Celebrating 13 years of Pastor Carlson’s ministry at Christ Church Lutheran

On Sunday, November 24, our congregation will be celebrating Pastor Carlson and her 13 years of ministry among us. This day is Christ the King Sunday and the 108th anniversary of the founding of our congregation. Worship will include a Rite of Sending as we say goodbye to Pastor Carlson and she says goodbye to us. The Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen will participate in worship and there will be special music. Following worship everyone is invited to a buffet and program in the gym. We hope everyone is able to attend this special day of celebration and farewell.

Children’s Ministry Pizza Party with Pastor Carlson!

Families of Christ Church will celebrate Pastor Carlson’s retirement with a Pizza Party and fun activities in the gym on Friday, October 25, 5pm-8pm. All Christ Church children and their adults are invited to attend. See Tyler Egge for more information.
October

Birthdays
10/6 Gene Bruss, Matthew Courtney
10/10 Lena Kniebel, John Schmidt
10/11 Carole Merrill
10/15 Thea Bodurtha
10/16 Kate Haugen, Max Herzberg
10/19 Photos Zeris
10/21 Colin Watkins
10/22 Jason Bergquist, Juanita Burke
10/23 Hilary Gebauer, Rosie Peters
10/24 Michelle Hovey
10/25 Victoria Perbix
10/26 Susan Stugelmeyer
10/27 Eleanor Uglum
10/30 Tim Hokkanen

If you are not named above, and should be, or your birthdate is inaccurate, please call the church office 612.721.6611.

Helping Hands for 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 needed. Mary Bode is the coordinator. Call the church office to connect with her.

October Sunday Forums, 11:15-12:15 p.m.

October 6 – Congregation Meeting
October 13 – Stewardship Kickoff & Breakfast
October 20 – “Refugees and Immigrants in the American Story” Ron Johnson

Throughout human history, people have been on the move for many reasons. Although America is often said to be a land of immigrants, their reception has not always been gracious. Immigration policy is much in need of reform, but this process needs to be shaped by an understanding of our history relative to immigrants and refugees. The story is filled with contradictions.

Ron Johnson is a retired Lutheran pastor and a member of Christ Church Lutheran. For many years he was pastor of nearby Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

October 27 – “Cyber-Climbing Your Family Tree” Liz Gomoll

The importance of family history is shown in the Bible. It’s full of genealogies! Sooner or later, we want to know our own stories—the good and the not so good. This presentation uses examples of documents for famous people to demonstrate how much genealogy research can be accomplished through online resources.

Elizabeth (Liz) Williams Gomoll is a Certified Genealogist® and a member of Christ Church Lutheran.
Lectionary Readings for October

October 6
First Reading: Habbakuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4
Psalm 37:1-9
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14
Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

October 13
First Reading: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c
Psalm 111
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

October 20
First Reading: Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 121
Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

October 27
First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28
Gospel: John 8:31-36

From the Church Council
Update from the September meeting

Brad Hubert opened with a devotion on the variety of connections we experience through our families, friends, communities, and faith. He closed with a prayer of thanks for all the connections that bless our lives.

The Council heard a proposal from the church office to begin modernizing its membership and volunteer coordination management through Breeze, a web-based church management software. After considering research by Laurel Jacobson, our office administrator, and support from the Audit Committee, the Council also supported transitioning our management systems from spreadsheets to a secure online system that will help manage our membership roster, volunteer coordination, communications, and member offering records. More information will become available as the church office implements this management system in phases over time. Eventually, members will have the ability to update their own contact information, volunteer interests, and make online offerings.

We received an update that the Property Committee plans to refinish tile floors in the Education Building as part of its regular maintenance. Over the summer, new tile was installed in the Luther Lounge kitchenette and coat room, which needs a new wax coating to protect it. Basement hallways and the Concordia Room will also be refinished, as well as new vinyl tile in the organ loft. The work should be completed this fall.

We spent the bulk of our meeting discussing the lead pastor transition. We reviewed nominations received to date for the Call Committee and made plans to reconvene on September 25 to form a slate of six (6) members to be recommended for election by the congregation at the Congregation Meeting on October 6. The slate will be presented at the September 29 forum. We are on track to call a transition pastor for December to serve as our full-time pastor after Pastor Carlson’s retirement at the end of November until a new lead pastor is installed. We adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Transition Update
Fifty-three people attended the September 29 forum that was hosted by the Council in preparation for the October 6 special congregation meeting. The Council reviewed the process to-date of our lead pastor transition. The Council is coordinating with the bishop’s office of the Minneapolis Area Synod to identify potential transition pastor candidates who will be interviewed, and then one will be selected by the Council to provide full-time pastoral care and ministerial services after Pastor Carlson’s retirement at the end of November. The transition pastor will serve until a new full-time lead pastor is selected by the Call Committee, approved by the congregation, and installed. The Council also presented a summary of the nomination process that was used to select a slate of six Christ Church Lutheran members who have been nominated to serve on the Call Committee. The slate of six members nominated for the congregation’s consideration and election at the October 6 meeting are: Sarah Brunsvold, Kate Haugen, Kevin Reuther, Luann Skrivseth, Bob Victorin-Vangerud, and Hillary Watkins. If elected by the congregation, the Call Committee will coordinate with an assistant to the bishop to begin the process of calling a new full-time Lead Pastor.

Treasurer’s Report

Our finances continue in good shape. Member giving slipped a little compared to the budget, but that’s not surprising for the summer. Because we are doing well, we can leave invested with Thrivent some of the funds we planned to use for the operating budget rather than transferring them to our checking account. If we had made those transfers as budgeted (which we could do at any time), we would have a $14,350 surplus in the operating budget. As usual, there are some big bills coming due, but that surplus, together with the usual fall bounce back in member giving, should cover them easily.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christ Church Lutheran Finances</th>
<th>(As of August 31, 2019)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Member Giving/Envelopes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Other income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Transfers pending</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Surplus (or Deficit)</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$14,257.54</strong></td>
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This month’s Closeup features Jan and Gene Bruss who have been members of Christ Church Lutheran for 58 and 53 years respectively.

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

**Jan:** My first husband, Bob, and I moved to Minneapolis in 1961 from Janesville, MN. When we asked the pastor at our church there if he could recommend a church in Minneapolis he said, “Buege’s church!” [Pastor Buege served as senior pastor in the 1950’s and 60’s]

**Gene:** I attended with my uncle, Orv Bruss. After my first wife Kathy and I were married we joined Christ Church. Our children were baptized, confirmed and married at Christ Church. Our spouses’ funerals were held here. And we were married here on August 30, 2014.

**Do you live in the neighborhood?**

**Gene:** Between us, we have three houses! I have a house in the Longfellow neighborhood and a farm near Echo, MN.

**Jan:** I have a house in the Nokomis neighborhood where we spend most of our time.

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

The people, the congregation, the friendship and caring, the compassionate pastors and the new organ! Pastor Farlee and Pastor Seltz are excellent cantors. The traditional liturgy and service are important to us. Sunday services provide the rejuvenation and renewal we need each week.

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

**Gene:** I have been in choir for 45+ years, served as congregation president three times, taught Sunday School, acted as tells, was on the bowling team and attended Couples Club, and I currently attend BASIC (retirees).

**Jan:** I was a congregation secretary, a Sunday School teacher, and an acolyte. I served on the Education Board, the Stewardship Committee, Altar Guild, the Stationery Group, and I attend BASIC with Gene.

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

We share our faith by trying to follow the weekly messages and living what we believe. Our faith has also helped us through many difficult times like Jan’s parents dying in a house fire, Bob’s long struggle with Parkinson’s, and Kathy’s 10-month ordeal with brain cancer.

**What did you do as a career?**

**Gene:** I commuted to my farm in Echo for 28 years until I retired in 2006.

**Jan:** I was an administrative secretary for the Minneapolis Public Schools for 38 years, retiring in 2012.

**What do you do outside of church?**

We both enjoy reading, spending time with our families, watching Hallmark movies, and taking trips to Gene’s farm and to Duluth. We also have “Happy Hour” almost every afternoon.

**Do you have anything else to share?**

Our families!

**Gene:** My daughter Sara and husband Mike have one daughter, Erin. My daughter Anne and husband Dan have a daughter, Megan, and a son, Ryan.

**Jan:** My son Dean and his wife Dodie have a son, Ian, and daughter, Sara. My daughter Lynn is married to Kevin Larson and they are Christ Church members.

“Closeup” is a Courier feature to help us get better acquainted with our fellow members. If you would like to share your story, call Donna Lindberg at 651.552.8499.

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**Stewardship Pancake Breakfast for all - After worship, Sunday, October 13 in the gym**

Come to the kick-off of our annual Stewardship Campaign. Enjoy great pancakes and fellowship. Hear about the ministries and mission of Christ Church and how you can support them through your time and talents and through your financial giving in the coming year. Be inspired by our stewardship theme this year—the Bible verse from Revelation 21:5 that is on the icon in our baptistry: Behold, I make all things new!
News from the Endowment Committee
From Clayton Jelinek, Chair

The term “socially-responsible investing” (SRI) comes up in the news from time to time. I first heard it about a decade ago when college students (and many faculty) around the country began demanding that their schools divest from the fossil fuel industry in an effort to reduce the negative impacts of climate change. For much of the past decade, I equated SRI with this kind of divestment, in which an organization or individual sells off any shares they hold in companies whose actions or business practices do not align with their ethical values. Some criticize this approach, and many college leaders have resisted divestment efforts, claiming it negatively impacts financial returns.

So you can imagine my surprise when I learned that our Christ Church Endowment invests in a socially responsible fashion. It came up in my first meeting with Ted Contag, our advisor from Thrivent Financial, who manages our endowment and other church investments. He explained to me that his office uses an approach called “ESG investing” which uses environmental, social, and governance factors when evaluating investments. As I understand it, ESG investing is similar to socially responsible investing, but instead of prohibiting investment in certain companies, it ranks companies based on their work to improve or avoid corporate issues in the environmental, social and governance categories. Investors then use these rankings as part of their overall strategy. Not only does ESG investing generally produce better financial returns, but these rankings also incentivize companies, like those in the fossil fuel industry, to set higher social responsibility standards and work harder toward achieving them.

Century Society Celebration
November 3 - Save this Date!

Following worship on November 3, when we recognize All Saints’ Day, there will be a celebration of those saints whose generous estate gifts have benefited Christ Church over the years. Hear how these gifts impact our congregation every day through the CCL Endowment and learn how you can join our Century Society by sharing your gift plans with the church.

Hosted by the Endowment Committee

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 mplsimpluse.org.

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

We bid adieu to Phyllis Mattill

On Sunday, October 20, we will say Farewell and God-speed to Phyllis Mattill, and give great thanks for her many years of ministry and leadership in our church’s sacristy and worship. Every Sunday morning, Phyllis has arrived early to prepare the chancel and oversee the work of the sacristy. During worship, in her lovely lace alb, she has served as an acolyte—and also as an assisting minister, lector, and leader of intercessory prayers. She has played an active role in worship planning sessions over the years, too. For 13 years, she has been Pastor Carlson’s “right hand woman” on Sunday mornings—and, since he came 6 years ago, Pastor Haaland’s too.

Phyllis joined Christ Church in 1991 because of the beautiful, liturgical services and excellent music and preaching. She says she will greatly miss Christ Church, but her commute from her home in Hopkins poses big challenges especially in winter weather.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, dear Phyllis!
For the Hope of the Resurrection: Pastor Helge Voigt of Leipzig, Germany

Morrie Wee reflecting on the funeral of Pastor Voigt

In late September, I had the privilege of representing Christ Church at the funeral of Helge Voigt in Leipzig. We arrived 40 minutes early and barely found a seat. The Leipzig Superintendent, Martin Henker, Pastor Michael Günz, another pastor friend of Helge’s, and longtime Sophiengemeinde Pastor (now retired) Schleinitz participated; I was invited to bring a greeting from Christ Church. The church was packed, people standing in every available space, and 150 standing outdoors (the sound was amplified to the outside). After the service, all 500 processed behind the casket and filled the cemetery as the brass played. Then each person took a handful of sand and a handful of flower petals, and threw them on the casket, after which each one greeted the family. A reception followed at the village “castle.”

Inside the church before the service. Flowers! The white arrangement at the head of the casket was given by Christ Church Lutheran.

The congregation’s Posaunenchor brass band (“Posaunen” means “trombones”) played hymns in the cemetery that surrounds the church while people took turns throwing sand and flower petals on the casket. The wooden cross says “Helge Voigt.”

Pastor Carlson took the photo on the left of Helge Voigt at his 25th wedding anniversary celebration, the weekend of June 21-24, earlier this year. The photo on the right is of Helge and Anke with all the greetings and best wishes from Christ Church Lutheran that Pastor Carlson brought over to them.

Sunday School Registration
Thank you to all who have filled out the 2019-2020 Children’s Ministry registration forms already. If you have not yet done this, be in touch with Tyler Egge, children’s ministry director. If your child will be attending Sunday School or other children’s programming this school year, this form must be filled out. This registration includes space for parent contact information, important medical information, a media release and more information that is essential to being as inclusive as possible for all of Christ Church’s children.

Littles & Middles Looking Ahead…
October 13 – Stewardship Breakfast, no Sunday School
October 25 – Children’s Ministry Pizza Party for Pastor Carlson’s Retirement
December 1 – Advent Project during Sunday School
God’s Work, Our Hands

God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday was September 8. In the atrium that morning, we had a family-friendly service project to benefit the Ani-Meals Program through Community Emergency Service which provides pet food for the families that CES serves. Thank you to all the children and families that helped pack many, many pounds of kibbles for this good program. Thank you also to Pastor Erik Haaland who coordinated with CES to make this packing project happen. What other ways have you helped do God’s work in the world with your hands in the last month?

Sing, Pray, Play

On Sunday, September 22, we had a test-run of a new program for Christ Church’s 0- to 3-year-olds called “Sing, Pray, Play.” Nikki and Kent Bodurtha led music to quiet us down and then to send us out, and Tyler Egge read a short Bible story in the middle. After this time, the oldest children went to Godly Play, and the youngest stayed in the nursery to play. We look forward to continuing with “Sing, Pray, Play” in the future, so, parents of young children, be on the lookout for future dates!

Pre-Confirmation 2019-2020: Finding Community at Christ Church

Brand new this year, Christ Church Lutheran’s Pre-Confirmation program kicked off on Sunday, September 29 with a walk over to Peace Coffee for students and teachers to get to know one another a bit better. Taking the lead in teaching this year, along with Pastor Carlson, is Elena Hilding. Elena joined Christ Church in 2018 and has been actively involved in volunteer programs since that time. Elena currently serves on the Mission Committee and helps coordinate Sunday morning fellowship time and the Our Savior’s shelter meals. She has previously worked in youth ministries and is eager to both know and support the children of Christ Church. Elena, Pastor Carlson (until her retirement in November), and Tyler Egge, children’s ministry director, will lead this program.

The theme of Pre-Confirmation this year is “Getting to Know Your Christ Church Community,” and the goal is to help our oldest children become better acquainted with their church community through activities and service. Here are its components:

- Serve as an acolyte, an usher, a greeter, or in other worship roles
- Participate in pre-confirmation programming on scheduled Sunday mornings
- Participate in church service projects
- Come to worship
- Have fun and make friends, with peers and across generations

We are looking forward to all the fun, learning, and community building that is to come with this new program!

Pre-Confirmation Fall Schedule, Sundays

October 13: Help with preparing and serving the Stewardship Breakfast (no Sunday School)

October 20: Card-and-Cookie Decorating for Christ Church’s home-bound members

November 3: All Saints Sunday—Cocoa and Conversation

November 17: To be determined

December 8: Advent Preparations

October Baptism Birthdays

Chloe and Freddie were both baptized in the month of October. Let’s wish them a happy baptism birthday this month!
### October 2019

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<td>Pe. Haaland away until Oct. 10</td>
<td>1pm Staff</td>
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<td>5:30pm Executive</td>
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<td>7pm Council</td>
<td>11am BASIC planning</td>
<td>7pm Choir</td>
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<td>11:05am Kids’ education</td>
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<td>11:15am Stewardship breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30am Worship</td>
<td>7pm Racial Justice</td>
<td>7pm Endowment</td>
<td>7pm Choir</td>
<td>7pm FCCL board</td>
<td>4pm Pizza Party with Pastor Carlson, kids and families</td>
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<td>11:05am Kids’ education</td>
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**Christ Church Community Connections**

On Monday, September 9th, Friends of Christ Church Lutheran board member and Christ Church member Fred Quivik led a tour of two couples from Finland, accompanied by interpreter Reino, a Twin Cities resident. They were joined by Laurel Jacobson’s Finnish-heritage friend Andi, and much Finnish chatter occurred and new friendships were formed. It’s fun to host people from around the world in our historic church!

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On Sunday, September 15th, Laurel & Jeff Jacobson had the privilege of cheering on the Packers as they (limped) to victory over the Vikings. They raised a glass to longtime Christ Church member Darrell Anderson in honor of his shared love of the Packers! Any other fans out there?