Transfiguration into Lent—Mountaintop to Baptismal Waters

On Sunday, March 3, the final Sunday before Lent begins, we will celebrate together the festival of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, when we will hear again the story of Christ’s bright, shining glory revealed on the mountaintop. Come and let your light shine!

Festival worship begins at 9:30 a.m. Coffee and fellowship will follow in the atrium. At 11:00 a.m., children are invited outside under the arcade to help Pastor Haaland burn last year’s palm branches. (They will become the ashes we’ll use for worship on Ash Wednesday, March 6.) Then, at 11:30 a.m., everyone is encouraged to come to the Sanctuary for our Intergenerational Transfigurational Talent Show, where many little lights will shine!

And, make sure to come back that afternoon at 3:00 p.m. for our annual Mardi Gras Jazz Concert! The concert is free and open to the public, and it will offer an afternoon of top-quality jazz (including some from our new Christ Church Organ!), with all proceeds from a freewill offering benefiting Our Saviour’s Community Services (Housing and English Learning Center). You won’t want to miss it!

Restore Us, O God: Lent 2019 at Christ Church Lutheran

The season of Lent got its start in the early centuries of the church as a time to prepare for baptism. Martin Luther taught us that baptism isn’t a one-time event, but something we turn to every day of our lives. So our theme for this year, “Restore Us, O God,” will inform our Sunday worship, our midweek services, even our educational forums. Come and deepen your relationship to God through baptism; come and let God restore you!

This year, Lent runs from Ash Wednesday, March 6, to Maundy Thursday, April 18. Here’s a schedule for the part of Lent that falls in March.

Ash Wednesday, March 6
Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes, 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Sundays in Lent, March 10–31
Worship with Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 11:05 a.m., Forums at 11:15 a.m. (See Forum schedule on page 3.)

Midweek Worship
Prayer around the Cross, Wednesdays March 13–27, 7:00 p.m., with supper at 6:00 p.m.
Also offered on Wednesday, March 27 at 11 a.m., with lunch following.
March Birthdays

3/9  Mick Bergquist
    Martin Thompson
3/11  Ted Buegel
3/12  Greg Madson
3/13  Denise Morelock
3/14  Matthew Krueger
       Jody McGuire
3/15  Marilyn Kochsiek
3/16  Renee Bergquist
3/18  Margaret Graebner
       Pat Baehler
3/21  Wynn Johnston
3/22  Vivian Bartsch
       Ann Davis
       Pete Gawreluk
3/23  Barbara Johnson
3/24  Howard Polsfuss
3/25  Lennox Stugelmeyer
3/26  Tatiana Lenskaia
       June Woestehoff
3/28  Phyllis Mattill
3/29  Claire Rosenkvist
3/30  Andrew Hokkanen
       Bethany Mueller

Helping Hands for March

Birgitte & John Christianson
Brad Hubert & Martin Thompson
Mark Jensen
DeAné Lagerquist
Carole & Peter Merrill
Melody Pauling
Howard Polsfuss
Joanne Seltz
Cliff Siewert
Luann & Gary Skrivseth
Janice & Gary Wahlstrom
Hilary & Colin Watkins

All church members are part of Helping Hands. You may be asked to help with Sunday Coffee and hospitality related events as needs arise. Mary Bode and Joanne Seltz, coordinators.

Pastoral Acts

January 12 — Pastor Carlson presided at the funeral of Fred Bentz at Christ Church
January 14 — Pastor Haaland presided at the funeral of Carol Flanders at Christ Church.
February 6 — Pastor Carlson presided at the funeral of Gladys Sorenson at Minnesota Masonic Home Chapel.

Lenten Book Discussion Group

Are you looking for a Lenten discipline this year? Consider joining the Christ Church Racial Justice Task Force for a five-week discussion of themes in Jim Wallis’s book, America’s Original Sin.

It is our hope that in an extended, small group discussion, we will be able to learn from and support one another in this difficult and important work of confessing the sin of racism and seeing healing for our community and our nation.

Thursdays in Lent from 5:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Kretzmann Room. Dinner will be provided. Contact Pastor Haaland (ehaaland@christchurchluth.org) if you would like to join the conversation.

Courier Team:
Pastor Robert Farlee
Pastor Kristine Carlson
Erica Doss Rodriguez

Courier Team:
Pastor Robert Farlee
Pastor Kristine Carlson
Erica Doss Rodriguez
Forums during Lent

**Sunday, March 3 (Transfiguration of Our Lord)**
Intergenerational Transfigurational Talent Show! All are welcome! Let your light shine!

**Sunday, March 10 (First Sunday in Lent)**
“*Restore Us, O God: Confession and Forgiveness in Worship and Life*”
Pastor Robert Farlee
How do we dare admit to all the ways we fall short in relation to God, the people around us, society, the Earth? Why is confession and forgiveness so important for Lutherans, and how is it related to our baptism? Explore how confession truly is good for the soul!

**Sunday, March 17 (Second Sunday in Lent)**
“*Restore Us, O God: Biblical Portraits of Repentance and Mercy*”
Pastor Kristine Carlson
The themes of repentance and mercy run through nearly every book of Hebrew and Christian Scripture. Pastor Carlson will open up some of the stories of confession and forgiveness (judgment and restoration, death and resurrection) that fill the collection of books we call the Bible.

**Sunday, March 24 (Third Sunday in Lent)**
“*Restore Us, O God: America’s Original Sin*”
The Racial Justice Task Force
Evangelical author Jim Wallace has called racism “America’s original sin”—the primal sin of which we as a nation need to repent. It’s a provocative claim, and one that our Racial Justice Task Force will explore in this forum. What might it look like for us to enter into repentance for racism as a community of faith, and even as a nation? It’s a profoundly Lenten question.

**Sunday, March 31 (Fourth Sunday in Lent)**
“*Restore Us, O God: Repentance and Healing in Germany & South Africa*”
Morrie Wee, Kevin Reuther and Gerry Tyrrell
Having considered the need for repentance in our own nation, we now turn to historical examples of repentance and healing from the last century. Germany and South Africa have each in their own way struggled to come to terms with histories of violence and oppression. Germany and the legacy of Nazism, and South Africa and the legacy of apartheid. Morrie Wee, Kevin Reuther, and Gerry Tyrrell have each spent time in these countries, and will share what they know about national experiences of repentance and healing.

**Sunday, April 4 (Fifth Sunday in Lent)**
“*Restore Us, O God: The Ecological Crisis and the Tree of Life*”
A Recorded Video Presentation by Barbara Rossing
At Luther Seminary’s recent Midwinter Convocation, Professor Barbara Rossing gave a beautiful lecture entitled “Feasting in Paradise: Early Christian Meals, Our World’s Hunger, and the Tree of Life,” in which she described what many are

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**Looking ahead to The Three Days...**

**Maundy Thursday, April 18:** Worship at 7:00 p.m. *Holy Communion and foot washing*

**Good Friday, April 19:** Worship at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

**Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 20:** *Lighting of the new fire, stories of our faith by candlelight, remembering our baptisms, Holy Communion*

**Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday, April 21:** *Festival worship with Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.*

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3
From the Church Council
Update for March

Matthew opened with a reflection upon the question of “What is the role of Council?” He read from Dan Hotchkiss’s book Governance and Ministry, recommended a couple years ago by a member of the congregation. The author considers various popular responses to that question, including, “We should do what the members who elected us would do,” and, “Our job is to give the members what they want.” However tempting these may be, the author suggests that “a congregation’s bottom line is the degree to which its mission is achieved.” Thus, Hotchkiss concludes, “the council is accountable to the members who elected it and perhaps to other stakeholders as well—but achieving the mission is what the council is accountable for.” Matthew closed with a prayer from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, thanking founders and previous leaders of a congregation.

Our February meeting was the first of Council’s 2019 term. Traditionally, the Council holds a strategic planning and team-building retreat early in its new term. For this year, the Council opted to support the church’s Mission Committee by serving meals at Our Saviour’s Homeless Shelter every other month. Rotating teams of 3-4 will seek to get to know one another better outside regular business while earnestly serving the ministry of Christ Church Lutheran.

We elected an Audit Committee to review the church’s financial records and evaluate whether our fiscal policies and procedures meet the needs of the congregation. Approving the Executive Committee’s nominations, the following were elected to the 2019 Audit Committee: Nick Goddard, Lynn Larson, and Luann Skrivseth. The Council expressed gratitude to these members for their willingness to serve the congregation with their talents.

We reviewed our 2017—2019 Vision Statement. The vision contains four overarching priorities that guide our life together and in relation to other communities. These four elements are: Worship, Children’s Ministry, Congregational Community and Relationships, and Outward-looking Engagement and Service. While the Council generally agreed that these priorities seem keen and apt for today, we discussed the benefits of assessing how far we have come toward achieving our vision. Council received regular reports. We ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Christ Church Lutheran Finances
(As of January 31, 2019)

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<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget (1 mo.)</th>
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<td>Member Giving/Envelope</td>
<td>$27,144.57</td>
<td>$26,666.67</td>
<td>$477.90</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$2,483.64</td>
<td>$10,802.83</td>
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<td>Total Income</td>
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<td>$37,469.49</td>
<td>-$7,841.29</td>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<td>$37,469.49</td>
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<td>Transfers pending:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Surplus (or Deficit)</td>
<td>$648.25</td>
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Treasurer’s Report
It is very early in the year, and so far our finances are within our budget. More good news: Our investments are recovering from the low point they were at on December 31.

On a recent trip, Marcus Nooney discovered another Christ Church. This is a photo (see photo to right) of Christ Church Melaka, in the city of Melaka, Malaysia. It is the oldest Protestant church in Malaysia.
**Courier Closeup – Ina Ziegler**

_This month’s Closeup features Ina Ziegler, who has been a member of Christ Church Lutheran since October 2017._

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

I started attending on Ash Wednesday in 2016. I had been looking for a church home for a couple of years, and a friend of mine who is a Lutheran pastor recommended that I visit Christ Church. For me, Ash Wednesday is one of the most meaningful holidays in the church year. I deeply value the time of reflection, confession, and repentance. I was struck both by the sincerity and intentionality of the service at Christ Church, and the loving, openhearted welcome I received. I immediately felt like I had a place here.

**Do you live in the neighborhood?**

Yes! I usually walk or ride my bike to church on Sunday mornings.

**What about our church keeps you coming back?**

The sense of belonging that I feel here, and the ongoing opportunities to serve both our church and our larger community. I feel like I can truly be myself, and that all of who I am is welcome here. It can be hard to find places like that! What a blessing to find it here.

**How does Christ Church Lutheran help you live and share your faith?**

I am so grateful for the many ways that the members of Christ Church extend hospitality to each other and to others in our community. Being part of a church that welcomes and affirms people of all backgrounds and identities is a very important part of how I live and share my faith, and Christ Church embodies that so beautifully. From coffee after church, to fellowship dinners, to preparing meals together for Our Saviour’s Community Services and the Safe House Emergency Shelter; the openhearted welcome of Christ Church is sincere and real, and that helps me to live out my faith the way I want to. Being a member of Christ Church has also provided me with opportunities to explore the intersections between our Christian faith, our life together in community, and the larger social justice issues that I also care deeply about, especially racial and environmental justice.

**Race, Religion, and Response: An Evening with Jim Wallis**

Kris Denton, Rachel Slater, and Dan Mueller, all members of the Racial Justice Task Force, attended this event on Saturday, January 12. Hosted by Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, this event was designed to “build bridges across cultures from an interfaith perspective.” Rev. Jim Wallis, author of the book *America’s Original Sin* (see more on page 2) and founder of Sojourners, a Christian social justice network, was joined by a panel of speakers, including Anika Bowie of the Minneapolis chapter of the NAACP, Rev. Dr. Curtiss DeYoung of the Minnesota Council of Churches, Jaylani Hussein of the Minnesota Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and Sondra Samuels of the Northside Achievement Zone. Below, Kris and Rachel reflect on the event:

**Kris:** Racism is a “Corinthians” problem, according to Jim Wallis, a white Christian who grew up in Detroit during the 1960s. If we are all one in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12), then racism—which Wallis calls a “lie” and an “idolatry” that separates us from God and each other—hurts me, a white person, not just my brown and black brothers and sisters. “And if one members suffers, all the members suffer with it . . .” (1 Corinthians 12:26).

**Rachel:** As a white person, I was most struck by Wallis’ insistence that if white people do not challenge white privilege and work towards the ending of racism, we are killing our own souls. I am angry and sad to be part of a system that privileges me at the expense of others. I’m ashamed that I have acted out of implicit biases in ways that have hurt others and myself—and I am so sad and frustrated that white privilege has isolated and divided me from many of my brothers and sisters in Christ.

I also felt the support of the energy, determination, and commitment of the panel members, the majority of whom are people of color. They challenged and welcomed the white people in the room to step up as allies in undoing racism, naming that it is our responsibility to do so, and that it cannot be undone without us. This was a message of liberation—that we can all come together to save each other.

“Closeup” is a Courier feature to help us get better acquainted with our fellow Christ Church Lutheran members. If you would like to share your story in “Closeup,” call Donna Lindberg at 651.552.8499.
Community Emergency Service Foodshelf

Lent is just around the corner! And March is Minnesota FoodShare Month!

This year, we will be collecting donations for Community Emergency Service (CES), one of our local food shelves. Through the season of Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6), bring your special offerings to worship. Make your checks out to Christ Church Lutheran and write “Food drive” in the memo line. Our gifts will help ensure that CES has the funds and stability it needs to continue providing food for our neighbors in need.

As always, the food barrel near the education wing doors will be there to accept your non-perishable food donations. However, we know that the most valuable donation for food shelves is money, because they can use it to purchase food from food banks at very reduced prices. Thank you for your generosity this Lent!

Thanks also to the Christ Church children, who during Lent will be collecting funds of their own for the food shelf at CES. (Please bring your used Talenti Gelato containers to help them in this endeavor!)

Food Sharing Ministries at Christ Church

During Lent, our thoughts naturally turn toward those who are hungry in our community. Lent also seems a good time, then, to highlight the food sharing ministries of this congregation, and offer thanks to all who give of themselves to make them happen.

Meals on Wheels

For a full week every other month, our Meals on Wheels drivers bring hot noon meals to our homebound neighbors in south Minneapolis. This program is coordinated by Cathy Sieving (she also serves on the South Metro Meals on Wheels Board), and our current drivers include Gene Bruss and Jan Radloff, Pete Gawreluk, Nick Goddard, Marilyn and Wynn Johnston, John Schmidt and Bob Anderson, and Ken Schoenike. Special thanks to Marge Meffert, who has just recently retired after driving faithfully for the last 20 years.

Sheridan Story at Howe School

Each week during the school year, volunteers from Christ Church Lutheran and St. Peder’s Lutheran place bags of food in the backpacks of children at Howe School. We do this so our neighborhood children don’t have to worry about having enough food in their homes over the weekend (when school meals aren’t available). Volunteers for this ministry include: Kate Haugen and Carlton Hunke, Ken and Rita Schoenike, Morrie Wee, Dan Mueller, Howard Polsfuss, Erica Rodriguez, Pastor Haaland, and Pastor Carlson.

Our Saviour’s Shelter Meals

Every other month we provide a meal at Our Saviour’s Shelter, feeding around 40 people at each meal. Throughout 2018, many different people helped with cooking and serving this meal. Volunteers included: Sarah Brunsvoeld and Freddie, Dave and Kris Denton, Nick Goddard, Pastor Haaland, Elena Hilding, Brad Hubert and Martin Thompson, Michael Jefferis, Mark Jensen, DeAn Lagerquist, Chuck Merrell, Ron and Barbara Johnson and their grandchildren Anna and Nicholas, Bethany Schwengerdt, Luann and Gary Skrivoseth, Bob and Ute Swenson, Samantha and Chloé Rice, and Hillary and Colin Watkins.

Safe House Meals

Once a month, our congregation delivers a meal to Safe House in St. Paul, an emergency shelter for homeless youth. In 2018, volunteers for this ministry included Lynn and Kevin Larson, Michael Jefferis, Ron and Barbara Johnson, DeAn Lagerquist, Pastor Haaland, and Ina Ziegler and Marina Gorsuch.

Thanks to all of these volunteers!

Healing Racial Trauma: Continuing the Conversation

Saturday, March 9 at 1:00 p.m., Luther Lounge

Just before Christmas, the Racial Justice Task Force hosted a book group discussion of My Grandmother’s Hands by Resmaa Menakem. This book describes how we are all traumatized with fears of the racial other, and with the “dirty pain of avoidance, blame, and denial.” Menakam describes how this trauma is held in the body, and offers step-by-step exercises to support everyone in healing it. Rachel Slater, trained in the same somatic healing methods that Menakem describes, will facilitate a workshop to begin to work through these exercises together. Everyone is welcome, whether you have read the book or attended the book discussion, or not.

The book addresses the trauma carried by three groups of people—white people, people of color and indigenous people, and members of the police force. Rachel is white, and it is likely most people attending this workshop will be white. The workshop will therefore focus on exploring the exercises offered to white people in working through their embodied racial trauma. As such, Rachel acknowledges that the workshop will lack the capacity and awareness to fully hold space for people of color and indigenous people to work on their racial trauma, despite her own intentions and desire to act as an ally to all those who attend.
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.

A Lenten Journey
On Wednesday, March 6, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. For as long as I can remember, Ash Wednesday has been one of my favorite days of the year. In the beginning when God was at work making the world, God took some dirt, made it into the shape of a person, and breathed into it. On Ash Wednesday, we will get crosses of ash smeared on our foreheads, as we remember together that we all come from that dirt that’s been filled with the breath of God. We also remember that someday we will go back to that same dust, held in God’s unending love.

What are some ways that you can observe Lent in your homes this year? Sometimes people give something up for the season, while some others add a practice. What would this Lent look like if your families had a special practice this year? Here are just a few ideas to get you started:

• having a special time set apart for prayer as a family
• come to church for mid-week worship
• go for walks as a family admiring God’s creation—yes, even the dirt!

As we come to the end of this time after Epiphany, I look forward to seeing where the Holy Spirit leads each of us during Lent.

—Tyler Egge
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<td>10:00 a.m. Stationery</td>
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**Daylight Savings**

- 9:30 a.m. Eucharist
- 11:00 a.m. Tour
- 11:05 a.m. Sunday School
- 11:15 a.m. Forum