

# CHRIST CALLING

June 2019

## CHRIST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**“Christ Lutheran Church is a Christian community worshipping together and working with others, locally and globally, to serve those in need, to care for the earth, and to work for justice.”**

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### From Pastor David

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this post-resurrection and ascension time, we remember that right now, we, the Church, are the “body of Christ” in the world. We are the “hands and feet” of Jesus, not only abiding in the presence of the Holy One in prayer and meditation, not only finding our spiritual sustenance and strength in communion with the Holy Spirit, but also carrying forward today the very ministry that Jesus conducted in his three short years in the lands of the Bible two thousand years ago. In concrete acts of love toward others, we carry forward into the present day the care, compassion, inclusion, peace and justice that Jesus enacted in his ministry toward the marginalized, ill and vulnerable in his day. In everything we do as a community of faith, let’s be aware of the Spirit of the living God dwelling in us, strengthening us to love others as Jesus loved. Let’s contemplate these words attributed to 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish St. Teresa of Avila:

*Christ has no body now but yours,  
no hands but yours, no feet but yours.  
Yours are the eyes  
through which Christ’s compassion must look out on the world.  
Yours are the feet  
with which He is to go about doing good.  
Yours are the hands  
with which He is to bless us now.*

Blessings on your travels this summer as we go about being the “hands and feet of Christ.”

Pastor David



On behalf of the congregation at Christ Lutheran we wish Alina and her husband Chris Wagner congratulations on the anticipated birth of their first child in June.

Everyone is invited to lunch after the service on May 26 to offer our best wishes to them as they start this new chapter in their lives.

Alina hopes to be in the office until May 31.

Thank you, Alina for your dedication to the work you do. We will miss you.

## Meditation Group

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month @ 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm

10 minutes of teaching, followed by 20 minutes silent meditation

in the Christian tradition.

Beginners and Experienced Meditators Welcome!

*“The Holy One of Israel says: In return and rest you will be saved; quietness and trust will be your strength...” (Isaiah 30:15)*

## Food Bank Challenge 2019

*Submitted by Eloise Breadner*

For the month of June we are collecting condiments. For example: salt, pepper, mustard, relish, ketchup and spaghetti sauce. Of course, all other food items are generously accepted. Thank you for your support.

## Christ Players' 2019 Theatre Production: Shaw's *Pygmalion*

Submitted by Richard Walsh

Auditions for our next fund-raising drama at Christ Church Waterloo, G. Bernard Shaw's famous social comedy *Pygmalion*, successfully concluded in April. After a reading of the script on June 17<sup>th</sup> to foster a sense of community among the cast and crew, rehearsals will begin on August 26<sup>th</sup>, occurring every Monday and Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon. The performance dates are November 21-23 @ 7:30 pm, so please mark your calendars now.

**Synopsis** Shaw's 1912 play exposes the exploitive professional relationship between two wealthy, older bachelors and a poor young woman in London. Henry Higgins and Colonel Pickering, linguists flush with scientific zeal, subject Eliza Doolittle, a street-vendor of flowers, to an intense and sometimes abusive tutorial in "the King's English" and decorum. Complicating matters, Henry then falls in love with the object of his creation just as Pygmalion in the Greek myth did. However, Eliza eventually finds her inner strengths, rebels against Henry's manipulations, and abandons the "gentlemen's" experiment to find her own way in the world.

Later versions of *Pygmalion* inspired the sentimentalized musical "My Fair Lady." But our production retains the original comedy's social critique but diminishes Shaw's verbosity.

**Cast of Characters** There are 12 characters in the play – seven women, five men. Eight of the actors that I've cast in the show you probably have seen in one of our previous productions. Here's the cast and the character each actor will portray:

In the principal roles are Rose Taylor as *Eliza Doolittle*, Ken Noakes as *Henry Higgins*, (in real-life Rose and Ken are a married couple), and David Clayworth as *Colonel Pickering*.

In the medium roles are Nadine Quehl as *Mrs. Higgins*, Henry's mother; Denise Gismondi as *Mrs. Pearce*, Henry's head housekeeper; and David Terry as *Alfred Doolittle*, Eliza's irrepressible father.

In the small roles are Ingrid Fast as *Clara*, a young-adult sister; Jason Riedel as her brother, *Freddie*; and Lisa Ruta-Litwin, as *Mrs. Eynsford-Hill*, their mother; Rev. Jim Keller and Heike Walker, as a working-class husband and wife; and Abigail Wybenga, as the parlour-maid to Mrs. Higgins.

This is a very strong cast of experienced and skilled actors. You won't want to miss this show. So please spread the word on your social media locations, alerting your friends and relatives. Again, this production is a major fund-raising event for our faith community.

**Help Wanted** If you attended our December 2017 production of *A Christmas Carol*, you'll recall the lovely period costumes that the actors wore. Hilary Walsh was the costumer then and returns in this capacity for *Pygmalion*. But volunteers are needed to assist her with the costumes. Her contact points are: [hilarybwalsh@hotmail.com](mailto:hilarybwalsh@hotmail.com) and 226-220-9092 [m].

Also, portable “flats” are needed to mark the scene-changes. We’d like to use these flats for future shows. So, we need some handy folks to construct them. Contact me here: [rwalsh@wlu.ca](mailto:rwalsh@wlu.ca) and 519-897-3630 [m].

Many thanks for your anticipated support!

## **Protest Marches & Processions**

*Submitted by Paul Bosch*

I’ve told you before that I spent the earliest years of my professional life – all through the ‘60s and ‘70s – as Campus Pastor at Syracuse University, in Syracuse, NY. I spent almost 20 years there, as Lutheran Campus Pastor on a team with other chaplains: a Roman Catholic priest, a Jewish rabbi, Anglican and Presbyterian and Methodist fellow chaplains.

You can hardly believe how incredibly exciting those days were, especially if you were on a campus.

Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement. The Berrigan Brothers and the Peace Movement. The Women’s Liberation Movement. Gay Liberation. The Environmental Movement. And in religion, the Second Vatican Council of the Roman Catholic Church, that promised to turn that branch of the Christian family inside out!

Our team of Chaplains, over the course of those years, had lunch with Martin Luther King when he came to speak on campus. Lunch with the Berrigan brothers, Daniel and Philip, local Roman Catholic priests from Syracuse, and peace activists, when they came to speak. Lunch with William Sloan Coffin, Presbyterian pastor from NYC and still another peace activist, when he came to speak.

I myself was caught up in all this cultural ferment. I became – contrary to my own Lutheran upbringing! – a pacifist, a firm believer in non-violent resistance to all war. In those days, of course, it was the Vietnam War, begun by USA’s own President John Kennedy and escalated by his successor, Lyndon Johnson, both Democrats, and escalated still further by Johnson’s successor, Richard Nixon, a Republican. Plenty of blame to go around!

So it will not surprise you to learn that when our Presbyterian Campus Pastor at SU invited me to join him and some students to go to Washington, DC, to march with Martin Luther King, I accepted his invitation. There was to be a Peace March in USA’s Capitol City, led by King. King’s Civil Rights focus had already born fruit in the Civil Rights Act, and King had turned his attention to The War.

There were to be about a dozen of us from SU, Chaplains and students, in two cars. I can’t remember where we stayed overnight in Washington. But we came to Washington determined to march peacefully and non-violently with hundreds of others.

I had determined that in our protest march we were on a religious quest, following in the footsteps of Jesus. So instead of preparing a protest sign to carry, I chose instead to carry a church banner. My banner was designed by me and constructed by my wife, about the size of a tea towel, my wooden banner pole one that screwed apart in two pieces for easy packing in the car.

And the banner featured a rather purposely obscure Christian symbol, the so-called Chi-Rho, two letters of the Greek alphabet intertwined, that have for millennia served as an abbreviation for “Christ”: The Chi – It looks like an X – stood for the English CH; the Rho – looks like a P – standing for the English R. To the non-Greek – to the non-Christian! – it resembled a cross, with the top vertical arm rendered as a P. The colour of the symbol was green, centred on a field of purple. No further embellishments, no slogans, no words.

We gathered at twilight on city streets outside the gated city Park where King was to address us. Hundreds, thousands of protestors, all in high good spirits, milling about politely and non-violently until the March was to begin. I fastened my banner pole together and attached my banner, and we were off.

We sang as we marched, some of those wonderful songs from the common protest song book of the ‘60s and ‘70s. You knew the words by heart: “We shall overcome...”. “Just like a tree, planted by the wa-aw-ter, we shall not be moved...”. This land is your land, this land is my land...”

(Do people sing together any more? Probably only in church. Maybe “Happy Birthday to you...” How incredibly sad!)

When we reached the gates of the Park, our little group from Syracuse was singled out and stopped. The agent at the gate – FBI? Local DC police? – intercepted us and spoke into his Walkie-Talkie. (These were the days before cell phones, remember!)

Apparently he had no advanced word on a church banner being carried in the March, and he wanted to check with his superiors. And what was that strange image on the banner?

After a few anxious minutes, he let us pass into the Park.

I can’t remember a word from King’s speech that night. But in a very few weeks he was to be killed, assassinated, while he stood on the balcony of that motel in Memphis. Martyred, it’s my belief, not so much because of his civil rights protests, as his anti-war protests. King was simply too un-American!

Oh yes: I have also come to believe that every church Procession is also a protest march. That church Procession on Palm Sunday. That Procession on Good Friday that retraces the Stations of the Cross. That Procession to Bless the Fields during the Easter Season. Hey, even that Procession down the aisle every Sunday in church that gets the choir and the worship leaders to their seats up front. In each case we’re protesting. Our allegiance is not to the Emperor. But to Another.

## **From the Treasurer.....**

*Submitted by Karen McRae*

The weekly amounts required to meet our 2019 budget are as follows:

Operating budget - \$12,240 per month or \$2,825 per week  
 Eastern Synod/Benevolence - \$1,333 per month or \$308 per week  
 Building/Capital Fund - \$1520 per month or \$351 per week.

Here are the financial results up to the end of April. Council has reviewed and approved the figures.

For the month of April:

**Operating:** The Income (Offerings - \$14,863; Fund Raising - \$240; External Revenue - \$2,634) was a total of \$17,737. Expenses were \$13,078 resulting in a surplus of \$4,659.

**Eastern Synod/Wider Church:** Offerings for the Eastern Synod were \$1,384 and \$330 for CLWR. These funds have been remitted as designated.

**Building/Capital Fund:** Offerings - \$1,630 (this included the donations of \$341 from the Easter Breakfast); Expenses - \$2,590 (this included the mortgage payment of \$970 plus \$1,620 to replace the front door opener). This resulted in a deficit in the Building/Capital Fund of \$960.

Considering all income and expenses for the month of April resulted in Net Income of \$3,699.

The financial report for the period of January 1 to April 30, 2019 shows a surplus of \$6,572. This is very good news and I thank you for the continued support.

Traditionally the months of July and August tend to show lower income. While on vacation, I would encourage you to sign up for the pre-authorized giving as a way to help the church have a steady income. Additionally, almost all of external revenues generated through rentals is from September to June.

If you have any questions or suggestions please talk to me as Treasurer or any many member of Church Council.

## **Transition Team Update, June 2019**

*Submitted by The Transition Team: Henriette Thompson, Jim Diehl, Ross Wagner*

Here are some of the activities the Transition Team has undertaken recently:

- On Saturday, April 27, we engaged Council members in thinking through the transition process.
- On Sunday, April 28, we made a Power Point presentation on information collected since January 2 to 41 congregation members. The presentation contained findings from interviews, site visits, and information on finances and membership as well as indications of interest from identified church partners. This presentation was distributed by email to all on the church email list and by print on request.
- We held three Question and Answer sessions to explore questions and concerns with approximately 13 members each on Wednesday, May 8 (2 and 7pm) and approximately 25 members on Sunday, May 19. We are in the process of summarizing the key points of discussion into a report to Council on June 11, and then to the congregation.
- We met with the Transition Team chair of Trinity United Church on May 9. We learned about their renewal process including the positive and challenging aspects of this ongoing process – land and building were sold to a developer; the congregation is currently discerning next steps in mission while renting space at St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Kitchener.
- Council provided feedback and further direction to our work on May 14.
- We conducted a second straw poll on options concerning land and building; responses were due by Sunday, May 26.
- We have continued to communicate information via Sunday bulletins and verbal announcements, monthly Christ Calling newsletters, a congregational meeting on April 28 and email blasts.

Upcoming plans and activities:

- Discern when and how we will be open to discovering God’s mission through us as we progress toward decisions about the property.
- Consider the role of a local church consultant from Credence & Company in the discernment process.
- Continue polling, as needed.
- Follow up with prospective partners (church and community) to continue to explore shared interests and identify opportunities.
- Receive further direction from Council on June 11 concerning next steps.



# FOOD TRUCKS

## Christ Lutheran Church

### 4:30 – 8 p.m.

### June 18, July 9, July 23, August 20

Based on the success of holding two Food Truck nights in 2018, we have decided to invite them back for four nights this year. It is a good fund raiser and it gives us another chance to meet people from our neighbourhood.

Each event will need a minimum of four volunteers to help with the set-up and take down of tables and chairs, greet people and do clean-up. Two people would do about a two-hour shift. Look for sign up sheets in the narthex.

Thanks for offering to help with these events. If you have any questions, please contact Karen McRae or Sheryl Henkel-Gerber.

## Spring Cleanup in Christ's Garden

*Submitted by Hilary Walsh*

It's time. With warmer temperatures, sunny days, and rain, our gardens have come to life once again! It's time to clear away spent sedum stalks, and other garden waste, so that our shrubs and perennials can thrive.

It generally takes one person (that would be me) about 8 hours to get the job done. Please consider volunteering an hour or so of your time to ease the load; four volunteers and our gardens would be ready for the season in half the time.

Perhaps it's time to resurrect the idea of a Garden Guild.

In the meantime, I can be reached at [hilarybwalsh@hotmail.com](mailto:hilarybwalsh@hotmail.com) or 519-886-8254 if you would like to help with the Spring cleanup.



## July/August Newsletter Issue

Submissions deadline is July 20 (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month). Please submit your items as a **Word Document, Times New Roman, size 12** to Pastor David at [pastordavid@christwaterloo.ca](mailto:pastordavid@christwaterloo.ca)