

# CLARION

## Something Special is Happening

On November 5th, 300 of our members gathered for a future planning session. Guided by a vision of Little Antioch, our people shared ideas on what that might look like. 2,600 individual ideas were gathered! A strategic planning team *read and recorded every one of them, categorizing them into major buckets.*

Many of the responses were simply good ministry ideas. Our staff is already reviewing and incorporating into everyday ministry. Other ideas were the big, audacious vision that God might be calling us to. You can hear a summary at our February 5th Leadership Forum (7:00 at Christ Memorial).

As I reviewed the data, I had two reflections. **First, our people are eager!** Simply gathering 300 people on a Sunday afternoon was remarkable. One of the top responses (hundreds) was that our people want to be sent. You may feel unprepared, or you may not know where to serve, but the passion exists. We'll be working on ways to more effectively deploy our greatest asset - people!

A second reflection is summed up in a Christmas card I received from two members. This couple has been a part of our church for about 5 years. They wrote, *"We consider Christ Memorial a huge blessing in our lives. We want to tell you that we feel something special is happening in our congregation."*

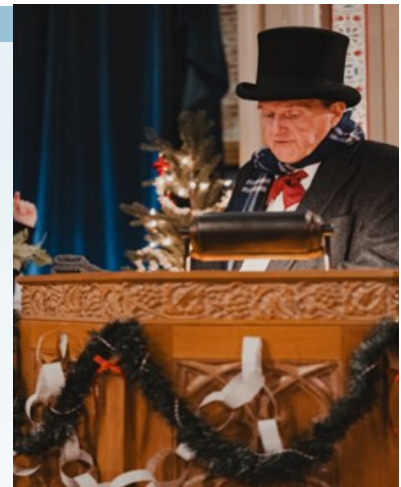
**"Something special is happening."** I concur. *There is something beyond the data, something we can't measure, control, or quite put our finger on. It is most certainly the work of the Holy Spirit.*

For instance, in 2023 we had over 30 baptisms, with an increasing number of adult baptisms. These are literal conversations. Some come from other religions, and some from no faith at all. Already this January 2024, we have two adult baptisms.

The Word of God does what it says. The greatest factor in our future is not strategic planning, but the mighty movement of God. He will likely surprise us, and we wouldn't have it any other way. We will work diligently and wisely, but at the end of the day the Spirit will govern and guide our ministry.

More people loved in Christ, more people sent into the world.

Pastor Jeff



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## Meet our new Communication Coordinator: Mary-Claire Hahn

Mary-Claire, you started in this role in January. What is a typical "day in the life" in your role?

**I check to make sure the websites are running as they should, then I will work on designing different things such as an "In The Loop" email, Youtube thumbnails, or social media posts. If I have any emails, I will reply to them! I love an empty inbox as soon as possible.**

How did you find Reliant?

**When my husband, Micah, and I decided we were moving to STL, we had a lot of recommendations for churches, as there are many LCMS options here. One of our friends from church in NYC mentioned Reliant so we added it to the list and made sure we visited early on in our search. Right away, we were connected with Pastor Nathan and Natalie McLaury (my predecessor). We also visited Christ Memorial to get a whole picture and just knew it was the right fit for us! The Lord knew!**

Why did you think this job would be a good fit for you?

**My previous career path included marketing, email design, website management and a bunch of other skills that fit into the communication role, so when I heard this position would be opening and would be flexible with hours since we had our first child 7.5 months ago, I knew it was calling my name! I have loved working with everyone and being more involved in the "behind the scenes".**

If you could have someone else's job for a day (in or outside of CMSTL), whose would it be / what would you do?

**This is a tough one! There are many jobs I would love to do (that I am not qualified for)! I don't have a specific person but I think I would love to be a Broadway actor for a day. I cannot carry a tune to save my life so it would be a completely different genre of job for me!**

### Clarion

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The Clarion is *usually* published six times a year for members, family, and friends of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church.

All copy (in Microsoft Word) is due as indicated the month prior to the next issue. Please attach to an email.

Email to:

communications@cmstl.org

**Next deadline: March 22nd (for April/May issue)**

Shannon Pfitzer, Editor

## Meet our Communication Coordinator: Shannon Pfitzer

Shannon, you also started this role in January. Tell us a little bit about what a day in your work life looks like.

**I am responsible for the design of the “Clarion”, “In the Loop”, & “Loved Sent News”. I also post on CM’s social media pages. I am a planner so you’ll be receiving “Save the Dates” via social media as soon as I receive them!**

How long have you been a member of Christ Memorial?

**I have been a member of CM for almost 20 years. I transferred my membership from Hope Lutheran Church in South City. My husband Nathan and his family have been members even longer! Nathan and I were the second wedding at the new location. I remember crying when Pastor Greg told us this but the wedding turned out absolutely beautiful!**

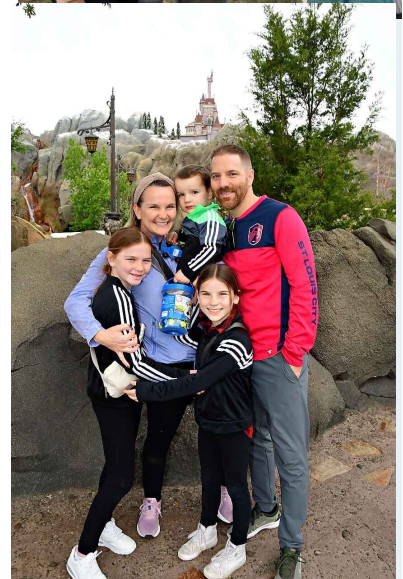
**Christ Memorial is a second family to us. Our children have learned to interact with all generations of people thanks to Christ Memorial. It’s really cool when we see someone from church at Target or the grocery store, and the kids can help Nathan and I remember their name.**

Why did you think this job would be a good fit for you?

**I have a similar role with Nathan and I’s small business, Pfitzer Property Group. We help clients buy, sell, or invest in real estate. I am in charge of our marketing, but my favorite part of that job is being a liaison to our Community. So many people want to give back, but might not have the time or don’t know where to start. I love sharing our favorite charities and needs they might have. Our community is amazing and comes through whenever asked!**

How do you feel you follow the Loved+Sent ministry in your daily life?

**God has blessed me in SO many ways. I know that I am loved by Him! I just try and spread joy and kindness to others every chance I get. It really is amazing at how contagious a smile can be.**





## Sanctuary Refresh Update



Our sanctuary enhancement plans are coming together. It's like a puzzle to schedule our artist and general contractor all within the active use of our sanctuary. Construction and installation is slated for the end of April and beginning of May.

### Project Scope

- Chancel fixtures
- Restored Stained Glass (from our former sanctuary)
- Sanctuary Screen (chancel art installation), new center cross with eight glazed ceramic relief symbols, telling the Biblical narrative (see example of "Creation" - left)
- Custom lighting to highlight stained glass and sanctuary screen



### Biblical Narrative Symbols

Left of Cross: Creation—Covenant—Exodus—Manger  
Right of Cross: Crown—Great Commission (Fishers of Men) - Pentecost—Alpha/Omega

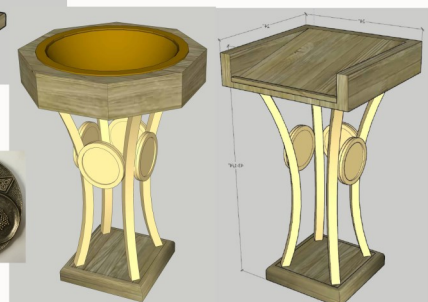
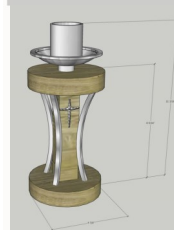
### Sanctuary Screen (above)

To be installed as a new chancel backdrop, made from steel tubing and sections of painted copper. There will be eight glazed ceramic mosaics and relief symbols, telling the Biblical narrative from creation to the return of Christ. The center will feature a new cross with manger and crown symbols to the left and right.



### Chancel Fixtures

- ◇ New altar (left)
- ◇ Baptismal Font and Pulpit (below)
- ◇ Altar Candles—2 (left)



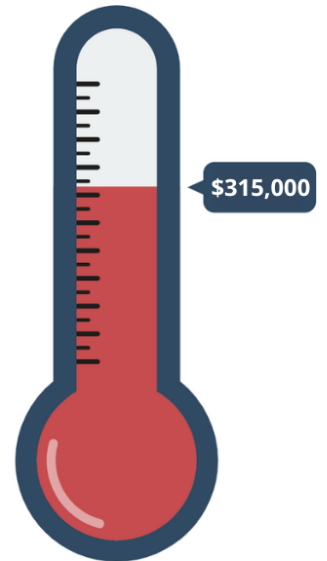
## Sanctuary Refresh Update (cont.)

Renderings from the artist of the 10 Stained Glass panels that will be installed during the Sanctuary Enhancement project.

(wood tone and metal accents to match our organ)



**FUNDRAISING GOAL:**  
**\$500,000**



**Help us get to the finish line!**

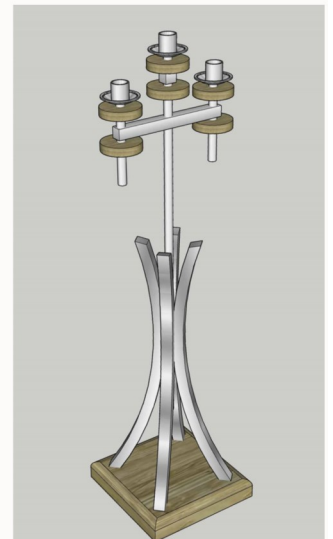
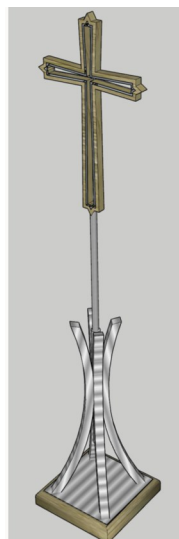
You may still contribute to the cost of this project. Together, we will honor our Lord and bless the worship of our church for years to come. Thank you!

### Stained Glass Panels

Ten stained glass panels from our former sanctuary will be restored and installed as light box panels on the side walls in the sanctuary. New glass will be added to enhance the symbolic elements that portray the life of Christ.

### Other Chancel Fixtures

- ◇ Processional Cross
- ◇ Advent Wreath + Christ Candle
- ◇ Baptismal Candles (3)





## The Harbor Leadership Collective



"Raising Up to Send Out" is the tagline for the Harbor Leadership Collective. The intern program, born out of our church a few years ago, has now expanded to multiple churches participating. Ask Pam Dickerson about the exciting things that are happening with our Young Leaders!

### Caught in Action:

Jacklyn Stephens (right) is serving



Christ Memorial on the worship team. She seeks ways to use her gifts working in the church through music. She has signed-on to learn more about the organ and teaching the youth praise team. Her performances at the Christmas services were a gift to all!

## Reliant College Ministry Prayer Room

By Pastor Nathan Schultz

"How long would you spend in a prayer room? Ten minutes? Fifteen if there is a candle?"

That was a rather cynical joke between a student and myself. In all honesty, it would be good to shake whatever makes me think that prayer is only a moment in worship, a few minutes of a day, or even a tool we use in our most desperate moments.

Zach Smith has faithfully led the college ministry every Sunday evening this past fall and will continue into the spring. He taught the students concerning prayer for 5 weeks, culminating in a prayer room experience at Reliant one evening. Zach was hesitant to tell me how it went, however the students shared nearly 3 hours together in prayer.

Zach explained what he sensed took place that evening, "Students stuck around longer than expected because God does exactly what he has promised to do. God has promised to be present with us."

That is exactly what prayer is for us: Not a plea for God to be more present or to convince God to do something we would have him do for us. It is coming to recognize and see the work God is already doing in his world and our lives.



## “A Christmas Carol” at J.A.M

In December, Jefferson Avenue Mission hosted Brickworks Theatre Company for their production of, *A Christmas Carol*. This now annual tradition is a high-energy and whimsical adaptation geared towards families to enjoy and unleashes the kid in all of us. Transforming the space into a Dickensian wonderland, the actors pulled audiences out of the dreary winter weather and into the beloved classic, sometimes literally. We welcomed over 300 neighbors and friends into our space to attend the production over 6 performances. Brickworks is dedicated to making high quality theater accessible for the community, so their tickets will always be pay-what-you-wish. Two shows sold out, so get your reservations fast for Christmas 2024!

J.A.M is excited to have other opportunities to host other artists this Spring. Keep an eye out for future shows to come to our space.



### Happy 80th Birthday, Jerry!



#### “Friends Helping Friends”

Several families of Christ Memorial threw Jerry a surprise Birthday party!

There was cake, tea, coffee, and a giant card with over 100 birthday greetings inside.



## Law & Gospel: Deep Sin & Deeper Grace

Lent, 2024

"The Law shows us our Sin and the Gospel shows us our Savior". As Lutherans we are familiar with the Law/Gospel distinction. Far from being an antiquated doctrine, Law and Gospel convey a profound truth about God and life: We are worse than we thought, and God is greater than we imagined.

When you are sick, you want to know the truth about the diagnosis so you can apply the right remedy. This Lent we take an honest look at ourselves, the Law, and its effect on us. All so that we might see Jesus clearly and receive God's grace through the death and resurrection of our Savior.



For the full Lent schedule, please visit [CMSTL.org](http://CMSTL.org), or check out the most recent *"In The Loop"*.

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