Fall Ministry Kick Off
“God’s Work, Our Hands”
Sunday, September 10

“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and truth”
1 John 3:18

Ministry leaders are busy preparing for our fall kick off. Over thirty groups will have displays to help you learn more about the ministries offered at our church. They will be available before and after both services to share the plans for this year’s activities and answer your questions. What a great morning to invite others to our church and help encourage new connections!

Enjoy some popcorn and special snacks along with your coffee as you visit the displays in the Gathering Space and Education Wing and see the ways the Spirit has touched our congregation as we look for ways to serve and build relationships in our church and out in the community. We hope you find inspiration in the words of this year’s song: “Evidence” by Citizen Way. The words encourage us to take action as we reach out to others with mercy, grace and compassion.
Hello everyone,

I write this article in a much better place than last month. I hope everyone has digested everything and is ready to move forward. Interim Pastor Pauline Standley will join us October 1. She will preach every other Sunday as well as oversee the pastoral needs of this congregation while guiding us through our transition. I look forward to her experience. There are five Sundays before Pastor Standley joins us and two Sundays a month which we will need to lean on Supply Pastors to conduct Worship Service. Our Vice President Jim Ward did an awesome job lining up our Supply Pastors. They will do a wonderful job. We recently had an intensive Holy Spirit-filled council meeting and much was accomplished to move forward. Our Ministry Site Profile is in the process of completion and the call committee process was set in motion. Todd Huston has volunteered to be chairperson and Pete VanGessel has offered to assist. Please keep these two gentlemen in your prayers as they assemble the call committee.

Todd Huston (toddhuston.6.3@gmail.com) Pete VanGessel(petevangessel@gmail.com)

Our Fall Ministry Kick Off is drawing near and will take place September 10th. This is a great time for all the committees and groups within Christ Lutheran Church to highlight their ministries. If you have not yet found an area to be plugged in to, this is a great opportunity to do so. Be careful if you pray to God about getting involved. I did and I still do and I keep finding myself doing things I never thought I had the courage or the ability to do. It is an awesome way to build up relationships with people within our church community, help people within and outside our church community and most of all, build that relationship between you and Jesus Christ as you feel him working within you.

See you there!

Thomas Goetsch
Council President
president@clcwyoming.org

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**Hurricane Harvey Relief Information**

Since Hurricane Harvey hit the Gulf Coast on August 25, there have been many of you wondering how you can help. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response can be made by going to ELCA.org/disaster. Forms that you can mail in are available at the Welcome Center.
I woke up the other day and after getting ready for work, walked out to my car, stopped and smelled the air. It smelled like football! The air was crisp, cool, and clean and it just felt like fall was coming. I am always at a crossroads this time of the year. I absolutely love summer time in Michigan. But I also absolutely love the season of fall. So while I get excited for the fall colors, the feel of wearing a flannel shirt again, and of course, enjoying every football game there is, I also feel myself saddened at the thought of the days getting shorter, losing those warm summer nights, and not being able to enjoy a hot day at the lake.

As I was torn between my feelings of the changing seasons, I found it pretty much mirroring my feelings about where we are at CLC. I am saddened that we had to say goodbye to Pastor Dave. In my working with him in all things youth related, I saw how great of a relationship he could build with those young men and women and I know they will truly miss that connection. He is the first pastor my youngest remembers at the pulpit and he walked with my two older kids through much of their confirmation studies. He has definitely left a lasting impression on many in our congregation. And as sad as I may be to see him leave, and see ourselves back to the place of searching again for the right fit to lead our congregation, there is a part of me that has a little bit of excitement for what is to come. I was always the geeky kid that looked forward to the start of school and school supply shopping (I still do!) and in the same way, I am looking forward to seeing what God has in store for our amazing place of worship. We are a vibrant congregation full of so many who have talents that stretch across the board. God has someone very special in mind for us and I am looking forward to meeting him or her when God says it is time. In the mean time, we as a congregation have plenty to do to continue to share God’s word with others!

As the school year begins, there are plenty of fresh starts to take part in at Christ Lutheran. Our Fall Ministries Kickoff will take place on Sunday, Sept. 10th. On that day, you can walk through the Gathering Space and the Education Wing and find numerous tables filled with so many different opportunities for you to serve the congregation, our community, or work on your own personal relationship with God. I strongly encourage you to take the time to look at all that CLC has to offer and see what strikes your fancy. One of the things that means the most to me in my faith life is being able to serve in various ways that are needed. There is so much that we are able to do at CLC and it only gets better when we have the participation of many.

Sunday School registration will be available that day (we provide classes for 4yr olds through adults) and we are looking forward to trying out our new Middle/High School class which will have a large focus on serving others. I am so excited for the many service projects that are being planned by all different members of our church. If you have a cause that is near and dear to you, please feel free to contact me and let’s figure out how our youth can help to serve that particular group. Our kids want to DO and I think we should all follow that example! Let’s DO all we can as we enter into the fall season at CLC. As sad as I am to say goodbye to summer, I will be so excited to see our members back from their vacations and being able to worship together on Sundays! I hope I see you this week too!

Blessings,
Suzanne
Worship, Music & Arts – Gearing Up for Fall
by Gary Sironen, Minister of Music

As you should be aware, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is coming up in October, and we are observing that date here at Christ Lutheran and throughout the ELCA. You’ll find a listing of the events and dates on another page in this newsletter, as well as on posters throughout the church and online. Locally, we will be including hymns by Luther and other Reformation era composers in worship, music from the great Lutheran composer J. S. Bach, as well as hymns and songs from modern day Lutherans.

The Conference-wide events that our congregation is sponsoring are a Juried Art Show with the theme “Renewed in Word, Faith and Grace”, October 1-31, with entries appearing at six venues, including some here at CLC; and the musical “Reformation” at Wealthy Theatre in Grand Rapids, October 19-21 (tickets available through the Wealthy Theatre website and box office). Anyone wishing to be a part of the cast or crew of Reformation should contact me as soon as possible – we do need volunteers for several aspects of this production. Volunteers will also be needed to host the art show at our location; contact Kristen Thornton for details.

Our Worship Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday nights from 7 to 8:30 pm on September 6. We aren’t all soloists: we are an ensemble whose purpose is to learn to sing well together as a group and enhance worship through anthems and song-leading at the 9:00 Sunday worship service the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month, plus some holidays. This is a great year to join us as we consider the value of music to the Reformation and Lutheran worship past and present.

If you play an instrument or love singing praise songs, consider becoming a part of the Praise Choir and Band, leading congregational singing at the 11:15 worship service each Sunday. We rehearse Sunday mornings at 10:30. You can join us every week or work out an occasional schedule.

Marilyn Burgard is also seeking ringers for the Bell Choirs, one group for beginners and another for more experienced ringers. They ring the 2nd Sunday of the month at worship and rehearse on Monday evenings.

Finally, we welcome our new Junior Choir Director, Casey Huls, a music education student at Grand Valley State University. Meet Casey on Sunday, Sept. 10 after worship during our Mission Sunday event. Junior Choir is for kids in grades 2-5.

One Art Competition, Six Grand Rapids Venues!

Art works fitting the theme of Renewed in Word, Faith, and Grace can be submitted; any 2-D or 3-D media including: paintings, ceramics, fiber, photography, sculpture, multi-media, etc. Art will be shown October 1-October 31, 2017 at one of 6 possible venues. All entries will be done on line starting now. The submission form and the link are available at the Welcome Center or at this link: Renewed in Word, Faith, and Grace - A Juried Art Show
Calling All High School Youth!

Are you ready for a great new year to begin? We are, and we hope you are as excited as we are! We have a ton of fun things planned for this year and we hope you come to all of them. This year Mosaic is packed with fun trips, service projects, parties, and games! Some things we are going to do take a lot of planning, so here are some of the things we are going to need to think about. **We will be having a meeting on September 10 at 6:45, immediately following the Confirmation meeting!** This will be general information about the year and planning.

**National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX**—This is going to take a ton of planning and fundraising. We have already started working on a cost estimate and travel arrangements. First thing we will need to know is if you want to go! It is open to incoming 9th grade to 12th grade students. It takes place June 27—July 1, 2018. There is financial aid available to those who may need it. I will have forms at the meeting on the 10th.

**State Youth Gathering in Lansing, MI**—We do this every year . . . and it’s awesome every time! The cost for this event will be roughly $80 plus the cost of some food and other small things. It is the last week of the year, between Christmas and the New Year. We will start planning this a little bit on the 10th as well!

**CLC Halloween Party**—Mosaic will be hosting a Halloween party for all ages on October 29. We will have games and contests, and tons of other fun things! Come in costume and have some fun with us! Some events may include the Doughnut on a String Challenge and Bobbing for Apples! Keep your eyes and ears open for more details.

**Chili Cook Off!!** - We are bringing it back as a fundraiser for the Youth and Family Ministries! Dan Wright is the reigning champion, so you better bring your A-game if you want to win the Silver Spoon Award! We are tentatively planning for the cook-off to be on Nov. 5.

These are just some of the fun events Mosaic will be doing this year and we have so much more! As always, volunteers are welcome to help with planning or donating items that help make these events possible. If you would like to help, please contact me at Steve@clcwyoming.org and he will help you get started.

See you soon,
Steve Lundquist
Director of Youth Activities
We are looking for a couple more teachers to teach grades 1/2 and 5/6 and possible 4yr/K. We are also in need of a few substitutes who are willing to go on a list in case a teacher can’t be there for their week. If you are interested, please contact Suzanne Snider, suzanne@clcwyoming.org.

Meeting Reminder

Parents of youth who are in Confirmation class or would like their child to be a part of Confirmation class, please join us at 6:00 PM on September 10 for an information meeting. You will get all the dates, times, requirements, etc. for this year’s Confirmation instruction. The meeting should last about 45 minutes. Then, if you stay just a bit longer, you can learn about what is happening with National Gathering for summer 2018! Did you know that if you have an 8th grader for the fall of 2017, they are eligible to go to National Gathering! If you are a parent of a current 8th—12th grader, you won’t want to miss getting all of the details on cost, dates, and everything

Our church has a rich history of caring for its members. In our interim period as we search for a new senior pastor, the need for mutual care is more important than ever. We want to be sure no one gets overlooked, whether it might be a quick phone call or a visit (at home or in the hospital) and maybe Communion, too. It is very important that we not assume that the church “just knows” if someone needs a visit or special care. Please contact Patrick Blanchard, our Outreach Coordinator, by phone (616-460-7150) or email (pblanchard13@live.com) to let him know of any situation. All requests will remain confidential.
Back to School Bag Ministry Update

We have been busy collecting school supplies to make up our BTS bags for both Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and Gladiola Elementary. We are looking to have 150 bags for LWR. There will be fabric and sewing directions for those who want to sew bags in the Gathering Space for you to pick up.

Our greatest needs to complete our project are:
- 70-count spiral notebooks
- Erasers
- Pencil sharpeners
- Scissors (blunt tipped)

If you have already purchased some of the items that were previously listed, you may still turn them in.

Thank you for your support,
Jennifer Buddemeier

Calling all the ladies of Christ Lutheran! It’s time to start planning for another great weekend getaway! We are hoping to have our second annual women’s retreat in Spring of 2018. We are in need of those that would like to help plan our event this year!

If you are interested in helping, please join us for a meeting on Wednesday, September 20 at 7:00 PM. All ideas are welcome!

On Wednesday, August 16, we took some time to have cookies, cake, and root beer floats and say “Farewell” to Pastor Dave, Sarah, Noah and Finley. We wish them God’s many blessings as they begin ministry with their new church family at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Yorktown Heights, New York.
Your Pictures Are Needed!

Do you have pictures of a church activity that you want to share with everyone? You can email them to pictures@clcwyoming.org. Please be sure to include a description of the group and activity. These pictures will be made available to the church website, Facebook page, Gathering Space slide shows on Sunday mornings, and Branch newsletter. Thank you!

Did you know we email out the announcements every week? We also use email to share important notices, prayers requests, and news pertaining to the congregation. If you do not receive our emails, then there is a good chance we don’t have your address and you will miss something! If you would like to be included in this method of communication, please contact Audrey in our church office at 532-2774 or send her a note at office@clcwyoming.org.

Notes From the Office

Office Hours:
- Monday: 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. — Jim
- Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. — Audrey
- Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. — Audrey
- Thursday: 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. — Jim
- Friday: 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. — Audrey

**If you need to connect with us outside of these hours, please give us a call and make an appointment.**

Weekly Announcement Deadline:
Friday morning, 10:00 a.m.

Next Branch Deadline:
Tuesday, September 26, 2017, at 10:00 AM