



From the Pastor

In the summer of 2019, the ELCA will meet in Churchwide Assembly to discuss, deliberate, and vote on our 13th social statement: Women and Justice. In anticipation of this important work, this year's newsletter series will be on the existing 12 social statements of the ELCA. If you would like more information, you can find all of the social statements at elca.org/socialstatements.

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

Around the world, June is celebrated as Pride Month. Not just any Pride, but LGBTQIA+¹ Pride. Historically speaking, the celebration of "Gay Pride" began when patrons of the Stonewall Inn in New York City stood up to police harassment on June 28, 1969. What has come to be known as the Stonewall Rebellion began a movement of folk across the globe to recognize the Civil and Human Rights of LGBTQIA+ folk. This struggle still continues in the United States and around the globe.

In recognition of Pride Month, our newsletter series this month will look at the ELCA Social Statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*. The purpose of this statement is, first and foremost, to "address the question: how do we understand human sexuality within the context of Jesus' invitation to love God and love our neighbor." It was a social statement that was, perhaps, the most studied and debated social statement we have adopted as a church. The conversations and study around this statement began decades before it was finally adopted in 2009.

The statement frames our sexuality, gender understanding and expression, and relationships with one another in the terms of "gift" and "trust." These words are important. Who we are as full humans—sexuality, relationships, gender understanding and expressions, and all—is a gift from God. That gift is meant to be used and enjoyed. But it does not come without expectations. Our whole selves are a trust from God for us to use responsibly and within our understanding of faithful expression. While often remembered as the statement about non-heterosexuality, this social statement is a deep and faithful exposition of how we are all to live into the full human beings God created us to be.

That being said, we cannot discuss this social statement without discussing its controversies. It was adopted by an exact 2/3 majority. This was the majority needed for it to be adopted, and it was exactly 66.67% to 23.33%. The statement had 15 recommendations many of which have been

continued on next page

THIS MONTH....

- ♦ **NEW Summer Office Hours--** starting June 4-- Mon, Tue, Thu, 9am-3pm
- ♦ **Childcare Graduation--** Friday, June 8, 10am
- ♦ **Seeds for Growth--** Saturday, June 9
- ♦ **Faster Than The Pastor, 5K race--** Saturday, June 16
- ♦ **Little Lambs Mad Dash--** Saturday, June 16
- ♦ **Breaking Bread Together--** Sunday, June 17

From the Pastor continued

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

followed in the years since. There were also four accompanying resolutions² for the Assembly to consider. These passed though there was heated debate. Both the resolutions and recommendations required substantive change to both the constitution of the ELCA as well as to the various processes, rituals, liturgies, and resources from the ELCA.

One thing that is important for us to remember in the resolutions is that “Publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships” or PALMS relationships seems like quite a cumbersome phrase; however Marriage Equality had not yet become law and so language around “marriage” could not be legally used (in terms of civil law) for the entire country. So, this phrase was adopted to describe those who made commitments equal to heterosexual marriage before they were legally allowed to be married themselves. However, “publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous relationship” is a fine way to describe any marriage.

This language was vitally important to the statement, the recommendations, and the accompanying resolutions. Up until August 2009 non-heterosexual persons were allowed onto the rosters of the ELCA as Pastors, Deaconesses, Diaconal Ministers, and Associates in Ministry (the latter three rosters have been combined into the Roster of Word and Service/Deacons in subsequent years). However, the expectation was that they remain celibate. This was in contrast to heterosexual persons who were allowed onto the rosters as long as they were chaste in their marriage and celibate outside of marriage. In the conversations about PALMS relationships, there was no difference between expectations of heterosexual persons and non-heterosexual persons: celibacy for those who were single and chastity within marriage. However, at the time, there was no marriage equality and therefore non-heterosexuals were not allowed to be married and therefore expected *de facto* to remain celibate. A major reason for the accompanying resolutions was for the ELCA to recognize in its practices that it is possible for non-heterosexual relationships to be just as faithful, holy, and worthy as heterosexual ones. Much of the debates, studies, and wordsmithing is moot now that marriage equality is the law of the United States and, civilly speaking, there is no difference between heterosexual and non-heterosexual marriages.

It should also be noted that the accompanying resolutions are focused on *relationships* and not with physical beings. The issues concern how persons act on their *sexuality* without finding fault in their *gender understanding or expression*. Gender and sexuality are very different things and, while they may be intimately related to one another, are completely separate issues. This particular statement does not address our non-cis-gendered siblings. Sadly, even now the ELCA falls short in being as vocal as we can be for all the oppressed. However, there have been—slow and perhaps lacking though they may be—growth and advancement in the ELCA’s welcome of non-cis-gendered siblings into fullest participation within the ELCA. But it is an area we must all be aware of and work to being as faithful as we can possibly be in our welcome, acceptance, and celebration of all persons whatever their sexuality or gender understanding and expression—recognizing in all of us the beautiful and diverse Image of God.

Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust has many points that are often overshadowed by the passage of the resolutions. However, the statement addresses all issues around human sexuality and the way we can be faithful to God and ourselves in expressing our sexuality. Issues include: pornography, sexual abuse, pedophilia, non-heterosexuality, sex trafficking. The exploration of how all of these affect and are affected by our faith is well worth a reading of this statement.

continued on next page

From the Pastor continued

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

Besides the controversy, there were also repercussions from the passage of the statement, its recommendations, and accompanying resolutions. In the years since 2009, a significant number of rostered leaders, members, and congregations have chosen to leave our denominations and either join another existing one, or form new ones. The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) was formed in 2010. Predominant among their reasons for leaving the ELCA was the decision to ordain non-celibate and non-heterosexual persons. There were, however, many other reasons also cited as reasons for leaving.

The conclusion of this statement is powerful and important for us to remember, even as we gloss through the statement here:

Human lives are littered with broken promises and betrayed trust. Not everyone knows how to trust, and not everyone is trustworthy. Relationships end because trust has been broken. Given finitude and sin, many things happen that threaten trust in even the strongest relationships. Forgiveness and reconciliation, then, join with mutuality and justice to support trust and trustworthiness in relationships. Seeking the Spirit's guidance, we discern direction for living faithfully in terms of human sexuality. We do this not in some abstract ideal realm but amid all the complexities, conflicts, sorrows, discoveries, and joys of actual social and individual life. It is a task that this church accepts as a redeemed community. As simultaneously captive to sin and yet liberated and forgiven people of faith, we walk together both humbly and boldly toward God's promised future.

The need to be faithful, loving, merciful, kind in all our relationships—sexual and otherwise—is precisely how we live out our faith with one another. At its very core, this statement seeks to guide our thinking and studying and acting so that we can live fully and faithfully as the whole beings that God created us to be.

Happy Pride Month! Happy June!

Pastor Jay

¹LGBTQIA+ is an acronym that stands for: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual and the + is to include all those whose sexuality or gender understanding and expression are not listed there but are non-cis-gendered heterosexual. There are many acronyms, words, titles, and other which are used to include this whole group. But in an effort to be as inclusive as possible I have used this one. But it is necessary to understand and respect an individual person's right to identify as they feel best fits them and to use the terminology they share.

²"Recommendations" in this context are non-binding suggestions made to various levels of the ELCA on how to live into and implement the social statement. The "accompanying resolutions" were policy and constitutional changes that full implementation of the social statement (if/when it was adopted) required within the practices and governance of the ELCA.

³"Bound Conscience" has taken on a life of its own in the years following 2009. Paraphrasing Dr Timothy Wengert (who presented on Bound Conscience): The idea of Bound Conscience is that we as Christians owe it to one another to welcome all into faithful, respectful, and open conversation around those issues that divide us. We are to give our full attention to one another and to listen with open minds and hearts to where we stand. We are to examine our own positions and seek ways for us to come to consensus. Yet, if we cannot come to consensus, and find that because of Scripture or Reason we cannot concede our position, we are to respect one another and still come to the Table together, live as members of the same Body of Christ together, while also respecting one another's consciences which are bound by Scripture or Reason. Many would have us believe this is to jump to the end—respecting one another's position—without the conversation and personal examination necessary. But both are necessary on this and every issue that we encounter as Christ's Body made of many members.

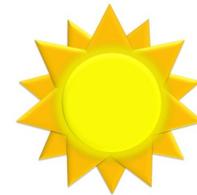
Council Update

Our May council meeting covered a variety of topics, including looking into Purple Angel Training, the ongoing troubles with heat in the sanctuary, updating our wedding policy and consideration of summer hours for the office.

Summer Hours for the Church Office

Starting the week of June 4, the church office will be open the following hours:

Mondays	9am - 3pm
Tuesdays	9am - 3pm
Thursdays	9am - 3pm



Presence Pledge Card

As we continue with our four seasons of pledging, it is time for our third season: Pledging Presence. In the fall, we pledged financially, before Lent we pledged our prayers, and now it is time to pledge our presence in this place. It may seem as though summer is a strange time of year to think about being more present, but this pledge is not just for the summer months: it is for the whole year. I invite you to prayerfully consider the pledge card in this newsletter (or attached to the eblast with this newsletter in it). A box will be available at church to return your card, as well as additional copies of the form.

This pledge is between you and God. What is God calling you to? We are stronger, healthier, and more able to serve God when we are all together.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” – Colossians 3:16

Message From The Treasurer

“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you.”

Deuteronomy 16-17

Here is your update for the month of April. The income totaled **\$23,774** and our expenses totaled **\$21,475**. This gives us **\$2,299** less the principal payment on the mortgage of **\$2,624** or (\$325) for the month. If we add January through April numbers in we get the following totals for the year to date:

Income	\$ 93,081
Expense	<u>85,759</u>
	7,322
Mortgage	<u>9,130</u>
Deficit	<u>\$ (1,808)</u>

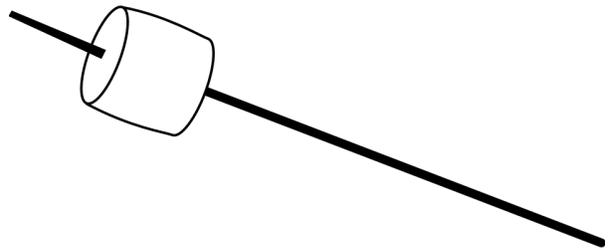
The good news is that despite the snow storm of the century on April 15th our current and loose offerings are short of budget by \$72 for the month and \$6,096 year-to-date. With Summer coming it is more important than ever that we continue to send in our offerings because the bills keep coming and we have a \$715 bill for snow plowing to pay. The Finance Team and Council continue to look at options for funding next year after the grant from the ELCA ends. Please keep us in your prayers as we work through the many options that are before us. As always, the Finance Team, Amy Hertel, John Christiansen, 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.”



“God is Good” Art Project

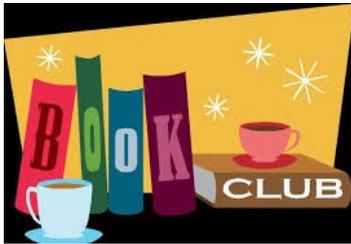
Our Sunday School children wrapped up their year with artistic representations of their favorite things God has done. Lizzie drew the story of Saul becoming Paul, and Amber drew herself with her little sister, Summer. Outside, Ali drew himself with his dog, while William and Lainey drew abstract images of the Holy One and helped color in a peace sign.



What is your favorite thing that God has done? All are welcome to join in our art project and add your favorite thing about God: it could be a Bible story, a moment in your life, or something else! Be creative!

Parish Life

Book Group



In June, the CCLC Book Club will be reading, Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance. This book is a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town. Hillbilly Elegy is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans. The Vance family story begins hopefully in postwar America. J. D.'s grandparents were “dirt poor and in love,” and moved north from Kentucky’s Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually their grandchild (the author) would graduate from Yale Law School. This book is a deeply moving memoir with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures.

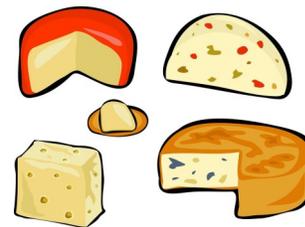
All are welcome to join the gathering of the Book Club on June 18 at 6:30 p.m.

By Deb Anderson



Breaking Bread Together

In honor of June Dairy Month, our June potluck (Sunday, June 17th) will be “dairy”. The Redevelopment Team will be presenting at our upcoming BBT events on redevelopment, mission, purpose, and what God is calling us to.



ChildCare Center Graduation

Lucky 13. This June 9th Christ Community Childcare becomes a teenager. We along with this church hope to grow old together.

As Director (teacher, disciplinarian, tear wiper, nose wiper, bottom wiper, grocery shopper, janitor, hug giver) I feel blessed to have great support from our church family....those who have helped our center with the painting of our classrooms and just recently spreading of woodchips on the playground. All of this is greatly appreciated.

This June 8th at 10am we will be having our annual graduation program. The kids will be singing songs. If you need something to put a smile on your face, this will do it!

Love, Miss Patti



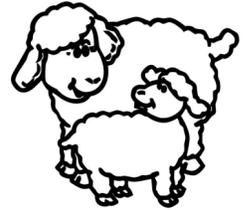
Community Life

Faster Than The Pastor 5K

There is still time to sign up to run, walk, or volunteer at our 5K fun run on Saturday, June 16th. To register to run/walk visit: <https://www.fasterthanthepastorevents.com/fttp-wisconsin-2018> and follow the link to "Registration Open." To volunteer, contact the church office or sign-up on the sheet in the fellowship hall.

Little Lambs Mad Dash:

Included in our **Faster Than The Pastor** event is a beautiful **Little Lambs Mad Dash!** The Little Lambs Mad Dash (LLMD) is a Kids obstacle course. It is PERFECT for the smallest of His sheep (2-9 year olds). Kids ages 2-9 will leap over, crawl under, dodge, dash and giggle! Register for the LLMD at the same link above.



Community Garden Update

Our annual community garden has been planted on the back area of the church property. Soon we will have fresh vegetables on display on Sunday morning. You are encouraged to make a contribution to the ELCA World Hunger container on the table and help yourself to this produce. Any leftover veggies, plus all the mid-week pickings will go to the food pantry at Grace Lutheran Church. Early in the season there may also be produce provided by some of our CCLC families from their home gardens.

This garden project is a joint effort by volunteers from CCLC, Grace Lutheran, and Bethel Lutheran churches. If you want to help at the garden, contact Al Rasmussen.

Save the Dates

Green Bay Pride: CCLC will be joining with our Episcopal and UCC siblings to have a booth at Green Bay's NEW Pride Alive festival on Saturday, July 14th. Sign-up for serving at this event will be available in mid-June.

East Side YMCA Summer Block Party: CCLC has been invited to help out at the East Side Y's summer block party on Tuesday, August 14th, from 5pm-8pm. More information will be in the July and August newsletters.

June 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 8:30am: Rehearsal 9:15am: Worship & Coffee Hour Parish Life Vision Team	4	5 9:15am: Bible Study	6 7pm: Campfire Worship	7 5:30pm: Childcare Team 6:30pm: Finance Team	8 10am: Childcare Graduation	9 Seeds for Growth
10 8:30am: Rehearsal 9:15am: Worship & Coffee Hour	11 6:30pm: Council	12 9:15am: Bible Study	13 7pm: Campfire Worship	14	15	16 9am: Faster Than the Pastor FTTP 5K race
17 8:30am: Rehearsal 9:15am: Worship & Coffee Hour BBT potluck	18 6:30pm: Book Group	19 9:15am: Bible Study	20 7pm: Campfire Worship	21	22	23
24 8:30am: Rehearsal 9:15am: Worship & Coffee Hour	25	26 9:15am: Bible Study	27 7pm: Campfire Worship	28	29	30

The Good News

Christ Community Lutheran Church

1742 Servant Way
Green Bay, WI 54311

Christ Community Lutheran Church

1742 Servant Way
Green Bay, WI 54311

Phone: 920-469-5585

Web: www.christcommunityelca.org

E-mail: christcomm@sbcglobal.net

Rev. Amanda Nesvold

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, June 18, 2018~~

Like us on  Christ Community Lutheran Church-ELCA