



Welcome to the Light

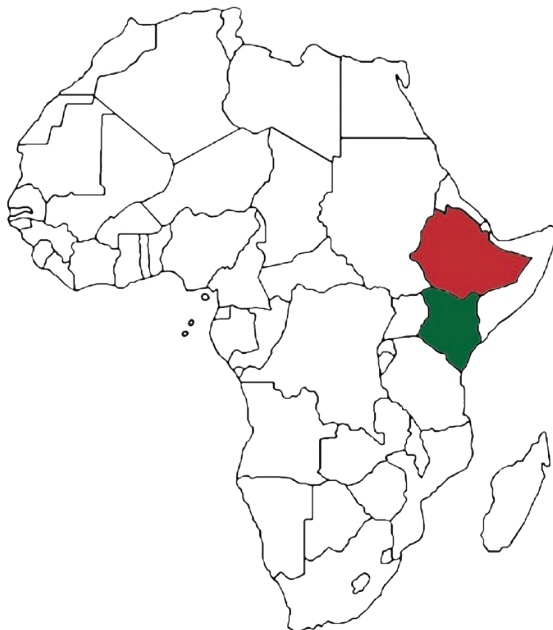
The Time after Epiphany

These weeks—after Christmas and Epiphany (January 6), before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1)—are known as the *Time after Epiphany*. This is a series of weeks when we focus on the foundational stuff of the Christian life, the important basics. In worship, we will hear scripture readings that encourage us to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.” To “love your enemies.” To “be reconciled to your brother or sister.” They will point again and again to Jesus—to his life and teachings—and talk about him as the servant, the lamb, the light, the foundation, the beloved Son. At the same time, they will invite us—Jesus’ disciples—to live fully in our baptismal identity and calling. In these eight weeks—when the main color we will see on the altar will be green—let’s welcome our baptismal waters and grow in faith, in serving, in seeking justice, in being part of this community.

Update on Our Refugee Family

It is nearly six months since Ariat and Paul and their seven children arrived in Minnesota. The adjustments required for this family have been many. The most obvious one is related to weather. Ethiopia (the country of origin—*red*) and Kenya (the site of the refugee camp—*green*) are located near the equator. This means that the temperatures are generally warm throughout the year and there is no snow. The -15 degree days in mid-December and now in January and the accumulation of snow over the past month represent new experiences. While the family members have purchased

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Educational Forums

Sundays 11:15am

January 8—Baptism of our Lord

Celebrating Baptism Together

This year January 8 is the festival of the Baptism of Our Lord, where during worship we will hear the story of Jesus’ baptism. Afterward, come to this intergenerational education time in the gym, where we will explore and celebrate our own baptisms. We will wonder together about the mystery and meaning of baptism, and there will be activities for young and old to do together.

January 15

Water Stewardship

Emilie Bouvier

What are the connections between water stewardship and our baptismal life of faith? Baptism always takes place within a watershed—with water from a particular river, lake, or stream. How does our baptismal calling to “strive for justice and peace in all the earth” impact the way we use and care for God’s life-giving gift of water? Emilie Bouvier is the congregational organizer for Environmental Justice for the Minneapolis Area Synod, working with leaders across the Synod on earth-care initiatives.

January 22

Engaging a Conversation about Race – Where Do We Begin?

Last October a group from Christ Church Lutheran attended a conference at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church entitled “Journeying toward Justice: Privilege and Race in Our Church.” Those who were part of this event committed to helping our whole congregation engage this important conversation about race, justice, and equity. Pastor Haaland and Rachel Slater will lead this session using materials from a study guide on racial equity, “And Who Is My Neighbor,” which was recently produced by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.

January 29

Our Saviour’s Housing

Sam Bardwell

For decades Christ Church Lutheran has supported Our Saviour’s Housing—both financially and by preparing and serving meals at their shelter on Chicago Avenue. But how much do we really know about ministry with those experiencing homelessness here in Minneapolis? Sam Bardwell, congregational relations coordinator for Our Saviour’s Housing and a professional actor, will help us learn more by inviting us into an experience of readers’ theater with plays he has written about the work of Our Saviour’s Housing.

Christ Church Lutheran

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*A Congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

A National Historic Landmark

Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 9:00am–2:00pm

Sunday Worship

Eucharist 9:30am, followed by fellowship

September through April

Godly Play for children ages 3–6, 11:05am–12:05pm

Spark! for children ages 7 and up, 11:05am–12:05pm

September through May

Educational forum 11:15am–12:15pm

Staff

Pastors	Pastor Kristine Carlson Pastor Erik Haaland
Cantors	Pastor Robert Farlee Pastor Martin Seltz
Office	Stephanie Okoneski
Facilities	Chuck Merrell
Courier Editor	Josh Messner

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President	Bob Victorin-Vangerud
Vice President	Will Stark
Secretary	Pat Baehler
Treasurer	Melody Pauling
Council Members	Marcus Nooney Sarah Brunsvold Luann Skrivseth Matt Courtney Dan Mueller

Announcements

Retirees

Meets Wednesday 25 January at 11:00am. Watch for more details.

Wedding

Matthew Thompson and Allison Prange were married on Saturday 17 December. Pastor Carlson officiated.

Thank You for PCYC Gift Drive

Thanks to all who contributed to this year's collection for the Plymouth Christian Youth Center's Annual Children's Gift Sale. Here at Christ Church, we collected gifts and cash donations nearing \$700, making possible the delivery of ninety-five quality gifts for the sale. Thank you to Luann Skrivseth for coordinating this drive and purchasing many of the gifts. Thanks also to Dan Mueller, who volunteered on the day of the sale. The following is a thank you from Plymouth Christian Youth Center:

Thanks to you . . . 1,123 children were able to select from over 6,000 gifts as they shopped for their families at the 2016 Children's Christmas Gift Store. You and 320 other caring people made all this possible through your gifts of time, talent, money, and items for our Christmas store.

Your generosity and continued commitment to this event make the holidays brighter for our North Minneapolis children and families. We're very thankful for all of your help.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2017.

*—From the Staff and Board of
Plymouth Christian Youth Center*

A Unique Gift

Check out the hand crafted stationery by the women of Christ Church. A table is set up by the Yellow Room in the education wing each Sunday. Buy cards to send yourself or give a packet of cards as a gift.

Lectionary Readings January 2017

Sunday 1 January

Name of Jesus

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:15-21

Sunday 8 January

Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday 15 January

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

Sunday 22 January

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

Sunday 29 January

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Helping Hands January/February

John Buegel

Ted Buegel & Amanda Jenkins-Buegel

Bob Farlee

Donna & Pete Gawreluk

Nick Goddard

Roger & Liz Gomoll

Kevin Kniebel & Anna Mason

Robyn & Marcus Nooney

Rita & Ken Schoenike

Cathy Sieving

If you are named in the helping hands chart, please help with Sunday morning coffee fellowship in the form of set up, clean up, or treats. Contact Mary Bode or Joanne Seltz for details. mhbode@gmail.com | seltz4@aol.com

January Birthdays

12/30	Finn Meier
1/2	Ray Peters
1/3	Nick Goddard
1/4	LeAnn (Bergquist) Marudas Dylan Larson Rachel Lokken
1/6	Evelyn Wermager
1/10	Meyer Schoenike Christian Schoenike
1/11	Alayna Young
1/12	Nora Katz
1/16	Stephanie Wieland
1/18	Amanda Jenkins-Buegel
1/19	Micah Buckley-Farlee
1/20	Daniel Holmgren Allison Weimer
1/21	John Christianson
1/25	Kylie Tindell
1/26	Caleb Jenkins-Buegel

"The Winter Warmer"

Save the Date...

**Saturday, February 4, 2017.
4:00 - 7:30 pm.**

Christ Church Lutheran
Minneapolis, MN

*More to
Come!*

continued from page 1—Refugee Update

some good winter clothes, we all know that the cold has a way of penetrating even the best clothing. This clothing was put to a test on December 18 when we drove the family to Northfield to meet some members of St. John's Lutheran Church (our cosponsors). It was the coldest day in three years.

The second adjustment is that of living in a strange land where the common language is not one they can easily understand or speak. This can lead to a sense of isolation and anxiety. The children are learning English in school and Ariat and Paul have taken language training. Proficiency in English will probably come primarily through continued engagement with people in the course of daily life and work. Family members seem to be progressing well in this regard, but learning a new language is hard work and a long process.

A third adjustment has to do with learning how to be financially self-sufficient in this society. The family has already become fully responsible for the expense of housing. While some government assistance continues (depending upon income level), the large majority of financial aid has come to an end. With a family of nine persons, balancing income and expense is no small challenge. For two months Paul worked at Anderson Windows, but that job has come to an end. He is seeking new employment. The house in which the family currently lives is expensive in terms of both rent and utilities. Thus the family is looking for a more affordable place to live.

We are approaching the time when the formal sponsorship agreement with the family ends. This does not suggest that we shall terminate the relationship that been established with the family. Some members of Christ Church Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran (Northfield) have become friends with the family and friends stay in contact with friends.

Ariat and Paul's family lived in two refugee camps over a period of twelve years. For eleven years the family lived in Dadaab, said to be the largest refugee camp in the world with more than 400,000 people. A book was recently published titled *City of Thorns*. It is an attempt to describe life in this camp through the stories of nine persons. Interwoven with these accounts is a description of wider political forces that function to keep people trapped as refugees. The residents of Dadaab are from Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and other troubled places within the region. Dadaab is not a pleasant or safe place. It is filled with people who have little reason for hope that they can ever safely return home. The story is sobering but it is one that should be read because it represents an important part of the world's reality.

—Ronald Johnson, Christ Church Refugee Mentoring Team

From the Church Council

Council met three times in November to finalize the budget, and the items on our current agenda can wait until January, so we decided not to meet in December. Thus our Christmas season became a bit less hectic. We hope your Christmas celebration brought joy and peace to you and yours. Happy New Year.

—Bob Victorin-Vangerud, President



Group photo of participants in our Intergenerational Christmas Pageant in December. More on page 6.



Carnival and Mardi Gras

A Jazz Benefit Concert
Christ Church Lutheran
Sunday 26 February, 3pm

Save the date—the next Music at Christ Church event is just over a month away!

Come for an afternoon of engaging jazz that you won't forget. New Orleans has Mardi Gras; Brazil has Carnival. Celebrate these fabulous musical traditions with a benefit concert at 3pm on Sunday 26 February. Top-flight local musicians will transport you to New Orleans and beyond.

Musicians include Bill Simenson (Trumpet), Pete Whitman (Tenor sax), Dave Graf (Trombone), Ted Godbout (Piano), Bruce Heine (Bass), Dave Schmalenberger (Drums), and Judi Vinar (Vocals).

The concert is free. An offering will be taken to support the Semilla Arts Program—an outreach program of St. Paul's Lutheran in the Phillips Neighborhood that teaches hundreds of youth and adults each year in mosaics, photography, creative writing, and other art forms. Together they seek to create public art that reflects the hope of the community.

Invite family, friends, and neighbors.

The Little COURIER

Jesus said, "Let the children come!" At Christ Church Lutheran, we welcome children and their families to the font, to the table, and to worship.

The children's ministry team is excited to be starting another year of programming. Our congregation is growing! It is our joy to make families and children feel welcome and loved following in our call to be like Jesus here at Christ Church Lutheran.

Children's Ministry at Christ Church Lutheran—January 2017

Upcoming Events

Intergenerational Sunday School

Sunday 8 January, 11:30am

Join us 8 January for an intergenerational Sunday School. January 8 is the Baptism of our Lord, so we found it fitting to learn about and celebrate our baptisms. Come and hear the baptism story from Godly Play. And together we will play with bubbles and make our own baptismal candle. Before leaving stop by the anointing table to be anointed and remember your baptism.

Communion Retreat

Saturday 28 January, 10:00am–noon

With children ages 7 and up we will make some communion bread and explore questions about communion. The following Sunday 29 January, we will celebrate our learning with the whole congregation and share the bread we made.

Winter Warmer

Saturday 4 February, 4:00–7:30pm

To escape the cold winter blues, we will gather together at Christ Church to play games, eat pizza, enjoy a movie, and for adults a nice winter warmer ale. It will be a great time of fellowship together to warm our winter nights. See graphic on page 3.

Welcome to a New Year in Children's Ministry at Christ Church

Now in 2017 we have more children, more volunteers, and more opportunities to see God's work in our lives and in the lives of our children. We are continuing Red Room, Godly Play, and Spark! as well as different fellowship events throughout the year. This year we also kick off a new program—Nurture Faith—designed to fulfill our congregation's lifelong ministry.

Nurture Faith gives us the opportunity to be faithful to the promises we made as a community of faith for each child brought to the waters of baptism and reminds us we are all children of God. When a child is baptized, we are given responsibilities:

Cradle Roll

Preschool—worshiping and singing together

Kindergarten—place in their hands the Holy Scriptures

First Grade—remember together our place in God's community through baptism

Second Grade—bring them to the word and the holy supper

Third Grade—nurture them in faith and prayer focusing especially on worshiping together

Fourth Grade—teach them the Lord's Prayer

Fifth Grade—teach them the Ten Commandments

Sixth Grade—teach them the creeds

Seventh/Eighth Grade—proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made and work for justice and peace

This year, in particular, we will begin with the celebration of the Holy Supper in our communion retreat on 28 January. If you have questions or concerns contact Maria Markman (mmarkman001@luthersem.edu) or Pastor Carlson.

Children's Ministry Sunday Schedule

Nursery

January 8	Karen
January 15	Hilary/Marc
January 22	Kim/Chip
January 29	Carmen

The Red Room

	Teacher	Helper
January 8	Maria	Luann
January 15	Open	Yi-ru
January 22	Open	Open
January 29	Open	Open

Godly Play

	Storyteller	Doorkeeper
January 8	<i>Celebrating Baptism</i>	
January 15	Jonathan	Carmen
January 22	Jonathan	Donna
January 29	Jonathan	Open

Spark!

	Mentor	Helper
January 8	<i>Celebrating Baptism</i>	
January 15	Open	Open
January 22	Mary	Luther
January 29	Open	Open

Thank You

Thank you for all who joined in the Intergenerational Christmas Pageant. It was a success again this year. It was the coldest Sunday of the year, and you all made it a point to be together to celebrate the birth of Christ through the telling of the story.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <i>New Year's Day</i></p> <p><i>The Name of Jesus</i></p> <p>9:30am Eucharist</p>	2	<p>3</p> <p>7:00pm ● Property</p>	4	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>10:00am ● Book Club ● Finnish School</p> <p>4:00pm Epiphany Party</p>
<p>8 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i></p> <p>9:30am Eucharist</p> <p>11:00am Building Tour</p> <p>11:15am Celebrating Baptism Together</p>	9	<p>10</p> <p>7:00pm Preservation</p>	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Stationery</p> <p>1:00pm Staff</p> <p>7:00pm Children's Ministry</p>	<p>12</p> <p>LSS Safe House Meal</p> <p>5:30pm Staffing</p> <p>7:00pm ● Choir ● Project Management</p>	13	14
<p>15 <i>Epiphany 2</i></p> <p>9:30am Eucharist</p> <p>11:05am Sunday School</p> <p>11:15am Forum</p> <p><i>Courier</i> Deadline</p>	<p>16 <i>Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i></p> <p>Building Closed</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:00pm Genealogy</p> <p>7:00pm Executive Board</p> <p>7:30pm Council</p>	18	<p>19</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Our Saviour's Shelter Meal</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00am Finnish School</p>
<p>22 <i>Epiphany 3</i></p> <p>9:30am Eucharist</p> <p>11:05am Sunday School</p> <p>11:15am Forum</p>	<p>23</p> <p>1:00pm Tai Chi Chih</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:00am Retirees</p> <p>1:00pm Staff</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:00pm Choir</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Communion Retreat</p>
<p>29 <i>Epiphany 4</i></p> <p>9:30am Eucharist, with Communion Celebration</p> <p>11:05am Sunday School</p> <p>11:15am Forum</p>	<p>30</p> <p>1:00pm Tai Chi Chih</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00pm FCCL Board</p>	<h1>January 2017</h1>			

Worship Leadership Schedule

Date	Assisting Ministers	Acolytes	Crucifer	Lectors	Head Ushers	Greeters	Prayer Writers
January 1	Jason Bergquist	Phyllis Mattill	Clayton Smith	Daniel Holmgren	Dave Kutzbach	Kate Haugen	Claire Rosenkvist
β	Mary Bode	Donna Gawreluk			Matthew Courtney	Mary Bode	
January 8	Pat Baehler	Phyllis Mattill	Cathy Sieving	Clayton Smith	Dave Kutzbach	Molly Boes	DeAne Lagerquist
	Molly Boes				Dick Thompson	Mary Ann Boes	
January 15	Simo Sarkanen	Phyllis Mattill	Melody Pauling	Max Herzberg	Dan Mueller	Will Stark	Pat Baehler
	Hilary Gebauer	Donna Gawreluk			Matthew Courtney	Kevin Olsen	
January 22	Maria Markman	Phyllis Mattill	Max Herzberg	Rachel Slater	Bob Davis	Bob & Ute Swenson	Melody Pauling
	Jason Bergquist				Jeff Weispfenning	Samantha and Chloe Rice	
January 29	Bob Victorin-Vangerud	Phyllis Mattill	Gene Bruss	DeAne Lagerquist	Gary Wahlstrom	Sarah Brunsvold	Jonathan Stensland
	Sarah Brunsvold	Jan Radloff			Dawn Dankers	Jeff Weispfenning	
February 5	Jason Bergquist	Phyllis Mattill	Daniel Holmgren	Sarah Brunsvold	Dave Kutzbach	Molly Boes	Claire Rosenkvist
	Molly Boes	Donna Gawreluk			Dick Thompson	Mary Ann Boes	