



The CTK
HERALD

Christ the King Lutheran Church • July/August 2013 • Wilbraham, Massachusetts

"PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS TO ALL"

FROM THE PASTOR

Being Willing to Fail

During a recent worship service, instead of preaching I read pastoral letter from our Bishop, The Reverend Jim Hazelwood. In that letter Bishop Hazelwood highlights the challenges we have as Lutherans in New England. "We live in the most unchurched region of the country", he writes, "where, approximately 75% of people in New England do not participate in a faith community. We also live in a country that, despite its high percentage of professed belief in God, tends to view spirituality as a product to be consumed and segregated to a small slice of a person's life". Indeed, ministry in 21st century New England is difficult.

But our Bishop, and much of this year's Synod Assembly, has encouraged us to meet these challenges head on - to think outside the box and dare to do church differently. Traditional church structure and Sunday morning worship is still appealing for many people, but some are seeking something different. Our Bishop has encouraged us, as a congregation of this church, to dare to do experiments. Bishop Hazelwood has encouraged us to become a "Gospel laboratory".

I have to admit, I've never liked trying something new. I don't like undertaking something unless I am sure it will be a success. I want to have all questions answered and everything mapped out before I begin. I



want to be sure I will succeed. But in our ministry context today, as a congregation of Christ's Church, we cannot afford to engage in exclusively low-risk ventures. As Christians in this mission field, we call New England, we need to be willing to fail.

And we will fail. Gospel experiments are more than just changing worship slightly on Sunday morning. Gospel experiments are worshiping in places other than the church, or knocking on doors and inviting people to church, or Bible study in the park. It might mean something no one has ever thought of before. And when we're willing to be so bold, when we're willing to live into our faith, what Luther called "a living, daring confidence in God's grace", we open ourselves up to great surprises, but also great failures. And that's okay. This isn't about looking good or feeling good for our own sakes. The work to which we are called is about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in our community, because people are hungry for Good News.

As a congregation, we've done some experiments already, with varying degrees of "success". Most would call Faith on Tap a success. Our second session doubled attendance, and we had 25 participants, some of whom are not members of CTK or active in any faith community. Our "Blessing of the Bikes" had much

FROM THE PASTOR Continues . . .

We strive to be a congregation so empowered by the Gospel message and our unity in Christ that we work together to minister to those in need and proclaim the Good News to all.



Christ the King Council officers are:

President - Kevin Hinkamaper, Vice-President - Catherine Olson
Treasurer - Peter Van Beaver, Financial Secretary - Melissa Springer



Other Council members:

Tom Henry, Martha Mensing, and Jessica Henry (youth representative)

FROM THE PASTOR Continued . . .

less participants; and your pastor, in clerical collar and bicycle shorts, looked a bit silly on the side of the road, as he tried to get people to stop for prayer and a blessing.



But that's okay. Because we don't measure success in numbers, in the money we bring in, or the seats in the pews (or barstool or bike saddle). We measure success on how faithful we are to our Lord's calling – to tell others about the Good News of Jesus and to serve our neighbors according to Jesus' humble and life-giving example.

So get thinking. In what ways can we tell the Gospel story in new and innovative ways? Let's be a Gospel laboratory, and try something new. We'll do some great things, and we'll have some flops. But when God is our focus, there is no way we can fail.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Nathaniel

Worship at Church of the Epiphany . . .

On **Sunday, July 21st**, we will be worshipping with our Episcopal brothers and sisters at Church of the Epiphany in Wilbraham. Epiphany has one service on that day at **9:00a.m.** There will be no 10:00 a.m. service at Christ the King. Please join us as we celebrate our Christian unity and all God's gifts with the people of Epiphany.

Directions:

- From Christ the King's driveway, head north on Main Street (take a right at the end of the driveway).
- Take a left on Springfield Street.
- At approximately 1.7 miles, take a right on Highland Avenue.
- **Church of the Epiphany is at 20 Highland Avenue** at the end of the street.

Parish Choir . . .

Pick-up choir rehearsals will be held Sundays, and run through **Sunday, September 1, at 9:30 a.m.** Regular weekly parish choir rehearsals will resume on Wednesdays beginning **September 4.**

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Summer Services . . .

Once again, this year, summer services will be at our regular **10:00 a.m.** starting time.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Rally Day is set for **Sunday, September 8.** Stay tuned for more information forthcoming.



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The CTK Herald is distributed on the last Sunday of the month by Christ the King Lutheran Church. All articles for publication should be given to Fran Selva by the **10th of the month prior to publication.**

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FAITH ON TAP



Faith on Tap is a monthly gathering of Christians, seekers and everyone in between. We share a couple pints and a lot of laughs as we explore our faith and what it means to be a Christian in the 21st

century. **Everyone 21+ is welcome!** Join us for our next event: **Sunday, August 11, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.** at McLadden's Irish Publick House, 546 Main Street, Hampden. Childcare is available at CTK. Drop your children off starting at 3:15 p.m.

LOAVES AND FISHES

Thank you to all who have volunteered to shop or cook for the meal sent the first Wednesday every month to Loaves and Fishes in Springfield. If anyone else would like to help or for any questions, please contact Ellen Henry at thehenrys6@charter.net.

July 2 Cook/July 3 Food Delivery

Shopper: Fran Johnson

Cooks: Martha Mensing/Fran Selva

August 6 Cook/August 7 Food Delivery

Shopper: Fran Johnson

Cooks: Andrea Hinkamper/Ellen Henry

September 3 Cook/September 4 Food Delivery

Shopper: Buffy Mayo

Cooks: Kelly Comeau/Barb Fisher

BIG GIVE

On Sunday, May 12, the entire congregation participated in the "Big Give". Each person was given four CTK "dollars" to take part in how Christ the King allocates its mission dollars this year. Once again, we will be supporting The Community Survival Center, Lutheran Social Services, and Lutheran World Relief. Ten percent of giving to Christ the King will be donated to these three organizations. Within that ten percent of giving, the congregation decided that 40% will go to Lutheran World Relief; 27% to Lutheran Social Services; and 33% to The Community Survival Center. Thank you to all who participated!



Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday:

9:00 a.m.—noon

Tuesday: 1:00—5:00 p.m.

By appointment

Please call the church office, as Pastor Nathaniel from time to time will have specially scheduled events or pastoral emergencies.

ECUMENICAL VBS

WHAT: Gospel Light's *SON WORLD* Adventure Park VBS

THEME: A Thrilling Ride With Jesus

WHERE: Wilbraham United Church,
500 Main Street, Wilbraham

DATES: August 5 to 9

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

CONTACT: Jeanne Westcott at 596-2511, ext. 105

Registration forms are available in the Fellowship Hall at Christ the King.

CALUMET WALKATHON

On May 11, 2013, over 80 friends of Calumet gathered for Calumet's Annual Walkathon in Gloucester, MA. It was so wonderful! There were lots of happy walkers, a great BBQ lunch for all participants, excellent weather (despite the weather reports that were pretty dreadful), and a good hunk of fundraising dollars for Calumet's campership fund – just over \$8,000 when all was said and done! Thank you so much to all who participated and/or donated to support Calumet's campership program.



CTK PEOPLE

New Patio . . .

We extend a HUGE thank you to Kevin and Andrea Hinkamper for the gift of a beautiful new concrete patio in the front of our church. They donated and coordinated the installation of the patio, just in time for the summer season.

Thank you very much!!!
Christ the King Council

Remember in your prayers . . .

A complete prayer listing is available through the Prayer Chain. If you wish to be added, please e-mail Fran at office@ctkwilbraham.org or call 596-3045.

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Pastor Nathaniel's online tools:

Twitter: www.twitter.com/PastorNanderson

Blog: <http://pastornanderson.blogspot.com/>

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/PastorNanderson

Fran's Hours . . . Monday through Thursday - 9:00 a.m. to noon.

2013 Synod Assembly - Nones, numbers and new beginnings

(The following has been excerpted from the website of the New England Synod of the ELCA. Go to <http://www.nesynod.org/faithinaction/faithinaction/item/2013-synod-assembly-coverage> for access to a video clip among other presentations.)

2013 New England Synod Assembly brought 482 voters, plus more than 70 non-voters and guests, to the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass., for three days of fellowship, discussion, business - and a little bit of fun.

As part of the Assembly, the Synod officially received its newest member congregation, Faith Lutheran Church of Middletown, Conn. At the close of the assembly on Sunday, June 9, a festive Eucharist celebrated the ordination of Tiffany Chaney, the pastor and mission developer at The Intersection in Dorchester, Mass.

The Synod also voted on a series of resolutions and memorials to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, set for August 12-17.

Bishop James Hazelwood delivered his first bishop's report, after being elected at the 2012 Synod Assembly.

Bishop Hazelwood also led what turned out to be one of the most popular events of the weekend, a discussion with six "nones" - people of various walks of life who identify as spiritual, but do not align with a specific church or religion. The well-attended, wide-ranging discussion brought the first night of the Assembly to a thoughtful close.

The 2013 Assembly was also the debut of the Synod's newest publication, *Ekklesia*. Designed to go beyond the traditional newsletter, *Ekklesia* is a quarterly publication that will highlight stories and voices from throughout the Synod. While print copies were made available at the assembly, the full first edition can be downloaded from the link listed at the beginning of this article.



Actually Listening to "Religious Nones"

(The following is taken from a blog posted by Rev. Laura Everett, President of the Mass. Council of Churches, who was present at the New England Synod Assembly.)

I really, truly heard it for the first time: "I'm not missing something," she said. "I don't want you to see me as lacking. I'm perfectly fine without religion." For some reason, I finally heard this loud and clear at a panel discussion last Friday night at the New England Synod of the ELCA (video forthcoming: <http://www.nesynod.org> Mad props for attempting to live stream it!)

The professional religious world has been talking a TON about "Religious nones" since the [Pew study came out in October 2012](#) that documented one in five Americans has no religious affiliation and one in three under 30. We've been talking a ton. I'm not sure we've been listening to "religious nones" as much as we've been talking about "religious nones."

I attend Church meetings professionally. It's an occupational hazard. Church annual meetings are mostly insider baseball: committee reports, resolutions, budgets. Church annual meetings are a space where you can just print the lyrics and rest assured all the good Church people who've given up a Saturday to attend said meeting will know the tune.

The most recent Annual Synod Assembly of the [New England Synod of the Evangelical](#)

[Lutheran Church in America](#) did two remarkable things: It invited 'outsiders' to speak to the gathered body and it actually listened to religious nones.

After the resolutions were debated and the work of the day done, newish [Bishop Jim Hazelwood](#) moderated an 1.5 hour panel with 6 "religious nones," sitting in daytime television style, living room chairs before a room of approx. 500 Lutherans on a Friday night. Each of the 6 panelists was invited to participate by a pastor. I think it speaks volumes about the deep and non-judgmental relationships between pastors and their non-religious friends that folks would attend and participate.

It feels reductive to summarize the careful, nuanced responses from the panelists. I hope you'll watch the video. But some general themes I heard from the panel:

- A perception that Church is an unsafe space for doubt and questioning. The panelists spoke of their high comfort level with not having "all the answers."
- A deep desire for authenticity. This commitment to authenticity may mean rejecting a singular religious label because it don't adequately capture the multiple spiritual traditions someone finds meaningful. They named a fear of "being put in a box."
- A fear of being 'an impostor.' The panelists spoke of not wanting to do things that they didn't actually believe in.

- Experiences of feeling overwhelmed by traditional worship services. I heard multiple panelists speak of feeling lost, unsure when to sit and stand, and intimidated. Panelists also spoke of thinking it odd to dress up for Church. As one put it "why should I get up early on a Sunday, get all dressed up, to watch people in weird robes?" This panelist found an easier point of entry with a smaller, Saturday evening service.

- A number of the panelists, though not all, had some religious background. For these people, late teens and early twenties was a turning point in questioning and ultimately, leaving religion.

- A deep, dare I say faithful, commitment to big ideas and values. The panelists had thought a lot about how they wanted to move through the world, how they wanted to live ethically, how they wanted to change their community. They just didn't feel the need to do it within the bounds of a religious community.

- A fullness to their own life and spirituality. As one panelist said, "I bristle at someone saying 'I've got this thing you are missing.' as if I'm lacking."

It makes me deeply sad to hear again and again the panelists articulate a perception that religious communities are intolerant of doubt.

(For the continuance of this blog, go to http://reveverett.com/2013/06/11/religious-nones/?utm_source=NES+News+for+June+13%2C+2013&utm_campaign=NES+News+6%2F13%2F13&utm_medium=email.)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays - 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (9:30 a.m. Pick-up Choir)



HAPPENINGS

- July 2 6:00-7:30 - Cooking for Loaves & Fishes
- 3 Noon - Loaves & Fishes
- 21 *Worship at Church of the Epiphany (No Pick-up Choir)*

ASSISTING MINISTERS/READERS

- 7/7 Kelly Comeau Ruth Kruger-reader
- 7/14 Dick Oswald Kevin Hinkamper-reader
- 7/21 *Worship at Church of the Epiphany*
- 7/28 Dan Roy Allie Van Beaver-reader

ACOLYTES

USHERS

Bill Leslie

GREETERS

- 7/7 Chris and Kory Caster
- 7/14 The Hinkamper Family
- 7/21 *Worship at Church of the Epiphany*
- 7/28 Bob and JoAnn Hopkins

COFFEE HOSTESSES

- Ruth Kruger
- Bob & JoAnn Hopkins
- Kelly Comeau

ALTAR GUILD

Karen Moreau, Melissa Springer



COUNTER for July

ASSISTANT COUNTER



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays - 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion (9:30 a.m. Pick-up Choir)



HAPPENINGS

- August 5-9 9:00-noon -Ecumenical VBS at Wilbraham United Church
- 6 6:00-7:30 - Cooking for Loaves & Fishes
- 7 Noon - Loaves & Fishes
- 10 9:00 a.m. - *Herald Deadline*
- 11 3:30-5:30 p.m. - Faith on Tap at McLadden's

ASSISTING MINISTERS/READERS

- 8/4 Catherine Olson Catherine Olson-reader
- 8/11 Brian Bredvik Jenna Bredvik-reader
- 8/18 Don Sienkiewicz Don Sienkiewicz-reader
- 8/25 Kevin Hinkamper Abbey Hinkamper-reader

ACOLYTES

USHERS

Bill Leslie

GREETERS

- 8/4 Ruth Kruger
- 8/11 The Leslie Family
- 8/18 Len and Ruth Lindahl
- 8/25 Eric Lund

COFFEE HOSTESSES

- Bob & JoAnn Hopkins
- Andrea Hinkamper
- Ruth Kruger
- Buffy Mayo

ALTAR GUILD

Karen Moreau, Melissa Springer



COUNCIL for August

ASSISTANT COUNTER



Christ The King
Lutheran Church

758 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095

FLOWER CHART



*Anyone wishing to donate
(and arrange in a simple
vase) garden flowers for the
chancel in July and August
is invited to do so.*

*Please sign up on the
Flower Chart in the
Sunday School Hallway.*

