



*Our Mission:* "To know Christ and to make Him known"

# Christ's Messenger



## CARL'S CORNER

You'd think after all these years, and being in a position of leadership in the church, I'd have a settled opinion about the way we celebrate Christmas. I don't.

When I was a child, one Christmas I received for the first time a shiny new bicycle. (In those days bikes were not made in China and it was quite an investment to buy a new one – especially a Schwinn!) I was always a religious person, but, boy, did I like that bike. I rode it and rode it and rode it and rode it, not once asking whether it was crass materialism on an otherwise "spiritual" celebration.

We've gone through transitions over the years. From a lack of material things during war time – yes, I was born before World War II – to the discovery of post-war wealth, to the back to nature Hippy generation, to the pagan 70s and 80s, to the explosion of affordable Chinese products and the rapid falling away from the church and faith, it's been quite a ride.

A little ashamed to say I don't know what to make of it all. And maybe that's okay. It's a little above my pay grade. After all, it's God's birthday into the world and He can probably handle it quite well.

There's a great deal of excitement for me right now as I anticipate being with new friends in whom Christ has chosen to be born. I'm like a child wondering what great new "gift" will be mine in experiencing what to y'all might be quite familiar because you have "done it that way" for many years but for me it's a brand new bike.

I picture myself with the shepherds on their journey to Bethlehem wondering what great gift God has given to the world as the treasure of faith emerges in the lives of those who have placed their trust in the Messiah springs forth in the celebration of what God has done and how the people of God at Christ Lutheran Church celebrate His birth.

Can't wait.

Thank you for welcoming us so warmly and even being far from home we know we will feel right at home in celebrating the birth of the Messiah this year with you.

Don't think I'll be riding a bike though. Maybe a snowmobile or snowshoes.

Merry – I think this is "in" this year – Christmas.

Pastor Carl & Joan

### **Christmas Services:**

#### Advent Services

Wed. Dec. 3 @ 6:30 PM

Wed. Dec. 13 @ 6:30 PM

Wed. Dec. 20 @ 6:30 PM

#### Children's Christmas Program

December 17

following the morning worship service

#### Christmas Day Services

9:15 AM Praise Time

9:30 AM Worship/Communion

4:00 PM Candlelight Service

11:00 PM Candlelight Service



## **Dec. 2017**

Thur. Dec. 7 at 5 PM  
Esther Circle Tree  
Trimming &  
Potluck Activity

Mid-Week  
Advent Services  
Dec. 6 at 6:30  
Dec. 13 at 6:30  
Dec. 20 at 6:30

Sat., Dec. 9  
5-8 PM  
Family Game &  
Potluck Night

December 17  
Children's  
Christmas Program

December 24  
4 PM Candlelight  
Service  
11 PM Candlelight  
Service

Christ Lutheran Church  
2415 Ensign St.  
Duluth, MN  
55811

Phone:  
218-722-7537

website:  
clcduluth.org

email:  
church@clcduluth.org

## Christ Lutheran Church

Interim Pastor Carl Bengtson  
Cell phone: 770-828-5937

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 - 11AM  
Adult Bible Study—11:00 AM

### MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

**Mary Circle 1st Thur. 9:30 AM**

**Esther Circle 1st Thur. 6:30 PM**

**Dorcas Circle 2nd Mon. 1:00 PM**

**Hannah Circle 2nd Sat. 1:00 PM**

**Lutherans for Life -  
2nd Sunday 6:30PM**

**Council Meeting-2nd Thursday**

**Deadline for submitting news  
for the January Messenger is  
Tuesday, December 26.**

#### Change of Address Reminder...

Our newsletter is "bulk mail"  
and as such, cannot be  
forwarded. The church  
must pay postage due on  
all returned newsletters.

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!

## December 2017 Serving Schedule

### December 3

**Ushers:** Mike & Wendy Pickar; Mike & Pam Wendling

**Greeter:** Norma Johnson

### December 6

**Ushers:** Mike & Pam Wendling

### December 10

**Ushers:** Keith Youngren; Paul Holt; Bob & Pam Halvorson

**Greeter:** Grace Wells

### December 13

**Ushers:** Bob & Pam Halvorson

### December 17

**Ushers:** Gary & Carolyn Lofald; Jim & Gayle Maruska

**Greeters:** Don & Priscilla Olson

### December 20

**Ushers:** Gary & Carolyn Lofald

### December 24 (Morning Worship Service)

**Ushers:** Mike & Wendy Pickar; Mike & Pam Wendling

**Greeters:** Bob & Kay Dahl

### December 24 (4 PM Candlelight Service)

**Ushers:** Les Johnson & Kim Matuseski; David Wood

### December 24 (11 PM Candlelight Service)

**Ushers:** Gary & Carolyn Lofald

### December 31

**Ushers:** Keith Youngren; Paul Holt; Bob & Pam Halvorson

**Greeter:** Grace Wells

### Trustees:

**December 3:** Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar

**December 10:** Stacy Homstad & Bill Arezzo

**December 17:** Grace Wells & Kim Michell

**December 24:** Sandy Carlson & Sue Boder

**December 31:** Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar

### Coffee Servers:

**December 3:** Hannah Circle

**December 10:** LL

**December 17:** Council Group 1

**December 24:** Esther Circle

**December 31:** Library

*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.*

### Christ Lutheran Church Call Committee:

Jim Carlson  
Lillian Fontaine  
Bob Halvorson

Carolyn Lofald  
Kim Matuseski  
Kim Mitchell

Mike Pickar  
Mark Wiita  
Keith Youngren

## 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:

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

### The Call Committee

### 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:

Derek Miletich

### Persecuted Christians

### Throughout the World

### Those with Health needs:

Lorna McLean\*  
Shirley & Sig Randa\*  
Bryan Goeppinger\*  
Brian MacDonald  
David MacDonald  
Donna Swanson\*  
Shirley Kern\*  
Dennis Peterson\*\*  
Larry Kubiak\*\*  
Bill & Jane McLean\*\*  
Wayne & Jean Sundstrom\*\*  
Katie Lund\*\*  
Dorothy Jean Vigliaturo\*\*\*  
Dave Schlossin  
Vi Boder  
Mark Malander  
Russ & Carol Schramm  
Carl Swanson  
Ruth Dahl  
Aletha Bartels  
Florence Kubiak  
Leo Plewa  
Mary Jenny  
Maggie Youngren Malone and her baby

\*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. We apologize for any oversights.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Roger Johnson, who passed away on Friday, November 10th.

Correction for  
Chuck & Lowaine Morris' address:  
5707 E 32nd St Lot 21  
Yuma AZ 85365

# 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*





The youth will be meeting from on Wednesday before the Advent services. The Luther League will meet 5:30-6:30 12/6 and 12/20. All youth are invited to help bell ring for the Salvation Army on 12/13 from 6-8.

Please let Chris know if your youth can help fill at time slot.

Thank you to everyone who came to the vendor/craft fair and supported the youth. It was a huge success!

Make sure you watch your email for an exciting youth event on December 15<sup>th</sup>

**Family Potluck &  
Game Night  
Sat., Dec. 9  
from 5-8 PM**



*For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but My kindness shall not depart from you,  
Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you.*

*Isaiah 54:10*

Merry Christmas Everyone!

It's that wonderful time of year when we celebrate the incredible birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are all very excited about Christmas and all the blessings to be shared with family and friends.

It was great to be able to fill eight shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year. Its a special time to think about sharing gifts and God's love.

We will be decorating the daycare soon. Even the tiniest tots enjoy the colorful pretty lights.

We are hoping for an Elf on the Shelf at daycare. If you would be interested in donating one we would really appreciate it. Thank you so much!

We have two new little ones joining us soon. Little Sadie and Everett start next month. Everett's mom lived in the parsonage when she was a child and her dad was Pastor at Christ Lutheran. We are very happy to have two cute new friends at daycare. Welcome!

We have many fun holiday activities planned. We will be making fun art projects and gifts for the parents. We will also have at least one yummy cookie baking day. When we bake we learn about math and science and three of the four senses.

Our songs for December will be *Wonderful Christmastime*, *Come on Ring those Bells*, *Silent Night*, and *Away in a Manger*.

We love to sing and dance everyday.

If you play an instrument and would like to play for us sometime, just give us a call. We would love to sing and dance with you.

Wishing you all an amazing and wonderful Christmas!

Jesus is the reason we celebrate this miraculous season.

Blessings to everyone!



**THANK YOU**

Thank you for sponsoring an American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you so much for hosting us for this first time blood drive. You did amazing and hope to see you next time!

Thanks,

Leah, Brad, & Brittany

Dear Friends at Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your warm welcome that you shared with us when we came and shared and sang at your church. We appreciate being allowed to sing and share what wonderful things that Christ and the Holy Spirit are working out in the clients that we work with. The sharing publicly allows the men to review and strengthen the changes. Your help has been and will be appreciated. We look forward to visiting. If you have any questions, please contact us and we will help anyway we can.

Love in Christ & Blessings,

Daniel Kimball - Rep & Coach

### Upcoming Ministries:

**January 20, 2018**

#### **AALC Revitalization Workshop**

*By Pastor Dean Stoner,*

*National Home Mission Developer*

Come and join in to see how we can revitalize Christ Lutheran Church for years to come

Coffee/Conversation 8:30 AM

Workshop at 9:30 AM

**Sunday, Feb. 18**

#### **Sarah Mae and the Birkeland Boys**

#### **Dates to be announced:**

A spiritual growth opportunity: The ABGs of Faith. Be prepared to grow in your relationship to God through participation in a spiritual discipline. Watch for details.

Pastor Carl's cell phone number: 770-828-5937.

A 9 week financial peace course by Dave Ramsey focusing on living debt free.

Watch for more information coming in January.



Everyone is invited to attend the Esther Circle Tree Trimming activity on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. Please come out and help decorate the church for the season. Dinner will be provided.

#### **Join us for the 8th annual Husband & Wife Valentine Ball Friday, February 9, 2017 6:30-11:00 PM At Backwoods Event Center in Proctor**

The cost is \$70.00 per couple

Dinner choices are: salmon, sirloin, chicken, or roasted vegetable pasta.

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.

Tickets may be purchased online beginning Dec. 2.

Contact Carolyn Lofald with any questions.

We have a limited number of tickets available, so please plan early.



Esther Circle will have a clothesline in the fellowship hall for hats, mittens, gently used or new jackets and boots for kids in need.

Please bring your items to the church by December 25th.

Thank you for your donations!



*The next Hannah Circle  
Food Share will be  
on December 10*



Tickets for the 22nd annual Father/Daughter Ball will go on sale Sat. Dec. 2 at 9 AM.

Tickets are sold online only and are \$25.00 per person..

Dates for the 2018 Ball are

Saturday, Jan. 27 & Feb. 3

We would love to be able to provide complimentary tickets to this year's Father Daughter Ball for all the dads from the MN Adult and Teen Challenge program that would like to attend.

If you would like to donate, please make out a check to the church and include a note in the memo that it is for the F/D Ball TC ticket.

Thank you for giving a special blessing to these families this Christmas!

## 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."

## MISSION OF THE MONTH DONATIONS FOR:

MN Adult & Teen Challenge (October) \$1,346

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.

### The Gift of Perspective

If giving this year makes you feel anxious, remember that Jesus wants us to release our worries about money to Him (Luke 12:22-23)

If you are feeling pressure to give more than you can afford, remember that true gifts can't be bought, and love isn't measured by things. Consider the gift of time, care, prayer, food, or adventure.

(Acts 3:6)

If you're tempted to buy things for yourself ('cause let's be honest...this totally happens!) or someone else but don't have the budget for it, remember that God has already given us everything we need in Him.

(Ephesians 1:3; 1 Corinthians 1:7)

If you're stressed about the mayhem of gift buying, remember that God cares about everything you do, and He wants to help you.

(Proverbs 16:3)

If you're disgruntled by grumpy shoppers, inept service people, and long lines, remember that you are a light in the world, and an ambassador for Jesus. Practice patience, kindness, and self-control.

(Mathew 5:14; Galatians 5:22,23)

If you're irritated at family members who seem overly fixated on gifts they want to receive, remember that we all have weaknesses and fall short of God's best. Speak the truth when it fits, and pray that generosity will fill the hearts of everyone.

(Roman 3:23)

From: Jesus-Centered Life

### FINANCIAL UPDATE: Annual Budget: \$240,428; Weekly \$4,624; YTD Need \$217,328

	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Daycare</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>11/19/2017</b>	\$ 3,229	\$ 0	\$ 30	\$ 3,259
<b>Year to Date</b>	\$ 129,887	\$ 7,750	\$ 50,455	\$ 188,092

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