

# CHRIST CHURCH

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## From a pastor's desk:✠

Here we are, Memorial Day weekend, the official start of summer. It's not just an extra day to barbeque and have fun with friends and family. It is also important for us to appreciate and honor those who have made the freedom that we enjoy a reality. There are many who gave the ultimate sacrifice, their lives, for our country. I recently read this definition of Memorial Day:✠

Today is a special day. It is a day of honor and reverence; it is a solemn day. Today we must recognize an unfortunate fact of life: our beloved country was formed and is protected by the blood of warriors. As unfortunate as this is we can be thankful, because over the years America has answered the call every time our way of life has been threatened. No one has more succinctly and accurately described what someone puts on the line when they sign a contract to serve in the armed forces than legendary General Jim Mattis of the United States Marine Corps. In a recent address to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, Mattis articulated, "You signed blank checks payable with your lives to the American people."✠

We are truly blessed to have had people who, knowing what they risked, decided that our freedom was worth their own lives if need be! Today we enjoy the benefit of their sacrifice.✠

It also reminds me that when Jesus accepted the mission that His Father had given Him, He knew, without a doubt, what the cost would be, and He considered us worth His sacrifice too! The difference of course is that although we honor those who paid the ultimate price, with Jesus we thank Him personally because the grave could not hold Him and He is alive today! In addition, His sacrifice paid a debt that we were unable to pay ourselves.✠

On this Memorial Day I hope that we will thank God for the sacrifices that were made for us, both from the men and women who gave their lives for our country and from Jesus who truly sets us free!

## PHOENIX PARK SERVICE PROJECT✠

Our annual workday at Phoenix Park was also a success! The weather was cold and damp but the spirit of the workers was warm and friendly. We got the flowerbeds weeded and planted, playground equipment got painted and one of the dugouts got a fresh coat of paint too! ✠

Thank you to all the hearty souls who braved the weather and blessed our community with your labor. Special thanks to Bill Peter who went back and painted the park benches and the bleachers the following week. God has placed us in this community to touch it with His love and this is one way that we accomplish that!✠



If you are still looking for a way to participate in this project why not consider stopping by the park with a couple gallons of water to water the flowers on these hot summer days. It will be needed this be an ongoing need throughout the summer. We want to thank Thrivent Financial for supporting our volunteer efforts by providing t-shirts for all of our workers and \$250 that we used towards the purchase of flowers, soil and wood chip for the flower beds at the park✠

## CHRIST CHURCH SOFTBALL TEAM – TRANSFORMERS

Our season is well under way. We have played 4 games and our record is 0-3-1. Our goal is not simply to win games but to exhibit the grace of God to both players and fans. I'm confident that we are accomplishing that. If you would ever like to come out and root us on, our schedule is printed on the calendar. We would love to see you at the park!



## MATERNITY CLOTHES

The AAA Pregnancy Resource Center is in dire need of maternity clothes! Anyone can drop off clothes during their hours of operation or contact Michele Peter.



## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL AWANA YEAR!

Last Wednesday we had our closing awards banquet for AWANA. The Lord blessed us with another very successful year. We were again blessed to offer to the children a steady diet of God's Word in a way that made it fun for them. There were many milestones reached as children completed different levels of their curriculum and received awards for their efforts.

We thank God for our committed staff who takes care of registration, transports children on the van, provides lessons every week, leads the children in games, teaches the children memory verses, organizes service projects, co-ordinates our AWANA store, teaches songs, and other tasks too numerous to mention! I especially want to thank Jane who gave her tireless efforts again this year as the coordinator.



This side of eternity we will never know the impact that AWANA has on the future of our children, but we are certain that God takes our efforts and His Word to accomplish His purposes in their lives.

## LADIES DAY- EVERLASTING LEGACY



The Ladies Day is at Gull Lake Wednesday, June 8th! The cost is only \$20 per woman. Sign up in the rear entry way. Please give your money/check to the office or in your offering plate labeled for the Ladies Day, made out to Christ Church. We will leave church early in the morning and stop for dinner (not included in cost) on the way home. Come join us for a great day!

## STUDENT MINISTRY

This summer there will be four Wednesday summer nights of activities for kindergarteners up to High school students to get together and have fun. They will start at 6 and go until 8pm. Food will be provided, and rides are also available if needed. Contact Stephanie Morris (586)719-9648 with questions, rides or if you are willing to help.

June 8th: Movie Night

June 22nd : Messy Game Night

August 10th: Scavenger Hunt

August 24th: Game and Bingo Night

We are also going to FaHoLo (Faith Hope and Love) summer camp!!

Junior High Camp: June 27th until July 1

High School Camp: July 11th until the 15th

The price is for now \$225 and will soon go up to \$250. The church is blessing each student by paying \$100. This means if you sign up now it will be \$125 and this includes food, rides, and lodging for a week! Students don't miss out on this time to grow closer to each other and to form a deeper relationship with God.



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are currently in the middle of a series on how to be lead by the Holy Spirit and live the abundant life. Starting in June we will move into a study on the significance of the Old Testament festivals that God commanded His people to celebrate.  
Students

I remember going to Bishop Borgess High School less than two miles from our church and skipping every Wednesday morning first hour so we could get some pancakes at the restaurant all you can eat Wednesdays. I couldn't imagine doing that every day.

When I went away to college, no one was there to tell me to get up and go to class. I was responsible for the first time in my life of making sure I got to school. My first semester I had a class at 8a.m. Because I wasn't disciplined, I did not wake up in time for many of those days and needless to say, I did not pass the class. How could I expect to pass if I never went to class?

How many of us have ever, or would ever send our children off to school at 11:30 every school day morning instead of the regular 9:00 starting time? How successful would we be if we played hooky from school for the first two hours of the day? If you analyzed the data of people who went to school for the whole day and those who played hooky, you would probably be able to see a difference in the success of 95% of those analyzed. Those people who played hooky didn't see the need to learn at the time, but it has made a lasting mark on their success.



While almost all of us would never send our kids to school at 11:30 and we certainly went to school without skipping class on a daily basis, half of the church finds it no big deal to skip class on Sunday, to play hooky from Sunday School. Half of the church looks at Sunday School as unnecessary both for themselves and their children.

Again, if you were to analyze the success rate as a disciple of Christ, of those who go to Sunday School vs. those who don't, I believe that you would be able to see a marked difference in the maturity level and the spiritual level of the people analyzed. Why? Because you still learn something, no matter how old or young you are, in Sunday School.

As a pastor, I am still learning or refreshing myself with knowledge and wisdom on being in Christ. I am and will always be a student of the Word. I am studying for my Master's degree (pun intended). I look at Lew at 92 and he's always studying like he's getting ready for his final exam; and he probably is. I kid Lew, who may live longer than I, but I marvel at his note taking. It's color-coded and dated and he can tell you what was preached or taught on any given day without using a smart phone. His system is antiquated yet farther advanced than anyone else's. Maybe there is a lesson here that we can learn from Lew!

We just came out of a teaching on living "in Christ". Those who saw it, followed it, can only be enriched; no matter how long they've been going to Sunday School. The Word of God is so rich that you could never get everything out of it. If you become a student of the Word, you can only become more spiritually mature, and successful in this life that we must go through while down here. Think about it. How can you expect to pass if you never go to class? See you in Sunday School.

## BLESSINGS FOR BRIGHTMOOR 2016

During the month of June, we will be collecting bars of soap. There is a box in the rear entry to put the soap in. Thank you for your generosity!  
Christ Church Outreach Ministry

