



Welcome to the Light

A New Church Year – Advent-Christmas-Epiphany at Christ Church

The blue season of Advent and a new church year begin on Sunday, December 2. Come and see a transformed sanctuary—the great Advent wreath hanging over the center aisle; birch trees in the chancel at the front; blue streamers hanging from the side lights; lanterns in the side windows; and the Moravian star shining high above it all.

Come and be part of preparing the way for the Christ child. Here are the highlights for these weeks; see the calendar for times and many other events during this season at Christ Church. You are welcome to everything!

- **Sunday, December 2** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship. The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit and we begin to hear from the Gospel of Luke, symbolized by a winged ox.

After worship, an Intergenerational Advent Fair in the gym for everyone! There will be good treats, special music, and wonderful Advent crafts to make and take home: an Advent birch log to hold four candles; an Advent calendar to open every day; a pretty Advent-Christmas paper chain—cut off a link each day until Christmas comes.

- **Wednesday, December 5** – 7:00 p.m. Advent Midweek Compline Worship. See page 5 for more details.

- **Sunday, December 9** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship. 11:05 a.m. Sunday School for children ages 3 and up. 11:15 a.m. A Forum with the Church Council — Q&A before the congregation meeting next Sunday.

Expanded Issue

To prevent additional stress of putting out a January *Courier* during Christmas, this issue covers events through the middle of January as much as possible. A short update for January will be published in the middle of that month.

- **Wednesday, December 12** – 7:00 p.m. Advent Midweek Compline Worship. See page 5 for more details.

- **Sunday, December 16** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship. 11:05 a.m. Sunday School for children ages 3 and up. 11:15 a.m. Congregation Meeting in the sanctuary – Approve the budget for 2019 and elect congregation leadership for next year.

- **Wednesday, December 19** – 7:00 p.m. Advent Midweek Compline Worship. See page 5 for more details.

- **Monday, December 24** – 5:00 p.m. Welcome the Christ child with carols, candles, special choir and instrumental music, and the Holy Meal. Sing “Silent Night” on its 200th anniversary!

During Christmastide, the Advent blue makes way for festive white and red, the great Christmas tree is lit, and Christ’s incarnation is celebrated in scripture, sermons, song, and meal.

- **Tuesday, December 25** – 10:00 a.m. Celebrate the ChristMass with more special music and the assembly gathered around the table for communion.

- **Sunday, December 30** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist and carol sing

During Epiphany and the time after it, we marvel that Christ is the light to reveal God’s salvation to the nations. So we hear of wise ones from the East worshipping the child, and the first public revelation of God’s beloved Son.

- **Sunday, January 6** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship.

After worship, come to the gym for an Epiphany party with special treats, a blessing of our church building, and a welcoming of the three Magi.

- **Sunday, January 13** – 9:30 a.m. Eucharist worship. 11:05 a.m. Sunday School for children ages 3 and up. 11:15 a.m. Forum.

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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



Find us on Facebook: Christ Church
Lutheran, Minneapolis (@CCLmpls)



Find us on Instagram:
@christchurchlutheranmpls

Office Hours

Tuesday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Sunday Worship

Eucharist 9:30 a.m., followed by fellowship

September 23 through May

Godly Play for children ages 3–6, 11:05am–12:00

Spark! for children ages 7 & up, 11:05am–12:00

Educational forum, 11:15am–12:15pm

Staff

Pastors	Pastor Kristine Carlson Pastor Erik Haaland
Cantors	Pastor Robert Farlee Pastor Martin Seltz
Office Administrator	Erica Doss Rodriguez
Children’s Minister Director	Tyler Egge
Facilities	Chuck Merrell
Courier Team	Hilary Gebauer Marc Katz Pastor Kristine Carlson

Congregation Council

President	Matthew Courtney
Vice President	Dan Mueller
Secretary	Kate Haugen
Treasurer	Melody Pauling
Council Members	Hilary Gebauer Max Herzberg DeAne Lagerquist Marcus Nooney Rachel Slater

December & early January Birthdays

- 12/2 Traci Bosen
Carol Flanders
Ina Ziegler
- 12/3 Isis Faulk
- 12/5 Clayton Jelinek
- 12/7 Mary Brown
- 12/8 Jeremy Gustafson
- 12/14 Nate Perbix
- 12/15 Cheryl Leuning
Rita Schoenike
- 12/21 James Bartsch
- 12/23 Elena Hilding
- 12/29 Cathy Sieving
Gary Wahlstrom
- 12/30 Del Kneibel
- 1/2 Ray Peters
- 1/3 Nick Goddard
- 1/4 LeAnn Bergquist
Marudas
- 1/6 Evelyn Wermager
- 1/10 Meyer Schoenike
Christian Schoenike
- 1/11 Alana Young
- 1/12 Nora Katz
- 1/18 Amanda Jenkins-Buegel
Pamela Krueger
- 1/19 Micah Buckley-Farlee

*If you are not named above,
and should be, or your birthdate
is inaccurate, please call the
church office 612.721.6611*

Helping Hands for December and January

November/December

- Bob Anderson & John Schmidt
Jason Bergquist
Sarah Brunsvold & Jeff Weispen-
ning
Ernie Caltvedt
Siri Caltvedt
Kristine & David Denton
Hilary Gebauer & Marc Katz
Barb & Ron Johnson
Jodi McGuire & Aaron Amosson
Maria Markman
Marge Meffert
Kevin Olsen
Yi-ru Chen-Sarkanen & Simo Sar-
kanen
Clayton Jelinek
Bob Victorin-Vangerud

January/February

- Mary Brown & Luther Johnson
John Buegel
Dawn Dankers & Michelle Hovey
Donna & Pete Gawreluk
Nick Goddard
Liz & Roger Gomoll
Tim Hokkanen
Anna Mason & Kevin Kniebel
Robyn & Marcus Nooney
Claire Rosenkvist
Rita & Ken Schoenike
Susan & Levi Stugelmeyer
Cathy Sieving
Morrie Wee
Karen Woestehoff

*All church members are part of
Helping Hands. You may be asked
to help with Sunday Coffee and
hospitality-related events as needed.
Mary Bode is the coordinator. Call the
church office to connect with her.*

Lectionary Readings for December

December 2

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 1:68-79

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Isaiah 12:2-6

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

December 23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a

Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

December 24

Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

December 25

Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-4

John 1:1-14

December 30

First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

Lectionary Readings for early January

January 6

Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

January 13

Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7

Psalm 29

Acts 8:14-17

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Joulu: A Magical Finnish Christmas

Saturday, December 8, 1:00 p.m.

The Finnish community invites you to a service of Christmas Carols in the Christ Church sanctuary. Afterwards you are invited to the gym to purchase Finnish treats and shop the *Tori* (market) until 5:00 p.m. All are welcome!



Can you see our latest visitor? This rabbit has been visiting the courtyard. A new friend for our new Office Administrator, Erica Doss Rodriguez. *Photo Credit: Pastor Haaland.*

From the Church Council

Update for December

The November Council meeting was postponed due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. A detailed report of our meeting will be provided in the next *Courier*. Our November agenda will include three financial recommendations by the Executive Committee: 1) transferring remaining funds from the Organ Launch Trust Fund (#3046.1) to the Music Series Trust Fund (#3046) to support 2019 events; 2) amending the construction contract to complete the sanctuary roof project; and 3) utilizing available Second Century Funds to supplement construction costs in the organ/choir loft associated with the installation of the Dobson Organ. The agenda will also include discussion of Pastor Haaland's 2019 sabbatical, which was approved at our October meeting. Then, our main business will be to develop a 2019 budget to be presented to the congregation. Our annual Congregation Meeting will be called for December 16, after worship. It is expected that the agenda will include consideration of the 2019 Church Budget and election of Council Officers and Members. A full agenda will be included in the formal announcement sent to Christ Church members. Council will host a forum after worship on December 9 to preview the meeting's agenda and to answer questions.

Council would like to thank the congregation for its generous support of the mission and ministry of Christ Church and its response to this year's stewardship campaign, "Out of Love." The Stewardship Committee's wonderful work included a Pancake Breakfast and weekly Temple Talks by Howard Polsfuss, Noah Niermann, Ina Ziegler, and Carmina Stensland. The committee reminds us to prayerfully fill out and submit our 2019 pledges. If you need information about this, please call the church office or speak to one of the pastors.

Finally, we encourage you to contact any of the Council members if you have questions or concerns about our life together at Christ Church Lutheran.

Stewardship Follow-up

(Stewardship committee — Clayton, Gerry, Matthew, Pr. Carlson)

The Stewardship Committee reminds us to prayerfully fill out and submit our 2019 pledges. So far, over 56 households have pledged, with 40% growing in their giving. The congregation's generosity is greatly appreciated and makes a difference every week in the ministry of Christ Church Lutheran. If you need information about this, call the church office or speak to one of the pastors.

Courier Closeup — Lynn and Kevin Larson

This month's December *Closeup* features Lynn Larson, who has been a member of Christ Church Lutheran since her baptism as a baby, and her husband Kevin Larson.

What do you remember about your early years at Christ Church Lutheran?

[Lynn] My parents—Jan Radloff, who is still a member, and the late Bob Radloff—attended the early service (8:15 a.m.) every Sunday, so that meant I did as well. I got to know many of the “old timers” like Dick and Doris Gliem. Sunday school for youth was really full, with every classroom in use. After Kevin and I had been dating a few months, I brought him to Christ Church. He is Catholic and grew up going to parochial school. Given Kevin's Roman Catholic roots, we also attend the Church of St. Timothy in Blaine, alternating Sundays with Christ Church.

[Kevin] I remember how few people attended the early service in those days (1990's), but it was still a strong, friendly community. I have loved seeing the growth.

Do you live in the neighborhood?

[Lynn] We live in New Brighton (north of downtown).

What about our church keeps you coming back?

[Lynn] It is “home” for me. I appreciate the friendly pastors, and I have always liked the music and the traditional style of worship services.

[Kevin] Christ Church is very accepting of all people, which is great, and I've always been struck by how everyone mingles during the sharing of peace. I also enjoy seeing all the kids go up for “sermon on the steps.”

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

[Lynn] Kevin and I were married at Christ Church in 1996. Several Christ Church members helped decorate, set up, and/or serve our wedding lunch in the gym. Having such great sup-

port was a blessing! In addition, I'm glad I served as the Courier editor for many years. It made me feel even more connected to Christ Church. As for other activities, Kevin and I have been at every wine tasting class held at Christ Church

How does Christ Church Lutheran help you live and share your faith?

[Kevin] I've learned that the most important things you do are after you leave the church building. For example, being accepting of others every day, in all sorts of places.

[Lynn] I manage some chronic health issues, so I find peace and strength through my faith, which is reinforced through worship services. Being part of the Christ Church community also resulted in a special friendship with 98 year-old member, Eleanor Uglum, who reminds me to thank God and count my blessings.



What do you do when you're not in church?

[Kevin] Besides working too much (in the financial industry), I'm passionate about mountain climbing, which requires me to stay in shape. I also love to cook.

[Lynn] We are regular members at our local Life Time Fitness. While Kevin goes for the cardio classes, yoga is more my style. However, I take our Tibetan Terrier Abby on long walks every morning.

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

[Lynn] I was confirmed by the late Pastor Neibacher. Anne Bruss, daughter of Gene Bruss and the late Kathy Bruss, was in my confirmation class and now she is my step-sister!

“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.

Alternate Gift Giving

Gift giving at Christmas time can be a beautiful way to show our love and care for one another. Yet it can also be overwhelming. For many of us, our lives are already filled with more than we need—how do we choose meaningful gifts for people who already have so much?!

This year, consider giving alternative Christmas gifts: donations to organizations doing good and important work, given in honor of those you love.

This year the Christ Church Mission committee is holding an alternative gift sale through ELCA Good Gifts (ELCA.org/goodgifts). Give the gift of a goat (\$50) to a family that could benefit from its milk for years to come. Or perhaps you'd rather give a pig (\$30) or a hive of honeybees (\$20)! This type of giving was pioneered by Heifer International, but is now available through our

national church (the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) as well.

Visit the Mission Committee table at the Advent Fair

on December 2 to learn more, and to receive ornaments that you can give to announce your gift. After the fair (through the month of December) you can find the ornaments available near the main entrance to Education building.

Thank you for considering ELCA Good Gifts this year!



Give something **unexpected** this Christmas.

The Blue Expectant Hour: Advent Midweek worship at Christ Church Lutheran — Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19, at 7:00 p.m., followed by treats in the narthex

Come to three Wednesday evenings of worship this Advent.

We will gather with candles at the front of the sanctuary to sing the service of Compline and to hear reflections on our Advent theme — “The Blue Expectant Hour.”

After worship, stay for hot cider, cookies, and fellowship in the narthex before heading out into the wintry night.

Our theme this year comes from an Advent hymn, “As the Dark Awaits the Dawn.” It sings beautifully of this blue season:

*As the dark awaits the dawn, so we await your light.
O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright, loving bright,
till shades of fear are gone.*

*As the blue expectant hour before the silvering skies,
we long to see your day arise, whole and wise, whole and wise,
O lucent Morning Star.*

*As the moon reflects the sun until the night's decrease,
may we your healing light release, living peace, living peace,
unto your holy dawn.*

*Shine your future on this place, enlighten every guest,
that through us stream your holiness, bright and blest, bright and blest;
come dawn, O Sun of grace.*

~ Susan Palo Cherwien

The reflections will focus on aspects of Advent in church and in our lives, using items in our worship space as their touchpoint: the first week, the blue shades of the season, including the Advent weavings by our Weaving Guild; the second week, the light for which we long, symbolized by the Moravian Star shining from the top of the screen at the front of our sanctuary; and the third week, the birch trees shimmering in the chancel, promising new life to come from what seems lifeless.

Come for these Wednesday evening Advent times together, a rich, contemplative respite from the busyness of these weeks.



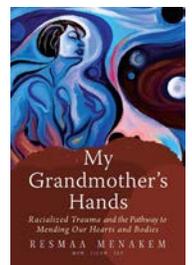
Racial Justice Task Force Book Discussion: *My Grandmother's Hands*

On Saturday, December 15, at 1:00 p.m. in the Luther Lounge, the Racial Justice Task Force is sponsoring a discussion of *My Grandmother's Hands* by Resmaa Menakem.

This highly accessible book delves into the complex effects of racism and white privilege. Menakem writes that race is a “myth—something made up in the 17th century,” with the concepts of whiteness and racial superiority nonetheless now “essential facts of life, like birth, death and gravity.” The result is that both black and white people are traumatized with the fear of the racial other and with the “dirty pain of avoidance, blame, and denial.”

Menakem calls us to recognize that racism is a trauma held in the body, and takes readers through a step-by-step healing process based on the latest neuroscience and somatic healing methods.

Some copies of *My Grandmother's Hands* have been purchased for use at Christ Church. Contact Pastor Haaland if you would like to borrow a copy.



Getting to Know Erica Doss Rodriguez

We are so happy to welcome our new Office Administrator, Erica Doss Rodriguez! Keep reading to learn more about Erica and stop by the office sometime to say “howdy” to our newest staff person.

Where are you from?

I was born in Falls Church, Virginia, and spent the first four years of my life living in Vienna, VA, a suburb fairly close to Washington, D.C. We moved to Texas when I was four years old, and I grew up in Rockdale, a small town about 60 miles from Austin. This is the town where my mom, dad, and step-dad grew up, and many of my family members still live there (or nearby). I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to Virginia each summer (age four until I was 18) to spend time with our friends there, so I count myself as partially Texan, partially Virginian.

Where did you go to college?

I went to college at Texas Lutheran in Seguin, Texas. My paternal grandmother, Alma, and my dad, Fredrick, also went to Texas Lutheran. I majored in psychology, and my very favorite activity was singing in the concert choir, conducted by Dr. Sigurd Christiansen. I took some elective music classes from him, and we had a good relationship. In fact, shortly before my graduation, he told me that he would have let me into his choir even if I “sang like a horse.” One lesson from him that I carry to this day – “Louder is not better. Better is better.”

What do you want to be when you grow up?

Ah, so many answers to this question. At different times, I wanted to be a veterinarian, a writer of fiction, an editor (this one is still a dream), and a church musician.



What is one of your favorite places?

One of my favorite places is a beautiful farm just outside Lovettsville, Virginia – it belongs to our close family friends Linda and Joe. It is a lovely, peaceful place, and I look forward to traveling there with my new husband Dave sometime very soon!

What’s something you enjoy doing for fun?

I love to read! Browsing in a bookshop or library is a close second. Playing the piano. Singing church music, and especially chanting. Practicing yoga. Baking bread.

What’s your favorite holiday?

My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. My husband and I host the meal, and we enjoy all aspects of that – the menu planning and shopping, the setting of the table, the dessert-making, preparing the meal, and especially gathering around the table with our guests to eat while discussing the year that just passed

and our hopes for the year to come. The leftovers are nice as well!

And favorite food?

I did not even hesitate on this one – my favorite food is PIZZA! Bring on the unusual flavors, textures, crusts – I will try anything once. Well, anything pizza-related, that is!

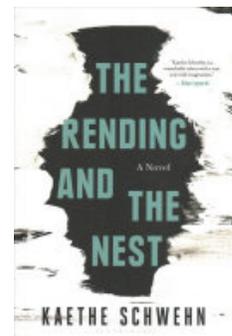
Is there anything else you’d like to share?

I am thankful to be part of the Christ Church community, and feel lucky to have the opportunity to work here. Thank you for being so welcoming!

Christ Church Book Discussion

The Rending and the Nest by Kaethe Schwehn
January 19 - 10:00 a.m. in the Luther Lounge

A book has been chosen for the next Christ Church book discussion! One reviewer describes *The Rending and the Nest* in this way: “A chilling yet redemptive post-apocalyptic debut that examines community, motherhood, faith, and the importance of telling one’s own story. Like *California* by Edan Lepucki and *Station Eleven* by Emily



St. John Mandel, *The Rending and the Nest* uses a fantastical, post-apocalyptic landscape to ask decidedly human questions: How well do we know the people we love? What sustains us in the midst of suffering? How do we forgive the brokenness we find within others—and within ourselves?”

Author Kaethe Schwehn lives in Northfield, teaches at St. Olaf College, and was on the teaching staff at Holden Village when the group from Christ Church visited this past summer.

All are welcome to join the conversation!

Epiphany Party 2019

This year, Epiphany (January 6) falls on a Sunday, so our annual Epiphany Party will be that morning.

Directly after worship on Sunday, January 6, come to a special Epiphany coffee to enjoy fellowship with each other along with many good things to eat and drink—including our traditional “King” Cupcakes. (Whoever finds baby Jesus in a cupcake gets to be one of our three “kings” for the day!)



Afterward we will bless our church building, our house of worship, and send everyone home with a liturgy to bless their own dwelling places (homes, apartments, bedrooms) for the coming year. It is an ancient tradition to bless dwelling places on the feast of the Epiphany—come and learn all about it! All are welcome and warmly invited.

Cookies! Volunteers Needed!

Do you love baking Christmas cookies?

Would you like the experience of fellowship and baking with the cooks of our church?

We have an opportunity for you!

Cooking, baking volunteers and cookie eaters needed for fund-raiser for South Metro Meals on Wheels.

The Christ Church Baking Group is planning their annual Christmas Cookie Box Sale and will be baking Christmas cookies in the kitchen during November/early December (see dates below and watch the bulletin). Cookies will be baked, packaged, and sold.

If you would prefer, you can bake and donate a batch or two of cookies to help fill the boxes (we can supply a recipe and/or ingredients), or make one of your favorites.

Are you more of a cookie eater than baker? We can use your help too. ORDER A \$14.00 BOX OF COOKIES! If you have a red container from last year – please return it and we will reuse (leave it on one of the treat tables in the Education Building). If you are not an eater or a baker, cookie boxes make great gifts!

To order your box of cookies, look for the sign up sheet in the education building starting November 24th.

2018 Christ Church Lutheran Christmas Cookie Baking Schedule

Thursday 11/29	10:00-3:00	Dough prep and baking
Friday 11/30	10:00-3:00	Baking
Saturday 12/1	10:00-3:00	Baking
Monday 12/3	Bake at home (ingredients can be picked up at church in advance)	
Tuesday 12/4	10:00-3:00	Baking
Wednesday 12/5	10:00-3:00	Baking
Thursday 12/6	10:00-3:00	Baking
Friday 12/7	10:00-3:00	Pack Christmas cookie boxes

Come when you can, and stay as long as you want. For scheduling, it would be great if you would call or talk to Rita (651.681.9975) or MariLu (612.978.4566) when you will be able to help.

Thanks to Thrivent Financial for Partnering and Sponsoring us in this project through their Thrivent "Action Teams #LiveGenerously" program.

Update: Refugee Settlement Team

by Ronald K. Johnson, team member

The Refugee Settlement team continues to maintain a relationship with Hart Lwel and Moo Say and their four children. Hart Lwel works five nights per week and Moo Say participates in daily language instruction. The children are in the St. Paul School system. They are all preparing for their first experience with a Minnesota winter. The snow looks interesting to them. The prospect of 20 degrees below zero, not so much.

The family is active in a Karen Christian congregation, one of at least four in the metro area. Participation in the congregation's worship service is interesting. The service is relatively non-liturgical. It has shared leadership and a generous supply of music. The service is about two hours in length. It appeared that children are excused from the service for a portion of time to attend class. There were at least 150 people in attendance. The gathering was in a Methodist church building.

Because of the family's schedule, late Sunday afternoon is generally the only time available to meet with the family. We are, therefore, struggling to find appropriate events/experiences. Most recently we took the family to The Taste of Thailand for supper. This seemed like the best possibility for finding food with which they are familiar. While the family originally lived in Burma, 18 years were spent in a Thailand refugee camp. Communication continues to be a challenge. The family members are making progress in learning English, but there is an understandable hesitancy to actually use it. Those of us on the team do not know a word of the Karen language.

The fact that Christ Church Lutheran is involved in refugee settlement should encourage us to be attentive to what is emerging as new government policy with respect to the admission of people to this country. There are now well more than 60 million refugees in the world, due largely to civil conflict, war and other forms of violence. Increasingly nations around the world, including the United States, are decreasing openness to the acceptance of refugees. In the current year the number of refugees accepted in the United States is about 40% less than the cap of 45,000 established for the year. A variety of means have been employed to slow down the process. It has been announced that the cap for next year will be roughly 20,000. This is a poor response to a crisis of enormous proportion. People of Christian faith would do well to ponder this reality in the light of scripture's admonition to welcome the stranger and care for the homeless.

Check out the handmade Christmas cards

Every Sunday by the yellow room – 50 cents each



Forums — December and January

December 2 (Advent 1)— Intergenerational Advent Fair

After worship, come to the gymnasium for our Advent Fair. It's for everyone! Make an Advent log for your dining table at home—with four candles to light on the four Sundays of Advent. And make an Advent chain, with a link to cut off every day until Christmas. And make an Advent calendar to open every day during this season of expectation. We will also sing an Advent carol and enjoy beautiful Advent music while we make our crafts.

December 9 (Advent 2)— Council-led Forum

The Christ Church Council will offer this forum, which will include announcements, details, and discussion to prepare for next week's congregational meeting.

December 16 (Advent 3)— Congregation Meeting

This year's December congregation meeting will be held in the sanctuary, following coffee fellowship.

December 23 (Advent 4) – Intergenerational Pageant

After coffee and fellowship in the Atrium, come back to the sanctuary for an intergenerational Pickup Pageant. There is a part for everyone!

January 6 (Epiphany of our Lord) – Epiphany Party

After worship, come to this year's Epiphany Party!

January 13 (Baptism of our Lord) – Why Don't we have a U.S. Department of Peace? Senator John Marty

Whether it is a "Cold War," a "War on Terror," or some other threat, our national response is to build up the military-industrial complex, and our "aid" to other countries is often selling them more sophisticated military equipment. Unfortunately, the idea of promoting peace and understanding through humanitarian and development assistance and through diplomacy doesn't even receive lip-service from politicians. Might we be safer with a different approach? A look at the politics of war and peace, and the need for a new approach to security and world peace.

John Marty is a Minnesota State Senator from Roseville. He gave a similar talk this past summer at Holden Village when a group from Christ Church Lutheran was visiting.

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.*

Children's Ministry at Christ Church Lutheran — December/January 2018

Come One, Come All!

On Sunday, December 23, we are having our Intergenerational Christmas Pageant, and we are in need of actors of all ages and all abilities! Immediately after church that morning, we will meet in the sanctuary to pass out scripts, put on costumes, and get a rundown of how the whole thing will work. It will be a lot of fun for very little commitment!

If standing up in front of people isn't quite your thing, please join us back in the sanctuary at 11:00 am to watch the Christmas pageant, as we mark the transition from Advent to Christmas.

Observing Advent at Home

If you come to the Advent Fair in the gym on December 2 (or even if you don't!), you might be finding yourself wondering, "What happens with this whole Advent thing now?" The few weeks before Christmas can be especially busy. So busy, sometimes, that we forget to get ready for the birth of Jesus before it happens! Advent is the time during the church year where we get to do just that; we get ourselves ready to celebrate Jesus being born. Here are a few ideas for celebrating Advent in your home:

- Set a special time aside each Sunday during Advent to mark the lighting of another Advent candle on your Advent wreath. As we light more candles, we bring even more light into our homes; just like Jesus brings us light by coming to us at Christmas!
- Keep track of each day of Advent as well! Check up on your Advent calendar each day to remember how close we are getting to Jesus' birth.
- Use the Advent & Christmas cards you picked up at the Advent Fair to make Advent even more special this year. Talk about the cards each day as a family. These cards are full of fun suggestions and activities that will keep you thinking about what Advent means all throughout the season!
- Bring your families to worship on Wednesday nights. This year, our Midweek Advent Worship services are on December 5 and December 12 at 7:00 p.m.
- Come to church on Christmas Eve (at 5:00 p.m.) and/or Christmas Day (at 10:00 am) to celebrate Christmas after our journey through four weeks of Advent. Then, celebrate Christmas all the way until Epiphany on January 6!

Save the Dates...

Sunday, December 23	Intergenerational Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 30	No Sunday School
Sunday, January 6	Epiphany Party after Church
Sunday, January 26	Cabin Fever Saturday!

DECEMBER 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 10:00am-Cookie Baking; 10:00am-Seasonal Decorat-
2 First Sunday of Advent 9:30am-Eucharist 11:00am-Intergenerational Advent Fair	3	4 10:00am-Cookie Baking 7:00pm-Preserv Property 7:00pm-Mission	5 12:00pm-Cookie Baking 1:00pm-Staff Meeting 7:00pm-Advent Worship	6 10:00am-Cookie Baking 7:00pm-Choir	7 <i>Sheridan Story Delivery</i> 10:00am-Cookie Baking	8 1:00pm- <i>Joulu</i>
9 Second Sunday of Advent 9:30am-Eucharist; 11:00am-Tour 11:05am-Sunday School 11:15am-Adult Forum	10	11	12 10am-Stationery 7:00pm-Advent Worship	13 <i>SafeHouse Meal</i> 5:30pm-Exec Meeting 7:00pm-Choir 7:00pm-Proj Management	14	15 1:00pm-Racial Justice Task Force Book Discussion
16 Third Sunday of Advent 9:30am-Eucharist; 11:05am-Sun School 11:15am Congregat Mtng	17	18 7:00pm-Council	19 1:00pm-Staff Meeting 7:00pm-Advent Worship	20 7:00pm-Choir	21 <i>Sheridan Story</i>	22
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30am-Eucharist; 11:05am-Sun School 11:15am-Forum	24 <i>Nativity of our Lord</i> Office Closed 5:00pm-Christmas Eve Worship	25 <i>Nativity of our Lord</i> Office Closed 10:00am-Christmas Worship	26	27 7:00pm-Choir	28	29
30 First Sunday of Christmas 9:30am-Eucharist	31 <i>New Years Eve</i>					

JANUARY 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 <i>New Years Day</i> Building Closed	2 1:00pm-Staff Meeting	3 7:00pm- Choir	4	5
6 Epiphany of our Lord 9:30am- Eucharist 11:05am- Sun School 11:15am- Forum	7	8	9 10:00am- Stationery	10 <i>Safehouse Meal</i> 5:30pm-Exec Meeting 7:00pm- Choir	11	12
13 Baptism of our Lord 9:30am- Eucharist 11:00am-Tour 11:05am- Sun School 11:15am-Forum	14	15 <i>Courier Deadline</i> 7:00pm- Council	16 1:00pm- Staff Mtng 6:00pm-Shelter Cooking	17 7:00pm- Choir	18 <i>Shelter Meal at Our Saviour's</i> <i>Sheridan Story Delivery</i>	19 10:00am- Book Discussion
20 Second Sun- day after Epiphany 9:30am- Eucharist 11:05am- Sun School 11:15am-Forum	21 <i>Building Closed</i>	22 7:00pm- FCCL Board	23	24 7:00pm- Choir	25	26
27 Third Sunday after Epiphany 9:30am- Eucharist, 11:05am- Sun School 11:15am-Forum	28	29	30 11:00am- B.A.S.I.C. 1:00pm-Staff Meeting	31 7:00pm Choir		

A special section of the Courier is here! The editorial team needed to fill some additional space. With that in mind, we thought why not give some ideas of “**Things to Do During the Christmas Holiday**”. So, take a peek and enjoy! Christ Church Lutheran does not sponsor or endorse any of these events, rather they are just random events that sounded fun to Hilary and Marc.

Saint Paul European Christmas Market

Nov 30 - Dec 2 & Dec 7 - 10

The European Christmas Market in St. Paul is a free event based on the traditional, charming, and festive open-air Christkindlmarkts that spring up in Germany, Austria, and other countries during the Advent season.

Shop for unique, handmade holiday gifts and decorations from local vendors, drink Glühwein (spiced mulled wine), and taste European inspired food and delicacies. <https://stpaul-christmasmarket.org/>

2018 British Arrow Awards, Walker Art Center

Nov 30 - Dec 30

Originated as the British Television Advertising Awards, the British Arrows Awards is renowned for showcasing some of the most innovative, moving, irreverent, hilarious, and/or bizarre advertising accomplishments of the past year. Though ostensibly developed to pitch products, these entertaining shorts have all transcended their commercial purpose, existing on their own artistically singular terms. Considering the quality of the work, it's no surprise that the Walker Art Center's annual screening of the Awards remains one of the institution's most popular draws, accommodating some 27,000 attendees over the course of the month-long event. Carrying on a 32-year tradition, the 2018 Arrows offers audiences the opportunity to communally enjoy these delightful works. <https://walkerart.org/calendar/2018/2018-british-arrows-awards>

Julmarknad, American Swedish Institute

Dec 1 - Dec 2

Julmarknad is ASI's holiday market and festival – and one of our most popular weekends! There will be handmade items for sale by more than 40 talented local and regional artists – including distinctive artisan glass, clothing, wood, jewelry, ceramics and textiles. Our own ASI Museum Store and Jul Shop will also be open for gift seekers.

The celebration continues throughout the Mansion with special performances by Nordic music and dance groups. Families can make crafts and drop in for story time. <https://www.asimn.org/programs-education/events/julmarknad-asis-christmas-market-festival-2018-0>

American Craft Council — Craft Bash

Dec 1

Craft Bash is a free holiday event celebrating craft, design, and the Minnesota maker community. Join us for a one-day craft market on December 1 at Hennepin Made and Parallel (144 Glenwood Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55405) to shop more than 70 talented Minnesota artists curated by ACC, There Collective, and the Food Building.

Craft will range from ceramics, jewelry, and home décor. <https://craftcouncil.org/shows/acc/acc-special-event>

Danish American Center Christmas Dinner

Dec 8

Traditional great Danish Christmas food will be on the dinner table this year at the Danish American Center biennial Christmas dinner. We will start with a social hour including light appetizers in the Atrium at 4:00 p.m. Seating for dinner will begin at approximately 5:30 p.m. Our waiter served meal includes a three-course service starting with a fish plate, followed by the traditional roast pork with crackling dinner and dessert course of ris a la mande all prepared by Chef Anna-Lena Skold. Come prepared for a fun evening of singing, conversation and dancing around the Christmas tree. Cost is \$45 per member. Cost per guests of members is \$50. <http://www.danebo.org/index.php?rte=viewevts&id=1050>

This popular event sells out quickly.

SPCO, Handel's Messiah

Dec 20 - Dec 23

- Basilica of St. Mary, Thursday, Dec 20 at 7:30 p.m.
- Basilica of St. Mary, Friday, Dec 21 at 8:00 p.m.
- Ordway Concert Hall, Saturday, Dec 22, 2018 at 8:00 p.m.
- Ordway Concert Hall, Sunday, Dec 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays with one of classical music's most beloved traditions and join the SPCO for our extremely popular annual performances of Handel's Messiah. Jeannette Sorrell and the SPCO will be joined by an all-star roster of vocal soloists, and renowned vocal ensemble *The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists* in what is sure to be a wonderful musical experience for the whole family this holiday season. <https://content.thespco.org/events/1819-holiday-concerts-handels-messiah/>