



# Christ's Messenger

## CARL'S CORNER

**FEBRUARY 2018**

Do you remember what I said I would do when I arrived as your Interim Pastor in November? That's right. A Journey of Faith called, "The ABGs of Faith." Well, this is the month we start. The Date of Destiny - Sunday, February 18.

The First Sunday in Lent, this will be your opportunity to grow in faith through a discipline leading up to the celebration of the Lord's resurrection on April 1.

So, Pastor, what's a Journey of Faith anyway? Glad you asked. It's a three-part process:

--On February 18 (or a later Sunday if you are unable to be there), you come forward during the worship service to make a three-week commitment to participate. You sign a book enrolling in the Journey, participate in a brief commitment ceremony, then receive a sealed envelope containing a daily spiritual discipline. (Please note: this is a secret assignment not to be shared with anyone other than those on the Journey.)

--The discipline will require a daily spiritual exercise that will take up about 20 minutes of time. (C'mon. That's not a lot. Anyone can do that!). Follow the instructions for a three-week period. Hint: they will follow a pattern of understanding the basics of faith

based on A, B and G. Can't tell you more than that because it's a secret.

--At the end of your three-week exercise, you will be released from your discipline through a ceremony at the worship service in which you return your exercises to the altar.

Who can participate? I'd say anyone post-confirmation age. Especially young people, this would be important for you since it will give you tools for a lifetime of living in a challenging culture.

Maybe you've never participated in something like this before and you have questions about it. Don't hesitate to ask. I can describe it more - but I can't give away the secret. If, after you open the envelope for the first time, you decide it's not something you want to do, you can be released just by asking.

I hope you will take advantage of an opportunity to be a part of a group of believers on this Journey of Faith. Start praying now about your participation.

Pastor Carl

### Update from the Call Committee

Our committee has been meeting on a regular basis to gather information and to pray. We are now in the process of compiling interview questions to ask of our applicants. We will be having a Skype/facetime (computer face to face interview) with two candidates very soon. The Call Committee has also sent out a questionnaire to each household in our congregation to ask some general questions and we are requesting your input on selecting the Pastor that will lead us. Please prayerfully consider the questions and answer to the best of your ability. We do not ask for your name, we just want to gather the input of our congregation. Please mail this back to us by February 15. We ask that you keep this process in prayer, pray for the committee members and ask that God will reveal to us who our next Shepherd will be.

Call committee members are: Chair - Jim Carlson, Vice-Chair - Mark Wiita, members: Lillian Fontaine, Bob Halvorson, Carolyn Lofald, Kim Matuseski, Kim Mitchell, Mike Pickar and Keith Youngren.

Mid-Week  
Bible Studies  
Wed. at 6:30

Sat., Feb. 3  
Father/Daughter Ball

Fri., Feb. 9  
Husband & Wife  
Valentine Ball  
at Proctor  
Blackwoods

Sat., Feb. 10  
5-8 PM  
Family Game &  
Potluck Night

Wed., Feb.  
14, 21, & 28  
5:15 Soup Supper  
6:30 Lenten Service

Thur., Feb. 15  
Women's Bible Study

Sun., Feb. 18 @ 3 PM  
Sarah Mae & the  
Birkeland Boys

**Christ Lutheran  
Church**

2415 Ensign St.  
Duluth, MN 55811

Phone:  
218-722-7537

website:  
clcduluth.org

email:

church@clcduluth.org

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 March  
Messenger is Fri., Feb. 23.**

### PACT Televised Services

#### Duluth:

Charter Ch. 180

Sat. @ 9AM & 9PM;

Sun. @ 7AM

#### Superior:

SCMC 180

Wed. @ 6:00pm

Sun. @ 10:00am

#### Hermantown:

Sun. @ 8 AM

Thur. @ 2 PM

Sat. 8 @ AM

## February 2018 Serving Schedule

### February 4

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

**Greeter:** Norma Johnson

### February 11

**Ushers:** Bob & Pam Halvorson; Jim Carlson; Paul Holt

**Greeter:** Grace Wells

### February 14 - Lenten Service

**Ushers:** Gary & Carolyn Lofald

### February 18

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

**Greeters:** Grace Wells

### February 21 - Lenten Service

**Ushers:** Jim & Gayle Maruska

### February 25

**Ushers:** Mike & Wendy Pickar; Jim Carlson; Paul Holt

**Greeters:** Bob & Kay Dahl

### February 28 - Lenten Service

**Ushers:** Mike & Wendy Pickar

### March 4

**Ushers:** Bob & Pam Halvorson; Gary & Carolyn Lofald

**Greeters:** Norma Johnson

### Trustees:

**February 4:** Stacy Homstad & Bill Arezzo

**February 11:** Grace Wells & Kim Mitchell

**February 14:** Sandy Carlson & Sue Boder

**February 18:** Sandy Carlson & Sue Boder

**February 21:** Wendy Pickar & Quitdee Carson

**February 25:** Wendy Pickar & Quitdee Carson

**February 28:** Stacy Homstad & Bill Arezzo

**March 4:** Stacy Homstad & Bill Arezzo

### Coffee Servers:

**February 4:** Hannah Circle

**February 11:** LL

**February 18:** Council Group 1

**February 25:** Esther Circle

**March 4:** Hannah Circle

The next Hannah  
Circle Food  
Share will be  
on February 11



**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.

**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  
ALTS President

**The Call Committee****Youth Group Kids & Leaders****Open Arms Day Care****Our Mission of the Month:**

The Encounter  
Fellowship of Christian Athletes

**Pray for Our Church  
Outreaches****Pray for Each Other**

The Family of Russell Holm

**Pray for our Country****Pray for our Troops****Persecuted Christians  
Throughout the World****Those with Health needs:**

Lynn Erickson  
Gerald Bartels  
Aletha Bartels  
Shirley & Sig Randa\*  
Bryan Goeppinger\*  
Brian MacDonald

**Those with Health needs:**

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

\*in the hospital, 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.

**Trustee Updates**

We finished 2017 off well. Complete financial reports are posted in the Narthex or can be obtained by email if you contact the office. Totals for Mission of the Month giving are included; thank you all for supporting this vital part of the ministry. Remember, your offering envelope box includes a monthly Mission envelope.

We are looking ahead, trying to anticipate large expenses in our future such as roof repair replacement (shingles do no last forever); parking lot resurfacing and repair; and replacement of that pesky boiler.

The boiler that runs our heating system has needed some hefty repairs over the last couple of years. We have been told that it has reached its life expectancy and will probably need to be replaced in the next 1-3 years.

We will be looking into a replacement system, no date for replacement is set, but we do need to start the process. Estimate replacement cost is \$20-30,000.00. Discussion about installing outside play equipment has also taken place. The annual budget is planned for expected monthly expenses, not replacement of equipment.

The Board would like members to consider regular giving to a Building/capital equipment replacement fund. Please label these donations accordingly. The Board wants to thank you for continuing financial support of Christ Lutheran Church ministries.

If you would like to make a donation to help off-set the costs of the replacement laptop and microphones, or if you would like to help with the cost of the recent boiler repair, please make your check out to Christ Lutheran Church and simply add a note in the memo area telling us what your gift is for. Thank you for your generosity!

Happy February!

We hope this month is filled with lots of love for all of you. Remember to look for the Lord's blessings everyday and share his love with everyone you can. The children are learning to count their blessings. Even on our most difficult days we can see blessings from above.

We have lots of fun things planned for this month. We will be learning about the many different ways we can share God's love. We are making little baskets of love to share with the residents at Viewcrest. We will also be hosting a lovely date night for the parents. The children will be celebrating Valentines Day with a fun party. We hope you have a great Valentines Day too.

It is so sweet to hear the children pray each day. Here are a few recent ones...

"Dear Jesus please bless my mommy, daddy and my crazy puppy."

"I believe in Jesus. I believe in God. Thank you for my friends and the whole world."

"Jesus loves you, Yes He sure does!"

"Thank you God for my toys and my family."

"I have a heart full of Joy and happy things."

We love singing and playing musical instruments. Please give us a call if you would like to share your gift of music with the children sometime. We would absolutely love that.

Our songs and verses for February are: *I've Got The Joy, Joy, Joy; My God Is So Big; Psalm 98 ESV;NIV*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth, break forth into joyous song and sing praises, make a joyful noise before the King our Lord. Psalm 100:2

Serve the Lord with gladness, come into His presence with singing May you all be blessed with what makes you happiest! 1 Corinthians 13

Love is patient, Love is kind...

Blessings,

Mary Jo



**THANK YOU**

*Dear Christ Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you so very much for the thoughtful and generous gift of the Super One gift card. I really appreciate it.*

*It is a blessing caring for the children and Open Arms. I have enjoyed attending services at Christ Lutheran, everyone is very welcoming and the music is great! Thank you again! Blessings to all,*

*Mary Jo*

*Thank you to everyone who helped make the Esther Circle hat and mitten clothesline project for Piedmont School a success again this past year! We are so blessed to be part of such a caring congregation.*

*The Esther Circle Ladies*

*Dear friends at Christ Lutheran,*

*Thank you so much for sending a gift of \$550 and your prayers which I know accompanied it! Your partnership in this ministry is priceless in the Kingdom of God. We never know our impact. Today at a local college a man greeted me, said he was an atheist, and asked me to pray for his friend with pancreatic cancer. We never know what will happen in this world, but we trust the Lord is at work. I hope many in you congregation will follow our website, our Facebook or Twitter feeds, and otherwise stay in touch and pray.*

*Grace to you all!*

*Dave Spotts*

*WittenbergCoMo.com*

*Dear Christ Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you for thinking of me at Christmas! I so much appreciated the Super One gift card.*

*It is a blessing to work here at Christ Lutheran and I am thankful for all of you!*

*Juliana Morgan*

Sunday, Feb. 18

### Sarah Mae and the Birkeland Boys

Need to chase those winter blues away? Sarah Mae and the Birkeland Boys will return for an afternoon concert on February 18 at 3 PM. We will be having a pulled pork dinner to follow. Please invite others to join us to enjoy this gospel-based bluegrass group. A freewill offering will be taken for them. More information about the group can be found on their website: [sarahmaeandthebirkelandboys.com](http://sarahmaeandthebirkelandboys.com)

The Evangelism committee is asking for volunteers to provide deserts and help with serving and clean-up; sign-up sheet on bulletin board downstairs or contact Sandy Carlson or Susie Decker.

Afraid to open those bills? Worried about unexpected expenses? Want to start saving for retirement or college for the kids? Come to the *Money Matters* course and learn how to become financially stable. We are hosting a 9 week course "Financial Peace University." Cost is \$75 if you sign up by February 15, \$85 after that (per person or couple). You will receive workbooks and other materials in addition to attending the weekly meeting. We will be meeting on Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8 PM in the fellowship hall (March 6,13,20; April 3,10,17,24; May 1,8). Class starts with an instructional video and then group discussion and questions. More information can be found on their website: [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com)

You won't want to miss our mid-week services during Lent this year. Mind-stretching presentations on the basics of Christian faith will be presented in a challenging way. Clear your mind before each service to help in comprehending the secrets of the truth of our proclamation of Jesus as Lord. The teachings will set a sure foundation for you to live a Christian life in a post-Christian culture and prepare you for the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord.

It's not too late to purchase tickets to the Husband & Wife Valentine Ball.

The cost is \$70/couple and includes a delicious meal along with the opportunity to enjoy music, dancing, and conversation with your friends. The event is on Friday, February 9, 2018 at the Blackwoods Convention Center in Proctor. Doors open at 6:30pm. Purchase tickets online at: [FatherDaughterBallDuluth.org](http://FatherDaughterBallDuluth.org)



The Youth will not be meeting on Wednesday nights during lent. We are available to help your group set tables and/or clean up. Please let us know how we can help you.

Family potluck game night is February 10th from 5-8. Fun for the whole family! See you there!

The youth are planning some more events. Stay tuned for more details.

### SECURITY UPDATE

Nothing seems to be as quick or easy as it often sounds. We are having on-going discussion regarding how to feel safe during our time at church. We are discussing which doors should have locks, how to ensure access while making sure our members and building are safe. Soon the doors will be re-keyed and anyone with an old key will need to get a new one – The trustees will be keeping a tighter control on the number of keys given out, so not everyone currently with a key will be getting a replacement. Remember the church is open during office hours which means if your meeting starts during normal office hours, you can get in. Anticipate and plan, church access outside of business hours can be arranged through the office. Each group needs to designate a person or two to walk through the building and make sure all exit doors are locked and that the building is empty at the end of your meeting or activity. During Sunday worship, the basement door will be locked, and the upstairs doors will be monitored by the ushers. After service has ended, the basement door will be unlocked, and the narthex doors will be locked (you can always get out). This limits unseen access during worship service. If you need to learn how to set the panic bars on the doors, please see one of the trustees. Please be patient with us as we complete this process and pray for guidance for us.

### CHURCH CLEANING

Braden, our regular janitor injured his ankle and is currently off. We have short term cleaning covered but are also asking groups to be diligent regarding cleaning up after yourselves, emptying garbage and checking bathrooms for supplies when the church is used for an activity. If you notice an area that needs attention – feel free to grab a mop or broom. Leave a note on the board outside the office if an area needs attention or a supply is running low if you are unable to take care of it yourself. Please pray for Braden as he recovers.

## February Missions of the Month:

### THE ENCOUNTER

In one word, the Encounter is about relationships. Everything that the Encounter does is with the goal of building meaningful and empowering relationships. The knowledge that each person is created by God with a specific and special purpose makes each person matter to the people at the Encounter.

The Encounter is designed to be a place where young people will want to spend time. They've engineered programs that give them opportunities to explore their interests and develop their talents. They want to see a generation of young people actively making a difference in the lives of their friends and in the world around them.

The people at the Encounter acknowledge that the Christian faith is life-changing and therefore it is central to what they do there. They spend time talking about matters of faith and encourage young people to explore the Christian faith and ask questions for themselves. No part of their faith programming is ever forced on young people, and a young person is free to participate in all aspects of their programming regardless of their religious affiliation.

### FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

Since 1954, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has been challenging coaches and athletes at all levels of sports to use the powerful medium of athletics to impact the world for Jesus Christ. FCA focuses on serving the local community by equipping, empowering, and encouraging people to make a difference for Christ. It is their desire to present coaches and athletes, and all the people they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church.

FCA ministers to coaches and athletes through Bible studies, prayer support, discipleship and mentoring, resources, outreach events, and retreats. FCA partners with local churches, businesses, parents, and volunteers to invest in coaches and athletes participating in club, recreational and youth sports teams.

Their relationships demonstrate steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word through integrity, serving, teamwork, and excellence.

Please prayerfully consider a donation to either of this month's missions, The Encounter or The Fellowship of Christian Athletes. You may make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church and designate one of these missions specifically, or if you don't designate a recipient, we will divide the gift between the two missions. Thank you for your continued support in our mission "To know Christ and to make Him known."

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Quitdee Carson**  
February 1

**Kristine Holt**  
February 22

**Al Decker**  
February 4

**Judy Stocke**  
February 24

**Kim Mitchell**  
February 10

**Darlene Saaf**  
February 25

**Mike Wendling**  
February 16

**John Kubiak**  
February 28

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

*Psalm 90:12*

### 2018 Mission of the Month Designations

#### January:

TAALC

#### July:

Wittenberg Door  
Campus Ministry

#### February:

Fellowship of Christian Athletes &  
The Encounter

#### August:

Lutheran Bible Translators

#### March:

East European Missions Network

#### September:

Gideons

#### April:

TAALC

#### October:

MN Adult & Teen Challenge

#### May:

Project Timothy &  
World Gospel Mission

#### November:

TAALC

#### June:

The Sending Place

#### December:

Faith Comes By Hearing

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### Christ Lutheran Church Call Committee:

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

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**FINANCIAL UPDATE: Annual Budget: \$241,059; Weekly \$4,636;  
YTD Need \$13,908**

	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Daycare</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>1/21/2018</b>	\$ 2,524	\$ 0	\$ 2,609	\$ 5,133
<b>YTD</b>	\$ 8,858	\$ 590	\$ 5,212	\$ 14,660

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

**Collection for December Mission of the Month:  
Faith Comes By Hearing: \$660.00**

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

*Matthew 6:21*