

CLARION



Historic Day for Christ Memorial and Reliant

Monday evening, September 25, was an historic day in the life of Christ Memorial. On that evening over twelve months of work came to fulfillment when the church voted overwhelmingly, and then by acclamation, to acquire Christ in the City Lutheran Church (CIC) and its Crave Coffee House. Three meetings had been held during the summer to fully discuss the proposal and pray for God the Holy Spirit to inform the process and guide the decision. To give thanks for His guidance and to celebrate the decision, a champagne toast was offered afterwards.

Why acquire CIC/Crave when renting from it has worked up to this point? The answer is permanence. Research indicates that to have a lasting impact in an urban area, a permanent presence is critical. Already Reliant has received over thirty new members, and hundreds more have been engaged through community groups, events and worship. Having a permanent home at 3500 Caroline Street will position Reliant for growth as it carries out our Loved+Sent mission. Growth in worship. Growth through campus ministry to St. Louis University, which is adjacent to Reliant. Growth through outreach to the greater midtown urban area. *(continued on page 8) (see related story page 3).*



Thankful for a large turnout and great cross section of the Christ Memorial/Reliant community

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Mark your calendars

- 11/2 Women's Guild Lunch
- 11/4 Jewelry Drive
- 11/16 Book Discussion Group
- 11/17 Monarch Jewelry Boutique
- 11/22 Wreaths Across America Due
- 11/22 11/23 Thanksgiving Services
- 12/1-3 *A Song for Christmas*
- 12/2 Christmas Breakfast
- 12/6 Midweek Advent Services Begin
- 12/7 Women's Guild Lunch
- 12/9 Christmas Cookie Walk
- 1/26-27 Seaside Escape Women's Retreat

don't be out of the loop

Sign up for email updates from Pastor Jeff at the bottom of our home page cmstl.org.

Emails come about every other week and give you resources, links to interesting articles, and important church information. You can also opt in for Reliant updates from Pastor



clarion

Christ Memorial Lutheran Church
5252 S. Lindbergh Blvd.
Saint Louis, MO 63126
(314) 631-0304

The Clarion is published ten times a year for members, family, and friends of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church.

All copy (in Microsoft Word) is due the second Tuesday of each month. Please attach to an email or deliver an electronic copy to the church office.

Email to:

clarion@cmstl.org

Next deadline: Nov. 14 for the Dec/Jan double issue

Susan Senechal, Editor

»loved +sent event is another fruitful day of service

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Loved+Sent Servant Event!

414 people from our congregation and community stepped up to serve others on October 7. God often works through people to deliver His care, and these 414 leaders helped demonstrate His love to people at 35 sites around St. Louis.

This year's projects included work at community gardens, delivering gifts to nursing homes and police stations, indoor cleaning at several partner organizations, and inviting residents around both our church's campuses to attend worship. Some of you even worked in the rain during the afternoon!

Christ Memorial has received thank-you notes from several sites. Operation Food Search wrote, "The 48 [meal] kits you graciously brought in weighed in at 714 pounds, which we value at \$1,206.66. Your fabulous kits were sent to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital/Danis Clinic. These simple meal kits offer peace of mind to parents who have the added stress and worry of a sick child. Food is medicine, and your generosity has become a lifeline to these families."

Great job and thank you to everyone who served this year. Keep an eye out for info about next year's Loved+Sent Servant Event!



»reliant fall festival a success

Although the weather felt more like early summer than mid-October, Reliant hosted a neighborhood "Fall Festival" at Crave Coffeehouse on Saturday, October 14. This event was a way to celebrate our new permanent worship space, but even more than that to introduce ourselves to the community and be a good neighbor.

The afternoon included bounce houses, a food truck (that was free for all guests), coffee beverages, kids crafts, face painting, yard games, and lots of great conversation. Many neighbors who attended the event were excited to know that a Lutheran church was once again holding worship services in that space on Sunday mornings.

As we make Crave our more permanent home we will seek to provide many more of these community focused events. We seek to listen first to the needs of the neighborhood and bring a Christ-centered message of hope as we serve and worship at Crave. Please pray for introductions made and conversations that were held on October 14 to begin a work of the Holy Spirit in the mid-town area!

»monarch christmas boutique tops life team calendar

The Life Team is having a **Monarch Jewelry Drive** on the weekend of November 4th in preparation for the upcoming Monarch Christmas Boutique. Please bring any old, broken and unwanted jewelry to church. It will be donated to Monarch Jewelry {Crisis Aid International} and repurposed and transformed into a new creation, the style of which may be purchased at The Monarch Christmas Boutique.

Just in time for Christmas! Friday November 17th from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, The LFL Life Team will host a **Monarch Christmas Boutique**. There will be one of kind jewelry and gift items available to purchase. All proceeds go to Crisis Aid International's Refuge Home in St Louis to support girls rescued from sex trafficking. There will be a speaker from Crisis Aid International at 7:00 pm. To support this great cause all you have to do is come and shop!

Recently the Life Team also joined with thousands of people in America and Canada for the Life Chain on October 1, standing in a silent and prayerful demonstration bringing awareness to the damage abortion causes in the many lives it touches. In addition, on October 7 they joined with Serve St Louis, visiting the Lemay Care Community Center, passing out blankets made by CM volunteers, visiting and singing with the residents. They will be visiting again on Sunday November 12. If you would like to join us, please meet us at the Lemay Community Care Center {9383 Broadway, Lemay 63125} at 1:00 pm. If you need a ride please contact Theresa at 314-359-3054.

"a song for christmas"—a cmp community theater partnership

Christ Memorial Productions is pleased to announce that it will host Family Musical Theater's *A Song for Christmas* at Christ Memorial on Friday December 1 and Saturday December 2 at 7 pm, and Sunday December 3 at 2 pm.

A Song for Christmas is a concert featuring live performances of a selection of over thirty Christmas songs. A live orchestra and talented singers from around St. Louis, including many that have performed with CMP and FMT in the past, are sure to delight.

Admission is free with a freewill offering to cover expenses and to support the work of Humanitri.

Humanitri works in the St. Louis area to fight homelessness and equip people to rebuild their lives. For additional information visit CMPShows.org or FamilyMusicalTheater.org.

women's guild update

WOMEN'S GUILD will meet at 12:00 on Wednesday, November 2. Bring your lunch; dessert will be served. The business meeting will follow including election of officers. It's not too early to start planning for Christmas. Our December Christmas meeting will be held on Dec. 7.

Even more important is the Christmas Cookie Walk scheduled for Dec. 9. It takes a lot of cookies to make a successful cookie walk, so why not begin baking now and storing them in your freezer until the cookie walk is here. Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors about it.

women plan seaside escape

SAVE THE DATE --
January 26 & 27, 2018

For Christ Memorial
Women's Retreat--
SeaSide Escape

Location is Christ
Memorial.

Experience a peaceful
getaway, while being
restored and refreshed
in your relationship with
friends around you and
Jesus.

Look for more
information next month.

»join the choir for christmas eve

*Sing to the LORD, praise His name;
proclaim His salvation day after day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.
(Psalm 96:2-4)*

Singers high school age to senior citizen are invited to add their voices to the choir for Christmas Eve. No experience is required, just a love for singing praise to the Lord, and attendance at most (or all!) of the rehearsals listed below. The choir will sing for Christmas Eve services at 5pm and 10pm on Sunday Dec 24. CDs or mp3 files will be available to help you learn the music. You may sing for both services, or if necessary for your personal schedule, just one.

Christmas Eve Choir rehearsals:

Tuesdays - Nov 28, Dec 5, Dec 12, Dec 19 - 7-8:45pm - room 208
Wednesday - December 20 7-9 pm (with orchestra)

»fall confirmation

Each fall our Confirmands, Christ Memorial's 7th and 8th Grade Youth, and their parents spend 5 weeks learning more about the 10 Commandments and specific issues that directly connect to our Lutheran Christian Faith.

We invite professionals to come and speak on different topics that rotate every two years. This year's topics include:

- Beliefs and Media
- Homosexuality
- Time, Talents, and Treasures
- Relationships, Dating, and Marriage
- The Teenage Brain

This year we kicked off with a pizza dinner and look to make meals before our presentation a regular thing.

This intergenerational event is one of the four Confirmation Modules. It has been happening for years and it is a joy to see parents and youth learning side by side. Parents and youth are able to discuss their faith and learn more about each other. Please keep our Confirmands and their families in prayer as they continue to grow and develop in the challenging middle school years.

»loved+sent to the affected and afflicted by hurricane harvey

According to FEMA, Hurricane Harvey was the worst disaster in Texas history, with more than four feet of rain displacing thousands of people in Houston and along the Gulf Coast. The impact left many in Texas without shelter, food, clothing, electricity and medical assistance.

Christ Memorial heard their cry for mercy and came to the aid of those afflicted by Hurricane Harvey in Texas. We prayed for first responders, victims, and leaders. We prayed for patience, wisdom, safety and courage. We prayed that Jesus would be seen in our response. And what a response it was! Along with a \$10,000 matching grant from Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis, we raised over \$26,700. These funds were sent to the Texas District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

The Texas District is uniquely placed to know the needs of affected congregations and to effectively distribute funds where they are needed most. A statement from the Texas District Office describes their response: *"As assessments are being made, and greatest needs are being determined, financial assistance will allow the district to resource people whose property has been damaged as well as provide supplies for future volunteers who will come to clean-up or even re-build homes, schools and churches."*

Thank you for your generosity, which is a reflection of the generosity of God, who provides all things needful for this body and life.

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, thirsty and you gave me something to drink, needing clothes and you clothed me..." (Matthew 25:35-36)



update your info

Have you moved? Changed your phone number or dropped your landline? Children moved out of the house? Update your info in our church office so that we can serve you better.

Email Cheryl.becher@cmstl.org.
Or call (314)631-0304.



Christ Memorial presents
Christmas Breakfast
Saturday December 2 — 8:30—11:30
Food, Games, Music, Santa & Nativity scene!
\$3/Person—\$10 max/Family
See In Touch and CMStL.org for additional information.

third thursday book discussion

Join us in the Family Room at Christ Memorial on the third Thursday of the month as we discuss both Christian and secular books. Please call Robbin Oehler at (314) 843-7865 to join. No cost to participants. Books are checked out to the leader from St. Louis County Library.

November 16 @ 6:30-8:00 pm

Discuss ***Heart and Soul*** by Maeve Binchy- Dr. Clara Casey was certain the senior cardiologist position was hers. Instead, she is offered the thankless job of establishing a rehab heart clinic that's woefully underfunded. She reluctantly accepts the job, but promises to leave after one year. Clara quickly assembles a diverse and capable staff, all of whom pitch in to help heal the lives of their demanding and sometimes difficult patients. Before long, they have established the clinic as an integral part of the community. After the year is up, Clara struggles with the decision to leave, knowing that her time there has changed her life forever.

Dessert will be Brioche Bread and Butter Pudding a popular dessert during dreary Irish winters.

»recent additions to the library

Cherished Mercy (Heart of the Frontier; 3) by Tracie Peterson- Mercy Flanagan has grown tired of Oregon City and feels that she has a larger purpose in life, so when she learns that family friend Eletta Browning is pregnant, she travels south to the Rogue River Valley to help.

Dangerous Illusions (Code of Honor; 1) by Irene Hannon- Detective Colin Flynn investigates a tragic death that's been linked to a grieving woman with apparent memory loss, but it quickly becomes clear there's more to the case--and the woman--than meets the eye.

Egypt's Sister: A Novel of Cleopatra (Silent Years Book; 1) by Angela Elwell Hunt- Growing up together in the Alexandrian palace, Chava, the Hebrew daughter of the royal tutor, and Urbi, an Egyptian princess, become as close as sisters. When Urbi ascends the throne as Queen Cleopatra, Chava believes their bond is strong enough to survive. But absolute power has a way of changing everything.

The Proving by Beverly Lewis- Amanda Dienner hasn't seen her Old Order family in five years when she receives word that her mother has passed away and left her Lancaster County's most popular Amish bed-and-breakfast. Now an Englisher, Mandy is shocked: Her twin sister should have been the obvious choice! However there is a catch: The farmhouse inn will only truly be hers if she is able to successfully run it for twelve consecutive months.

Threads of Suspicion (An Evie Blackwell Cold Case) by Dee Henderson- Detective Evie Blackwell and her new partner, David, investigate two cold cases while navigating growing suspicions about public agendas and questions in Evie's personal life.

To Be Where You Are (Mitford Novel) by Jan Karon- Father Tim has wrestled for 12 years with the conflicts of retirement. Finally he realizes he doesn't need a steady job to prove himself then he is given one. Meanwhile, newly married Dooley and Lace face a crisis that empties their bank account and turns their household upside down. Is the honeymoon over?

Where We Belong by Lynn Austin- In the city of Chicago in 1892, the rules and expectations for Victorian women are strict. But sisters Rebecca and Flora Hawes are not typical Victorian ladies. Accompanied by Soren Petersen, their somber young butler, and Kate Rafferty, a plucky street urchin learning to be their lady's maid, the two women are on a quest across the desert, chasing rumors of an important biblical manuscript.

»wreaths across America

Honor your veteran or any hero's grave buried at Jefferson Barracks Cemetery. Thrivent Financial Action Team will be donating \$250 to purchase wreaths for this year and will work with a Scout Troop to help lay the wreaths on Saturday, December 16th. You can join in the effort by donating \$15 to purchase a wreath.

In 2014 we placed 35 wreaths and in 2015 we placed 124. Last year we placed more than 200 wreaths!

There are several ways you can be involved:

- * Purchase and place a wreath on a specific grave.
- * Donate to have a wreath placed on any grave.
- * If you are unable to place it yourself the scouts would be happy to place it for you.
- * Come join the troop on Wreaths Across America Day December 16th.

Please consider honoring our fallen heroes this Christmas. Forms may be placed in the *Thrivent* mail slot in the member workroom at church by November 22nd.



For more information contact Kathy Poppitz at (314) 630-1911.

www.wreathscrossamerica.org

Wreaths Across America

How many _____ @ \$15 each = total \$ _____ enclosed

Donated by _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I will place it – (We will contact you with details of placement scheduled for December 16th)

Scout troop will place it

Scout troop will place it on specific grave

Name _____

Site Number (helpful—not required) _____

Cash or Checks made payable to **Wreaths Across America** and placed in the Thrivent slot in member workroom by November 22nd 2017.

stewardship update

Current Fiscal Year
July 1, 2017 through
September 30, 2017

spending YTD

Actual
Spending \$356,977

Actual
Giving \$312,996

Budget Giving
\$346,368

giving YTD

2016-17 \$321,981

2017-18 \$312,996

attendance report

september 2017

Week One 596

Week Two 769

Week Three 765

Week Four 711

Average per Week
710

september 2016

Week One 696

Week Two 655

Week Three 665

Week Four 655

Average per Week
667



Plan to attend

Thanksgiving worship
at Christ Memorial

Wednesday,
November 22 at 7 p.m.

Thursday,
November 23 at 10 a.m.

Advent services
Begin Wednesday,
December 6

»permanent home for
reliant *(continued from page 1)*

In addition to our Sunday Reliant worship and weekday ministry outreach, Crave Coffee House will continue to serve the SLU campus and surrounding neighborhood with premium coffees, light food fare and WiFi availability. Crave has a committed following and provides a platform for the Reliant ministry team to connect with the community and establish bonds that can build bridges to the church and to Jesus.

Christ Memorial will acquire CIC/Crave for the amount of the outstanding debt on the property. Church treasurer Roger Biggs indicates that that amount, which includes closing costs and capital upgrades, will not exceed \$400,000. The good news is that the payment of this debt will be covered by Reliant lease income and a special offering. A matching grant of \$100,000 has been committed for this special offering. No funds from the Christ Memorial operating budget are projected to be needed for this debt service. At this time no closing date has been set for the transfer of ownership. It is anticipated that this could take several months or more.

As you have opportunity, please express your appreciation to the Crave Committee members who have devoted countless hours to the due diligence work needed to bring this proposal to the congregation. And now that it has been approved, countless more hours will be needed to put all the necessary structures in place to operate our new campus.

Crave Committee and adjunct members
Chris Frentzel
Larry Felton
Roger Biggs
Ann Anderson
Pastor Bobby

Travis Besel
Dave Nagy
Mark Amen
Sue Haack

Jeremy Roegner
Dawn Martin
Ron Becher
Pastor Bill



Chris Frentzel and Roger Biggs toast the acquisition



Celebrating together after the Voter's Meeting are L-R: Brant & Bethany Burgess, Jeff & Becca Misuraca, and Reliant elder Terry Ostendorf.