



Our Mission:

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

# Christ's Messenger



## From the Pastor's Pen

By Pastor Myke Main

**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"**

Luke 2:14

In a culture that seeks to be 'politically correct' and 'religiously tolerant', the message of the angels on the night of the Savior's birth stands in stark contrast.

Certainly, the message is GOOD NEWS for a world which needs a Savior to deliver it from sin and its destructive consequences. For sin [rebellion against God and His sovereign rule over His creation, reflected in unbelief and disobedience] is the reason why we experience a broken relationship with God, broken relationships with those around us, hostility and injustice, illness and suffering and death. We need a Savior who will rule in truth and in righteousness. That Savior has come, and His name is Jesus.

The Scriptures testify that Jesus is "the Savior of the world" (John 4:42) and that as the Savior of the world, He freely gave Himself as "a ransom for all" (1 Timothy 2:6). However, we ought not to think that though the LORD our God has mercifully provided a Savior for all people that all will be saved. For there are many who want nothing to do with God and His gracious offer of a new start: a restored relationship with Him through a life of divinely inspired repentance and divinely inspired faith in the Savior of the world, Jesus.

When we meditate upon the words which were spoken by the angels and heard by the shepherds that night of Christ's birth over the fields outside of Bethlehem, this is exactly what they were proclaiming. God will not force anyone into His kingdom; nor does a sinful soul enter into it automatically. The kingdom of truth and righteousness, eternal and yet existing even now, will be experienced by those **"with whom He is pleased."** It is those souls who recognize their sin and their need for a Savior to deliver them from their 'self-destructive' ways. It is those souls who, in surrendering their lives to the lordship of Jesus begin to experience peace with God in hearing the GOOD NEWS that the Savior is here "for them."

God's Word is very clear in telling us that **"without faith, it is impossible to please God."** Such a divinely inspired faith is not merely intellectual agreement about certain 'facts' concerning God. Nor is it reflected merely in acts of service in the local church. Christ Jesus came to save us from such superficial attempts to be religious and pious before God.

God is pleased with us when we recognize the basic truth about ourselves as fallen creatures: that there is nothing in us that is pleasing to God, nothing that we can offer Him to make Him love us. Only then will we embrace the birth of Jesus as GOOD NEWS, since He alone offers us deliverance from our sin and our helpless sinful condition.

True faith which pleases God is a work of God that starts with a humble and repentant heart; it declares, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner." Such a divinely inspired faith starts from nothing and is built up by the Word of God alone. For **"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ."**

Through His Word, God the Holy Spirit teaches us the truth about ourselves and about God and His ways. He shows us the difference between His ways and the ways of the world in which we live. And, He inspires us day by day to commit our ways to Him, even when the world around us does not understand.

The life of faith in the Savior is not an easy one; but it is the only one that brings true peace with God and eternal life with Him.

May the new year be an opportunity for all of us to draw near to God in a new way; and may we all experience the life with God which the Savior came to bring "to us" and "for us."

**"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"**

## January 2017

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### This Month:

Wed. Night Bible Studies at 6:30 PM

Sat., Jan. 14 5-8 PM  
Family Game & Potluck Night

Sat., Jan. 21 from 9-3  
Sew-a-Thon Service Project

Sat., Jan. 28  
Father/Daughter Ball at the DECC

Christ Lutheran Church, TAALC

2415 Ensign St.  
Duluth, MN 55811

218-722-7537

website:

[clcduluth.org](http://clcduluth.org)

email:

[church@clcduluth.org](mailto:church@clcduluth.org)

## January 2017 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.*

### January 1

**Ushers:** Jim & Gayle Maruska; Mike & Wendy Pickar

**Greeter:** Grace Wells

### January 8

**Ushers:** Mike & Pam Wendling; Keith & Trudy Youngren

**Greeter:** Jan Main

### January 15

**Ushers:** Bob & Pam Halvorson; John Holt; Paul Holt

**Greeter:** Norma Johnson

### January 22

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

**Greeters:** John & Bonnie Kubiak

### January 29

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

**Greeter:** Norma Johnson

### February 5

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

**Greeters:** Grace Wells



### Trustees:

**Jan. 1:** Sandy Carlson & Sue Boder

**Jan. 8:** Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar

**Jan. 15:** Stacy Homstad & Bill Arrezo

**Jan. 22:** Grace Wells & Kim Mitchell

**Jan. 29:** Sandy Carlson & Sue Boder

**Feb. 5:** Ouitdee Carson & Wendy Pickar

### Coffee Servers:

**Jan. 1:** Hannah Circle

**Jan. 8:** ROC

**Jan. 15:** Dorcas Circle

**Jan. 22:** Council Group 1

**Jan. 29:** Library

**Feb. 5:** Hannah Circle

### Acolytes:

**Jan. 1:** Jacqueline Stumpf & Callie Showalter

**Jan. 8:** Hanna Hovland & Lydia Wiita

**Jan. 15:** Jacqueline Stumpf & Callie Showalter

**Jan. 22:** Hanna Hovland & Lydia Wiita

**Jan. 29:** Jacqueline Stumpf & Callie Showalter

**Feb. 5:** Hanna Hovland & Lydia Wiita

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 February Messenger is Thur.,  
Jan. 26**

#### **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:

AALC

### Pray for Our Church Outreaches

Father/ Daughter Ball  
Husband & Wife Valentine Ball

### 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:

Edna Corser\*  
Olivia Schadel\* (Benedictine)  
Bryan Goeppinger\*  
Vicki Johnson\*\*  
Jane McLean\*\*  
David MacDonald\*\*  
Jim Maruska\*\*(surgery 12-15)  
Elna Linder\*\*  
Wayne Sundstrom\*\*  
Chelsea Holt\*\*(infusions 12-30)  
Larry Kubiak\*\*  
Jean Sundstrom\*\*  
Katie Lund\*\*  
Karl Randa\*\*  
Dorothy Jean Vigliaturo\*\*\*  
Shirley Randa  
Vi Boder  
Mark Malander  
Russ Schramm  
Carl Swanson  
Ruth Dahl  
Carol Schramm  
Aletha Bartels  
Florence Kubiak  
Brian MacDonald  
Bruce Wells  
Lil Fontaine  
Julie Guddeck (Surgery 12-22)  
Darlyn Sundstrom  
Marge Novack

\*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

**Jean Clark  
January 4**

**Barb Johnson  
January 7**

**Mike Pickar  
January 15**

**Wendy Pickar  
January 17**

**Courtney Carson  
January 19**

**Gabe Wiita  
January 22**

**Shirley Kern  
January 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*

## THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU IN THE NEW YEAR AHEAD!

Both in this joyous Christmas season and always, we are grateful for our friendship and fellowship with you, the loving members of Christ Lutheran Church. Jan and I would like to thank you for your outpouring of generosity and love in the Christmas greetings and gifts we have received in this season. May we all continue to rejoice in the gift of God's Son "to us" as our Savior, Lord and King.

Love in Christ Jesus,

***Pastor Myke and & Jan***



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

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It has been a fun December at Open Arms. One of our favorite things this month has been learning about Christmas.

Some of the children's favorite songs are...

*Feliz Nobby Bop; Silent Night, Glory Night; We Wish You a Merry Christmas and a Happy Shoe Years; and Away in a Manger No Crib for a Bed the Little Lord Jesus Sat Down on His Bed.*

Their lunch time prayers have continued to be so very precious!

We are excited this month to share our fun days with school age children who are on their winter break. We had a pajama day this month and we built things with giant boxes. A new little boy named Joshua will be joining us in January. we are so happy to have another new friend.

Fun things coming up in January are...

Grocery store fun, Pet Shop, Beach Day, and Noah's Ark.

Special thanks to Peggy Wiita and the Esther Circle for the wonderful gifts!

The children were so joyful when they opened their presents. They danced around and played the prayer bears over and over. We also read the books right away and they just loved the cute bags.

Thank you for being so thoughtful by thinking of us.

The parents were also very impressed with the thoughtful gifts.

Thank you Judi for the beautiful pillowcases the kids loved them! It was so nice of you!

Thank you Gwen for the special treats! We are so happy to have you as our reading buddy.

Thank you Grace , Carolyn, Laurie and Jim for all you do for us.

Blessings to everyone for a wonderful New Year!

*The word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory,  
the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father full of grace and truth.*

*John 1:14*

- Mary Jo



## Sew-A-Thon Service Project

**What:** An all day sewing activity to make little gowns for the neonatal intensive care units and nurseries in the area hospitals.

**When:** Saturday, January 21st 9:00-3:00  
Come for an hour or come for the day or whatever works for you. Everything will be set up and ready to go during that time.

**Who:** If you can use a scissors OR iron OR sew, you are wanted! No sewing skills are needed!

**Provided:** Lunch, snacks, 4 sewing machines, all fabric, thread, pattern, and some scissors.

**Bring:** You may want to bring your own scissors (please put your name of them) and your own machine, if you prefer.

**Bonus:** Free T-shirt if you help.

Can't come but want to help? Ziploc bags will be provided which will contain the fabric, pattern and simple, clear directions. You can take them home and work on them at your leisure. These will be available beginning January 22 in the narthex of the church. A container for returning them will be set out.

Any questions: Contact Jan Main at 218-213-8627.

Funds provided by Thrivent

The dates for the 21st annual Father/Daughter Ball are Sat., Jan. 28 & Sat., Feb. 4  
Tickets are sold online only at [fatherdaughterballduluth.org](http://fatherdaughterballduluth.org).



Join us for the 7th annual  
**Husband & Wife Valentine Ball**  
Friday, February 10, 2017 from 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.

## Family Potluck & Game Night

Sat., Jan.10 from 5-8 PM



The next  
Hannah Circle  
Food Share will  
be on January 15





## January Mission of the Month:

### American Lutheran Theological Seminary

The American Association of Lutheran Churches has a great need. Within the next few years many, if not most of our current pastors will retire. Many congregations will be in need of pastors. The American Lutheran Theological Seminary exists to meet this need by training pastors to serve in our congregations.

The American Lutheran Theological Seminary is committed to the inerrancy, relevance, and intensive study of God's Word. Study of the scriptures dominates the curriculum. Students at ALTS study and apply the content of a Biblical and confessional Lutheran curriculum to the contemporary American and global context.

The ALTS curriculum and program is designed for a two-fold purpose:

1. To train men for the office of Holy ministry by teaching them to be:
  - a. Preacher-teacher-evangelists
  - b. Prayer and worship leaders
  - c. Public apologists
  - d. Pastoral caregivers and counselors
  - e. Practical equippers of the Saints
2. To train lay people for leadership roles in Christ's church.

The ALTS relies on the generous financial gifts of others to continue to serve the church by training pastors for the ministry of the Word and Sacraments. They welcome all who would join them in supporting and sustaining the structures and programs through which their students are prepared to serve His church through the ministry of the gospel.

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."



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 "know Christ and make Him known."

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*Assuming that you have heard about Him and were taught in Him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.*

*Ephesians 4:21-24*

*To the Christ Lutheran Church family,  
Thank you for the gift card I received for Christmas! It was very nice of you and I appreciated it so much! It is a joy to work with all of you to further the work of Christ and share His love!*

*Your secretary,  
Juliana*

*Thank You*

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

	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Daycare</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>12/24/2016</b>	\$ 2,872	\$ 0	\$ 2,851	\$ 5,723
<b>Year to Date</b>	\$142,217	\$ 12,825	\$58,449	\$213,619

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*