

Guest Article



Dear Fellow Members,

I am Larry Hill, currently church Treasurer, and member of Christ Lutheran for approximately 15 years. I have been a lifelong member of Lutheran congregations affiliated with the ELCA, including its predecessor churchwide bodies.

My wife, Kathy (who is of the Roman Catholic faith), and I reside in Frontenac and we are the parents of three children who are now all living in the St. Louis area. We enjoy seeing a great deal of our two grandsons, both age four. My personal interests include overseas travelling, gardening, aerobic walking, and especially SLU Billikens basketball and Cardinals baseball.

I retired in 2021 after several years in a semi-retirement phase. After an early stint in a large CPA firm, then General Dynamics, and receiving an MBA at SLU, most of my business career was subsequently spent working for two medium-sized manufacturing companies, NorthStar Battery and Contico International, in various executive positions. At the outset of my extended semi-retirement period, I transitioned to the non-profit world, and continue to serve on the governing boards of Lutheran Family & Children's Services Foundation (6 years thus far) and St. Francis Community Services, an affiliate of Catholic Charities, (7+ year thus far). I am currently Vice Chair at LFCS Foundation and Treasurer at SFCS. Both organizations being long-established social services ministries deeply engaged in a diverse number of areas of the STL community.

I joined Christ Lutheran because I had a preference for a smaller yet active place of worship...a place that, like the non-profit organizations I am engaged in, proactively carries out the teachings of Jesus Christ for benevolence toward the less fortunate and their profound needs for social and economic justice, behavioral health and related services.

My service as church Treasurer dates back to 2015-2018, followed by assistant to the Treasurer (2019-2020), and Treasurer again (2021-current). In addition to conventional treasury and financial management duties, I have been actively involved during the past 7 ½ year period in many of the business affairs of the Church's operations, such as contracts for various services (phone systems, office equipment, various building services, etc. and most recently real estate). I am also currently a member of the Major Renovations Committee.

Near-term goals of the Finance Committee include (a) involvement in a financing plan for the major renovation project, (b) management of current investment balances to safely optimize income, and (c) communication of financial challenges as we face potential operating deficits and major long-term expenditures to upgrade our facilities to 21st century and accessibility standards, as well as to help reverse the moderately declining trend in member giving.

Going forward, it is my hope that we, as a congregation, can work closely together in a deliberate but expedient process leading to the approval of a comprehensive plan positioning us to begin--and successfully complete--the Major Renovation & Expansion Project. This is a vital project to bring our beautiful facilities fully up to modern standards, and most importantly making us a spiritual community that is significantly more welcoming, comfortable and accessible to All.

WORSHIP

Sunday, May 15, 9:30 am, Worship Access Online Bulletin

Join us for Worship in the Sanctuary. Childcare available in the nursery at 8:30am.

OR

You may also attend virtually using the Zoom link or call the number noted in the bulletin to join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/278217453? pwd=azE2dkNHVE9WSzdaeDM5Yzh4RGRvdz09

One tap mobile

+13126266799,278217453#,1#,971744# US (Chicago)

Call in From Any Phone: 312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 278 217 453 Password: 971744



Celebration of Life Service

Join us in the Sanctuary for a memorial service for Elsie Johnson Saturday, May 14 at 10:30am. Light refreshments to follow.



Stewardship & Offerings

We can continue to fund our church and the important work we're doing with a few easy clicks:

1. Visit <u>our donation website</u> directly or go to <u>www.christwg.org</u> and scroll down to the 'Give Now' button.

2. You may make a one time or recurring gift. There are NO FEES to withdraw directly from your bank account. Fees do apply for debit/credit card transactions.

3. Optional: set up a profile to be able to change your recurring gifts at any time or view your giving history.

If you prefer to make your offering by check or cash, there are mailing envelopes included in your offering envelope package.

Christian Service

Christian Service committee is partnering with the Sunday School classes to gather items and share them with children who are served by Humanitri. We will be collecting these items and assembling the gift bags on Sunday 05/22/22. If you would like to help participate by donating items, please refer to the sign up genius organizer at <u>https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094CAAA92DA20-clchumanitri</u>.

We are requesting specific numbers of certain items to match the age range of the children Humanitri is currently serving. If you would like to contribute but would prefer for someone else to do the shopping, you can donate to the cause by sending money to Erin Eftink at 1405 Oakhall Manor Ct, Ballwin, MO 63021, or if you prefer electronic donations, please send your donation via Venmo to @Dave-Eftink, confirmation # 6647. **We are requesting that all donations be brought in by Sunday 05/15/22.** We will have a blue bin at the back of church for the donated items. Questions, please contact either Sarah Mudd or Sherry Mitchler. Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to care for those in the community!

Choir Practice

All who love to sing are welcome at church every Wednesday at 7:30 pm. You must be fully vaccinated and two weeks past your final vaccine to participate. For questions, I can be contacted at <u>dianedrollinger@gmail.com</u>. Thanks!







CLASS OF 2022

Do you know a CLC member graduating from High School, College, or Grad School? Please send their name and school information to office@christwg.org and we will recognize their accomplishment during worship on May 22nd.

Join Pastor Meagan for this important Synod Conversation!

Conversations on Race and Racism

Racial Justice Team Of the Central States Synod



Rev. Aimée Appell, Central States Synod D.E.M. extends a personal invitation.

Rostered leaders and laity alike are invited to join the Central States Synod's Racial Justice Team for a 90-minute session of listening, brainstorming, scripture study and conversation. Our goal is to better enable the synod to provide you with the resources you need to have conversations with one another and your community as we discern what God is calling us to do as individuals, as congregations and as a synod.

Choose the date and time that works best for you and join us!

- May 15, 1:00 p.m.
- May 15, 4:00 p.m.
- May 17, 7:00 p.m.
- May 19, 7:00 p.m.
- May 22, 4:00 p.m.

RSVP here: ...: Learning Stream - Standard and Plus :...

Women's Group

The women of Christ Lutheran are invited to join our meetings taking place the second Thursday of each month at 7pm. More details to come! Any questions? Reach out to Becca Jordan at <u>beccajedwards@gmail.com</u>.





In person Adult Forum will be held in the Fellowship Hall and will also be available on Zoom. If you choose Zoom just stay connected after the Sunday morning service. We anticipate a 10-15 minute break between the end of the postlude and the beginning of Adult Forum.

Upcoming Forums:

May 15- Diane Drollinger, Katie Ciorba, and Pastor Meagan will lead

a discussion on how we, as a congregation and as individuals, can best help survivors of sexual abuse, even when we don't know who they are.

May 22-A representative from Humanitri, one of CLC's chosen benevolences, will update us on its work and mission. Humanitri works with homeless families to find stable and affordable housing.

Sunday May 8

Notes from the adult forum on the book <u>The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can</u> <u>Prosper Together</u> by Heather McGhee

Zero-sum theory assumes a "them" and an "us"; if it's good for 'them' it is most likely not good for 'us'. The zero-sum approach is a part of the fabric of America's founding and much of its subsequent history. For many, life is seen as a bucket that can only hold so much for all to share.

McGhee's background in economics, research and investigation of research by others revealed in the area of racism, there are costs to both persons of color and the current white majority, not only in economics but in wellbeing. A 2019 Citigroup study says America could have been \$16 trillion richer over the 20-year period estimates the economy if not for inequities in education, housing, wages and business investment between Black and white Americans during that time.

McGhee says she "learned to look further upstream to what was wrong with our democracy when she joined DEMOS, an organization whose name means 'the people of a nation.' Working alongside voting rights lawyers and experts on campaign finance rules, I learned how our democracy is less equal than our economy—and the two inequalities are mutually reinforcing. When I think about the nice things we just can't seem to have in America, a functioning, representative democracy is probably the most consequential."

McGhee tells of the closing of some public swimming pools in reaction to Supreme Court rulings against segregation. The closings negatively affected both whites and blacks. (At the time, St. Louis had one of the largest, if not the largest swimming pool in the country, a circular pool with a diameter of 420 feet, which could hold 10,000 to 12,000 swimmers. On the first day when about 40 black youth came to swim, some whites gathered to express their displeasure, yelling threats; police arrived and escorted them to safety. That evening there was a race riot, and the pool was resegregated.)

McGhee identifies these discoveries:

- 1. ..."we've reached the productive and moral limit of the zero-sum economic model that was created in the cradle of the United States. We have no choice but to start aiming for a Solitary Dividend."
- 2. Quickest way to get there: refill the pool of public goods for everyone.
- 3. One size never fits all. "There are different levels of need, and to acknowledge the racism that caused those differences is never easy particularly when the zero-sum mental model turns every concession into a threat of loss."
- 4. We truly do need each other.
- 5. We have to get on the same page before we can turn it.

(Continued)

America has made progress in the area of racism, yet has further to do to address these issues. At another point McGhee writes "We can all buy books and go through trainings in an individualized, shopping-cart version of racial truth-telling and truth-learning, but that is wholly insufficient to the scale of America's racial story. We need a national effort, rooted in community, one that brings us together, and has the full backing of the body that has kept us apart: the U.S. government."

For further reading:

"The Church and Authentic Diversity" by Abraham D. Allende<u>Living Lutheran</u> article, December 2021, pages 42 & 43; go to

https://www.livinglutheran.org/2021/12/the-church-and-authentic-diversity/

"Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity" elca.org <u>https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Strategy Toward Authentic Diversity.pdf?</u> ga=2.110894597.1217500480.1652100405-1395031832.1517547845

JOIN US FOR VBS

HOSTED BY CHRIST LUTHERAN & EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL JUNE 7 - JUNE 9 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

IDEAL FOR PRESCHOOLERS THROUGH RISING 4th GRADERS BRING A LUNCH LOCATED AT EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL ALL ARE WELCOME

HAVE AN OLDER CHILD WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP AT VBS? Register them as a Junior Shepherd via the link below.



Join the new Justice Group forming at CLC!

We've been reading and discussing issues of diversity, equity and inclusion at Christ Lutheran, now let's get a solid group together to affect change! The main goal of the committee will be to focus on areas where we can make Christ Lutheran a more welcoming space and affect change in our community. Duties would include reaching out to council and other committees on issues of justice in the church, brainstorming ways to be more active in local justice issues, selecting books for congregation wide book studies, etc. Please reach out to Kate Hoerchler (314-805-1751, <u>katehoerchler@gmail.com</u>) if you would like to join this group.

Vigil For Black Lives

Every Friday from 6:00-6:30, congregations on Lockwood join together to stand for black lives, in our community and beyond. We take a short half an hour each week to be visible on Lockwood with signs of solidarity with our black siblings. It is a small way for us to make it known that we stand against racism in all the ways it impacts all of us. Please join us!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please include the following people in your prayer life during this week. <u>ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS:</u> Those who are suffering from chronic pain & diseases, Shelly Madden, Linda Armstrong, Gege Brightman, Christine Austin, Kate and Brian Bates (John Hoffmann's sister and brother-in-law), Evan Deck, Helga Hayes, John Hoffmann, Bev & Al Marcus (friend of John Hoffmann), Michael McMullen (Greg McMullen's brother), Christy Monson (Step-daughter of Carolyn Lange), Donna Munger, Betsy Nielson (Nancy Lissant's sister), Doris & Harry Rahlfs (Karen Wood's parents), Flo Saeger, Joyce Traxler (Friend of Susan DeBusk), Shirley Wolf, Mary Stough (Sharon Hornbeck's aunt), and Wayne Wellman (Susanne Reimer-Fey's brother).

IN BLESSED MEMORY: For all of those who have died, especially Elsie Johnson and all of those who grieve, that they may know the presence of God who grieves with us.

IN MILITARY SERVICE: Josh Duncan, Chris Hudson, Jesse Proctor, Scott Warr.





Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible study group will continue to meet at 10:15 a.m. in the church's Parish Hall through the month of May, then take a summer break until September.

We've been enjoying many of the minor prophets most of this year, including Micah, Jonah, Esther and Ruth. We hope to read and discuss the Song of Solomon later this month.



Anyone is welcome to join us at any time. Just have one or more of your favorite Bibles with you, and prepare to enjoy our time together.

Lutheran School of Theology St Louis invites you to join us in May

Our upcoming classes are centered on ways our faith helps us to make meaning of the world around us. Especially in times that feel tumultuous and unsettled, we turn again to our scripture and theology that is rooted in God's love and brings about wholeness and life that really is life.

Our first in-person event since early 2020 will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, 1 Selma Avenue, Webster Groves, MO on Thursday, May 26, from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm CDT. We are honored to be able to host the Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen, Ph.D., President of Wartburg Theological Seminary who has done extensive teaching in systematic theology. She will present **Hope: A Lens for Living Now And For The Future**. A description of the day's theme and registration can be found here: https://lststl.org/hope-a-lens-for-living-now-and-for-the-future/. The registration fee of \$60 includes coffee, tea, snacks and lunch; limited to 60 participants.

Thanks to generous donors, LST offers full or partial scholarships to enable access for all to our events. A simple form to submit can be found at https://lststl.org/scholarships-for-lst-classes/. Questions? Please contact Stephanie Doeschot at administrator@lststl.org.

CLC Suggestion Box

Have an idea for how Christ Lutheran Church can make your experience better? Submit an anonymous note at <u>http://freesuggestionbox.com/pub/stwuunh</u> and we will do our best to help!



ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

LET'S CELEBRATE MAY ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS!

Congratulations and Best Wishes! Christ Lutheran family wants to celebrate you!

ANNIVERSARIES:

- 05/04 Becca & Peter Jordan
- 05/07 Jessica & Dan Gunther
- 05/08 Harriet & Bill Scholle
- 05/22 Kim & Jack Joern
- 05/27 Sandy & Mike Hoyer
- 05/29 Jess & Rachel Helton

BIRTHDAYS:

05/03 Anna McIntyre 05/05 Sarah Ringkor 05/05 Mark Smith Robert Swanson 05/0505/05 Claudia Trautmann 05/08 Mae Hoerchler 05/11 John Hoffmann 05/12 **Barrett Chelgreen** 05/16Colleen Wagner 05/18 **Daniel Hopper** 05/20 Jacob Swanson Betty Erickson 05/2105/22 Frederick Lenhart 05/22Tom Palazzolo 05/23 Andrew Bennett Harriet Scholle 05/23 05/23 Violet McMullen 05/24 Jessica Gunther 05/24 Jessica Hopper 05/26 Curtis Borden 05/27 **Kelley Truss** 05/28 Lisl Clerk 05/31 Anna Deck

Our apologies if we missed anybody! Please let us know if we did.



May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30a Worship 10:45 Adult forum	2 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4pm Fitness group	3 10:15a Bible Study- Fellowship hall	4 7:30p Choir practice	5 4p Fitness group	6	7
8 9:30a Worship 10:45 Adult forum HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	9 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4pm Fitness group	10:15a Bible Study- Fellowship hall	11 7:30p Choir practice	12 4p Fitness group	13	14
15 9:30a Worship 10:45 Adult forum	16 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4pm Fitness group	17 10:15a Bible Study- Fellowship hall	18 7:30p Choir practice 7p Worship team meeting	19 4p Fitness group	20	21
22 9:30a Worship 10:45 Adult forum	23 12p Sr. Fellowship at Laclede Groves 4pm Fitness group	24 10:15a Bible Study- Fellowship hall 7p Church Council meeting in Confer- ence room	25 7:30p Choir practice	26 9a-2p LST class in fellowship hall 4p Fitness group	27	28
29 9:30a Worship 10:45 Adult forum	30	31 10:15a Bible Study- Fellowship hall				



Christ Lutheran Church, ELCA 1 Selma Avenue at Lockwood Webster Groves, MO 63119-3199

TELEPHONE: 314-962-6011

E-MAIL: OFFICE@CHRISTWG.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.CHRISTWG.ORG

WORSHIP SCHEDULE: SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M.

RESIDENT PASTOR: MEAGAN MCLAUGHLIN OFFICE HOURS: MON-WED, FRI 8:30-4:30 APPTS BY ARRANGEMENT

> COUNCIL PRESIDENT: JESSICA GUNTHER

DIRECTOR OF SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES AND FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE: CAROLYN CROWE

DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS: DIANE DROLLINGER

> ORGANIST: MARK RUFF

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: LISETTE KREITLER

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: TAMMY PRYOR

> WEBMASTER: PERRY YEE



Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Deepening people's connection to Christ, Bringing meaning to daily life, and Making a difference in our community.