

PATHWAYS

spirit vibes

insights, events
and inspiration
for the spiritual
journey

JULY
2024

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PATHWAYS
A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Dance of Life

Kari Lindholm-Johnson has been a presenter for several PATHWAYS events in the past. She recently lost her battle to cancer. We want to honor her memory and legacy within the spiritual life community by highlighting her words in this quarter's newsletter.

How does God's grace actively work in our lives and participate in our circumstances?

I use a compass to assist in my ideas of release and growth. It begins by releasing to a center point, and moving around that center point. This central point reminds us of our beginnings. With a compass you have to rest in the center but there also is movement — movement on the outer part of the circle, which reminds me of Hildegard of Bingen and her principal of “Viriditas,” the greening fire that rises and moves throughout all living beings, that greening force that sprouts life. The rising in the act of making a circle and so receiving grace and resting from above and then that rising from below.

Each new painted circle then involves centering on the outside boundary of the previously made circle, again releasing oneself to the center. So then this concept of centering and release and then moving to the outside of our boundaries and centering again.

And in this there is the willingness to encounter another, that something new is created and a mandorla space happens. A mandorla space is that liminal space where spaces overlap. We find meaning as we rest in the center, encounter others, yet still remain grounded. This occurs as we engage in other opinions and reevaluate our own suppositions, our own edifices that we build.

This reminds me of a hymn, *Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain; Love lives again, that with the dead has been: Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.* I feel like this is a good metaphor... releasing oneself to the center and being open to receive the dance of life in creation, and what so many offer in love and generosity, and releasing to the One who gives us life. I feel like I am encountering the edge of new boundaries. It feels essential to release myself to protest and to listen in new ways.

May you feel the breath of life breathing in you, God's grace surrounding you, and uplifting you.



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Kari Lindholm-Johnson
April 10, 1964 — April 20, 2024



Beyond our Walls

In June, PATHWAYS participated for the second year in a row at the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Held at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL, our booth attracted dozens of attendees (nearly 40!) where we shared information about our purpose and mission, provided resources, and gathered contact information for those wishing to learn more about our spiritual center. It was a good day of networking and sowing seeds.

PATHWAYS leader Lee Blackburn engages with attendees at Synod Assembly, June 14-15.

Paint

My hands mix
Crushed rock and pressed seed oil
Dust anointed with intention
Moved by a paintbrush
Grounded and flowing, colors pushed and pulled
With the unrelinquishing hope and pursuit of forming
A representation, a healing, a place to rest
Reflected refractions that we are connected, somehow
To Light, to earth and to one another

©Kari Lindholm-Johnson



Personal Reflections

Testimonies received from recent PATHWAYS attendees:

Enneagram Workshop (May 2024)

"Thank you for the wonderful presentation and for the community created. This was the best presentation on the enneagram that I have experienced. The organization and handouts enhanced the learning environment. I am filled with gratitude for the entire day."

— Anna Borchers, CLC member and PATHWAYS leader

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Enneagram workshop. The experience taught me so much about my own personality and how I tend to view and approach the world. Understanding this more clearly has re-framed my relationship with myself as well as my relationships with others in a very positive and constructive way. Thank you for offering this very impactful workshop!" — Kendra Hall, CLC member



seekthepath.org



upcoming offerings

JUL 13: BUILD DAY / Habitat for Humanity

PATHWAYS is partnering with Habitat for Humanity for a "Build Day." Habitat will furnish all supplies and train people for the work assigned; NO experience necessary. We'll work outdoors from 9 am to 3 pm at 643 Lamont Lane, Rockford, with lunch provided. (Closed toe shoes required.) To let them know our crew size, sign ups are important. Please register online at seekthepath.org.



JUL 21: HEALING SERVICE

Join us for a brief service of prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing on Sunday, July 21 as we seek to find wholeness in Christ. This service will take place in the choir loft area of the Christ Lutheran sanctuary at approximately 10:45 am.

SEP 21: CREATION MORNING

To celebrate the splendor of the season, PATHWAYS will host a *Creation Morning* on Saturday, September 21. Join us from 9:30-11:00 am in the scenic gardens of Christ Lutheran Church. Gather with others in a relaxed, peaceful setting and breathe in the sights and sounds of the fall morning. A time of meditation, walking, discussion and sharing led by Pastor Carol Soderholm. Freewill offering received. Registration begins soon at seekthepath.org.



OCT 7: PET BLESSING

Join us for a special service that will celebrate the wonders of God's creation and remember how God's creatures — of all sizes, shapes, and species — bless our lives. We'll be reminded how God's creatures are essential to the environment that sustains all living things as we share a blessing on our pets. We will commit ourselves to caring for their wellbeing in the world.

Bring your furry friends (and not so furry ones) and join us at 5:30 pm on the labyrinth at Christ Lutheran.



Spiritual Practices (aka "First Thursdays")

Two intentions are at the foundation of all contemplative practices: cultivating awareness and developing a stronger connection to God.

Join PATHWAYS on the first Thursday of the month at 10 am as it introduces us to many of these ancient spiritual practices, through which we will "rediscover" our faith as a way of life, not simply a belief system. Each month a different practice will be emphasized.

July 11 / Lectio Divina
August 1 / Centering Prayer

September 5 / The Examen
October 3 / Labyrinth Walk

PATHWAYS


A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

a ministry of Christ Lutheran Church



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seekthepath.org

 on Facebook, search:
Pathways: A Center for Spiritual Renewal

Spirit Vibes is a quarterly newsletter designed to inform, inspire, and publicize the ways in which **PATHWAYS: A Center for Spiritual Renewal** is working to deepen relationships with humanity, creation, and the Divine. We hope you find this tool helpful in your spiritual walk; send your feedback or suggestions to pathways@makingChristknown.org. Let's journey!

PATHWAYS TEAM

Karen Glavin, Chair
Bill Blackburn
Lee Blackburn
Anna Borchers
Jenny Campbell
Kris Campbell
Deacon Laura Gorton
Jan Hedrick

2024 schedule



Spiritual Practices
JUL 11 / AUG 1 / SEP 5 / OCT 3 / NOV 7 / DEC 5
(first Thursday of every month)



Habitat for Humanity
JULY 13
643 Lamont Lane
Rockford, IL



Pet Blessing
OCTOBER 6



Healing Service
JULY 21



Drum Circle Spirit
NOVEMBER 9



Creation Morning
SEPTEMBER 21



Longest Night
DECEMBER 21

All events will be held at Christ Lutheran Church (Belvidere, IL) unless otherwise noted. Visit seekthepath.org for more details.