

May – In *Easter joy* we return

May promises to be a very full month at Christ on Capitol Hill. We'll begin this month with a **Spring Clean Up Day** on Saturday, May 1st. Please arrive at 9 am (or let George know when you can arrive) – for projects inside and outside the building. Weather and volunteers will determine work to be done. If that day is not a good day for you but you would like to come on a weekday to participate in a project, we will have opportunities ahead to clean up the Youth Room (*which has newly finished closets!*), Sunday school classrooms & supplies closet, Hospitality supplies, Worship supplies... there is plenty of cleaning and organizing to be done after a year's "pause" of our typical building use, and we'd love to hear from you if you'd like to be involved in one of those projects.



A few of us attended the Indian Boarding Schools 101 learning session hosted by Minneapolis and Saint Paul Synods & the Advocates for Racial Equity in April. This month, **Indian Boarding Schools Storytelling** will be offered on May 8th. Register from our website & come with an open heart to learn about what happened to our neighbors and how we can contribute to healing. Due to interest in that event, Books & Brunch will pause this month—and *newcomers are absolutely welcome* as we will resume again in June. Flip the page for the books coming this summer.

You are invited to bring flowers to Zoom worship on Sunday, May 9th in honor/remembrance/gratitude for those who have mothered you.

We will honor our **2021 Grads** in Zoom worship on Sunday, May 16, including Jade Christianson, Nicole Moffitt, Ethan Napierala, Simon Rhode, and Vicar Anne Wickland. It is often harder for us to know who is graduating from college or other programs, so please tell us! If you have a grad who would be willing to have us celebrate them, please contact Pastor Joy!

The Daily Work annual Steps to Success event is on May 18th at 7 pm. Click [here](#) for details.

In celebration of Vicar Anne's birthday and graduation, you are invited to a **Garden Party** on May 21 – see details on the next page.

Then, on **Sunday, May 23, Pentecost and Confirmation**, we invite all those who are able to come to in-person worship. We are working hard to have the space ready to keep everyone safe. Our Covid team advises worshippers to dress in layers because the air will be moving! Watch for emails in the coming weeks that will give more details. We also hope to have live-streaming in place so that those who are not safe or able to come to in-person worship yet will be able to attend online. Over the summer, we will learn from what people are experiencing in-person and online and continue to work to improve things for all. Our goal is whether we are home or in-person, we can participate as fully as possible in Christ, gathered in various ways.

Those who received quarterly statements in April received an *Easter letter* sharing this exciting vision of **Re-Opening** and continuing to connect people online... from as far as the Netherlands and Indonesia this past year (!). If you did not receive this letter, please request a copy OR to read it, click [here](#). We are applying for a small ELCA grant and we welcome your giving (you can give online in the "other" category with the memo: Re-Opening).

And then... on Sunday, May 30, we will express our gratitude to Deacon Kari Alice Olsen who is moving out of the Kitchen Coordinator position to serve fulltime with Shobi's Table. Of course, we are thrilled that the work of Shobi's is growing and can't wait until Shobi's expands to serve a third day (Tuesdays) in the Christ parking lot (a transition coming in June). But we are also sad to lose Deacon Kari as part of our staff. The Personnel team has met and will be posting the position shortly after this newsletter comes to you and interviewing in the first part of May with the goal to hire a kitchen coordinator June 1st. Please read Deacon Kari's own words in the pages to follow. We give thanks for her faithful work among us and the partnership ahead.

Blessings,
Pastor Joy



Sunday Worship Themes for May

Easter joy – every moment is holy



May 2 – Fifth Sunday of Easter – Easter joy: Abide in Me

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world. Acts 8: 26-40 and John 15: 1-8



May 9 – Sixth Sunday of Easter – Easter joy: True Friendship and Mother's Day

This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit. Acts 10: 44-48 and John 15: 9-17



May 16 – Seventh Sunday of Easter – Easter joy: A More Beautiful World and Honoring Grads

In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not just agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, in life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit! Psalm 1 and John 17: 6-19



We are planning that this day – Pentecost – will be our first Sunday back to in-person worship!

May 23 – Pentecost – Easter joy: Together In Diversity and Confirmation Sunday

Fifty days after Easter, we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Crossing all boundaries that would separate us, the Spirit brings the wideness of God's mercy to places we least expect it—to a crowd of strangers of different lands and tongues, to dry bones, to our weak hearts. Jesus promises his disciples that they will be accompanied by the Holy Spirit, and that this Spirit reveals the truth. We celebrate that we too have been visited with this same Spirit. Guided by the truth, we join together in worship, and then disperse to share the fullness of Christ's love with the world. Acts 2: 1-21 and John 15:26-27; 16:33



May 30 – Trinity Sunday and Farewell to our Kitchen Coordinator

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before, and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words today. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him. Romans 8:12-17 and John 3: 1-8, 16-17

Garden Party in Celebration of Vicar Anne

Friday, May 21

You are cordially invited to a Garden Party hosted by Jack and Ann Fecht in honor of Vicar Anne's birthday and graduation from seminary. This will be an "open house" format party and all are invited to come as you can and leave when you must. We do ask that you let us know you plan to come by May 14 so that we will have some idea about numbers. RSVP to Jack and Ann Fecht at 651 454 5944.



At the Kitchen Counter with Deacon Kari Alice Olsen

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the beginning of many of Paul's letters in the New Testament, he begins with gratitude for the community to whom he is writing. In the same vein, I want to begin by saying how grateful I am for this community at Christ on Capitol Hill – I thank God for each of you. I have some news to share: after much discernment, I will be ending my time on staff as the Kitchen Coordinator as of May 31st. With the growth of with Shobi's Table, I need to simplify my responsibilities so I can be the best leader I can be for that ministry. I made this decision sooner than I expected, I know I just told you at the beginning of this year about my change in hours and call. Pastor Joy and the Personnel Team are already taking care of the hiring process. I will help with the transition as much as I can.

As with my last shift, I will still be around Christ on Capitol Hill, continuing as a member, and Shobi's Table will continue to work in Abundance Kitchen. I hope that Shobi's will be housed here for many years! What a gift to have the Abundance Kitchen as our home base, and to have congregation members as regular volunteers and customers at lunch. As Shobi's grows and becomes a more stable organization, we are being strengthened as ministry and building partners with you. I hope to see many of you volunteer with Shobi's Table, especially as we add on our third day of serving (Tuesdays, right here at Christ) sometime in June.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again – I couldn't possibly have asked for a better internship site and a better first call experience. The kitchen planning and construction process was an incredible hands-on learning experience. The fact that Pastor Joy and you all had already begun the conversation and were willing to take the risk to bring new kitchen ministry into reality and affirm my leadership within it touches me deeply. You are a community that values education through faith-filled formational experiences, and I was a recipient of that gift. I will be forever grateful for my time working here. May God continue to make you a blessing to others as you have been to me.



The Vicar's Voice

We are approaching the end of my year of internship here at Christ on Capitol Hill, as well as my time as a seminary student. It feels like almost every day there's some small milestone--taking my graduation picture (thanks Pastor Joy!), a video recording of me moving the tassel on my graduation cap, I recently finished all of the paperwork and essays, along with having my Senior Interview. May 7th is my Approval Interview, the last step in my candidacy process. You still have me for two months, no worries, but time goes by fast! May 16th I will officially graduate from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago with my M.Div. (Master of Divinity). And May 21st is my birthday! I never thought that I would have two birthdays in COVID-times, but I'm grateful that this year I can celebrate with more than one person. Jack and Ann Fecht will be hosting a Garden Party for my birthday and graduation on May 21st with social hour at 5:30 pm and supper at 6:30 pm. Ann has started thinking up the menu and it all sounds fantastic. Red velvet cake (one of my favorites) may have been mentioned. I'm thankful for this Christ community and excited that I'll be able to celebrate this accomplishment with you all.



Books & Brunch Schedule for Summer

Saturday, June 12, 9:30-11am – *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies* (short story, memoir) by Deesha Philyaw
Hosted at Lisa Kloster's home,

Saturday, July 10, 9:30-11am - *The Midnight Library* (fiction)
Facilitated by Gerry Rogness, location TBD

Saturday, August 14, 9:30-11am – *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge & the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Facilitated by Joy McDonald Coltvet, location TBD

Saturday, September 11, 9:30-11am – *Children of the Land: A Memoir* by Marcelo Hernandez Castillo
2021 Read Brave Saint Paul book, location TBD

April Council Report

The Church Council met on April 12, 2021 via Zoom and the following is a recap of that meeting. The Council next meets on May 10, 2021.

Presentation by Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (CAAPB) involving areas around the church its community members including Como/Rice Triangle Park, Hillside Solar at Cass Gilbert Memorial Park, St. Paul City School project at Marion & University, Sears site planning of mixed-use building including housing, and introduction of their 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Pastor Joy led devotion using Psalm 130, especially reflecting on grief over death of Daunte Wright.

Deacon Kari Olsen shared that she has given notice as the Kitchen Coordinator at Christ and will continue fully with Shobi's Table. Personnel team will meet to assess our staffing needs and make a recommendation to the Council.

Treasurer's Report for March was presented by Henrik Weber. It was a very strong month of general envelope giving and final payment from the Synod for Shobi's Table employee salaries. Finance Team also voted to transition our payroll to another system.

Building Security System Proposal – new updated proposal includes intercom system that works for our building needs with each office to have their own buzzer and intercom.

Lilly Grant for Pastor Joy's Sabbatical in 2022 is in process. Congregational details involve a Sunday to bless and send Pastor Joy & family, funding for guest preachers that represents the diversity of our congregation, a staff and congregational support person, a retreat day for the congregation to gather during the sabbatical, an artist-led project for the congregation, and a gathering upon Pastor Joy's return to share her experiences and learnings.

Planning for in-person and hybrid worship – Stewardship funding drive focused on re-opening was included as part of Easter letter to each giving member (mailed with quarterly statements), and technological needs and logistics related to re-opening are being reviewed. Council and Covid Response Teams will be reading [Becoming a Hybrid Church](#).

Written by Joy McElroy, adapted from council minutes.

Contact Information

Pastor Joy McDonald Coltvet
Deacon Kari Olsen, Kitchen Coordinator
Vicar Anne Wickland
Jean Christoffel Office & Building Mgr.
Erik Wohlrabe Council President
Natalia Peterson, Music Director
Paul Swenson, Organist
Custodian: Equinox

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Did you know? We are the last 50¢ fare stop inside the Green Line's downtown!



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May Birthdays

Anne Zielske	May 10
Nathan Hanson	May 11
Craig Dokken	May 12
Brian Craig	May 15
Bill Pearson	May 15
Faith Putz-Yang	May 16
Vicar Anne Wickland	May 21
Travis Niemi	May 22
Ta Say	May 22
Dick Kinde	May 23
Linda Senty-Koopmans	May 24
Camron Vang	May 26
Yafet Zerai	May 26
David Nass	May 27

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Communication Deadlines:

If you wish to have an article published in the **next Newsletter**, please send it to Jean at office@christoncapitolhill.com **on or before the 15th of the month**.

If you wish to have something published in the weekly bulletin or placed on the Kiosk or website, please send it to Jean **by noon on Monday** for the following Sunday.



A Tree of Life in the City

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:30 am
by Zoom

Godly Play on Saturdays
11:15 am

Four12 Youth on Sundays
4:12 pm

Check the events calendar!
christoncapitolhill.com

