

THE DOVE



The Dove: Sharing the Good News at CALC

June 2016

From the Pastor

Dear Christ Ascension:

Well, here we are again. We find ourselves in the long “green” season, Ordinary Time, the Time of the Church. Frankly, since this season always lasts from June until after Thanksgiving, by the end of it I’m always a little sick of looking at green. And I’m so grateful when we enter the “Christ Cycle” again with its many colors and celebrations and remembrances. But before we write it off completely, here are some things to contemplate as we enter again this time:

First, the color itself. When we turn to nature, green is the color of life. There is the green of tree leaves, of flower buds, of grass, of vegetables and herbs. Green shows there is life. And in this time we are called into our own lives in Christ, blessed with the fullness of resurrection and power of the Spirit. And we root ourselves in this season in our faith in God’s continued work in the world, we stretch and grow in our call as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today, and bloom for all to see the life that we know in Christ. As you consider the green all around you this summer, consider your own faith life. And remember that it is the outward showing of green leaves and buds that plants get their nutrients. Plants grow by stretching and blooming for all to see. Plants curled in on themselves, plants that need to spend too much time worrying about themselves close themselves off to the light of the sun, the rain, and pollen that spreads (and in this case is a good thing...even if not for our allergies). So it is with our faith. When we root ourselves and the stretch, grow, and bloom in our discipleship, it is amazing the ways that the light and life of God grows and spreads itself all around us. So too, if you think of the vegetables and herbs in gardens around the area, in pruning and picking and harvesting there is room for even more growth. So too when we share the love and life of God in the world there are surprising ways that it multiplies for all to share.

Also in this season, let us think of this green as

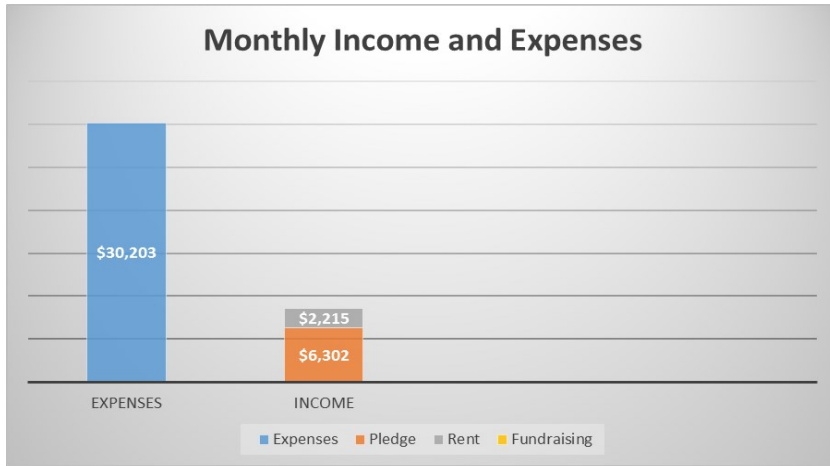
the blank slate on which the Church writes its story. Green for life, this blank slate is ready for our own acts and deeds in the world to be written. This is the time of the Church year when we can most see our own place in the continued story of God’s loving relationship with creation. And here and there we find parts of the story already written—and we see that most when we celebrate the various lesser festivals that fall during this season. Because the importance of the Life of Christ and the various moments in that life that occur during the Advent to Pentecost cycle, we rarely remember the witnesses through the ages who point to Christ and life in him through their own lives of faith. This Time of the Church we enter is a time for us to lift up those stories and take their examples as we live into our call as disciples. This year, in particular, we will celebrate the witness of Thomas, apostle (July 3); Mary Magdalene, apostle to the apostles and first witness to the resurrection (July 24); and Mary, the God-Bearer and chief of the saints (August 15). Also, as often as possible, we will include the various commemorations that occur during this time in the worship insert.

Finally, let us consider the length of this season. By the end of this season—six months from now—green will seem common place, the promises of life and the call to discipleship will be old hat, and we will almost have forgotten this beginning of the season. And then when we enter the season of Advent and raise again the prayer of “Come, Lord Jesus” we will be excited and expectant and energized to engage again with our savior who comes into the world. Is this not the life of the Church, the life of each of us Christians? That our life in Christ isn’t so new—it has been promised and fulfilled for each of us in our baptism. That our call to discipleship is almost innate—it has become so much a part of us because of the gift and power of the Spirit that has been ours for millennia. That we cannot remember when this all began—the promise has been given every moment of our lives since our

Cont. on following page

- ♦ **Child Care Meeting**—June 14, 7:00 pm
- ♦ **Book Group**—June 20, 7:00 pm
- ♦ **Council Meeting**—June 21, 7:30 pm
- ♦ **9:30 am Summer Worship**

May Offering



Your offerings to Christ Ascension fund ministries like worship, visitation, education, outreach, and community involvement. Please continue to pray about how you might support these ministries with your time, talents, and money.

Please consider making a special offering to our Building Improvement Fund. Simply designate your offering to "Improvement". Thank you!

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good and His mercy endures forever."

This month's celebrations



Baptisms

Liliana Cammarata—June 7
Connor Hall—June 30
Kelcey Johnson—June 16
Ada Scarboro—June 7

Birthdays

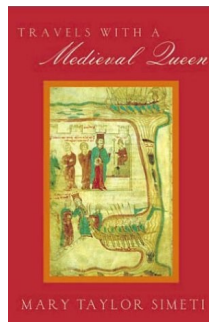
Ian Price—June 4
Evan Gow—June 15
Ralph Wellington—June 18
Lisa Rosso—June 22
Sally Mann—June 24
Martha Reumann—June 29

Ana Clark—June 15
Ciaran Clark—June 17
Elaine Gerhart—June 19
Per Loufman—June 24
Joy Walter—June 29



Book Group

Join us on Tuesday, June 20 at 7:00 pm in Kimes Hall to discuss "Travels with a Medieval Queen" by Mary Taylor Semeti



The author offers a delightful, reflective reconstruction of a journey undertaken in 1194-1195 by the Sicilian princess Constance from the dark forests of Germany back to her ancestral island in the

company of her cold, conquering husband, the Holy Roman Emperor Henry VI. All are welcome to read and join the discussion!

FROM THE PASTOR cont.

birth and our loving Creator looked upon us in love. And yet, as we journey through this green life as Christ's Church in the world, we never the less are excited and energized when we consider that our God loves us so much as to enter the world with us, as one of us, and journey with us to remind of us of this promised life and to show again the miraculous way in which it is fulfilled for us.

So, maybe this long season of green isn't so bad after all. For the life to which we are called and in which we journey together with Christ as Christ's Church in the world, thanks be to God.

Keep on journeying on!

Pastor Jay

Words from Worship



As we begin again the season of Ordinary Time, keep your eyes open for some new and different pieces of worship:

+ Centering ourselves around the ancient hymns of the church by singing the *Kyrie* and the *Gloria* as our Gathering Music, we will pray and sing and begin together our worship of God recognizing our profound need for God and celebrating God's continued glory, mercy, and peace in the world.

+ Continuing to use the pulpit as the only place of proclamation, we will increase the continuity between the scriptures and the sermon. One place of proclamation.

+ Living into the prayers of Jesus for the unity of his church, we will be sharing communion with one loaf and one cup. There will be no individual glasses for May 29-June 26 and perhaps longer, only one chalice of wine and one chalice of grape juice. You may drink from the cup or dip your bread into it.

+ We will again participate in a Hymn Lotto! Get your favorites ready and be sure to fill out the forms. As with last year, we will gather your selections during the offering. The hymn selected will be the sending hymn of the following week.

+ Mark your calendars! We will be celebrating several of the Saints of the Church! Join us as we remember Thomas, Apostle (July 3); Mary Magdalene, Apostle to the Apostles (July 24); and Mary, Mother of Our Lord (August 14). We will give thanks for their witness to the Risen Christ and their example of lives of faith.

We grow in our faith and life as The Church during this season of green. As such we welcome newness and vibrancy. If you have ideas, comments, questions, please contact the members of the Worship Committee: Katherine Reier, chair, Gordon Gerhart, Pastor Jay.



Our Evangelical Outreach Committee is gearing us up for another opportunity to reach out in love and service to our neighbors!

A number of members and friends helped in April to prepare and serve a hot meal to members of the community experiencing need and homelessness. We are reaching out to our community and sharing our gifts with Face-to-Face again this month! Consider the ways you can help (either behind the scenes to prepare food or out front helping to serve the meal) on **Saturday, June 25**. Please contact Ralph Wellington or the church office for more information and to sign-up!

Council's Corner

Minutes found here will always be a month "behind" although we will get them to you as early as possible. Also remember that council meetings, unless otherwise called, are public meetings to which any member of the congregation may attend.

Minutes for the Christ Ascension Lutheran Church Council Meeting April 19, 2016

Pastor's report

Pastor is in midst of moving to apartment on seminary grounds

Christian Education:

8 May will discuss *Psalm Not in the Book of Psalms*

15 May Pastor Pat Davenport will discuss ways God calls us in mission today

Parish Life:

1 May will be Chestnut Hill Festival, and we need people to help at the CALC table

4 June will be the Strawberry Festival

21 May will be the church picnic (next one will be in September)

Stewardship Committee will be sending a letter to congregation just prior to Memorial Day to encourage continued giving during the summer through greater participation in Simply Giving

Worship:

Will again use seasonal booklet and take advantage of opportunities for outdoor services

Will also try to maintain semi-regular Dinner Church on non-weekend days based on requests to continue this from Lent

Pastor will be meeting with Milagro family to talk about baptism and membership

Committee reports

Finance (Elizabeth Beck) –

Finance and Child Care committees met jointly with the accountant to discuss payroll and benefits and decided on the following: DH salary of \$43,000 starting 1 May (instead of being paid separately by the church [\$37K] and child care center [\$6K] at different rates). To simplify bookkeeping, the child care center will pay \$36,000 of salary (instead of \$30K in rent), and the church will pay \$7,000 of salary.

DH also paid a \$300 stipend every 2 weeks until a new daycare director is hired.

A more comprehensive plan for disability and life insurance is being explored for child care and church employees (change in cost will be minimal)

Paid Time Off will be standardized for everyone—5 weeks + 3 personal days of vacation leave, and 7 days of sick leave annually, use it or lose it

If we are short on cash in the coming months due to loss of rent from the parsonage and a drop in giving, funds could be borrowed from the child care center and/or invested assets to cover payroll.

Property (Elizabeth Beck) –

The current tenant in the parsonage has agreed to move out on 31 May (he will receive \$2,000 for moving and a full refund of the security deposit plus any unused rent in May)

The property received a proposed valuation of \$428,300 for 2017 from the City of Philadelphia

In early June, we will need to clean, paint and make minor repairs inside (e.g., replace missing glass in indoor door, damaged trim); clean and paint the front porch; fix up the yard

Green Tree Services removed the overgrown yew and euonomous (cost \$500)

A donor has offered to pay for repair/replacement of the sidewalk along Southampton Street (cost of \$36,200)

The church basement needs to have the scaffolding supporting the church floor stabilized; there is termite damage as well as rot due to water exposure – so options to create a swale and facilitate drainage are simultaneously being explored

Church windows also need to be repaired, because water is seeping through

A church clean-up day has been scheduled for Saturday, 30 April in preparation for the Chestnut Hill Spring Festival and expected visitors

An estimate of \$5,000 for renovation of the lower cabinets, floor and counter in the kitchen has been received; a granite countertop would be installed for free by the supplier; child care would pay for half of the cabinet replacement

The Rock Garden Music Program will be renting the sanctuary from 5-8 pm every Thursday for \$30/ night (agreement was signed on 14 April)

Council's Corner cont.

Evangelism/Outreach (Ursula Bechert) –

Additional copies of the Outreach brochure are needed for people to pick up after service and for distribution during various events
Work to revise the CALC webpages for Outreach is ongoing

On Saturday, 16 April, eight members of CALC volunteered at Face-to-Face soup kitchen in Germantown to prepare (Ursula, Stephen, Sarah, Irma, Martha, Ralph, and Barbara) and serve (Larry) food; Ralph Wellington organized the event, which went very well

Elaine Gerhart announced to the congregation that Keystone Hospice has volunteer service opportunities; more information about this will be distributed in the near future

A request for car booster seats, car seats for toddlers, and high chairs was made by the Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (PIHN) and shared with the congregation on Sunday, 17 April

We've offered to help PIHN the 2nd week of July (10-16 July) and will need volunteers for:

Preparing dinner

Hosting/serving dinner

Stocking pantry for breakfast and lunch meals

The idea of forming a quilting group to make quilts in support of Lutheran World Relief was proposed by Sarah Killinger, and we are still exploring the possibility as a winter activity

Childcare (Kristin Gray) –

Had surprise health inspection today; have 45 days to address minor issues

Christian Education (Graeme Brown) – no updates, but see Pastor's report

Parish Life (Steve Higgins) – no updates, but see Pastor's report

Stewardship (Sara Calderon) – no updates, but see Pastor's report

Strategic Plan (Merri Brown) – no updates, but see strategic directional statements below

Worship (Katherine Reier) – no updates, but see below

Old business

Strategic directional statements suggested by Sara were agreed upon by the Council and include:

Stabilize the congregation's finances by taking the necessary steps for the sale of the parsonage, followed by activating the investment plan after the sale towards the creation of an endowment fund

Adopt the Outreach Committee goals as the congregation's main outreach effort

Strengthen the congregation by engaging and promoting community-building events; these can be inter-generational or targeted to a particular audience as the opportunity arises – some of these events are already part of our congregation's regular schedule of events

The idea is to actually direct our work in terms of meeting these three directional criteria by asking the following questions:

Does this event or effort contribute to stabilizing the church's finances?

Does it contribute to our outreach goals?

Does it build and strengthen our church community?

Or how can we make a particular event or effort work toward stabilizing our church's finances, contribute to our outreach goals, or build and strengthen our church community?

The Council agreed to pay a supply rate of \$150/service without the choir (and \$200/service with the choir), because \$125/service is too low – no one will agree to this rate based on calls that Katherine and Merri have made to local musicians; individuals have been secured through the end of May, and once the parsonage is sold, a search for a new Music Director will be initiated

New business

One or more "car will be towed" signs are needed in the parking lot, because increasingly people, who are not doing anything at the church, are parking there; Council approved the motion

The opportunity to organize a Health Fair sometime in the future was mentioned by Pastor; Sister Cecilia Wilson would facilitate this and need 3-5 people to help organize event ~6 months in advance

State of the Congregation and Lord's Prayer – Adjournment

June 2016

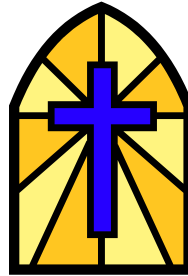
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 7:00 pm AA Meeting	3	4
5 9:30 Worship	6	7	8	9 7:00 pm AA Meeting	10	11
12 9:30 Worship	13	14 7:00 pm Child Care Meeting	15	16 7:00 pm AA Meeting	17	18
19 9:30 Worship	20 7:00 pm Book Group	21 7:30 pm Council Meeting	22	23 7:00 pm AA Meeting	24	25
26 9:30 Worship	27	28	29	30 7:00 pm AA Meeting		

Call for Building Improvement Fund

Please consider donating to our Building Improvement Fund. Mark your donation "Improvement Fund." Thank you!

Memorial Mission Fund

Church council has approved a Memorial Mission Fund. Gifts can be given to this fund anytime in memory of our beloved dead. Church council will have discretionary oversight of this account and use funds only for purposes that directly advance our mission, ministries and public witness. Thank you for supporting the congregation's mission in this way.



The Dove: Sharing the Good News at CALC

Contact Us

Give us a call or send us an email for more information

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and on Facebook:
"Christ Ascension Lutheran
Church-Chestnut Hill"

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Christ Ascension Lutheran Church
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A congregation of the ELCA

Christ Ascension
A Church United in Faith, Hope and Love

Worship Schedule
9:30 a.m. Holy Communion