



The Mirror



The Congregational Church of Excelsior

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Board of Deacons

What's New?

This month is a new beginning! Welcome to Jonathan Holtmeier, our new minister. He'll serve us an agreed-upon 20 hours per week. Introduce yourself to him.

Notes from Deacons...

- We will be here Sunday July 4 at 10 am. Join us for a good start to your Holiday! We will not have Communion that day.
- July 11 we plan to have an outdoor service, weather permitting. We will not have Communion that day either.
- July 18! A big, huge day: Confirmation, Communion and then BRUNCH for all in the social hall, prepared by the Rogney family. Rev. Lindy will participate in the service that day.
- Coffee hour will start July 25 offering a time to visit after church in the Social Hall. We'll need volunteers to sign up on the sheet near the office, PLEASE!
- It's nice to have flowers on the altar every Sunday. If you have some in your garden to share, or want to pick some up at a florist, please sign up on the big sheet by the office. It will be mentioned in the bulletin as a memorial or celebration if you wish.

We're getting back to normal!

Your Board of Deacons,

Nancy Benson and Sally Deke, Chairs; Carolyn Leaf, Betty Kuechle, Val Stuessi, Judy Wise

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From Jonathan Holtmeier, Minister

Hello everyone! I'm looking forward to being with you on a larger basis, beginning in July. I've gotten to know many of you over the past couple months. I hope to connect with more of you. You can reach me by email (ccoepastor@gmail.com) or phone (920-318-2408). Let's be in touch.

From the Moderator

We welcome Jonathan, Holly, Fred, Cal, and Walt. We are excited and blessed to have them join our church family. If you haven't already met Jonathan, please stop by after a service and introduce yourself. I offer this prayer from a Book of Blessings for his ministry.

Lord God, in your loving kindness You sent your Son to be our shepherd and guide.

Continue to send workers into your vineyard to sustain and direct your people.

Bless Jonathan

Let your Spirit uphold him always as he takes up his new responsibility among the people of this parish.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lisa

Board of Christian Education

We have been having a lot of fun since Sunday School opened up again June 6! Each week we will have a Bible lesson and Bible-based activities for the kids. Big thanks to our Sunday School teachers and teens who are helpers in Sunday School. June Kick It was planned for June 27 with games and whiffle ball at Meadow Green Park in Chanhassen.

Thank you to the people who hung the plumb lines in the sanctuary, especially Charlie who scaled the ladder and Custodian Craig who directed us. Thanks also to Amelia and Karla who were ground support. In Sunday School, we have been learning about God as our foundation and Jesus as the plumb line for our lives. The youth made the plumb lines in Sunday School.

Upcoming events

Kick It events are planned on July 18 (biking at church!) and we are planning a pool party in August!

Confirmation kids will be meeting again for a few weeks before the confirmation service July 18. Kara, our fantastic leader, will be leading them in the meetings. Charlie and Mick are our wonderful confirmands.

Blessings to all!

Chair Janet Holler, Jenny Hougham, Janet Chambers Krueger, Abby Murray, Danielle Wishard-Tudor and Karla Wennerstrom



Board of Missions

ICA celebrated its **50th Anniversary on Saturday, June 5** with an open house, tours, music by the Yo Jimbo Jazz group, entertainment (including the Rince na Greine, a group of youth cloggers!), refreshments, and craft sales. It was one of those very hot Saturdays, but that didn't dampen anyone's spirit! Marty Swain attended from Missions and thoroughly enjoyed her time. Among discoveries she made was the fact that all the signs in the grocery-store-type market appear in *many* different languages. Also, in addition to the market, the facility has several meeting rooms where designated staff members meet with clients who need guidance and short-term help with bridge funding for housing and other bills. ICA is really a treasure—it's an organization that provides real, concrete help when area folks need some help. Many of the clients come back and volunteer when they get back on their feet, demonstrating their gratefulness.

Your donations to ICA are always welcome (just make your check out to the church and write "ICA" in the memo line). Food donations are welcome as well—the grocery basket awaits you in the annex, and current needs are tissues, baby wipes, napkins, kids' snacks and beverages, olive oil, toilet paper, baking soda and baking powder, salad dressing, crackers, and jelly. Thank you for your continued support!

Our church was asked to provide two more suppers this summer for the kids at the Minnetonka **Tree House**. Thanks to your support of that program, Val Stuessi has and will purchase (and warm up!) Costco food for them on a couple of Tuesday evenings. We're hoping to begin cooking meals in the church kitchen for them again before too long.

Gary Larson and crew have provided their first home-cooked **Simpson Shelter** dinner in a long time! Thanks for all the support for this much-needed program for the homeless in the city.

We will continue to monitor community needs, both local and in the wider world, that may arise this summer and will support them to the extent we're able.

Faithfully, your Missions Board

Marty Swain (chair), Mark Krueger, Kathy Sherwood

July's Musical Moment

When I read the poem below I wanted to share it with you. May we all find time to stop, look, listen and be blessed by summer's varied songs!

Lydia

The Waking (1948)

by Theodore Roethke (1908-1963)

I strolled across
An open field;
The sun was out;
Heat was happy.

This way! This way!
The wren's throat shimmered,
Either to other,
The blossoms sang.

The stones sang,
The little ones did,
And the flowers jumped
Like small goats.

A ragged fringe
Of daisies waved;
I wasn't alone
In a grove of apples.

Far in the wood
A nestling sighed;
The dew loosened
Its morning smells.

I came where the river
Ran over stones:
My ears knew
An early joy.

And all the waters
Of all the streams
Sang in my veins
That summer day.



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