

STEEPLE TO PEOPLE

MAY & JUNE 2017

RENEW

In 2017, Christ Lutheran celebrates 145 years of being a place of mission and ministry in and around Marine on Saint Croix. 145 years! Think about the number of lives and families that have been strengthened, nourished and loved by the presence of God's love shown through the ministry of Christ Lutheran. Think about the ways Christ Lutheran has been a pillar of support and grace within a community that has changed and changed and changed again. In celebration of those 145 years, while also looking ahead to our 150th anniversary, we are in the process of putting together a capital campaign. A campaign we hope will allow us to address some of our current needs, while opening up new avenues of mission and ministry. As together we **RENEW** our mission to be a church led by God into the lives of individuals, families and the lives of our communities.

REVITALIZE

From the earliest of days Christ Lutheran not only served as a place where people would come to worship God on Sundays, but from the very beginning there was an understanding of being connected to the community and the needs of individuals and families. During those early years it meant the church would often be known as the gathering place for social events that welcomed everyone no matter who they were and where they came from. It meant the church was a place known for opening its doors to teach English to Swedish immigrants, while also being a place that sought to preserve some of the customs and traditions of home. It meant the church understood its ministry to be one focused outward. **REVITALIZING** and bringing life to the community continues to be a value of ministry here.

RESTORE

Whether it is repairs needed to a heating system, the growing need for safe and accessible parking, or the desire to preserve a sanctuary that is one of the oldest in the state, there is a list of ways we can **RESTORE** the building and property around the church in a way that allows us to continue to be a church and ministry that is led by God into the lives of individuals and families, and into the life of our community. The years have gone by, but our mission and ministry continues. Thanks be to God!

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*"We Are a Welcoming
Community Seeking to Grow
Faithful and Transformed Members,
who Serve in God's World
with Love."*



Christ Lutheran Church

150 5th St.
Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota
55047

clcmarine.org

651.433.3222

Christ Lutheran Church

150 Fifth Street
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
clcmarine.org

Church Office: 651-433-3222

Office Hours

9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship

8:15 a.m. & 9:45 a.m.

Fellowship is held between services

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Steeple Singers Choir, Music Coordinator

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"We the People of Christ Lutheran Church Are a **Welcoming** Community **Seeking** to Grow Faithful and **Transformed** Members, Who **Serve** in God's World with Love."

From Christ Lutheran's Vision Statement



There are spots along I-70 West of Denver that have literally been carved out of the mountain. Back in the day I imagine it took a lot of blasting and a lot of sweat and tears to make the interstate you can now drive through at 65 mph. I remember one time when I was a teenager riding in a car with a couple of friends and their parents. As we were coming back

into Denver from the mountains we came upon a stretch where if you looked along the rock wall you could clearly see the different layers of shale, limestone, sandstone and a variety of composite rocks all layered one upon the next, upon the next. It is truly beautiful to look at and fills you with a sense of awe. I remember my friend pointed and said, "Wow! Look at that, it must have taken millions of years to make all those layers." At which point his dad said, "Millions of years? No son, all those layers were created by God that way." He then went on to say how the earth is only seven thousand years old.

In that moment I didn't think much about it, as the church and school I attended supported such thinking. After all, I sat through classes that not only doubted the "age" of the earth they also dismissed the idea of dinosaurs and again used God as the source of fossils. As if God was playing some sort of game of hide and go seek with humans and delighted when we feeble humans would stumble upon these supposedly "old" signs of life. It wasn't until I was in college when I took a geology class and learned the earth was millions and millions of years old. More than that, it wasn't until I was in college I realized this fact was not a threat to my faith, my understanding of God, or what it means to be a Christian. That, in fact, it strengthened it.

I was thinking about this a few weeks ago when I stumbled upon a conversation at a restaurant in Stillwater. There were 8 or so men sitting around a table. I don't know if they were part of a men's group from a local church or just a bunch of guys having lunch - either way their conversation centered on the pictures that have been coming back from the Hubble Telescope showing these surprising images of galaxies millions and millions of light years away. As I overheard their conversation it became clear that most of them around the table dismissed the photos being at best "reflections" created by the sun hitting "space debris" to at least one of them believing the photos themselves to be fake. Continuing to listen it became clear these pictures were not filling them with a sense of wonder. Rather, these photos were challenging their world view to the point they were desperately trying to hang on to an understanding of God which made the idea of

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May/June 2017

NOTES FROM PASTOR JOEL CONTINUED...

multiple galaxies, much less galaxies millions and millions of light years away impossible. It was one or the other, but not both.

Throughout history, science and faith were (are) seen as opposites and not compatible. In that, if you believe in God you can't seriously believe in the latest findings of science. That somehow pursuing scientific truths means you are somehow betraying your pursuit of understanding God. When in truth, maybe the exact opposite is true - in that trying to answer the "how" one is led to question the "why."

We are living in a time when all "truths" seem to be up for grabs - including scientific truths. And if it's not for political reasons, it's for reasons of faith that many people are living in fear of science and the answers science gives. The sad thing is when you live with this fear, you miss out on surprise. You miss out on wonder. You miss out on awe. You miss out on wow. And maybe in the process, miss out on God.

~ Pastor Joel



Join us on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. from May 23 - June 27 for the **2017 Faith and Film Series**. Each week we will gather to watch a recent film together in the Nyman Center and join in conversation about the ways the film enhances/challenges/intersects with our understanding of God, our faith and what it means to be human. Most of the movies are PG or PG-13, though a few are R rated. See Pastor Joel for more information. The 2017 Faith and Film series begins on Tuesday, May 23 as we gather to watch and discuss: *Lion*.

equipping community empowering learning Jesus Christ
prayer Baptismal Calling Ever-Deepening Relationship
worship
Life Experience
Life-Long Process intentional service
unleashing

Faith Formation

Spring Carnival & Burger Bash!

Wednesday, May 10

The last night of Life Night is right around the corner. Be a part of our spring carnival and burger bash as we thank God for a great year. This event is designed for children, youth, and adults. All are welcome, even if you have never been to Life Night before!

GAMES, FACE PAINTING,
FUN WITH FRIENDS



We are looking for prayer partners for our high schoolers going on the urban mission trip to Chicago June 17-23. Might that be you? The only requirement is to pray for our youth and leaders before and during the trip. Pastor Hannah is glad to provide you with resources.

Summer Stretch

A special summer program for youth completing grades 6-9. Wednesdays in June, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Register by May 28. Cost is \$100. Talk to Pastor Hannah if you have questions.

Mini-Stretch

Calling all kindergartners through sixth graders! Want to be a part of a special day program just for you? Join us on Tuesday, June 13 and Tuesday, July 18 for service and fun. More details coming soon. Save the dates!



Voted "BEST VBS" in the Valley 3 yrs. in a row!

July 24-28

9 a.m.-noon

Ages 3-6th gr.

Forms available at CLC or at
clcmarine.org

Can you volunteer?
Talk to Laura Langreck or
Pastor Hannah today!

SERVING IN GOD'S WORLD WITH LOVE

Help Always Wanted...Help Always Appreciated
Christ Lutheran has a number of opportunities for service! Get "on mission" by giving some time weekly/monthly/occasionally to help CLC serve in God's world with love.



Valley Outreach in May

We have been asked to provide 5 or 6 volunteers from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Mon, May 29, Wed., May 31, and Fri., June 2 at the food shelf at Valley Outreach in Stillwater. See the sign up sheet on the kiosk in the Nyman Center. Please park in the lot next door, as close to the street as possible. There are passes available in the Valley Outreach building to put on your dashboard. Please arrive no earlier than 9:30. Call Ellen Albertson for more details at 651-439-3183.

Community Garden Caretakers

We need you! Please sign up in the Nyman Center for 1 or more weeks this summer to care for the garden by watering, weeding, and harvesting (when that time comes).



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Elener Cronk

Susan Knapp

Bill Eggers

Peter Fernstrum

Earl Erickson

Bob Davis

Betsy Willey

Ray Raffel

Jon Hackmann

Ruth Ogren

Reed Pollack

Marit Swenson (friend of Lorelee Di Lorenzo)

Debbie Mock (sister of Ellen Johnson and Suzan Mason)

Larry Darley (family of Edna Siniff and the Clysdale family)

Bill McDonald (father of Deb Landrith)

Jonathan Hempel (nephew of Kay Hempel)

Bret Strange (nephew of Glenda Svendsen)

Joan Hirt (cousin of Peg Arnason)

Annita Williams (friend of John and Deb Landrith)

Laurie Greene (cousin of Dave Ledo)

Phil Opperthausen (brother-in-law of Steve and Leigh Delisi)

Jerry Carlson (brother of Lynn Holt)

Mary and Clare Lauer (friends of Dodo Schouweiler)

Pam Zawistowski (sister-in-law of Linda Mendenhall)



“This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight...”

Philippians 1:9

Class of 2017 ~ Senior Recognition Sunday, May 21st

May 21 will be a special day in the life of our congregation as we celebrate a faith step for our high school graduates. Join us in worship for a special blessing and presentation of blankets. Seniors, keep an eye on your mail for a special invitation with more information.

RENEW



“In conjunction with the County’s road project, we have a great opportunity now to solve our drainage problems and create safe, reliable year-round parking for members and visitors, with a nice green space for the congregation and community.” - Eric Tryon

Imagine the possibilities....for saving energy and natural resources:

“If living a life of gratitude is our response to the gifts of clean water and air, of scenic beauty, of life itself - wouldn’t it be natural that you and I would want to do everything we could to take care of what was given?”

-Joel Martin



Imagine the possibilities... for our church organ and music:

“If the organ were a person, it would be applying for Social Security by now!”

- Bob Waedekin



REVITALIZE

RESTORE

Imagine the possibilities...for updating our HVAC system:

"We can have a quieter system with the machinery moved out of the sanctuary, ability to heat rooms when actually in use (and save energy and costs when they're not), and gain cooling if it's feasible."

-Jack Warren



Imagine the possibilities...for cooking as a community:

"I just imagine that kitchen full of people talking and chopping and making food together."

-Pat Pardun



"If we improve the water heater and countertops in our kitchen (and fix the parking lot!), it will be much easier for us to host and serve funerals and other large community events."

-Bonnie Worth



Adventurers is primarily for adults 55+ interested in monthly outings.

On Thursday, May 11th we will be going to the History Theater to see Sweet Land. It's a musical based on the movie. The cost is \$30. This includes ticket and transportation. Lunch after the show is extra. We will leave at 8:30 a.m. for a 10:00 performance. Please sign up and pay by May 7th. There are only 10 spots available.

In June, we will be on an excursion up north to Duluth to ride the North Shore scenic railroad and head up to Two Harbors for some sightseeing. More information will be coming in the bulletin and in the Nyman center.

Lastly, I have 15 tickets for Aladdin the musical at the Orpheum in September. This is a fantastic intergenerational musical. The cost per ticket and transportation is \$78. The seats are center balcony and a great deal for this show. Please sign up and pay by June 1st. More details can be found in the Nyman center.

The Together in Grief group

will be meeting once a month May—September on the first Saturday of each month. Those dates are: 5/6, 6/3, 7/1, 8/5 and 9/2. The group meets in the Fireside Room from 10:00 am – 11:30 am. Anyone who has lost a loved one is welcome to join us. If you have questions – please contact Lon or Pat Pardun at 651-433-2130.



Annual Plant Sale

May 13th & 14th

8 a.m.-noon

We will have great plants for sale from Lebens Greenhouse in Hugo. Come and peruse our selection of hanging baskets, annuals, and bedding plants. New this year: gift cards!

We are in need of youth and adults to volunteer.



**SUMMER
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE**

**Starting
Memorial Day
weekend
(May 28)**

8:00 a.m. Sanctuary

9:15 a.m. Outdoors on the lawn

(weather permitting)

**Coffee and Treats after the 9:15
worship**

Grove Elementary is collecting new and gently used books for their library this coming school year. If you have some to donate, there is a collection box in the church entry.

Thank you!



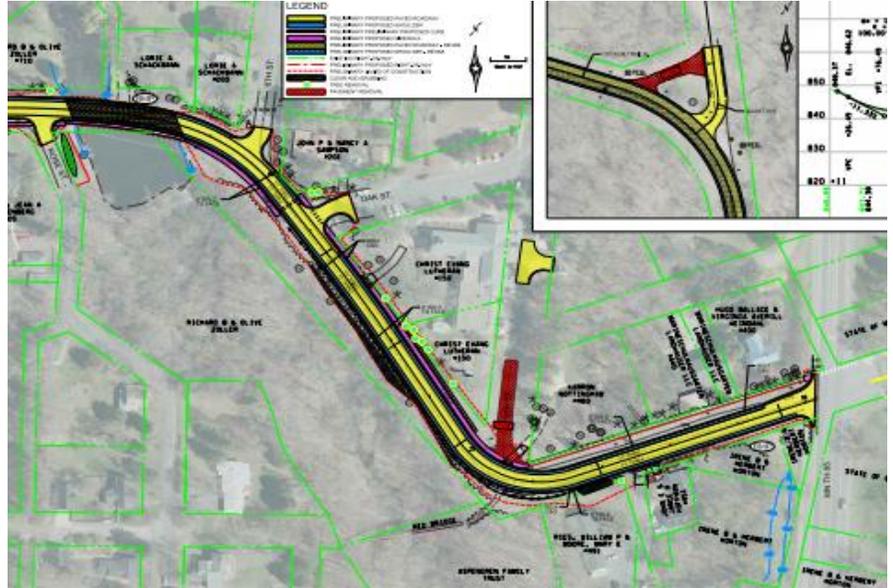
Coming Soon

County Road 4 Construction

This summer Washington County will be doing a major road construction project along County Road 4 (Broadway) starting at the railroad tunnel running east to Highway 95. A major part of the project will happen right along the stretch in front of the church. The project itself will start sometime in May, with the bulk of the work in front of the church to start sometime in July.

Throughout this time the church will remain open. However during the week there might be periods of time in which you will need to access the church from the north (turning on to Elm Street off of Highway 95, then coming down Fifth Street past the school to the church).

As of now there should be no disruption for access on weekends for our worship services (though that might change). We are planning to have an outdoor worship service on Sundays throughout the summer. The road construction will however affect parking this summer. With the changes being made to the



road in front of the church starting sometime in July, there will no longer be any parking allowed along County Road 4. Even after the project is completed, there will no longer be parking allowed on County Road 4 along the stretch in front of the church.

The church council is working on temporary signage that might be needed to help with access throughout the road construction project.

If you would like more information about the project, Washington County is hosting an Open House on Thursday, May 4th from 4:00–6:00 p.m. The open house will be held in the Nyman Center at the church.



If you took home seeds for the community garden, be sure to bring them back the week of May 7. They can be put in the church's entryway or inside the community garden. If you would like to help plant the garden, stick around after worship on May 14.

Christ Lutheran Church
150 Fifth Street
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047



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BEST PASTOR
JOEL MARTIN



BEST VBS
SUMMER '16



BEST CHURCH
ALL ARE WELCOME

Find out more at: clcmarine.org

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARINE ON ST CROIX MN 651.433.3222

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CLC! What an honor
to be chosen by
Gazette
readers!**



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events and ministry of
Christ Lutheran!**

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