Welcome to September at Christ Church

Come one, come all!
Mark your calendars for these very special days!

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 (the Little Courier, p. 7), and a Forum for adults (Forum schedule, p. 5). 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.
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
Find us on Facebook: Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis (@CCLmpls)
Find us on Instagram: @christchurchlutheranmpls

Office Hours
Monday–Friday, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

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

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

Staff
Pastors
Pastor Kristine Carlson
Pastor Erik Haaland
Pastor Robert Farlee
Pastor Martin Seltz
Office Administrator
Laurel Jacobson
Children’s Ministry
Tyler Egge
Facilities
Chuck Merrell
Courier Team
Laurel Jacobson
Pastor Kristine Carlson
Pastor Robert Farlee

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

September
Birthdays
9/2 Julie Parkos,
   Hillary Watkins
9/8 Ivy Young
9/11 Jeff Weispfenning
9/12 Barb Revsbeck
9/13 Siri Caltvedt
9/14 Prince Faulk
9/17 Dori Brandon
9/19 April McMillan,
   Vanessa Rempel
9/26 Kevin Olsen
9/28 Mirko Hall

Save this date: Sunday, November 24

Helping Hands for September & October
Jeanne & Darrell Anderson
Mary Bode
Molly Boes Ganza
Stephanie & Gary Gustafson
Marilyn & Wynn Johnston
Donna Lindberg
Greg Madson
Denise Morelock & Jeff Adams
Sharon & Dan Mueller
Katie Swanson & Noah Niemann
Carmen O’Halloran & Jason Weber
Marilu Peters
Vanessa Rempel & Matthew Courtney
Rachel Slater

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.

Day at the Market:
Saturday, September 14

The Christ Church day at the Midtown Farmers Market is coming up on Saturday, September 14th. Join us as we support their mission to provide healthy, locally grown food right here in our neighborhood. Sponsoring a day at the market is also a good way for us to meet our neighbors and get the word out about Christ Church! Thanks to the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran for their co-sponsorship.

When: Saturday, September 14, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m
Where: Moon Palace Books (3032 Minnehaha Ave)

Pastor Kristine Carlson will retire from ministry on Nov. 24. That day we will celebrate her ministry in grand style in worship and in a program and luncheon afterward. All Christ Church members and friends are invited and encouraged to share in this day of celebration, accolades and farewell. Watch for information to come.
Lectionary Readings for September

September 8
Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33

September 15
Exodus 32:7-14
Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10

September 22
Amos 8:4-7
Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7

September 29
Michael and All Angels
Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3
Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22
Revelation 12:7-12
Luke 10:17-20

From the Church Council
Update from August’s Meeting

Rachel Slater, secretary, opened with a devotion on the challenges and importance of balancing the emotional intensities we experience in life. All too often, it seems, we find ourselves jostling between intense feelings of sadness or joy, between well-being or uncertainty. In these times, our focus on the extremes inevitably inhibits our ability to respond appropriately to the moment at-hand. Rachel encouraged us to find value in “practicing joy” by taking moments out of our day to look around and find something that may bring us joy or pleasure. She read from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and offered a prayer that thanked God for the ability to find balance and appreciation in our lives.

We received an update from the Property Committee that they have selected a contractor to make concrete repairs to the sidewalk along 34th Avenue and to the north alley entrance. The winning bid was received at $9,780 and will likely be completed in October. As reported last month, the concrete heaves in winter months, creating tripping hazards along the 34th Ave sidewalk and blocking the north alley door from opening when the concrete raises above the threshold.

We received a recommendation from the Preservation Committee to execute a contract with MacDonald and Mack Architects to study current and potential uses for the Sanctuary building’s lower level. A few years ago, a working group of Preservation, the Space Use Planning Team, had been considering options for a columbarium in this area, but other restoration work funded through Second Century took priority and postponed these efforts. Recently, anonymous donations have been pledged to conduct a space use study that can lead to a draft master plan for the Sanctuary’s lower level. The Council voted to receive the pledged $5,235 and to execute a contract for architectural planning services.

Pastor Haaland provided a brief financial report from his sabbatical. The final costs came in under budget, at $1,463.24. Over the coming months, he will share more details about his activities and reflections upon what was gained during this important time of study, prayer, and reflection. We received a request from the Mission Committee for $700 to support our participation in The Sheridan Story for the remainder of 2019. Council approved these costs out of available trust funds. We discussed including this and other food-related ministries in the regular operating budget for 2020, which we will develop for the congregation’s consideration in December.

Finally, we discussed the August 11 forum, at which 47 congregation members attended to hear the Council’s recommended transition process to call our next lead pastor. The Council presented a process that attempted to consider and accommodate the varying concerns of members that were received at previous forums on June 9 and July 21. We strove to present a process that can be responsive to the needs of the congregation while also moving forward with forming a Call Committee before Pastor Carlson retires. In the end, there was good discussion from all sides of the conversation, and the Council felt that the members in attendance voiced general support for the compromised process, especially since it can be modified to meet future circumstances. The Council voted to approve this process, which will include coordinating with the Nominating Committee to nominate a slate of voting members of the congregation to serve on the Call Committee. The slate of Call Committee nominees will be presented for election at a special congregation meeting after worship on October 6. Council is grateful for the congregation’s participation in all these forums and for its commitment to work together during this important time of lead pastor transition.

Pastoral Acts
Wedding:
Matthew Kunnari & Drew Benson, August 24

Baptisms:
Mira Louise Gilbert, August 4
Pearl Oline Bodurtha, August 11

Finances will be presented in an upcoming publication.
Earlier this summer, Christ Church Lutheran gave me an incredibly generous gift—the gift of a 3-month sabbatical. I can’t tell you how grateful I am for this time of learning, rest, and renewal.

The theme of my sabbatical was “Ora et Labora,” an ancient Benedictine phrase that means “prayer and work.” A life’s rhythm of prayer and work has been the goal of Benedictine monastic life for centuries. Over my sabbatical I spent time praying and learning with the monks and nuns at two Benedictine monasteries here in Minnesota: St. John’s in Collegeville and St. Paul’s in Maplewood. Alongside that time of prayer and contemplation, I used my sabbatical to do physical labor and work with my hands. I did small landscaping and building projects at home. I spent time cooking and enjoying work in the garden. I was also able to fulfill a dream of taking a class at North House Folk School in Grand Marais. With my father as my building partner, I built an outdoor bench using timber-framing techniques—all the while enjoying the sublime beauty of the North Shore of Lake Superior.

My sabbatical also provided me with wonderful time to read, take long walks, and worship in many different churches in Minnesota and beyond. My sabbatical time also allowed Daniel and me to take trips to visit family and friends in Madison, Chicago, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

When my sabbatical began I was afraid that the time would race by so quickly I would fail to fully appreciate it. However, I was grateful to find that even though the three months did go by quickly, the time still felt gracious and relaxed, and I didn’t find myself anxious about how quickly the days were slipping away. The time felt gifted and graced, which was all I hoped it would be.

I offer my deep thanks to the people of Christ Church for offering me this sabbatical—this gift of time. Most especially, I offer my thanks to my beloved colleague, Pastor Kristine Carlson, for encouraging me to take this sabbatical and then for making it possible by covering extra pastoral duties while I was away. I am so grateful. I’m also grateful to be back among all of you at Christ Church! ~ Pastor Erik Haaland

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Courier Closeup – Max Herzberg

This month’s Closeup features Max Herzberg who has been a member of Christ Church Lutheran for almost four years.

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

I first came to Christ Church Lutheran after moving to St. Paul for a year of service with AmeriCorps following my graduation from Grinnell College. Christ Church was recommended to me by Dick and Naomi Bruese-hoff, who are good friends of my parents. Additionally, I was looking for an opportunity to keep singing after graduating—which is why my very first visit to Christ Church was to attend a Thursday night choir rehearsal.

Do you live in the neighborhood?

My wife, Ellen, and I live in the Como Park neighborhood of St. Paul but love driving through the Longfellow neighborhood on our way to Christ Church.

What about our church keeps you coming back?

Singing in the choir on Sunday mornings and greeting other members is one of my favorite parts of the week. After serving on Council for a couple of years, I am also invested in the continually changing life of the Christ Church community.

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

I will never forget the process of removing and reinstalling the pews in the balcony as part of the organ installation. It was a remarkable organizational feat and physical effort, but made for an enjoyable couple of Saturdays with good church friends.

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

Singing in the choir on Sundays ties me to the Christ Church faith community despite many busy weeks. I love coming for a weekly “reset” before the beginning of the next seven days.

What do you do outside of church?

I am a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota, finishing a Ph.D. in Child Psychology. My research focuses on the ways stress affects the developing brain, including children who experienced early life stress in the form of childhood maltreatment or institutional care. If all goes to plan I will finish my degree and being a postdoctoral research fellowship in the fall of 2020. When I am not working I enjoy running, playing the piano, and exploring local breweries with friends.

What can you tell us something about yourself that we may not yet know?

Despite being a serious soccer player through high school—an interest that led to my running habit today—I played collegiate golf instead. It would be hard to have chosen two sports with more distinct physical requirements!

“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.

Pastor Haaland’s “Ora et Labora” Sabbatical

Earlier this summer, Christ Church Lutheran gave me an incredibly generous gift—the gift of a 3-month sabbatical. I can’t tell you how grateful I am for this time of learning, rest, and renewal.

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September Forum Schedule

Except as noted, forums begin at 11:15 a.m. in the Kretzmann Room on the lower level of the education building. Listen for the bell to ring as a reminder the forum is beginning.

September 22

Forums begin again!

Ora et Labora: A Sabbatical Journey
Pastor Erik Haaland

Earlier this year, Pastor Haaland had the opportunity to take a three-month-long sabbatical, during which he explored the ancient Benedictine theme, Ora et Labora, “prayer and work.” He spent time praying and learning at two local Benedictine monasteries and attempted to gain woodworking skills at a folk school in Grand Marais. At this forum, learn about some of his experiences and explore connections between creation, craft, and a life of prayer. (See Pr. Haaland’s article on p. 4)

September 29

Pre-Congregational Meeting Forum
Congregation Council

The Christ Church Council has called a Congregation Meeting for October 6 in order to elect a call committee for our next Lead Pastor. This forum time will provide an opportunity for information and questions ahead of that important meeting.

Christ Church Book Group

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.

Stationery Group

This past month, the Christ Church Stationery Group has grown in size, as well as in sales. Crafting enough cards in one month’s time to meet the needs of our customers (members, visitors, and friends of the congregation) is quite the challenge. Perhaps you’d like to help! Visit our table at the Welcome Sunday event in September. There, you can learn more about the work and TLC that goes into each card made by the Stationery Group, and see if this is something you might like to try. Trivia question: Did you know it often takes as many as 6 people to make one card? It’s really a fascinating process. Come, learn more about it!

~Stephanie Gustafson, Coordinator

Could you Lend a … Voice?

The Book of Colossians has a life-giving suggestion for us: “With gratitude in your hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God” (Col. 3:16). Of course, anyone who attends worship at Christ Church has the opportunity to do that every week. But under the principle that you can’t have too much of a good thing, your cantors would like you to consider joining the choir. The Christ Church Choir has been steadily growing over recent years, and has some wonderful (and very friendly) singers already—but there is always room for more! If you enjoy singing, you don’t need to be professional quality. Just come and feel the endorphins flow as you join in harmony with friends surrounding you. Come give it a try!

We rehearse every Thursday beginning September 5, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Come to the courtyard glass door, and someone will be there to let you in. If you have questions or concerns, speak to Cantor Martin Seltz or Cantor Robert Farlee. We’d love to welcome you!

Mark your calendars for Choir now!
Celebrating Women’s Ordination

50 Years On: a Half Century of Ordaining Lutheran Women

Like other mainline Protestant groups, in the midst of the second wave of feminism, in 1970 American Lutherans voted to ordain women, joining several European Lutheran churches which already did so. Anticipating the 50th anniversary of American Lutherans’ decision to ordain women, the 40th of ordinations of women of color, and the 10th since barriers to lesbian women’s ordination were removed, this website tells the story of the 1970 decisions, reports on women pastors’ experiences, and highlights how the church has changed in the past half-century.

Below is a link to a story map tracing the ordaining of women in the Lutheran church in the U.S. It was created by L. DeAne Lagerquist, a member of Christ Church Lutheran who is also a professor of religion at St. Olaf College and a historian of Lutheranism in America.

https://pages.stolaf.edu/lutheranwomensordination/ for more information, history, highlights and biographies.

MPLS (imPulse) Concert hosted by the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran

On Sunday, October 13 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran is partnering with Preserve Minneapolis and local chorale MPLS (imPulse) to present The Unicorn, The Gorgon and The Manticore by Gian Carlo Menotti. This choral concert will be a celebration of Mid-Century Architecture honoring Architect Eliel Saarinen and Christ Church Lutheran.

Menotti’s work tells the story of a town odd-ball, his strange Medieval pets, and the harm a community can cause others through judgment and condemnation of the “the Other.” The performance will also include selections from Samuel Barber’s Reincarnations and a premiere of a new commission by local composer Ian A. Cook in celebration of Saarinen’s famed work. Hear a sample of the chorale at mplsim-plus.org.

Tickets can be purchased at Artful.ly/mples-impulse; also, a limited number of tickets will be available for a docent-led tour of the church after the concert.

Endowment Fund

The Christ Church Endowment was established in 1984. An Endowment Fund Committee had been established to review the need for a separate fund to “provide investment earnings on a continuing basis for the benefit of the Congregation’s ministries.” The conclusion of the committee was that an Endowment was indeed a good way to support the congregation. Among the committee’s recommendations were:

• that the principal of the Endowment Funds not be available to be spent except for a dire emergency;
• that interest from the Fund be eligible to be used for special ministries and also be available for normal operations of the church if needed;
• that an Endowment Committee be established to operate the Fund;
• and that the Council have the authority to decide what the interest from the Fund be spent on.

Thus, the Endowment Fund began and over the last 34 years the interest earned from the investments has continued to support the congregation’s ministries in many exciting ways. Keep an eye on the Courier for great stories on how the Endowment Fund has been put to use!

Save the date: Christ Church Organ Festival, October 6

The first event of the Music at Christ Church 2019–2020 season will be an organ concert featuring (mostly) Twin Cities organists. On Sunday, October 6, at 3:00 p.m., we will host a recital called Christ Church Organ Festival 2019. Six organists will each play 5–10 minutes of organ music, and a few hymns will be sung as well. While most of the organists live in the Twin Cities, one organist, Marilyn Brattskar, lives in Oslo, Norway—although she has roots in the upper Midwest. The other organists performing that afternoon are Chris Ganza (husband of Molly Boes-Ganza), Kristina Langlois, Jessica Park, Mark Sedio, and our cantor Robert Farlee. It promises to be a stirring concert putting our Christ Church Organ through its paces!

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

The next B.A.S.I.C. meeting will be on Wednesday, September 25th, 11:00 a.m. Bring a dish to share to the Concordia Room. Check the Sunday bulletins for further information. Everyone is welcome!
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.

The End of Summer

Can you believe it? Summer is practically over! How have you spent your time away from school? I know some of us have done things like take really exciting vacations and even go to a summer camp.

As for me, I spent most of my summer working at United Hospital in St. Paul as a chaplain. I got away here and there, though, and just the other week I went on a vacation to Arkansas to visit a dear friend.

As we gather together again to start a new program year at Christ Church, I’d love to hear about all the things you did this summer and where you saw God show up. Maybe you noticed God in a beautiful sunrise or sunset. Maybe you saw God in a very helpful friend. Wherever and however you noticed God this summer, know that you are loved by God no matter what you do or where you go.

And one important note for the parents, grandparents, guardians, family, and friends of the children of Christ Church: as we start this new school year, be looking for new information and registration forms to fill out for your children for attending Sunday School or any other events at Christ Church. Look for these forms in the coming few weeks in church and at the Children’s Ministry table on Welcome Sunday!

~Tyler Egge, Children’s Ministry Director

Welcome to Sunday School, kids!

Sunday School for children ages 3 and up begins on Sunday, September 22, at 11:05 a.m. Come and see your Sunday School room, meet your teachers, meet your church friends, and learn about Jesus who loves you so much. We’ll be looking for you! For registration or if you have questions, call the church office or be in touch with Tyler Egge, our Children’s Ministry Director.

tegge001@luthersem.edu

God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday

Come on God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 8. During Sermon on the Steps, each child will receive a shell necklace made by your pastors just for you! And hear about how God works in you in your baptism and every day to help you do God’s good work in the world.”

New! A Pre-Confirmation Program

This school year at Christ Church, the Children’s Ministry Committee will be working to get a pre-confirmation program started for our oldest children under the theme of “Getting to Know Your Christ Church Community.” We will spend several Sundays throughout the year getting to know a variety of aspects of our church community. We look forward to starting this collaborative project as our children’s ministry continues to grow and evolve. Look for more information as we get this going!

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact Tyler at tegge001@luthersem.edu.
Welcome back, students!

On Wednesday, September 4, Gerry Tyrrell of Christ Church organized a community welcome to South High students on their second day of classes. They literally got the red carpet treatment (see photo) from a couple dozen community members—including Gerry and Pastor Carlson. Almost 2,000 students plus teachers got cheers and applause and high-fives as they arrived at school from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. that morning. Gerry was the master of hospitality, giving high-fives and a warm welcome to each one (see photo).

To all students and teachers of every grade and school in our midst we say, “Have a Great Year!”