

Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



"To know Christ,
and make Him known."



In the Hands of the Refiner

PRACTICAL FAITH IN GOD

My childhood autumns in Florida hold precious memories — believe it or not, taking out warmer clothing, hot cocoa, harvest moons, cool crisp air, bon fires, a well-stocked pantry, and best of all—FOOTBALL! I love it.

The autumn of life is a strange mixture of nostalgia, blessings, and potential. It yields the harvest of seeds we've sown throughout life and braces us for colder days to come. When life's autumn arrives, we look back and better understand the way God led us; but we still have work to do—the best and fullest. It's a good transition time.

"Autumn" occurs only once in the Bible. In Jude 1:12, where false teachers are compared to "trees in autumn that are doubly dead, for they bear no fruit and have been pulled up by the roots," implying that the true teaching of God's Word must be fruitful, and autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year. How can we take advantage of our autumn?

The seasons come and go, and our focus is to be on the God who remains unchanged and unchanging. "LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." (Psalm 34:5-2)

There's a lot of unwelcome change in our world. Moral and societal changes bother us most when we turn on our television, the internet, or look at the newspapers. We're painfully aware that our kids are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children.

I remember living in Arizona, especially the valley of the sun – Phoenix; the surrounding vistas are awe-inspiring. The plants are so green, the cactus thrives, and you can see for miles (when there is no pollution alert). The time of year I'm remembering is autumn, if

you want to call it that, the air can be crisp and cold. The evening dew bursts forth and slaps your face with the fresh scent of the moist ground. Then, before you know it, the green desert starts to turn yellow, and withers to brown when the first 100-degree day hits. Everything, including humans, look for shade and relief from the heat of the sun. When things get hot for us, when things start to wither around us and turn bad where do we go for relief? What is one to do? We are to turn to God and trust in Him. Why is that? The reason is that even if we have family, friends, or co-workers to share our problems with, we still must rely totally on God. Everything we experience, we experience on our own. If you think about it closely, at the end of the day, we don't have family, we don't have friends, and all we have is God. It is you and God. Faith in God gets us through to Him Who gets through to us. God gives us what no one else can possibly give us, and that is strength and hope.

Is there a lesson here? Yes. Here is the lesson: who we have a relationship with, what we have or don't have, has no bearing on our faith in God or in our relationship with Him.

Life can beat us down hard, and we have to deal with it the best way we can. It will either make us stronger by faith in God and trusting in Him to care for us, or it will take us down into the pits of despair because we allow it to dominate and control us. Sometimes we try to be noble, or stoic, and think we can handle everything on our own. We all have to deal with life in our own way, behind our own eyes, from which no one else can see or experience. Growing strong out of these lessons is the only way to go. There is no other way to go, except down into the depths of weakness and self indulgence. Faith in God will keep us out of the grim depths of despair.

(continued on next page)

Every Month:

Join us for prayer
Every Tuesday at Noon

Every Wed. at 6:30 PM
Adult Bible Study

Mary Circle
First Thursday of each
month at 9:30 AM

Esther Circle
First Thursday of each
month at 6:30 PM

Dorcas Circle
Second Monday of each
month at 1:00 PM

Lutherans for Life
Second Sunday of each
month at 6:30 PM

Council Meeting
Second Thursday of
each month at 6:30 PM

**Christ Lutheran
Church**

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Ouitdee Carson
V.P.: Carolyn Lofald

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1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

The Bible teaches that in all things we are to give thanks. We are to thank God for the bad situations that happen to us, and not just the blessings He bestows upon us. In prayer, however, we are to thank God for being there with us through it all. I've learned something deeper about faith and being grateful to God. It is that God gives us the strength and hope to carry on. We are to thank God for Who He Is and all of what He has done for us, mostly for sending His Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior! I believe God allows tragedies, death, disasters, illness or calamity in our lives. He allows it and He is there when it happens and is there when it is over, and is there when we are healing from it. He is our source of strength, courage, healing and vitality.

Andre Crouch wrote a famous and moving song about trusting God, It goes like this, "Through it all, through it all...I've learned to trust in Jesus, I've learned to trust in God. Through it all, through it all...I've learned to depend upon His Word."

Through it all, He gives us faith, hope, and love. Through it all, He bestows upon us His mercy, His compassion, and His grace. Through it all, He gives us forgiveness of sins, life and salvation – His salvation. Though it all may be a mystery, He saves us, nonetheless.

May God bless your September!

Pastor Gary †

September 2019 Serving Schedule

Ushers & Greeters

September 1

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo; David Wood; Jim Carlson

Greeter: Marge Youngren & Norma Johnson

September 8

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn Lofald; Ouitdee Carson; Zach Carson

Greeter: Chuck & Lowaine Morris

September 15

Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar; Jim Carlson; David Wood

Greeter: Volunteers

September 22

Ushers: Ethan Wiita; Lydia Wiita; Gabe Wiita; Jim Carlson

Greeter: Volunteers

September 29

Ushers: Keith Youngren; Mark Youngren; Grace Wells; Jim Carlson

Trustees:

September 1: Jim & Wendy

September 8: Grace & Bill

September 15: Sandy & Laura

September 22: Jim & Wendy

September 29: Grace & Bill

Coffee Servers:

September 1: Mary Circle

September 8: Luther League

September 15: Dorcas Circle

September 22: Council Group 1

September 29: Volunteers



Do you need a ride to or from church?

Please call the office if you are in need of transportation and we will connect you to someone that can help! Office: 218-722-7537

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Messengers will be available to pick up at church, any newsletters not picked up after 2 Sundays will be mailed. They will also be emailed. If you have not received an email copy and you have an email address, please contact the church office: church@clcduluth.org to be on the list.
- **Sarah Mae and the Birkeland Boys concert & BBQ** - Sat., Sept. 14 at 4PM
- **Bible study** meets every Wed. at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Join us for prayer** every Tuesday at 12:00 in the Fireside Room.
- **CLC CLUBHOUSE** - Sunday School for grades 1-6. Starting September 15 at 11 AM.
CLC LIGHTHOUSE - Youth meeting for Grades 7-12. We'll start on Sept. 18 and meet each Wed. at 6:30 PM in the Loft.
- **Confirmation classes** begin Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 PM
- **Ministry to Piedmont Elementary** - God has opened a door of love and service for us to bless the students and staff of Piedmont Elementary. The Evangelism Committee prepared a gift of school supplies for the teachers that was delivered on August 28. There are some other exciting ways we can love our neighbors across the street -
 - We can help stock the Kids Kupperboard each month with school supplies, snacks, and basic needs for the students.
 - We have invited the principal of Piedmont Elementary, Beth Shermoen, to share with us on a future Sunday.
 - We have been invited to volunteer at the school to read stories to the students, just like we do for our own children and grandchildren!
- **Upcoming TAALC Events** -
 - 9/28/19 Hold the Line! Conference in Waseca, MN
 - 10/17/19 West Great Lakes Regional Conference in St. Paul, MN
 - 10/27-10/31 2019 Annual Pastor's Conference in St. Paul, MN
- If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, there is a sign up sheet in the narthex.



CLC Services are now on our own
YouTube channel!
Go to YouTube and look for
Christ Lutheran Church Duluth.
Services are added each week.

PACT Televised Services

Duluth: Charter Ch. 180 -
Sat. @ 9AM & 9PM; Sun. @ 7AM
Superior: SCMC 180 -
Sun. @ 10:00am; Wed. @ 6:00pm
Hermantown: MediaCom Ch. 7 -
Sun. @ 8AM Thur. @ 2 PM Sat. @ 8 AM

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:14

Our Pastor & the Leadership of the Church
Youth Group Kids & Leaders
Open Arms Daycare
Mission of the Month: *The Gideons*
Our Country, Military & Police

The teachers and students at all schools
Persecuted Christians throughout the world
Piedmont Elementary
Summer safety for students
Cindy Kent & family

THOSE WITH HEALTH NEEDS:

Judy Stocke
Kathleen Randa
Bryan Goeppinger
Brian MacDonald
Vi Boder
Shirley Kern
Dennis Peterson
Bill & Jane McLean
Melanie Saeland

Jean Sundstrom
Katie Lund
Susan Johnson
Gerald & Aletha Bartels
Carol Johnson
Kaylea Guddeck
Carol Blair
Darlene Saaf
Evelyn Johnson

Shirley Randa
Russell & Carol Schramm
Ruth Dahl
Florence Kubiak
Diane Malander
Mary Jenny
Marlene Stauber
Mark Malander

If there are any people who have been accidentally overlooked, please contact the church office. We apologize for any oversights.

Dear Good Samaritan Members,

Thank you so very, very much for your amazing, thoughtful and generous gift.

My new glasses are really helping and I can't tell you how much I appreciate your kindness.

I've spent my entire life caring for others. I haven't taken care of myself. This is a huge gift and I thank you so much!

I hope to be able to do this for someone else some day.

Thank you again.

Mary Jo

Thank you!

Dear Church family,

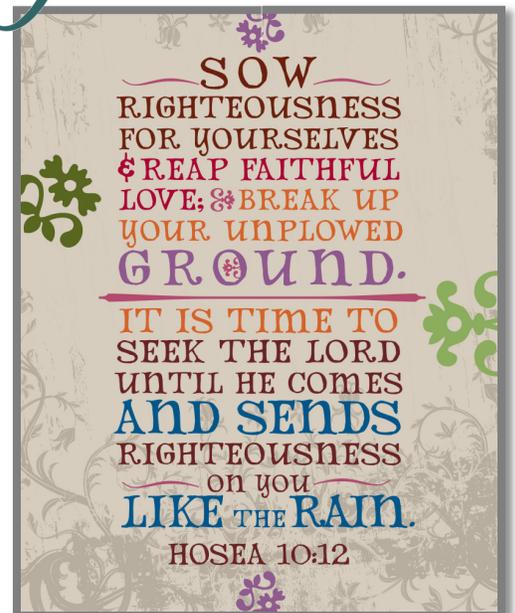
It was nice to see Peggy, Peggy and Jerry lived in my neighborhood as well as her mom and dad.

I'm doing pretty good, still have a lot of problems with my foot.

I hope everything is going well at church, I do miss all of you. I hope it won't be long before I can come. I hope to see you all soon.

Love & Prayers,

Florence Kubiak



Everyday is a blessing at Open Arms!



He made the moon to mark the seasons, the sun knows it's time for setting.

Psalm 104:9

How can it be fall already?

Later sunrises and earlier sunsets are sure signs of the changing seasons. Our summer went so quickly. We are excited to celebrate fall with the beautiful colorful leaves and cool morning temps.

Thank you again, Jim for installing the air conditioner for us. It made life better at daycare. Somehow it had a magical affect at nap time, too! Thank you for always making the lawn look so nice, too. The kids are so excited when they see you mowing the lawn. They say "There's Jim, there's Jim! He's nice!"

We celebrated Hendrik's first birthday in August. He is almost walking on his own and he is becoming very vocal. Joshua is very excited about celebrating his fourth birthday this month. His new baby brother or sister will be arriving in October.

Thank you so much Pastor Gary for teaching us all about your drums. We loved the lesson and performance.

Cora and Joshua really enjoyed jumping for joy to the beat of the drums. We hope to visit with you again soon.

Thank you Norma for another wonderful visit. We really enjoy the special times with you. Thank you for the fun treats, too.

This month we will be learning about fall and harvest time. We will also be making stone soup and apple pies.

Our Bible stories will be from *Paw Paw Chuck's Bible Story Book* by Charles Swindoll.

We have been working on many new songs like *Look up Child* by Lauren Daigle and *Children of the Living God* by Fernando Ortega .

We so appreciate your prayers and support. Blessings to all of you!

Thank you!

Mary Jo

MAINTENANCE REPORT FOR AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

We hope everyone has been enjoying the wonderful summer that our Lord has blessed us with. I know many of you have been on vacations at your cabins, camping or just enjoying some time away.

To update you on a few maintenance items; we have continued to do some painting here and there within the church. We are blessed to have a wonderful custodian, Gary, that helps us out with so many things. We are in need of a couple volunteers to stain the exterior of the back entrance. If you are interested, please let me know. We're still on the schedule for the new back entrance patio slab. We are waiting to get an outside sanctuary window replaced that is cracked. The stained glass is okay. We are still waiting to have the cupola stained glass installed.

We are working with the adjusters to finish up the final paperwork for the insurance claim. The carillon is working and we now have chimes and hymns playing again. We want to extend a huge thank you to Coons Aggregate Supply up in Saginaw for donating all the sand for our play yard project! What a blessing that was. A thank you on behalf of our congregation was sent to them. Thanks to Mike Pickar for picking that up and getting it installed for us. Our thanks again to the Esther Circle for keeping the gardens looking so nice for us and to Jim Carlson for all his extra efforts mowing and trimming around the building and daycare. Again, please bring to our attention anything that needs attention or repair.

With God's blessings, Carolyn

EVANGELISM UPDATE

The Evangelism Committee has been busy praying and brainstorming over the summer. We did host a couple of movie nights here at church and all that attended enjoyed watching these movies while eating ice cream treats and munching on popcorn!

We had a presence at the Neighborhood Night Out Event over at the Piedmont Dental Office on Tuesday, August 6. We set up a tent and gave out little goody bags to 100 adults and 100 children which included information about our church tucked inside. We hope to expand upon that mission next year.

Most recently, Sue DeSha made contact with the principal of Piedmont School. It seems there is a great need to help their teachers as many of the children that attend are from low income families. She inquired as to what items the teachers could use most and was given a list. It was decided to put together gift baskets for each of the 26 teachers and two social workers. So, "Sew", we went to work! Under Sandy's direction, Grace, Susie and Carolyn got together for a couple of days and sewed quilted gift baskets for the 26 teachers and two social workers at the school. We filled these 28 baskets with Clorox wipes, dry erase markers, pens, pop-up note pads and some snacks for the students to start off the year. Special thanks to Mike Pickar for the generous Nabisco gift of 5 cases of cheese snack crackers. Each teacher was able to take two packages for their room. We also provided a specifically designed devotional for each teacher to use throughout the year. Sue and Carolyn met with the teachers early on Wednesday morning, August 28. We presented each of them with a gift box, read them a devotional and said a prayer over them. Many of the teachers were moved to tears, thanked us and gave us hugs. You could sense the Holy Spirit working through this encounter, it was very moving! We shared that we are just across the street. We also encouraged them, if they have a need, to reach out and we will do our best to provide assistance. The

school is also looking for grandparents or aunts and uncles to come in and read to the students. This greatly helps the teachers out at the school. Another teacher requested help during craft time or keeping youngsters focused especially in the morning while they are helping other students. You would be required to pass a background check to provide this much needed service for them. Please contact Sue if you are interested. We hope to have Principal Shermoen come on Sunday, October 13, and share with us about future needs at the school. They will be needing snacks for students that do not have the means to bring their own. We would also like to provide, if we can, supplies to keep their Kids Kuponboard up and running. More information and a specific list will follow on this partnership. We are discussing shifting our focus from the food shelf to working specifically with these needs for Piedmont School. Please pray about this!

We are also excited to have Sarah Mae & the Birkeland Boys back to perform for us on Saturday, September 14, starting at 4:00 with a Barbeque to follow. We will collect a free-will offering for them. Dale has placed some posters up around the neighborhood and we are advertising on facebook and social media. We are looking forward to another wonderful evening with the Birkeland's and to providing this opportunity to interact with others in our community and share our faith. Rumor has it, we may have apple bars at this event also!

Please keep all these things in your prayers and let us know if you would like to help out with any of these missions. We welcome you, your help & suggestions!

With God's blessings and abundant Grace!

Pastor Gary, Sue, Grace, Susie, Sandy, Dale, and Carolyn,

DISCIPLESHIP OUTFITTERS UPDATE

Discipleship Outfitters is on the move bringing a new Sunday School curriculum to life for grade school kids and an outstanding Bible study for middle and high school students!



CLC CLUBHOUSE for Grades 1-6

Sunday School is starting September 15th. At 11:00 am! Each Sunday we will ENGAGE, EXPLORE, and EXPRESS with Cross Explorations! We'll pray, sing, create, act, play, study the Bible together, and I can't wait! Please RSVP by email to suedesha@gmail.com if you have children or grandchildren who will be attending Sunday School with us. Call Sue at 320-815-1561 with questions, and please let me know if you are interested in helping or teaching!

CLC LIGHTHOUSE for Grades 7-12

Our identify and purpose in Christ is an amazing, life-changing gift from God! You're invited to dive deep into God's Master Plan for Life each Wednesday at 6:30 pm in The Loft. We'll get started Wednesday, September 18th. Please RSVP by text or email to 320-815-1561 / suedesha@gmail.com



OUTREACH TO PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

God has opened a door of love and service for us to bless the children of Piedmont Elementary! Here are some exciting ways we can love our neighbors across the street!

- We can help stock the Kids Kupboard each month with school supplies, snacks, and basic needs for the students.
- We have been invited to volunteer at the school to read stories to the students, just like we do for our own children and grandchildren.
- One of the kindergarten teachers needs volunteers to help in her classroom between 9-11 am each week.

They need our help! Please prayerfully consider how you can serve, and be on the lookout for more details coming soon.

SAVE THE DATE!

CLC Lighthouse Youth will be hosting the annual spaghetti dinner that's part of our congregational meeting on Wednesday 10/16/19. Yum!

NEW BULLETIN BOARD PHOTOS

Oh, what an amazing year we've had so far! Take a moment to enjoy photos from special events this year on all the bulletin boards.

Love and blessing to all!

Sue

September Mission of the Month

GIDEONS

The Gideons International is an Association of Christian business and professional men and their wives dedicated to telling people about Jesus through sharing personally and by providing Bibles and New Testaments. While they are known worldwide for their work with hotels, they predominantly share Scriptures in schools and colleges, prisons and jails, hospitals, and medical offices.

Nearly half of the world's population lives on less than \$2 per day. For these people, purchasing a Bible or a New Testament would be impossible. With the help of the Gideons, these people receive a copy of God's Word in their language, at no charge.

Distributing copies of God's Word allows people to read the truth of God's love for themselves. It also provides a continuing witness after the Gideon leaves and makes it possible for people to grow in their faith.

To date, the Gideons have placed 1.9 billion Scriptures and are on their way to 2 billion with your support. Follow them on that journey as The Gideons partner with churches anywhere, to reach the unreached everywhere.

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."

Happy
Birthday

Diane Malander
September 13

Kelly Carson
September 19

Gayle Maruska
September 20

Eli Miletich
September 23

Sandy Carlson
September 24

Cindy Kent
September 29

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Jeremiah 29:11*

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

2019 Annual Budget: \$230,899; Weekly \$4,440; YTD Need \$146,520

	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Daycare</u>	<u>Total</u>
8/18/2019	\$3,106	\$0	\$3,547	\$6,653
Year to Date	\$94,948	\$5,549	\$35,341	\$135,727

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

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 Worship/Comm. 11:15 Bible Study <i>Coffee: Mary Circle</i>	6:00 AA 7:30 AA	12:00 Prayer Time 4-9 Dance	6:30 Adult Bible Study	9:30 Mary Circle 6:30 Esther Circle 4-9 Dance		
9:30 Worship 11:15 Bible Study	Pastor Gary at Pastor's Conference 6:00 AA 7:30 AA	12:00 Prayer Time 4-9 Dance	6:30 Adult Bible Study	5:30 Deacon/Trustee Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting 4-9 Dance		4 PM Sarah Mae & the Birkeland Boys concert & BBQ
6:30 Lutherans for Life <i>Coffee: Luther League</i>						
9:30 Worship/Comm. 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study <i>Coffee: Dorcas Circle</i>	6:00 AA 7:30 AA	12:00 Prayer Time 4-9 Dance	6:30 Adult Bible Study CLC Lighthouse	6:30 Confirmation Class 4-9 Dance		
9:30 Worship/Comm. 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study <i>Coffee: Council Group 1</i>	6:00 AA 7:30 AA	12:00 Prayer Time 4-9 Dance	6:30 Adult Bible Study CLC Lighthouse	6:30 Confirmation Class 4-9 Dance		Hold the Line! Conference in Waseca, MN
9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study <i>Coffee: Volunteers</i>						