



Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

Christ's Messenger



From the Pastor's Mail Pouch

"Hanging in There"

"And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:12-14



We are living in a non-Christian culture. It is referred to by some Christian Leaders as **"The Post-Christian Era."** We can no longer assume that the nation and community in which we grew up remains *"one nation under God."* This means that most of the people around us have different values, different priorities; in short, a very different understanding of the importance of the God of the Bible, reflected in the way that they think and live. Some of us have not even noticed this shift because we have also shifted along with the culture in which we are immersed.

In the above Bible passage, Jesus warns believers that as the end of the world approaches, this is the kind of challenge that those who would follow Him by faith will encounter. The good news is that He is with us and will never forsake us. He will give us the strength to endure. However, the key to experiencing the strength of Christ to endure an unbelieving and sometimes even hostile world ... is to remain close to Him.

Our closeness to Him is dependent upon our willingness to hear and heed the Word of God each day. In another place in the New Testament, the apostle John tells the Christian Church under persecution **[I John 5:4] " And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."** The faith which is spoken of in the Bible never originates from us; rather, it starts with God and is placed within our hearts by God through the hearing of the Word of God. For **"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ."** [Romans 10:17]

The choice is simple. Either we can ignore the warning signs of the end and permit our lives to be lived apart from the powerful influence of God's Word in our daily routine; or, we can live the disciplined life of a true follower [*disciple*] of Jesus, and permit His words to be **'a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.'** As we yield to the Holy Spirit directing us to such a disciplined life, you and I will be able to **"hang in there."**

This is God's will for all of us. By His grace, He has afforded us a multitude of opportunities to be fed with this life-giving and life-keeping Word: daily devotional materials, weekly worship services, Christian hymns and spiritual songs, Bible study opportunities and Lenten worship services. So, taking hold of these tools, we shall grow in faith and overcome the world and its ways as we wait for Christ to come. With this reminder, let's **hang in there** together!

Pastor Myke Main

March 2017

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This Month:

Wed. Night Bible Studies at 6:30 PM

Soup Suppers Every Wed. at 5:15 PM

Lenten Services Every Wed. at 6:30 PM

Sat., Mar. 11 From 5-8 PM Family Game & Potluck Night

Christ Lutheran Church, TAALC 2415 Ensign St. Duluth, MN 55811 218-722-7537

website: clcduluth.org email: church@clcduluth.org

March 2017 Serving Schedule

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. 1:00 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 April Messenger is Mon. ,
Mar. 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!

March 1 (Lenten Service)
Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar

March 5
Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar; Keith Youngren; Paul Holt
Greeter: Grace Wells

March 8 (Lenten Service)
Ushers: Mike & Pam Wendling

March 12
Ushers: Mike & Pam Wendling; Bob & Pam Halvorson
Greeter: Jan Main

March 15 (Lenten Service)
Ushers: Gary & Carolyn Lofald

March 19
Ushers: Gary & Carolyn Lofald; Jim & Gayle Maruska
Greeter: Norma Johnson

March 22 (Lenten Service)
Ushers: Jim & Gayle Maruska

March 26
Ushers: Les Johnson & Kim Matuseski; Spring Billiar; David Wood
Greeters: John & Bonnie Kubiak

March 29 (Lenten Service)
Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar

April 2
Ushers: Mike & Pam Wendling; Keith Youngren; Paul Holt
Greeters: Grace Wells

Trustees:

Mar. 1 (Lenten Service): Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar
Mar. 5: Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar
Mar. 8 (Lenten Service): Stacy Homstad & Bill Arezzo
Mar. 12: Stacy Homstad & Bill Arezzo
Mar. 15 (Lenten Service): Grace Wells & Kim Mitchell
Mar. 19: Grace Wells & Kim Mitchell
Mar. 22 (Lenten Service): Sandy Carlson & Sue Boder
Mar. 26: Sandy Carlson & Sue Boder
Mar. 29 (Lenten Service): Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar
Apr. 2: Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar
Apr. 5 (Lenten Service): Stacy Homstad & Bill Arezzo

Coffee Servers:

Mar. 5: Hannah Circle
Mar. 12: ROC
Mar. 19: Dorcas Circle
Mar. 26: Council Group 1
Apr. 2: Mary Circle

Acolytes:

Mar. 5: Hanna Hovland & Lydia Wiita
Mar. 12: Jacqueline Stumpf & Callie Showalter
Mar. 19: Hanna Hovland & Lydia Wiita
Mar. 26: Jacqueline Stumpf & Callie Showalter
Apr. 2: Hanna Hovland & Lydia Wiita

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:

East European Missions Network

Pray for Our Church Outreaches

Pray for Each Other

The family of Elna Linder

Pray for our Country

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

Persecuted Christians

Throughout the World

Those with Health needs:

Evelyn Melander*
Bob Johnson*
Olivia Schadel*
Bryan Goeppinger*
Edna Corser**
Jane McLean**
Wayne Sundstrom**
Chelsea Holt**
Larry Kubiak**
Jean Sundstrom**
Katie Lund**
Karl Randa**
Dorothy Jean Vigliaturo***
Vi Boder
Mark Malander
Russ Schramm
Carl Swanson
Ruth Dahl
Carol Schramm
Aletha Bartels
Florence Kubiak
Brian MacDonald
Bruce Wells
Darlyn Sundstrom
Leo Plewa (Viewcrest)

*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

**Wayne Sundstrom
March 8**

**Carol Sogard
March 25**

**Laviere Johnson
March 26**

**Dale Nielson
March 29**

**Gloria Nielson
March 30**

**Callie Showalter
March 30**

**Florence Kubiak
March 30**

*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*



The Youth will be serving Soup Suppers on March 1 & April 5. They will be busy setting tables as well. They are earning money for camp and the National Youth Conference.

The Youth will also be serving breakfast on Palm Sunday. Watch for more details in coming weeks.

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

But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him" - these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9,10



We have been having lots of fun at Open Arms.

In February we celebrated God's love and how we can share his love with others. We have been playing in the snow and splashing in puddles. We even made a visit to the church library. In March we plan to begin our celebration of Easter. Many of the children already know about Jesus dying on the cross for us. We will be learning about what led Christ to the cross and how he rose again so we can be with him forever and ever in heaven.

Many times lunchtime prayers include thanking Jesus for dying on the cross for us. Here are some of the children's recent prayers:

Ethan prays for each of the children at the table and for his concerns for them.

Evelyn prays for mommy and daddy and for friends whose families have died and are in heaven . She always ends her prayer with " thank you for God and Jesus and the cross Amen".

Little Cora says thanks for mom and dad and daycare and Mary Jo.

Felix has just started saying prayers and is very happy when he prays for his friends.

We always sing the Amen song after prayers and end with a big Hallelujah .

Recently during play time Felix was singing the Amen song and finished it off with a robust Hallelujah.

What joy it is to see how the Lord touches the hearts of these children.

It is always an extra blessing when the parents tell me what their children are sharing at home.

Thank you all for your continued prayers for the daycare. We know the Lord always provides.

We have openings for children ages three and over. Please spread the word for us.

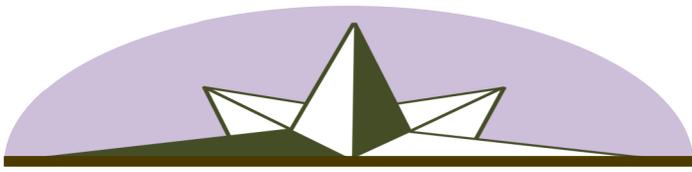
Special thanks to Peggy Wiita for the wonderful animal book. Everyone just loves it. Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. You are great. The children still play with the cute baby doll you gave us last year.

Thank you Gwen for your kindness, patience and loving ways on reading days. We are so thankful for you.

Big blessings to everyone!

Philippians 4:4 KJV: Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!

Mary Jo



Lenten Soup Suppers Serving Schedule

March 1: Youth

March 8: Dorcas Circle

March 15: Hannah Circle

March 22: Hannah Circle

March 29: Esther Circle

April 5: Youth

Soup suppers start at 5:15 PM

Services begin at 6:30 PM

Family Potluck & Game Night

Sat., Mar.11 from 5-8 PM



*The next
Hannah Circle
Food Share will be
on March 12*

The Power of the Cross

“Oh, to see the dawn
Of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
Torn and beaten, then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

This, the pow’r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath—
We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain
Written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev’ry bitter thought,
Ev’ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

This, the pow’r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath—
We stand forgiven at the cross

Now the daylight flees;
Now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two,
Dead are raised to life;
”Finished!” the vict’ry cry.

This, the pow’r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath—
We stand forgiven at the cross

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death;
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

This, the pow’r of the cross:
Son of God—slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.”

- WORDS AND MUSIC BY KEITH GETTY AND STUART TOWNEND
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March Mission of the Month:

East European Missions Network

Eastern European Missions Network began in 1992 in the wake of the fall of communism. It is an evangelical, inter-Lutheran mission organization which seeks to encourage American churches to minister alongside the brothers and sisters in East European churches. Seeking to rebuild and equip the body of Christ in Eastern Europe and Russia.

EEMN's highest priority is to help train a new generation of Christ-centered, Bible-based leaders committed to fulfilling the Great Commission and the rebuilding of the church.

EEMN works in close relationship with indigenous believers in Belarus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Turkey. Bible Schools, seminaries, lay training, evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and prayers are the tools for developing this long-term rebuilding.

As a sending agency EEMN has placed career missionaries in Poland, Latvia, Ukraine, and Hungary. From the historic fall of communism to the steady progress being made, the work of God in these nations is best described by the prophet Habakkuk, "Look among the nations and see, wonder and be astounded for I am doing a work in your day that you would not believe if told" (Habakkuk 1:5). Out of the hard and rocky soil of atheistic communism, God has prepared a field ripe for harvest.

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."

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for the gift of a Super One gift card. It was so thoughtful and generous and I appreciate it very much.

Thank you for all your prayers for the children at Open Arms. It is a blessing to share the Lord with them everyday.

Thanks again.

Mary Jo Miller



Dear Pastor Main and friends at Christ Lutheran,

Thank you for all your prayers and your support; they are appreciated and making a difference! We have had a number of guys graduate from our programs over the last several months - one of them stopped by recently to tell me that he loves his new job, his life is going well, and that his family is proud of him! You helped him succeed and are helping others to succeed! Thank you all again!

Blessings,

John at MN Teen Challenge

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

	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Daycare</u>	<u>Total</u>
02/19/2017	\$ 2,655	\$0	\$ 0	\$ 2,655
Year to Date	\$ 20,236	\$ 1,250	\$ 5,242	\$ 26,728

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