

Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

Christ's Messenger



From the Pastor's Satchel: *Psalms 121*



August 2016

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This Month:

Thur., Aug. 4 at 12:00
Mary Circle Picnic
at Enger Park

Sat., Aug. 13 5-8 PM
Family Game & Potluck
Night

Christ Lutheran
Church, TAALC
2415 Ensign St.
Duluth, MN 55811
218-722-7537
website: clcduluth.org
email: christlutheranduluth@yahoo.com

I lift up my eyes to the hills. [You might be wondering what my eyes are focused on. Northern Minnesota is a beautiful place in the summertime.]
From where does my help come? [Most of the time I depend upon myself. Sometimes, I'll ask for a family member or neighbor to lend a helping hand. Only in really major crises will I ask God to help.]

² My help comes from the LORD, [I am of the conviction that 'God helps those who help themselves'. Isn't that why He gave us hands and brains?]
who made heaven and earth. [I'll give Him credit for that; but I think He used the evolutionary process to do it.]

³ He will not let your foot be moved; [I don't know about that one; I've slipped and fallen quite a few times in my life. It wasn't pretty, and it was plenty painful.]
He who keeps you will not slumber. [I don't really perceive of God having any need to rest, but I certainly do. In fact, I look forward to summer when I take a rest from attending church all together.]

⁴ Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. [Even so, sometimes I'm tempted to think that He must have His eyes closed. After all, how could He observe all the bad stuff that is going on in the world and not do anything about it?]

⁵ The LORD is your keeper; [I look at all those commandments and think, 'I can't do this and I can't do that'. He's keeping me from doing all those things that prevent me from having fun in life. Yes, I guess He is my keeper.]
the LORD is your shade on your right hand. [Summertime is a good season to know that HE is my shade. It will cut down on the amount of sun-screen I use.]

⁶ The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. [It's a good thing that the sun and moon don't have hands and arms; otherwise they might strike me.]

⁷ The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. [If He will keep me from all evil, then why is there no good candidate to vote for in the 2016 Presidential Election coming up in November? Evil is sure to come no matter which one is elected.]

⁸ The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. [I guess He has His work cut out for Himself. Forevermore is a long time.]

Spiritual Sarcasm has been in existence since Satan appeared in the Garden of Eden as a serpent. We can make light of God and His Word. However, we cannot remove the truth that is contained in His Word. True faith in God draws comfort and encouragement from those verses. True faith in God brings counsel and direction from those lines.

The LORD is God even though people do not acknowledge Him as such.

The LORD is our Helper, available at all time and under all circumstances even though people do not call upon Him for help.

The LORD is our Protector delivering us from the evils of doubt and despair which would certainly drive us away from the One who has promised to save us for His eternal kingdom.

- Those who are faithful to hear and meditate upon God's Word daily are blessed with an ever-increasing faith in Him to be and to do what He has revealed Himself to be and to do.

- Those who are faithful in weekly worship to honor the Lord and to hear His Truth are blessed by the encouragement of hearing of His never-failing love and tasting that their sins are forgiven.

Pleasedon't take a vacation from God and His Word. There is no question that He will be faithful. Our lives will reveal whether we are.

Pastor Myke Main

August 2016 Serving Schedule

We are in need of additional Sunday Morning Greeters and Ushers.

If you would like to be part of this ministry please contact Kim Matuseski at 727-2097.

August 7

Ushers: Bob & Pam Halvorson; David Wood; Paul Holt

Greeter: Jan Main

August 14

Ushers: Mike & Pam Wendling; Mike & Wendy Pickar

Greeter: Grace Wells

August 21

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn Lofald; Jim & Gayle Maruska

Greeter: Jan Main

August 28

Ushers: Bob & Pam Halvorson; David Wood; Paul Holt

Greeter: Norma Johnson

September 4

Ushers: Mike & Pam Wendling; Mike & Wendy Pickar

Greeters: John & Bonnie Kubiak

Trustees:

August 7: Grace Wells & Kim Mitchell

August 14: Gwen Nelson & Sandy Carlson

August 21: Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar

August 28: Bob Dahl & Stacy Homstad

September 4: Grace Wells & Kim Mitchell

Coffee Servers:

August 7: Hannah Circle

August 14: Council Group 2

August 21: ROC

August 28: Esther Circle

September 4: Hannah Circle

Pastor: Rev. Michael Main
mmain1952@yahoo.com
218-390-9987

Church Office: Juliana Morgan
christlutheranduluth@yahoo.com
218-722-7537

Council President: Jim Carlson
Vice-President: Mike Pickar

Treasurer: Laurie Wiita
treasurer@clcduluth.org

Youth coordinator: Chris Stumpf
clcyouth_duluth@yahoo.com

Church Website: www.clcduluth.org

Sunday Worship

Praise Time—9:15am

Worship—9:30am

No Sunday School until Fall

Adult Bible Study—11:00 am

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

Mary Circle: Thur., Aug. 4 at 12:00 Picnic at Enger Park

No Esther Circle

Hannah Circle 2nd Sat. 1:00 PM

No Dorcas Circle

No Quilters

Women's Bible Study

3rd Thursday 10 AM

Lutherans for Life

2nd Sunday 6:30PM

Council Meeting-

2nd Thursday of the month

Deadline for submitting news for the September Messenger is Friday, August 26.

Change of Address Reminder...

If you have moved, are planning on moving, or are switching addresses for the season, please call the church office to notify us of the change. It takes only a minute and saves us both time and money.
Thank you!

When the Foundations are Destroyed *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" Psalm 11:3*

The word here for "foundations" is not the usual word for, say, a building foundation. Used rarely, a better translation of this word would be "purpose," or "basis." The fear expressed is not that the foundations of our faith might be undermined but that we might lose our sense of purpose.

In the context of the psalm, David was in danger of becoming demoralized by the pressures of wicked desires and evil ambitions all around him, and Christians surely have the same problem today. Why should we try to maintain high standards of doctrinal integrity and moral purity when the people around us—even most Christians—seem to be occupied mostly with materialistic ambition and pursuit of pleasure? If we allow the devil to undermine the very purposes God has for our lives, wandering away from His will in favor of some temporal interest, then why even continue with a pretense of Christian living?

David's solution was simply to remind himself that "the LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men" (v. 4). He may allow the righteous to be tried for a season, but we must not forget that "the righteous LORD loveth righteousness" (v. 7) and that "the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth" (v. 5).

When we are tempted to wonder whether it is really worth all the effort, and when our very foundation and purpose for living seems to be crumbling, we should remember that our God is Creator, Sustainer, and Judge of all—that He still is on His throne, and that we who belong to Him have been "predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will" Ephesians 1:11

(by Henry M. Morris, Ph.D.
taken from the Institute for
Creation Research website)

Please Pray for...

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

The Leadership of the Church:

Pastor Main
President—Jim Carlson
Vice President—Mike Pickar
Treasurer-Laurie Wiita
Deacons
Trustees
Rev. Curtis Leins,
presiding pastor, AALC
Rev. Richard Shileds,
ALTS President

Youth Group Kids & Leaders

Open Arms Day Care

Our Mission of the Month:

Lutheran Bible Translators

Pray for Our Church Outreaches

Pray for Each Other

Pray for our Country

Pray for our Troops—remember those from our church:
Tyler Johnson
Derek Miletich

Persecuted Christians

Throughout the World

Those with Health needs:

Elna Linder* (at Viewcrest)
Carolyn Sue Anderson*
Chelsea Holt**
Larry Kubiak**
Jean Sundstrom**
Katie Lund**
Dorothy Jean Vigliaturo***
Marvin Lofald***
Vi Boder
Brian MacDonald
Mark Malander
Olivia Schadel
Lee Koivisto (Spring's son)
Wayne Sundstrom
Russ Schramm
Carl Swanson
Ruth Dahl
Bob Carson
Kristen Carlson
Linda Beck
Russell Holm
Carol Schramm
Sue Boder
Aletha Bartels
Betty Stromquist
Barbara Johnson
Julie Guddeck's mom (in hospice)
Spring Billiar (brother passed away)
Jan Arrezo

If there are any people who have been accidently overlooked, please contact the church office or Pastor Main.
We apologize for any oversights.

*in the hospital or recently released or anticipating surgery
**receiving therapy or ongoing medical care
***in hospice care

Happy Birthday

Russell Schramm
August 13

Jean Sundstrom
August 20

Elna Linder
August 26

Jane Sommefeld
August 26

Lorna McLean
August 29

*All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
Psalm 139:16,17*

Don't Forget!

The first Sunday of each month is FOOD SHELF SUNDAY!

Please bring an item or two to help those in need.

Cash donations are also appreciated.

We are alternating donations between Genesis House and Union Gospel Mission.



The youth are taking orders for lasagna dinner to go. This is a fundraiser to replenish funds used to pay for camp. The lasagna dinners will be boxed and ready to heat and eat, or freeze for later. The meal is only \$5.00 and includes lasagna, green beans, garlic bread and a dessert. The meals will be ready for pick up Sunday August 7 until noon.

The monthly Family Potluck and Game Night is Aug. 13th from 5-8. The youth are enjoying the fellowship with the rest of the congregation and they look forward to the delicious treats as well! Bring a friend, food to share, and get ready for some great times with great people. Thank you all who been coming! We look forward to seeing you all on the 13th!

The youth will be collecting back to school supplies to donate to those in need in the area. A box will be set-up upstairs and in the basement.

Any questions, please contact Chris Stumpf at 218-310-2747 or by email at clcyouth_duluth@yahoo.com.

Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

John 14:1-3

We have been having a wonderful summer at Open Arms and we hope you have, too. There are many fun things planned for August.

We are planning on learning some sign language and even learning how to sign some new songs.

We will be learning about the fruit of the spirit and these special gifts from God. Learning about being still and welcoming Jesus to speak to our hearts is something we will also be working on.

We are also learning about always putting Jesus first in our thoughts and actions.

Thank you so much Gwen for our great story times, and your kind and loving ways.

Thank you Jim for keeping the lawn looking so great and for all the things you have done to help us.

We have been having a great time playing musical instruments this month.

The children have been composing some very special songs. Evelyn especially likes to sing about the Holy Spirit.

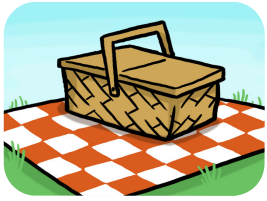
Playing house and school is always fun at play time but the most fun lately has been while playing church. There are sermons and music and even a time for greeting! It is so wonderful.

During this recent storm many of us were without power. One of our dear Open Arms families had trees fall into their home and also onto their car. Please keep Nellie, Matt and Melanie in your prayers as they get things back in order. Thank you!

Blessings to all!

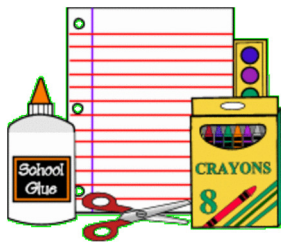
Mary Jo





Mary Circle Picnic
Thursday, August 4
12:00 at Enger Park

**Family Potluck &
Game Night
Saturday, August 13
from 5-8 PM**



The Youth are collecting back to school supplies to help out families in the area who are in need . Look for collection bins upstairs and in the basement.
Thank you for your generosity.



The next
Hannah Circle
Food Share will be
on August 14

10 QUESTIONS FOR EXAMINING YOUR LIFE

By Colin Smith

Examining your life is essential to your growth as a Christian believer. Seeing your own sins and failings will make it possible for you to confess, repent, find forgiveness, and grow in grace. These are the steps by which we move forward in the Christian life. If you can't see your own failings, you can't make progress.

Self-examination is also a dangerous business. Satan will try to subvert your self-examination by pulling you down into self-condemnation and despair. So be careful. While you have one eye focused on your sin and failure, keep the other eye focused on God's grace given to you in Jesus Christ.

God has given two gifts to help you examine yourself successfully. These are His Word and His Spirit. The Word will show you sins and failings. The Spirit will open your eyes to see them. Self-examination, rightly pursued, will bring great benefits to your Christian life.

1. FIRST COMMANDMENT: GOD

You shall have no other gods before me. (Exodus 20:3)

What disappointments has God allowed in your life? How have these affected your love for him? Pain and disappointment often reveal the degree to which we love and desire God's gifts more than we love and desire him. Your confession will begin here.

2. SECOND COMMANDMENT: WORSHIP

You shall not make for yourselves an idol. (Exodus 20:4)

In what ways would you want God to be different from who he is?

The desire for God to be different is **idolatry**. It shows discontent or dissatisfaction with who he is or what he does. This is sin and will be part of your confession.

3. THIRD COMMANDMENT: FALSE RELIGION

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. (Exodus 20:7)

In what ways do you least reflect the image and likeness of God? Being a Christian means that you bear the name of Christ. People make judgments about Christ by what they see in those who bear his name. Use this part of your confession to ask God for growth in areas where you need to better reflect his character.

4. FOURTH COMMANDMENT: TIME, WORK, AND REST

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. (Exodus 20:8-9)

How could you improve what you offer in your working life? How can you better order your life so that you complete your work and preserve time for God and for other relationships God has entrusted to you?

God has set a pattern for your work and rest in the way that he created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. The pattern of God's work gives us **a template for work**, reminding us that God calls us to be productive and to find joy in the work that he has given us to do. Take a careful look at the vigor of your work and the balance of your life.

5. FIFTH COMMANDMENT: AUTHORITY

Honor your father and your mother. (Exodus 20:12)

Who has God placed in a position of authority in your life? What are they saying to you? How are you responding?

Father and mother are the first authority figures God places in your life. Difficulty in submitting to others often indicates difficulties in submitting to God's authority over your life. Examine yourself carefully here.

(Cont. on page 6)

Lutheran Bible Translators

Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) has been bringing the Scriptures to people without the Bible for 50 years. An independent Lutheran mission organization, their missionary efforts are funded completely by the generous donations of churches and individuals. Starting in Liberia and Sierra Leone, they have grown to 78 missionaries serving in 17 countries on 5 continents. LBT missionaries, working with local churches and partners, have helped translate over 30 New Testaments, making God’s Word available to more than 7 million people. But there are still more than 4,000 languages in the world have no portion of the Scriptures translated into their language. This represents over 350 million people.

Translation is at the heart of what LBT does, but it is only the beginning. LBT missionaries organize and help co-ordinate literacy and Scripture Engagement programs. Those who can learn to read obviously benefit from the printed New Testament translations. For those who cannot read they develop other types of communication and media, including CD’s and DVD’s. LBT missionaries also encourage, promote and help develop use of local music and instruments for worship and liturgies.

As people use, study, and share Scripture, their lives are transformed through God’s grace and the Holy Spirit. LBT believe all people should have the opportunity to understand God’s Good News as presented in the Scriptures. No language or cultural barrier should prevent people from having access to God’s Word.

Please prayerfully consider a donation to this month’s chosen mission. You may make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church. Thank you for your continued support in our mission “To know Christ and to make Him known.”

(Cont. from page 5)

6. SIXTH COMMANDMENT: PEACE

You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)

With whom are you most angry and frustrated at this time? Is there someone with whom you are looking to get even? Are you harboring **resentment** in your heart?

Our Lord traced murder back to its roots in anger (Matthew 5:22). You may not be able to bring healing to every relationship, but you can guard your own heart. Confess any bitterness in your heart to God. Ask him to cleanse it from your soul.

7. SEVENTH COMMANDMENT: PURITY

You shall not commit adultery. (Exodus 20:14)

In what ways have you given expression to lust?

Jesus traced adultery back to lust in the heart (Matthew 5:28). Lust will destroy your soul if you feed it and allow it to grow in your life. Your thoughts reveal who you are in your heart.

Make an honest confession to God as you examine this area of your life.

8. EIGHTH COMMANDMENT: INTEGRITY

You shall not steal. (Exodus 20:15)

How can I take less and give more?

God gives. Satan steals. The essence of **stealing** is that you take what God has trusted to someone else, but do not give what God has entrusted to you. Use this part of your self-examination to look at what you are taking from others and what you are giving back. Look especially at what you are receiving from God and what you are giving back to him.

9. NINTH COMMANDMENT: TRUTH

You shall not give false testimony. (Exodus 20:16)

What has God trusted to me? In the ninth commandment God calls you to be a person who can be trusted. Make a list of what God has entrusted to you. Take an honest look at how you are being faithful or unfaithful with that trust. Ask God to prepare you for what he will entrust to you in the future.

10. TENTH COMMANDMENT: CONTENTMENT

You shall not covet. (Exodus 20:17)

What are the greatest desires of your heart right now? How do these relate to God’s purpose in your life?

All of our sins flow from the root problem of sin that lies in the human heart. Being a sinner, you desire the wrong things. You don’t find joy or satisfaction in the right things. That is why God gives you his Spirit to change and renew your heart. Use this final part of your self-examination to look beyond sins you have committed to sins that may be growing undetected in your heart. Ask God to cleanse your heart of wrong desires and to keep you from future sins.

-this article was taken from unlockingthebible.org

FINANCIAL UPDATE: 2016 Annual Budget: \$245,733; Weekly \$4,726

	Offering	Other	Daycare	Total
07/3/2016	\$ 3,534	\$ 0	\$ 75	\$ 3,609
Year to Date	\$ 77,353	\$ 5,708	\$ 27,327	\$ 6,234

Full Financial reports are posted in the narthex after each council meeting.

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7