



Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2015

Pastor's Mail Pouch	1
Serving Schedules	2
Prayer Requests	3
Youth & Daycare News	4
Church Happenings	5
Mission of the Month	6

Christ's Messenger



FROM THE PASTOR'S MAILPOUCH

"Behold, He is coming with the clouds. Every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him. Even so. Amen."

Rev. 1:7



Wouldn't it be ironic if the return of Christ Jesus to judge the living and the dead would coincide with our 'worldly' celebration of His first coming on Christmas Day? Year after year, the secular and materialistic nature of the holiday season that we celebrate toward the end of December becomes less

about Christ and more about what He came to save us from.

It is frustrating to see. We know that we can't change the world, ... but, lest we lose heart, we can have an influence upon those we love and care for by the personal way that we live among them, and the intentional manner in which we celebrate the season with them. I am a husband, a father, and a grandfather. I also happen to be the pastor of a church family that I love dearly.

In light of my faith in Christ, my trust in God's Word, my awareness that the Day of Judgment is coming, and my concern for the eternal salvation of those I love I cannot celebrate another Christmas with the attitude of "Life as Usual."

So, where do I look to discover a proper way to celebrate the birth of Christ and of God's coming to dwell among us in the God/Man Jesus, born in Bethlehem? Matthew's Gospel captures the lives of an undisclosed number of Magi, wise-men from the east, who upon recognizing the natal star in the heavens, set out on a journey to "worship" this new-born King, and to offer Him gifts.

They did three significant things ... *as a faithful response* to being made aware of the birth of Jesus, the God/Man and Savior of the world. 1. They left their normal routine in order to search out the place and the person which had been made known to them in

the appearance of the star.

2. When they found Him (perhaps 1 - 1 1/2 years later), they bowed their knees in worship to this King whom they identified not only as an earthly king, but also and especially as the King of kings, God in human form. For this is why they bowed the knee: to actually worship Jesus. And 3., they offered to Jesus costly gifts [gold, frankincense, and myrrh]. No doubt, these selected gifts had been directed by God the Holy Spirit, since the gifts clearly reflected what Jesus had come into this world to do and to accomplish.

In light of the example of the wise-men, what ought the child of God and follower of Christ in the 21st century to do as a faithful expression of the celebration of Christ's birth and life among us? 1. Set apart time from the regular routine of life to pursue Christ and a deeper understanding of Him through personal and family devotional reading and Bible study. 2. Make worship a priority in your local church ... a priority higher even than the scheduling of family Christmas celebrations. And, make worship a consistent practice throughout the course of the whole year. 3. Offer special gifts to the Lord ... and not necessarily to family members or loved ones, as so many gift exchanges have done (including our own family). [Gift exchanges are not in keeping with the example of the Magi. Those men did not give gifts to one another. They gave them to Jesus.] Examples for us: special gifts to the Christ's church for the ongoing work of ministry; or gifts to others in need, given anonymously and prayerfully, ... giving to them as though giving to Christ Himself (Mt. 25:40).

Jesus Christ is still the real reason for the season!

A Blessed Advent Season and Christmas Season to All,

Pastor Myke Main

December 2015 Serving Schedule

Pastor: Rev. Michael Main
pastor@clcduluth.org
390-9987

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

Council President: Les Johnson
president@clcduluth.org

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—11:00am
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
Jan. Messenger is Mon. Dec. 28.**

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!

December 6

Ushers: Jim & Gayle Maruska; Mike & Wendy Pickar
Greeters: Jan Main

December 9

Ushers: Keith & Trudy Youngren

December 13

Ushers: Keith & Trudy Youngren; Mike & Pam Wendling
Greeters: Norma Johnson & Jane Sommerfeld

December 16

Ushers: Mike & Pam Wendling

December 20

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

December 24

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn Lofald; Bob & Pam Halvorson
Greeters: John & Bonnie Kubiak

December 27

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

January 3

Ushers: Jim & Gayle Maruska; Mike & Wendy Pickar
Greeters: Grace Wells

Trustees:

Dec. 2: Gwen Nelson & Sandy Carlson
Dec. 6: Gwen Nelson & Sandy Carlson
Dec. 9: Libby Vukson & Spring Billiar
Dec. 13: Libby Vukson & Spring Billiar
Dec. 16: Bob Dahl & Kim Matuseski
Dec. 20: Bob Dahl & Kim Matuseski
Dec. 24: Wendy Pickar & Ouitdee Cason
Dec. 27: Wendy Pickar & Ouitdee Carson

Coffee Servers:

Dec. 6: Library
Dec. 13: Council 2
Dec. 20: ROC
Dec. 27: Esther Circle

December Acolytes:

Dec. 6: Jacob Borham & Zachary Carson
Dec. 13: Jessica Stumpf & Allyson Jurek
Dec. 20: Jacob Borham & Zachary Carson
Dec. 27: Jessica Stumpf & Allyson Jurek

*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. Thank you.*

Happy Birthday

Melissa Tucker
December 2

Bob Dahl
December 7

Carol Johnson
December 24

Robert Larson
December 27

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!*
Psalm 139:16,17

Please Pray for...

The leadership of the church:

Pastor Main
President—Les Johnson
Vice President—Jim Carlson
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:
Faith Comes By Hearing

Pray for each other

Pray for our Country

Pray for our troops—remember
those from our church:
Tyler Johnson
John Hodgkins
Derek Miletich
Ben Youngren
David Kirkland
Bill Kirkland

Persecuted Christians throughout the world

Those with Health needs:

Roy Hammerstadt
Chelsea Holt**
Joan Hansen**
Larry Kubiak**
Jean Sundstrom**
Dorothy Jean Vigliaturo***
Aletha Bartels*
Vi Boder
Brian MacDonald
Katie Lund**
Elna Linder**
Mark Malander
Marvin Lofald***
John Schneeberger
Dale Lund
Laura Melander
Eli Miletich
Carol Johnson
Barbara Johnson
Olivia Schadel*
Shirley Erickson
Lee Koivisto (Spring's son)
Russ Schramm

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

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

Philippians 4:6

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 dona-
tions between Genesis House and Union Gospel Mission.**

***Making the Transition from
'Where We Are' to
'Where We Ought to Be'
in the Family Christmas Celebration***

P. S. - "Practically Speaking" ! (an additional thought following the message from the Pastor's Pen)

The transition in our family Christmas traditions from 'where we have been' to 'where we ought to be' requires much prayer and courage and sensitivity. [This year, in our household, each of our adult children, their spouses, and our grandchildren will still receive a gift under the tree. However, it will be limited to one gift. Jan and I are asking our children not to give us gifts, in lieu of placing a gift under the tree for [the Local Food Pantry, a Needy Family, or Salvation Army]. Included in the time of the gift opening is a family worship service with a litany that includes the reading of the Christmas Story and the Visitation of the Magi, as well as parts for the kids to say and participate in, parts for the adults to read, songs for all to sing, and prayers for the family to pray together. - If you desire to see what such a family Christmas service might look like, I will have it available in the church office. Just ask for a copy.

Advent and Christmas Blessings from our home to yours,

Pastor Myke



The next
Hannah Circle
Food Share will be on
Dec. 13

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!
What a blessing it is to be able to celebrate Jesus birth. We had a busy month at Open Arms. We filled twelve shoeboxes for Operation Christmas child. It was an exciting time!



I would like to share the following thoughts of thankfulness by the kids with all of you. We are so thankful that Jesus loves us. We thank you Jesus for taking good care of us. We are thankful for Jesus songs. We are thankful that Jesus died on the cross for us because He loves us so much. We thank you Jesus that you are in our hearts. One sweet girl is thankful that Grandpa is celebrating Thanksgiving with God. We are looking forward to lots of fun times this month. Some of our activities will be...
A date night for the parents
A Christmas sing a long
A birthday party for Jesus
Elf visits

If you would like to purchase a gift for Open Arms this Christmas we will have a wish list at church. Some things we would love to have are...

Wubble balls, pretend cell phones, Barbie clothes, Daniel Tiger toys, Clifford and Daniel Tiger DVDs, Christian CDs, trucks, super hero toys, Hot Wheels cars or anything you think the kids would enjoy.

If you would prefer to give a gift card to Hobby Lobby, Target, Explorations, or TJMaxx we can do the shopping and we will let you know what you blessed us with.

Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness!!! Blessings to everyone for an amazing Christmas!

The kids send love and hugs to all!

Mary Jo





A total of 23 "Operation Christmas Child" boxes were sent from the church and Daycare. Thanks to everyone who helped make this ministry a success!



The ladies of Mary Circle would like to invite everyone to their annual Christmas Luncheon Program Thursday, December 3rd at 12:00.

The cost is \$8.00 Please call the church office (722-7537) to RSVP.



Tickets for the 20th annual Father/Daughter Ball will go on sale Sat. Dec. 5 at 9 AM. Tickets are sold online only.

Dates for the 2016 Ball are Feb. 6 & 13



Dear friends,
We have been blessed with an opportunity to help at a children's home in Reynosa, Mexico. We will be part of a mission's team from Lakeview Christian Academy that will be heading out in February to travel by coach bus to the Rio Bravo Children's Home to help wherever our team is needed. This will be our 7th trip to Reynosa. Over the years we have painted, constructed church pews, stained, laid bricks, cleared brush, sheet-rocked, and dug a foundation. The highlight of the trip to Reynosa is playing with the children who live at the mission. We put on a carnival for them while we are there and when our workday is over and they are through with school we join them on the playground until dark. The date of the trip is February 12-20. We would appreciate your prayers. If you could specifically pray for:

- safety
- good health
- safe crossing into and from Mexico
- that we can be Jesus' hands and feet to everyone we meet

We would appreciate any financial support you may be able to help us with. Donations can be made directly to us or to:
Lakeview Christian Academy
155 West Central Entrance
Duluth, MN 55811
(Checks payable to LCA are tax-deductible. If you do not put our name on the check please include it on a separate piece of paper stating it is for the DeRocher mission trip)
You can read more about the mission trip on LCA website www.rio-bravo.org/. We would love to tell you all about the trip as soon as we get back!
Thank you,



Debbie DeRocher
Grace DeRocher
Pearl DeRocher

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 discipled, 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."

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.



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 Kim Matuseski.



Electronic Giving

If you are interested in setting up electronic giving for your offerings to the church, please contact Laurie Wiita (218)391-4533 for more information.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: 2015 Annual Budget: \$245,283; Weekly \$4,717

	Offering	Other	Daycare	Total	Budget	Over (Under)
11/08/2015	\$ 2,124	400	325	2,849	4,717	(1,868)
YTD	\$140,904	9,176	36,316	186,396	212,265	(19,851)

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