



Christ's Messenger

Christ Lutheran
Church, AALC

CARL'S CORNER

JANUARY 2018

If you, like me, are growing older and sometimes forget where you put things, a psychologist has come up with an answer: bark like a dog. Yes, when you set your keys down and you want to remember where you left them, just bark. (I'm not making this up.) He doesn't say whether you have to bark again – or what kind of dog to sound like – when you're looking for the lost item.

So, if you notice me barking during worship services this year, don't think I've gone mad. I might just be looking for my hymnbook.

Could be that this system might replace my Little Red Book. Almost every year for the last 40 years I've ordered a little red appointment book from Augsburg-Fortress Press. It's become so important to me that losing it is like losing my mind. It has spaces for all my appointments, it lists all the Christian holidays, appropriate Scriptures and even the colors for the altar on any given Sunday.

Siri will never replace my Little Red Book.

Neither will any other appointment book, most of which I've tried to use, then discarded.

I keep a stack of Little Red Books tucked away to remind me of all the ways that God has blessed me through the years and as I look ahead in the current Little Red Book it's as if God is granting me by His grace all the days that are approaching and there's a certain excitement and expectation of God's grace.

It's 2018 now. By the time my Little Red Book is filled with the love of God in daily living, Christ Lutheran Church will be a pleasant memory of friendships initiated that will be renewed at the End of Time when we're gathered around the Throne. We'll feast together where Christ is the Light and time is no more. You'll have a "real pastor," we will have said our good-byes, you'll be rejoicing in ministry together with a new spiritual leader and I'll be remembering what a pleasure it was to be among the members of Christ Lutheran.

And I'll be looking for that Little Red Book that I put down someplace. Ruf, Ruf!

Pastor Carl

Mid-Week
Bible Studies
Wed. at 6:30

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

Thur., Jan. 18
Women's Bible Study

Sat. Jan. 20
8:30 AM
AALC Revitalization
Workshop

Sat., Jan. 27
Father/Daughter Ball

PACT Televised Services

Duluth:

Charter Ch. 180
Sat. @ 9AM & 9PM;
Sun. @ 7AM

Superior:

SCMC 180
Wed. @ 6:00pm
Sun. @ 10:00am

Christ Lutheran Church

2415 Ensign St.
Duluth, MN 55811

Phone:
218-722-7537

website:
clcduluth.org

email:
church@clcduluth.org

Call Committee Update

As the new year begins, the process of calling a new full-time pastor will move ahead. We expect to receive during the month of January names of available candidates from our Presiding Pastor, Rev. Curtis Leins. As soon as we receive the names, we plan to contact the candidates and arrange the first interviews.

Meanwhile, the Call Committee is considering conducting forums at which members will be encouraged to offer their expectations and suggestions regarding pastoral leadership. We are also putting together a written questionnaire that will help us poll the congregation.

To be able to vote when a pastor is called, Article VI section B3 of the constitution stipulates that "Voting Members shall be those who are members in good standing, and who have attained the age of 18 years." The Council is in the process of putting together a current Voting Member list.

Our constitution stipulates that "It shall be the privilege and duty of members to:

1. Make diligent use of the Means of Grace, both Word and Sacraments;
2. Live a Christian life in accordance with the Word of God and the Confession of the Church;
3. Support the work of the congregation and of The American Association of Lutheran Churches."

If you have any questions whether you are an official Voting Member, please let the Council know.

The Call of a pastor will be by a 2/3 majority vote at a rightly called Congregational Meeting. The quorum is 25% of the Voting Members. Voting is by secret ballot and members must be present at the meeting to vote.

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: Carolyn Lofald

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
**Women's Bible Study -
3rd Thursday 10 AM**
**Lutherans for Life -
2nd Sunday 6:30PM**

Council Meeting-2nd Thursday

**Deadline for submitting
news for the January
Messenger is Fri. Jan. 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.
Thank you!*

January 2018 Serving Schedule

January 7

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

January 14

Ushers: Les Johnson & Kim Matuseski; David Wood; Matthew Virkus
Greeter: Grace Wells

January 21

Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar; Keith Youngren, Paul Holt
Greeters: Bob & Kay Dahl

January 28

Ushers: Bob & Pam Halvorson; Gary & Carolyn Lofald
Greeters: Norma Johnson

February 4

Ushers: Les Johnson & Kim Matuseski; David Wood; Matthew Virkus
Greeter: Grace Wells

Trustees:

January 7: Stacy Homstad & Bill Arezzo
January 14: Grace Wells & Kim Mitchell
January 21: Sandy Carlson & Sue Boder
January 28: Wendy Pickar & Ouitdee Carson
February 4: Stacy Homstad & Bill Arezzo

Coffee Servers:

January 7: Hannah Circle
January 14: LL
January 21: Dorcas Circle
January 28: Council Group 1
February 4: Hannah Circle

Officers for 2018 were elected in October and will be officially installed at the worship service on January 7.
Christ Lutheran Church Council for 2018:

President: Jim Carlson	Deacons: Gary Lofald Kim Matuseski Les Johnson Dale Lund Keith Youngren Carol Ziemer	Trustees: Wendy Pickar Sandy Carlson Bill Arezzo Kim Mitchell Sue Boder Stacy Homstad Grace Wells Ouitdee Carson
Vice President: Carolyn Lofald		
Treasurer: Laurie Wiita		

*Many thanks to the outgoing members of the Christ Lutheran Church Council who have served so faithfully over the last few years.
We truly appreciate the time and effort everyone has put into their area of serving.
We would also like to welcome those new members who will be joining us.
We look forward to serving the Lord together as we endeavor to
"know Christ and make Him known."*

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—Carolyn Lofald
 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:

The AALC

Pray for Our Church

Outreaches

Pray for Each Other

The family of Dorothy Jean
 Vigliaturo

Pray for our Country

Pray for our Troops

Persecuted Christians

Throughout the World

Those with Health needs:

Ann Rogers
 Lynn Erickson
 Gerald Bartels
 Aletha Bartels
 Lorna McLean*
 Shirley & Sig Randa*
 Bryan Goepfinger*
 Brian MacDonald
 David MacDonald

Those with Health needs:

Donna Swanson*
 Shirley Kern*
 Dennis Peterson*
 Larry Kubiak**
 Bill & Jane McLean**
 Wayne & Jean Sundstrom**
 Katie Lund**
 Susan Johnson**
 Dave Schlossin
 Vi Boder
 Russ & Carol Schramm
 Carl Swanson
 Ruth Dahl
 Florence Kubiak
 Leo Plewa
 Mary Jenny
 Marlene Stauber

*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 accidently overlooked, please contact the church office. We apologize for any oversights.



On behalf of the Salvation Army, thank you to all those who signed up this Christmas season to ring bells for the Red Kettle event! Merry Christmas and God's blessings to everyone!

John Kubiak

Merry Christmas and thank you for the cookies and lovely plant in full bloom.

Orien Olson

Thanks from Pastor Carl & Joan

Our thanks for the hospitality, remembrances and generosity from the congregation during the Christmas season. We truly felt welcomed to our new church home and appreciate the way acceptance was measured in abundance toward us.

Epiphany

January 7 begins the season of Epiphany. Epiphany means "appearance," especially the appearance or manifestation of God. During this season our Biblical appointed texts follow the earthly ministry of The Messiah as He teaches, heals and calls disciples. It's a time of rejoicing – God among us in all His glory and the celebration of His presence. Thus, the mood of the season is, well, good times. Happiness. Joy. Party time. Music is typically more upbeat and gatherings are festive. We also focus on the teachings of our Lord. It's a good time to not only attend gatherings, but, if you haven't already, go to the Adult Bible studies on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. The Sunday adult studies are in the sanctuary following the worship gatherings.

The Messiah is here! Rejoice!



On Sunday January 14th, the Luther League is sponsoring "Bring A Youth To Church" day. We would like to encourage everyone in the church to invite a youth to join us for worship that day. Bring a neighbor, friend or relative to church. After church, coffee time, and Sunday school/Bible study, all youth are invited to stay for lunch and fellowship with the Luther League. Lunch and fellowship will be from 12-2. See any of the Luther League leaders if you have any questions or need more information. Luther League will meet the first and third Wednesday of the month and all youth the second and fourth until Lent starts.

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

Happy New Year Everyone!

We celebrated many birthdays the past several weeks at daycare.

Our most favorite one was Jesus birthday!

A new year is a time of new beginnings. We have been having lots of fun at Open Arms. This month we are learning about new life in Christ. We will also be starting some great new activities. One of our new activities will be learning new memory verses through music. Our most favorite songs are *Happy Dance* by Mercy Me and *This Little Light of Mine*.

This month we will be focusing on creative expression. The children will be dancing, painting and creating special books about their families.

We are so grateful and blessed by all of you who have prayed for the children at daycare. Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support.

Thank you Peggy Wiita for the cute snowman. That was so thoughtful of you ! Everyone really likes it!

We appreciate all of you so very much.

Many thanks to our dedicated, kind and caring board. Carolyn, Grace and Laurie we appreciate all you do for us. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without all of you. Thank you, Thank you !, Thank you!

Thank you Gwen for the love and patience you so freely give each week. You are an amazing and wonderful gift to us.

Thank you Jim, Gary and Mike for all the extra work you have so graciously done at the parsonage. We are so happy to have everything working well.

If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, old things have passed away, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Have an incredible New Year!



Mary Jo

January 20, 2018
AALC Revitalization Workshop

How does the church thrive in the 21st Century? Pastor Dean Stoner from our national office will address the challenge at a special seminar on Saturday, Jan. 20 at Christ Lutheran.

Pastor Dean will lead the seminar starting at 9 a.m. Arrive at 8:30 for coffee. We break for lunch, then conclude around 1:30 p.m.

The seminar is designed for all members and friends associated with us. Issues include establishing our identity in the community, using social media, emphasizing outreach, and developing vibrant ministries.

Pastor Dean will be the guest preacher on Sunday, Jan. 21 and will conduct a follow-up forum during the Adult Education time.

Sunday, Feb. 18
Sarah Mae and the Birkeland Boys

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.

Coming Soon:

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

Don't Forget!

**The first Sunday of each month is
 FOOD SHELF SUNDAY!**

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



The next Hannah Circle
 Food Share will be
 on January 14



Dates for the 2018 Ball are Sat., Jan. 27 & Feb. 3

It's not too late to buy tickets for our
 22nd Annual Father Daughter Ball!

This is a wonderful opportunity to make lasting memories. Please share this information with your family and friends. Check out our website for more information.

Please pray for this event. Pray that we will have full capacity both evenings. Pray this event will strengthen the relationships between all the fathers and daughters that attend. Pray also that when they hear our Godly message it will not only reach their ears, but that it will touch their hearts and minds as well. Thank you - bless you!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

The Father Daughter Ball Committee will be looking for volunteers to help again this year at our events. We would like as many as possibly to be from our church. Watch for the sign-up sheet in early January!



Still looking for that one-of-a-kind Christmas gift?

Why not surprise your spouse with tickets to the
 8th Annual Husband & Wife Valentine Ball

Friday, February 9, 2018
 Doors open at 6:30pm

Blackwoods Convention Center ~ Proctor
 Purchase tickets online at:
FatherDaughterBallDuluth.org

\$70/couple

**January Mission of the Month:
American Association of
Lutheran Churches**

The AALC believes that God *is* relevant to our world today and His Word never changes as 1 Peter 1:25 says: “the Word of the Lord stands forever.” The AALC believes that Jesus is the only way of salvation, as Jesus Himself said in John 14:6, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

It is the goal of the AALC to confess Christ in this unstable world. With this goal in mind, the AALC formed to encourage and equip churches to carry out mission and ministry in their location, to help

churches and pastors communicate the changeless Gospel to an ever-changing culture, and to train Lutheran Pastors (strengthen pastors to strengthen congregations).

The AALC is distinctively Lutheran in its core beliefs. Every church and pastor that voluntarily joins the AALC confesses that they believe the words of Scripture to be the inspired Word of God and the

only infallible rule of faith and practice and affirms without reservation the doctrines explained in the *Book of Concord*.

Today the AALC continues with great pleasure in the conservative ALC tradition to offer a viable alternative to Lutheran congregations across America who find themselves unable to feel comfortable in either of the larger Lutheran church bodies.

The AALC is our supporting organization and we need to help spread the Good Word by our continuing financial support. Please consider making a donation to the AALC throughout the month of February.

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.*”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jean Clark
January 4

Mike Pickar
January 15

Gabe Wiita
January 22

Barb Johnson
January 7

Wendy Pickar
January 17

Shirley Kern
January 29

Dale Lund
January 14

Courtney Carson
January 19

So teach us to number our days that we get a heart of wisdom.

Psalms 90:12

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.

Christ Lutheran Church Call Committee:

Jim Carlson	Carolyn Lofald	Mike Pickar
Lillian Fontaine	Kim Matuseski	Mark Wiita
Bob Halvorson	Kim Mitchell	Keith Youngren

**FINANCIAL UPDATE: Annual Budget: \$240,428; Weekly \$4,624;
YTD Need \$231,200 (Numbers for 2017 budget)**

	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Daycare</u>	<u>Total</u>
12/10/2017	\$ 1,604	\$ 500	\$ 2,192	\$ 4,296
Year to Date	\$ 141,865	\$ 8,250	\$ 54,914	\$ 205,029

Full Financial reports are posted in the Narthex after each council meeting

**Collection for November Mission of the Month:
MN Adult & Teen Challenge - \$987.00**

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21