choir and instruments.
Candlelight Family Worship, 5:00pm

Christmas Eve worship begins with the Proclamation of Christmas and then the procession as we sing one of the treasured hymns of the season. Throughout the service there will be more hymns and carols—old and new—and beautiful music by our choir, organ, and guest instrumentalists. There will be a Christmas Sermon on the Steps for children of all ages and a Christmas sermon telling of God’s love for all people.

Christmas Day Worship – Nativity of Our Lord
Sunday, December 25
The ChristMass, 10:00am
Hear our choir sing beautiful Christmas anthems and oboist Merilee Klemp play a new arrangement by Pastor Farlee. Sing beloved Christmas carols. Participate in the liturgy of the ChristMass. Meet the Christ child come to you—the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered, in the living Word, in the meal around the holy table.

First Sunday of Christmas
Sunday, January 1
Eucharist Worship, 9:30am
The congregation deficit was almost $22,000 at the end of October—a little less than appears in the spreadsheet due to deferred transfers. I have a bet with Pastor Carlson that the deficit at the end of the year will be more than $1,000. Help her win the bet by adding something extra to your offerings during December. Thank you.

—Melody Pauling, Treasurer

### Finances Update

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### Announcements

#### Retirees

Wednesday 28 December at 11:00am. Gather around the piano to sing Christmas carols. Lunch will be served. No potluck.

#### Funerals

William (Bill) Dunstone died Thursday 10 November. His funeral was Saturday 19 November at Christ Church Lutheran, with visitation in the chapel at 10am and a funeral service in the sanctuary at 11am. A luncheon in the gymnasium followed.

Wallace (Wally) Wermager died Thursday 17 November. His funeral was on Monday 28 November at Christ Church. Visitation was at 9am in the chapel, funeral service at 10am in the sanctuary, with a luncheon following in the gymnasium.

Both men were buried with honors at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

#### Wedding

Alissa Carsten and Jeremy Gustafson were married at Christ Church on Friday 4 November. Instead of a dance at their reception, the couple hosted a service project where guests made over 3200 sandwiches for distribution to people experiencing food scarcity and homelessness this winter. Alissa and Jeremy also gave away nearly 250 MatterBoxes—boxes of non-perishable food products—for guests to take and then hand out to panhandlers on the street. The couple wishes to thank all at Christ Church who helped behind the scenes to make their day special—Joanne, Hillary, Chuck, the altar guild, property committee, church office, and many others. Check out pictures of the sandwich making project at bit.ly/2gWCeG5.
Helping Hands
November/December

Bob Anderson & John Schmidt
Jason Bergquist
Sarah Brunsvold & Jeff Weispfenning
Siri Caltvedt
Hilary Gebauer & Marc Katz
Dorothy Iverson
Marge Meffert
Chuck & Kristy Merrell
Kevin Olsen & Will Stark
Ray & Rosie Peters
Simo Sarkanen & 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

Eero Saarinen on PBS. Details on page 8.
From the Church Council

Marcus Nooney opened our meeting this month with devotions. The meeting was specifically dedicated to formulating a budget for 2017, so Marcus offered a prayer for wisdom in dealing with finances.

In order to focus on next year’s budget, we decided we would forego reports for this meeting. There was some other business we had to consider. Compensation packages for Pastor Carlson and our custodian, Chuck Merrell, include medical insurance. Between our October and November meetings we approved by email keeping their coverage at the same cost and benefit level as last year.

At our meeting this month we voted to authorize the congregation president to sign a letter accepting on behalf of the congregation the Legacy Fund grant that we have recently received. This $228,074 will go toward the renovation of the courtyard in the summer of 2017. We voted as well to present the courtyard project to the congregation for consideration at its meeting on Sunday 11 December. The copier in the office is aging and it is getting harder to get parts to repair it. We considered a proposal to lease a new machine and decided to wait and take the issue up again at our January meeting.

Next we turned to the budget. Will Stark present three scenarios for our consideration. We decided that we could reasonably anticipate an increase of 5% over 2016 giving. With that in mind we worked out a tentative budget to present to the congregation. We agreed to meet again on Tuesday 29 November, once we had the results of the stewardship campaign, to finalize this decision. We adjourned, as always, with the Lord’s Prayer.

—Bob Victorin-Vangerud, President

Enneagram Workshops

Tuesdays, January 24, 31, and February 7

This series of three classes held from 6:30–8:30pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (2730 E 31st St, Minneapolis) will deepen your knowledge of the Enneagram: an ancient and powerful map that sheds light on the motivation behind your behavior. Imagine combining the wisdom of your dearest friend, a personality tool like Myers-Briggs, and your own honest perceptions: that’s the Enneagram. Kate Ostrem of 9 Open Doors will guide us as we explore how the Enneagram can be applied to our daily lives and increase the compassion we have for ourselves and those we love. Join members of neighboring churches for this unique learning experience.

January 24: Meet the Enneagram

If you are brand new to the Enneagram, this class will help you identify your type. If you are already familiar with the Enneagram, come anyway. There is always something new to learn about your own type or that of others.

January 31: The Enneagram and Communication

Continue the conversation in this class with a focus on how your type impacts your communication style.

February 7: The Enneagram and Conflict

The series concludes with a look at how understanding your type helps you face conflict in respectful and healthy ways.

If it’s not possible for you to attend the first class, come to the second and third anyway. Cost for the series is $20. Scholarships are available. Contact Pastor Haaland (612.721.6611; ehaaland@christchurchluth.org) to sign up.

Second Century Campaign

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<td>Balance remaining</td>
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Save the Dates

Intergenerational Christmas Pageant
Sunday 18 December, 11:30am
Following church and fellowship, all are welcome to experience the first Christmas together with the Intergenerational Christmas Pageant. The children will sing and we will all sing together, too. A highlight of Christ Church Lutheran’s Christmas celebrations!

Epiphany Party
Saturday 7 January, 4:00–6:00pm
Gather together and wonder about the magnificent Magi who came to visit Jesus, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We will sing carols, have some treats fit for kings and queens, and bless the church for the new year!

Communion Retreat for 2nd and 3rd graders
Saturday 28 January, 10am–noon
Come and join us at the table! We will be baking bread and learning about communion together! And on Sunday at worship we will celebrate together, sharing the bread we made.

Winter Warmer
Saturday, February 4, 2017, 4-7:30PM
Tired of being cooped up all winter? Come and join us for some fun!

Jesus said, “Let the children come!” At Christ Church Lutheran, we welcome children and their families to the font, to the table, and to worship.

The children’s ministry team is excited to be starting another year of programming. Our congregation is growing! It is our joy to make families and children feel welcome and loved following in our call to be like Jesus here at Christ Church Lutheran.

Advent Schedule for Sermon on the Steps

27 November
Children will receive an Advent calendar and gift boxes for offering. We will use the money we collect to buy a sheep or a goat, or even a cow or an ox with a plough if we raise enough money. This will help a needy farming family in another country.

4 December
We will learn about St. Nicholas and receive a St. Nicholas bag filled with treats.

11 December
We will learn about St. Lucia and receive some Scandinavian goodies and candles and stars.

18 December
Manger Day! We will gather around the manger and learn about the Holy Family.

Who Are These Kids?
Turn the page to find out and to learn more about them.
Children’s Ministry Sunday Schedule

**Nursery**

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<tr>
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<td>Karen</td>
<td>Yi-ru</td>
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**The Red Room**

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<td>Open</td>
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**Godly Play**

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**Spark!**

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<tr>
<td>December 25</td>
<td>No Spark!</td>
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**Maria Markman**

*Why is Children’s Ministry important to you?* Children have an innate spirituality that is so profound. I love to be involved with children because they make me think about faith in ways I wouldn’t and they deepen my understanding just by being who they are.

*What is your favorite thing about Christ Church’s children’s ministry?* The communal aspect of Christ Church in general is so amazing to me! Dietrich Bonhoeffer says it is in community that Jesus Christ exists. Through our volunteers and in our community I experience the true love of Jesus Christ.

*Dreams.* When I grow up I want to have the faith of a child.

*Favorite Food.* Peanut Butter

*Favorite Animal.* Lion

Favorite sports team: Minnesota Golden Gophers

*Favorite children’s movie character.* Woody from *Toy Story* or Belle from *Beauty and the Beast* or Joy from *Inside Out*

**Pastor Carlson**

I love children! I loved having and raising my own children, and I love our Christ Church children.

I value the way children are a part of our whole life—we are all in this together. Children give life and love and wisdom to the congregation. I value the way we approach children’s growth in faith, believing that children learn through experience. In addition, we offer a creative, caring, high-quality education program for their children to deepen in faith and knowledge. Children’s Ministry brings us together—young and old alike—and that’s a wonderful thing.

The children themselves are my favorite part of our Children’s Ministry! Next would be Sermon on the Steps, then Communion, then Baptism.

I dream of the Peaceable Kingdom, when the lion and the lamb lie down together and all are friends and God is all in all.

*My favorite food* is our communion bread.

*My favorite animal* is my Swedish Vallhund dog, Saga. His full name is Saga Svala Intelligentsia.

*My favorite pastime* is knitting.

I read books when I was little rather than going to movies. My favorite character was Laura in *Little House on the Prairie.*
La Natividad

Friday 16 December, 6:30–9:30pm

In the Heart of the Beast Theater Company

We’re taking the Nativity story to the streets. Angels and shepherds. A suspicious king. A time of social distress. A pregnant woman knocks on the doors of the city, seeking shelter. Who is it that gathers to welcome the little one into this world? This is the Christmas story, the story of the Holy Child born in our midst. This unique event honors the Mexican tradition of La Posada, leading everyone on a journey to four sites in our community. Enacted with beauty, humor, soulful live music, and an ending feast.

Performed in English and Spanish. Presented in partnership with St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. To attend with a group from Christ Church, purchase tickets for Friday 16 December.

Tickets: $23 | Children, Seniors, Students: $17 (no one turned away for lack of funds). Buy your tickets online: brownpapertickets.com/event/2581251.

Please note: Audiences must be mobile and dressed appropriately for the outdoors. The procession is 2 blocks long, beginning at In the Heart of the Beasts Avalon Theatre (1500 E. Lake St., Mpls) and culminating at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church with a fiesta (music and food).

Epiphany Party

Saturday 7 January, 4:00pm

It has become an annual tradition. Come, celebrate Epiphany—and party all the way to the twelfth day of Christmas (and then even one day beyond)! This year’s Epiphany Party will be held 4:00–6:00pm, Saturday 7 January at church. We’ll eat, drink, and make merry. We’ll sing some of our favorite Christmas carols. We’ll bless our church building, our house of worship. We’ll also send everyone home with a liturgy to bless your own dwelling places—homes, apartments, bedrooms—for the coming year. (It’s an ancient tradition to bless dwelling places on the feast of the Epiphany—come and learn all about it!) All are invited. There will be special activities for children.
**Eero Saarinen on PBS**

“Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future” will air on public television the evening of Tuesday 27 December.

The life and work of Eero Saarinen is presented as part of the American Masters series in a film directed by Peter Rosen that will premiere on public television two days after Christmas Day. While it focuses on Saarinen’s most famous works—the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, the GM Technical Center, the TWA Building at JFK Airport, the Dulles Airport Terminal—it also discusses other projects for which Saarinen became known. Eero’s son, Eric Saarinen, who had estranged himself from connections with his father for many years, is a coproducer and director of photography for the film. A grant from Finlandia Foundation National provided support to this project.

Director Peter Rosen says, “This film is both an immersive look at an architect’s work and a father-son story across generations. Once Eric agreed to go on this journey with me, I knew the results would be compelling and revealing.”

The film airs on PBS American Masters on Tuesday 27 December. In the Twin Cities, it is scheduled on TPT2 at 7:00pm.

**Happy 105th Birthday to Christ Church Lutheran**

105 candles lit—and getting blown out—for Christ Church Lutheran on November 20.
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<td>Pat Bachler</td>
<td>Donna Gawreluk</td>
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<td>Maria Markman</td>
<td>Gene Bruss</td>
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<td>Jason Bergquist</td>
<td>Simo Sarkinen</td>
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<td>Rachel Slater</td>
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