



Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

Christ's Messenger



From the Pastor's Mail Pouch

**Advent - A Season to Anticipate HIS Coming
Ongoing Advent!**

"Therefore, you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour that you do not expect." Matthew 24:44

The word 'advent' means "coming." In the Christian Church, the season which precedes the celebration of Christmas is called the Advent season. In it, we anticipate the first coming of the Savior, God's Son, into this world to procure our salvation by His innocent life being lived and then offered up for us on the cross to atone for our sin, followed by His glorious bodily resurrection from the dead on the third day. Such a series of eternally significant events began with Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, becoming a flesh and blood human being like you and me. Advent is a time to meditate, appreciate, and celebrate His coming to us to procure salvation for us.

Advent is also a time to anticipate Christ's second coming, when He shall appear to the whole world to raise all the dead, to judge the living and the dead, and to bring into its fullness the promised glorious kingdom of God with new heavens and new earth in which truth and righteousness reign supremely.

In His teaching about the suddenness and certainty of that day, Jesus used the days which preceded the Flood of Noah's day to indicate the magnitude of His coming again. It will be a fearful and yet awesome spectacle. There will be great weeping and wailing, terror in the hearts of those who are not prepared; yet there will be unspeakable joy in the hearts of those who know Him as their Savior and Lord. For this latter group, though small in comparison to the other, they will see Jesus their loving Savior face to face. They will touch His nail-scarred hands. And, He will take them, in accordance with His promise, to their heavenly home, where there is no pain or sorrow or death anymore.

It is His will, clearly proclaimed in the truth of His holy Word, that you and I would be a part

of that later group: namely, that we would be included among the souls who are ready and found doing the faithful deeds that He has given us to do until He comes. When Jesus is "Priority 1" [the First Commandment], God's Word will take precedence over the busy-ness of this world's activities. We will be faithful to hear God's Word in worship, faithful to meditate upon God's Word at home with our families during the week, faithful to pray for His wisdom and strength, and faithful to bear witness to others of the hope that we hold in our hearts toward God regarding this life, the last day, and the experience of eternity with Christ. When God's Word is permitted to have a prominent place in us, God will accomplish this in us. For God's Word is always accompanied by His Holy Spirit, and He will work faith and obedience toward God in us as we hear.

WARNING: Therefore, do not become or remain so busy with worldly things that you miss out on God's eternal plan for your life: God wants a real and ongoing (and everlasting) relationship with you, reflected in worship toward Him, and prayerful dependence upon Him, and uninterrupted devotion to Him. His loving character will be developed during the time we spend with Him; it will be reflected as we put into practice His loving attitudes, words and actions towards our neighbor. For when God's love is truly in us, we cannot help but love and forgive and care for those around us. This is evidence of His work in us; and, it is evidence that we are ready for His coming. May that be so for you and me!

A Blessed and Ongoing Advent Season to All!

Pastor Myke Main



December 2016

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This Month:

Thur., Dec. 1 at 12:00
Mary Circle Christmas Luncheon

Thur., Dec. 1 at 5 PM
Esther Circle Tree Trimming Fellowship

Sat., Dec. 10 5-8 PM
Family Game & Potluck Night

Fri., Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services
4 PM & 11 PM

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

December 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.*

December 4

Ushers: Les Johnson & Kim Matuseski; Spring Billiar; David Wood

Greeter: Jan Main

December 11

Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar; Keith & Trudy Youngren

Greeter: Don & Priscilla Olson

December 18

Ushers: Mike & Pam Wendling; Bob & Pam Halvorson

Greeter: Norma Johnson

December 24

4 PM Ushers: Bob & Pam Halvorson, Mike & Wendy Pickar

11 PM Ushers: Gary & Carolyn Lofald

December 25

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn Lofald; John Holt; Paul Holt

Greeter: John & Bonnie Kubiak

January 1

Ushers: Jim & Gayle Maruska; Mike & Wendy Pickar

Greeters: Grace Wells

Trustees:

Dec. 4: Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar

Dec. 11: Bob Dahl & Stacy Homstad

Dec. 18: Grace Wells & Kim Mitchell

Dec. 24: Gwen Nelson & Sandy Carlson (4 PM)

Dec. 24: Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar (11 PM)

Dec. 25: Bob Dahl & Stacy Homstad

Jan. 1: Sandy Carlson & Sue Boder

Coffee Servers:

Dec. 4: Hannah Circle

Dec. 11: Council Group 2

Dec. 18: ROC

Dec. 25: Esther Circle

Jan. 1: Library

Acolytes:

Dec. 4: Hanna Hovland & Lydia Wiita

Dec. 11: Jacqueline Stumpf & Callie Showalter

Dec. 18: Hanna Hovland & Lydia Wiita

Dec. 25: Jacqueline Stumpf & Callie Showalter

Jan. 1: Jacqueline Stumpf & Callie Showalter



Thank you so much for the warm hospitality we found at your church. We enjoyed meeting everyone. Thank you also for the generous love offering. We will put it to good use to further the ministry. A special thanks also to the Lofalds for their help. It is our prayer that God used Michael's message to touch individual hearts,
Diane
Michael Furchart

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

Church Office: Juliana Morgan
church@clcduluth.org
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

Sunday School—11:00 am

Adult Bible Study—11:15 am

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

Mary Circle 1st Thur. 9:30 AM

Esther Circle 1st Thur. 6:30 PM

Hannah Circle 2nd Sat. 1:00 PM

Dorcas Circle 2nd Mon. 1:30 PM

Quilters 3rd Mon. 9:00 AM

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 January Messenger is Tues.,
Dec. 27**

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!

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 Shields,
ALTS President

Youth Group Kids & Leaders

Open Arms Day Care

Our Mission of the Month:

Faith Comes By Hearing

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:

Jane McLean**
David MacDonald**
Jim Maruska**
Elna Linder**
Wayne Sundstrom**
Chelsea Holt**
Larry Kubiak**
Jean Sundstrom**
Katie Lund**
Karl Randa**
Dorothy Jean Vigliaturo***
Marvin Lofald***
Vi Boder
Mark Malander
Olivia Schadel
Russ Schramm
Carl Swanson
Ruth Dahl
Carol Schramm
Aletha Bartels
Florence Kubiak
Brian MacDonald
Bruce Wells
Lil Fontaine
Bryan Goeppinger

*in the hospital or recently released or anticipating surgery

**receiving therapy or ongoing medical care

***in hospice care

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

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.

*Happy
Birthday*

**Bob Dahl
December 7**

**Carol Johnson
December 24**

**Carol Miletich
December 28**

**Dick Kern
December 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!*

Psalms 139:16,17

Look for the wreath with these tickets in the Fellowship Hall



We would love to provide complimentary tickets for all the dads from the MN Adult and Teen Challenge program that would like to attend the Father/Daughter Ball. Please take a tag from the wreath in the fellowship hall and return your gift in the enclosed envelope with the tag to the church office or place it in the offering plate by December 18. Thank you for giving a special blessing to these families this Christmas!

**And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son.
1 John 5:11**

We are so very excited to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Christmas is a very special time of year.

We are learning about Advent and have lots of fun art projects planned for December.

The kids have been having fun playing outside in the snow and more often splashing in puddles!

Our families are growing. Melanie is a big sister now and Adam will be a big brother this summer.

If you would like to buy a Christmas gift for the daycare the children love Daniel Tiger and would very much appreciate Daniel Tiger toys and DVDs.

Thank you for thinking of us!

Please keep us in your prayers!

Very special Christmas blessings to everyone!

Mary Jo



Before you speak: **THINK**

T = Is it True?

H = Is it Helpful?

I = Is it Inspiring?

N = Is it Necessary?

K = Is it Kind?



The Mary Circle Christmas Luncheon will be on Thur., Dec. 1 at 12:00. The Denfeld choir group "Solid Gold" will join us at 12:30. Everyone is invited to the luncheon. The cost is \$8.00. Please see Marlene Stauber or contact the office if you would like to attend.



**Family Potluck &
Game Night**
Sat., Dec. 10 from
5-8 PM



Tickets for the 21th annual Father/Daughter Ball will go on sale Sat. Dec. 3 at 9 AM. Tickets are sold online only. Dates for the 2017 Ball are Saturday, Jan. 28 & Feb. 4



Join us for the 7th annual
Husband & Wife Valentine Ball
Friday, February 10, 2017 6:30-11:00 PM
At Backwoods Event Center in Proctor



The cost is \$65.00 per couple
Dinner choices are: salmon, roast sirloin, pork tenderloin, or baked manicotti.
Dessert will also be provided & wine will be available for purchase.

Your evening together will be blessed with an uplifting Christian message, a wonderful dinner, and a romantic time of dancing.

To make the evening more special, reserve a room right next door at the AmericInn Hotel & Suites by calling: 218-624-1026

Tickets may be purchased online, but we would request that church members purchase them from an Evangelism Committee member.

Contact Carolyn Lofald with any questions.
Checks can be made out to "Evangelism Committee"
We have a limited number of tickets available, so please plan early.



Esther Circle Tree Trimming night is Thursday, Dec. 1 at 5 PM. Please come out and help decorate the church for the season. Dinner will be provided.



Esther Circle will have a hat & mitten clothesline in the fellowship hall to collect items for kids in need. Thank you for your donations!

*The next
Hannah Circle
Food Share will be
on December 11*



December Mission of the Month:

Faith Comes By Hearing

More than half of the world cannot read. The majority of the illiterate population lives in poverty with few resources. Reaching poor and illiterate people from oral cultures with God's word requires unique strategies. Faith Comes By Hearing is based on the belief and evidence that oral cultures can more fully understand and live the Gospel when they hear the Word in their own language. Through Faith Comes By Hearing listening programs, believers are disciplined, churches strengthened, new churches planted, and new converts come to Christ.

Currently, Faith Comes By Hearing offers 853 languages reaching over 5.7 billion people in 190 countries.

Offering every person on our planet equal access to the Bible requires meeting the unique needs of generations, technical societies, and fast-paced lifestyles. It also means meeting the cultural and literacy challenges presented when working in underdeveloped countries. Faith Comes By Hearing's goal is to record and provide Audio New Testaments in every translated language, making the fulfillment of the Great Commission a reality in our lifetime!

Through Faith Comes By Hearing's Military BibleStick project, our nation's troops are hearing the Word of God while on (or preparing for) deployment. The Military BibleStick is a digital audio player that is pre-loaded with a dramatized recording of the entire New Testament and over 65 minutes of selected Psalms.

Chaplains from every branch of the military are flooding Faith Comes By Hearing with requests. More than 485,000 of these Audio Bibles are now in the field. Over 1500 chaplains use Military Bible Sticks in pre-deployment briefings, counseling sessions, Bible studies, weekly chapels, and other spiritual services.

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."

Offering envelopes for 2017 are here.
Please look for your box in the narthex.
If you do not see a box with your name on it, please contact Carol Ziemer or the church office.

In reviewing some of the Church property we have 9 cemetery lots at Sunrise available for our members to be able to purchase. If anyone is interested, please see Sandy Carlson.

SEVERE WEATHER REMINDER

In the event of inclement weather that might effect an event, we will try to make a decision by 7 a.m. on the morning of, or at least two hours before the event.

Always check the following for weather related decisions:

•**PHONE:** Call the church office: 722-7537; a message will be posted

•**WEBPAGE:** Look on our website home page at www.clcduluth.org

•**RADIO:** Listen to KDAL-AM 610; WDSM-AM 710; or NU-92-FM for announcements

• **TELEVISION:** Listen to KBJR and WDIO

•**If you** desire a phone call, please contact the office.

We will make every effort to maintain the usual Sunday worship service.

Church staff and congregational members must use their own judgment in determining if traveling to church is reasonably possible. Please use your discretion to decide if it is safe for you to leave your home and travel to church.

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

	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Daycare</u>	<u>Total</u>
11/13/2016	\$ 2,922	\$500	\$ 1,184	\$ 4,606
Year to Date	\$118,490	\$ 11,765	\$48,938	\$179,193

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