



In the Hands of the Refiner

November 2019

The Five Solas of the Reformation

This month marks another year to celebrate the Reformation of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. When we speak of the Reformation, we think about Martin Luther, and the other magisterial reformers that helped change the Church and ultimately change the world.

Roused to action by the corruption and abuses they saw in the Roman Catholic Church of the time, visionary pastors and leaders like Martin Luther spearheaded the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century. It was a movement that transformed Christianity.

The Reformers were guided by the conviction that the church of their day had drifted away from the essential, original teachings of Christianity, especially what it was teaching about salvation—how people can be forgiven of sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and receive eternal life with God. The Reformation sought to re-orient Christianity on the original message of Jesus Christ and the early church.

The five Solae of the Protestant Reformation come from Latin word, *sola*, which means "alone". They are a foundational set of principles held by theologians and clergy to be central to the doctrine of salvation as taught by the Lutheran and Reformed branches of Protestantism. Each *sola* represents a key belief in the Lutheran and Reformed traditions in contradistinction to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church.

Introduction: Five Latin Phrases Every Lutheran Should Know

The following five Latin phrases summarize the Reformers' theological convictions about the essentials of Christianity. The first three were

emphasized by Martin Luther. Open your Bibles, and read the collaborating Scripture for each Sola.

1. Sola Scriptura (in Scripture alone)

The Holy Scriptures (the Bible) alone teaches all that is necessary for our salvation from sin and is the standard by which all Christian behavior must be measured. **2 Timothy 3:16**

2. Sola Gratia (by Grace alone)

In salvation we are rescued from God's wrath by His grace alone. God's spontaneous and unmerited favor is granted through the calling and regenerating work of the Holy Spirit who releases us from our willful bondage to sin and enables us to repent and believe in Christ. **Ephesians 2:8-10**

3. Sola Fide (through Faith alone)

Justification is by grace alone through faith alone. Justification can never be the reward or result of human works or merit, nor does it grow out of an infusion of Christ's righteousness, it is imputed to us. **Galatians 2:16**

4. Solus Christus (because of Christ alone)

Our salvation is accomplished by the mediatorial work of Jesus Christ alone. His sinless life and substitutionary death alone are sufficient for our justification and reconciliation to the Father. **John 14:6**

5. Soli Deo Gloria (for the Glory of God alone)

God glorifies Himself in all that He does. Therefore, we should acknowledge His highest purpose and live for His glory alone. **Isaiah 42:8**

(continued on page 5)

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**

2415 Ensign St.
Duluth, MN 55811
clcduluth.org

Pastor Gary DeSha
320-237-7448
pastor@clcduluth.org

Church Office:
218-722-7537
church@clcduluth.org

President:
Ouitdee Carson
V.P.: Carolyn Lofald

November 2019 Serving Schedule

Ushers & Greeters

November 3

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo; Mike & Pam Wendling

Greeter: Chuck & Lowaine Morris

November 10

Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar; Gary & Carolyn Lofald

Greeter: Volunteers

November 17

Ushers: Jim Carlson; David Wood; Mark Wiita; Gabe Wiita

Greeter: Norma Johnson

November 24

Ushers: Jim & Gayle Maruska; Keith Youngren; Mark Youngren

Greeter: Marge Youngren

November 27 (Thanksgiving Service)

Ushers: Jim & Sandy Carlson

Trustees:

November 3: Jim & Wendy

November 10: Grace & Bill

November 17: Sandy & Laura

November 24: Jim & Wendy

November 27: Grace & Bill

Coffee Servers:

November 3: Volunteers

November 10: CLC Lighthouse

November 17: Dorcas Circle

November 24: Council Group 1



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



Do you need a ride to or from church?
Please call the office if you are in need of
transportation, it would be a blessing for
someone to be able to help!

Office: 218-722-7537

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November Mission of the Month** is The American Association of Lutheran Churches.
- **Sunday School begins at 11 AM every Sunday.**
- **Adult Bible Study** meets Sunday at 11:15 AM.
- **Join us for prayer** every Tuesday at 12:00 in the Fireside Room.
- **Bible study** meets every Wed. at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- **CLC LIGHTHOUSE** for Grades 7-12 meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in The Loft.
- **Confirmation class** meets Thursdays at 6:30 PM
- **Tuesday, November 12 at 6 PM** - CLC Band of Brothers will meet at Sammy's Pizza in Hermantown (4310 Menard Dr., Hermantown).
- **Shoebboxes** for Samaritan's Purse need to be returned to church by November 18.
- **Wednesday, November 27 at 6:30 PM** - Thanksgiving Service
- **Esther Circle's** tree trimming & decorating activity will be on Thursday, December 5 at 5 PM. Everyone is welcome to join them, a light supper will follow the decorating.
- **Officers elected** at the Annual Congregational Meeting:
 - Vice President - Carolyn Lofald
 - Treasurer - Sandy Carlson
 - Trustee - Laurie Wiita



BOUN THORNE GOT A GLIMPSE OF GOD'S LOVE WHEN SHE RECEIVED AN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX GIFT AS A CHILD.

Boun Thorne grew up in a boat village in the Southeast Asian nation of Cambodia. At age 10 she received Bible teaching and an Operation Christmas Child shoebox—her first gift ever!

When Boun inquired why someone would send her a gift, a teacher at the home told her that it came from people who love her.

"Growing up, I never heard the words 'I love you' from my dad or my mom," Boun said, "but then someone who lives far away—that I don't even know—said they love me!"

Inside her shoebox gift, Boun found a yo-yo, her first stuffed animal, and a pair of flip-flops with plastic jewels on it. She often went without shoes as she worked on the fishing boats in her village, so having an extra pair of sandals was a special treat. These simple items accomplished something great in Boun's life: they showed her a glimpse of her Heavenly Father's care for her.

"God's love is big and He's so real! He can make the impossible happen," she said. "He can make someone love me when they don't even know me."

The Dorcas Circle is collecting Shoebboxes for Operation Christmas Child through November 18. If you are interested in this ministry please contact Arlene Ziemer or the office.

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
CLC Lighthouse & CLC Clubhouse- kids & leaders
All of our students from pre-school to college
Open Arms Daycare
Mission of the Month: TAALC

Our Country, Military & Police
The teachers and students at all schools
Persecuted Christians throughout the world
Piedmont Elementary
The steadfastness of our faith

THOSE WITH HEALTH NEEDS:

Judy Stocke
Kathleen Randa
Bryan Goepfinger
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
Barb Hanson

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

Thank you!

Thank you for your wonderfully generous gift of \$868.00 to the Women's Care Center. Your gift will be used to sustain and continue the missionary work of Duluth's pregnancy center in the heart of our city. This outreach is helping young women facing problem pregnancies to choose life for their babies. These women receive unconditional love and non-judgmental support through their time of crisis and help them take their first steps towards self-sufficiency. ..

Your support makes this outreach possible. Thank you for helping us to touch the lives of thousands of pregnant young women from our community and their precious babies.

Jennifer Woodall

Executive Director Women's Care Center

To Everyone,

Thank you so much for the love and prayers extended to me this year during my cancer journey. It was with all of you that I was able to be a survivor and get thru it all.

Gain, thank you, bless you all!

Melanie Swanson-Saeland



A heartfelt "Thank You" for the appreciation and gifts of love from the dearest congregation of Christ Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN.

What a wonderful Pastor's Appreciation Day!

Pastor Gary



(Cont. from page 1)

Definition: How the Five Solas Influence the Church Today

1. Sola Scriptura -- Without "Scripture Alone" the other Solas are in danger of being lost.

Martin Luther experienced this danger firsthand. Rome had elevated tradition so high that it became a second infallible source of divine revelation. Teachings contrary to scripture crept into the church and the voice of scripture was muffled. Martin Luther believed that the scriptures were the swaddling clothes of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If the Gospel was to be retrieved, and with it the other Solas, then scripture had to be elevated once again to the position of final, supreme authority. Sola scriptura meant that only Scripture, as God's inspired Word, is the church's inerrant, sufficient, and final authority. With biblical authority back in the pulpit, the believer would hear the message of scripture itself, and in that message the Gospel of God's free grace was brought to life again.

2. Sola Gratia -- Grace alone has just as much to do with the past as the present.

As Christians, sometimes we are drawn to that moment when we were converted. Yet the Reformation reminds us that our baptism and conversion is not the starting point for God's grace. Holy Scripture tells us, before the foundation of the world, God chose us not based on works or faith He foresaw in us, but purely because of His good and loving grace. To be saved by grace alone means we have been predestined by grace alone in eternity. Contrary to popular opinion, God's electing grace in eternity is not to be the cause of angst but the fountain and source of Christian comfort and assurance. Before we were born, before time began, God set His redeeming love on us, setting us apart so that we would receive all the blessings to be gained in Christ Jesus. Fittingly, God alone receives all the glory.

3. Sola Fide -- Faith alone is not an exemption from good works.

No one argued more passionately that we are justified through faith alone than Martin Luther. The ungodly are declared righteous by God not by looking to their own merits (not even in part), but by looking to Christ alone

with eyes of faith. What many forget, however, is that sola fide brought enormous criticism in return: If the sinner's works are irrelevant, then surely all incentive for good works is lost. "Not so!", Martin Luther countered. We may be justified through faith alone, but faith is never alone. The faith that justifies always produces a life of sanctification. Those who claim to be right with God but live like the devil prove that they never rightly understood sola fide to begin with. If one has trusted in Jesus Christ, then doing anything but living for Christ feels contradictory. Sola fide means the sinner has been liberated, set free to obey a new master, not to earn His favor but to enlist in His service as His loyal subject. With a new status, the believer now has a new allegiance.

4. Sola Christus -- Christ alone means we not only need Christ's death but His life as well.

When we think of the Gospel our hearts are turned to the cross and rightly so since it is at Calvary that Christ substituted Himself in our place, taking the punishment for our sin, so that we might be forgiven. Calvary, however, is only half the story. We not only need our sins forgiven but we desperately need the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ reckoned or imputed to us. Not only have we broken God's law, but we have failed to keep it as well. While we may not be justified by our own merits, we certainly are justified based upon Jesus Christ's good merits. His perfect obedience to the Father means that we not only have our filthy robes removed but we are adorned with the white, clean robe of Christ's righteousness, speaking for us before the judgment seat of God.

5. Soli Deo Gloria -- God's glory alone is more than a salutation.

If we have been chosen by grace alone, redeemed by the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone, and justified through faith alone, then our worship of our God far exceeds songs of praise on a Sunday morning. Soli Deo Gloria is more than a salutation at the end of our life with Christ. The **entire** Christian life is to be lived Coram Deo, in the presence of God. Whether one is changing diapers or international policies, plowing a field or working in an office, the Christian does all things before the face of God.



DISCIPLESHIP OUTFITTERS UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2019

Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)

WHAT'S IN A NAME? What is this thing called Discipleship Outfitters all about? Discipleship is first something done for us. Christ gives people to the church as gifts sent for the purpose of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. As we grow in love, grace, and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ through God's word by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are being equipped for service. Then

discipleship is something we do for others. Every saint is called to become a disciple, a learner who follows Christ and leads others to him. An outfitter supplies what is needed to go. An outfitter is someone who has gone before, has learned what is needed for the journey, and continues to go because they love the adventure (in our case, because we love Him who first loved us)! This is what Discipleship Outfitters is all about; the gift of Christian discipleship from Christ through us, to you; and from you to your neighbor in your home, across the street, and around the world!

HOW DO YOU EAT AN ELEPHANT? Going to "all the nations" sounds intimidating. The world is a big place and there are a million reasons to hold back: our lack of courage, ability, preparation, relationships, strength, talents, commitments, finances, plain old selfishness, you name it. However, God has shown us how to be "all in" through the priceless example of his Son. God is also more than able to multiply each small gift of a few loaves and fishes when we simply and sincerely bring them to Jesus. How do we go? One step of obedience at a time. One prayer at a time. One gift, dollar, letter, email, encouragement, sacrifice. Where do we go? Across the street, across town, across the world. Oh, and about that elephant...you know the answer...one bite at a time.

PRAY - SEND - GO! You might be wondering, "But, what can I do to lead others to Jesus?" We all pray, in many and various ways about all kinds of concerns, giving thanks and praise. Yet, as disciples together in this church family of CLC Duluth, I am encouraging us to pull together as "one man." Let's unite our hearts to both press in towards God and reach out to others, especially in the ways that Pastor Gary brings to our attention. Look for opportunities to pray with and for others, and make prayer gatherings a priority. Sometimes we are called to send. We become outfitters when we equip others with love, encouragement, help, teaching, support, finances, and intercession. Other times we are called to go. The disciple becomes a disciple-maker. The ways to go are as unique as the goer. Listen for the call to pray - send - go! Become a discipleship outfitter!

WAYS TO LEARN - PRAY - SEND - GO!

- 11/6/19 7:00 pm Minnesota Fellowship of Christian Athletes is hosting Fields of Faith at Denfeld High School. Meet at church at 6:30 pm so we can drive together. Let's Go!
- 11/20/19 7:45 am Pastor and Sue are going to lead worship at Duluth Adult and Teen Challenge chapel service. Pastor preaches there each month. Please pray for us and for the men!

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11/24/19 9:30 am Cuzzo/Stokke Dance Studio will be presenting worship in dance to "I Can Only Imagine" during the morning service.

Wednesdays CLC Lighthouse for grades 7-12 meets at 6:30 pm. Learn through Bible Study about our Identity and Purpose in Christ. Sue goes to Open Arms Daycare to read stories, sing, and pray.

Thursdays Good News Club (a ministry of Child Evangelism Fellowship) after school program at Piedmont Elementary will be starting in Nov. Carol Ziemer has served this important discipleship ministry for many years! Sue will be starting this year.

Sundays CLC Clubhouse Sunday School for grades 1-6
ENGAGE with our whole church family at 11:00 am
EXPLORE and EXPRESS at 11:15 am Adult Bible Study

Blessings in Christ,
Sue DeSha
320-815-1561 suedesha@gmail.com

Everyday is a blessing at Open Arms!

Happy November Everyone!

We had a really busy October. We celebrated a few birthdays and we welcomed Joshua and Samuel's baby brother, Peter. Joshua was sure Peter was going to be a girl. Every once in awhile though he would say... "Well, really only God knows because He made her." We are so excited that Peter will be joining us at daycare in a few months.

The kids have been saying some very cute things. One morning when one of the boys arrived at daycare he said he had a very special song to share with me. He said, "Would you like to know why it's so special? It's because it's about Jesus!" Then he proceeded to sing a wonderful song he had composed about thanking Jesus. We have so very much to be thankful for. Our God is so good to us.

Another day we were talking about all the rainy days we have had lately so we talked about Noah's Ark and how God promised to never flood the entire earth again. Joshua mentioned that he had heard that there was a big flood in Duluth awhile ago. He said it happened when God was still making him in Heaven. We are so blessed to have these amazing little people at Open Arms.

We currently have a toddler and a preschool opening. Please pass the news along. We would love to have more new friends to share Jesus with at daycare.

This month's Bible lessons will be about Elisha, Hannah, and also the Israelites.

Our new songs will be "Count your Blessings" and "Give Thanks".

We are still working on our Operation Christmas Child gifts. We also plan to adopt a family in need for the holidays. Sharing makes our hearts happy! We are so blessed and have so much to be thankful for.

Psalm 106:1 Praise the Lord! Oh give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!

Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

May you all be blessed with wonderful times with family and friends.

Mary Jo



Thank you for supporting these ministries!

Esther Circle Hat and Mitten Drive for Piedmont Elementary

We will be collecting hats and mittens until January 5.

Let's fill the clothesline in the fellowship hall!



Piedmont Elementary Kid's Kupboard

All items should be new or gently used & clean

Sweatshirts - Sizes 8-18

Sweatpants/Leggings - All sizes

Winter Mittens/Gloves

Teen Challenge

Shampoo/Conditioner (2-in-1 kind preferred)

Deodorant

*All products must be alcohol free

** no aerosols

Hard candy (Jolly Ranchers & Life Savers are popular,
no chocolate please)



Mark Wiita
November 9

Jane McLean
November 12

Betty Roseen
November 14

Susie Decker
November 18

Pam Wendling
November 20

Carol Schramm
November 22

*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*

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.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: 2019 Annual Budget: \$230,899; Weekly \$4,440; YTD Need \$190,920

	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Daycare</u>	<u>Total</u>
10/27/2019	\$1,577	\$0	\$0	\$1,577
Year to Date	\$116,695	\$7,819	\$41,112	\$165,626

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

Collection for September Mission of the Month: Gideons \$1,125.00

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

