Summertime at Christ Church

Summertime at Christ Church Lutheran has its own special beauty, with our newly-restored courtyard and fountain, midsummer blooms and bell tower reaching into the clear blue sky. Welcome to the light of summer!

We look forward to September

The lazy days of summer will soon come to an end, with much good ministry to come in the fall!

Check out page 5 for a sneak peek at what is to come, and join in all the worship and fellowship with this family of Christ, right here at Christ Church Lutheran.

Save the Date!

On Sunday, November 24, Pastor Carlson will serve her last day at Christ Church, as she moves into retirement. Come worship at 9:30, then be part of a program and lunch celebration when we will honor the ministry of beloved Pastor Carlson and give her a “good goodbye.” More info coming!
Christ Church Lutheran

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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

Find us on Facebook: Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis (@CCLmpls)
Find us on Instagram: @christchurchlutheranmpls

Office Hours
Monday–Friday, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship
Eucharist 9:30 a.m., followed by fellowship

October through May
Godly Play for children ages 3–6, 11:05am–12:00pm
Spark! for children ages 7 & up, 11:05am–12:00pm
Educational forum, 11:15am–12:15pm

Staff
Pastors
Pastor Kristine Carlson
Pastor Erik Haaland

Cantors
Pastor Robert Farlee
Pastor Martin Seltz

Office
Laurel Jacobson

Facilities
Chuck Merrell

Courier Team
Laurel Jacobson
Pastor Kristine Carlson
Marc Katz

Congregation Council
President
Matthew Courtney
Vice President
Kate Haugen
Secretary
Rachel Slater
Treasurer
Melody Pauling
Council Members
Hilary Gebauer
Brad Hubert
Deane Lagerquist

August Birthdays
8/2 Olaf Carlson-Wee
8/3 Greg Madson (G.T.), Ronald Johnson, Chris Schmidt
8/4 Tyler Egge
8/5 Nathan Swanson, Loren Wikander
8/6 Alan Graebner
8/7 Matias Sarkanen
8/8 Linda Petro
8/10 Fred Quivik
8/11 Bob Davis
8/12 Noah Buckley
Farlee
8/14 Peter Doll
8/15 Janice Radloff, Joanne Seltz, Karen Woestehoff
8/17 Henry Polsfuss
8/18 Deane Lagerquist
8/21 Jeff Adams, James Gawrehuk, Josh Messner
8/22 David Petro, Carmina Stensland, Sandra Tindell
8/23 Dick Thompson
8/24 Frederick Weispfenning
8/25 Jamie Hembroff
8/26 Terra Girard
8/27 Bob Svenson, Lisa Smetana, Zacarias Sundgaard
8/28 Henrik Kukkonen
8/29 Luann Skrivarseth
8/31 Gerald Girard

Helping Hands for August

July/August
Lucille Buelow
Ann & Bob Davis
Mirko Hall & Tim Hagen
Max Herzberg
Elena Hilding
Matthew & Pamela Krueger
Cheryl & Harvey Leuning
April McMillian & Lynn Tollefson
Bee Meakins & George Greenfield
Victoria & Nate Perbix
Ina Ziegler

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.

B.A.S.I.C. (Brothers and Sisters in Christ)

Come join the B.A.S.I.C. group each last Wednesday of the month for a time of learning, fellowship, food and FUN! On Wednesday, August 29 at 11:00 a.m., the guest speaker will be Pastor Haaland, who will relate tales of his three-month sabbatical this past spring/summer. Afterward we enjoy hors d’oeuvres, salads and entree, dessert and several types of beverages. Throughout our time together we chat, laugh and share our own stories. All are welcome!

New Address for Phyllis Dunstone
Phyllis Dunstone
9901 Penn Avenue S., #201
Bloomington, MN 55431
952.948.2602
From the Church Council

Update for August

DeAn Lagerquist opened with a devotion on the question, “Where do we find a gracious God?” Her reflection took us from the Book of Colossians, Joseph Sittler’s idea of a cosmic Jesus, and to our baptisms, where we are remade in the destructive yet restorative powers of water, in combination with God’s word. She closed with a prayer of thanks for God’s blessings.

Our first order of business was considering a recommendation from the Property Committee to address two needed concrete repairs: to the sidewalk along 34th Avenue and to the north alley entrance. The concrete heaves in winter months, creating tripping hazards along the 34th Ave sidewalk, and barring the north alley door from being opened when the concrete raises above the threshold. Combined, both projects will cost approximately $10,500. Since these needed repairs are beyond the congregation’s approved maintenance budget, Council voted to use funds available in the Congregation/Parsonage fund. Property Committee will solicit competitive bids before initiating the work. Our Treasurer, Melody Pauling, reported that we are on budget thus far in 2019. Council expressed gratitude for the congregation’s generosity.

The remainder of our meeting focused on discussing the transition time when Pastor Carlson retires at the end of November. First, we received the Vision Assessment Team’s (VAT) report, which was previewed at the July 21 Vision and Transition Forum. The report, drafted after the VAT’s extensive conversations with the congregation, suggests that Christ Church Lutheran has four core values underlying our life together: Worship, Education and Spiritual Growth, Community and Relationships, and Outward-looking Engagement and Service. The Council will continue to develop the VAT’s findings into a more comprehensive vision that can guide the work of the congregation through this time of transition.

We also discussed options to develop a call process for our next Lead Pastor. At the forum, we heard good conversation from over 40 members who shared their ideas, questions, and experiences with periods of transition at Christ Church and in other congregations. To continue these good discussions, Council decided to hold a third forum on August 11 focused on Lead Pastoral transitioning. (The previous two forums were held June 9 and July 21.) At our next forum, Council will clarify unanswered questions from July 21, and we will present a recommended call process that addresses the concerns and ideas we have heard from members. Council is grateful for everyone’s input and participation throughout the vision assessment and transition forums. We adjourned our meeting with the Lord’s Prayer.

Pastoral Acts

On July 27, Pastor Haaland presided at the marriage of Max Herzberg and Ellen Nikodym.

On August 4, Pastor Carlson baptized Mira Louise Gilbert, daughter of Thomas and Tuula Gilbert.

On August 11, Pastor Carlson baptized Pearl Oline Bodurtha, daughter of Kent and Nikki Bodurtha.

Treasurer’s Report

Our financial situation is looking very good! Member giving is more than what was budgeted by almost $5,000, and we haven't had to take the $31,000 in transfers from investments and trusts that we had budgeted through June. Our expenses so far are $28,819 less than budgeted. There are some large bills coming due that will reduce that amount, but we are in very good shape.

Thank you for keeping up your offerings during the summer!

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<th>Christ Church Lutheran Finances</th>
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This month’s Closeup features Muriel Heller, the oldest member of Christ Church Lutheran, who died on June 30, 2019, just 2-1/2 hours shy of her 105th birthday, in Des Moines, IA, with her family near. She was born on July 1, 1914, in Todd County, MN. The information was provided to us by her daughter Norma Ramker and son Tom Heller.

When did Muriel start attending Christ Church Lutheran and what brought her here?
The family moved from North to south Minneapolis in the early 1950s, and shortly after, joined Christ Church Lutheran. Muriel was confirmed into the church on November 29, 1953, by then Senior Pastor, Pastor William Buege.

Did the family live in the neighborhood?
Muriel, her husband Tom and their children Norma, Tom Jr., and Keith lived on 35th Avenue and 27th Street for 23 years, and then in Edina until 2004 when she moved to Iowa to be with her daughter, a day after her 100th birthday. She occasionally drove up to church from Iowa until she was 102, when she gave up driving long distances.

What church events or activities was Muriel involved in?
She was secretary of the Afternoon Guild. She showed her love for Christ Church Lutheran by supporting our recent fundraising campaigns: Reaching New Heights and Second Century. She joined a Christ Church Lutheran group in attending the lunch and tour of the Dobson Organ Builders in Lake City, Iowa, in 2017. On May 20, 2018, she and daughter Norma attended the Organ Dedication Recital here.

What stories are there to tell about Muriel’s time here?
Muriel and her friend Helen Carswell brought great style and fashion to Sunday morning worship services. Muriel always wore high heels and a butterfly pin on her shoulder. She found the pin at a small shop in the Edina area. Whenever someone in the family admired it, she would go out and buy one for them.

Did Muriel work outside of the home?
As a young single mother, she worked for a florist. After she remarried, she worked a few part-time jobs, as a sales clerk for Sears, selling wigs and also Mary Kay cosmetics. She eventually stayed at home and became, as Norma called it, “a domestic goddess!” She proved that she had not lost her “domestic goddess” abilities when she baked delicious popovers for Pastor Carlson, Mary Bode and Joanne Seltz during a recent visit.

What did Muriel enjoy doing when she was not in church?
She loved playing golf at Hiawatha Golf Course, dancing every Saturday night, playing bridge with her club and sipping brandy. Muriel and Tom loved the outdoors and fishing at their lake place in Dresser, Wisconsin. She even learned to ski at age 50!

What can you tell us about Muriel that we may not have known?
Many of Muriel’s ancestors lived into their 90s. She had a cousin who lived to be 104. When Muriel turned 100 she received a congratulatory letter from the President. An Iowa congressman recently sent her best wishes for her 105th birthday, as did her beloved community here at Christ Church.

Muriel Heller’s funeral was held on Sunday, July 7, 2019, at St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Johnston, Iowa. The service is available for viewing at: https://youtu.be/q6uWomUHdWU. Cards may be sent to her family at 2309 Linda Circle, Urbandale, IA 50322. She was a very special lady!
Looking Ahead: September Sundays! Mark your calendars and come!

Sunday, September 8 – God’s Work, Our Hands
Come to worship at 9:30 a.m. After fellowship time, put your hands to work for God’s work of justice and mercy in our world. There will be projects for all ages to do.

Sunday, September 15 – Welcome Sunday
Come to worship at 9:30 a.m. Then enjoy time for meeting new people, catching up with one another as summer is ending, and learn about many ministries and groups at Christ Church that invite your participation as you live out your baptismal calling in the world and deepen your relationship with this community. There will be a Bounce House for our younger people, and good treats and fellowship for all ages. Welcome, everyone!

Sunday, September 22 – Sunday School & Forums begin again
Come to worship at 9:30 a.m. After fellowship time, all ages are invited to Sunday morning education opportunities beginning with the new school year: Sunday School for children ages 3 and up, and a Forum for adults. New this year for our older children is our pre-Confirmation program during this education hour. Come and learn and stretch and grow!

Sunday, September 29 – New Member Sunday
Come to worship at 9:30 a.m. and join in welcoming a group of New Members during the worship service.

The day before, on Saturday, September 28, there will be a New Member Coffee in the Luther Lounge, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. If you are interested in joining Christ Church as a member, please speak to Pastor Carlson. All are welcome! YOU are welcome!

After worship and fellowship on this day, there is Sunday School for children ages 3 and up, and a Forum sponsored by our Church Council.

Gym Lighting Upgrade
“And on the fourth day, God said ‘Let there be light!’, and just like that the Christ Church gym lit up brightly! Well, actually not just like that, because it took a big effort by a team of people to make it happen: Tim Hagen secured the new 80-watt LED bulbs, Ken Schoenike and Chuck Merrill installed them, and Darrell Anderson and Mirko Hall guided and supervised. These new white-light bulbs are much higher wattage, at much less energy output, so it’s estimated that Christ Church will save energy (good for the environment!) and save money—around $3,000 in electricity costs (good for the church budget!). Thank you to this dedicated team for a job well done.

On Sunday, July 14, during Sermon on the Steps, Pastor Carlson showed the “children of all ages” one of the old light bulbs and then one of the new LED light bulbs (see accompanying photo). Wow! How different they look from one another! She said that Jesus wants us to be lights too—lights in the world, shining love everywhere to everyone. Mirko Hall also taught us all the Arabic word for “light,” and we practiced saying it: AH-NOOR (see the Arabic spelling in the accompanying photo).

After worship, everyone was invited to the gym to see the new lights in action. Thanks to Tim Hagen and Ken Schoenike for hosting folks in the gym that morning. Lock Bound, a docent for the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran, led a building tour that morning after church and the people on the tour got to see the new lights too.

How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? Ask our Plant Manager, Chuck Merrell!

The old and the new. Can you tell which is which?!
“We Are Church” – 2019 Churchwide Assembly, Aug. 5-10 in Milwaukee, WI

This month, voting members from across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—including Pastor Erik Haaland from Christ Church Lutheran and the Minneapolis Area Synod—will convene for the 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Churchwide Assembly at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee. This will be the 15th gathering of the assembly, the primary decision-making body of the ELCA. This year’s theme is “We Are Church,” and voting members will spend the week participating in plenaries, discussions, Bible studies and worship while deliberating the work of the church.

This year, voting members will:

• Elect the presiding bishop and secretary
• Act on “Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action” social statement
• Act on “A Declaration of Interreligious Commitment: A policy statement of the ELCA”
• Vote on proposed budgets for the next three years
• Review proposed amendments to the “Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA”
• Consider a proposal that the entrance rite for ministers of Word and Service be ordination and to no longer count deacons as laypeople
• Act on responses to memorials from synod assemblies

Also taking place during the assembly will be a celebration to honor the 50th anniversary of women’s ordination, and an observance of the church’s focus on gun violence awareness.

For more information about the assembly, go to elca.org/cwa.

Christ Church Book Club

The Christ Church Book Group announces its next book: Persuasion by Jane Austen. All are welcome to a time of discussion and conversation about the book, 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, September 28, in the Concordia Room.

The publisher describes Persuasion in this way: Of all Jane Austen’s great and delightful novels, Persuasion is widely regarded as the most moving. It is the story of a second chance. Anne Elliot, daughter of the snobbish Sir Walter Elliot, is a woman of quiet charm and deep feelings. When she was 19 she fell in love with—and was engaged to—a naval officer; the fearless and headstrong Captain Wentworth. But the young man had no fortune, and Anne allowed herself to be persuaded to give him up. Now, eight years later, Wentworth has returned to the neighborhood, a rich man and still unwed. Anne’s never-diminished love is muffled by her pride, and he seems cold and unforgiving. What happens as the two are thrown together in the social world of Bath—and as an eager new suitor appears for Anne—is touchingly and wittily told in a masterpiece that is also one of the most entrancing novels in the English language.

Meet Laurel!

In early June, Laurel Jacobson took up the role of office administrator at Christ Church and hit the ground running. Laurel served for 14 years in various ministry capacities at Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, and is delighted to work in the Longfellow neighborhood, which is where she and husband Jeff have lived since September 2016. Over the past several years, they have occasionally worshiped at Christ Church and attended various events, so they feel right at home here. They have two adult children, Anna and Jeron, who currently live on the West Coast. Laurel says, “Stop by the church office and say hello any time! Thank you, Christ Church congregation, for the warm welcome.”

Stationery Group

Stephanie Gustafson, life-long member of Christ Church Lutheran, is the new facilitator for the Christ Church Stationery Group. The Group heartily thanks Phyllis Dunstone (in the pink outfit in the accompanying photos) for her years of service as the group’s leader, as well as Phyllis Mattill who has retired from active participation as one of the crafters in the group.

Stationery cards are on display most Sundays by the Yellow Room. We usually meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. Stationery Group is actively seeking more crafters, so if you’re interested in working on these lovely cards, let Stephanie Gustafson know or call the church office.
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.

**Children’s Ministry at Christ Church Lutheran—August 2019**

**Picnic at Wabun Park**
On a day that turned out to be glorious—Wednesday, July 17, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.—the Children’s Ministry Committee [Sarah Brunsvold, Marcus Nooney, Tyler Egge, and Pastor Carlson] sponsored an old-fashioned Church Picnic at Wabun Park. There was a great turnout! Almost 60 people came!

Children had a great time playing croquet, swimming in the pool, chasing each other, talking with each other and everyone else. Adults had a great time meeting one another and talking together. And everyone enjoyed the delicious meat coming off the grill, thanks to Chef Marcus, and all the dishes-to-share that folks brought. As the sun was setting in the west at the end of the picnic, many people said, “Let’s do this again!”

**Children at Christ Church**
Kids play important roles at our church, from baptism on. We are blessed to walk together in our lifelong journey of faith!

Meet Hans Adams, age 10, member of the Acolyte team. (He’s nearly as tall as Phyllis Mattill!)

Baptism of Mira Louise Gilbert, daughter of Tuula and Thomas, and sister of Milla. Welcome to the waters, Mira!

**The Green Growing Days of Summer: Quiet Space Continues!**

One of the most important aspects of life together at Christ Church is worship time. We want to help our children and our community to live into this as fully as possible. The Quiet Space in the back of the sanctuary in the chapel is for children to be accompanied by their parent or guardian. There are quiet reflective activities for children to do there. If you are a guardian in the quiet space we ask for your help in welcoming new families to Christ Church and helping the children worship together in this new, quiet, and active way.
Pastor Helge and Anke Voigt celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in Leipzig, Germany, on June 22nd. Pastor Voigt served at Christ Church Lutheran as an exchange pastor in 2016; during this time, Pastor Carlson’s husband, Morrie Wee, served as pastor of Helge’s church, the Sophienkirchgemeinde, in Leipzig. Here are Helge and Anke ready to recess at the end of their special celebration. Pastor Carlson and her husband, Morrie Wee, attended the 25th anniversary celebration in Leipzig, and participated in the special worship service there. Pastor Carlson brought a loaf of the communion bread we serve at Christ Church, and they used it for communion that day. They loved the bread! Here is Pastor Carlson with (left to right) Cathy Moore, Rev. Robert Moore (who presided at the worship service) and Morrie Wee.