Sunday, November 24, A day of celebrations, feats and farewells

November 24 will be a bittersweet Sunday. In worship we will celebrate the feast of Christ the King, the final Sunday in the church year. We will celebrate the 108th anniversary of Christ Church Lutheran as a congregation. We will say farewell to our dear pastor of 13 years, Pastor Kristine Carlson. A brass quintet will play, Bishop Ann Svennungsen will participate in worship, and we will extend a special Christ Church welcome to visiting friends of Pastor Carlson who will be in our midst.

Following the festive worship, all are invited to the gymnasium. We will begin with everyone raising their glass together in a toast. The buffet will include a delicious meal of Norwegian meatballs, salads, potatoes, carrots, rolls, and desserts. The program will honor Pastor Carlson. A receiving line after the program will give you an opportunity to say a final farewell to Pastor Carlson. Look for a letter in the mail with more information including an RSVP for the buffet.

From Robert Farlee: I come to this writing from the perspective of one who has served this congregation for a long time, through two pastorates. Looking back on the ministry of Pastor Carlson among us, the transformation of Christ Church—exactly what we wanted and needed—is amazing. There are many ways to describe how that change came about, but I would use the words connection and identity. “Connection” is, of course, one of her favorite words, and she has put it into action. Look at the children gathered for Sermon on the Steps; the intergenerational nature of our socializing and, yes, partying; the long lines after worship to talk and connect with the pastors and each other; the enthusiastic sharing of the peace. Some of those connections had roots before Pastor Carlson’s arrival, but all of them have been realized during her ministry here, and have led to this being a much stronger, healthier place now than before she came.

And Pastor Carlson has reminded us of, and nurtured, our identity—or rather, our identities. We are, first of all, a Christian congregation—a community of people who gather weekly to worship around word and sacrament, using liturgical forms that connect us with the wider, catholic church. Pastor Carlson has been an eloquent advocate for that worship being at our center, and to my mind, that has been the core of our growth. But there is more. We are identified as a center for the arts: architecture, of course, and also music, visual arts, design, hospitality. All of those have flourished under this pastor’s watch. Nor has social ministry been neglected. We are more engaged with the city’s needs than ever before. But perhaps the identity that we are best known for is as a welcoming place. I have heard that so often, that whatever leads people to visit a first time, they return because of the welcome they received. That is centered in Pastor Carlson’s own extraordinary welcome, but it extends to all the other “welcomers” who have learned from her, and of course it leads back finally to that welcome we are always reminded of, that we are all beloved, baptized children of God.

We have been so very fortunate to have had Kristine Carlson as our pastor for the past 13 years. We would not be who we are today without her. We will miss her amazing preaching, her leadership, her warm connection. (Continued on p. 3)
November Birthdays
11/1 Michael Jefferis
11/4 Peter Merrill
11/7 Rachel Slater
11/7 Viivi Bodurtha, Matt Byers
11/12 Kevin Reuther
11/17 Lucille Buelow
11/26 Bob Anderson
11/27 Samantha Rice, Darrell Anderson
11/28 Gary Skrivseth

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

Pastoral Transition Call Committee 2019
Sarah Brunsvold
Kate Haugen
Kevin Reuther
Luann Skrivseth
Bob Victorin-Vangerud
Hillary Watkins

We hold you in prayer as you do your work.

Helping Hands for November
- Bob Anderson & John Schmidt
- Jason Bergquist
- Sarah Brunsvold & Jeff Weispfennig
- Siri Caltvedt
- Kris & Dave Denton
- Hilary Gebauer & Marc Katz
- Clayton Gebauer & Kim Hulme
- Barb & Ron Johnson
- Jodi McGuire & Aaron Amosson
- Marge Meffert
- Kevin Olsen
- Yi-ru Chen-Sarkanen & Simo Sarkanen
- Bob Victorin-Vangerud

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 and you can contact her through the church office.

Looking Ahead to Advent
- First Sunday in Advent, December 1: An Advent Fair for all after worship! 11:00-12:15 p.m. in the Education Wing.
- Second Sunday in Advent, December 8: Pre-congregation meeting Forum with Council, 11:15-12:15 p.m.
- Third Sunday in Advent, December 15: Congregation Meeting.

Staff
Pastors Pastor Kristine Carlson
Pastor Erik Haaland
Cantors Pastor Robert Farlee
Pastor Martin Seltz
Office Administrator Laurel Jacobson
Children's Minister Director 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

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, 11:05 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Spark! for children ages 7 -10, 11:05 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Pre-Confirmation for young people ages 10 and up 11:05 p.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Educational forum, 11:15 a.m. –12:15 p.m.

We hold you in prayer as you do your work.
Lectionary Readings for November

November 3
First Reading: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:11-23

November 10
First Reading: Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

November 17
First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

November 24
First Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Second Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

Pastoral Acts
Baptisms, October 13
Ava Marie Hegland, Brennan Lee Fritz
Robert John Fritz, Owen Jacob Sieben
Peyton Myra Sieben, Reese Lee Sieben

Wedding, October 19
Dawn Dankers & Michelle Hovey

From the Church Council
Update from the October meeting

Pastor Haaland opened with a devotion on the hope, courage, and joys we experience singing, especially among community. He ended with a prayer of thanksgiving for the victory of Christ’s mercy. Together, we sang “Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord” and “Goodness is stronger than evil” from our Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal.

We received an update on the lead pastor transition. Matthew will facilitate an introductory meeting with an Assistant to the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod so the Church Council and Call Committee (see names on p. 2) can receive a general orientation on the synod’s role in the process to call a new lead pastor. The synod recommends this joint meeting so the church leadership may be generally informed of the call process that awaits us in 2020. After this initial meeting, the Call Committee will conduct its work independently of the Council. All future updates about the call process will be reported directly by the Call Committee.

We reviewed and approved the Executive Committee’s recommendation to elect the same level of Portico health, dental, and retirement benefits for our pastors and staff as the congregation has provided in the past. Over the next month, the Council will work to develop a 2020 budget that will be presented for approval at the December congregation meeting. We received an update and report from the Racial Justice Task Force. They continue to engage the congregation in meaningful dialogue about racial justice issues that affect our church and broader society. We plan to continue these important discussions at our January meeting. We adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Treasurer’s Report
Good news—we are still in good shape! As of September 30, member giving is about $1,500 over budget (thank you!), and our income more than covers expenses. We are dealing with a software glitch, so exact figures aren’t available yet, but the glitch should be fixed soon.

From Kate Haugen: What comes to mind for me is meeting with Kristine in the summer of 2000 prior to our wedding (which she performed, at First Lutheran in Fargo). I was delighted and impressed with her wonderful gift of listening. She did not know me or Carlton well at the time, but, just from that session with her, she crafted and presented the most special and personal homily at our wedding service. And since joining Christ Church, I continue to marvel at her ability to absorb and retain, from listening well, specific and detailed information. I believe this trait—to listen with care and focus—has contributed to her remarkable service to the congregation and the transformation she has helped guide.

From Clayton Jelinek: As pastor, especially in a smaller church like ours, you have to wear a lot of hats. Everyone needs you to fill a slightly different role in their life, whether as a trusted spiritual adviser or a proofreader. Kristine wears all of these hats (as well as some pretty wonderful shoes) marvelously! For me personally, living 1,000+ miles away from my family, Kristine has been a parental figure during a formative time in my life. She was there to provide me much-needed assurance the night before I proposed to my husband, and then gave the most beautiful homily at our wedding. A year ago, Kristine was the first person I turned to for comfort after learning that our attempts at starting a family had failed. It is hard to imagine Christ Church without her. One important lesson I have learned in my short career is that no one is irreplaceable. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for this vibrant and growing congregation! But I challenge anyone to pick up all of those hats Kristine has worn these past 13 years and wear them with as much style and grace as she has. (Not to mention the shoes!)
A very special Courier Closeup with Pastor Kristine Carlson

This month’s Closeup features Pastor Kristine Carlson. Pastor Carlson is retiring after 37 years of ordained ministry, including 13 years of being Lead Pastor of Christ Church Lutheran. Donna Lindberg interviewed Pastor Carlson.

Pastor, you were one of the early women pastors in our Lutheran church. Tell us about your first call. I was ordained on December 12, 1982, in the congregation of my first call: Oak Grove Lutheran in Richfield. I was the first female pastoral candidate they had ever met. The Call Committee and the Senior Pastor interviewed me. And, because it was a brand new thing, the whole congregation interviewed me too! They had many questions for me. Finally, one of the patriarchs of the congregation stood up and said, “It seems to me that the Holy Spirit is calling Kristine to be a pastor. Who are we to stand in the way of the Holy Spirit?” And they voted to call me to be their new assistant pastor. In each subsequent call, I was the first woman pastor in the position to which I was called. My years in ordained ministry have involved a lot of pioneering work—for the congregations I have served, and for me too! I am very grateful for the open hearts and spirits of the people in the congregations I have served who have been so welcoming to this new thing in their midst.

What calls have you had since then? Since my first call, I have served at St. John’s, Northfield; Oak Grove Lutheran School, Fargo; First, Fargo; Christ the King, Bloomington; and, since 2006, dear Christ Church. In addition, I served as an Associate Director of Contextual Education at Luther Seminary and taught preaching classes there. I also wrote Bible Studies and curriculum for Augsburg Fortress Publishing House, and the Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark for the Women of the ELCA in 1988.

Pastor, why did you say “yes” to Christ Church 13 years ago? I first met with the Call Committee here in August 2006. A couple weeks later, at the end of my second interview, one member of the Call Committee said to me, “Pastor, we have died enough. Will you come and help us live?” I was deeply moved by this remarkable question, and felt my whole being say, “Yes!” I really liked the people on the Call Committee—I resonated with their faith and values, their hopes and dreams, their honest and fun spirits; and I thought the church building the most beautiful I had ever seen. I felt the Holy Spirit stirring in me and inspiring me to feel I could make a difference here and use much of myself—my gifts and passions—in the process. I am so glad we said “yes” to each other! I am so grateful that you called me to be your pastor. Thank you, people of Christ Church.

What did you find when you first came here? When I came to Christ Church in 2006, we were a congregation of older people, fewer people, no children, a building needing lots of repair and restoration, $95,000 of red ink in our annual budget, dwindling resources—and all of it needing identity and vision, reinvigoration and hope. I also found tremendously faithful and generous people, a healthy community with gifted leaders, and a kind and good-hearted spirit. Placing a high value on worship at the center of our lives, on warm hospitality, and outreaching relationships, we rolled up our sleeves and got to work.

How do you think our church has grown and changed during your time? During our 13 years together, we have accomplished so much! We are a much younger, wonderfully intergenerational congregation with people ranging in age from our newest newborn—Sophocles Sigurd Zeris—to dear Eleanor Uglum who just celebrated her 99th birthday. Sunday morning in the sanctuary hums with the sounds of children in the pews and in the quiet space and with their eagerness for Sermon on the Steps. At the same time, there is still the loveliness of our liturgical, musical, thoughtful, creative worship. Every week we are delighted by visitors and guests, as we seek to keep widening the circle of Christ Church so that all are truly welcome. We have also accomplished so much with our building! It has been refreshed with new paint throughout, including some rooms that hadn’t been in use for awhile. We installed a new friendly-to-everyone restroom (the infamous Toilet Room) on the main floor. We’ve improved the lighting throughout—making it “greener”; put new roofs on our whole plant; dug up and restored the courtyard; made our buildings more accessible; repaired our elevator; restored the baptismal font; and installed a remarkable new organ. And our finances have moved from red ink to black ink; our Endowment has more than doubled; our stewardship is faithful and generous and growing; and we have had one successful capital campaign after another. Grants for the building that we have received through our partnerships with the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran and Partners for Sacred Places—and some extraordinarily generous gifts from members and from friends of the church—have also been key to all of these accomplishments. As I retire, my heart is full of thanks to you—the people of this amazing congregation, to our partners and friends, and to God for the abundance of blessings we have experienced these years.

What plans do you and your husband have for your retirement? We look forward to a new chapter in this great adventure of life! It will include more visits to our three sons and some travel—particularly to places we love, such as Leipzig, Germany. But we don’t really have a lot of plans yet. I trust it will unfold in wonderful ways!

What will be your relationship with Christ Church after you retire? When I retire, Morrie and I will leave Christ Church and look for another congregation to join. This is important for us in “letting go” of Christ Church, and important for Christ Church in being able to welcome fully the next Lead Pastor. I will be interested in hearing news about you (I will continue to read the Courier with curiosity and joy) and will hold Christ Church in my prayers and in my heart. You have so much to hope for! God’s good future is coming to you full of blessings.

Do you have anything else to share? The call of the Holy Spirit and of the church to the work of ordained ministry has been one of the greatest gifts of my life. I have loved being a pastor! Thank you, Christ Church, for being a wonderful part of my calling!

“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.
A photo retrospective of Pastor Kristine Carlson’s 13-year ministry at Christ Church Lutheran, with her comments

Kicking off the Reaching New Heights Campaign, 2010

A voting member at the 2009 Churchwide Assembly; so proud and happy to go with Kevin Olsen and vote “Yes!”

Preaching at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso University for the Liturgical Institute

Flying with Roger and Liz

Soon after I was installed at Christ Church, 2006

At Holden Village, all dressed up for the July 4th parade

Birthday cake with Jeanne and Phyllis

Celebrating 25 years of ordained ministry, 1982-2007, soon after I came to Christ Church. “Then” and “Then!” So grateful now for 37 years!

Welcoming Sophocles on Sunday, October 27, 2019

Watching the Christ Church children grow is a gift

Painting parties were a fun way to clean & brighten up the church. Dave Kutzbach did a lot of the real work!

The utter joy of Sermon on the Steps each week

I love our children’s drawings
Organ Festival Success

On the afternoon of Sunday, October 6, five locally and globally renowned organists performed at Christ Church to an appreciative crowd. The organists were (l. to r.) Kristina Langlois (Augustana Lutheran, West St. Paul), Marilyn Brattskar (Holmen Church, Oslo, Norway), Christopher Ganza (Cathedral of St. Paul, St. Paul), Mark Sedio (Central Lutheran, Minneapolis), and our own cantor, Robert Farlee. This festival was part of the Christ Church Lutheran Music Series; look for future events.

Book Group November 16th at 10 a.m.

First published in 1952, East of Eden is the work in which John Steinbeck created his most mesmerizing characters and explored his most enduring themes: the mystery of identity, the inexplicability of love, and the murderous consequences of love’s absence. A masterpiece of Steinbeck’s later years, East of Eden is a powerful and vastly ambitious novel that is at once a family saga and a modern retelling of stories from the Book of Genesis.

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

November 3 – Century Society Celebration

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.

November 17 -- A Trip Down Memory Lane: Looking at our 13 years together.

Pastor Carlson will share her memories of her 13 years with us as our Lead Pastor—with photos, stories, laughter and tears. Come for a time of good remembering together!

November 24 -- Retirement Celebration for Pastor Carlson following worship (no forum)

Christ Church Baking Group

We are again planning the annual Christmas Cookie Box Sale, and volunteers are needed! Do you love baking Christmas cookies? Would you like the experience of fellowship and baking with the cooks of our church? We have an opportunity for you! Christ Church Baking Group will be baking Christmas cookies in the kitchen during late November and early December (watch upcoming bulletin announcements for dates). You may bake and donate a batch or two (we can supply a recipe and/or ingredients), or make one of your favorites. Are you more of a cookie eater than baker? Order a $14.00 box of cookies! If you are not an eater or a baker, cookie boxes make great gifts! The money collected will be donated to South Minneapolis Meals on Wheels.

Thank you, vielen dank, for your generous gifts to the Voigt Family Fund. A check for $2400 is going to Leipzig with a friend of the congregation to be hand-delivered to Anke Voigt with our love and prayers.

Helge Voigt memorial funds

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Save the Date!

Chad Winterfeldt organ recital, Jan. 19, 2020, 3:00-4:00pm on the Christ Church organ.

Chad is the Gustavus Adolphus College Cantor of Christ Chapel in Chaplains’ Office and Music, and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Organ and Handbells in Music and Music - Keyboard. Come hear him play the beautiful Dobson organ as part of the Christ Church Music Series.

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November 10 -- Joan Olson

Saying goodbye to someone we love is always difficult but finding ways to acknowledge our grief is easier when we do it in community. Joan Olson will lead us through the bittersweet journey of transition and farewell as Pastor Carlson prepares for her retirement.

Joan Olson retired in 2015 after 12 years as a chaplain working in hospice and palliative care. This was a second career for her, which grew out of her faith questions following the death of her mother in 1987. Joan is also a certified spiritual director and has served as a teacher and supervisor for the spiritual direction formation program at Sacred Ground Center for Spirituality. She is an active member of St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral, serving on the pastoral care team.

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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.

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

Pancakes, Cookies, Cards: A Pre-Confirmation Update from Elena Hilding and Tyler Egge

On Sunday morning, October 13, Pre-Confirmation was able to help the Stewardship Committee with the annual Stewardship breakfast. Fun was had by all as we worked to pour, flip, and serve pancakes. Spotted in the kitchen were a few creatively-shaped pancakes, including Mickey Mouses and caterpillars.

Then, on Sunday, October 20, the Pre-Confirmation kids made cards and decorated cookies. The purpose for making the cards that day was to celebrate and acknowledge the birthday of Eleanor Uglum. Eleanor turned 99 on Sunday, October 27, and is a member of Christ Church. The theme this year for Pre-Confirmation is “Getting to know your Christ Church community,” so we think caring for our elders is a great step. We decorated cookies so we could have gifts and share love with more of our homebound members.

November Baptism Birthdays

Tatum, Eli, and Zander were all baptized in the month of November. Be sure to wish them a happy baptism birthday this month!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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| 3 | 9:30am Worship  
11:05am Kids’ education  
11:15am Forum |
| 4 | 7pm Committees |
| 5 | 7pm Choir  
7pm FCCL Board |
| 6 | 6pm Staff & Council retirement party with Pastor Carlson |
| 7 | 9am Beer Club  
Children’s Ministry Open Gym |
| 8 | 6pm Staff & Council retirement party with Pastor Carlson |
| 9 | 9am Beer Club  
Children’s Ministry Open Gym |
| 10 | 9:30am Worship  
11:05am Kids’ education  
11:15am Forum |
| 11 | 10am Stationery  
1pm Staff Meeting  
6pm Shelter Cooking |
| 12 | 6pm Executive  
7pm Choir |
| 13 | Shelter Meal |
| 14 | 10am Book Group |
| 15 | 10am Book Group |
| 16 | 10am Book Group |
| 17 | 9:30am Worship  
11:05am Kids’ education  
11:15am Forum |
| 18 | 7pm Council  
7pm Racial Justice |
| 19 | 7pm Choir |
| 20 | 7pm Choir |
| 21 | 7pm Choir |
| 22 | 7pm Choir |
| 23 | 7pm Choir |
| 24 | 9:30am Worship  
Farewell Party for Pastor Carlson |
| 25 | 9:30am Worship  
Farewell Party for Pastor Carlson |
| 26 | 9:30am Worship  
Farewell Party for Pastor Carlson |
| 27 | 9:30am Worship  
Farewell Party for Pastor Carlson |
| 28 | 9:30am Worship  
Farewell Party for Pastor Carlson |
| 29 | 9:30am Worship  
Farewell Party for Pastor Carlson |
| 30 | 9:30am Worship  
Farewell Party for Pastor Carlson |

**Christ Church Community Connections**

On Sunday, October 20, the Christ Church congregation bid farewell and Godspeed to long-time member and acolyte, Phyllis Mattill. She will find a church that is nearer to her Hopkins home, but will visit Christ Church from time to time. Heartfelt thanks for your dedication to our worship services, Phyllis!