

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

December 2019

The Good Word

Advent means "coming" or "arrival." The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus the Messiah in His First Advent, and the anticipation of the return of Jesus Christ the King in His Second Advent. Advent is far more than marking a 2,000-year-old event in history. It is celebrating the truth about God, the revelation of God in Jesus Christ whereby all of creation may be reconciled to God. That is the work of God in which we now participate, and the consummation of which we anticipate. Scripture readings for Advent will reflect this emphasis on the Second Advent, including themes of accountability for faithfulness at His coming, judgment of sin, and the hope of eternal life.

In this double focus on the past and future, Advent is a vehicle transporting Christians and their congregations on a spiritual journey, to affirm that Jesus Christ has come, that He is present in the world today, and that He will come again in glory and power. This provides a basis for holy living arising from a profound sense that we live "between the times" and are called to be faithful stewards of what is entrusted to us as God's people. Therefore, the church celebrates God's coming to us in the Incarnation and anticipates a future consummation for which "all creation is groaning awaiting its redemption." We confess our own responsibility as a people commissioned to "love the Lord our God with all our hearts" and to "love our neighbor as ourselves."

Advent is marked by expectation, anticipation, preparation, and longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world. We hear the yearning expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It was the cry of the two kingdoms of Israel and Judah, who have experienced being exiled

from their homelands, and yet have hope of deliverance brought to them by a God who is faithful to His promises of restoration and blessing!

It is that hope which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and His creation. It is the hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates, the reign of the Anointed One, the Messiah, King Jesus, who will bring peace, justice, and righteousness to the world.

Read Jeremiah 33:14-16. The "Good Word" Jeremiah announced comprised the entire panorama of glorious promises made to both Judah and Israel. What is spoken of is the restoration and abundant blessing of God's people. Jeremiah's picture of the coming Messiah consists of many scenes and is very unique. How many of you have ever been to an IMAX theater? I am sure it was an amazing experience. I've been to several and I have always been thrilled. Imagine the prophecies of Jeremiah coming to you on an IMAX theater screen!

Imagine, if you would, Jeremiah's panoramic picture of the coming Messiah. Jeremiah projects the Messiah as the Spring of Living Water; the Good Shepherd; a Righteous Branch; the Redeemer; the Lord is our Righteousness; David their King; and the agent of the New Covenant. We see that the holy city Jerusalem is given the same name as the Messiah, "the Lord is our Righteousness" because Jerusalem reflects the righteousness the Messiah bestows upon her.

These promises find their fulfillment in Jesus, the Incarnate Word, the true son of David, as Ephesians 1:3 says, in whom we are "blessed . . . with every spiritual blessing."

(Continued on page 4)

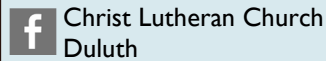
Christ Lutheran Church

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President:
Quitdee Carson
V.P.: Carolyn Lofald
Treasurer: Laurie Wiita

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

December 2019 Serving Schedule

Ushers & Greeters

December 1

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo; Carolyn Lofald & Grace Wells

Greeter: Norma Johnson

December 8

Ushers: Quitdee Carson; Zach Carson; Jim Carlson; Dave Wood

Greeter: Volunteers

December 15

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

Greeter: Marge Youngren

December 22

Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar; Grace Wells; Carolyn Lofald

Greeter: Chuck & Lowaine Morris

December 24 (Christmas Eve Candlelight service)

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn Lofald; Jim & Gayle Maruska

December 29

Ushers: Jim Carlson; Dave Wood; Keith Youngren; Mark Youngren

Greeter: Volunteers

January 5

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo; Carolyn Lofald; Grace Wells

Greeter: Chuck & Lowaine Morris

Trustees:

December 1: Grace & Bill

December 4: Sandy & Laura

December 8: Sandy & Laura

December 11: Jim & Wendy

December 15: Jim & Wendy

December 18: Grace & Bill

December 22: Grace & Bill

December 24: Sandy & Laura

December 29: Sandy & Laura

Coffee Servers:

December 1: Band of Brothers

December 8: CLC Lighthouse

December 15: Council Group 2

December 22: Esther Circle

December 29: Volunteers



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

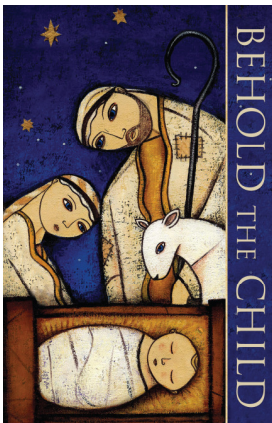
Duluth: Charter Ch.180 -
Sat. @ 9AM & 9PM; Sun. @ 7AM

Superior: SCMC 180 -
Sun. @ 10:00am; Wed. @ 6:00pm

Hermantown: MediaCom Ch. 7 -
Sun. @ 8AM Thur. @ 2 PM Sat. @ 8 AM

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **December Mission of the Month** is The American Association of Lutheran Churches.
- **Adult Bible Study** meets Sunday at 11:15 AM.
- **Join us for prayer** every Tuesday at 12:00 in the Fireside Room.
- **CLC LIGHTHOUSE** - Due to special services and the Wednesday Holidays, there will be no Youth Bible study in December. Youth Bible study will resume January 8, 2020.
- **Confirmation class** meets Thursdays at 6:30 PM
- **Tuesday, December 10 at 6 PM** - CLC Band of Brothers will meet at Don Olson's home.
- **Wednesday, December 4, 11, & 18 at 6:30 PM** - Mid-week Advent Service
- **Esther Circle's** tree trimming & decorating activity will be on Thursday, December 5 at 5 PM. Everyone is invited, a taco dinner will be served after the decorating.
- **Offering boxes for 2020 are here.** If you did not receive an offering box, please see one of the ushers.



MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4, 11, & 18 AT 6:30 PM

"BEHOLD THE CHILD"

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12



Tuesday, December 24 @t 5 PM

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....

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 | Jean Sundstrom | Shirley Randa | Mary Jenny |
| Kathleen Randa | Katie Lund | Russell & Carol Schramm | Marlene Stauber |
| Bryan Goeppinger | Susan Johnson | Ruth Dahl | Mark Malander |
| Brian MacDonald | Gerald & Aletha Bartels | Florence Kubiak | Barb Hanson |
| Vi Boder | Carol Johnson | Diane Malander | Melanie Saeland |
| Shirley Kern | Kaylea Guddeck | Evelyn Johnson | Ruth Peterson |
| Dennis Peterson | Carol Blair | Darlene Saaf | Bill & Jane McLean |

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

(Continued from page 1)

Acts 3:14 proclaims that He is “the Holy and Righteous One.” Jesus is the Lord who clothes us with his righteousness, for Isaiah 61:10 says, “I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

The rule and reign of God comes to us in time; He comes to us in the world He created. The Righteous Branch, the anointed One of God, comes to us in the form of a human being. What we are witnessing is not only the hope of all Israel, but our Christian expectation that Advent brings as well, our soon coming King!

But wait, there’s more! Advent is the season of hope and expectation. The expectation of the celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Messiah, and the hope of the glorious imminent return of our Savior.

Jesus comes to us now, today. He comes to us in the Absolution. He comes to us in His Word. He comes to us in the Gospel. He comes to us in His Holy Supper. Jesus gives us His Body and Blood, in, with, and under the bread and wine. Given for you. Shed for you. For the forgiveness of sins.

What we see in Jeremiah 33:14-16 is the consolation that God will certainly fulfill His promises, even if it may often appear that nothing will come of them; for God is Truth and what He promises must happen and shall never fail. Therefore, no one can say, “God has rejected these two kingdoms, He does not want Israel and Judah; He does not want Moses and Aaron; He does not want the priesthood and Kingdom.” That is not what God told Jeremiah. No, this is not so. In fact, this view is derisive toward God and moves people toward mistrust and unbelief. When one doubts God’s promise and Word, then one should hold ever more tightly to God, His covenant., Word and promise. He is the eternal, omnipotent, and true God, even if His ways and amazing works sometimes appear strange. He does fulfill His promise even in the midst of things that appear contrary. God’s works are beyond our human wisdom, reason, and thought. God gives us His Holy Spirit that we may hold fast to His promise and Word, in doctrine, life, cross, and death.

He comes to you today with the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Receive Him. Oh, come let us adore Him! Jesus Christ, the Lord!

Advent blessings,
Pastor Gary

Everyday is a blessing at Open Arms!



Happy December!

We are all so excited to be celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.

The Lord is so good to us. We are blessed in so many ways. We are being blessed each week at daycare with visits from Pastor Gary on Tuesdays. He has been rocking out with us by teaching us how to play the drums and we are loving it! Thank you so much Pastor for the drums and maracas you have given to us. We love making a joyful noise everyday. Thank you Sue for your special story times on Wednesdays. We love it when you read to us and teach us about Jesus. You are both a big blessing to us. We appreciate your kindness so much.

Thank you also to Lynn Erickson for her nice visit and for taking the time to reading to the kids, that was so thoughtful.

We will be singing Christmas songs this month like “Silent Night”, “Away in a Manger” and “Wonderful Christmastime”. Our plan is to invite the parents to a little Christmas get together for cookies, cocoa and music. Samuel is learning so quickly to play the drums from Pastor Gary he might even do a drum solo for the parents!

Cute things the kids are saying ...

When Cora says lunchtime prayers she thanks God for his “Royal love for us.” Addy thanks God for all the mommy’s and daddy’s everywhere.

I heard Joshua singing Lauren Daigle’s song “Rescue” while he was washing his hands one day. He said the words were just in his head.

Little Hendrik has been humming “Twinkle Twinkle” at nap time.

We filled ten shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. This year the kids asked questions like “Do the kids have a mom and dad? Can we send them their favorite foods too?” They were very thoughtful and compassionate in desiring to meet their needs.

Proverbs 11:25: A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.
It makes our hearts happy to be able to share with others.

If you know of someone who could use a little spark of joy we would like to treat them to a special gift.
Please contact Mary Jo at the daycare for more information. Thanks!

Please continue to pray that we will fill our openings for two preschool age children soon. Thank you!

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Many blessings to everyone for a wonderful Christmas filled with blessings from above!

Mary Jo

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.
With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!
I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes!
Psalm 119:9-12*

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!



Ministry to Piedmont Elementary:

- † Winter jackets, snow pants and mittens (sizes 5/6, 7/8, 10/12, 14/16) for boys and girls
- † Winter boots (all children's sizes)
- † Non perishable snacks (i.e. fruit snacks, crackers, granola bars, etc.)
- † Sweatpants for boys and girls (small, medium and large)
- † Sweatshirts for boys and girls



Sharon Super
December 5

Carol Johnson
December 24

Carol Miletich
December 28

Dick Kern
December 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*

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

DECEMBER 2019



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



| | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------|--|
| 1 9:30 Worship/Comm. 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study <i>Coffee: Band of Brothers</i> | 2 Pastor's Day Off | 3 9:30 Pastor at Daycare 12:00 Prayer 4-9 Dance Class | 4 6:30 Mid-Week Advent Service Cookie Baking | 5 12:00 Mary Circle Lunch at Edgewood 5:00 Esther Circle Decorating & Supper 6:30 Confirmation | 6 Pastor's Day Off | 7 Pastor's Day Off |
| 8 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study 6:30 Lutherans for Life <i>Coffee: CLC Lighthouse</i> | 9 Pastor's Day Off | 10 9:30 Pastor at Daycare 12:00 Prayer 4-9 Dance Class | 11 6:30 Mid-Week Advent Service | 12 5:30 Deacon/Trustee Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting No Confirmation 4-9 Dance Class | 13 Pastor's Day Off | 14 8-12:30 Piedmont Dental Cookie Party |
| 15 9:30 Worship/Comm. 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study <i>Coffee: Council 2</i> | 16 Pastor's Day Off | 17 9:30 Pastor at Daycare 12:00 Prayer 4-9 Dance Class | 18 6:30 Mid-Week Advent Service | 19 7:45 Pastor Gary at Teen Challenge 6:30 Confirmation 4-9 Dance Class | 20 Pastor's Day Off | 21 Pastor's Day Off |
| 22 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study <i>Coffee: Esther Circle</i> | 23 Pastor's Day Off | 24 9:30 Pastor at Daycare 12:00 Prayer 5:00 Candlelight Service | 25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> | 26 No Confirmation No Dance Class | 27 Pastor's Day Off | 28 Pastor's Day Off |
| 29 9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study <i>Coffee: Volunteers</i> | 30 Pastor's Day Off | 31 12:00 Prayer No Dance Class | | | | |