

# THE DOVE



The Dove: Sharing the Good News at CALC

September 2016

## From the Pastor

Dear Christ Ascension,

As the academic year begins again and our vacation plans become memories, our program year begins at Christ Ascension! This year we are welcoming back some old favorites and exploring some new adventures. The focus this fall is on Faith Formation. Now, before you harken back to short desks, circle rugs, and boxes of broken crayons, let me tell you that Faith Formation is a life-long process and it's not all about sitting silently and learning.

Faith Formation is a process that begins with the first drops of water on our foreheads and doesn't end until, well, I'm not sure it ever ends. We are always learning and growing, exploring and stretching, being challenged and challenging others. Faith formation is like the weight training part of being a Christian. It is about strengthening our faith so that we can live more confidently in the promises of God. And that takes many forms.

Yes, there is learning and growing: Sunday School and education time with family and friends. But learning takes on so many different aspects than the classroom. Learning about one another—our sisters and brothers in Christ—is growing into our faith. Exploring our own relationship with God through prayer and meditation, through contemplation and listening is growing into our faith. And trying—something brand new, something we haven't tried in a while, or a new way to do an old thing—is growing into our faith.

Exploring and stretching is part of our faith formation as well. Sharing our faith—telling others about our life together here

in Christ—is stretching our faith. Working in the work of God's reign—service projects and generous giving—is stretching our faith. And opening our hearts and minds to the visions and dreams of God for each of us and all of us is stretching our faith.

And that all sounds fun and much like what we are already doing here at Christ Ascension. But there is also challenging and being challenged in faith formation. Being open to dialog and differences is a way that our faith can be challenged. Standing firm even when we are the only one standing up for our beliefs is a way of challenging others. But in both of these we are reminded that challenge is part of forming a strong faith. And we are reminded how often Jesus challenged the status quo, the way things were, the comfortable faith of so many of his followers...and we're still teaching that radical way of life today! Being open to the ways the Spirit works in us and in our sisters and brothers is all part of our own faith formation.

As the program year at Christ Ascension begins, I invite you to participate fully in the life of Christ and the mission of God in this place. There are lots of events, activities, and ways to get involved—some new and some old—and you are invited... and I encourage you...to be a part of as many and as much as you can. And in all of it, remember that the more we exercise, stretch, and grow our faith, the stronger our trust and the more confidently we show forth Christ's Reign now, today.

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Jay

- ♦ **Book Group—**  
September 8,  
7:00 pm
- ♦ **Child Care Meeting—**  
September 15,  
7:00 pm
- ♦ **Council Meeting—**  
September 21,  
7:30 pm

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- ♦ **10:30 am Worship**  
**September 11**
- ♦ **9:30 am Christian Ed—**  
**September 18**

## Pledge Sunday!

This year, we will hold Pledge Sunday on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. You will be receiving a mailing with your pledge cards. You can return your pledge anytime before October 23<sup>rd</sup> (and really anytime after that, too). We will dedicate them to God's work in this place as we continue to live into Christ's mission for this corner of Christ's Church.



## Fall for the Arts

The Annual Chestnut Hill Fall for the Arts festival is early this year! It will be held on Sunday, 25 September. Christ Ascension will have a table and will be selling coffee mugs with pictures of the church on them. If you can help us visit with our neighbors, please contact the church office! It's a great opportunity to sit with a friend for an hour or so and get to know our neighbors!

## Book Group

Join us on Thursday, September 8 at 7:00 pm in Kimes Hall to discuss *"The Daughter of Time"* by *Josephine Tey*.



This novel recreates one of history's most famous—and vicious—crimes. Could such a sensitive and noble face in a contemporary portrait of Richard III actually belong to one of the

world's most heinous villains—a venomous hunchback who may have killed his brother's children to make his crown secure? Or could Richard III have been the victim, turned into a monster by the usurpers of England's throne?

***Let's get reading to find out!***

## Pet Blessings!



On Sunday, 25 September, we will be worship on our side lawn. We will be celebrating St Francis in our Eucharist and will host pet blessings at the end of worship. You are invited to bring your pets to worship for their

blessings. Pet Blessings will be held rain or shine on this Sunday. If it is rainy, we will worship indoors—please plan your allergy needs appropriately.

## September celebrations

### Baptisms

1—Per Loufman



2—Ana Clark  
Rosso

### Birthdays

1—Daniel Baselice

5—Brian

6—Karen Rile Smith  
16—Gabrielle Schwartz  
17—Megan Terry  
18—Cameron Brown



21—John Bartlett  
22—Nigel Baselice, Isabel Catalan  
26—Noelia Rivera  
28—Celeste Rivera

## Fall Sermon Series

Thank you to all who participated in generating material for Pastor Jay's upcoming sermon series on Our Favorite Bible Stories. We did not get the full eight suggestions so everyone's stories got in! Below is the sermon series schedule:

- 11 September Creation (Genesis 1-2)
- 18 September Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-9)
- 25 September Jacob's Ladder (Genesis 28:10-22)
- 2 October Samuel (I Samuel 3:1-4:1a)
- 9 October Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:1-29)

Please note:

- 16 October St Luke Day with Rite of Healing
- 23 October Pledge Sunday with dedication of pledges
- 30 October Reformation Sunday

## Christian Education News

### ADULT FORUM FOR THE FALL

We are stepping into our program year this month. While worship time changes to 10:30am on Sunday, 11 September, Adult Forum will begin at 9:30am on Sunday, 18 September. In the weeks leading up to Reformation Sunday (the 499<sup>th</sup> incidentally), we will be exploring the roots of the Christian Church. The course outline is below:

- 18 September *ekklesia* and the Rag-Tag Bunch of Followers
- 25 September *HIATUS—Chestnut Hill Fall for the Arts*
- 2 October We're on Our Own...or Are We?
- 9 October Voting on God
- 16 October Light in a Dark Age
- 23 October A Light on a Hill
- 30 October Silence and Searching

### CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

We begin Sunday School again this year at Christ Ascension! All children age 3 through grade 5 are welcome to join us downstairs in Kimes Hall at 9:30am. We will be exploring our encounters with God together. Parents are welcome to stay, or join the Adult Forum upstairs. Cameron and Graeme Brown will be leading this time with a rotating bunch of helpers. All leaders and helpers have background checks from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

A Note: Sunday School for children will be on the "odd" Sundays of the month starting with the First Sunday in October (October 2<sup>nd</sup>) and continuing on every first, third, and fifth Sunday. But EVERY week there will be a children's message during our 10:30am worship. All are welcome...and bring a friend!



## 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.

### Christ Ascension Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes July 19, 2016

Present: Pastor J. Mitchell, J. Scarboro, K. Oxford, E. Beck, K. Reier, M. Brown, G. Brown, S. Higgins, S. Calderón  
Excused: U. Bechert

#### Approval of Minutes and Agenda

K. Oxford opened the meeting with the approval of Minutes and the Agenda. Both Minutes and Agenda were approved.

#### Devotions

J. Scarboro led devotions based on the Daily Devotionals, *Reflections for Ragamuffins* by Brennan Manning.

#### Pastor's Report

Following are the highlights from Pastor's Report:

Pastor will be leading an 8 week Sermon Series based on Bible stories. The stories will be solicited from members of the congregation.

Samra, an international student/refugee from Syria, will be coming to the Chestnut Hill area and will be hosted by a family of a local congregation while she attends LaSalle University. There is a group of local parishes that include Our Mother of Consolation Catholic Church, St. Martins in the Fields Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill Presbyterian and us, among others, that have been contacted to help support this student.

Council approved to make an appeal to the congregation to support this effort.

#### Child Care

K. Oxford highlighted the following items from the Child Care Report:

The position of Childcare director/co-director continues to be posted and we have received some applicants.

The process has not yet resulted in a hire.

#### Financial Report

E. Beck highlighted the following from the Financial Report:

There is a shortage to cover payroll. Moneys from the Bartlett Fund will be used to cover repairs to the parsonage and we intend to replenish the funds once the sale of the parsonage is done. E. Beck agreed to inquire whether we could take a loan from the Bartlett Fund to complete payroll.

Pastor Jay suggested stopping the ad in the Chestnut Hill Local, which would save us \$100/mo.

After some discussion, S. Higgins moved to cap to \$30K the amount of money we will borrow from the Bartlett Fund for repairs, in order to free up money to meet payroll.

All Second. All approved.



The Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

# September 2016

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

## Call for Building Improvement Fund

Please consider donating to our Building Improvement Fund. This fund provides for building upkeep and repairs. Mark your donation "Improvement Fund." Thank you!

## Memorial Mission Fund

Gifts can be given to the Memorial Mission 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.



## Contact Us

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

**Christ Ascension**  
8300 Germantown Ave  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

(215) 247-4233

[office@christascension.org](mailto:office@christascension.org)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.christascension.org](http://www.christascension.org)

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

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8300 Germantown Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

*A congregation of the ELCA*

*Christ Ascension*

*A Church United in Faith, Hope and Love*

**Worship Schedule**

**9:30 a.m. Holy Communion**

**Schedule changes on September 11**

**9:30 am Christian Education**

**10:30 am Worship**

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE