



CrossRoads

Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

November - December 2018 Volume 10, No. 6



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*The due date for the
January - February
issue of CrossRoads
is Sunday, November 25.*

From left: Ben Marriott (James's brother), Vicar Dr. James Marriott, Kristi Marriott, Kirstin, and Joel Marriott.

Meet Vicar Dr. James Marriott

I am thrilled and honored to be serving as Vicar at Chapel of the Cross over the next few years! I thought I would take the opportunity in this newsletter article to share a few things about myself in a "Q&A" format.

What is a Vicar?

Vicar is a fancy church word for a kind of pastoral internship. Over the next two years, part of my education at the Seminary is to serve this vicarage, this pastoral internship, where I will have the chance to learn the in's and out's of pastoral ministry. I'm thrilled to have a great mentor in Pastor Laesch and a great team to work with! Over the next two years, you'll see me doing "Pastor things"... serving as liturgist and eventually as preacher, making shut-in visits, participating in church activities, attending and leading Bible studies, etc.

But don't you work at the Seminary?

Yep, that's right! I am the full-time Director of Musical Arts at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where my responsibilities include teaching worship courses, serving as principle organist and choir director, and leading the musical life of the seminary community. It is a fun, full job and I enjoy every part of it (ok, almost every part of it!) I'll be continuing that full-time work while also serving here at Chapel of the Cross. My time at Chapel will primarily be on Tuesday nights for choir, on Wednesday afternoons and evenings, and then for services on the weekend.

So why do you want to be a pastor?

For many reasons, it is a real benefit for my teaching role at the seminary that I would become an ordained LC-MS pastor. After finishing my Ph.D. in May of 2017, I started the process of preparing and enrolling at Concordia Seminary for studies leading to ordination. I started full-time coursework and this part-time vicarage this Fall semester of 2018. If I stay on track, I should complete the program over the summer of 2020.

(see page 2)

“Surviving The Holidays” from GriefShare

The holiday season can be a tough time for those who are grieving the death of a family member or friend, and which may be anticipated with a sense of dread. Thoughts of social gatherings, family traditions and obligations leave you anxious and overwhelmed. Your sadness can seem unbearable. You may wish you could skip these next two months and go straight to the routine of the next year-but you can't. What can you do to lessen your stress and loneliness? A special session of GriefShare titled, “Surviving The Holidays” will be offered two times: Tuesday, November 13, from 2:00 - 4:00p.m., and Thursday, November 15, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Whether you have lost a loved one recently or if it's been years and you still struggle with the holidays because of that, we encourage you to come to one of these special sessions. You will be supported by those who understand and will receive some tips to help you go through the holidays with more joy and peace. You do not need to have attended any of the previous GriefShare sessions to attend. Contact Dave Funke at 741-3737 if you will be coming as it would be helpful to know ahead of time, or if you would like more information.

Seniors' Thanksgiving Service and Meal

In a change from previous years, on the Monday after Thanksgiving we will be having a special service at Chapel for the homebound and senior members of OUR congregation. This is a wonderful opportunity for the seniors of our congregation, both those who are homebound and those who are mobile, to get together and enjoy the company of each other, worship together, and have a delicious Thanksgiving meal after the service. The date for this special event is Monday, November 26, at 11 :00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Studies

We presently are offering three Bible studies from which you can choose to attend:

“The Augsburg Confession” is led by Rev. Mueller and Joel Ziegler. This study looks at this document as the primary Lutheran Confession.

“That The World May Know,” led by Dave Funke, is a video series that brings the Bible to life and applies it to our lives today. We are studying the life and teachings of Paul in this series.

“Discovery Class” is led by Rev. Laesch in which they review the Lutheran teachings as found in the Small Catechism. †††

Dr. James Marriott (from page 1)

Once I become an ordained LC-MS pastor, I don't anticipate a job change at all. I'll continue to fulfill my full-time calling as Director of Musical Arts at Concordia Seminary. I'll just be better equipped to do so! That said, as I have enjoyed contributing musically for a few St. Louis Lutheran churches over the last few years, I'm sure I will also enjoy having the opportunity to contribute pastorally to St. Louis churches as well.

Tell us about your family!

Yes, that is the best part! I am blessed to be married to Kristi for 15 years now; she is a tremendous ministry and life partner! We have two children: Joel, age 10; and Kirstin, age 7. Both have very vibrant, active, and engaging personalities—though they express it very differently! We are thankful to be part of the Chapel of the Cross community, and our kids are enjoying choir, bell choir, Sunday school, and the various other activities that are offered here. We live in Florissant (very near Koch Park), and love this opportunity to be part of a church that is close to our home and community.

I hope this helps you know me a bit more. We are eager to know you more and more as well, and are thankful for the connections we have already made! We thank you for your patience as we integrate into the Chapel of the Cross family, and we ask for your prayers as our family navigates the balance of these wonderful opportunities we have! †††



Wedding

John and Jen Schmidt would be thrilled if you would join them for the wedding of their daughter Meagan Schmidt to Jacob Purcell at Chapel of the Cross on Sunday, November 4th at 2:30 pm. Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony while wedding pictures are taken in the sanctuary. †††

Dollar For Missions

We encourage every member of Chapel of the Cross to give one dollar for missions each week. Half of the funds received in the offering box in the narthex will benefit Chapel's 2018 mission emphases (Apple of His Eye Mission Society, Concordia Seminary, and People of the Book Lutheran Outreach). The other half will benefit the English District's mission projects (a new church plant in Lebanon, PA and the Lutheran mission in the Dominican Republic). What a blessing as we work together to give to the work of the Lord! †††



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by Bill Rusnak, Director of Family Ministry

Share Your Story

In June and July Chapel offered a 6 week Sunday morning Lutheran Evangelism study titled; “Every One His Witness.” Those in attendance, and those who requested a copy, received a LASSIE Journal. LASSIE is an acronym of six action verbs that flow as follows: Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite and Encourage. A few recent conversations have shown that our study was very much appreciated, should be referenced from time to time, and most definitely - offered again.

One LASSIE-like conversation recently shared is an account that began as a “chance” meeting with a young man at our first of four Sidewalk Sunday School Celebrations in September.

I share this story to demonstrate the effectiveness of LASSIE in relationships and to invite you to consider using LASSIE with some intention and become a witness of its power, too.

We know that stories can be very powerful, because they go far beyond simply relaying facts. Stories give color, bring depth and even help some people connect in new ways. Those who support Christian ministries are stimulated by stories. Those who are Ministry Partners are encouraged to keep on serving through stories. Those who hear stories can be moved in any number of meaningful ways. Those who share their stories can be humbled to realize what can happen when we Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite and Encourage.

It was a perfect night for our first Celebration outside the townhomes off of Rosado Drive in Spanish Lake. After a hot summer, this first cool week was a welcomed relief from both the heat and the humidity. After delivering nearly two-hundred fliers the day before - we were ready to celebrate God’s love with anyone who could attend. As I drove the truck to the end of Rosado Drive and weaved my way back to the parking spot suggested by the management, I saw a teenaged boy. He was not a familiar face. We’ve heard that the over 700 units can turn over pretty quickly, so I was not surprised. What did surprise me was how our conversation developed after I lowered myself from the cab.

The five foot nine teen walked right up to me with something less than a smile and asked, “Who are you?” I said, looking him right in the eye, “I’m Bill Rusnak from Chapel of the Cross - you know the church on 367 by Christian Hospital?” “Oh Yeah I know where that is,” he said, “Why are you here?” “Oh, we’ve been coming here for seven years now - sharing the love of God.” I replied. “Well,” he said, not blinking an eye, “I’m an Atheist.” “Really,” I answered, “What is an Atheist?” “An Atheist is a person who finds no evidence for the existence of God.” As we spoke, I made my way to the back of the truck and unlocked the door and I asked him, “What is your name?” “Michael.” “Well Michael,

I’m very glad to meet you. Would you give me a hand with these tables?” “Sure,” he said, and asked, “What are they for?” As we carried the white plastic tables about ten feet, unfolded their legs and set them



Center row second from left, Derek participating in Sidewalk Sunday School activities.

upright, I answered, “Well, after we sing and play a game, we serve everyone who comes a drink and a snack.” “For free?” he asked, “Sure,” I said, “That’s one way we share the love of God, you should come!” And he did.

Over the next three weeks I came to learn more about Michael: from his age, 16, to his school. At Hazelwood East he earned a 19 on his recent ACT test, his favorite sport is, “Oh, that’s easy, basketball...” He admitted that he was not sure about me when we first met and said, “I’m sorry, about saying “Michael”, “My real name is “Derek.” I could go on about how, over those four weeks, a kind of relationship developed, but I want to share two main things. First, in retrospect I’ve noticed, that when I Listen, Ask, Seek, Share, Invite and Encourage - good things can happen. It does not always happen, but I think when I’m intentional, doors can open, trust can be built, hope can be shared. Second, on the last

night, I realized that after our final conversation began with a series of questions from Derek, he was open to listening to me; I was hoping to encourage him. “Mr. R, How would you suggest I go about getting into college? I want to go to Fontbonne. I hear it’s a real good school for business. Do you know anything about Fontbonne?” “Well, Derek, not Michael,” I joked, “I hear good things about that school. So, what kind of business are you looking to get into?” With a smile, Derek said, “Restaurants, the restaurant business, I want to own my own sandwich shop.” “Well,” I said, “we could talk about that. When I was in High School, I found that getting a job at the entry level is a good idea, I started as a dishwasher and worked my way up, why don’t you get a job and work your way up...” I shared briefly some about my early learning experiences — he smiled and thanked me and then we had to stop because it was time to begin our Celebration.

I’ve shared this story because I’m glad Chapel offers Sidewalk Sunday School. I’m glad Chapel offers all kinds of studies and classes on Sundays and throughout the week. No, Derek has not asked to join our church and I did not tell him about baptism. But, who knows what the future holds? We’re going back to the Cove on Tuesday, October 30, and I’ll be looking for Derek. I’ll be looking to continue our story. I’ll keep Listening, Asking, Seeking points of connection, Sharing God’s love, Inviting head, heart and hands opportunities to Derek, and Encouraging him in concrete ways - keeping timing and tact focused on tools that he might welcome. I’m so also glad that LASSIE is a series of real action verbs that works to build relationships. Clearly, I do not have this evangelism flow down very well; I’m not the best example, that’s not why I’m sharing this story. I think opening the door with Derek is success, but I hope for more. Maybe someday Derek will agree to pray with me, visit our campus, and respond in faith.

What is your LASSIE-like story? 🙏🙏🙏

Music MINISTRY

by Ryan Meyer

Fine Arts Day at Chapel

On Saturday, September 22, Chapel hosted a “Fine Arts Day” as part of Chapel’s Fine Arts Academy. Eleven children, plus instructors and volunteers, spent two hours together making an art project, exploring music through different percussion instruments, and practicing their acting skills.

These events, open to children from Kindergarten-5th grade, are part of our goal in sharing the love of Jesus by fostering the arts in our church and community. Our next event will take place on Saturday, November 17, from 10:00 a.m. - Noon. Children will be learning to make their own Christmas ornaments and having fun with Christmas songs! If you are interested in volunteering or helping with this event, please contact Ryan Meyer (741-3737). This event is FREE and open to the community - hope to see you there! †††



Pipe Organ Update

This past summer, Chapel of the Cross was surprised to be presented with an anonymous donation for the music ministry with very specific instructions, namely, for an upgrade to the organ here in our sanctuary. This generous gift was for the installation of a MIDI component to the existing pipe organ. This new feature allows the pipes to be played with the addition of electronic sounds.

On Monday, September 17, the Wicks Pipe Organ Co. arrived to remove the organ console to be taken back to their workshop. In the following weeks, Wicks worked to run wires and install speakers in the pipe chambers, as well as installing the necessary updates to the console before returning it to Chapel. We look forward to enjoying this blessing for many years to come! †††

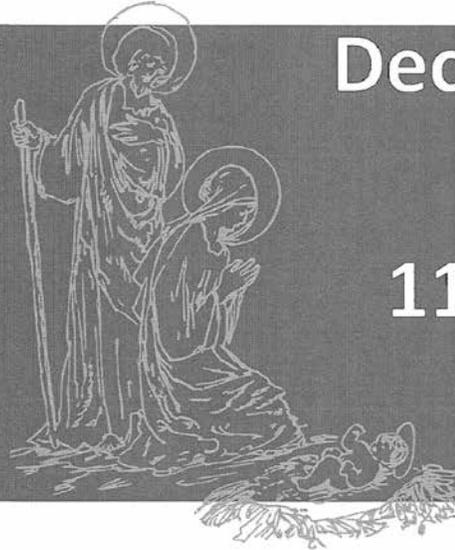


Chapel of the Cross-Lutheran Presents:

Christmas Choir Concert

Sunday
December 9

11:00 a.m.
service



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Please join us for this annual musical service! Come and hear Chapel's choirs, handbells and orchestra as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, through music and scripture readings.



Chapel Life Team's Mission Statement:

"Motivated by the Gospel and the great love God has demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ, the Life Team of Chapel of the Cross Lutheran exists to equip our church to celebrate, defend, and care for life at all stages."



As this newsletter article goes to press, several Life Team members will have attended the Lutherans For Life National Conference that was held in St. Louis this year. They look forward to sharing with you what they have learned about Lutherans For Life and about the many life issues that the church faces.

Lutherans For Life was established 40 years ago, shortly after the Roe v. Wade decision. LFL's mission is to equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life. Lutherans For Life believes God gives the gift of life to ALL people-from the moment of conception until natural death. Their vision is that every Lutheran congregation uphold the God-given value of human life and influence society to do the same. (Chapel's Life Team was started in 2016 with this in mind.)

Lutherans For Life witnesses to the sanctity of human life through education, based on the Word of God. They assist

Christians in offering the hope and help of the Good News of Jesus Christ to women with an untimely pregnancy, to young people with questions and concerns about sexuality, to the elderly and those with disabilities or terminal illnesses.

God has been at work through Lutherans For Life! Countless stories have been shared over the years by Lutherans about how the ministry equipped them to maintain a biblical view of sexual purity, decide against having an abortion or been ministered to in healing from a past abortion through the Word of Hope ministry, or have learned how to deal compassionately with end-of-Life issues.

Over 95% of LFL's income comes from gifts. They have no tuition, fees, insurance reimbursement, or subsidies that they can rely on. In 2017, 8.5% LCMS congregations helped to financially support the ministry. Many more are needed! Chapel of the Cross can help!

In each of your offering envelope boxes is an envelope for giving to Lutherans For Life. There are also brochures available to become a member of Lutherans For Life to provide ongoing support to them. Several members of the Life Team are members of Lutherans For Life. Please pray about how you can help Lutherans For Life!

Chapel of the Cross will have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Lutherans For Life on Sunday, January 13, 2019. Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life, will preach at both worship services and lead an adult Bible study. On the following Sunday, January 20, Chapel will celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, and the Life Team will provide a table of informational materials on Lutherans For Life and on life issues. †††



CrossRoads and other items. The staff joked that he "offered security."

"I felt the staff was family," Roberta said, because they got to know each other on all levels and so retiring was not an easy decision for her. She still plans to handle the Altar Guild and continue her involvement with Crocus Books and Gifts and the Mary-Martha Guild.

In her retirement, Roberta said she plans on taking it easy, catching up on things to do

at home, reading, walking the dog, and sitting outside when the weather is nice.

Roberta's replacement is her sister, Joanne Witte, who received some excellent training for the job.

We thank Roberta for her years of faithful service to Chapel of the Cross, as well as Manfred for his service, and may God richly bless them as they enter another phase of their lives. †††

Roberta Retires

by Rich Gronemeyer

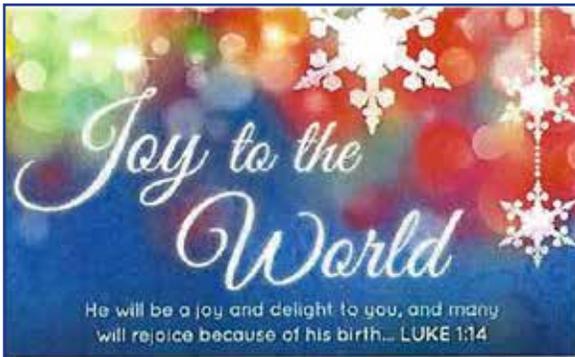
Roberta Loesch, a longtime friendly and familiar face in Chapel's office, retired on October 31. For twenty-three years she served as secretary/receptionist handling membership, answering the phone, greeting members and visitors, and performing other duties. Her husband, Manfred, frequently sat behind her and volunteered, helping with the mailing of

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2018 Christmas and New Year's Schedule

Advent Services

December 5, 12, 19
6:30 p.m.

Christmas Choir Concert

December 9
11:00 a.m.

Children's Christmas Program

December 16
11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24
5:00 & 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship

December 25
10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Service

December 31
6:30 p.m.

Mary-Martha Guild

Thank you to everyone who supported our 10th annual Mixin Fixin fund raiser in October. Proceeds were given to Helping Hands Food Pantry and Kingdom Quest.

Our speaker for the November 12th meeting will be Chapel member and artist Jeff Arnold. He will share with us his love of art, his creative projects and his journey as an artist. Refreshments and a short business meeting will follow.

On Saturday December 1 and Sunday December 2 we will hold our annual Christmas Cookie sale. Our meeting on December 10th will be a Christmas dinner catered by "As You Like It". We will take reservations and determine the cost at a later date.. The "Florissant Men of Harmony" will provide the entertainment. Members include Bill Westbrook and Ken Gerler. Everyone is invited to join us in the lower Commons area for an enjoyable evening of fun, food and Christmas music. More information will follow in the Chapel Weekly. †††

Membership Matters

TRANSFER OUT

Wayne and Janice Hahn to Messiah Lutheran Church, Weldon Springs, MO

Nicole Whitesell and baptized child, Addison, to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Brentwood, MO

RELEASE

Vernon Mansfield to Waypoint Church, St. Charles, MO

DEATHS

Katherine E. Heckel (September 22, 2018)

Robert P. Muelken (September 25, 2018)

Susan Weber (September 27, 2018)

Former number of members: 954

Gains: +0

Losses: -7

New number of members: **947**

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Sunday Worship Services
8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Classes
9:45 a.m.

Saturday Evening Worship Service
5:00 p.m.

Holy Communion

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month: 8:30 a.m.
2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month: 11:00 a.m.
1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday of the month: 5:00 p.m.

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran
exists to show the love of Jesus to
the people of North County and
beyond so that all may have a
living relationship with Christ.*

