

Spirit Vibes is PATHWAYS' quarterly newsletter designed to inform, inspire, and publicize the ways it is working to deepen relationships with humanity, creation, and the Divine. Let's journey!



Summer's Generosity

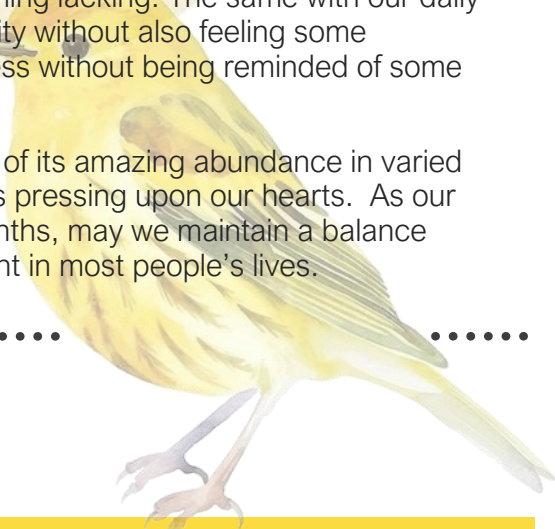
by Joyce Rupp (excerpt)

Oh summer is such a generous thing.

The above line from Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer's poem "In Crepuscular Light" caught my attention. This season radiates massive amounts of light. I am mostly an avid receiver of this season's bounty. Not long ago as I walked through a quiet rain in the woods, my eyes beheld wildflowers galore, including bright blue chicory, lavender crown vetch, and gangly, golden clover. Birds gave their best cheers with individual cheeps and chirps, including a Magnolia warbler, the first I'd ever sighted.

I am reminded that no matter how generous summer might be with the abundance of beauty and fruitfulness, there will always be something lacking. The same with our daily lives. We are rarely allowed to experience generosity without also feeling some deprivation. We seldom dwell with a sense of fullness without being reminded of some sort of hollowness.

Summertime grants us an opportunity to be aware of its amazing abundance in varied forms while also accepting the lament of emptiness pressing upon our hearts. As our hurried pace takes us through these light-filled months, may we maintain a balance between these two existent dimensions so prevalent in most people's lives.



Personal Reflections

Testimony from a recent PATHWAYS attendee:

Mandalas & Mantras for Self-Love (May 2025)

"I enjoyed making my mandala at the PATHWAYS event. It was a good time of sharing, learning, and creating. No two mandalas were alike in shape, color or content—just like us! I am inspired to continue making mandalas."

– Kathy Helge,
CLC member



Dwelling in the Word

July 9 & August 6

Join us for outdoor worship as we listen to and reflect on God's word proclaimed. Prayers will be at the heart of this service along with extended periods of silence as we make room for the presence of God. *Dwelling in the Word* will be held at 6 pm at Christ Lutheran Church. (Rain location inside.) Please plan to join us for this special summertime offering.

upcoming offerings

Interfaith Potluck JULY 28* / 6:00pm

All women are invited to this potluck hosted by Christ Lutheran uniting women of all different faiths from the Rockford region. Along with delicious food, we will learn about the history and use of prayer beads. Please bring a dish to pass; tableware and beverages provided.

Earth Church SEPT 27* 10-11:30am

Presented with the Creation Care team of the Northern Illinois Synod, we will gather together to worship the wonderful blessing that is creation. Join us for breakfast treats at 9:30. Registration requested at seekthepath.org.

Autumn Fest SEPT 28* 11am

Pumpkin decorating, games, raffles, food, and the return of the famous CLC Pie Auction. Join us at this first annual Autumn Fest fundraiser where we'll celebrate our community and the work of PATHWAYS to reach beyond our church walls. Registration requested at seekthepath.org.



Pet Blessing SEPT 29* 5:30pm

Bring your furry friends (and not so furry ones) to CLC as we celebrate the blessings of our pets. Gather with us on the labyrinth to share a pet blessing and commit ourselves to caring for their wellbeing. You may also bring a picture of your pet to be blessed.

*All events held at Christ Lutheran Church.



Last fall, seeds were planted for our new pollinator patch. *What is a pollinator patch, you may wonder?* It is a designated area intentionally planted with flowers and other plants that attract and support pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. It provides food and habitat for these beneficial insects, contributing to the health of both the ecosystem and the local environment. It will take time to see the full blooms of our planting (likely several years), but we appreciate these early blooms that we are seeing right now.

Light

May the angels of light
glisten for us this day.
May the sparks of God's beauty
dance in the eyes of those we love.
May the universe
be on fire with Presence for us this day.
May the new sun's rising
grace us with gratitude.
Let earth's greenness shine
and its waters breathe with Spirit.
Let heaven's winds stir the soil of our soul
and fresh awakenings rise within us.
May the mighty angels of light
glisten in all things this day.
May they summon us to reverence,
may they call us to life.

-John Philip Newell from *Praying with the Earth:
A Prayerbook for Peace*, 2011

PATHWAYS

A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL



a ministry of Christ Lutheran Church

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