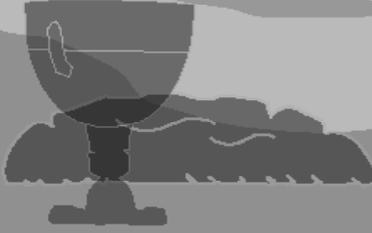


Christ Lutheran Church of Fairfax

May 2013 Newsletter



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Dear Friends,

As I'm sure you already know, I will be ending my time as pastor here on May 31. In July, my family and I will be moving to Ames, Iowa, where my husband, Sam, will serve as Senior Pastor of Collegiate Presbyterian Church.

This will be my last newsletter article before I leave, so what I mostly want to say to you is, "Thank you."

Being the pastor at Christ Lutheran has been a tremendous blessing to me. I have learned so much about faithful leadership by serving alongside the council members for these six years. What caring and dedicated people they have all been!

I have seen faith and resilience and creativity in the way the congregation has faced challenges, weathered losses, and made decisions for the future.

I have relied on the prayers of the congregation when I have needed them in my life, and have felt the strength of the Spirit as I have held each of you in my own prayers.

I am not the first pastor to whom you've said goodbye, so you know the drill: I will have to maintain very strict boundaries about the kinds of contacts I can have with you after my departure. These boundaries are to allow a new pastor to come in without the confusion of a former pastor lurking in the wings. So, yes—after May 31 I will no longer be your pastor, and I will not be able to make pastoral visits, preside at weddings or funerals, or weigh-in on congregational issues that you may face.

But while I won't be your pastor, I will always be your friend, and will hold each of you in my heart with the deepest sense of gratitude for the ways you have changed me for the better.

May God hold you in tender care.

Blessings,

Pastor Terry

Pastoral Transition

Amy Gosman, the Council President, has been in contact with Bishop's Associate Nancy Nelson, who will assist the council in identifying an Interim Pastor. In the meantime, the council will line up Supply Pastors to lead worship on Sundays, and Pastors Tom Gable and Kathryn Gulbranson of Marin Lutheran Church will be available for pastoral emergencies.

Progress on Affordable Senior Housing

The project is being recommended for a total of \$84,659 from HOME/CDBG (this is funding for affordable housing from the federal government). The final approval for this will be on May 7. While our developer, Resources for Community Development (RCD) will not receive this money until next year, being able to show a government commitment makes private foundations like the Marin Community Foundation more willing to get involved with the project.

A property survey, geotechnical survey, and biological survey have all been completed. The next step of predevelopment will be to work on the design, which will include identifying the footprint of the parcel where the housing will be, and having the parcel appraised.

Conversations with Cascade Canyon School about Selling the Property

In February, the congregation gathered to discuss the idea of selling the church property to Cascade Canyon School, with the congregation remaining on the property as tenants of the school. There was overwhelming consensus to explore this possibility, so that the congregation would be freed for ministry without the burden of managing and maintaining the property. One caveat that was voiced by a number of members was to make sure that the Affordable Senior Housing would still be built here.

Cascade Canyon School received the idea with great enthusiasm. They also reaffirmed the school's commitment to the housing project.

Since then, representatives from the council have been meeting with representatives from the school to determine how to move forward. The first step has been to have an appraisal of the property completed, with the church and the school sharing the cost. The results of the appraisal should be received very soon.

The next step for the council is to find an attorney who is adept at handling property transactions to help move the process forward.

The council will continue to keep the congregation informed as things progress, and, of course, there will be no final decisions on a sale of the property without a congregational vote.

Death Prep 101—A Great Success!

A dozen members and friends of the church participated in the pilot program of Death Prep 101. We were guided through the process of filling out emergency information and medical paperwork like Advance Health Care Directives and POLSTs (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment); coached on how to articulate our last wishes regarding our bodies and our funerals; and advised on how to take care of legal needs such as wills and trusts.

Three outside experts—a First Responder, a funeral director, and an attorney—were brought in to answer our questions and personalize the process.

Sound like fun? It actually was! Many thanks to Amy Gosman, Judy Lundquist, and Barbara Larsen for their untold hours of work, and their thoughtfulness in putting together such a thorough, informative, and heartfelt program.

Don't Forget Your Coins for the Food Bank!

So far this year, we have collected \$46.50 for the Marin Food Bank. That translates into the equivalent of 93 meals!

Keep emptying your pockets and drawers, and hunting under your couch cushions—then bring what you find to church on Sundays, so our hungry neighbors can be fed!

GOODBYE'S

Charles Wei's Goodbye on May 12; Pastor Terry's Goodbye on May 26

This is a month of goodbyes with our Youth Leader, Charles Wei, graduating from seminary, and Pastor Terry leaving at the end of the month.

Please stay for coffee after worship on May 12 to say goodbye to Charles; and for lunch after worship on May 26 to say goodbye to Pastor Terry.

End-of-the-Year Youth Group Sleepover May 17

For Charles' last activity with the youth, the group will have a sleepover on Friday, May 17 at Holy Grounds, the student coffee house at San Francisco Theological Seminary. The sleepover will start at 6 p.m. on Friday, and end at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

If their last sleepover is any indication, there will be little actual *sleep*, but a whole lot of fun!

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