



From the Pastor

This month Pastor Jay Mitchell of Christ Ascension Lutheran Church in Philadelphia, PA is our guest writer.

“...the church’s role in society begins long before and extends far beyond legislative regulation. It seeks to shape attitudes and values that affirm people in whatever circumstances they find themselves. Its pastoral care, compassionate outreach, and life-sustaining assistance are crucial in supporting those who bear children, as well as those who choose not to do so. Through these and other means the people of God seek to be truly supportive of life.”

I begin with the conclusion on the ELCA’s Social Statement on Abortion. Adopted by Churchwide Assembly in 1991, this particular ELCA social statement draws heavily from the social statements of previous church bodies. Being one of the earliest social statements drafted, it seeks to give a unified voice on an issue with many diverse viewpoints in our church. But ultimately, the concluding paragraph brings us to the actual stance of the ELCA: we are to be “supportive of life.”

That statement does not mean that the ELCA is “Pro-Life.”

This social statement states very clearly that as a church we respect the variety of reasons that a woman may need to choose to have an abortion. We are to seek regulation and healthy options for receiving abortions when necessary. We are to diminish the situations that may lead to the perception that abortion is the only option for unplanned for pregnancies. And we are to be supportive of any children’s lives that may come from a pregnancy carried to term.

In this way, we stand as a church body that is supportive of life—holistically supportive of life: Fostering communities where contraception is easily accessed and widely taught and encouraged. Supporting parents who choose to raise children. Working to eradicate poverty which influences life in-utero and post-birth. Ending stigma associated with receiving an abortion. And supporting public assistance programs that aid children who are born into tough circumstances.

Our understanding of being “pro-life” as a Church is not what “Pro-Life” has come to mean. Today, Pro-Life is a political position that opposes abortion in all forms and seeks to cease all means of safe abortion for everyone. The problems with this use of the term “pro-life” are manifold; chiefly, it fails to recognize that there are myriad reasons that one may seek abortion services.

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THIS MONTH....

- ◆ **Campfire Worship--**
Wednesdays,
7pm
- ◆ **YMCA Summer Block Party, East Side--**
Tuesday, August 14,
5pm-8pm
- ◆ **Breaking Bread Together--**
Sunday, August 19, Ice Cream Social
- ◆ **Council meeting --Monday,**
August 20,
6:30pm
- ◆ **Spiritual Life team meeting--**
Thursday, August 23, 6:30pm

From the Pastor continued

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In the ELCA's efforts to be holistically pro-life, and to seek to lay out where we as a church body stand, two sets of assertions are made. One regarding our faith and the other regarding our stance in holistic support of life. It reads:

“Some basic faith conviction undergird our judgments on abortion:

- + Human beings, created in God's image as male and female, are persons of intrinsic value and dignity.
- + All of life is a mysterious, awesome gift of God.
- + What God has created has become corrupted by sin.
- + God calls us to repentance, renewal, and responsible living.
- + As a community of forgiven sinners, justified by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ, we are empowered so that we might do what is effective in serving the needs of the neighbor.”

And again:

“+...as a church we seek to reduce the need to turn to abortion as the answer to unintended pregnancies.

+ We also deplore the circumstances that lead a woman to consider abortion as the best option available to her.

+ We confess our sin as a community of faith.

+ As a community of faith we seek to live out our support for life in all its dimensions.

+ Our ministry of hospitality to all people ought to include woman who have had abortions, women who are considering abortions, children, families, and those who bear and raise children under all kinds of circumstances.

+ Our congregations and church schools ought to provide sex education in the context of the Christian faith.

- Because this church recognizes parenthood as a vocation that women and men share, we should encourage and educate males, from an early age, to assume more responsibility for raising children.
- In keeping with our commitment to become communities that are truly life-affirming, this church challenges the following life-degrading attitudes that permeate the prevailing culture and may contribute to the high incidence of abortion: messages in the media and elsewhere that encourage irresponsible sexual activity; materialism, individualism, and excessive concern for self-interest; the desire for 'perfect' children, and treating those who are not as if they were 'disposable'; attitudes and practices that are inhospitable to children and to the women who bear them; low regard of human life, especially the lives of African-Americans, Hispanics, Asians, or Native Americans, and of many women and children who are poor.”

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From the Pastor continued

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This last assertion should perhaps stand as the most convicting to us. In being a church that is holistically supportive of life, it is up to us to make society a place where all life is valued and cherished. In our thoughts, words, and deeds, we often seek a world where life does not seem as valuable—or at least some lives do not seem as valuable. The marginalized—whether for their physical or mental abilities, for their gender, for their skin color or country of origin, for their socio-economic class, or for any other reason society has come up with—are by their very marginalization de-valued compared to the “norm” of society. That devaluation does not foster a holistic support of life but rather means that life is seen as disposable—or worse! not worth living.

This is not to say that abortion should be banned or that abortion should not be available in a safe and non-judgmental fashion to those who make the decision to end a pregnancy. It is to say that when we stand as the church and say that we support life, we mean that we support it in all its facets. There are, as the statement suggests, myriad reasons why women may choose an abortion. Those women should not be scorned, shunned, or shamed for their decision but rather fostered, loved, and supported as beloved children of God...like all of humanity and, indeed, all life.

As we are one year from the presentation and potential adoption of the 13th Social Statement on Women and Justice, it is appropriate we pause to consider this topic. In fostering support and respect for women and their contributions to society, we must also give thanks for the gift of life they are so fundamentally a part of, and we must further commit ourselves to supporting them and their ability to find safe and accessible means of abortion. Partnered with our support of all aspects of life, our support and love for all children as beloved of God, and our actions in society to make life important at all stages and in all facets, we stand as a church that is “pro-whole-life.”

Redevelopment Update

Many thanks to all who attended our Mission Statement conversation at July's Breaking Bread Together. The draft statement developed at that event (using input from the previous mission statement and core values events) is:

“The purpose of CCLC is to spread God’s love and Word to all people through worship, connecting with and helping our community, and building relationships with each other.”

Join us at the August Breaking Bread Together as we continue to explore redevelopment and learn to tell our faith stories!

Message From The Treasurer

“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”

1 John 3:18

The month of June yielded the following. The income totaled **\$21,712** and our expenses totaled **\$18,675**. This gives us **\$3,037** less the principal payment on the mortgage of **\$2,624** or a surplus of \$413 for the month. Our expenses for the month were under budget by \$2,669, but our Current and Loose offerings were short by (\$1,857).

Income	\$ 136,829
Expense	<u>130,529</u>
	6,300
Mortgage	<u>13,491</u>
Deficit	<u>\$ (7,191)</u>

Our current and loose offerings are short of budget by \$10,482 year-to-date. I know that summer is a time for vacations and cottages up North but we still have to pay our bills. I cannot express strongly enough how important it is to continue to give even if you are not at church on a particular Sunday. Some of us have taken advantage of the “Simply Giving” program which automatically debits our account. That way we don’t have to worry about “catching” up when we don’t worship at Christ Community. If you are interested in participating in the Simply Giving program check with the office or ask me. The Finance Team and Council continue to look at options for funding next year after the grant from the ELCA ends. We continue to need your prayers for guidance as we look at what other possibilities are available for us. We will be bringing these to you as soon as we have details of what is/may be possible. As always, the Finance Team, Amy Hertel, John Christensen, Stan Plageman and myself are available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your continued stewardship.

Cathy Sell, Treasurer



Spiritual Life

Campfire Worship

Campfire worship will continue through the summer. All are welcome to join us Wednesdays at 7pm for worship, scripture, communion, and “marshmallow hour.”

Spiritual Life Vision Team

Are you interested in worship, music, education, or faith formation? Come to the Spiritual Life Vision Team’s first full meeting on Thursday, August 23 at 6:30pm.

Parish Life

Breaking Bread Together

Our August potluck will be Sunday, August 19. Our August theme is an Ice Cream Social.

The Redevelopment Team will continue our conversation around redevelopment, mission, purpose, and what God is calling us to.



Book Group



The CCLC Book Group will be meeting August 20 at 6:30 to discuss the book Radium Girls by Kate Moore. The book tells the fascinating story of young women who worked in watch factories during World War I. Their task was to paint watch faces with the newly discovered element, radium. The book provides an account of one of America's biggest scandals and a groundbreaking battle for workers' rights.

Copies of the book are available in the Church library for check out. All are welcome to join the discussion which promises to be illuminating!

Community Life

Community Garden

Community garden is starting to produce

Our community garden, in conjunction with volunteers from Grace, Bethel, and Christ Community, is starting to yield produce from the twice a week pickings. Through July we have harvested over 300 pounds of veggies for the Sunday Christ Community produce table for World Hunger and for the local food pantry at Grace Lutheran.

Including a couple substantial designated contributions toward ELCA World Hunger from a couple families and donations to the container on the Sunday produce table, we have received \$835 for ELCA World Hunger.

Al Rasmussen

"God's work. Our hands."

Sunday, September 9, 2018, is "God's work, Our hands" Sunday. CCLC will be participating this year by making and donating fleece tie blankets. In order to accomplish this, we will need donations of fleece. Each blanket will need 2 pieces of material: 1 yard each for a small blanket and 1.5 yards x 2 yards for a big blanket. If you would like to donate fleece for this project, we will have a box in the church office to collect fleece prior to that Sunday. If you would like to donate cash to be used to purchase fleece, there will be a jar in the office for that as well, or you may submit a check with "GWOH Fleece" in the memo line.



YMCA Summer Block Party

CCLC has been invited to help with the YMCA Summer Block Party on Tuesday, August 14th from 5pm - 8pm. There will be a variety of ways to serve, including helping with water stations (pouring water, offering hospitality), assisting with the bike rally, and staffing the CCLC tent. A sign up sheet is in the fellowship hall so that we have an idea how many will be serving that day.

Faster Than The Pastor 5K Run/Walk

The 5K Run/Walk has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 29th. A new sign-up sheet for volunteering will be available in mid-August. Registration for the 5k walk and the children's fun run is open online and more information can be found at: <https://www.fasterthanthepastorevents.com/fttp-wisconsin-2018>

Please share this information with any runners, walkers, or families you may know!

August 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 No Campfire Worship	2	3	4
5 8:30am: Rehearsal 9:15am: Worship and Coffee Hour 10:15am: Parish Life meeting	6	7 9:15am: Bible Study 6:30pm: Finance Team meeting	8 7pm: Campfire Worship	9	10	11
12 8:30am: Rehearsal 9:15am: Worship and Coffee Hour	13	14 9:15am: Bible Study East Side YMCA 5pm-8pm	15 7pm: Campfire Worship	16 6:30pm: Mutual Ministry Team	17	18
19 8:30am: Rehearsal 9:15am: Worship and Coffee Hour 10:15am: BBT - Ice Cream	20 6:30pm: Council 6:30pm: Book Group	21 9:15am: Bible Study	22 3pm: Personnel Team 7pm: Campfire Worship	23 6:30: Spiritual Life	24	25
26 8:30am: Rehearsal 9:15am: Worship and Coffee Hour 10:15am: Community Life	27	28 9:15am: Bible Study	29 7pm: Campfire Worship	30	31	

The Good News

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The Good News

is a monthly newsletter sent to members and friends of Christ Community Lutheran Church.

The deadline for the July issue of

The Good News is:

~~Monday, August 20, 2018~~

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