

## 2016 Christ Church Ministry Highlights

It was another year of God's blessings for Christ Church. Here are a few of the year's highlights.

- 15 new families were received into membership
- 25 youth received their first communion on Holy Thursday
- 29 youth confirmed their faith in October
- 21 baptisms were celebrated including 5 in the Mississippi River
- Weddings were celebrated and those grieving the loss of loved ones were supported
- Sermon Series including Promises, Questions Jesus Asked, For Freedom, Excuse-Free Christianity, Radical Christianity and The Gift dug deep into God's Word and encouraged people to relate their faith to daily life.
- Bible Studies and Classes including Financial Peace University, Moving Forward, Your Beautiful Purpose and Grace-Based Parenting provided opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth.
- A Couple's Retreat helped renew marriages at Christ Church in February.
- In March we hired Andrew Peterson as our new Director of Worship. He has developed and expanded a multi-generational worship team and this fall led our first Revive Worship night.
- Life-changing retreats were held for Prime Time, Grounded and Worship Teams.
- A team of 25 Bless Minnesota leaders led by Pastor Greg and Colleen declared blessings over the whole state from the top of the IDS Tower.
- In June we said farewell to our long-time Director of Christ Church Preschool, Helen Spaulding, and hired Laura Johnson who now serves as both our Children's Minister and Preschool Director
- Laura Johnson spear-headed fund-raising for new Sunday School Classroom furniture which was built by Mike and Mark Nelson
- Tracy Windorski and a team of volunteers painted nearly the whole facility this summer
- Worship Center staging, decorating and technology were upgraded.
- 78 Youth and Adults served on a Mission Trip to Idaho in June that impacted dozens of lives through witness and service

- A week of VBS entitled Expedition Norway welcome 150 children in July who learned just how much Jesus loves them
- Middle Schoolers reached out with community projects through Super Summer Serve
- We fellowshiped and made declarations from the front lawn in September with our Annual Outdoor Worship Service
- Outreach events included the Otsego Festival, Trunk or Treat and The Living Nativity providing opportunities to be present in our communities
- 20 Mission Partners both locally and globally were supported with finances, volunteers and engagement touching thousands of lives with the love and message of Jesus Christ
- A Sunday School Christmas Program called "Our Finest Gifts We Bring" shared the Christmas story through the talents and testimonies of our children.
- Special offerings were received to bless those who were hurting and needing some extra love and support
- Our facilities were able to bless many groups like MOPS, Hope Connection, Bible Study Fellowship and more
- These highlights just touch the surface of all that God has done through our Staff and Congregation in 2016. So many of the highlights are known only to God as lives are changed forever.
- A huge thank you to each of you who has contributed so faithfully and so generously to the ministry of Christ Church in 2016.