**Hot Jazz in a Cool, Sacred Space**

**Sunday, March 3rd at 3:00 p.m.**

Come to a free concert, with a free will offering to benefit Our Saviour’s Community Services!

Later in April, Christ Church will end the season of Lent with the Easter Vigil. The traditional fasting and contemplation of the Lenten season concludes with a joyous celebration of Easter morning, and a declaration of the power of our risen Lord.

The beginning of the solemn 40 days of Lent is Ash Wednesday. So why not prepare for the self-denial and quiet with one last celebration? That’s Mardi Gras. Fat Tuesday. The last hurrah before Lent.

Christ Church anticipates the beginning of Lent with a Mardi Gras jazz concert. On Sunday March 3 at 3:00 p.m., come join us for a celebration of great jazz melodies played by an ensemble of some of the Twin Cities greatest jazz musicians, led by local trumpeter Bill Simenson.

Guest organist Bill Chouinard will add our own new Dobson organ to this jazzy mix. As both an organist at St Andrew’s Lutheran in Mahtomedi and a well known local jazz bassist, Bill will unleash the potential of our new instrument.

A free will offering will benefit Our Saviour’s Community Services. (Housing—Meals for Homeless Neighbors + English Learning Center).

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**Looking Ahead to Lent**

Looking ahead . . . The season of Lent begins with worship on Ash Wednesday, March 6, at 11:30 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendars! And come on this holy day to make confession together, receive ashes, hear the living Word and share in the meal of Holy Communion.

Let’s begin Lent together in the house of the Lord.

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**February Forums, Sundays, 11:15 a.m.**

**Sunday, February 3—Council-led Forum**

The Christ Church Council will offer a forum, which will include updates, details, and discussion to help prepare for the congregational meeting on Sunday, February 10 (see page 3 of the Courier for more details). This forum will also include a time for Q&A.

**Sunday, February 10—Congregation Meeting**

See page 3 for more information.

**Sunday, February 17—The Concept of Energy Slaves: A Moral Window into the Human Causes of Climate Change**

This forum will be led by Dr. Fred Quivik, a recent new member of Christ Church, and a scholar of the history of technology and environmental history.

Fred writes: “Before industrialization and humans’ ability to harness fossil fuels, there were only a very few people in any society who lived lives of opulence, and they did so because, in their social hierarchy, they were able to harness the energy of their slaves and servants. Industrialization and fossil fuels have made the lifestyles of the 1% available to ever greater percentages of society. However, industrialization and fossil fuels have distanced or alienated us from the sources of energy that support our affluent lifestyles, so we don’t have to wrestle with the moral consequences of our lifestyles—until now, as we see the consequence of our reliance on fossil fuels. We now call that consequence global climate change.”

Come for a provocative presentation, which will include discussion of a possible way forward: a “carbon fee and dividend,” a non-partisan and revenue-neutral policy proposal for using market mechanisms to move the economy away from fossil fuels and toward (hopefully) a sustainable energy future.

See next page for information about the forum for Sunday, February 24: “Freed in Christ,” our Church’s Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture.
Late January / February Birthdays

1/20 Daniel Holmgren
1/21 John Christianson
1/26 Caleb Jenkins-Buegel
2/4 Cathy Polsfuss
2/5 Ernie Calvetd
Simeon Messner
2/6 Noah Niermann
2/11 Sharon Mueller
Alexander Jenkins-Buegel
2/14 David Kutzbach
2/15 Gary Gustafson
2/22 Henry Painter
2/23 Robert Farlee
2/24 Kevin Kniebel
2/26 Bob Victorin-Vangerud

Helping Hands for February

Mary Brown & Luther Johnson
John Buegel
Dawn Dankers & Michelle Hovey
Donna & Pete Gawreluk
Nick Goddard
Liz & Roger Gomoll
Tim Hokkanen
Robyn & Marcus Nooney
Melinda & Fred Quivik
Rita & Ken Schoenike
Susan & Levi Stugelmeyer
Cathy Sieving
Karen Woesteoff

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.

Christmas Gifts: Thank you for your generosity!

This past holiday season, we found ourselves with two opportunities to help provide Christmas gifts to members of our wider community.

For many years, we have collected gifts and donations for the yearly Gift Sale at Plymouth Christian Youth Center (PCYC) in North Minneapolis, where children are able to find and “purchase” Christmas gifts (for $1) for their family members. This year, we collected over $900 in gifts and donations! Thanks to Luann Skrivseth for coordinating this year’s PCYC gift drive!

Then, in mid-December, we received a last-minute request from Lutheran Social Service of MN-Metro Homeless Services. Each year, they seek out Christmas sponsors for youth connected with their street outreach program. This year, they had 150 youth connected with that program. At the last minute, they found that they were short thirty sponsors; and so they turned to Christ Church, knowing of our connection to Safe House, the LSS shelter for teens experiencing homelessness that we help support. We sent out a congregational email, and within just a few days, we found our thirty sponsors—each pledging $100 per sponsorship. The staff at LSS were overjoyed that they were able to provide Christmas gifts for all of the youth in their program.

February Adult Forums...continued:

Sunday, February 24—“Freed in Christ,” our Church’s Social Statement on Race, Ethnicity, and Culture

Our national church body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has a social statement addressing racism and cultural pluralism. It’s called “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture.” It was adopted at a Churchwide Assembly in 1993—and it’s worth reading! It expresses the ELCA’s calling to celebrate culture and ethnicity, and it commits the ELCA to confront racism and advocate for justice and fairness for all people.

Pastor Haaland, along with members of the Racial Justice Task Force, will talk about this important document and lead a discussion of ways we at Christ Church might live into its vision. (The text of the statement can be found online; search for “Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture.”)
From the Church Council
Update for February

Kate Haugen provided a devotion on the new beginnings that are present in the new year. She recalled her Mother’s guidance “not to wish your life away.” Kate read from Psalm 118:24 - “this is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.” She closed with a prayer, encouraging us to live and focus on the opportunities God presents to us each day.

The January meeting was our last of Council’s 2018 cycle. Following tradition, we took time to honor the contributions of out-going members and welcome new members. Dan Mueller, Marcus Nooney, and Max Herzberg will be stepping off Council. We are grateful for their fine leadership and service. Colin Watkins and Brad Hubert will join the 2019 Council, which will be installed during the worship service on February 3.

Our treasurer, Melody Pauling, reported on preliminary estimates for 2018 year-end financials. Final numbers will be available for the congregation in the Annual Report, which will be available one week in advance of the February Annual Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, February 10. A letter was sent to voting members to announce the meeting. The agenda will include: approval of the December 2018 Congregation Meeting minutes, receiving annual reports, and approval of the 2019 Nominating Committee.

The Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran to provide administrative services. Our office administrator, Erica Rodriguez, will help the Friends monitor their email, prepare their newsletters, and maintain a current membership roll. This is an opportunity to further strengthen our partnership with the Friends while raising additional revenue for the church.

The Council approved reviewing and updating Christ Church’s constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions. Our constitution was last revised in 1996 and the bylaws in 2003, while the Minneapolis Area Synod’s current model constitution for congregations is from 2016. The Executive Committee will take the lead in revising our constitution, with the goal of presenting a draft to the congregation in fall/winter 2019 and ratifying by February 2020. More information will be provided as it becomes available. Council received regular reports. We ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Lectionary Readings for February

February 3
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

February 10
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

February 17
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Jeremiah 17:5-10
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

February 24
Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Genesis 4:5-11, 15
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Thank you, Marc Katz and Hilary Gebauer!

We are grateful to Hilary Gebauer and Marc Katz for sharing their gifts with Christ Church by editing the Courier newsletters, June to December 2018. This is an important piece of communication in our community. All our thanks to Hilary & Marc for keeping us well connected with one another.

Treasurer’s Report

In spite of the additional expense related to our new staffing, as well as an unexpected need to replace boiler valves, our operating expenses versus income ended the year only $2,727.54 in deficit. A transfer of that amount was taken from the “Staffing Jump Start” trust (which was established to help fund the transition to our increased staff), resulting in no deficit for the year!

Come to the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Christ Church Lutheran will be held on Sunday, February 10, beginning at 11:15 a.m., in the Sanctuary. Why, you may ask, is it called an “annual meeting,” when we meet at least twice a year? Because our constitution says we need to have one. In this meeting, we will receive reports from Council, Pastors, Cantors, staff and organizations within the congregation. There will be opportunity to comment or ask questions. We will also approve the Nominating Committee that will work on assembling candidates for the Council elections in December. Christ Church Lutheran members are eligible to vote on the meeting’s business, but everyone is welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you there!

Christ Church Lutheran Finances

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<th>ACTUAL</th>
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This month’s Courier Closeup features David Kutzbach, who has been a member of Christ Church Lutheran for 54 years.

When did you start attending Christ Church Lutheran, and what brought you here?
My mother went to Christ Church as a child. She was confirmed and married here, and my parents attended Christ Church the rest of their lives. I was confirmed and baptized here, and went to church with my parents as a child. I have been a member all my life.

Do you live in the neighborhood?
I live on 38th Avenue South, about a half-block from Longfellow Park. I can walk to church, but usually drive. I grew up in the house I live in now.

What about our church keeps you coming back?
I like the worship service and the organ music. I have friends at church, and like to meet new people and make new friends. The church is like family to me. I look forward to coming to church each week.

Do you have any stories to tell about your time here, or about events or activities you have been involved in?
As a child, I was in the junior choir, and attended a couple of youth work camps with other Christ Church kids. As an adult, I have been on the property board for several years, and have helped with painting and washing windows. I help usher, and with opening and closing the church after services and gatherings.

How does Christ Church Lutheran help you live and share your faith?
I think being a part of Christ Church has helped me grow in my faith in God. And it is a joy to see this church community grow with new people. I think that is great!

What do you do when you are not at church?
I work as a laborer for the City of Minneapolis in the solid waste and recycling department. I also do some snow plowing for the city, mainly during snow emergencies. I do yard work, and other work around my house. I am also on a bowling league, and even though I’m not very good at bowling, I try!

What can you tell us about yourself that we may not yet know?
I worked as the Christ Church custodian for a few years back in the 1980s, and that is how I know my way around the church building!

“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.

Christ Church Book Discussion Saturday, March 23 at 1:00 p.m.
For the next Christ Church book discussion, we will be reading and discussing Snow, by Turkish novelist (and Nobel Prize winner) Orhan Pamuk. The following is a description from the publisher:

“Dread, yearning, identity, intrigue, the lethal chemistry between secular doubt and Islamic fanaticism—these are the elements that Orhan Pamuk anneals in this masterful, disquieting novel. An exiled poet named Ka returns to Turkey and travels to the forlorn city of Kars. His ostensible purpose is to report on a wave of suicides among religious girls forbidden to wear their head-scarves. But Ka is also drawn by his memories of the radiant Ipek, now recently divorced. Amid blanketing snowfall and universal suspicion, Ka finds himself pursued by figures ranging from Ipek’s ex-husband to a charismatic terrorist. A lost gift returns with ecstatic suddenness. A theatrical evening climaxes in a massacre. And finding God may be the prelude to losing everything else. Touching, slyly comic, and humming with cerebral suspense, Snow is of immense relevance to our present moment.”

The book discussion will take place in the Luther Lounge. All are welcome!
Refugees: A Christmas Update and Food for Thought

This past December, Brad Hubert and Martin Thompson went shopping with Hart Lwel—the father of the refugee family we are supporting—to pick out Christmas gifts for their children. Martin and Brad wrapped the gifts, and then Brad and Pastor Haaland delivered them just before Christmas. The gifts were given on behalf of the Christ Church community. The children each received a toy and a winter pajama set. The gifts also included a few books, some fresh fruit, and the game Twister. The kids really enjoyed playing Twister with Pastor Haaland!

We have just passed the halfway point in our one-year commitment to Hart Lwel and Moo Say, and their children. The team working on this sponsorship project has expanded, and the people involved now include: Bev Meakins, Katie Swanson, Britt Dougall, Robyn Nooney, Morris Wee, Brad Hubert, Martin Thompson, Barbara Johnson, and Ronald Johnson. The plan is that some members of the team will have contact with the family at least twice per month. The time with the family will be spent in a variety of ways.

The following is a partial list of what is currently envisioned:

- Visiting the Children’s Museum and Science Museum
- A potluck meal
- Reading sessions with the family
- Attending performances at the Children’s Theatre
- Having a picnic in the spring
- Excursion on the LRT (Light Rail Transit)
- Attending worship with the family at Karen congregation (see more information below)

The goal is to provide opportunities for the family to learn how to utilize community resources and to feel comfortable in this new culture. Sometimes, we employ an interpreter so as to more clearly communicate with the family and discern desires and needs. The family seems to be doing well, and has the good fortune of being part of the Karen church community. Karen refers to their ethnic identity. There are over 30,000 Karen people in the United States, and 6,000 in Minnesota. The Karen people have departed their home areas in large numbers because of persecution over many decades by the military.

Some important information about refugees for our consideration: There is currently division of opinion in the United States concerning refugees. Some recall that this nation is a nation of refugees and immigrants, and that that is part of its strength. There are others who look upon refugees with something approaching fear. In thinking through this matter, it is appropriate to remember these basic facts, presented by the Minnesota Department of Human Services Resettlement Office:

- The term *refugee* is a legal status given to people who permanently resettle in the United States as part of a humanitarian program protecting those fleeing persecution.
- People in the United States with refugee status have gone through a screening process lasting a minimum of 18 – 24 months, and involving eight different federal security agencies.
- In 2014, 40% of Fortune 500 companies in Minnesota had been founded by an immigrant or the child of an immigrant.
- Minnesota’s population must grow by 4.5 times the current growth rate to maintain a healthy labor force.
- Since the late 1970s when the refugee population began to substantially expand, our community and state have become more interesting. People such as Hart Lwel, Moo Say, and their children, make important contributions to our community life.

Thank you from our Endowment Committee

We remember with gratitude the support that Fred Bentz and Cliff Siewert provided to Christ Church Lutheran in so many ways during their lives. It seems appropriate that both men chose for their memorial funds to be designated to the Christ Church Endowment. Through the Endowment, their generous support for our congregation will continue, even in death and far into the future.

Our great thanks!
North American Academy of Liturgy Annual Meeting

Christ Church people attended the North American Academy of Liturgy annual meeting in Denver, CO, in early January.

Pastor Martin Seltz, one of our Cantors, received the prestigious Berakah Award and gave the address. He is pictured below with, left to right: Melinda Quivik, NAAL President; Pastor Kristine Carlson; Joanne Seltz; Pastor Robert Farlee (who composed the tune for a table prayer sung at the banquet—the text was written by Melinda, Bob, and Martin); Fred Quivik.

The 2018 Christmas Cookie Sale Was a Great Success!

MEALS ON WHEELS is a nationwide network of community-based nonprofit groups that deliver nutritious food, a friendly visit, and a quick safety check for needy seniors unable to leave their homes due to age, injury, or illness. This enables them to be healthy and independent longer in their own homes. *

Thanks to the generosity of our cookie bakers, those who bought cookie boxes, and those who donated supplies and money, a check for $950 was sent to our local South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels program.

In the Christ Church kitchen, eighteen volunteers worked over 225 hours making 24 different kinds of cookies, totaling over 3600 cookies for 75 cookie boxes. Special thanks to Gary Gustafson who made the unique Christ Church Lutheran cookie cutter on his 3D printer. The Cookie Project was sponsored by Thrivent Financial through their Thrivent Action Teams program.

Pictured left to right: Pastor Haaland, Rita Schoenike, Gary Gustafson, Marilu Peters, Mary Bode, Marilyn Johnston, Karen Woestehoff—bakers extraordinaire!

Upcoming Courier deadlines:
March Courier: Friday, February 15
April Courier: Friday, March 8

*Joanne Seltz and Melinda Quivik are showing the great press that Christ Church got at the North American Academy of Liturgy—we were on every table at the banquet, named as a sponsor. In the background is Dr. Rhoda Schuler of Concordia University, whose classes often visit Christ Church to learn about our welcome, our worship, and our life together.

Congratulations, Pastor Seltz!
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.

Come for Winter Warmer Saturdays!
Our first Winter Warmer Saturday in January was so much fun, and we would love for you to come in February and March! We gather in the gym for this time of fun and fellowship for the children of Christ Church and their families and friends. We’ll have the coffee going (along with other warm beverages), and will share some good treats and fun activities as we spend this time together. Come anytime from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 23, and on Saturday, March 23.

Advent–Christmas–Epiphany
Our church was delightfully busy during Advent and Christmas. On Sunday, December 2, we gathered in the gym for our first-ever Advent Fair. Thanks to all who helped. Our Intergenerational Christmas Pageant was held after worship on December 23. It was such fun to usher in the Christmas season this way! On Epiphany Sunday, January 6, we proclaimed the birth of Christ along with the Magi during our Epiphany Party. The children made crowns and dressed as the Magi on their way to Bethlehem as we went around blessing the sanctuary!

Looking Ahead
Saturday, February 23: Winter Warmer Saturday in the gym
Saturday, March 23: Winter Warmer Saturday in the gym
Both 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Hey! Grown-Ups!
Do you think that the children of our church are pretty cool? Would you like to spend more time with them? Do you want to help teach our kids and learn from them along the way too? Come teach or help with Sunday School! It isn’t scary to do, and you will be such a gift to the children of Christ Church. We are especially in need of Godly Play teachers. Any training needed will be provided. If you are interested, contact Tyler Egge, Children’s Ministry Director, by email (tegge001@luthersem.edu) or by phone (507.383.4609).
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<td>9:30 a.m. Eucharist</td>
<td>7:00 p.m. Property, Preservation, Mission</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. Masonic Home Chapel Funeral, Gladys Sorensen</td>
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Christ Church Lutheran
3244 34th Avenue South • Minneapolis, MN. 55406
612.721.6611 • www.christchurchluth.org
A Congregation of the ELCA • A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
A National Historic Landmark
Kristine Carlson and Erik Haaland, Pastors
Robert Farlee and Martin Seltz, Cantors