First Comes the Destruction . . .

Clearing the way for a new organ

June is the month in which our old, faithful organ will be removed to make way for its replacement. That in itself is a major task, partly because of the intricate screen in front of the organ. On Saturday, May 20, nearly twenty volunteers showed up to help with the initial stages of disassembling the screen as well as removing pews from the balcony and a couple from the downstairs worship area. Some photos from that are below. At the end of this month, a crew from Dobson Pipe Organ Builders will come in to remove the organ. Parts of it will be taken to their shop in Lake City, Iowa, to be renovated and reused in the new organ. The rest will have a new home as part of an organ for St. Michael’s Church in Farmington, where the organist is a friend of Bob Anderson and John Schmidt. For the ten months when we are without an organ, our cantors will make use of the grand piano on the main level and the help of other instrumentalists and vocalists from within and outside the congregation.

Digging deep for an improved courtyard

Our courtyard will be under reconstruction starting May 15 for about three months. The courtyard, the arcade, and the plaza down to the public sidewalk will be a construction zone. For the safety of our members and the public, this area has been enclosed with construction fencing and is only accessible to construction personnel. As explained in last month’s Courier, we can enter the church through the tower door (on Sundays), the north door on 34th Avenue, and the alley door. Doorbells and cameras have been installed at the latter two doors to help anyone who does not have a key and to help the church staff monitor and welcome visitors coming to our doors.

The construction program includes digging up all of the courtyard to waterproof the tunnels and the lower-level walls. The lilac tree in the courtyard will be replaced with a smaller tree. The roots of the existing one were growing into the cracks in the wall and adding to our water intrusion. The project will include replacing all of the existing concrete that was very uneven and had become a safety problem. The limestone columns in the arcade will be repaired and the one step at our entry doors will be eliminated by raising the plaza level.

Left: The atrium provides a great view of a deep hole that reveals one of our tunnels between the buildings.

Below: A pause in the digging while architects Angela Wolf-Scott (in black) and Bob Davis (light blue shirt) consult on the progress.

Clockwise from top left:
Easing a pew down the stairway.
Workers old and young moving a pew into the undercroft.
A view from below.
Lots to do, high and low.
Christ Church Lutheran
3244 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55406
612.721.6611
mail@christchurchluth.org
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
Sunday Worship
Eucharist 9:30am, followed by fellowship
Staff
Pastors
Pastor Kristine Carlson
Pastor Erik Haaland
Cantors
Pastor Robert Farlee
Pastor Martin Seltz
Office
Stephanie Okoneski
Facilities
Chuck Merrell
Courier Team
Pastor Robert Farlee
Mary Bode
Pastor Kristine Carlson
Congregation Council
President
Matthew Courtney
Vice President
Will Stark
Secretary
Dan Mueller
Treasurer
Melody Pauling
Council Members
Sarah Brunsvold
Kate Haugen
Max Herzberg
DeAne Lagerquist
Marcus Nooney
June Birthdays
6/3 Clyde Hanson
6/5 John Buegel
   Yi-ru Chen-Sarkanen
6/8 Harvey Leuning
6/10 Melody Pauling
6/12 David Polsfuss
6/14 Julie Brandon
6/15 June Johnson
6/19 Pr. Erik Haaland
6/20 Roger Gomoll
6/21 Jude Carroll
6/24 Marge Meffert
6/25 Sarah Brunsvold
   Ken Schoenike
6/26 Tatum Nooney
   Jim Strom
6/27 Edward Lief
   Gregory Tindell
6/29 Paul Flanders
6/30 Brad Hubert
Helping Hands for June
Chad & Marlyse Blihovde
Jan & Gene Bruss
Phyllis Dunstone
Kate Haugen & Carlton Hunke
Michael Jefferis
Dave Kutzbach
Lynn & Kevin Larson
Kevin Reuther & Gerry Tyrrell
Samantha Rice
Ute & Bob Swenson
Dick Thompson
Evelyn Wermager
Brook & Nate Williams
Each member is part of Helping Hands. You may be asked to help with Sunday Coffee and other hospitality related events as needs arise. Mary Bode and Joanne Seltz, coordinators.

Why I like book clubs
By Bob Anderson
My partner John reads to me because I’m blind. It’s a wonderful experience, not only because he has a gorgeous voice, but because we get to do something most of us haven’t done since we were kids: read a book together. It’s an extraordinary intimacy, sharing a book in real time—laughing, crying, puzzling, wondering, going through the catharsis of revelation together. Trying to tell somebody about it afterwards doesn’t cut it, though the craving to share is strong.

In the Christ Church Lutheran book club we’ve got the next best thing: we all read the same book and come together to share our insights and reactions. It’s after the fact and not in real time, but we make a point of reading aloud some of the passages that have sparked us, and engage the living presence of the book that way. We listen and learn from each other. Our most recent book, Carry On by Lisa Fenn, was remarkable in this respect. In Pastor Haaland’s words, “It is one thing to read and be inspired by a book—it’s another to gather in community and discover how it has inspired others. It’s a gift—exponentially so.”

The next read of the Christ Church book club is Elizabeth Strout’s novel Abide with Me. We meet Saturday, July 8, 10–noon, in the Luther Lounge. All are invited. For more information, contact Bob Anderson at 952.937.8656.

Funeral
Glen Howard Polsfuss died on May 7, 2017, at age 64. His memorial service was held at Christ Church on Saturday, May 20, with Pastor Carlson presiding.

My Neighbor Is a Muslim Teenager: Youth Voices
Sunday, June 11, 3:00–4:30 p.m. in the Kretzmann Room
As a follow-up to the study group “My Neighbor Is Muslim,” you’re invited to attend a discussion about the experiences of Muslim youth in Minneapolis. The presentation will include a short video titled “Cultural Expression,” created by a group of young East African men at Roosevelt High School, and a presentation from two young Muslim women about the ways that they live out their faith on a daily basis, while navigating the challenges of growing up in the United States. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers!

Thanks to Ina Ziegler, a teacher at Roosevelt, for arranging what promises to be a fascinating discussion.
From the Church Council

Update for June

This report contains updates from Council’s April and May meetings since the last month’s Courier went to press before the April 25 meeting.

April Meeting: Kate Haugen provided a devotion, meditating upon a Haitian song entitled “Gagòt” that she heard performed by the Swedish Men’s Chorus. The song laments the “mess upon a mess” that our lives inevitably encounter, yet it ends by encouraging us to trust in God’s guidance to receive blessings through Jesus.

Continuing old business, Council approved forming a “Pastors’ Discretionary Fund” that will be a modest source of emergency, temporary financial support to individuals in need. Council voted to seed the fund with $1,000 from existing memorial trust funds.

The Staffing Task Force submitted a recommendation to coordinate with the Stewardship Committee to increase recruitment of wider volunteer pools to address our persistent staffing needs.

Council reviewed the timelines of the organ and courtyard projects. A $6,450 contract with Collins Electrical, the lowest bidder, was approved to install the first phase of powering the new organ.

An analysis of Council’s liaison process with active committees and task forces was presented. The liaison structure was created a few years ago to help groups and Council communicate with one another. The recommendation was for Executive Committee to assume administrative areas, such as personnel, administrative support, and property. At-large members would be assigned to four main areas: children’s ministry, community relations (internal), outward-looking engagement, and communications.

May Meeting: Will Stark provided a devotion that reflected upon the chance events that bless our lives; he read a passage from More Days of Praise that described the apostle Matthias, who was selected by drawing lots to replace Judas.

Council received an update that the final stage of the Partners for Sacred Places grant was submitted. The grant will be added to the State of Minnesota Legacy grant to support the courtyard restoration.

Council approved $500 to commission Pastor Farlee to compose a motet based upon the text, “Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” The motet will be performed at Christ Church Lutheran later this summer.

Council approved a recommendation to post the “Blessed Ramadan” lawn signs that were put up last year. The signs coordinate with the study group, “My Neighbor is Muslim,” and they support a resolution that was adopted at the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly to “Engage in Solidarity with Our Muslim Neighbors.”

April’s liaison discussion was continued. More detailed responsibilities were presented, and it was agreed that liaisons would engage their assigned areas for June’s meeting.

Regular reports were received. Preservation reported that an anonymous gift was received to replate the chapel’s silver cross and candlesticks. Council gratefully acknowledges the generosity.

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, or give a package of cards as a gift.

Directory Update

Please note that Evelyn Wermager’s email address is evywermager@gmail.com.

Lectionary Readings

June 2017

June 4

Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23

June 11

The Holy Trinity
Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

June 18

Exodus 19:28a
Psalm 100
Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35—10:23

June 25

 Jeremiah 20:7-13
Romans 6:1b-11
Matthew 10:24-39

Treasurer’s Report

In April, which included Easter, we made up some ground on our congregational (“envelope”) giving. Our bottom line (income minus expenses) is $3,152 to the good!

Our operating budget includes funding from endowment earnings and from the congregation’s investment account. The practice has been to transfer these funds whenever it makes sense for the congregation’s needs, generally leaving them invested and earning as long as possible. This schedule is different from the budgeted transfer schedule of 1/12 of the year’s total each month, so each month there has been a discrepancy.

A better way of reporting this has been suggested! The monthly spreadsheet now includes a line, “Transfers Pending,” which will adjust the bottom line to include transfers taken either ahead of or behind the budgeted schedule. That way, we can continue to request the transfers as needed to get the maximum return from our investments, and these monthly reports can still be accurate, but more meaningful.

Please let me know if you have questions.—Melody Pauling (Bean Counter for Christ)

Christ Church Lutheran Finances

(As of April 30, 2017) Actual Budget (4 mos.) Difference

Member Giving/Envelopes $95,818.99 $99,333.34 $3,514.35
Other Income $36,713.11 $33,955.00 $2,758.11
Total Income $132,532.10 $133,288.34 $756.24
Total Expenses $126,379.54 $133,888.31 $7,508.77
Transfers Pending ($3,000.00)
Total Surplus (or Deficit) $3,152.56 ($599.97) $3,752.53
**Courier Closeup – Fred Bentz**

*Closeup* is a Courier feature to help us get better acquainted with our fellow members. If you would like to share your story in Closeup, call Donna Lindberg at 651.552.8499.

This month Closeup interviews Fred Bentz, a member of Christ Church Lutheran for sixty years. Fred was born in 1922 in McGregor, Iowa.

**When did you start attending Christ Church Lutheran and what brought you there?**

In 1957, I visited a number of churches in Minneapolis and learned that then-Pastor Buege had been a Schafkopf (Sheephead) -playing classmate at Concordia University, Milwaukee, with the pastor from my hometown church, Bethany Lutheran in Nekoosa, Wisconsin. That, and the significant architecture, convinced me to come to Christ Church.

**What about Christ Church Lutheran has kept you coming back?**

The worship service, the quality of the music, educational programs, our connection with the outside community, and the level of caring. After sixty years as a member of Christ Church Lutheran, I’ve never considered joining another congregation, it’s been so rewarding.

**Do you or did you live in the neighborhood since you began attending?**

When my wife and I were first married we lived in an old farm house in Edina, and then on 28th and Thomas South. I now live in the Kenwood retirement community in Minneapolis.

**Do you have children?**

I have a daughter, Mariann, who lives in Minneapolis and a son, John, who lives in Reno, Nevada. They were both baptized by Pastor Buege and confirmed by Pastor Kretzmann.

**Do you have any stories to tell about your time here or about events or activities you were involved in?**

I was on the endowment and property committees for some time. I worked with Pastor Kretzmann to select the chapel chairs and with Pastor Neibacher to initiate the historic preservation effort. Now as I see the energy and talent of new younger members, I am very optimistic about the future of our congregation.

**Could you tell us about your career as an architect?**

I graduated with distinction from the University of Minnesota in 1948 with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. Of my 46 years in practice as an architect, the first 23 were with an established Minneapolis firm. I then founded Bentz/Thompson/Rietow, where I worked for the following 23 years. Our work included elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities as well as religious, housing and commercial buildings in the seven-state area.

**Have you been recognized in your career?**

I received the gold medal from the American Institute of Architects Minnesota, their highest award. The Minnesota Society of Architectural Historians recently asked me to participate in an oral history program as one of the post-World War II architects having made a significant contribution to modern architecture in Minnesota.

**What can you tell us about yourself that we may not have known?**

I was in the military service for two and a half years, spending the first year in the 70th (Trailblazer) Infantry Division at Camp Adair, Oregon, one of the last divisions formed in World War II. After a training injury, I was transferred to limited service and was assigned as an administrative non-commissioned officer in three German prisoner of war camps in Missouri and Iowa. My last assignment was as an instructor in drafting at Camp Carson, Colorado, Convalescent Hospital, a program for injured soldiers during their recovery and rehab.

**Award at Our Synod Assembly**

On Friday and Saturday, May 5 & 6, four from Christ Church Lutheran attended the annual Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, held at Lord of Life Lutheran in Ramsey. It was a joy to gather with the other 152 congregations in our synod. There were imaginative, moving Bible story times with the Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad; rich presentations on “Real Presence” by the Rev. Dr. David Lohse; inspiring music by the Bruce Henry Band; and a wicked game of Church Jeopardy—which we won by a $300 question: The congregation of our synod that has “Church” as its middle name.

We also received a 2017 Servant of Christ Award from Lutheran Social Service of MN (the second year in a row for us!). Presenting the award certificate is the Rev. Dr. Peter Samuelson of LSS. Receiving it on behalf of the congregation are Pastor Kristine Carlson, Pastor Erik Haaland, Melody Pauling, and Matthew Courtney — our Voting Members at the Synod Assembly. What a surprising and wonderful recognition of our continued efforts to befriend youth experiencing homelessness through SafeHouse, a shelter in St. Paul that we are supporting through the tithe of our Second Century Capital Campaign.

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**Musical Treats Coming in Worship**

Two upcoming Sundays will include noteworthy choral music, even though our own choir is taking a well-deserved break.

On Sunday, June 11 (Holy Trinity Sunday), the Naantali (Finland) Chamber Choir will sing several pieces during our 9:30 worship. The 24-voice choir, under the direction of Antti Haapalainen, is in the United States as part of the celebrations of one hundred years of Finnish independence.

And then on Sunday, July 9, our old friends the Elm Ensemble, led by Josh and Sally Messner, will be adding their voices to our worship. They too will sing several pieces, including the premiere of a newly-commissioned motet by Cantor Robert Farlee. Plus, our preacher that day will be renowned worship scholar Gordon Lathrop.
Welcome to New Members

On Sunday, April 30, nine new members were welcomed to Christ Church. When you see them around, please add your own welcome! If you’d like to become a member, talk to Pr. Carlson.

William Heisley

William was born in Marysville, PA. He received his undergraduate education at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA, his Masters of Divinity at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and his Doctor of Ministry at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Parishes he has served include Christ Lutheran, Upper Darby, PA; Grace Lutheran in Pottstown, PA; Mount Olive Lutheran in Minneapolis; and Holy Trinity Lutheran in New York City. He is now retired and serving as an interim pastor. William and his wife Reino are also participants in the Friends of Architecture at Christ Church. When you see them around, please add your own welcome.

Michelle Hovey

Michelle Hovey grew up in Red Wing, MN, and now resides in Minneapolis. She attended the University of Minnesota and graduated from the University of Wisconsin–River Falls with a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, History, and Sociology. Michelle has worked at Treasure Island Resort and Casino for the past 25 years in the accounting department. She raised her four children in Red Wing where they are now raising their children. Her interests include basketball and softball, swimming and bicycling.

Michelle attends Christ Church with her partner Dawn. “Now, after a couple of years of attending Christ Church and getting to know the congregation and the beliefs they hold dear, I have decided to become a member myself.” Michelle enjoys helping in the kitchen with different hospitality events. Working on the cookie bake has been a fun learning experience. She hopes to continue to serve in this manner.

Brad Hubert & Martin Thompson

Both of them share roots in the Midwest—Brad in Appleton, WI, Martin mostly in rural South Dakota. They both grew up in Lutheran congregations. Over the years they have been active in their respective congregations and it was through this shared involvement that they initially met. They were married in 2008 at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in San Francisco—their church home in California. After a number of years in and around San Francisco they returned to the Midwest, in large part to be closer to family. They make their new home here in Minneapolis as it provides job opportunities (Brad with Wells Fargo and Martin as an architect), proximity to family and long-term connections (Martin previously had lived in the Twin Cities). It took them a couple years to get settled and explore congregations before deciding on their new church home. They are very happy to have discovered the warm welcome and thoughtful ministry of Christ Church Lutheran.

Mark Jensen

Mark is employed as a Product Information Specialist at Augsburg Fortress Publishers and connected to Christ Church through Pastor Seltz and Pastor Farlee a few years ago. They introduced him to Pastor Haaland who got Mark involved in the Our Saviour’s Shelter Meal cooking. After serving with the Shelter Meal cooking group, engaging in worship, and connecting with Pastor Voigt and his family, Mark felt a sense of home among the congregation and a desire to join. Mark grew up in Chanhassen. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts in German and History. His interests include hiking, camping, skiing, cooking, reading, Twins baseball, and learning new languages.

Marilyn Kochsiek

Marilyn was born and raised in St. Paul, MN. She attended college at the University of Minnesota and worked as a physical therapist until retirement. She has lived in La Crosse, WI, Evergreen CO, and now in Minneapolis. Marilyn has three grown married daughters and 6 grandchildren, all under age 5, who live in and near Saint Peter, MN. She babysits a lot. Marilyn currently serves on the Refugee Resettlement Task Force. Christ Church has always had a special place in her heart as she has been friends with Mary and Joel Bode since 1978. She is so pleased to be joining this special congregation.

Matthew & Pamela Krueger

Matthew and Pamela moved from Oahu, HI, this past fall. Their pastor there recommended they visit Christ Church following their move to the Twin Cities, and after Matthew and Pamela visited they felt right at home. Prior to moving to Hawaii, they lived in Madison, WI, where they were married in May 2015. Matthew was previously an attorney, but is changing careers to the computer science field. Pamela graduated from the University of Wisconsin–Madison with a Masters in economics in 2014 and is currently working as a Health Care Research Scientist at the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Her primary work interests are in health economics and poverty alleviation. In their spare time, Matthew and Pamela enjoy cooking together, traveling, hiking, biking, and playing board games. They are so happy to have found a great church home where they have felt welcomed and enjoy the liturgical worship, and are looking forward to getting more involved with various ministries in the near future.

Liisa Ojala

Liisa came to Christ Church in her leadership role in the Finnish Community. She was born in Finland and is fluent in the Finnish language. Among many other events, Liisa is involved in the annual Finnish Independence Day celebration on December 6 at Christ Church and the annual Joulu, Magical Finnish Christmas celebration also in December at Christ Church. The architecture of our church by Eliel and Eero Saarinen is an emotional draw for Liisa. Liisa is recently retired as an interior designer and is saying goodbye to her business, Ojala Design Consultants. She and her husband Reino are also participants in the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran.
Children’s Ministry Summer Schedule
Yes, our regular programming takes a break during the summer months, but we will still offer Red Room and Nursery Services. Please consider signing up to serve the Sundays you are here. If you are wondering how you can get involved with Children’s Ministry at Christ Church please contact Maria Markman at mmarkman001@luthersem.edu.

Maria Markman’s plans for summer
Maria Markman, our seminarian, is starting her Clinical Pastoral Education. She will be a full time chaplain intern at Fairview Ridges Hospital in Burnsville. Unfortunately, she will be away some Sundays in the summer planning and leading worship for Fairview’s long term care facility, Ebenezer. When she is not at the hospital or Ebenezer she will be worshiping at Christ Church. Maria plans to continue her Children’s Ministry position and her contextual learning experience here at Christ Church Lutheran in the Fall.

Thank you!
A huge thank you for all of our Children’s Ministry Volunteers! Thank you for everything you do for our children here at Christ Church! At the waters of baptism as a community of faith we promise to help our children grow in the Christian faith and life; our education hour is a major part of that growth. Thank you for dedicating your time and energy to serving our children!

Spring Fling
The Spring Fling was a huge success! Thank you Children’s Ministry committee for planning this wonderful event. Children, families, and volunteers enjoyed fun, games, food, and fellowship. The piñata was a highlight of the event! If you missed this event, keep your eyes open for the next Children’s Ministry fellowship event coming in the summertime!

On Sunday, April 30, we welcomed Senator John Marty to worship and to our forum, where he led a conversation about what we can do as Christians in our political life together today. He is pictured here with Prince and Tatum, who were so proud to meet Senator Marty. They asked to have their photo taken with him and, after copies were made in the church office, he autographed the photos for them. Thank you, Senator Marty, for inspiring us all!

Nurturing Faith
A Catechism Curriculum for Children
This year we begin a new program—Nurturing Faith—designed to help us in our congregation’s lifelong ministry. Nurturing Faith helps us to be faithful to the promises we make when each child is brought to the waters of baptism and together we agree to certain responsibilities. This is how we will honor our promises at every age:

Cradle Roll—Live with them among God’s faithful people
Preschool—Worship and sing together
Kindergarten—Place in their hands the holy scriptures
First Grade—Celebrate their baptism
Second Grade—Bring them to the word of God and the holy supper
Third Grade—Nurture and teach them for worship
Fourth Grade—Teach them the Lord’s Prayer
Fifth Grade—Teach them the Ten Commandments
Sixth Grade—Teach them the Creeds
Seventh/Eighth Grade—Help them learn to proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

June Baptism Birthdays
June 17 Elliot Joseph
June 18 Carmina
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<td>Pentecost</td>
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<td>Holy Trinity</td>
<td>9:30am Eucharist with Naantali (Finland) Chamber Choir</td>
<td>1:00pm Tai Chi Chih</td>
<td>10:00am • Stationery • The Sheridan Story</td>
<td>7:00pm Children’s Ministry</td>
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<td>9:30am Eucharist</td>
<td>1:00pm Tai Chi Chih</td>
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**Like to See Our Organ Being Built?**

Plans are in the works to take a day trip to Lake City, Iowa to tour the Dobson Pipe Organ Workshop and see the progress on our new Christ Church Lutheran organ. The trip will happen in the fall and will most likely take place on a weekday, since we are limited to days when the workshop is open.

Right now we are trying to gauge interest to see how many people might make the trip. If you have any interest in going, please let the planning team know by clicking the link below and responding to a short survey, or by talking to one of the Organ Launch Task Force members: Vanessa Rempel, Siri Caltvedt, Hilary Gebauer, Mary Bode. This is not a commitment to go, but we will keep you updated as plans are being made.

[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GTC9GQN](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GTC9GQN)

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**Beer Introduced to Germany!**

During Pastor Carlson’s stay in Leipzig, Pastor Helge Voigt showed her the first batch of beer being produced by the new beer club at the Sophienkirchgemeinde! Here it is in the church kitchen refrigerator. He said people are very excited about it. It’s attracting some people who don’t regularly come to church—getting them connected in new ways to the congregation. And it’s intergenerational too—getting older and younger people connected to one another. This batch is a pilsner. He says, Vielen Dank for a great idea!