Come along on the Journey to the Empty Tomb — Holy Week Worship at Christ Church

April 14 – Sunday of the Passion
9:30 a.m.  Procession with palms leads into a dramatic reading of the Passion according to Luke and holy communion.

April 18 – Maundy Thursday
7:00 p.m.  Come to the worship service that begins the Triduum—the Great Three Days. Come for Sermon on the Steps, foot-washing (optional), the Lord’s Supper, and stripping of the altar. A kid-friendly service.

April 19 – Good Friday
Noon  This service will help us enter into a contemplation of the cross.
7:00 p.m.  The Triduum—the Great Three Days—continues in this Service of the Cross, with choir music.

Saturday, April 20 – Vigil of Easter
8:30 p.m.  The Triduum—the Great Three Days—culminates in this dramatic service, beginning in the courtyard with the lighting of the new fire, moving into the Luther Lounge for creative readings from the Old and New Testaments, then processing into the narthex for a remembrance of baptism, then gathering around the altar for the first communion of Easter. Stay for a festive reception in the Atrium.

Sunday, April 21 – The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day
9:30 a.m.  Festival eucharist with brass and choir; the beautiful Easter garden, and the unsealing of the Alleluia Box. Stay for Easter coffee.
April Birthdays
4/1 Dick Bruesehoff
   Nancy Hokkanen
4/2 Hans Adams
4/8 Morrie Wee
4/10 Simo Sarkanen
4/18 Luther Johnson
4/19 Liz Gomoll
   Max Wipperman
4/20 Pastor Kristine Carlson
   David Seltz
4/21 Melinda Quivik
4/22 Lynn Larson
   Jonathan Laven
4/26 Jeanne Anderson
   Rebecca Dodd
   Anna Mason
   Dan Mueller
4/27 Dawn Dankers
4/29 Phyllis Dunstone
   Gerry Tyrrell

Helping Hands for April
Birgitte & John Christianson
Brad Hubert & Martin Thompson
Mark Jensen
DeAn Lagerquist
Carole & Peter Merrill
Melody Pauling
Howard Polsfuss
Joanne Seltz
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.

Snow!
Remember the winter of our discontent that we just survived?

Great thanks to the snow shoveling team members who cleared the way for us to come to church, Sunday after Sunday.

Thanks to Gary Wahlstrom (organizer), Dave Kutzbach, Matthew Courtney, Bob Victorin-Vangerud, Gerry Tyrrell, Kevin Reuther, Pastor Erik Haaland, Morrie Wee.

B.A.S.I.C. Invitation (Brothers and Sisters in Christ)
Come and enjoy a program with the B.A.S.I.C. group on Wednesday, April 24, at 11:00 a.m. in the Concordia Room. The program will be followed by a potluck lunch. Members of our Vision Assessment Team will lead us in talking about our congregation Vision and Mission. We need everyone’s input. Come and share your thoughts and experiences. All are welcome!
2019 “Day on the Hill”

We Minnesotans are blessed to have a unique, inter-faith advocacy organization working in our state: the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. JRLC works to develop consensus between Jews, Muslims, Protestants, and Catholics on Minnesota state policy. Pastor Haaland recently attended JRLC’s annual “Day on the Hill” where their 2019 Legislative agenda was discussed. The following are this year’s legislative priorities:

1) Strengthen the Safety Net for Low-Income Families and Children

The Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) provides work support and temporary cash assistance for children and their parents—often low-wage workers between jobs. MFIP cash assistance for a family of three is a maximum of $532 per month. It has not changed since 1986. JRLC supports an increase for these families.

2) Child Care

The Minnesota Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is the state’s largest program serving infants and toddlers. It offers financial support for childcare expenses based on family income, allowing parents to work and go to school. CCAP provides coverage at all times of the day, making childcare available for parents working or attending school outside of a typical workday. JRLC supports additional funding to eliminate the current waiting list (over 2,000 families) and raising provider reimbursement rates to address the statewide lack of affordable childcare.

3) Traffic Fees/Fines and Driver’s License Protection

Fines and fees from traffic, parking, and minor criminal violations strip assets from low-income communities. Tacked-on fees and surcharges drive up the cost of a basic traffic ticket to well over $100, which is a hardship for many families. Those Minnesotans unable to pay these fines can face license suspension, additional fees and job loss. A single unpaid ticket can lead to late fees, collection charges, and driver’s license suspension. JRLC supports legislation stopping the practice of driver’s license suspension for non-payment alone and authorizing courts to waive, reduce or substitute community service for any traffic fines.

Please consider contacting your State Senator and Representative to urge them to support these coalition priorities, which would protect and assist the most vulnerable in our community.

Forums in April

April 14 (Sunday of the Passion) and April 21 (Resurrection of Our Lord)
No forum these Sundays

April 28 (Easter 2) Booking Worship: Thanksgivings and Petitions after Fifty Years of Lutheran Liturgical Publishing
Pastor Martin Seltz

This past January, Pastor Martin Seltz was honored with the prestigious Berakah Award, presented at the Annual Meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy. The Berakah Award is accompanied by an invitation to the recipient to present a response to the gathered Academy at the closing banquet of its annual meeting. Pastor Seltz’s response was titled “Booking Worship: Thanksgivings and Petitions after Fifty Years of Lutheran Liturgical Publishing.” It traces the evolution and renewal of worship among Lutherans over these years as revealed in the books sung from, prayed from, and held in the palms of our hands.
Pastor Haaland’s Sabbatical

The Congregation has granted Pastor Haaland a three-month sabbatical, beginning in May. His last Sunday at Christ Church before leaving on sabbatical is April 28 (the 2nd Sunday of Easter); there will be a send-off party for him that day. He returns to Christ Church the first week in August and will be back in worship on Sunday, August 4.

During his months away, Pastor Haaland looks forward to *Ora et Labora*—“Prayer and Work.” He will take a carpentry class at North House Folk School in Grand Marais, MN, and looks forward to exploring the spirituality of working with one’s hands. He also looks forward to exploring patterns of prayer at two different Benedictine monasteries here in Minnesota (St. Paul’s and St. John’s). In addition, he is developing a list of books to read and looks forward to experiencing Sunday worship in a variety of different faith communities during his time away. (One of the gifts of this sabbatical time will be the opportunity to sit next to his husband, Daniel, during worship!)

Pastor Haaland is extraordinarily grateful for this gift of sabbatical time. He looks forward to some months of rejuvenation and renewal, and to the joy of returning to the Christ Church community in August.

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Christ Church Lutheran Finances

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<tr>
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<th>ACTUAL</th>
<th>BUDGET (2 mos.)</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Member Giving/Envelopes</strong></td>
<td>65,251.96</td>
<td>53,333.34</td>
<td>11,918.62</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td>$7,908.77</td>
<td>$21,605.66</td>
<td>($13,696.89)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>73,160.73</td>
<td>74,939.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$67,368.62</td>
<td>$74,938.98</td>
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<td><strong>Transfers Pending</strong></td>
<td>$10,333.32</td>
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<td><strong>Total Surplus (or Deficit)</strong></td>
<td>$16,125.43</td>
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Treasurer’s Report

Numbers can fluctuate a lot this early in the year, but so far the numbers are good!

1) Member giving is considerably ahead of budget.

2) We are running a surplus of about $5,800, which when adjusted for transfers not yet taken, grows to over $16,000!

3) Our investments have bounced back well since the beginning of this year. Let’s keep up the good work!
Courier Closeup – Carmen, Jason, and Alvin

This month’s Closeup features Carmen, Jason, and Alvin who have been members of Christ Church Lutheran for four years.

When did you start attending Christ Church Lutheran and what brought you here?
We started attending in the fall of 2014, a few months after Alvin was born. I met Pastor Haaland and others at the Midtown Farmers Market and saw that Christ Church Lutheran was a warm and welcoming place.

Do you live in the neighborhood?
We recently moved from a house one mile away from Christ Church Lutheran to a house three miles away. We’re still pretty close.

What about our church keeps you coming back?
The friendly folks, progressive values, and the beauty of the building.

Do you have any stories to tell about your time here or about events or activities you have been involved in?
Alvin loves going up to the choir loft and was fascinated with the removal and installation of the new organ. He also ended up playing a giraffe in the intergenerational Christmas pageant.

By day, Carmen O’Halloran might be a lawyer. But by night, she does improv! On Monday, April 1, a group from Christ Church went to the Bryant-Lake Bowl & Theater to see The Theater of Public Policy in action. Carmen is a member of that improv group, pictured here.

Carmen is the second from the right. Her green top was perfect for her memorable role that night as the Jolly Green Giant! You can catch Carmen and this improv group many Monday nights at the Bryant-Lake Bowl & Theater. Check the website for tickets and information.

How does CCL help you live and share your faith?
It is good to worship and learn with other curious souls.

What do you do when you’re not in church?
Carmen works for the Minnesota Court system and performs with the Theater of Public Policy. Jason is a computer programmer at Thrivent Financial and officiates sports, including college football. Alvin goes to pre-K and loves his hot wheels. We all play a lot of Uno together.

What can you tell us about yourself that we may not have known?
Carmen speaks Spanish, Jason speaks Java, and Alvin speaks a lot.

“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.

It was Pastor Helge Voigt’s birthday on April 6. He celebrated 48 years of life that day. We joined in the celebration by having people sign a congregation birthday card after worship on April 8 and sending a photo of it to him by email. (see photo to left)

Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!
Christ Church Book Group

Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m.

An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith
by Barbara Brown Taylor

The Christ Church Book Group announces its next book: An Altar in the World, by Barbara Brown Taylor. All are welcome!

The publisher describes An Altar in the World in this way: “Taylor reveals meaningful ways to discover the sacred in the small things we do and see, from simple practices such as walking, working, and prayer. Something as ordinary as hanging clothes on a clothesline becomes an act of meditation if we pay attention to what we’re doing and take time to notice the sights, smells, and sounds around us. … Through Taylor’s expert guidance and delicate, thought-provoking prose, we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in.” Barbara Brown Taylor is an American Episcopal priest, professor, author and theologian and is one of the United States’ best known preachers.

Fiber Arts Group at Christ Church

Knitters! Crocheters! Etc.! Our next meeting is Saturday, May 4, 10:00 a.m. at church. Treats will be served. Bring your project and enjoy a crafty time together.

“...For Now”: A Small Sonic Prayer for Modern Times

Saturday, April 13, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

On Saturday, April 13, Music at Christ Church will host a fascinating performance by the Twin Cities band Paris1919. We think the show will be well worth experiencing, but that doesn’t mean we can describe it!

The main event will be a work called “... For Now,” a critically acclaimed, multi-dimensional symphony that premiered at last year’s Art-a-Whirl. Here is how the group’s leader, Chris Strouth, describes it:

“... For Now” is about life in the right now, it is about sorrow, it is about loss, it is about fear, it’s about violence and death, and it is about finding peace and faith in this often frightening world.

“... For Now” is performed by Paris1919, featuring Chris Strouth (conductor, electronics), Randall Davidson (cello), Drew Miller (bass), Timothy Sean Ritterr (electronics), and Mykl Westbrooks (guitar), with master engineer David J Russ, joined by Michelle Kinney (cello), and a choir led by master vocalist Natalie Nowytski. Visual projection work will come from maestro of visual phantasmagoria Tony Biele.

An opening prelude by Hindustani vocalist Matt Rahaim—a raga prelude—begins at 7:00 p.m. “... For Now” begins at 8:00 p.m., to take advantage of the darkness for the amazing lights and projections.

This event is for all ages, and free of charge, though donations are accepted and appreciated!
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.

Winter Fun

Spring is here! As the snow begins to melt and the grass begins to show itself again, we look back at all the fun we had during our three Winter Warmer events since January! Below are a few pictures from these mornings when we shared in food, play, and community. Do you have any ideas for more events that you would like to see happen for the children of Christ Church and their families? Pass them on to Tyler Egge, the Children’s Ministry Director. Send him an email (tegge001@luthersem.edu) or catch him after worship.

Children’s Art Show

Coming soon to the atrium in the Education Building is a Christ Church Children’s Art Show, sponsored by the Arts and Children’s Ministry Committees!

We will be making pieces of art together in Sunday School over the course of a couple Sunday School sessions in April. Our artwork will be inspired by our life together as a Christ Church Lutheran community. We will supply the canvases, paints, and paper; and we will frame the finished pieces for display. We will be hosting a gallery opening party on a Sunday in May. Be looking for more information in the bulletin as we head into this month!

Coming Up:
Mark your calendars for these events!

Sunday, April 14: Palm Sunday; after worship, Sunday School

Sunday, April 21: Easter Sunday, no Sunday School

Sunday, April 28: Easter Egg Hunt after worship, then Sunday School

Easter Egg Hunt!

On Sunday, April 28, our Easter egg hunt for children will be held immediately after worship, rain or shine. With our growing children’s ministry program, your help is needed. Donate bags of wrapped candy and/or plastic eggs for the hunt by Easter Sunday. Easter is more than just a day—it is a season in the church, so join our Easter fun! For more information, contact Mary Brown at pastormarybrown@gmail.com.
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<td><strong>Fifth Sunday in Lent</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sunday School</strong></td>
<td><strong>Stationery</strong></td>
<td><strong>Council</strong></td>
<td><strong>Safehouse Meal</strong></td>
<td><strong>For Now</strong></td>
<td><strong>Paris 1919 Event</strong></td>
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<td>• 9:30 a.m. Eucharist</td>
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<td>• 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting</td>
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<td><strong>Courier Deadline</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter Brass Rehearsal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Maundy Thursday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Good Friday Sheridan Story Delivery</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter Vigil</strong></td>
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<td>• 6:30 p.m. Eucharist</td>
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<td>• 12:00 p.m. Worship</td>
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<td><strong>Resurrection of our Lord</strong></td>
<td><strong>Office Closed</strong></td>
<td><strong>Office Closed</strong></td>
<td><strong>New office hours: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mary Lou Doll Interment</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friends of CCL Board, Choir</strong></td>
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<td>• 11:00 a.m. B.A.S.I.C.</td>
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<td><strong>Second Sunday of Easter</strong></td>
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