

Welcome to the Light

APRIL 2010

VOLUME 53, No. 4

Worship Services

9:30 a.m. each Sunday,
including Easter Day, 4/4

Education

An education hour for all
ages follows at 11:00 a.m.

Holy Week Evening Worship Services

Thursday, 4/1, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, 4/2, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 4/3, 8:30 p.m.

Life Together

by Pastor Kristine Carlson

I want to look back with you and then I want to look ahead. First, let's look back to the wonderful day at Christ Church Lutheran on March 7. Nearly 300 people came to worship as we celebrated a "Service of Peace" on the third Sunday in Lent. The occasion prompting our celebration was the visit of President Martti Ahtisaari, former president of Finland and the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. He was the keynote speaker at the annual Peace Prize Forum, sponsored by five Norwegian-American ELCA colleges, including Augsburg College—where he spoke. That Sunday, he and his entourage worshiped at Christ Church. Our worship included a focus on peace; congregational singing of some Finnish hymns; the beautiful voices of the Finnish women's group, Saana Ensemble; a lovely clarinet solo by Osmo Vänskä, director of the Minnesota Orchestra; and our own choir singing a beautiful "Lamb of God" in Finnish! It was a day of welcoming many new people to our church. I heard over and over again gratitude for our warm welcome and inspiring worship (one of the ambassadors who accompanied President Ahtisaari told me how "lively and engaged" our worship was compared to her church in Finland). I thank everyone who worked hard for our worship that day.

After worship, everyone gathered in the gymnasium for a reception—with pretty Marimekko fabrics on the walls and tables and delicious Finnish food—and a chance to greet the president. A program followed with speakers telling about the work of peace in our community. One highlight was to hear the children from Suomi-koulu, the Finnish language school that meets in our church on Saturday mornings, sing "Blowin' in the Wind" in Finnish. Another highlight was the very informative question and answer (Q&A) session about world peace, led by President Ahtisaari. Yet another highlight was the president's reaction when I pinned a Christ Church Lutheran pin on his lapel: he whipped out his wallet and paid me for it in U.S. cash—to my embarrassment and delight! I have his dollar bill mounted in my office now if you want to stop by to see it!

We were blessed by the presence of President Ahtisaari, a remarkable world peace leader. We are grateful to the people in the Finnish community who helped make his visit possible, especially Marianne Wargelin, Honorary Finnish Consul.


Now we are looking ahead to the Three Days (the Triduum) of Holy Week, which is really one long worship service—we just take breaks from worship in order to work and sleep! I encourage you to come to as much of our worship as you can. Invite friends, neighbors and family. The worship on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Saturday's Vigil of Easter takes us to the deepest place of faith—the humble self-giving of Christ, his suffering and death on the cross, and his resurrection. Then come to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter day. As we contend with all that is death in our lives, the life and death and resurrection of Christ are our hope, what makes all the difference for us.

Come to these profound and wonderful worship experiences.

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Contacts and Information

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	Phone: 612.721.6611 E-mail: mail@christchurchluth.org	
	Fax: 612.728.0552 Web: http://christchurchluth.org	
	Office Hours	
	8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday–Friday	
	Worship	
	9:30 a.m. each Sunday Education hour for all ages follows at 11:00 a.m.	
	Contacts	
	Pastor:	Pastor Kristine Carlson
	Music:	Pastor Robert Buckley Farlee Pastor Martin Seltz
Vicar:	Gretchen Pierskalla	
Youth:	Luann Skrivseth	
Office:	Stephanie Okoneski	
Preschool:	Stephanie Gustafson	
Facilities:	Chuck Merrell	
Courier:	Lynn Larson	
Officers		
President:	Gene Bruss	
Vice President:	Kevin Olsen	
Secretary:	Jan Radloff	
Treasurer:	Melody Pauling	
Council		
Elders:	<i>To be determined</i>	
Mission:	Dan Mueller	
Property:	Gary Gustafson	
Stewardship:	<i>Open</i>	
Worship:	Yi-Ru Chen-Sarkanen	
Education:	Rita Schoenike	
Elders' Board		
Ute Swenson, Bob Swenson and Paul Hanson		

Announcements

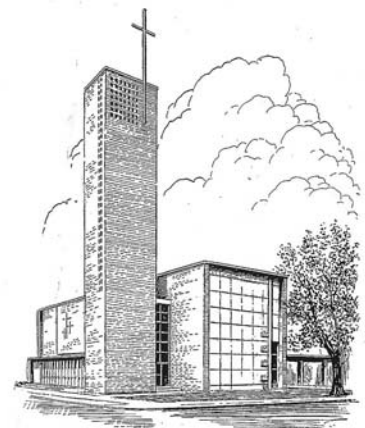
Plant Sale Ending Soon

Sunday, April 11, is the last day to order plants. Visit the sale table after worship (between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.).



Early *Courier* Deadline

The submission deadline for the May edition of the *Courier* is **April 10** (earlier than the usual 15th of the month), as the editor will be out of town 4/15–4/21. Please submit content to the church office or to Jan Radloff at: jan.radloff@mpls.k12.mn.us.



Vicar's View

by Vicar Gretchen Pierskalla

Christ Church confirmation students previously visited the Lutheran Social Service (LSS) Safe House to learn about youth homelessness. Their experience during that visit sparked the idea for the "blanket project."

Since then, the youth and Sunday school kids and the whole congregation have participated in making blankets. In addition, the youth and adults from the Longfellow Lutheran Parish assembled a blanket at a recent youth event.

On Thursday, March 8, Dan Mueller and I dropped off nine fleece blankets at Safe House. The blankets were a much welcomed gift. The staff commented on the beautiful colors and variety of blankets they were sure the residents would enjoy. Dan and I had not even left the parking lot yet when staff carried these blankets to distribute them to the Safe House residents.

Thank you to all who participated up close and behind the scenes in the blanket project. Thanks to you who helped tie the blankets. Thanks to you who donated fabric. Thanks to you who held the blanket project and our youth and Safe House in your prayers. Thanks also to the youth and adults of the Longfellow Lutheran Parish for their contributions. Thanks to you who are moved by compassion to do such a lovely and practical thing. God's work. Our hands.

Readings and Psalms

(for Holy Week worship services)

Date: **April 1** – *Maundy Thursday*

First Lesson: Exod 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14

Psalm: 116:1-2, 12-19

Second Lesson: 1 Cor 11:23-26

Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Date: **April 2** – *Good Friday*

First Lesson: Isa 52:13—53:12

Psalm: 22

Second Lesson: Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9*

Gospel: John 18:1—19:42

Date: **April 3** – *Easter Vigil*

(For the complete list of readings, contact the church office.)

Second Lesson: Rom 6:3-11

Gospel: John 20:1-18

Readings and Psalms

(for Sunday worship services)

Date: **April 4** – *Easter Day*

First Lesson: Acts 10:34-43 or
Isa 65:17-25*

Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Lesson: 1 Cor 15:19-26 or
Acts 10:34-43*

Gospel: Luke 24:1-12 or John 20:1-18*

Date: **April 11**

First Lesson: Acts 5:27-32

Psalm: 118:14-29 or Psalm 150*

Second Lesson: Rev 1:4-8

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Date: **April 18**

First Lesson: Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

Psalm: 30

Second Lesson: Rev 5:11-14

Gospel: John 21:1-19

Date: **April 25**

First Lesson: Acts 9:36-43

Psalm: 23

Second Lesson: Rev 7:9-17

Gospel: John 10:22-30

Date: **May 2**

First Lesson: Acts 11:1-18

Psalm: 148

Second Lesson: Rev 21:1-6

Gospel: John 13:31-35



*Check with the church office regarding which reading will be used.

Parish News

Results of Winter Fundraisers

The senior youth group collected \$382.08 for the "Souper Bowl" and they earned \$269.39 at the pancake breakfast.

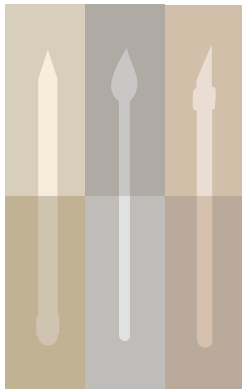
Retirees

We look forward resuming our meetings, gathering on Wednesday, April 28, at 11:00 a.m. to hear Pastor Carlson talk about her trip to the Holy Land. A potluck lunch will follow. Everyone is welcome!

– Bill and Phyllis Dunstone

Explore the Arts Event for Members and Neighbors

Mark your calendar for Saturday morning, April 24! The Transformational Ministry Team and Mission Committee invite you to attend an *Explore the Arts* event at Christ Church. Professional artists, Marko Fields and Cate Vermeland, from Concordia University, St. Paul, will lead classes in basic drawing skills and mosaic tile art. We also hope to add a third session in beginning dance. This event is free and open to both children and adults. Watch for registration information that will be distributed in early April to Christ Church members and members of the wider community.



Happy Birthday to You!

If you are not listed here, or, if your birth date is incorrect, please contact the church office.

- 4/1 Nancy Hokkanen
- 4/2 Len Johnson
- 4/9 Kayla Parkos
- 4/10 Simo Sarkanen
- 4/12 Elizabeth Bryan
- 4/14 Terry Rong, Elaine Pilon
- 4/19 Liz Gomoll, Max Wiperman
- 4/20 Pr. Carlson, David Seltz
- 4/22 Lynn Larson
- 4/23 Donna Peterson
- 4/25 Emily Schuett
- 4/26 Jeanne Anderson, Rebecca Dodd, Dan Mueller
- 4/27 Kylie Larson
- 4/29 Phyllis Dunstone, Brittany Sampson

Adult Forum Schedule

When: Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
All are welcome to come and grow in faith and life.

April 4 – Come to worship the Resurrection of Our Lord and enjoy a special coffee and fellowship. No forum.

April 11 – Vicar Gretchen Pierskalla and her husband, John, will speak about "Recreation: Seeing Wonder In A Dog-Sledding Trip." They will show photos from their trip, discussing the renewal that comes from creation.

April 18 – A congregational meeting will include an update on—and a vote for accepting—the Save America's Treasures (SAT) Grant. Updates will be given on other congregational matters, too.

April 25 – Dr. Sarah Henrich, a highly respected scholar and New Testament professor at Luther Seminary, will begin a three-part series on The Book of Acts. She will share very interesting and vital perspectives on the early church and church in our own time. Her presence with us is made possible by a special gift from Juanita Burke. (She will also be with us on 5/9 and 5/16.)

Looking ahead to May 2, Pastor Carlson will speak about her trip to the Holy Land.

Preschool News

by Stephanie Gustafson

Registration is now open for the:

- 2010/2011 school year
- preschool summer program

Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs.

The 2010 igloo project is history. It took 30 seconds to bring it down and 30 minutes to stomp all 466 bottles flat for recycling.

The annual "chickie unit" has already begun!

For more information, contact Stephanie Gustafson or the church office.

Thank You Note

Thank you to Rachel Mann and the Mission Committee and Communication Committee for the new visitor cards in our pew racks. The information attained from these cards will help us make the connections that we are seeking.

Helping Hands

The complete schedule for the year is posted in the Concordia room. The coordinators are Phyllis Dunstone and Juanita Burke.

March and April 2010

John & Virginia Buegel	Barb Revsbeck
Bob Farlee	Kathy & Terry Rong
Carol Flanders	Larry & Marni Schmidt
Clyde Hanson	and family
Roger & Elizabeth Gomoll	Rita & Ken Schoenike
Lynn Larson	Cathy Sieving
Kay & Greg Madson	Don & Marvel Walmann

Youth Corner

by Luann Skrivseth

Senior Youth Group (8th grade and up)

Comedy Sportz Improv

When: Friday, April 16, 7:00 p.m. at church

- Tickets are \$12.

Planning Meeting for Summer Trip

When: Sunday, April 11, during Sunday school

- Bring your calendar and your parents.

Spring Plant Sale Fundraiser: Key Dates

- Sunday, April 11, 10:30–11:00 a.m., is the last day of our sale table.
- Saturday, May 15, from 10:00 a.m. until the work is complete, is plant delivery and order set-up.
- Sunday, May 16, 9:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. is the distribution of plants.

Junior Youth Group

Swimming at Tropics Indoor Water Park

When: Sunday, April 18, 12:00 p.m.

Bring your swimsuit, towel, a bag lunch and \$6.00. Scholarship money is available. Bring a friend! Just call and let me know, so that I can count them in.

Thank You Note

Due to your generous contributions, the senior youth group collected \$382.08 on Souper Bowl Sunday. It will be donated to the Minneapolis Minnehaha Area Pantry. Our Lenten pancake breakfast was a big success! We had a great time flipping cakes and sausages and especially enjoyed Bob Farlee's birthday cake. (Thanks, Mary Lou Peters.) Your donations to the youth program totaled \$269.39. Thank you!

Luann Skrivseth

Summary of Council Meeting Minutes from February 9

Respectfully submitted by Jan Radloff, council secretary

Education: Sunday school attendance has been low. The coffee cart will be relocated, so that the youth bulletin board is not covered on Sunday mornings. Luann sent out individual letters due to lack of space in new Courier format.

Communications Committee: Seventy-five people are receiving the Courier online; thanked Lynn Larson for her work on creating the new Courier format. The committee is working on a brochure to hand visitors at the door.

Mission: Exploring electronic communication/connecting with Communications Committee.

Elders: Need an Elders board representative on the council.

Save America's Treasures Grant: Friends of CCL planned to meet February 10 to discuss a recommendation to the council. There is funding in the grant for a grant administrator. Motion: The council recommends to the congregation that we accept the grant and recommends contracting with a grant administrator. Timeline: Grant begins February 1, 2010, and ends February 28, 2012.

Treasurer Position: Melody Pauling has agreed to serve as acting treasurer.

Treasurer's Report: All information from last year was entered into QuickBooks by Mark Williams. Some bills that should have been paid in December may have been paid in January, which may make the budget look better than it is. The actual deficit was approximately \$40,000—not the predicted \$60,000. The investment portfolio had a recovery of \$50,000. Kevin Olsen reported that fourth quarter 2009 envelope giving was at an historical high.

Council Retreat on February 21: Topics to be included: 100th anniversary celebration, tower fund, identity work, future planning, looking ahead to 2011 and our goal for a balanced budget. Retreat task force: Mary Bode, Kay Madsen, Kevin Olsen and Pastor Carlson.

Organ Offer: St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cleveland, Ohio, has asked the Holtkamp Organ Company to help find a new home for an organ, which was installed in their church in 1949. Holtcamp felt that this organ would be a good fit for CCL. The cost to install the organ would be approximately \$500,000.

Pastor's Report: Was submitted in writing, highlighting her trip to the Holy Land. Also, she wrote of the passing of Robert Leistico and Mark Williams, who were treasured members of the Body of Christ at CCL. Pastor Carlson may lead a trip to the Holy Land with Gary Simpson of Luther Seminary in May 2011. Looking ahead, Lent begins February 17; on March 7, welcoming the former president of Finland, Martii Ahtisaari; and planning for Save America's Treasures grant.

Vicar's Report: Was submitted in writing, highlighting her work at CCL: assisting in worship services and preschool chapel; pastoral care for Robert Leistico, Don Swenson, Simo Sarkanen and Mark Williams; assisted in Sunday school and adult forum. Looking ahead to Lent.



April 2010

Christ Church Lutheran

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 No Preschool Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Service	2 Good Friday 7:00 PM Eucharist	3 10:00 AM Finnish School Easter Vigil 8:30 PM
4 Easter 9:30 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM Brunch	5 No Preschool	6 6:00 PM Communic. Committee 7:00 PM Common Committees	7	8 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Basketball	9	10 Submission deadline for <i>May Courier</i>
11 9:30 AM Eucharist 11:00AM Education Hour (last day to order plants)	12	13 9:00 AM Stationery 7:00 PM Executive Committee 7:30 PM Council	14	15 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Basketball	16 7:00 PM Sr. Youth Event	17 10:00 AM Finnish School
18 9:30 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM Educ, Hour 12:00 PM Jr. Youth Event	19	20	21	22 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Basketball	23	24 9:00 AM Explore the Arts Event
25 9:30 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM Education Hour	26 CCL serves at the Shelter	27 7:00 PM FCCL Board	28 11:00 AM Retirees	29 7:00 PM Choir 7:00 PM Basketball	30	

Christ Church Lutheran: Volunteer Schedule for Sunday Worship Services (9:30 a.m.)

Date	Assisting Ministers	Acolytes	Lectors	Head Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Writers	Nursery Workers
April 4	Simo Sarkanen	Donna Torgerson	John Buegel	Dick Gliem	Loren Wiklander	Howard Polsfuss	Volunteer?
	Gretchen Pierskalla	Phyllis Mattill		Doris Gliem	Kinzie Wiklander		
		Gretchen Pierskalla		Fred Bentz			
		Melody Pauling					
		Gene Bruss					
April 11	Mary Bode	Kelly Brandon	Marni Schmidt	Jeanne Anderson	Carol Flanders	Kay Madson	Dori Brandon
	Phyllis Mattill	Kinzie Wiklander		Fred Bentz	Juanita Burke		
		Phyllis Mattill					
		Chuck Merrell					
April 18	Gretchen Pierskalla	Donna Torgerson	Paul Hanson	Dave Kutzbach	Howard Polsfuss	Chuck Merrell	Marni Schmidt
	Donna Gawreluk	Phyllis Mattill		Dick Thompson	Erla Polsfuss		
		Donna Gawreluk			Robert Swanson		
		Gene Bruss					
April 25	Jason Bergquist	Sami Hoss	Lynn Larson	Gary Skrivseth	Kevin Olsen	Juanita Burke	Yi-ru Chen
	Phyllis Mattill	Andy Hokkanen			Will Stark		Sarkanen
		Phyllis Mattill					
		Melody Pauling					
May 2	Phyllis Mattill	Donna Torgerson	Simo Sarkanen	Dick Gliem	Patty Story	Melody Pauling	
	Gretchen Pierskalla	Donna Gawreluk		Doris Gliem	Heather Weimer		
		Gretchen Pierskalla			Allison Weimer		
		Chuck Merrell					