Words of farewell from interim Lead Pastor Eva Jensen, and a greeting from new Lead Pastor Miriam Samuelson-Roberts

From Pastor Eva Jensen:

Dear people of Christ Church,

I write these words of farewell to you on the one-year anniversary of meeting you on the first Sunday of Advent in 2020.

This is a day that marks beginnings and endings –
+ The beginning of a new liturgical year in the life of the church,
+ The beginning of a year of ministry with you in 2019
+ And, now, the conclusion of a year of ministry together.

What will I carry with me from Christ Church?

Deep joy and gratitude for the journey of faith that we have shared, the way I have come to know you and the relationships we developed. The way I could celebrate my Danish roots and identity, while embracing the struggle for racial justice and social change.

What will I carry with me?

HOSPITALITY AND RELATIONSHIPS: You welcomed me as your Interim Pastor with open hearts, warm self-introductions, and the hospitality of invitations to belong and participate – to enjoy your Advent Boxes of beautiful and tasty Christmas cookies, liturgies of faithful anticipation and hope, joy in the birth of Christ anew – in our lives and in this world. We walked together sharing stories of faith and hope. Conversations were deepened through careful listening to one another, as together we wondered, what is the Spirit of God stirring up in our midst as we seek to faithfully honor this time of transition and rise to new life as God’s people?

WORSHIP: Sunday by Sunday we gathered to encounter God’s presence in Word and sacraments. Beautiful and deeply meaningful worship in the inviting light of the Christ Church sanctuary always created peace in my spirit and deepened faith and hope. Music expanded my hearing of God’s Word and experience of Christ’s presence. Prayers of the people, written by members spoke to my longings and hopes.

(continued on page 3)

From Pastor Miriam Samuelson-Roberts:

Dear friends in Christ,

Happy new (liturgical) year! I am so very grateful to be joining you in our next chapter together in this church season of anticipation. I am praying for you in these weeks before I join you as you say goodbye to Pastor Jensen, prepare for Christ’s birth, and continue to hold all that you are carrying in this strange pandemic time.

I love the season of Advent for many reasons, one of which is that its texts and themes envision a different world than the one we know. As our texts will say in the coming weeks, God’s presence is near in troubling times. God both comforts us and pushes us to make our world more equitable. God can see beyond what we think is humanly possible.

As I have learned about the history and present reality of Christ Church Lutheran, it strikes me that this is something that this congregation has been doing for a very long time—imagining a world that is different. Instead of the frenetic pace that our culture often takes, Christ Church Lutheran has aligned itself with the sacred rhythms of the church year. Instead of a consumer-driven culture, Christ Church Lutheran has invested in deep, authentic relationship. I have learned that this worldview is even integrated into the building, as Pastor Buege and Eliel Saarinen envisioned a sanctuary design that was spiritual and honest even in the midst of a materialistic age.

This year has made especially clear how desperately we need this vision for a new world, one that is equitable, peaceful, and centered in care of neighbor. In the chaos of this year, I pray that you are finding a deep well of peace, even if it only comes in moments and fragments. In the unveiling of racial inequity in our city, I pray that you are finding a renewed push toward learning and action about what it means to take steps forward in our journey toward justice.

(continued on page 3)
December Birthdays
12/2  Ina Ziegler
12/3  Isis Faulk
12/5  Clayton Jelinek
12/8  Jeremy Gustafson
12/14  Nate Perbix
12/15  Cheryl Leuning, Rita Schoenike
12/23  Elena Hilding
12/29  Cathy Sieving, Gary Wahlstrom
12/30  Del Kniebel

Happy Birthday, everyone!

Special Congregation Meeting on December 13
The Council of Christ Church Lutheran will convene a special congregation meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our meeting will be held remotely, via Zoom online with a call-in option. All confirmed members are encouraged to take part in this important meeting.

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Calendar for December through mid-January
Dec. 1 Committees
Dec. 5 Knitters & Crocheters
Dec. 6 At-Home Worship
Dec. 10 Executive Committee
Dec. 13 At-Home Worship, Farewell to Pastor Jensen, Congregation Meeting
Dec. 15 Council
Dec. 20 At-Home Worship, Welcome to Pastor Samuelson-Roberts
Dec. 24 At-Home Christmas Eve Worship, Zoom Merry-Making & Carols!
Dec. 25 Christmas Day
Dec. 27 At-Home Worship
Jan. 2 Knitters & Crocheters
Jan. 3 At-Home Worship, Zoom Epiphany Pageant
Jan. 5 Committees
Jan. 10 At-Home Worship
Jan. 15 Shelter Meal

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Staff
Pastors          Interim Pastor Eva Jensen
                Pastor Miriam Samuelson-Roberts
                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
                DeAne Lagerquist
                Kevin Olsen
                Melody Pauling
                Colin Watkins
Lectionary Readings for December — mid-January

December 6
Second Sunday in Advent
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 13
Third Sunday in Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20
Fourth Sunday in Advent
2 Samuel 7:11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 24
Christmas Eve
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14

December 25
Christmas Day
Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Psalm 65
2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 17:11-19

December 27
First Sunday in Christmas
Isaiah 61:10—62:3
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

January 3, 2021
Second Sunday in Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-19 [10-18]

January 10, 2021
Baptism of Our Lord
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

(Pastor Jensen, continued from page 1)

I will remember children who gathered with enthusiasm to hear the “sermon on the steps” and all who gave of themselves to shape the multiple dimensions of rich worship life at Christ Church. I will carry with me the rich experience of our more contemplative worship and prayer that has sustained us in faith and as community when we were forced to move to physically distanced online worship.

SERVICE AND JUSTICE: You take seriously God’s prophetic call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God; as well as Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor as ourselves. I will carry with me the quality teaching and conversations we shared in Sunday forums, reflecting on critical issues of justice and Christian discipleship. I will carry profound appreciation for each participant in the Racial Justice Task Force and the opportunity to learn more about how we can authentically engage in work to recognize and overcome racism and work for racial justice. I have been renewed in hope by walking with you in the crisis of the summer of 2020 when the suffering and pain of racism poured into the streets following the murder of George Floyd. I will remember your commitments to act – responding to real needs for food and basic goods, joining in prayer vigils and actions of solidarity, creating a designated fund that will make it possible for you to proactively support social change and justice with persons of color.

We have come full circle … to the end of our year together and the beginning of a new year. You now live with hope and expectation as you prepare to welcome Pastor Miriam Samuelson-Roberts as your new Lead Pastor. You are ready and I am confident that God who began a good work in you will bring it to completion.

It has been a joy to walk with you as your interim pastor in this year of transition. Working with exceptional colleagues who love God, worship and Christ Church has been a significant gift of life and faith: Pastor Erik Haaland, Pastor Bob Farlee, Pastor Martin Seltz, and Administrator Laurel Jacobson. You also welcomed me and shared yourselves in this year of life and ministry together. Thank you, people of Christ Church for welcoming me with warm and open hearts, supporting me, and encouraging me throughout this year of living faithfully together. God bless you in the on-going journey.

Manga Tusen Takk,
Pastor Eva Jensen

(Pastor Samuelson-Roberts, continued from page 1)

As the pandemic rages in our state, I pray that you are finding the strength and clarity to navigate the days ahead.

The gift of this vision is, of course, that we are never left on our own to create it, nor are we passive participants in God’s world. We are co-creators of this world with God, bearers of light and love at all times, but especially in this season. As we live into this next chapter together at Christ Church Lutheran, I am excited to see what we co-create together. I look forward to learning about the particular joys of ministry and community in this place, and I look forward with great anticipation to the day when we can physically gather together again, rooted in song and word and God’s abundant welcome at the table. And in the meantime, I trust that these things are present in our midst, giving each of us life as we care for one another and our community.

Pastor Samuelson-Roberts
This month’s Closeup features Pastor Martin Seltz and wife Joanne, who have been members of Christ Church Lutheran for 26 years.

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

We moved to Minneapolis in 1994–1995 from Martin’s call as pastor and Joanne’s call as associate in ministry at Faith Lutheran Church, Livonia, Michigan. Martin accepted a pastoral call to serve on the worship team of the ELCA’s publishing house, Augsburg Fortress. Our son David came along in 1994 to attend Minnehaha Academy and complete his confirmation at Christ Church. Our dear friends Joel and Mary Bode were his baptismal sponsors, and Joel was his confirmation mentor. After Emily finished high school in Livonia the next year, she and Joanne arrived. Christ Church welcomed Martin to share cantor duties in 2001 when Pastor Farlee began a full-time call at Augsburg Fortress. We were drawn to Christ Church by its lively expression of the liturgy we share with Christians everywhere, by gospel-centered preaching and creative music-making, and by the welcoming and passionate heart of its people. Oh, and by the light!

**Do you live in the neighborhood?**

Yes, near the river, a block from Christ Church’s former parsonage. We’ve appreciated being close to both Minnehaha Academy campuses, about two miles from church, and midway between the airport and downtown.

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

We can count on God’s word and sacraments being shared abundantly every week within a caring and mission-focused community. A gift for Martin is involvement in the congregation’s ministry in ways that complement his full-time call. With a heart for tending our church home, Joanne has enjoyed projects that make our landmark buildings shine. Throwing parties and making hospitality happen are joys for her too and we look forward to resuming them when it’s safe.

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

Joanne has coordinated many Christ Church weddings — with too many good stories to share here! We think fondly of choir Christmas parties featuring the singing of a broken “Hallelujah Chorus” and “All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray.”

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

Now retired, Joanne has spent many summers in Portland, OR, hosting “Nana Camp” for our grandsons Will and Henry, and she recently took up pandemic bread-baking. Most mornings Martin is out on the River Road trail enjoying its beauty.

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

Joanne coordinated the famed Minnehaha Academy Arena Sale for twenty years. We’ve enjoyed overseas travel, and one highlight was a 2002 trip to South Africa, where David spent a semester abroad.

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

We treasure our CCL family, with whom we’ve shared joys and tears, worship and song, faith and questions, service and fun. Thanks be to God for the togetherness we feel even in our current near-isolation!

“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.

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**Stationery Group**

Christmas cards are available and we have several brand new designs! Some of our holiday cards are definitely Christmas-y (like our new Nativity design). Others feature our general designs crafted with Christmas colors. Remember, our cards are available for purchase throughout the year and we have developed a no-contact pickup/delivery system. Contact Stephanie Gustafson at 612-724-6206 or email: stephsaddress@att.net.

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**Congratulations, Ina Ziegler!**

Christ Church member Ina Ziegler has been selected for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Short Term Program to Vietnam! Ina is one of 12 U.S. citizens who will travel to 6 countries around the world in 2021 on the program. Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as record of service and demonstrated leadership potential. Ina is a teacher of English as a Second Language (Literacy and Language Arts) at Roosevelt High School in south Minneapolis, as well as an instructional coach. Many congratulations to you, Ina, for this monumental award! May God bless your work in Vietnam.
Treasurer’s Update

Through October 2020:

Our financial position through October 2020 remains good, and we are truly grateful for your continued, faithful support that allows us to not only maintain but even enhance our mission and ministry; even in these uncertain times. Our overall actual income vs. expenses shows a deficit YTD of approximately $6200 representing an improvement of $3000 from last month’s YTD total. We will continue to look for savings where we can, and coupled with your continued support we are hopeful to have a strong finish this year.

Thank you and I hope you had a happy Thanksgiving!

Respectfully submitted,

Bradford C. Hubert, Treasurer

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Christ Church Lutheran Finances - thru Oct 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(YTD thru October 2020)</td>
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* Totals for Income & Expense include transfers/payments due and pending as of October 31, 2020

December Forum Schedule

December 6 (Second Sunday of Advent) – Council-led Forum
The Christ Church Council will offer this forum, which will include announcements, details, and discussion to prepare for the upcoming congregation meeting.

December 13 (Third Sunday of Advent) – Congregation Meeting
At this December meeting the congregation will consider a proposed budget for 2021 as well as elect new Congregational Officers and at-large Council members. During this meeting we will also say thank you and farewell to Pastor Eva Jensen, who will, following this Sunday, step back in her role as Interim Lead Pastor as we prepare to welcome our next Lead Pastor.

December 20 – (Fourth Sunday of Advent) – Welcoming our New Pastor
We will welcome Pastor Miriam Samuelson-Roberts as our new Lead Pastor! She will be our preacher at this morning’s recorded worship service, and this day’s Zoom gathering will be dedicated to welcoming her to Christ Church and getting to know her and her family. Join this significant day in the life of Christ Church Lutheran as we welcome our new Pastor!

December 24 – (Christmas Eve) – Congregational Making-Merry Hour, with Carols! At 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve all are invited to a congregational Zoom gathering to usher in Christmas together, with merry-making and carols! We’ll share beloved music, light candles and enjoy each other’s company. Worship at Home materials will allow you to hold Christmas worship whenever it works best for you, but we do hope that many will join this live gathering so we can experience together the warmth and joy of community as the holy days of Christmas begin.

December 27 – (First Sunday of Christmas) – No Congregational Zoom gathering today. One Room Zoom Sunday School will also not meet today.

January 3 – (Epiphany Sunday) – An Intergenerational Zoom Epiphany Pageant. This Sunday our Zoom gathering will be dedicated to our first-ever virtual, intergenerational Epiphany Pageant! You might be wondering how this will work, and so are we! But expect this morning’s Zoom gathering to be fun and full of joy as we enter, once again, into the tenderness and grace of the Christmas Story.

We extend much gratitude to Christ Church member Matthew Kunnari for creating these gorgeous planter arrangements that adorn the entrance to the church. Thank you, Matthew!
**A Columbarium for Christ Church**

As mentioned in the November Council meeting report in this issue, work has resumed on assessing the viability and conducting initial planning for a columbarium at Christ Church. A columbarium is a respectful and permanent location for the placement of the cremated remains of one who has died.

Burial of the dead within or near a church building has deep roots. From the catacombs of the earliest Christian communities to country churchyards in America, the living saints in worship have often been surrounded by the faithful departed. More recently, congregations are incorporating columbaria and memorial gardens in their settings. The connection of a worshiping congregation with the church of every age is reinforced by such a place of rest and remembrance.

Interest has been expressed in a columbarium at CCL for several decades. In 2016 our Council authorized a study to explore this possibility. A space use task force has continued the study since then, including exploring some design possibilities. This group is recommending an area in the lower level of the sanctuary as the best location for a space that could be flexible enough to house a columbarium, for a group to gather in worship, and to provide for individual meditation.

As the study resumes and a proposal is being prepared for the congregation, the task force asks everyone to consider end-of-life planning for themselves and their loved ones. Could you envision such a columbarium being part of your plans? One of the pastors would be happy to schedule a phone conversation to discuss this possibility with you.

In the meantime, watch for more information as the planning continues!

**Zoom Book Group Discussion**

*Emma* by Jane Austen

Saturday, December 12 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 *Emma*, one of Jane Austen’s most loved novels. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Haaland at ehaaland@christchurchluth.org to receive a link to the Zoom gathering.

**Council Report for November**

DeAne Lagerquist shared reflections on Psalm 90, which invites us to seek understanding through the trials in our lives. The Psalm’s final response reminds us that every morning is filled with God’s faithful love.

Pat Baehler and Bob Davis provided a report from the Space Use Task Force, which has been at work over the last few years to assess the viability and conduct initial planning for a columbarium. This work has been shared in the congregation’s last few annual reports, and the lower level of the sanctuary building has been identified as the most suitable location. Before COVID-19 impacted our in-person life together, the task force had plans of broader engagement with the congregation throughout 2020 to communicate its work and to gauge members’ overall support and interest for a columbarium. The task force envisions renewed communication and engagement efforts in 2021.

We briefly recapped the Special Congregation Meeting on November 15 to consider calling Reverend Miriam Samuels-Roberts. The Council expressed gratitude to the Call Committee for its work to identify and recommend its Lead Pastor candidate. And we remain appreciative for the Congregation’s robust engagement and participation throughout the year-long call process, culminating in the virtual congregation meeting, with 95 voting members attending.

The COVID-19 task force, co-chaired by Kate Haugen and Pat Baehler, will be convening its first meeting in December. The task force is intended to provide guidance on how and when we might safely re-open during this time of COVID-19. It will also provide ongoing guidance in response to state and federal public health requirements.

The Council approved the use of a membership data management system, called Breeze, to provide administration support and member coordination. Breeze has the capacity for individual members to manage their own profiles online, which can serve as an online directory and more easily enable our pastors and the office to coordinate volunteers and communications. More information will be shared as this new tool becomes available. We received financial and pastoral reports. Our regular December Congregation meeting is planned for December 20, when the congregation will receive the Council’s recommended 2021 budget and vote on Council nominations.

**Baptism Birthday**

Happy baptism birthday to Isis, who was baptized in December. Isis, you are God’s beloved child forever! If you would like to be added to the baptism birthday list, please contact Pastor Andrea at childrensministry@christchurchluth.org.
Confirmation Crew update

We have been blessed this month with unseasonably warm weather, especially on Sundays. So, the confirmation class was able to have two more classes in the courtyard. November 22nd was our last in person gathering for awhile due to surging cases of COVID-19. We will continue with remote learning through the winter months.

Thank you to the “CCL Blanket Brigade:” Kris Denton, Ann and Bob Davis, Rita Schoeneke and Pastor Jensen, who made beautiful blankets for each Confirmation student. It was very special to send each child off on Sunday, with a “Covid Hug” from the congregation and a physical reminder that they are always held in God’s warm embrace.

Peace to you all.

~Elena Hilding and Pastor Haaland

Children’s Ministry update

November was a month of firsts for children’s ministry at CCL. We held our first-ever sessions of the One Room Zoom House Sunday School, for children from birth through 5th grade and their parents. I think we were all a little nervous at first, not knowing what to expect, and we’re figuring out tips and tricks for what works best, but so far so great! We’ve also introduced Flat Jesus (a spin-off from Flat Stanley, for those of you who might remember him). Each kid at CCL (along with several of the grown-ups) has their very own Flat Jesus to accompany them in their day-to-day work and play. Our plan is to share photos with all of you – here in the Courier, during Zoom forums, and on social media – to help the congregation feel more connected to the kids and their families during this time apart.

For Advent, each family has received a box of materials for our time together on Sunday mornings, including the book Faithful Families for Advent & Christmas by the Rev. Traci Smith and other items to support different activities outlined in the book. The cost of these materials is not covered by the children’s ministry budget, and each box costs $25 to put together. If you’d like to sponsor a box (or 2 or 3!), please consider making a special donation to the church online or by check, with the note “Advent Family Box.”

Additionally, I’m looking to curate a lending library for the children of CCL, with books both faith-based and secular, about a wide range of topics. If you’d like to purchase one or more books for the CCL kids for Christmas, you can do so by logging into our account at Moon Palace Books. Simply go to www.moonpalacebooks.com, log in with the address childrensministry@christchurchluth.org, and use the password CCLKids. Then look for the checklist next to the shopping cart. Choose your books from the list, and at checkout select “store pick-up.” Then when your books are ready, I’ll get notified to go and get them!

I’m grateful for the support for children’s ministry that comes from this entire congregation, and for the privilege it is to partner with all of you in this work.

~Advent blessings from Pastor Andrea
Words of thanks to Pastor Eva Jensen for her ministry at Christ Church

Dear Pastor Jensen,

I remember when some of us first met you; it was during a conversation in the Luther Lounge last November. The Synod had recommended that you serve as our Interim Lead Pastor, and some of us were called together for a conversation with you. After that conversation, I remember a comment made by one of our executive committee members. Just after you left that night, she said, “Well, there’s an ego that doesn’t take up all the space in the room.” She intended it—and it was heard!—as a deep compliment.

Indeed, you are a leader who doesn’t need to take up all the space in the room—who is generous in calling out other people’s gifts, who is eager to bring others to the table. In your quiet, strong, and deliberate way, you embody ministry that is all about sharing: shared leadership, shared vision, and the shared wisdom that emerges from the whole, the Body of Christ.

For me it’s been a wonderful gift to be able to share ministry with you this past year at Christ Church Lutheran. While none of us could have imagined what 2020 would bring—for our nation, our neighborhood, or our church community—it has been an incredible gift to have your leadership and collegiality through it all. You have lead us in such generous, open-hearted ways, and we have all been transformed by your time among us.

With deep gratitude,

Pastor Erik Haaland

Pastor Jensen has been a wonderful gift to our congregation. Her calm, steady, kind and thoughtful nature has helped guide us through an unusual and uncharted year of transitions. The many talents she shared with us have been an asset as she navigated the challenges of not just being an interim pastor but also the unexpected demands of virtual worship. Her leadership is open and inclusive, and I value her compassion and reflective insight.

Many thanks and blessings to you, Pastor Jensen. Your presence with us is treasured. Please don’t be a stranger!!

Kate Haugen, Vice President of the Congregation

For the past year I have been honored and delighted to work closely with Pastor Jensen, and what a year it’s been! I have so greatly admired her calm wisdom as we staffers have negotiated the murky waters of all the changes that the pandemic has wrought, and it has been beautiful to witness how her leadership has been our rudder. It is bittersweet to see her go, wherever God calls her, but I am so grateful that Pastor Jensen has been our interim pastor, and has also become my friend. Godspeed!

Laurel Jacobson, Christ Church Office Administrator

Our time with Pastor Jensen was certainly unusual and impacted by the pandemic, but I am grateful for her presence - in worship, in meetings and the few in-person interactions. Pastor Jensen has provided a consistency of kindness and calm, always reminding us that God is certainly with us on this journey. Thank you, Pastor Jensen!

Brad Hubert, Treasurer

In December of 2019, when Pastor Jensen first came to Christ Church, I noticed her kindness and strength. Some of the first words she shared with us were ones complimenting the ministry of our dear Pastor Carlson. What a gracious way to begin her ministry at CCL. It was a good forecast of the kind of care she would offer us. Later, that first Sunday, she joined the mission committee and other members on a walk for peace, La Posada, to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. It was an impressive example of strength and leadership because it was only 3 degrees that day! It was another positive sign that she would be a wonderful interim pastor. None of us knew in December 2019 how much strength and kindness would be needed for the upcoming year of turmoil, 2020. Through a global pandemic and separation, Pastor Jensen has diligently preached the Gospel of hope. After the murder of George Floyd and during the time of fear and unrest in our neighborhood, Pastor Jensen preached about our call to love our neighbors and strive for social justice. Because of her faithful service, CCL has become stronger even though we are physically separated. The work of our congregation has been greatly enhanced by Pastor Jensen’s ministry. Many thanks to you, dear Pastor Jensen!

Peace to you,

Elena Hilding, Council Member-at-Large

A prayer of Farewell and Godspeed (ELW):

Eternal God, we thank you for Pastor Eva Jensen and for our life together in this congregation and community. As she has been a blessing to us, so now send her forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.