

CLARION



Prayers for *Faith Forward* Capital Campaign

What does the church look like for your children? For your grandchildren? How, as a congregation, can we move forward to answer the question: what does your church look like for the next generation? The Faith Forward Capital Campaign is focused on honoring the past and moving forward to realize our future. As the committee continues to work on the campaign, we ask for your prayers. Excitement is building around this movement, and we look forward to working with each of you to build a solid foundation for future generations.

In Hebrews 11, we are given the very definition of faith as described in the phrase "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Biblical giants were promised things that they never saw in their lifetime. God has provided abundant blessings and opportunities to our congregation over the last 70 years. We pray that God continues to send us; that His love would be known through the work of our hands.

Please pray for the committee members and the future of our church as we collectively look ahead to what comes next after we eliminate the mortgage at 5252 S. Lindbergh. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide our actions over the coming months.

During the summer months, additional information about **Faith Forward** will be released. At least two Awareness Forums will be held to provide an opportunity for members to learn more about the campaign and ask questions. The kick-off event will be held immediately following Unified Worship on October 14th as a way to celebrate the 70 years of ministry at Christ Memorial. At the close of the formal portion of the campaign, a strategic planning effort will commence as we look ahead to the next chapter in our church's future.



Faith Forward

Bringing the Love of Christ to All Generations

Gail Hartmann, Brett Hartmann, and Josh Cloeter make guacamole for the Capital Campaign committee meeting at the Cloeter's.

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Mark your calendars

- 7/6 & 7 CMP Auditions
- 7/8 Pregnancy Help Center Baby Shower
- 7/16-20 Theater Camp
- 8/4 Oz Tickets go on sale
- 8/12 Backpack Blessing
- 8/13 Leadership Forum
- 8/18 Shred Your Stuff
- 8/19 Fall Connections begin
- 10/13 Love Sent Servant Event
- 10/14 Unified Worship



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clarion

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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: August 14

Susan Senechal, Editor

»celebrating the ministry of pastor bill simmons

In June, we honored Pastor Bill Simmons for 27 years of ministry at Christ Memorial. He retired on June 30th. Along with a staff party, the church recognized him on a last sermon Sunday as well as a ministry celebration Sunday on June 24th.

We are grateful for Pastor Bill and Gail, and for their years of faithful service with Christ Memorial. In retirement, they look forward to travel and time with family. They will remain members of our congregation along with three of their four children, their spouses, and five grandchildren.

A congregational gift was given to Pastor Bill in June. If you would like to share a personal note or gift with Pastor Bill, please send it directly to him at the address below. Checks may be written to him personally.

»farewell

The dictionary defines "farewell" as "an expression of good wishes at parting." Gail and I wish you *farewell* as I retire as your called pastor and enter into retirement. Your good wishes this past month have been touching and meaningful. One does not "touch the face of God" in baptism and communion or give voice to his love in Jesus without being changed.

Thank you for the privilege of leading worship, preaching and teaching the word, baptizing and confirming your children, officiating at your marriages, visiting you in the hospital, and walking with you as you laid loved ones to rest.

To say that these past 27 years have been eventful is an understatement. I will always remember that 2.4 mile walk from the old church to the new on that misty morning in September of 2005. Even more so, I will remember the names and faces of so many who over the years joined me in this journey of faith that has brought us to where we are today.

I look forward to the future as I hope you do, too. God is on the move, and he has great plans for **Christ Memorial** and **Reliant**. As far as Gail and I are concerned, we, too, are excited about the future God has in store for us. He hasn't revealed much of his plan at this point, but we are keeping our eyes open to where he will lead. With three of our four children and their families firmly planted at Christ Memorial, we aren't going anywhere. So after we finish our retirement celebration travels, look for us in our seats in the back left side of the Worship Center. You'll know we're there. We have our own choir of five active grandchildren. We will be making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

God bless you all. --Pastor Bill and Gail

»cmp presents *wizard of oz* for fall 2018

Tickets for Christ Memorial's production of *The Wizard of Oz* will go on sale on August 4, 2018 at 3:00 pm at the church and online at CMPShows.org. The *Wizard of Oz* will be presented on September 14, 15, 21 & 22 at 7:30 pm and September 16 & 23 at 2:30 pm. An additional sensory friendly presentation will be offered on September 20.

For *The Wizard of Oz*, we will offer reduced pricing for children ages 12 and under. Tickets for children will range in price from \$5 to \$15, while tickets for ages 13 and over will be \$10 to \$20.

The Wizard of Oz is based on the novel by L. Frank Baum and the 1939 film. The production includes familiar music from the movie, such as *Over the Rainbow* and *We're Off to See the Wizard*. The production will be lively, entertaining and fun for all ages and will be directed by Dianne Mueller. Glenn Guillermo will serve as choreographer. Musical direction will be provided by Gregg Mueller.

Plan to invite your friends and join us for this exciting event. For additional information visit our website at CMPShows.org or email Tickets@CMPShows.org.

»recognition for cmp

CMP's Fall 2017 production of *Meet Me in St. Louis* was recently recognized by Arts for Life with awards presented to Glenn Guillermo for Choreography, and to Elena Adams, for Best Juvenile Performer for her role as Tootie. Also shared at the ceremony was the Munity's announcement that Elena has been selected to reprise her role as Tootie at the Munity's production of *Meet Me in St. Louis* this summer.

In addition, CMP cast member Isabelle Zurcher was awarded one of two AFL scholarships. Isabelle is a 2018 graduate of Oakville High School and plans to attend Missouri State University to study Speech & Theatre Education. She has performed in *Mary Poppins*, *Seussical* & *Meet Me in St. Louis* with CMP. Isabelle is an officer in her high school's International Thespian Society and was awarded "Most Improved Thespian" in 2017.

A group of over eighty people from CMP attended the awards ceremony on June 10 and members of Christ Memorial provided back stage and technical assistance for the awards ceremony. The AFL audience of nearly 800 was treated to performances from 13 different productions, including a reprise of the *Trolley Song* by the cast of *Me in St. Louis*!

The event provides an opportunity for members of the local theater community to gather with their friends and families to socialize and celebrate the arts in St. Louis and it provides the CMP's casts and crew with an opportunity to reflect God's love to our community.



Save the Date! Loved+Sent Servant Event October 13

Christ Memorial's annual **Loved+Sent Servant Event** will be on Saturday, October 13. This is a day when our church goes out into the community to serve our neighbors, showing them how God loves and cares for them. Keep an eye out for information about the different service sites. Registration will open in early September. **Unified Worship** will be October 14.

Important Leadership Forum August 13

Leadership Forums are twice-a-year gatherings for community building, encouragement, vision-casting, and fun. All members are included, formal leaders are expected to attend. The August 13 Leadership Forum will highlight the Faith Forward capital campaign. Hear about campaign's goals, vision, details, and special events. The Forum starts at 7:00 pm in the Worship Center at our Lindbergh campus.

»cm youth have active summer

On June 2nd, the senior high youth returned from a mission trip to Juarez, Mexico, where we participated in the construction of a house with the organization *Casas por Cristo* for a woman and her teenage daughter. Since 1993, Casas has built over 5,000 homes for families in need in Mexico, Guatemala, and Dominican Republic. The Christ

Memorial youth worked hard and fast alongside a handful of mission volunteers from other churches in Missouri and Illinois to complete the home in less than three days.



While the majority of our time was spent on the construction site doing everything from stuffing insulation to mixing stucco, we were able to rest and relax in the evening at the home of a family down the road from the Rosa de Saron, our host church. The local family prepared a traditional Mexican meal for the missionary teams each night. Upon the completion of the build, the family was presented with a special Bible and set of keys that had been individually prayed over by each member of our team.

At the closing dedication ceremony a Casas pastor helped us communicate with the family as we prayed a blessing over their new home. After returning to the States, the youth shared that while this was probably the hardest they had ever worked, it was an incredibly rewarding, life-changing, and eye-opening experience. We are looking forward to being able to offer this opportunity to more of our youth by partnering with *Casas* again in the future.

Our youth ministry will continue to live out the Loved+Sent vision by participating in two more mission trips this summer: hurricane relief in Corpus Christi, Texas (**June 17-23**) and maintenance/clean-up work at Camp Concordia in Michigan (**July 23-28**). Your continued prayers for our travels are appreciated!

There are a variety of events happening for youth close to home as well...

On **June 13**, our confirmation students served the community by cleaning up around Crave Coffee House/our Reliant church campus. They are also gearing up for their Confirmation Camp retreat at Camp Wartburg, **July 10-12**.

We had an all-youth pool party on **Friday, June 15**, hosted by the Sissons. A second pool party just for jr. high youth will be held on **Friday, July 20** from 6-9pm at the Crisler home (2608 Storm Lake Dr.)

Our youth intern, Dana Simpkin, will be leading a sr. high youth Bible study during **10am Connections every Sunday** called Three Sixteen. Most people are familiar with John 3:16, but this study will take a look at some of the other "three sixteens" throughout the Bible.

SPOLU, our senior high midweek ministry, will continue to meet on **Wednesdays at 7pm**.

»welcome new members

CHARLES & DONNA ALLEN, Eloise (4) & Charlie (2) joined CM through their friendship with members, Tony & Amanda Douglas. He was raised in Houston, TX and she in St. Louis. Charles is employed as a semi-truck driver with NFI and Donna works for the Bethesda Healthgroup. Eloise will be in kindergarten at Green Park Lutheran. The family worships at 10:45.

MARK ANTONACCI joins his wife, Mary, as a member and also her daughter's family, Paul & Kelly Gross and ten-year old, Gus. Mark & Mary have been married since 1992 and Mark is an attorney and an author. They primarily attend the 10:45 service.

MARGARET BENZ, 97, joins her son, Robert, who has been a member since 1994. Margaret was previously a member at Emmaus Lutheran and she resides at Tesson Heights Senior Living.

ALICE BOXDORFER joined Christ Memorial through a transfer from Hope Lutheran in High Ridge, MO because she lives in our neighborhood. She also calls the Uhlmansiek family her friends. Alice regularly attends the 5:00 service and works in bookkeeping / payroll at Medical Technologies Co.

CLIFFORD DUEVER comes from a long-line of ministers, was born & baptized in Hays, Kansas, and confirmed in Crystal Lake, IL. He has been married to Jane Ann since 1968. He counts Kevin Dickey as one of his friends and regularly attends the 9:00 service. Before retirement, he worked as a journalist and as a claim adjuster at an insurance company.

BRENDA ROLFES came to us through her friendship with Betty Gibbons and Nancy McCarthy. She recently lost her husband of 58 years, Ronald, in January. They had four children, 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She was a hairdresser for 25 years; and more recently worked in an Alzheimer's unit for 15 years. She enjoys attending either the 5:00 or 10:45 services.

JOE RUSSO & son, Evan (2) transferred from Ascension Lutheran Church. He and his wife, Katie, have been married since 2012. He attended Word of Life Lutheran School, Lutheran H.S. South, Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska and now works for the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Joe's family came to us through our Child Care Center, regularly attends the 10:45 service, and they are excitedly awaiting the birth of another baby.

BARBARA SCHWERB transferred from Hope Lutheran in High Ridge, MO. and joins her daughter and family, Shannon, Nathan, Abigail & Reagan Pfitzer. She was baptized and confirmed at Holy Cross Lutheran in the city. She is retired from banking and attends the 5 PM or 9 AM services.

GLEN & PAM SPARKS transferred from Salem Lutheran Church and attend either the 5 PM or 9 AM services. They have been married since 2003 and have two adult children, Ian 23 and Emily 21. They count members, Mark & Maureen Telle as good friends. Glen is employed by Schnuck's Market.

ELISSA SYERS & Logan (3) joined Christ Memorial through the Child Care Center. Elissa & husband, David, have been married since 2011. She primarily attends our 9 AM service and works for Wells Fargo advisors, as a risk manager.

summer reads

Looking for some light reads for the hot summer? Why not visit your library to check-out the display of Amish and pioneer women romances by authors such as Beverly Lewis, Wanda Brunstetter, Jerry Eicher, Melody Carlson, Ruth Reid, Lori Copeland, Janette Oke, Jane Peart, Lauraine Snelling or Cindy Woodsmall? Books will be on display during July and August in the main library by the receptionist's desk.

devotion discussion dessert

After a summer break, join us in the Family Room at Christ Memorial on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm 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 discussion leader from St. Louis County Library.

August 16 We will discuss possible book selections for 2019 and then you will have the opportunity to vote for your selections. Pick up September's book **Art Forger** by Barbara Shapiro. Dessert will be Kathy's Surprise.

Time for fun, fellowship and barbeque!

Mark your calendars for the following Saturdays to enjoy some great barbeque sponsored by the Men's Club. The barbeques last from 11:00 AM to 6:00PM in the church cafe and feature either dinner or sandwich plates of Pulled Pork, Pork Steaks, Bratwurst, Chicken, Pork Ribs or Hot Dogs with sides that include Baked Beans, Cole Slaw and Potato Salad.

Proceeds to Benefit:

July 21 Citizens Police Academy

August 18 Christ Memorial Productions (CMP)

September 15 Green Park

October 20 Men's Club

Thanks for your continued support.



»slu out for summer but reliant campus ministry continues

School is out for the summer! The school year ended well for the weekly Bible study group as Lee and I hosted four students at our apartment for dinner and games before most of the students left for the summer. We are thankful for the Reliant and Christ Memorial members who provided meals throughout the semester for the Bible study! If you would like to find out how to provide a meal one week this fall for the Bible study group, please contact me. **Presence**, our monthly student-led worship, was received well. We hosted three of these events and had 60-70 students attend each. We even had a potluck before our last one in April!

Since most of the students at Saint Louis University who I had been serving this past semester have left for the summer, I have been able to explore new ways to serve students. Daniel Meyer helped me develop a summer community group called "College Plus" for college students who are in St. Louis for the summer. Our kickoff BBQ at Crave on June 6th had about 15 college students and young adults attend, some from Christ Memorial! Moving forward, we will host a weekly event; Bible study, praise and worship nights, and fun events such as game nights or movie nights.

This summer I will also redirect my attention to community outreach, Crave and its transitions, and fundraising. **Reliant** is hosting three neighborhood events this summer, the first of which is June 16th. My goal at these events is to build relationships in the community and find more ways to serve the families living there. Finally, I will be seeking more donors to help me raise the money needed to pay my salary and have a small budget for food, coffee, etc. I have been so blessed by a number of people who have supported me this year with prayers and with financial gifts, but there is still more to go and so I will look for ways to fill that gap. If you or someone you know would like to be a financial partner for the college ministry, please contact me or someone in the church office. Thank you all for your prayers and support!

In Christ,
Travis Besel
Travis.besel@cmstl.org

»in the mail: thank you

To Members of Christ Memorial:

Losing a daughter in such a horrific way is hard to believe. Thank you so much for all of the prayers, cards, and donations. Thank you to the pastors and staff for a beautiful service. Also, thank you to those who attended the visitation and funeral service for Michelle. Your response was amazing and overwhelming to us. Michelle's membership at Christ Memorial and the education that she received at Green Park and Lutheran South gave her the faith in Jesus that made her the loving and caring person that she was.

Love,
The Smelik and Brown Families

Save The Date
**Christ Memorial Lutheran & Thrivent
Financial**
7th Annual "Shred Your Stuff" Day

Saturday, August 18th
11 am – 2 pm

Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, 5252 S Lindbergh Blvd
(Tent next to the Men's Club BBQ)

Confidential papers shredded before your eyes!
Don't let someone steal your information!

Stop by with your stuff:

\$5 BBQ coupon for Thrivent members

Any questions call Kathy Poppitz 314-631-0304
Ext 2058

*Helping Communities Guard Against Identity Theft,
and Care for Our Environment*

**»you're invited: pregnancy help
center baby shower**

Sunday, July 8, 2-4 pm
Christ Memorial Fireside Café

- * **Refreshments and Fun Games**
- * **Bring a package of
diapers (any size)**
- * **Wrapped baby gift**

Ramona Davis will be on hand to
open gifts, speak and answer
questions

If you are unable to attend,
please consider dropping off
diapers and/or a gift in the cloak
room next to the fireside café.



**stewardship
update**

Current Fiscal Year
July 1, 2017 through
May 31, 2018

spending YTD

Actual Spending
\$1,321,499

Actual Giving
\$1,311,565

Budget Giving
\$1,418,747

giving YTD

2016-2017 \$1,318,859
2017-2018 \$1,311,565

**Attendance
report**

May 2018

Week One 753
Week Two 790
Week Three 641
Week Four 679
Average per Week
715

Summer Sunday school project creates a soft place to lay your head



Over 100 people, young and not as young, participated in this summer Connections project. Kids and adults together made 100 pillows and 75 cards for CM shut-ins and residents of Lemay Community Care Center.

Summer 2018 Children's Sunday School featuring service projects, hands-on learning and community care

- July 1** – Gather in Classrooms for discussion and projects
- July 8** – Service Project Sunday – Wheelie Wash
Watch for information in the inTouch about this special event. Children meet teachers in the Sunday School hallway, wear clothes to get a little wet!
- July 15 & 22** – Gather in Classrooms for discussion and projects
- July 29** – 5th Sunday Get to Know You Multigenerational Event
Join us at 10:00 in the Commons and meet someone new (all ages encouraged to attend)! Share your story with someone from another generation. Find a child/teen prayer partner to encourage! Play a board game, color a picture or read a book together! *More details to come!*

Faith Marker Bible Presentations August 5 @ 10:00am – Expanded Ages for 2018

Join us on August 5th for a presentation of new bibles to children in certain age groups. We are excited to be expanding our Bible Presentations this year to a wider age range to allow for new developmentally appropriate bibles at each grade! Families will also receive a specific invitation if your child is in the following age groups:

- 2 Years Old, Entering Kindergarten
- Entering 2nd Grade, Entering 5th Grade

Backpack Blessings and Connections: Rally Aug 12

Bring your backpack/planner on August 12 for a special Children's message backpack blessing sending children/teachers into the school year!

At 10:00 there will be a Rally day gathering in the commons for children and adults to meet teachers, pick up information on Fall classes and topics, and fellowship!

Fall Connections Sunday School Series

We jump back into the Old Testament starting in August! It will be wonderful to gather in new classrooms as children move up to their next age level on August 19th as well as the fall start of Parent and Tot and Parent/Caregiver Connections classes.

Get ready to explore the Promised Land as we finish up Exodus and cover Joshua and Judges this fall! Make sure you are getting the bi-monthly Take Ten emails for great at home questions and other resources for children and families! For more info on parent/caregiver/grandparent resources email angie.walston@gmail.com