

the Spirit

The Conclusion of Faith Community Partnership

For seven years I have enjoyed and been challenged by the call to instigate meaningful collaboration in St. Louis Park through the ministry of Faith Community Partnership (FCP). 2016 has been a year of intentionality for this ministry as we've worked to wind-down and hand-off projects, commitments and leadership roles. A year ago this fall, there were two big questions on the table looking ahead to the final year of Faith Community Partnership. 1) What new collaborative ministry might be emerging in response to the needs of our SLP community? 2) Where am I personally being called in this transition?

I am happy to share the unfolding answers to these two questions as we enter into a new season – both in collaborative ministry in SLP and in my own life.

Flowing from the work and relationships of FCP, new beginnings are emerging in an initiative called Partners for a Strong Park – spearheaded by Derek Reise Burrows at STEP and Pr. Eric Hoffer at Prince of Peace, working closely with leadership from the Meadowbrook Collaborative, city of SLP & police department and the SLP school district. I expect there will be more news to come on this front as 2017 unfolds!

I am entering into a new season in life as well. I've chosen to grab the opportunity this transition has



Faith Community Partnership (FCP) began in 2009 as an experiment in developing collaborative community-based ministry in St. Louis Park, spearheaded by Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church. It has become a joint ministry of Spirit of Christ and Wooddale Lutheran Churches aimed at strengthening the safety net in St. Louis Park for ALL 'bur youth."

opened up for me to stay home and pour my time and energy into my family. William is 9 (going on 19) and always keeping me on my toes. Logan is 5 and beginning his school career as a kindergartner this fall. Marie turned 1 this summer and is the icing on the cake after much waiting to round out our family. I am so grateful to take this pause with my husband Nick and make our home my main “ministry” context for the next few years.

On the horizon of this new season, I’ve done much reflecting. The Faith Community Partnership is a ministry that has taken on many forms over the years, but always with a heart centered on “our youth” here in SLP and always with a vision for creative partnerships across the community that function to move our youth into better days and better worries. Here are a few of the stories to celebrate....

- Convened community leaders who launched the Suburban Host Home Program
- Partnered with STEP and StreetWorks on a youth food pantry
- Built stronger relationships between faith community leaders through the Faith Community Table
- Created Spark Mob after school program with the library providing a safe space for young women with opportunities to develop leadership skills
- Provided pastoral care and community support of schools during Park tragedies
- Advocate for Treehouse services and meals program
- Convened community members to advocate for those whose housing was in jeopardy at Meadowbrook Manor – this helped some families and individuals keep or extend their housing at Meadowbrook despite policy changes and rent increases by new management
- Coordinated a Housing Resource Fair for Meadowbrook residents at Union Congregational Church
- Partnered with SLP service providers and Westwood Lutheran Church to launch and plan 4 Community Link events

This ministry would never have been dreamed up without the bold hearts of the leaders and members at Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church. It would not have been given the room to lay the groundwork for a new SLP community collaboration without the support of Wooddale Lutheran Church in this final year of the ministry. And the stories of relationship, transformation, and stronger community would not be ours to tell without the joint partnership of these two congregations over the last several years. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Words of gratitude are quickly replaced by tears of joy when I allow myself to truly contemplate this amazing journey and ministry made possible by all of you.

In gratitude and love,

Kristina Fruge



“This ministry would never have been dreamed up without the bold hearts of the leaders and members at Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church.”



An open house was held on October 11 to celebrate the 7 years of ministry of the Faith Community Partnership. One of the major accomplishments over the years was the establishment of the Suburban Host Home Program. You can learn more about this program by going to [Avenues for Homeless Youth at avenuesforyouth.org/minneapolis-host-home-program/](http://AvenuesforYouth.org/minneapolis-host-home-program/).

Community News

Looking for Ushering Team Members

Looking for a way to get involved at SOC on a more low-commitment level? Consider helping out on one of our Ushering Teams. We currently have several openings. Please check out the list in the Narthex and fill your name in on one of the blank lines. It's a great way to get involved and meet new people!

STEP Donations in October

October donations of food will be taken to STEP. As the weather gets cooler, be sure to stock up on soups, stew, chili and other hearty meals. STEP can always use cereal, fruit, veggies and toilet paper so when you are shopping for your own family, please consider adding a few more things for STEP. The Social Action team will get your donations to STEP near the end of the month!

Active Adults for October

SOCCLC Active Adults meet the third Thursday of each month at 1PM with potluck at one followed by a speaker, activities and fellowship. All are welcome. Our October meeting will have Don Ouellette who will share memories from the WW 2 era. Please join us on October 20.

Halloween Party

You are invited to attend the annual Halloween Party on Sunday, October 30 from 3:30 - 5:00pm. Come in Costume (or not). This is a fun, free event-invite friends, bring friends! There will be snacks, games, activities, and so much more! All are welcome!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl ministry will take place October 27th at 7:00pm. During November and December the meeting will take place on the third Thursday of the month due to the holidays.

Annual Bazaar

The annual bazaar will take place November 19th from 9 to 1 with lunch, baked goods, quilts, crafts etc. donations are being sought for items for the sale as well as volunteer help. Please see Renee Compo for more information.

Spirit Day-Thank you!

The 450 sandwiches you all helped assemble on Spirit Day were picked up by 363days.org staff that afternoon. That is only the beginning of the story. When Allan Law goes out at night to distribute the sandwiches to people living on the streets, he asks them what they need. Many times, the answer is that they want to stop "feeling invisible" to others. As he passes out the sandwiches, his message to the recipient is that people at Spirit of Christ made the sandwich for them and are praying for them and sending a hug.

The blanket tying teams finished three blankets during the Spirit Day activities! Thanks to all participants and for all of the great pot luck dishes. A day of accomplishments capped off by a meal shared together!

Get involved with Social Action!

The Social Action team (aka SOC SAC) welcomes everyone in the congregation to join us to plan and organize mission and social action events. This could be an ongoing activity or a one-time commitment. Talk to anyone on the Social Action Team: (Mark or Carolee Cohen, Wendi Harmsen, Pat Latvala, Deb Schmitz, Joanne Stone or Jeanne Worm) if you want to help!

We Know How This Ends: Living While Dying



Bethlehem Twin Cities is excited to be bringing Cathy Wurzer, co-host of "Almanac" on Public Television and MPR's "Morning Edition," to our Minneapolis Campus on Tuesday,

November 1, 7:00 pm to share We Know How This Ends: Living While Dying the story of Bruce Kramer's battle with ALS and the life lessons he learned in living fully through loss. Cathy will be joined by Bruce's wife, Ev Emerson and St. Thomas Faculty member Deb DeMeester.

Bethlehem Lutheran is located at 4100 South Lyndale Avenue in Minneapolis.

Serving in November

	Usher Team	Lector	Powerpoint Operators	Money Counters
November 6	8	Anne Kraft	LeRoy Murray	Deb Schmitz Jeanne Worm
November 13	9	Kristi White	Brett Hanson	Bret Hanson
November 20	10	Kristi White	Tommy Guddal	Dina Strachota Jeanne Worm
November 27	1	Anne Kraft	Dina Strachota	



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Congregation President: Bret Hanson
Choir Director: Steve Stucki

Add Your Event to Church Announcements!

If you would like to add something to the Sunday morning announcements, weekly email update, or monthly newsletter, please contact our office (contact info below). Weekly information must be received by Monday morning to be included in Wednesday's email and Sunday morning's announcement slides. Info for the September newsletter must be received **by October 25th**. You can also contact the office if you'd like to be added to the mailing list or you can visit spiritofchristcommunity.org/newsletter to sign up for our mailing list or to view past newsletters.