Welcome to the Light

A Brief Peek into Summer Life at Christ Church

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church Lutheran,
This month’s Courier is shorter than usual, at just four pages, since many ministries are taking a summer break. I hope that you have been able to do the same at some point this season! Finding ways to relax or get away has been challenging during this time of pandemic, and the whole world eagerly awaits a return to some semblance of normalcy in all aspects of life, including how we spend time off.

This summer I have had several conversations with members and friends of Christ Church, who yearn for the time when we can gather again for worship and fellowhip. The leadership and staff are in conversation on how we move into the future, including what the fall might look like. At press time, a statement from church leadership is being drafted, and will be distributed upon its completion. Meanwhile, please keep the crafters of this document in your prayers as they discern best practices and decisions to keep everyone healthy during this time of pandemic. We pray, too, for each other, for our cities, state and nation, and for all our global sisters and brothers.

Grace, peace and health be yours, now and always,
Laurel Jacobson, Christ Church Office Administrator

Face Covering Mandate in Effect at Christ Church

In late July, Governor Tim Walz signed an executive order requiring people in Minnesota to wear a face covering in all public indoor spaces and businesses. Christ Church is following this mandate, and requiring anyone who enters the building to don a mask. This protects everyone! Thank you for your compliance with this mandate.

This sign is posted at all entrances to the church building.

The New Boiler!
This summer’s big project is complete, and Christ Church now houses a beautiful new boiler. A thousand thanks to Property team members Darrell Anderson and Ken Schoenike, in coordination with Congregation President Matthew Courtney, who all gave considerable time to oversee the installation. Well done, good and faithful servants!

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August Birthdays
8/4  Tyler Egge
8/6  Alan Graebner
8/7  Matias Sarkanen
8/10 Fred Quivik
8/11 Bob Davis
8/12 Anna Murphy
8/15 Jan Radloff, Joanne Seltz
8/18 DeAn Lagerquists
8/21 Jeff Adams
8/22 Carmina Stensland
8/23 Dick Thompson
8/24 Frederick Weispfenning
8/27 Bob Swenson
8/29 Luann Skrivseth

Happy Birthday, everyone!

August Calendar

Note: All meetings and gatherings remain virtual
Aug. 1  Knitters & Crocheters
Aug. 2  At-Home Worship
Aug. 4  Committee meetings
Aug. 9  At-Home Worship, Pre-Confirmation & Confirmation Kick-off event
Aug. 13 Executive meeting, Safe House meal
Aug. 16  At-Home Worship
Aug. 18  Council meeting
Aug. 23  At-Home Worship
Aug. 27 FCCL meeting
Aug. 30  At-Home Worship

Lectionary Readings for August

August 2
Ninth Sunday in Pentecost
Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm 145:8-9
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9
Tenth Sunday in Pentecost
1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm 85:8-13
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

August 16
Eleventh Sunday in Pentecost
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:[10-20], 21-28

August 23
Twelfth Sunday in Pentecost
Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

August 23
Thirteenth Sunday in Pentecost
Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28

Call Committee Update

The call committee met in a Zoom meeting on July 13 to discuss our impressions of the candidates’ profiles sent to us by our synod. We will be conducting screening interviews by Zoom throughout the last weeks of July. We believe we have been presented with some very qualified and wonderful women and men and we look forward to meeting each of them remotely. We ask for your continued support and prayers through this exciting time.
We have closed the books on the first half of 2020, and the results reflect the broader reality we find ourselves. We started the year strong, but we are seeing signs of uncertainty in more recent months. Member Giving was well ahead of pace for the first several months of the year; however, in recent months it has been 20-25% below the monthly average. Expenses, too, are also a bit lower than budget; however, we continue to offer worship and pastoral services and we continue with most administrative functions despite limited use of the building. We are fortunate in that the Congregation authorized and we have secured funds from the SBA’s Paycheck Protection Program, and the loan with the Endowment Fund for payroll & utility and the boiler replacement expenses, respectively. These financial arrangements along with your continued, faithful giving provide us flexibility and funding necessary as we navigate through the financial impacts of the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,
Bradford C. Hubert, Treasurer

It’s a book of around 230 pages with 98 illustrations, 59 in color. Tycho came from one of the richest families in northern Europe. His four brothers all fought as knights in armor and commanded royal castles, but Tycho was the rebel. He wanted to be an astronomer instead of a commander. His family was shocked – everybody except his sister Sophie, who joined him and became his partner in far-ranging studies.

He built the first modern observatory in the world. Galileo still hadn’t invented the telescope, so Tycho built giant instruments and observed without magnification with an accuracy of less than the width of his eye pupil. He lived with all the gusto of a Renaissance prince, and he invented basic principles of scientific observation and data processing we’ve been using ever since. No wonder they wanted a book about him. ~ John Robert Christianson, Tycho Brahe and the Measure of the Heavens. “Renaissance Lives.” London: Reaktion Books, 2020. Available on Amazon and in bookstores.

Holy Trinity Donations Update

After the riots and destruction of local businesses, including grocery and retail stores left many people without access to food and supplies, our neighbor Holy Trinity Lutheran Church set up a donation center. Christ Church members and friends have rallied by volunteering time and giving goods as well as money to supply bars of soap in June and diapers in July. Funds collected beyond the cost of the supplies will be sent to Holy Trinity to continue helping with their effort. Thank you for your generosity as we help our neighbors in need!

A Social Justice Prayer

A prayer from Mother Teresa:
O God, we pray for all those in our world who are suffering from injustice: For those who are discriminated against because of their race, color or religion; For those imprisoned for working for the relief of oppression; For those who are hounded for speaking the inconvenient truth; For those tempted to violence as a cry against overwhelming hardship; For those deprived of reasonable health and education; For those suffering from hunger and famine; For those too weak to help themselves and who have no one else to help them; For the unemployed who cry out for work but do not find it. We pray for anyone of our acquaintance who is personally affected by injustice. Forgive us, Lord, if we unwittingly share in the conditions or in a system that perpetuates injustice. Show us how we can serve your children and make your love practical by washing their feet.

John Christianson, Author of Tycho Brahe and the Measure of the Heavens

“Who Was Tycho Brahe?”

John Christianson replies:
The 1500s was the century of the Reformation and Renaissance – an exciting time to be alive. Copernicus, Luther, Leonardo da Vinci, Machiavelli, Queen Elizabeth I, and Shakespeare were all alive. Reaktion Books is publishing a series of short biographies with lots of illustrations to reveal Renaissance lives. They asked me to write a book about Tycho Brahe. Not everybody has heard of him. My job was to tell who he was, why he’s important, and how he fit into the Renaissance.

Treasurer’s Report

We have closed the books on the first half of 2020, and the results reflect the broader reality we find ourselves. We started the year strong, but we are seeing signs of uncertainty in more recent months. Member Giving was well ahead of pace for the first several months of the year; however, in recent months it has been 20-25% below the monthly average. Expenses, too, are also a bit lower than budget; however, we continue to offer worship and pastoral services and we continue with most administrative functions despite limited use of the building. We are fortunate in that the Congregation authorized and we have secured funds from the SBA’s Paycheck Protection Program, and the loan with the Endowment Fund for payroll & utility and the boiler replacement expenses, respectively. These financial arrangements along with your continued, faithful giving provide us flexibility and funding necessary as we navigate through the financial impacts of the pandemic.

Respectfully submitted,
Bradford C. Hubert, Treasurer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christ Church Lutheran Finances - thru Jun 2020</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Budget (6 Months)</th>
<th>Difference</th>
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<td>Member Giving/Envelopes</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Total Income*</td>
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<td>(9,458.38)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses*</td>
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<td>$223,236.50</td>
<td>(12,821.74)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Surplus (or Deficit)</td>
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</tbody>
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* Totals for Income & Expense include transfers/payments due and pending as of June 30, 2020.
This month’s Closeup features the Nooney family: Marcus, Robyn, Tatum, Zander and Eli. They have been members of Christ Church Lutheran for about eight years.

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

We started attending Christ Church while we were expecting our twins Zander and Eli. We had been away from attending church for some time and wanted to start making it a part of our lives again. We started attending services and were drawn first to the warmth and welcoming nature of everybody. We were also touched by Pastor Carlson’s visits to us when Zander had his stay in the hospital after he was born.

Do you live in the neighborhood?

We live in the Longfellow area not too far from the church. This, as it turns out, is very nice as it’s often challenging to get ourselves out of the house and to the church before the services start!

What about our church keeps you coming back?

The people of Christ Church have become our church family and an important part of our lives. The quality of liturgical aspects are also very important to us. The music, the ritual, and shared experiences keep us coming back. The size of the Christ Church community is also nice in that people know each other’s names and really get to know each other.

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

Robyn enjoys baking for various events and can also be found volunteering for Children’s Ministry. Marcus has been involved with Children’s Ministry for some years as part of planning and teaching as well. It’s very fun and rewarding to facilitate discussions with the kids about faith and watch their minds grow.

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

Attending services is a very good way to take the messages home and apply them during the entire week or longer. Particularly with our children, it provides us, as parents, excellent tools to continue these important discussions about living the Christian faith at home and in our community. In these challenging times it’s even more important to do our best to follow and apply these Christian principles in everything we say and do.

What do you do when you’re not in church?

Robyn works as an Autism Consultant for an independent school district, and Marcus provides technical support for aircraft avionics systems. With our three boys, things are fairly busy most of the time! In the summer we enjoy bike rides, swimming, walking by the river, and pretty much anything outdoors. Robyn is a devoted runner and Marcus is a walker now that gyms are restricted. Tatum, Eli and Zander are all in scouts and really like to play Minecraft any opportunity they get!

“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.

Get to Know “Mail Carrier Mary”

Did you know that Christ Church has the best mail carrier anywhere? It’s true! Affectionately named “Mail Carrier Mary” by Laurel, our postal worker goes above and beyond the call of duty by delivering the daily mail directly to the office (these days wearing a mask, of course!). Mary’s special “perk” is that she has a building key so she can access the restroom, which we are happy to provide. She has served the neighborhood for many years and has made friendly acquaintances throughout, and we’ve learned that she keeps an eye on those who are most vulnerable. Her workdays are longer this summer, after the Minnehaha postal station was destroyed in the May riots, but she handles her duties with grace and aplomb. We thank Mary for her exceptional service to our church and the neighborhood!

The “Little & Middle Courier”

Exciting news for our youth (and for our congregation!): on Sunday, August 9, 1:00-3:30 p.m. at Christ Church there will be a kick-off event for Pre-Confirmation and the new Confirmation program! More news to come on fall programming in next month’s Courier.