



## Welcome to the Light

DECEMBER 2012  
VOLUME 55, No. 12

**Worship Services**  
9:30 a.m. each Sunday

**Education**  
Adult forums  
are held 11:15 a.m. to  
12:15 a.m. each Sunday,  
following the worship  
service and fellowship.

### Inside this Issue

Contacts	2
Announcements (including Retirees)	2
Readings	3
Adult Forums	3
Member Giving	4
Name That Photo	4
Birthday List	4
Helping Hands	4
Valparaiso University	5
“Joulu”—A Magical Finnish Christmas	5
Calendar	6
Volunteer Schedule	7

*Note: The November  
council meeting minutes  
were not available when  
this edition was released.*

### Christ Church Christmas Cookie Sale December 16

Don't miss out! Please place your order now. The cost is \$10.00 for four dozen cookies baked in our own church ovens.

The order sheet will be available on the table in the education building during the Sunday fellowship time. Otherwise, see Molly Starkweather.



### Andy Hokkanen's Stewardship Talk and Confirmation



The recent stewardship talk by confirmation student, Andy Hokkanen, encouraged the congregation to think of stewardship in broader terms: our time, our talents, and our caring hospitality for each other and visitors. Thank you, Andy. You are a good role model for all of us.

Andy was confirmed in the Sunday morning worship service on November 25.

## Contacts and Information

 <p>CHRIST CHURCH LUTHERAN</p> <p>EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA</p>	3244 34 <sup>th</sup> Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55406-2185	
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	Fax: 612.728.0552 Web: <a href="http://christchurchluth.org">http://christchurchluth.org</a>	
	<b>Office Hours</b>	
	8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday–Friday	
	<b>Worship</b>	
	9:30 a.m. each Sunday, followed by fellowship Education hour follows at 11:15 a.m. (excluding summer months)	
	<b>Contacts</b>	
	Pastor:	Kristine Carlson
	Music:	Pastor Robert Buckley Farlee Pastor Martin Seltz
Vicar:	Will Starkweather	
Youth:	Luann Skrivseth	
Office:	Stephanie Okoneski	
Facilities:	Chuck Merrell	
*Courier:	Lynn Larson	
<b>Officers</b>		
President:	Erik Haaland	
Vice President:	Kevin Olsen	
Secretary:	Josh Messner	
Treasurer:	Melody Pauling	
<b>Council</b>		
Pat Baehler Naomi Bruesehoff Dan Mueller Rita Schoenike Bob Victorin-Vangerud		

**\*Next submission deadline for the Courier: December 15**

To submit content, e-mail Lynn Larson at: [kevlar2955@hotmail.com](mailto:kevlar2955@hotmail.com) or give to Stephanie in the church office, who will pass along to Lynn.

## Announcements

### Retirees

Join us for a Christmas party December 26 at 11:00 a.m. Cider and Christmas carols will be followed by lunch. No potluck. Please bring a grocery item for the food shelf. Everyone is welcome.

– Bill and Phyllis Dunstone

### Children's Christmas Gift Sale

As in the past, Christ Church is involved with this year's Plymouth Christian Youth Center's annual sale. On the day of the sale (Saturday, December 8), children are allowed to purchase five gifts for their family members at \$1.00 each. This allows them to experience the joy of selecting and giving gifts. The Center expects 1,200 children and needs more than 6,000 gifts plus volunteers.

Christ Church will be collecting donations until December 3— money that will be used to buy gifts for the Center. We will also assist children on the day of the sale.

For more information about how you can help, please contact Luann Skrivseth, FIG service project coordinator.

### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Services

On Christmas Eve, pre-service music begins at 5:15 p.m., followed by a 5:30 worship service. Return the next day for the Christmas service at 10:00 a.m.

## Readings and Psalms

Date: **December 2**

First Lesson: Jer 33:14–16

Psalm 25:1–10

Second Lesson: 1 Thess 3:9–13

Gospel: Luke 21:25–36

Date: **December 9**

First Lesson: Mal 3:1–4 or Bar 5:1–9\*

Psalm: Luke 1:69–79

Second Lesson: Phil 1:3–11

Gospel: Luke 3:1–6

Date: **December 16**

First Lesson: Zeph 3:14–20

Psalm: Isa 12:2–6

Second Lesson: Phil 4:4–7

Gospel: Luke 3:7–18

Date: **December 23**

First Lesson: Micah 5:2–5a

Psalm: Luke 1 46b–55 or Ps 80:1–7\*

Second Lesson: Heb 10:5–10

Gospel: Luke 1:39–45 [46–55]

Date: **December 24—Christmas Eve**

First Lesson: Isa 9:2–7

Psalm 96

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11–14

Gospel: Luke 2:1–14 [15–20]

Date: **December 25—Christmas Day**

First Lesson: Isa 62:6–12

Psalm 97

Second Lesson: Titus 3:4–7

Gospel: Luke 2:[1–7] 8–20

Date: **December 30**

First Lesson: 1 Sam 2:18–20, 26

Psalm 148

Second Lesson: Col 3:12–17

Gospel: Luke 2:41–52

Date: **January 6—Epiphany of Our Lord**

First Lesson: Isa 60:1–6

Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14

Second Lesson: Eph 3:1–12

Gospel: Matt 2:1–12

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

## Upcoming Adult Forums

Adult forums begin at 11:15 a.m. each Sunday.

**December 2**

**Whole—But Not Perfect**

**Dick Bruesehoff**

*Every day we hear about the latest method of staying healthy, which often have connections to spirituality. There are so many messages and they change so frequently. The Judeo-Christian tradition has a vision of health and well-being (wholeness) that is rooted in life and community.*

**December 9**

**Hot Topics Ahead for Christ Church**

*Council members will lead a discussion of key themes for next week's meeting.*

**December 16**

**Congregational Meeting**

*This annual meeting will include time for comments and questions. During fellowship, we will celebrate Pastor Carlson's 30<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary!*

**December 23**

**Pickup Christmas Pageant**

*Following worship, there will be a Christmas coffee party in the Luther Lounge. Then come to the sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. for our intergenerational, one-of-a-kind "Pickup Christmas Pageant." If you would like to be in it—and everyone is welcome to do so—meet in chapel at the back of the sanctuary at 11:00 a.m., where you will be given a part and a costume and instructions about your role.*

**December 30**

**Fellowship in the Luther Lounge**

*No forum this morning.*

## Member Giving Update

We are short about \$14,500 from what we had budgeted for member giving through October 31. Fortunately, our expenses so far are also less than we had budgeted. Currently, our income for the year is only about \$4,300 less than our expenses. Because expenses tend to go up at the end of the year, Christ Church could benefit greatly from extra member giving before December 31.

Thank you, all, for your generosity!

– Melody Pauling, CCL Treasurer

# Happy Birthday to You!

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

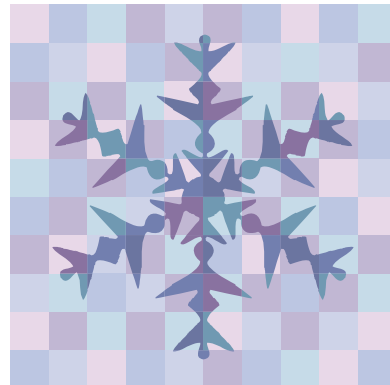
12/2 Carol Flanders, Traci Boser  
12/3 Isis Faulk  
12/5 Shawn Deresch, Clayton Smith  
12/7 Trisa Smetana  
12/8 Jeremy Gustafson  
12/12 Jeannette Kretzmann  
12/15 Cheryl Leuning, Rita Schoenike  
12/20 Kari Polsfuss, Marni Schmidt  
12/21 James Bartsch, Gerald Westby  
12/24 Carol Mead  
12/28 Erla Polsfuss  
12/29 Dorothy Hanson, Larry Schmidt,  
Cathy Sieving, Gary Wahlstrom

## Name That Photo...



Guess where this is?

The Property Committee cleaned out the floor of the elevator pit during the November "Clean Up Day."



## Helping Hands

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

### November and December 2012

Jason Bergquist  
Taylor Brorby  
Mary Lou and Peter Doll  
Donna & Pete Gawreluk  
Dorothy Iverson

Phyllis Mattill  
Marge Meffert  
Chuck & Kristy Merrell  
Kevin Olsen & Will Stark  
Ray & Rosie Peters

## Valparaiso University Chorale and President Visit Christ Church

Valparaiso University chorale presented a beautiful concert in our sanctuary Saturday, October 27. This marked a special beginning to the Christ Church music series.

The following Sunday morning, the chorale enriched our worship and Valparaiso president, Mark Heckler, spoke at the adult forum. Thank you to all who served the choir dinner and hosted students in their home.



### “Joulu”—A Magical Finnish Christmas at Christ Church Lutheran

As 2012 closes, a year that has commemorated Helsinki as the World Design Capital, the Finnish community invites the Christ Church Lutheran congregation and the Twin Cities community to a joyful celebration of Christmas traditions in Finland.

From 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., **Saturday, December 15**, special Finnish traditions will be celebrated at Christ Church:

**Traditional Christmas Buffet:** 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the gym

Deco Catering and Finnish Bistro owner and chef Soile Anderson will host a sumptuous buffet of traditional Finnish Christmas delicacies in a Nordic holiday setting. The menu includes herb-roasted salmon with cucumber dill sauce, Christmas carved ham, herrings and cheeses, traditional Scandinavian salads, traditional Finnish root vegetables, and Scandinavian strawberry torte. Tickets for the buffet are \$25 for adults, \$15 for children 5–12, and free for children 4 and younger. For tickets, visit [www.christmasbuffet.eventbrite.com](http://www.christmasbuffet.eventbrite.com) or call 612.756.9050. The deadline to purchase tickets is Friday, December 7.

**Kauneimmat Joululaulut (Christmas Carols):** 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

Pastor Kristine Carlson will participate in the singing service, with music provided by the Finnish Language School children and the Finnish brass septet, Ameriikan Poijat.

**Joulutori (Marketplace):** 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the skylight atrium

The Finnish Christmas marketplace will be a great place to do some Christmas shopping for Finnish imports, crafts, books, CDs and tasty treats featuring FinnStyle and craftspeople.

**Deco Café:** 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. in the Concordia room

Enjoy hot apple cider and coffee with Karelian piirakka, salmon and beef pasties, other open-faced canapés, and soups.

For more details, visit [www.gooddesignisforever.org](http://www.gooddesignisforever.org) or call 612.756.9050.

*Joulu—Magical Finnish Christmas* is co-sponsored by Finlandia Foundation-Twin Cities, Finnish American Chamber of Commerce, Finnish American Cultural Activities, FinnStyle, the Minnesota Finnish Language School, and the Honorary Consulate of Finland.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Christ Church Lutheran December 2012</b>						1 10:00 AM Finn. School 1:00 PM Baking
2 <i>St. Nicholas Day</i> <b>9:30 AM Eucharist</b> 11:15 AM Education 12:00 PM Baking	3  7:30 PM Accordo Concert	4  11:00 AM Tai Chi  7:00 PM Property Committee	5 <b>11:30 AM Worship</b> 12:00 Lunch 6:00 PM Supper <b>7:00 PM Worship</b>	6 10:00 AM Staff Mtg. 6:00 PM Finnish Celebration <b>6:00 PM Choir</b>	7	8  10:00 AM KidArt  2:30 PM Bach Choir Rehearsal
9 <i>St. Lucia Day</i> <b>9:30 AM Eucharist</b> 11:00 AM Bldg. Tour 11:15 AM Education 4:30 PM Advent Vespers	10 9:00 AM Stationery	11 11:00 AM Tai Chi	12 <b>11:30 AM Worship</b> 12:00 Lunch 6:00 PM Supper <b>7:00 PM Worship</b>	13 LSS Safe House Meal  7:00 PM Choir	14	15  10:00 AM Finnish School and Finnish Christmas Party
16 <b>9:30 AM Eucharist</b> 11:15 AM Congregation Meeting 6:00 PM Finnish Movie	17 Mon.–Fri. Meals on Wheels Deliveries	18 11:00 AM Tai Chi 7:00 PM Executive Committee 7:30 PM Council	19 <b>11:30 AM Worship</b> 12:00 Lunch 6:00 PM Supper <b>7:00 PM Worship</b>	20  7:00 PM Choir	21	22
23 <b>9:30 AM Eucharist</b> 11:30 AM Pickup Christmas Pageant	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>Office Closed</i> 5:15 PM Pre-service Music <b>5:30 PM Carol Service</b>	25 <i>Christmas</i> <b>10:00 AM Worship</b>	26 11:00 AM Retirees' Christmas Party	27	28	29
30 <b>9:30 AM Eucharist</b>	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>  <i>Office Closed</i>	<i>January 1</i>  <i>New Year's Day</i>  <i>Office Closed</i>				 CHRIST CHURCH LUTHERAN

**Christ Church Lutheran**  
**Volunteer Schedule for Sunday Worship Services (9:30 a.m.), Christmas Eve and Christmas Day**

Date	Assisting Ministers	Acolytes	Lectors	Head Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Writers	Nursery Workers
Dec. 2	Pat Baehler	Andy Hokkanen	Noah Niermann	Gary Skrivseth	Kristine Stedje	Sally Messner	Erin Anderson
	Jason Bergquist	Phyllis Mattill		Dan Mueller	Taylor Brorby		
Dec. 9	Rachel Mann	Donna Gawreluk	James Yao	Dave Kutzbach	Howard Polsfuss	Virginia Buegel	Ute Swenson
	Erik Haaland	Taylor Brorby		Dick Thompson	Bob Davis		
Dec. 16	Taylor Brorby	Phyllis Mattill	Daniel Holmgren	Jeanne Anderson	Will Stark	Daniel Rinehart	Marni Schmidt
	Mary Bode	Ben Cherland		Bob Davis	Kevin Olsen		
Dec. 23	Will Starkweather	Andy Hokkanen	Clayton Smith	Dave Kutzbach	Kristine Stedje	Kristine Stedje	Karen Woestehoff
	Donna Gawreluk	Phyllis Mattill		Dick Thompson	Taylor Brorby		
<b>Christmas Eve: 5:15 p.m. Pre-service Music, 5:30 p.m. Carol Service</b>							
Dec. 24	Jason Bergquist	Chuck Merrell	Simo Sarkanen	Jeanne Anderson	Jan Radloff	Taylor Brorby	TBD; volunteer needed
				Phyllis Mattill	Lynn Larson		
					Kevin Larson		
<b>Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship</b>							
Dec. 25	Taylor Brorby	Phyllis Mattill	Marni Schmidt	Will Starkweather	Howard Polsfuss	Virginia Buegel	TBD; volunteer needed
	Jan Radloff	Donna Gawreluk		Michael Jefferis			
		Melody Pauling					
Dec. 30	Kristine Stedje	Phyllis Mattill	Lynn Larson	Dave Kutzbach	Dick Bruesehoff	Melody Pauling	Luann Skrivseth
	Ben Cherland	Jan Radloff		Dick Thompson	Naomi Bruesehoff		
Jan. 6	Mary Bode	Phyllis Mattill	Daniel Rinehart	Jeanne Anderson	Pat Baehler	Will Starkweather	Samantha Rice
	Erik Haaland	Donna Gawreluk		Bob Davis	Rachel Mann		
		Gene Bruss					