



Welcome to the Light

JANUARY 2012
VOLUME 55, No. 1

Worship Services
9:30 a.m. each Sunday

Education
Adult Forums
11:10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
(following Sunday worship
services and fellowship)

Inside this Issue

Contacts	2
Announcements	2
Readings	3
President's Message	3
Thunderous Applause	3
Thank You Note	3
Retirees	4
Isn't There Anything to Eat?	4
Birthday List	4
New Members	4
Helping Hands	4
Council Mtg. Minutes	5
Adult Forums	6
Calendar	7
Volunteer Schedule	8

Stewards of the Story

Dear Friends,

A decade or so ago, Joan Borysenko and Elizabeth Lawrence came to Minnesota to conduct a women's spirituality weekend. Joan spoke of the importance of storytelling, starting with meditation, journaling and sharing experiences with others.

Back in the very early stages of civilization, before written language—when humans were hunters and gatherers and lived in extended family community or clans, storytelling was essential for survival. During spring, summer and autumn, the community worked long and hard to prepare for survival in winter. When days grew short and there was great darkness, the clan gathered in shelters around a fire to share stories. The young could learn from the elders. The older ones benefited from new adventures of the young. If an individual died without sharing stories, it was a loss to the community because the experiences and insights were lost. They all knew that the survival of the community depended on the values of the young; the young learned from stories. They were *stewards of the story* of their community.

During the past year, we have heard many stories from the 100-year history of Christ Church. We have indeed seen God's abundance at work in our congregation! It is a blessing to have these stories because they root us in our history and continually remind us of who we are as a community.


The most exciting and important stories now are the stories, observations and insights of the younger members—stories from Erik, Taylor, Grace, Will and others—because their energy, enthusiasm and commitment will carry the CCL community into the future.

In ancient times, the members of the community huddled closer around the fires while the darkness of the winter increased. They were sharing stories and waiting for the light to return.

During this winter season, we, like ancient people, want to be intentional about sharing our stories of God's presence in our midst with those around us as we seek warmth from winter's chill. We have just celebrated the beginning of one of the greatest stories ever told, the story of Jesus Christ. When we gather and share our own stories, as well as the stories of the faith, we, too, become *stewards of the story*.

Blessings,
Marilu Peters
Stewardship Committee

Contacts and Information

 <p>CHRIST CHURCH LUTHERAN</p> <p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p>	3244 34 th Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55406-2185	
	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 follows at 11:10 a.m.	
Contacts		
Pastor:	Pastor Kristine Carlson	
Music:	Pastor Robert Buckley Farlee Pastor Martin Seltz	
Youth:	Luann Skrivseth	
Office:	Stephanie Okoneski	
Facilities:	Chuck Merrell	
Courier:	Lynn Larson	
Officers		
President:	Gene Bruss	
Vice President:	Kevin Olsen	
Secretary:	Jan Radloff	
Treasurer:	Melody Pauling	
Council		
Mission:	Brian Odlaug	
Property:	Gary Gustafson	
Stewardship:	open	
Worship:	Erik Haaland	
Education:	Rita Schoenike	
Member-at-large:	Dan Mueller	

Announcements

Are We Learning Yet?

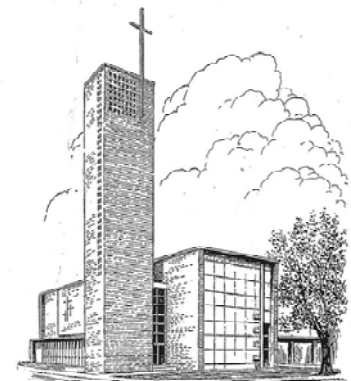
We are eager to receive your feedback on the adult forum programs. Please complete an adult forum survey and place it in the basket on the back table of the church. Blank surveys are included within the Sunday bulletins through January 15.

Building Tours

Beginning January 2012, docent-led tours of Christ Church will occur the second Sunday of each month, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in the courtyard.

Courier Deadline

The next submission deadline is January 15. To submit content, send an e-mail to Jan Radloff at: jan.radloff@mpls.k12.mn.us or give to the church office.



Readings and Psalms

Date: **January 1**

First Lesson: Num 6:22-27 *or*

Isa 61:10—62:3*

Psalm 8 *or* 148*

Second Lesson: Gal 4:4-7 *or* Phil 2:5-11*

Gospel: Luke 2:15-21 *or* Luke 2:22-40*

Date: **January 8—Baptism of Our Lord**

First Lesson: Gen 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Second Lesson: Acts 19:1-7

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Date: **January 15**

First Lesson: 1 Sam 3:1-10 [11-20]

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Second Lesson: 1 Cor 6:12-20

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Date: **January 22**

First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12

Second Lesson: 1 Cor 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Date: **January 29**

First Lesson: Deut 18:15-20

Psalm 111

Second Lesson: 1 Cor 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

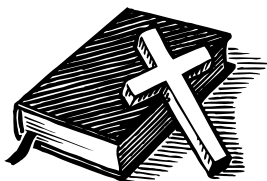
Date: **February 5**

First Lesson: Isa 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Second Lesson: 1 Cor 9:16-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39



**Please contact the church office about which option will be used.*

President's Message

by Gene Bruss

As I write this note, Christmas will be here in a few days. I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas. I wish all of you a happy new year!

Our annual congregation meeting will be held Sunday, February 19, at 11:15 a.m. At this meeting, any business which happened in the past year can be brought up.

The synod assembly will be held on February 17 and 18 at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake. The deadline for early registration is January 5, 2012. Christ Church Lutheran will be sending two voting members, one male and one female. One youth member of our congregation could also attend.

Thank you to everyone who helped put up our Christmas tree in the sanctuary—Darrell Anderson, Pete Gawreluk, Peter Doll, Clayton Smith, Vicar Will Starkweather and Cathy Sieving.

Thunderous Applause

Special thanks to Mike Jefferis who quietly volunteers his time every week to plan, shop, set up, decorate, clean up, and do the dishes from the Sunday morning coffee cart. Thank you, Mike, for faithfully caring for us each and every week.

Thank you also to all who donate treats, especially Don Walmann. Anyone is welcome to contribute to the Sunday morning treats. Simply drop off your ready-to-serve food item prior to worship on the cart in the Education Building. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

Again, thank you Mike from all of us!

Thank You Note

Thank you to the volunteers who organized, prepared, and served our Advent dinners; Joanne Seltz, Erik Haaland and Josh Messner. The 50 weekly attendees enjoyed the time around the table each Wednesday with the delicious meal and wonderful conversations.

Retirees

Join us on Wednesday, January 25, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Please check the bulletin for further notice. A potluck lunch will cap off the gathering. Everyone is welcome.

– Bill and Phyllis Dunstone

Happy Birthday to You!

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

- 1/2 Raymond Peters
- 1/4 LeAnn Marudas, Dylan Larson, Rachel Lokken
- 1/5 Dorothy Hewitt
- 1/6 Evelyn Wermager
- 1/10 Meyer Schoenike, Christian Schoenike
- 1/18 Amanda Jenkins-Buegel
- 1/19 Micah Buckley-Farlee
- 1/20 Daniel Holmgren, Allison Weimer
- 1/21 Marvel Walmann
- 1/25 Kylie Tindell
- 1/26 Caleb Jenkins-Buegel

Isn't There Anything to Eat?

Christ Church has committed to prepare 13 monthly dinners (January 2012 to January 2013) for eight hungry youth at the Lutheran Social Service (LSS) Safe House in St. Paul.

It is not too difficult to prepare a meal for eight and it is a great joy to serve the community in this manner. However, one can become "over-joyed" by doing it too often, so let's share the joy and pass it around.

Prepare a meal or deliver it around 7:30 p.m. The meal can be delivered cold; there are some simple guidelines and your expense can be reimbursed.

Our turn to prepare and serve the meal is the second Thursday of each month. The exact dates are: January 12, February 9, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13 and, in 2013, January 10.

To sign up, please contact Mike Jefferis, Mission Committee.

Thank you.

New Members

On December 11, 2011, Christ Church Lutheran received several new members. We welcome:

Norma Hunley
Noah Niermann
Clayton Smith
Jonathan and Carmina Stensland
Bob Victorin-Vangerud
Molly Wright Starkweather

Helping Hands

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

January and February 2012

John & Virginia Buegel	Lynn Larson
Ted Buegel & Amanda Jenkins-Buegel	Greg & Kay Madson
Bob Farlee	Cynthia Neubecker
Carol Flanders	Kathy & Terry Rong
Roger & Liz Gomoll	Marni Schmidt
Paul Hanson	Rita & Ken Schoenike
	Cathy Sieving

Summary of Council Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2011

Respectfully submitted by Jan Radloff, council secretary

Committee Reports

Education: Vicar Will will be working out a program for the confirmation student; would like a speaker system (wireless) installed in the upstairs nursery; are planning for the pick-up Christmas pageant.

Mission: Have not met; are continuing their mission of serving meals at Our Saviours Shelter and the Safe House in St. Paul.

Property: Darrell Anderson is requesting \$4,200 for engineering and bidding on the elevator project. Having a plan in place would give us three more years to renovate the elevator. Moved by Kevin, second by Dan, that \$4200.00 be taken out of the Reaching New Heights money for the elevator project. Motion passed. Gene complimented the Property Board/Darrell Anderson for doing such a great job getting the money within \$300 of the matching grant for the tower project.

Stewardship: Grace Duddy and Marilu Peters are making follow-up phone calls to the pledge campaign.

Worship: Have ordered four new albs, using funds from the Worship, Music and Arts trust fund. Are planning for Advent mid-week worship services—theme this year is “All Things New,” based on our new icon.

Council at Large: Visioning planning is moving forward. Had a good adult forum on November 6; received good ideas, which will help to firm up plans for the coming year. Will meet in early December.

Treasurer’s Report: Council members reviewed the January–October 2011 profit & loss budget vs. actual report and the CCL balance sheet as of October 31, 2011. Envelope giving is approximately \$22,000 less than we had hoped it would be.

Pastor’s Report (not available)

Vicar’s Report (not available)

Old Business

Preservation, Property Committee and the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran (FCCL) Priority List: Kevin Olsen presented the priority list from the Preservation Committee. The list included major projects, less major projects and special projects. This list gives a sense of what the Preservation Committee is thinking about. It was stated that the committee should be working closely with the Property Board.

Synod Assembly: The synod assembly will be February 17 and 18 at Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church in Prior Lake. CCL needs two voting members (one male, one female) to attend; we could also send a youth member.

Organ Project: Erik provided copies of the November 8 Organ Committee meeting. They have had communication with Chris Holtkamp and have met with CCL committees; need to think about preliminary fundraising. They will have a presentation at the December 4 adult forum. It was suggested that Pastor Carlson devote time in December to making one-on-one pastoral visits with approximately 20 households to have conversations about the life and vision of CCL and the organ project. This would give us a chance to get feedback from the people and hopefully obtain an informed sense of whether or not the congregation can fund the organ project.

Motion: That Pastor Carlson be released from some of her usual worship duties in December—with volunteers to help cover those duties—to give a portion of her time to making pastoral visits with people interested in the organ project to explore its financial feasibility, with \$500 for expenses. Moved by Erik, second by Melody. Motion passed.

Summary of Council Meeting Minutes continued on next page

New Business

2012 Budget: Kevin distributed copies of the CCL 2012 preliminary budget plan. Four year ago, CCL made a commitment to achieve a balanced budget, hoping for increased giving and a decrease in expenses. This has not happened. There is a sense that envelope giving is down due to the Reaching New Heights Campaign. The 2012 preliminary budget is currently at a \$10,000 deficit. Council is giving preliminary approval of the budget; will be worked on by the executive committee before the congregation meeting on December 11.

Kevin would like some money set aside from the endowment interest dedicated for the future and growth. Motion: That money be set aside from the endowment interest targeted for future and growth. Moved by Kevin, second by Rita. Motion passed.

Nominating Committee: The committee met last Sunday; members include Lucille Buelow, Jeanne Anderson and Taylor Brorby.

Announcement: Melody said that as part of CCL's 100th anniversary celebration, flowers will be placed on the altar of Trinity First Lutheran Church (our "mother" church). An announcement will be placed in their Sunday bulletin; we will also include an announcement in our bulletin on November 27.

End of Council Minutes

Upcoming Adult Forums

Our focus this winter and into the spring is on reading and interpreting the Bible. God's word challenges and comforts us and holds our community together. We hope to grow in Christian faith and community through our learning and reflection in these sessions.

January 8 and 15. Vicar Starkweather will start us off with a two-session introduction to the Book of Faith materials, a program for reading and interpreting scripture developed by Augsburg Fortress.

January 22. Eminent biblical scholar Neil Elliot—a Paul expert and Biblical Studies editor at Fortress Press—will teach us about the many new perspectives on the Apostle in the church and in academia.

January 29. We return to the Book of Faith materials with a build-your-own-bible-study session that will help us understand Lutheran methods of interpreting scripture. Scott Tunseth, our guest teacher, is a pastor, biblical scholar and expert developer of Christian education materials.

February 5. We conclude our work together with Book of Faith materials and guest speaker Diane Jacobson of Luther Seminary. The Book of Faith family of resources includes many wonderful materials for individual Bible study, some of which will be available free of charge at CCL later in December and through January.

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:30 AM Eucharist</p> <p>11:10 AM Education</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 PM Common Committees</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:30 PM Visioning Committee</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 AM Finnish School</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 AM Eucharist</p> <p>11:00 AM Bldg. Tour</p> <p>11:10 AM Education</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 PM Organ Project</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>LSS Safe House Meal</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 AM to 12:00 PM Cabin Fever</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM Eucharist</p> <p>11:10 AM Education</p>	<p>16</p> <p><i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 PM Executive Committee</p> <p>7:30 PM Council</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM Stationery</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 AM Finnish School</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM Eucharist</p> <p>11:10 AM Education</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00 PM Choir</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Set Up for <i>Good Design is Forever</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Good Design is Forever</i></p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:30 AM Eucharist</p> <p>11:10 AM Education</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 PM FCCL Board</p>			 <p>CHRIST CHURCH LUTHERAN</p>	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p><i>Good Design is Forever</i></p> </div>						

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
January 1	Jason Bergquist Jan Radloff	Phyllis Mattill Taylor Brorby	Josh Messner	Dave Kutzbach Dick Thompson	Kevin Olsen Will Stark	Daniel Rinehart	to be determined
January 8	Rachel Mann Donna Gawreluk	Donna Torgerson Phyllis Mattill	Daniel Holmgren	Gary Skrivseth Michael Jefferis	Howard Polsfuss Taylor Brorby	Paul Hanson	to be determined
January 15	Simo Sarkanen Mary Bode	Andy Hokkanen Phyllis Mattill	Paul Hanson	Jeanne Anderson Taylor Brorby	Bob Swenson Ute Swenson	Grace Duddy	to be determined
January 22	Grace Duddy Will Starkweather	Sami Hoss Donna Gawreluk	Simo Sarkanen	Dave Kutzbach Dick Thompson	Pat Baehler Rachel Mann	Pat Baehler	to be determined
January 29	Taylor Brorby Donna Gawreluk	Donna Torgerson Phyllis Mattill	Liz Gomoll	Gary Skrivseth Michael Jefferis	Carol Flanders Juanita Burke	Erik Haaland	to be determined
February 5	Pat Baehler Chuck Merrell	Phyllis Mattill Erik Haaland	Lynn Larson	Jeanne Anderson Greg Madson	Kevin Olsen Will Stark	Sally Messner	to be determined