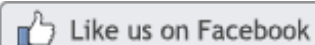


Greetings!

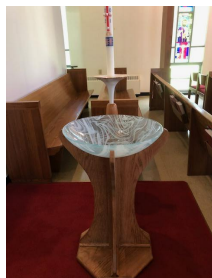
Welcome to Christ Lutheran e-news, a weekly electronic newsletter which highlights programs and activities of our congregation. Feel free to [share with family and friends](#).



Christ Lutheran Church

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A Reflection on Baptism

As we re-entered the nave for our first indoor worship on July 11 we were greeted by the presence of a new baptismal font, a generously proportioned glass bowl resting on upraised arms of wood. It seems a fitting reminder of our passage from the prisonlike bonds of 16 months of pandemic restrictions to the new life to be found in our beloved community gathered in worship under one roof.

The Worship, Music, and Visual Arts Committee grappled for several years over the design, materials, and placement of a new font. We wanted an ample, generous basin of water that signified the immersion of our sinful selves into the cleansing waters of our baptism into the death and life of Christ. We sought materials that were in harmony with the architecture of the space, that reflected its contemporary aesthetic. And we wanted to place it near the entrance of the nave to convey baptism as the entrance to the community of faith. Then we found the artisans to create the bowl and stand: George Scott, a glassmaker in Seattle, Washington, and Wally Long, craftsman and woodworker, a member of our congregation.

We celebrate their gifts as well as the generosity of families who made this new font possible. We are renewed by this beautiful furnishing of our worship space.

We resume **in-person worship this Sunday, August 8, at 10 a.m.** The Rev. John Stendahl will lead worship this week.

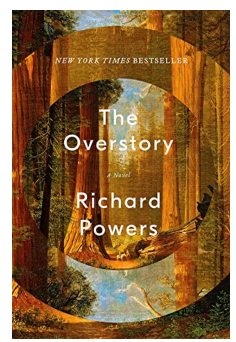
Adult Formation

CLC Book Group

The 2019 Pulitzer prize-winning book, *The Overstory*, by Richard Powers, is the August reading selection for the CLC Book Group.

"*The Overstory* is a sweeping, impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of - and paean to - the natural world" says GoodReads.

Gather online for a lively discussion on **Monday, August 30, 7:30 pm**. If you are a newcomer to the group and would like to join us, contact Marianne Swenson, mswenson10@comcast.net

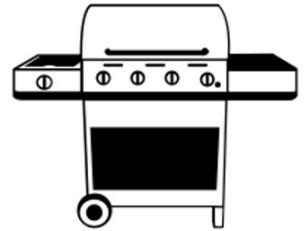


This past year we conducted both worship and the forum on Zoom, and since music for worship on Zoom was pre-recorded, choir members who have historically been busy rehearsing during the forum were able to participate. Would you be interested in moving the forum to another time, and meeting by Zoom, to allow choir members and out-of-town folks to participate? Contact Pr. Bourret with your thoughts.

Call to Action

On **September 12**, God willing and COVID conditions still permitting, we'll celebrate the new season with **SeptemberFest**, and a potluck cookout following worship. We're looking for one Thrivent member to apply for an Action Team Grant to underwrite the cost of "mains" to grill. Contact Pr. Bourret if you're willing to do so-it's very easy!-and if you have any question about the process.

We'll also need a few folks to staff the grill. Thanks to Norman Bolles, who has already agreed to help. Contact Pr. Bourret if you can, too.



Beth (MacDonald) Wimberly would like to invite any friends of **Lois MacDonald, who passed away on December 28, 2020** to attend her memorial service which will be held on **Saturday, August 14, 2021** at 10 a.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA. All Covid safety protocols are in place, and all attendees must be masked regardless of vaccination status.

Looking Ahead

On **Sunday, August 29 at 10:00 a.m.**, we'll hold the dual anniversary celebrations with a special worship service followed by an ice cream social coffee hour. Rumor has it there's a time capsule to unearth, and, just maybe, we can bury a new one for generations to come. Mark your calendar, and **offer suggestions for items for a new time capsule** to Pr. Bourret or any member of the Worship, Music, and Visual Arts Committee. Yes, we'll include a mask!



READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

August 8, 2021

First Reading
1 Kings 19:4-8

Psalm 34

Second Reading
Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Gospel
John 6:35, 41-51

Sing For Joy

Enhance your understanding of the weekly scripture readings by listening to [Sing For Joy](#) from St. Olaf College. The Sing For Joy radio program, produced by St. Olaf College, has a simple mission: to explore the weekly themes of Christian worship by providing the best in sacred choral music and thoughtful commentary. The musical performances eloquently "do the talking," while the concise remarks from host Pastor Bruce Benson illuminate the meaning of the texts.

Do you have information for our weekly e-news?
Please be in touch by [email](#) if you have news to include.

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