Children’s Ministry news: Farewell and blessings to Tyler Egge

Welcome to new Interim Children’s Ministry Director Pastor Andrea Roske-Metcalfe

On September 11, 2020, Tyler Egge submitted a heartfelt letter of resignation to Christ Church Lutheran as the children’s ministry program director.

Tyler’s leadership in the CCL children’s ministry program and his engagement with children and families over the past two years has been significant. He has fostered meaningful relationships among children and parents and supported children and families in faith journeys of parenting and growing as God’s beloved children. Tyler has encouraged the participation of all and brought a joyful faith and theology of substance to the children’s education and program. Additionally, the whole congregation has been enriched by the many intergenerational events Tyler helped to coordinate, his weekly fellowship, the musical talents and preaching that he shared.

We are thankful for your leadership, Tyler! God bless you in your discernment and future endeavors!

Christ Church Lutheran Children’s Ministry Transition Plan

The children’s ministry program has a significant role in supporting Christ Church Lutheran’s commitment to accompany parents in their baptismal vows of teaching and raising their children in faith. Covid-19 and the physically distanced reality of our life at this time is significantly impacting on the life of families with children, especially children in the middle school and younger age range. Many parents are stressed by the demands of working at home and supporting online education for their children. It is very difficult to sustain family and volunteer engagement in congregational life and children’s ministry programs.

Now is the time to support and invest in community building among families and children within the life of Christ Church Lutheran. Creating intentional experiences that nurture faith, wonder, and prayer as well as family time for self-care, respite, renewal and play is essential.

The Christ Church Children’s Ministry Committee and Church Council have approved a nine-month transition plan (October 2020 – June 2021) to innovate, explore and reimagine children’s ministry. The plan has three objectives: 1) to renew and build a sense of community, friendship and support among Christ Church families with children, support their belonging in Christ Church Lutheran, and provide Christian education with simple and prayerful practices of spiritual life and faith, 2) build capacity and strength for the children’s ministry to thrive and grow, and 3) design and plan an enhanced children’s ministry program, inclusive of volunteer engagement, training, and staff support.

To support this vision, representatives of the Committee and Council have interviewed and hired ELCA Pastor Andrea Roske-Metcalfe to serve as Christ Church’s part-time Interim Children’s Ministry Director. Ordained 11 years ago, Pastor Andrea has served as Mexico Country Coordinator for the Young Adults in Global Mission Program of the ELCA and as a Parish Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, MN. She brings theological education, pastoral training, parish experience and a deep passion for ministry with young people to quickly engage ministry with families and children, meet current needs, and build an expanded program for the future.

Greetings from Pastor Andrea Roske-Metcalfe

Hello, family of Christ Church Lutheran! My name is Pastor Andrea Roske-Metcalfe, and I am delighted to accept your invitation to serve as Interim Director of Children’s Ministry. Of all the different facets of pastoral work that I’ve been engaged with in the past, ministry with children and families is among my very favorite, and I see this odd season as bursting with possibilities for engaging one another in new and creative ways.

I’m eager to get to know you (and that includes you whether you have small children or not!) and to learn more about the ways God has been at work in and through your congregation. Thank you for this opportunity!

Christ Church Confirmation begins!

On Sunday, September 27, five members of our new confirmation class gathered at Christ Church (in the courtyard and the sanctuary) for our first official confirmation class. It was a joyful thing to be able to do!

Each of the members of the class were presented with Study Bibles as a gift from the congregation.

(continued on page 5)
Christ Church Lutheran
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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

Sunday Worship and Office Hours suspended until further notice
Please call the church office and leave a message if you have a concern

Staff
Pastors
Pastor Eva Jensen
Pastor Erik Haaland
Cantors
Pastor Robert Farlee
Pastor Martin Seltz

Children’s Ministry Director
Pastor Andrea Roske-Metcalfe
Office Administrator
Laurel Jacobson
Facilities Property Team

Courier Team
Laurel Jacobson
Pastor Eva Jensen

Congregation Council
President
Matthew Courtney
Vice President
Kate Haugen
Secretary
Hilary Gebauer
Treasurer
Brad Hubert
Council Members
Elena Hilding
DeAn Lagerquist
Kevin Olsen
Melody Pauling

October Birthdays
10/6 Gene Bruss, Matthew Courtney
10/10 John Schmidt
10/11 Carole Merrill
10/15 Thea Bodurtha
10/16 Kate Haugen
10/19 Photios 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 Ugum
10/30 Tim Hokkanen

October Calendar

Note: All meetings and gatherings remain virtual

Oct. 3 Knitters & Crocheters
Oct. 4 At-Home Worship
Oct. 6 Committee meetings
Oct. 8 Executive meeting
Oct. 10 Boiler room painting
Oct. 11 At-Home Worship, Confirmation
Oct. 17 Book Discussion
Oct. 18 At-Home Worship
Oct. 20 Council meeting
Oct. 22 Friends of CCL meeting
Oct. 25 At-Home Worship, Confirmation
Oct. 27 Racial Justice Task Force meeting

October 4
Eighteenth Sunday in Pentecost
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80: 7-15
Philemon 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 11
Nineteenth Sunday in Pentecost
Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philemon 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 18
Twentieth Sunday in Pentecost
Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 25
Twenty-first Sunday in Pentecost
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

Baptism Birthdays
Freddie was baptized on October 20, and Chloe was baptized on October 28. Happy baptism birthdays to you both! You are God’s beloved children forever.

Lectionary Readings for October

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Online Giving is Easy!

Christ Church Lutheran is well-served by online giving, and if you have questions or concerns about its ease of use or security, rest assured that it is both! To access Vanco, the online giving service that many, perhaps most, churches use, start at the Christ Church website: www.christchurchluth.org

1. Click on “Giving,” then “Stewardship,” then “Donate”

2. Click on “Sign In/Sign Up”

3. Click on “Create your GivePlus account” at the bottom of the page and follow the email and password creation prompts

4. Click on “OK” and then sign in with your email and password

5. Click on the “Give Now” header and choose the fund you will give to (the General Fund is what supports the church operations). Choose your preferred frequency of giving, then enter the amount you would like to give (no period needed), then click “Next”

6. You will have the choice to give by credit card or checking/savings account; Christ Church prefers the bank account as no fees are incurred, which can add up!

7. Click “Next”, then “Donate Now.” You will receive a confirmation number

8. On the top left of the screen, click on the three horizontal bars, which will take you to Logout. Clicking on that won’t close the screen, but logout has occurred.

A new option for giving appears below, as a Q.R. code. Simply hover your phone camera over it, and the giving platform “eservicepayments.com” will appear. Choose your preferred giving, and follow the simple instructions.

Thank you for your generous giving!

Sundays in October

October 4 — Blessing of the Animals
In the ecumenical church calendar, October 4 is the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi. Because of St. Francis’ great love for the earth and all its creatures, there has been a tradition of blessing animals on this day. Here is one benefit of a gathering by Zoom—we can include all of our household pets in the Zoom call that day! We’ll begin with a brief liturgy, blessing the creatures of the world and then offering individual blessings to each of the animals gathered with us that day.

October 11 – “Loving your Political Neighbor: Lessons from Luther for Today,” with Dr. Anthony Bateza
In this momentous election year, St. Olaf College Assistant Professor of Religion Anthony Bateza will offer a forum exploring the Lutheran tradition and how it might help us find faithful ways of engaging the critical social and political issues of our day.

Dr. Bateza earned degrees from Iowa State University (B.S, 2002), Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (M.Div., 2006), and Princeton Theological Seminary (Ph.D., 2017). From the St. Olaf website: “Bateza is a specialist in Martin Luther, moral theology, and Christian ethics. His research examines Luther’s understanding of human agency and his relationship with the virtue tradition. His other scholarly interests include the broader Augustinian tradition, the impact of Luther’s thought on 19th century philosophy, and questions of race, identity, and social justice. Anthony is an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church (ELCA). He lives in Northfield with his wife, Cynthia, and two young children, Austen and Magdalene. In his free time he enjoys cycling, board games, gardening and cooking.”

October 18 – Community Zoom Gathering, TBA

October 25 – “Seeing Gender Diversity in Scripture,” with Austen Hartke
Have you heard Bible verses used against transgender people, and you’re wondering if there might be more to the story? Ever wondered whether there were people who didn’t fit the gender boxes in ancient times? In this session we’ll dig into stories of biblical characters who didn’t fit the mold when it came to gender expression, and talk about how we can better understand our transgender siblings today.


Come listen, come learn!
**Treasurer’s Report**

I’m very happy to report that our Member Giving was very strong in August, and as a result we have closed a significant portion of the gap that was growing over the past few months. Together with some continued cost savings as well as other items budgeted and pending, we are now showing a Net Deficit YTD through August of less than $2400 vs. over $7100 as of July 31. Thanks be to God for your faithful support that sustains our Mission and Ministry with each other and to our wider world - whether we’re in-person or at a distance.

Respectfully submitted,
Bradford C. Hubert, Treasurer

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**Courier Closeup — Pastor Erik Haaland & Daniel Holmgren**

This month’s Closeup features Daniel Holmgren and Pastor Erik Haaland, who have been members of Christ Church Lutheran for nearly 10 years.

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

We first attended Christ Church in 2010 at the invitation of then-Pastor Kristine Carlson. We met her at Holden Village, where we had lived for three years prior to moving to Minneapolis/St. Paul. Sometime after our first visit, Pastor Carlson invited Erik to preach on a Sunday she was on vacation. We started visiting more frequently after that. For a while after moving back from Holden we had been enjoying visiting many different churches where we had friends and connections. But at some point, being church nomads felt like less and less fun, and we decided it was time to “settle down.” We fell in love with Christ Church and decided it was the community we wanted to join. We joined officially on Christ the King Sunday, 2010.

**Do you live in the neighborhood?**

No—but we live relatively close by, in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood of St. Paul.

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

We remember meeting Kevin Olson and Will Stark on one of our first Sundays at Christ Church. We remember sitting behind them during worship, and seeing Will put his arm around Kevin. We thought, “This could be a place for us.” In addition to the warm welcome of the community, it was the music, worship and preaching that made us fall in love with Christ Church. Those things continue to feed us deeply.

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

Erik remembers Gene Bruss asking him to join the Council during coffee hour after the first Sunday he joined. Erik also remembers walking into the sanctuary after the meeting where the people of Christ Church had just called him to be their new associate pastor. After waiting a long, long time, the love and affirmation of Christ Church was such an incredible gift. He was ordained at Christ Church on the festival of Christ the King, 2013.

Daniel has found himself surprised to say “yes” to a number of activities – choir, Nominating Committee, counter, the Racial Justice Task Force, building opener/closer, Altar Guild – one of his gifts is knowing when to say no, but on occasion it’s a joy to say yes.

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

Daniel is an IT Project Manager at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, something he found a surprisingly natural fit with a degree in Piano Performance. When not working, Daniel is a classic movie buff and adores his nieces and nephews.

Erik spends an awful lot of his time at church. :-) But he also enjoys working on projects at home and in the garden, cooking, homemaking, reading, and spending time with our two cats, Søren and Ludivine.

**What can you tell us about yourself that we may not have known?**

We’ve both been members of a volunteer fire brigade. Ha!

“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.
Each of the members of the class were presented with Study Bibles as a gift from the congregation. It is hoped that these Study Bibles can be a good help and companion for many years—in fact, they are the Bibles that our pastors use in their own study.

Teaching during this first year of confirmation will be focused on helping our confirmands get to know our Scriptures and to find in them the Word of God’s love and promise for all creation.

Each of the Bibles were inscribed by Mary Bode with these words:

As you begin confirmation and continue your journey of faith, may this Bible be a good companion along the way. May the Word of God’s unending love abide in you always.

In hope and love,
The people of Christ Church Lutheran

Members of the class include:

Hans Adams
Julia Boser
Anna Edstrom
Henry Edstrom
Isis Faulk
Prince Faulk
Chloé Rice
Carmina Stensland

Pastor Haaland and Elena Hilding are teaching and leading the Confirmation program.

Council Update for September

Melody Pauling shared a reflection from the Luther Seminary devotion “God Pause” by Josef Aalbue, using the words of the hymn Now The Day is Over. In these times, Melody observed that we are encouraged to find shelter in the arms of God, whose love sustains us with hope and peace.

The Council voted to reimburse space rental fees that were pre-paid for use of the church in the spring and early summer but that couldn’t be fulfilled since the church was closed due to COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to renewing these partnerships, including with the Suomi-koulu Finnish School, once it is safe to meet in-person and our buildings re-open.

We received several updates. The Call Committee briefly reported that interviews with lead pastor candidates are underway. We received the Treasurer’s financial update and reviewed pledge data through August. We gave thanks for members’ continued generosity during these uncertain times. The Stewardship Committee is currently planning how best to lead our fall stewardship campaign. More information from this committee will be available later in October.

Children’s Ministry reported that confirmation classes have begun. Additionally, we discussed the open Children’s Ministry Director position, including options to address the fellowship, ministry, and programming needs of children and families. We discussed the possibility of seeking a temporary Children’s Ministry Director who could provide these services while also helping us develop longer-term planning and volunteer capacity. We will continue to share information as our plans and options for children’s ministry develop.

Matthew Courtney, Congregation President

Painting Party!

Check out the beautiful new boilers! Now that they’re installed and ready for the heating season, it’s time to spiff up the space they inhabit. The Property Committee invites volunteers to help celebrate the installation by sprucing up the basement boiler room with a new coat of paint. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping on Saturday, October 10, from 9am-1pm. All are welcome to participate!
**Conversation Invitation: Race & Faith in Recent Film**

This fall the Racial Justice Task Force invites you to a series of conversations about Race and Faith in Recent Film. Leading these conversations will be Dan Geslin, a retired pastor (and long-time friend of Melinda and Fred Quivik) who lives in Longfellow and has been worshipping with us at Christ Church. Thank you, Dan, for offering to lead these conversations about some important and powerful recent films!

Participants will be invited to watch the films on their own and then join together (via Zoom) for conversations on the following evenings: October 1, 15, 29, and November 11 (that’s three Thursdays and a Wednesday) from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

We’d love for participants to plan to join all four sessions, but it’s also possible to join just one or two. Please email Pastor Haaland (ehaaland@christchurchluth.org) to sign up for this series; please also feel free to be in touch with him if you have questions or would like more information.

Here is a list of films (all available via streaming) to be discussed over the course of this series:

**October 1 – Selma (2014)**
Starring David Oyelowo; directed by Ava DuVernay; produced by Oprah Winfrey. Available free on Hulu (with free trial month) or rent on Amazon Prime or Netflix (3.99)

**October 15 – Mudbound (2017)**
Starring Minnesota’s own Garret Hedlund. Black female writer/director Dee Rees won the 2018 Academy Award for Best Writing (Adapted Screenplay). Available on Netflix.

**October 29 – Fruitvale Station (2013)**
Black director Ryan Coogler, actor Michael B Jordan, and the amazing Octavia Spencer bring this true story to life. Won several awards, including the 2014 Independent Spirit Award. Free through Tubi and free month of Hulu.

**November 11 – Moonlight (2016 Oscar for best picture)**

**Call Committee Update**

The Call Committee has completed second interviews and will be meeting in early October to discuss next steps. More exciting news to come!

Call Committee members are Sarah Brunsvold, Kate Haugen, Kevin Reuther, Luann Skrivseth, Bob Victorin-Vangerud and Hillary Watkins

**Next Zoom Book Conversation: Educated, by Tara Westover**

Saturday, October 17 at 10:00am (via Zoom)

A next book has been chosen by the Christ Church Book Discussion Group! Any and all are invited to join a conversation about Educated, the bestselling memoir by Tara Westover. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Haaland at ehaaland@christchurchluth.org for information about the Zoom gathering at 10:00am on Saturday, October 17.

Here is a description from the publisher:

“An unforgettable memoir about a young girl who, kept out of school, leaves her survivalist family and goes on to earn a PhD from Cambridge University. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Her family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara’s older brothers became violent. When another brother got himself into college, Tara decided to try a new kind of life. Her quest for knowledge transformed her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge University. Only then would she wonder if she’d traveled too far, if there was still a way home.”

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Dan Geslin holds degrees from St. Olaf, the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, and the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. He led progressive churches in Minneapolis, Cleveland, Denver and Los Angeles, including anti-racism work. He was program director at Holden Village from 2000—2002, and one of an ecumenical team of five who wrote Feasting on the Word, a six-volume resource of essays, prayers and poetry for use in congregational worship and personal spirituality. He is owned by two whippets who run 35 miles an hour, Pip and Arrow.
Christ Church Cantors Honored: Robert Farlee and Martin Seltz celebrate 40 years of ordained ministry

During morning worship on Sunday, September 13, the virtually assembled people of Christ Church Lutheran celebrated with our cantors, Rev. Robert Buckley Farlee and Rev. Martin A. Seltz, the 40th anniversary of their ordinations to the ministry of word and sacrament.

Bob, Martin, and their families have given much of themselves over those four decades to serve the Christian community and to share the good news of Jesus Christ in Longfellow and nearby neighborhoods. Simultaneously they have served the broader church as editors and publishers at Augsburg Fortress, and through various other engagements in national church organizations.

Martin was ordained on December 30, 1979, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, and with Joanne and family spent nearly 15 years as pastor in a congregation in Livonia, Michigan, a northwest suburb of Detroit. Since 1994 Martin has been in Minneapolis, called to serve in the ELCA’s publishing ministry at Augsburg Fortress, with almost 20 of those years also on staff at Christ Church Lutheran. On the Zoom call, Martin expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve at Christ Church, calling his ministry here a “fruitful, life-giving time God has given me and Joanne.”

Bob and his wife Jane (pastor at Trinity Lutheran Congregation, Minneapolis) were ordained on July 13, 1980 in Saint Louis, Missouri, at Unity Lutheran Church, Bel-Nor. On the Zoom call, Bob said he has always juggled his passions for pastoral ministry and music ministry. He recalled how, as a young seminarian, he asked one of his professors, Mark Bangert, if it was possible to do both. “Yes, you can do both,” replied Dr. Bangert. “You will find a place where that will work for you.” Nearly forty years ago, Bob came to Christ Church and found a place where he could do just that. Bob remembers the great team he made with Pastor Al Neibacher, who was supportive of Bob’s call to do both pastoral and musical ministry. In 2001, Bob was called back to Augsburg Fortress to help lead the preparation of Evangelical Lutheran Worship. The congregation fully supported this, telling Bob, “Yes, go use your gifts in that way, and keep working among us too.”

In 2006, Pastor Kristine Carlson came, and, as Bob said, “What had been a declining congregation became a growing congregation. With her retirement, we now have a future with a new lead pastor. These are strange times with the pandemic and other concerns, but the future for Christ Church is bright.”

Martin and Bob have been friends since their seminary days at Christ Seminary-Seminex, Saint Louis, Missouri, the Lutheran seminary that rose from a tragic schism in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod in the early 1970s.

Christ Church Lutheran has experienced its own share of difficult times, most recently the murder of George Floyd and the strain his death and responses to it have placed on communities and neighborhoods along Lake Street in Minneapolis. Several friends of Christ Church—former members Sally and Josh Messner and colleague Zebulon Highben—honored Bob and Martin’s ordination anniversaries and their decades-long ministries by creating a new hymn for the church called New Creation, Arise. Sally wrote the text and Zeb the music, and they said they offer this work in gratitude for Bob and Martin’s many years of faithful service to Christ’s church and also as a meditation on the distress and hope experienced in recent months so acutely in the neighborhoods around Christ Church.

In introducing the new composition on the Zoom call, Pastor Haaland noted that honoring Bob and Martin’s ministries with a new hymn for the church is so appropriate because it lifts up not only their work and that of the communities they’ve served but also the work of the whole church. This work, Sally noted, includes that of “future generations of church musicians who will benefit from and carry on loving the people into song from the work Bob and Martin have done with hymnals and in composing and translating.”

In his comments, Zeb lifted up the specific role of the people of Christ Church Lutheran in that work: “We knew we were writing this hymn not only for Bob and Martin but for a church that cares about not just music but liturgy and worship and the congregation’s ownership of liturgy and worship.” The dedication at the top of the hymn reads: for the people of Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in honor of their cantors, Rev. Robert Buckley Farlee and Rev. Martin A. Seltz, on the 40th anniversary of their ordinations.

Bob and Martin received word of the gift early on the morning of Sunday, September 13, and were able to listen to it as part of that morning’s worship materials thanks to a recording Sally and Zeb had prepared, which includes a number of voices from members of the Christ Church Lutheran choir.

Marge Meffert, one of the longest-serving choir members (at 59 years!), shared how she came to know this congregation. “Christ Church Lutheran has long been known for good liturgy and music in its worship services. Decades ago, students from Concordia University, Saint Paul would come here for worship. That’s the reason I joined the choir here in 1962.” Marge referred to the “special spirit one feels being a part of something as one group” and noted that, whatever the size of the choir, they are glad to be challenged to sing “music of quality,” compositions that might be difficult to learn but that, with good leadership, they are able to sing well in service to the congregation.

Kris and Dave Denton, two newer members of the choir, shared a heartfelt and beautifully comical appreciation of Bob and Martin’s ministry. Christ Church Lutheran “would not be the same without you,” Dave said. “Your gifts are just a joy to behold each and every week.” Kris and Dave also noted the remarkable chemistry between the cantors and how unusual it is for such talented artists to be able to work so closely for so many years. They presented A Beginner’s Guide to CCL Choir, including some truly fascinating photos from the choir’s storied history.

We offer our gratitude to God for all that Bob and Martin have done to help the people of this congregation and the church around the world live more faithfully as servants of Christ Jesus.

(continued on page 8)
More information on this hymn project can be found at the Elm Ensemble website, [https://elmensemble.org/2020/09/15/new-creation-arise-a-new-hymn-for-the-church/](https://elmensemble.org/2020/09/15/new-creation-arise-a-new-hymn-for-the-church/) where you can also download the music for the hymn. Compositions by Bob Farlee are on that website, too, and you can subscribe to the channel. To listen to the hymn, find it on You Tube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWk7ivdMnfU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWk7ivdMnfU)

You are welcome to share the sheet music and recording of the hymn with others.

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**New Creation, Arise**

*Text: Sally Messner
Music: Zebulon M. Highben

Lake Street New
irregular (9.8.9.8.11.10.10)*

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God lives here dwelling among you beloved, wiping away all the tears from your eyes:

Live now and laugh. New creation, a rise.

God glorified:

Live now and eat. New creation, a rise.

Christ crucified:

Live now and rest. New creation, a rise.

Our neighbor cries:

Live now and love. New creation, a rise.