What’s Inside:
A two part pastor’s pen
A letter from the new congregation that will be worshipping in our sanctuary
Invitations to our annual holiday bazaar
Info on our upcoming temple talks
2 View from the Pew articles
And more!
**Pastor’s Pen**

As we make our way through the final four weeks of the church year we have a lot to look back and be thankful for and also many of us are already looking forward to what comes next for our congregation.

This is especially true for the members of your church council who are now beginning the process of budgeting.

Now, I know a lot of people shy away from discussions of money, especially in the church.

But we must never forget that Jesus talked about money more than any other topic and that’s because Jesus understood rightly just how much power money and wealth and the accumulation of material goods can get in the way of what is truly important.

And what is truly important is how we love God and live out our lives for the sake of others.

In other words, what is important is our ministry.

Now, part of our ministry is to come together in mutual support to worship and praise God and part of our ministry is to make sure that the gospel is proclaimed and the sacraments are rightly administered, but even though both of these parts are important we must never forget and always remember that a church for the sake of a church alone is no church at all.

And that’s why we must always strive to also do whatever we can for people and organizations that can help further the mission of Christ.

But balancing our internal mission with our external mission can get very complicated if we just put together willy-nilly budgets based on nothing more than hope.

Now, sure hope is going to be present when our council goes about putting together next year’s budget, but what we need more than a general hope that things will be okay is a sure and certain hope grounded in the promises that each of you will be asked to make on Sunday, October 17th.

Which is why it is of paramount importance that each of you take the time to prayerfully consider how you might **Look Forward** to aiding and supporting the overall ministry of **Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church** next year.

So take some time, talk as a family, and make a conscious and purposeful decision to **Look Forward in Hope, in Faith, in Love, and always in Grace.**

Blessings,
  
  Pastor Durk
Recently I had the opportunity to join Pastor Melissa and a number of other pastors from the area for a breakfast to hear more about the ministry of *Tapestry*.

Now, *Tapestry* is a fairly new mission start of our Synod that just celebrated their 5-year anniversary, but starting, maintaining, and growing a new congregation is hard work.

It’s hard, but important work.

And it’s especially hard when the people you are reaching out to serve and share the gospel with are struggling often times to just make ends meet.

You see, the congregation Pastor Melissa has been called to serve is made up of mostly Hispanic people living at or below the poverty line.

It is made up of many people who live in fear that they or their friends or their family members might be detained or deported at any time.

And it is made up of people who are too often ignored, discriminated against, or made to feel unwelcome and inferior.

But the reality is that the people of *Tapestry* are loved children of God who are just like you and me. They are both sinners and saints in need of forgiveness and who have sought out the grace of God found through Christ Jesus.

And the people of *Tapestry* have found that grace, they’ve been filled with the love of Christ, and now they want to share that love with others.

They want to share that love with you.

And that’s why on Sunday, November 24th Pastor Melissa along with a number of the members of *Tapestry* will be here at Spirit of Christ to lead worship.

So, I hope that you will make plans to join us that day and I also hope and pray that you leave service that day excited about the direction *Tapestry* is helping to lead our synod.

Because let’s face it, our denomination is not the most diverse church out there and for way too long the ELCA has not actively done anything to change this reality.

And that’s why it’s so nice to see a pastor feeling called and then stepping up and out to change things by helping to build new relationships. Relationships that just might help to bring some needed new energy into all our churches and more people to believe in Christ.
Calendar for November and December 2019 and January 2020

November 2019
8  Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm

December 2019
14  Shelter Breakfast 6:30 to 8:30am
19  SAVE THE DATE for the 2019 Homeless Memorial March and Service

January 2020
10  Shelter Supper 6:00 to 8:30pm
19  Volunteer Appreciation Sunday

Our Saviour’s Shelter supper—November 8th

On Friday, November 8th, Spirit of Christ will serve dinner at the shelter. We will be serving a menu of baked chicken, stuffing, gravy, green bean casserole, lemonade and dessert. We can use homemade desserts and coffee or tea donations AND servers are always welcome. If you would like to make a dessert or other menu donation, talk to Carolee or Mark at church, email c-cohe@umn.edu or call 952-935-5608.

Our Saviour’s Community Services (OSCS) Temple Talk

Date: November 3, 2019

Join us on November 3rd at our Sunday service to welcome Sandy Aslaksen for a temple talk and learn more about our Our Saviour’s. Last month, Our Saviour’s held their annual benefit fundraiser. The theme of the evening was “Change is Gonna Come”. Well, this theme is definitely appropriate for the upcoming year at Our Saviour’s since this announcement came from the OSCS Board in mid-October: “Executive Director Sandy Aslaksen has announced her intent to retire in early 2020. For the past twenty years, Sandy has overseen tremendous organizational growth and change. She guided the transition of OSCS’s programs from a ministry of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church into a separate 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Under her leadership, the organization has quadrupled in size. Through it all, Sandy has served as a compassionate steward of what makes Our Saviour’s such a unique and special place - the personal relationships based on dignity and respect that are at the center of working to increase skills and improve lives. Sandy has built a strong foundation and special culture at OSCS, and we are so grateful for all that she has done.”

For those of you who have had a chance to meet Sandy, you know how special she is and the members of our Social Action team wish her well as she makes this transition. Again, please join us on Sunday November 3rd, learn more about Our Saviour’s and to thank Sandy for all she has done over her career as Executive Director.

Love One Another Temple Talk

On November 17th at the Sunday Service, we will host Allan Law, founder of Love One Another.

Members of Spirit of Christ have supported this organization with sandwich building events. Love One Another* is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization that serves the homeless, poor, and disadvantaged families in the Twin Cities every night by providing food, clothing, personal care items, and on-the-street care and support. On any given night, there are over 10,000** homeless people in the Twin Cities metro area, including more than 3,000** children under age 17. The primary focus of LOA is to feed, and provide emergency assistance to as many of them as possible. **Wilder Research March
Calendar—November 2019

Sunday, November 3
Daylight Saving Time
11:00am Worship
12:00pm Fellowship
12-2pm Council Workshop

Tuesday, November 5
6:00pm CYF meeting

Friday, November 8
6:15pm Shelter Supper

Sunday, November 10
11:00am Worship
12:00pm Fellowship

Thursday, November 14
7:00pm Church Council

Sunday, November 17
Pledge Sunday
11:00am Worship
12:00pm Fellowship
12-2pm Council Workshop

Thursday, November 21
1:00pm Active Adults (potluck and program)
6:00pm Men’s Group
7:00pm Prayer Shawl group(youth room)

Saturday, November 23
9am-3pm Holiday Bazaar

Sunday, November 24
11:00am Worship
12:00pm Fellowship

Weekly
Sunday
5:00pm Church of St. Joseph worship

Monday
7:00pm Boy Scouts
(Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday
5:30pm Women's AA
(Green Room)

Thursday
7:00am Grace in the Park bible study
(at Knollwood Panera)

Friday
7:00am NA
7:30pm Desire AA (Green Room)

Looking forward
December 1st–Decorating the church
December 8th–Children’s Christmas Pageant
December 15th–Choir Cantata and Christmas Tea
December 24th–7pm Christmas Eve Service
December 29th–Lessons and Carols service
(led by Dina and Nikki)
Worship Assistants this month

Sunday, November 3rd
Lector: Nikki Christensen
Ushers: Team 1 (Samantha Andrew, Courtney Hanson, Mae Harmsen, Sophia Wasvick, Alyssa Willis)
Powerpoint Operator: Dina Strachota
Money Counters: Renee Compo

Sunday, November 10th
Lector: Glen Soderberg
Ushers: Team 2 (Nancy Malone, Pat and Dave Latvala)
Powerpoint Operator: Mark Cohen
Money Counters: Bruce Strachota, Jeanne Worm

Sunday, November 17th
Lector: Glen Soderberg
Ushers: Team 3 (Glen and Eileen Soderberg, Erik Mornes, Bruce Lindquist)
Powerpoint Operator: Bret Hanson
Money Counters: volunteers needed

Sunday, November 24th
Lector: Dina Strachota
Ushers: Team 4 (Clark and Karen Johnson, Jan Arnold, Nikki Christensen)
Powerpoint Operator: LeRoy Murray
Money Counters: volunteers needed

Volunteers Needed
Money counters: we are in need of two people each Sunday to count the offering after church. The only rule is that the two people cannot be married to one another. If you’d like to sign up for a Sunday or two, please see the sign up sheet on the counter in the office.
Fellowship: we are looking for volunteers to set up, provide, and clean up fellowship after church. This includes making coffee, bringing and serving treats, and cleaning up. The sign up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary if you are interested.
2019
Join us on November 17th to learn more about Love One Another, their programs and the impact of their efforts on the lives of our neighbors across the Twin Cities.

Food donations for October will be directed to November and December are dedicated to collecting for the SLP Bird Feeder!

Top 10 items:
Canned Fruits, Microwavable Meals, Pasta Sauce, Snacks, Bread/Tortillas, Nutritional Drinks/Bottled Water, Jelly, Canned Meat, Rice, Backpacks, $10 Gift Cards (Cub or Target)

☐ Recommended food items are ones that do not involve the use of stoves or ovens.
☐ Please do not donate items that are expired; we cannot give them out to students in need.
☐ The best type of items you can donate are full packaged meals that require few outside ingredients, along with meals that can be made within their packages. These are appreciated by the families who don’t have access to other cooking equipment.

All items must be brought to church by Sunday, November 17th!

Your support is greatly appreciated!

Annual Holiday Bazaar
Come shop at our annual holiday bazaar on Saturday, November 23rd, 2019 from 9:00am – 3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall!

Featuring homemade and creative crafts, quilts, jewelry, knit, felted and crocheted items, baked goods, jams, jellies and popular vendors such as Norwex, Thirty-One Gifts, Tupperware, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Sarang Soaps, Color Street Nails and more.

Cinnamon Rolls and coffee available at 9:00am.
Renee’s Famous Chili, Hot Dogs and chips available at 11:00am

For more information, contact Nikki at infosoccommunity@gmail.com or Call 952-929-6465.

Decorating the church for Christmas
Let’s get the church ready for the holiday season! After church on Sunday, December 1st, we will put up the Christmas decorations around the church and then have a pizza lunch.

Looking forward
December 1st– Decorating the church
December 8th– Children’s Christmas Pageant
December 15th– Choir Cantata and Christmas Tea
December 24th– 7pm Christmas Eve Service
December 29th– Lessons and Carols service (led by Dina and Nikki)
Greetings to the Spirit of Christ Community!

My name is Father Shane Slivnik of the Reformed Catholic Church, Pastor of the Church of St. Joseph, and I want to thank you for opening your home to us for worship. We are a part of what we known as the Independent Catholic or “Sacramental” Movement, with communities across the U.S. and the world. Our denomination, The Reformed Catholic Church, is smaller with about 10 communities in the U.S., with another joining us soon out of Connecticut. Independent Catholicism has a spectrum from ultra-liberal to ultra-conservative. We are in the middle, and have married clergy, GLBTQ clergy, male and female clergy. Our sacraments are open to everyone regardless of who they are, or where they are on life’s journey.

We are a movement that first began in the 1870’s after Vatican I. We are not under authority of the Pope, but we still maintain much of the same Catholic Mass and traditions. We will begin meeting in the Spirit of Christ sanctuary on November 17th at 5pm for worship.

Again, thank you for your hospitality and we look forward to working side by side with you in our community and world. As your ELCA slogan and Bishop Eaton says, “God’s work, our hands.”

Together in Christ,

Father Shane J. Slivnik
Bishop of the Diocese of Sts. Joseph and George
Pastor, Church of St. Joseph, Reformed Catholic
The Reformed Catholic Church
View From the Pew
By Bruce Lindquist
Week of October 6, 2019, Vol. 2, No. 25

Cleanup dates set for next 2 Fridays --
Cleanup dates for this fall’s Spirit of Christ involvement in the Minnesota Department of Transportation’s Adopt-A-Highway Program along Hwy. 100 in St. Louis Park have been set.

This past spring, the SOC trash pickup chores were broken down into two sessions, instead of one long one, and that seemed to work the best. The first date is Friday, October 11, and the second has been scheduled for Friday, October 18.

On Oct. 11, roadside debris will be gathered along the northbound lane of the highway between 36th Street and Excelsior Boulevard. On the 18th, trash will be picked up from Excelsior Blvd to 50th Street, also on the NB side.

The crew that has trekked the distance over the past two years just north of the SOC highway sign has done such an admirable job, it caught the attention of Mn/DoT! While there is no gold, silver or bronze medals for such efforts, the Golden Valley Mn/DoT truck station relayed a “hearty hip-hip-hooray” to our church for our good work since early last year!

This fall we will again meet at the church at 8:30 am, and drive over to the site. ANYONE and EVERYONE able to do some walking and bending is INVITED! We have found that, as with other projects, the more hands involved the easier – and quicker – for everyone. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

As always, please bring a good pair of gloves and comfortable walking shoes. The exercise if free. Bags and vests will be supplied. You can choose to work both dates – or just one.

Also, some walkers have chosen to use a “grabber,” a long pole with moveable grips and handle, which saves on the back.

Questions? Contact me at 507-779-9297.

Holiday Bazaar Nov. 23 -- Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church’s Annual Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 23, from 9 am to 3 pm in Fellowship Hall of the church.

Among the featured items will be homemade and creative crafts, quilts, jewelry, knit, felted and crocheted items, baked goods, jams, jellies and popular vendors such as Norwex, Thirty-One Gifts, Tupperware, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Sarang Soaps, Color Street Nails and more.

Cinnamon Rolls and coffee will be available at 9 am, and “Renee’s famous chili,” hot dogs and chips will be served starting at 11 am.

For additional information, contact Nikki at infosoccommunity@gmail.com or phone 952-929-6465.
Week of October 20, 2019, Vol. 3, No. 1

Wally’s in the news -- Congratulations to long-time SOC member Wally Roetzer for being featured in a large photo in the St. Louis Park/Hopkins Sun-Sailor last week, in which he was included as part of a story about a current project which assists pets and their food needs while at or visiting Shalom West in SLP. On the subject of wheels, Wally added that his first car was a black 1951 Chevrolet four-door sedan, which wowed the locals when he was a young man tooling around his home town of Atwater, Minnesota. If you’re looking for a restored or mint ’51 Chev today, you’d be in for a severe case of sticker shock – especially if the vehicle is almost entirely original, like a few of those at last June’s Back-to-the-Fifties Car Show at the State Fairgrounds in St. Paul.

Some gave more -- This year’s Adopt-a-Highway roadside cleanup along Hwy. 100 in SLP is over for another year. Last Friday’s date was as beautiful a fall day as you could ever request, making up for the previous Friday’s cooler temps, snow showers and wind. Thanks to this year’s intrepid crew, in alphabetical order, Cheryl, Dale, Dick, Jeanne, LeRoy, Pastor Durk (and this writer). This year, Dick Brammer sacrificed the most of any of our beautification team members, all in the name of a clean local highway: he lost a set of keys, to his car, house, etc. His better half, Nancy, arrived just in time to save the day, with extra keys and a ride back to the starting line. Losing keys is a major bummer, sorry about that, Dick. If it’s any consolation, LeRoy will probably find them next year – he found a penny in the tall grass this year!

Also, others in our congregation were busy this fall demonstrating their pride in our community. Dina and Bruce Strachota and Kevin Roetzer, members of the St. Louis Park Lions Club, participated in their regular cleanup of streets in St. Louis Park, again walking Excelsior Boulevard and finding discarded items to stuff into trash bags. Thanks to you, also!

Tunnel of nature’s colors -- Has anyone noticed lately the canopy of colorful overhanging trees between 31st and 32nd Sts. on Kentucky Avenue here in the Park? It reminds me of the stunningly beautiful elms, oaks, maples and some cottonwoods which used to completely cover Lyndale Avenue in south Minneapolis, or the archway of trees which used to line Hwy. 169 through St. Peter, Minnesota, before the 1998 tornado.

On a leash -- One of the U.S. military veterans I have on my twice-a-week VA home visitation schedule is quite the jokester. He knows that I am Lutheran, and relayed the following:

“A Lutheran preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike and a trailing cord, and as he preached, he moved briskly from side to side in front of the altar, jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and aggressive jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, ‘If he gets loose, will he hurt us?’”