



In the Hands of the Refiner

A Word of Encouragement

*"Encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today,'
so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."*

~ Hebrews 3:13

Just recently I received kind words of encouragement from a couple of friends. The Lord used it to stir some much-needed strength in my soul. Receiving the words of encouragement led me to open up my Bible and dig around to see what the Lord says to us about encouragement. As I read passage after passage, I was struck by how vital this expression of love is for God's people. In one sense, encouragement is like oxygen in the life of the church. It keeps hearts beating, minds clear, and hands inspired to serve. Because encouragement is so important to the church, God doesn't merely recommend it, but He explicitly commands it. (1 Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11; Hebrews 3:13)

Why We Need Encouragement

God commanded that His people encourage each other because He knew we would need it. Jesus warned that "in the world you will have tribulation..." which He followed with much needed encouragement, "but take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

We live in a broken world where everything calls us toward selfishness and despair. Sin steals joy, our bodies break down, our plans falter, our dreams die, our resolves weaken, our perspective dims. We are promised suffering (1 Peter 4:12), persecution (John 15:20; 2 Timothy 3:12), and trials of all sorts (James 1:2-3).

When encouragement is absent from the life of a church people will feel unloved, unim-

portant, useless, and forgotten. God knows His people are in need of grace-filled reminders, which is why He calls us to encourage each other every day until His Son returns (Hebrews 3:13).

What Is Encouragement?

Biblical encouragement isn't focused on complementing someone's haircut or telling them how good their homemade salsa tastes. That kind of encouragement is important, but the encouragement the Scriptures refer to is explicitly Christian encouragement.

Encouragement is shared with the hopes that it will lift someone's heart toward the Lord (Colossians 4:8). It points out evidences of grace in another's life to help them see that God is using them. It points us to God's promises that assure us that all we face is under His control.

The New Testament reveals that encouragement was a regular part of the early church's life together (Acts 13:15, 16:40, 18:27, 20:1-2, 27:36). They shared Scripture-saturated words with each other to spur one another on in faith (Acts 14:22), hope (Romans 15:4), unity (Romans 15:5; Colossians 2:2), joy (Acts 15:31), strength (Acts 15:32), fruitfulness (Hebrews 10:24-25), faithfulness (1 Thessalonians 2:12), perseverance (Hebrews 10:25), and the certainty of Christ's return (1 Thessalonians 4:18). Encouragement was and is an essential way of extending grace to each other.

(Continued on page 4)

Christ Lutheran Church

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Website: clcduluth.org



President: Ouitdee Carson
V.P.: Carolyn Lofald
Treasurer: Sandy Carlson

Every Month:

Every Wed. at 6:00 PM
Prayer Meeting & 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 Tuesday 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

February 2020 Serving Schedule

Ushers & Greeters

February 2

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo; Mike & Wendy Pickar

Greeter: Gary & Carolyn Lofald

February 9

Ushers: Grace Wells; Carolyn Lofald; David Wood; Jim Carlson

Greeter: Norma Johnson

February 16

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

Greeter: Marge Youngren

February 23

Ushers: Grace Wells; Jim Carlson; Ouitdee Carson; Zach Carson

Greeter: Volunteer

March 1

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo; Gary & Carolyn Lofald

Greeter: Grace Wells

Trustees:

February 2: Laurie & Laura

February 9: Jim & Laurie

February 16: Bill & Grace

February 23: Wendy & Carol

February 26: Wendy & Carol

March 1: Laurie & Laura

March 4: Jim & Laurie

Coffee Servers:

February 2: Band of Brothers

February 9: CLC Lighthouse

February 16: Council 2

February 23: Esther Circle

March 1: Band of Brothers



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

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

- **February Mission of the Month** is the Father/Daughter Ball
- **Adult Bible Study** meets Sunday at 11:15 AM.
- **Prayer Meeting & Bible Study** Wednesdays at 6 PM.
- **CLC LIGHTHOUSE** - Youth Bible study meets Wednesdays at 6:30 PM
- **Confirmation class** meets Thursdays at 6:30 PM
- **CLC Band of Brothers** - Pizza & Hockey Night! Date To be announced soon.
- **Father/Daughter Ball** - Saturday, February 1 & 8 at the DECC
- **Husband & Wife Valentine Ball** - Friday, February 14 at Proctor Blackwoods
- **Stitch it Up** - Knitters will meet from 4-6 pm on Feb 20th. Meet in the Blue Room. Beginners can get a start on an easy project while learning the basics. Everyone welcome including crochet aficionados. Contact Sandy Carlson for more information/questions.
- **Ash Wednesday Service & Dessert** Wed., Feb. 26 at 6:30PM
- **Leap Into Quilting** - Two days of quilting for charity to celebrate leap year. Feb 28/29. Come either day or both days. No experience required except a willing heart. Bring general sewing supplies and your sewing machine. I will have some extra machines to use if you want to give this a try, along with all the extra stuff like rotary cutters and rulers/mats that make cutting easier. I will have fabric ready for several quilts and pillowcases ready to sew. I would like at least one pillowcase for each quilt we give away. Set-up is anytime after 9 on Friday until whatever time you want to be done in the evening; start on Sat around 9 and we will plan to be done sometime on Saturday afternoon. Machines can be left overnight if you plan to attend both days. Think of it as a quilting retreat. Do feel free to bring your own projects, too. Cutting and pressing stations will be set-up so you do not need to drag along your large cutting mats. Please let Sandy Carlson know if you plan to attend so she can plan meals.

Husband & Wife Valentine Ball

Fri., Feb. 14, 2020 from 6:30-11:00 PM at Blackwoods Event Center in Proctor

The cost is \$75.00 per couple. Dinner choices are:

Pan Seared Top Sirloin, Broiled Walleye or Baked Manicotti

Dessert is included and 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.

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. Make checks out to "Evangelism Committee."

We have a limited number of tickets available, so please plan early.



How Do I Grow in Being an Encouragement to Others?

Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

1. Pray for God to make you an encourager. Ask Him to give you a heart that loves others and creativity to know how to show it. Ask Him to help you die to self-centeredness and grow in a desire to build others up. Because God delights in helping His people obey His commands, we can trust that His Spirit will teach us how to bless others for His glory and their spiritual good.

2. Study Barnabas and ask God to make you like him. Barnabas was nicknamed the “*son of encouragement*” by the early church (see Acts 4:36). He was the kind of guy you wanted to have around as you were serving the Lord. He wasn’t just a spiritual cheerleader, but he was a man of great conviction who wanted to see the church flourish and did all he could to make it happen. Ask God to give you and our church a heart like Barnabas.

3. Make encouragement a daily discipline. For some of us encouragement comes naturally, for others, not so much. I have a reminder in my “To Do” each day to send someone an encouraging note, email, text, or phone call. I need this reminder to pause, pray, and then intentionally try to spur someone on in Jesus Christ.

4. Pray for God to show you who to encourage. Ask God to bring someone to mind that you should reach out to. One way to do this is by praying through your church’s membership or telephone directory.

5. Use Holy Scripture. Nothing encourages us like promises from God’s Word. Make a list of Scriptures that God has used to bless you personally or an excerpt from something you read in your daily devotional. Mine the Psalms, Romans 8, and the Gospels. Find and share riches of God’s grace with others.

6. Be specific in what you say. The words I received from my friends included two very specific ways they had seen evidences of grace in my life. When I heard them, I was humbled and reminded of the fact that God does actually work in and through me. I needed that.

7. Pray that God would create a culture of encouragement in our church. Ask God to make our church a community that loves each other in specific, tangible ways like encouragement. Ask God to use you to help fan that flame. Don’t get discouraged if people don’t return your encouragement (Matthew 6:3-4; Ephesians 6:3-8) or if you don’t see fruit from it (Galatians 6:9-10). Creating a church culture that glorifies God takes a long time, lots of prayer, and abundant grace. I encourage you to keep at it.

8. Your pastor needs regular encouragement. If I say something that God uses in your life, tell me about it. Nothing encourages me, your pastor, like hearing specific ways God used a sermon, Bible study, or counseling session to work in your life.

Beloved, be encouraged! Begin to encourage one another. Who can you encourage right now? Who has blessed you recently that you can thank? What verse can you share with them? How might God use it?

May the Lord do more than we can imagine through just a little encouragement! (Ephesians 3:20-21)

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Gary

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.

CLC LIGHTHOUSE FEBRUARY 2020

Dearly Beloved CLC Family,

We often hear this encouragement, “God has a plan for your life.” Maybe we have told someone during a difficult time, “I know God has a good plan for you.” And I believe this to be true. God knows the beginning from the end, he sees each sparrow that falls, and he counts every hair on our heads. He is all loving, all knowing, all powerful, always present in all places, and completely in control. But what is the plan? How do we join in with his plans “for welfare and not evil, to give us a future and a hope” ((Jeremiah 29:11 ESV)?

We are concerned about our church family growing smaller, older, weaker. We wonder what’s going to happen next. We are hoping for new families, young people, a fresh start, success... I want to encourage you to give thanks for what God has a currently provided, focus on who and what is before us, compare ourselves less to what we see “out there” that seems so much better, become quiet before the Lord, and ask Him to show us the way. Let’s pray and listen more each morning, give thanks more each afternoon, rest in His goodness more each evening, and wait expectantly for our beautiful Lord to surprise us with His purpose and provision. He loves us! (Disclaimer: I need to hear this just as much as you!)



YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT VISIONING DINNER

SUNDAY 2/16/2020 STARTING AT 5PM! Youth, young adults, and their families are invited to enjoy an evening of Mexican Buffet, youth praise & prayer, and discussion. Meet in Fellowship Hall. We will seek the Lord for ways to grow in grace, serve the church, and reach out to our community! **RSVP TO SUE REQUIRED BY 2/10/20!!**

CLC LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH meet in the choir loft each Wednesday at 6:30pm. College students & young adults are also welcome to join us! We are doing a great youth study focused on our *Identity and Purpose in Christ*. In February we will begin life journaling with S.O.A.P.

REMEMBER: Youth host fellowship and coffee the second Sunday each month.

GOOD NEWS CLUB & PIEDMONT ELEMENTARY

Your prayers and generosity are being felt and appreciated. Please continue to pray for our special neighbors at Piedmont Elementary, and for Piedmont Heights, Lincoln Park, and all Duluth communities.

Love and blessing in Christ Jesus!

Sue DeSha

320-815-1561 / suedesha@gmail.com

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: CLC Father/Daughter Ball

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:

Vi Boder	Bill & Jane McLean	Ruth Peterson	Mark Malander
Bob Johnson	Jean Sundstrom	Ruth Dahl	Diane Malander
Mary Jenny	Katie Lund	Carol Schramm	Barb Hanson
Lorna McLean	Susan Johnson	Florence Kubiak	Melanie Saeland
Marlene Stauber	Judy Stocke	Evelyn Johnson	Darlene Saaf
Shirley Kern	Carol Johnson	Bryan Goepfinger	Brian McDonald
Dennis Peterson	Carol Blair	Del Sandberg	Laura Melander

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

New Year Maintenance Update!

As you know, 2019 brought many changes and repairs to our church after the fire. We have now completed our last repairs and hope to receive our reimbursement checks from our insurance company very soon. The stained glass in our cupola was installed right before Christmas. The clear colored glass reflects beautiful colors when the sun shines in. We had our ceiling replaced in the narthex as we were not able to get all the soot cleaned out of it due to the texture. We also had new can lights installed so it looks nice and bright when you walk in. The attic space under the balcony has been cleaned and the exhaust fan in that area has also been inspected and cleaned. Due to fire code, we cannot store any items in that area unless we install drywall to the ceiling and walls. Bruce Wells was kind enough to finish installing the rubber base around fellowship hall for us. Now with the walls all painted in that area, everything looks so fresh and updated. We are so thankful for our custodian Gary and his help in keeping all areas of the church looking so nice. The heated patio at our basement entrance is working beautifully, no shoveling needed there! A special thank you to Jim Carlson for being so dedicated to that task. Our next project will be replacing the light fixtures in the ladies' bathroom downstairs. Please let us know if anything else needs attention. Thank you for all your prayer support and patience as we worked through this process together.

Carolyn Lofald - Vice President

Everyday is a blessing at Open Arms!



Happy February Everyone!

We will be celebrating God's love this month. We are so excited to be sharing the love of our Lord with family and friends in all kinds of fun ways.

Our Bible verses this month are...

1 John 4:7 *God is love*

1 Corinthians 16:14 *Do everything in love*

John 13:34 *Love one another*

The new songs the children will be learning are...*Down In My Heart; Jesus Loves the Little Children; and Praise Ye the Lord.*

Cute things the kids have been saying...One of the boys was practicing writing his name and he was so excited that it turned out just the way he wanted. I told him he did a great job and asked him how long he had been doing that and he said "about seven years." That's really sweet because he is only four years old!

Addy Mae said "I was soooooo cute when I was little." She is still so cute and she is just three.

Joshua said to me one day "Do you know what would be best Mary Jo? If you lived at my house." I thought that was so sweet. When he was drawing a family picture for his parents Christmas gift right beside the rest of his family he drew a picture of me holding his new baby brother. He made my heart smile.

We are so blessed to have so many wonderful families at our daycare. Since the new baby has joined us many of the children are wishing for a little brother or sister at their home too. One of our kids wishes will be coming true because we have another family expecting a baby!

Thank you all for blessing us with your thoughtful prayers and support. Wishing lots of love and blessings to everyone! John 3:16

Mary Jo

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

There is a bin in the West Entry for donations. Thank you!



**February Mission of the Month
CLC Father/Daughter Ball**

The mission of the Father Daughter Ball is to provide a quality, memorable, and wholesome event for fathers and daughters of all ages. We acknowledge that the unique and significant relationship between fathers and daughters is a mirror of God's love for His children, and that God has entrusted fathers with the role of bringing up daughters to live in His truth.

This ministry is specifically intended for fathers (and father figures) to strengthen their relationships with their daughter(s). It also provides an excellent opportunity for fathers to show their daughter(s) what a dating experience should be. These precious moments will always be cherished in both your hearts!

We support MN Adult & Teen Challenge and through gifts of our partners we are able to provide complimentary tickets to those fathers and their daughters as they rebuild their relationships.

**Please remember to keep the
Father Daughter Ball ministry in your prayers.**

The event is coming up on February 1 & February 8 at the DECC.



Ouitdee Carson

February 1

Al Decker

February 4

Judy Stocke

February 24

Darlene Saaf

February 25

John Kubiak

February 28

*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:

2020 Annual Budget: \$231,390; Weekly \$4,450; YTD Need \$13,350

	Offering	Other	Daycare	Total
1/19/20	\$1,184	\$0	\$1,596	\$2,780
YTD	\$5,293	\$90	\$3,745	\$9,128

Full Financial reports are posted in the Narthex after each council meeting.
Collection for December Mission of the Month: Faith Comes By Hearing \$766.00

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

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 added to the list.



FEBRUARY 2020



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

							Pastor's Day Off	1	Pastor's Day Off	22		
2	9:30 Worship/Comm. 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study <i>Coffee: Band of Brothers</i>	3	10:00 Hookcrafters 6:00 AA 7:30 AA	4	9:30 Pastor at Daycare 4-9 Dance Class	5	6:00 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:30 CLC Lighthouse	6	9:30 Mary Circle 6:30 Esther Circle 6:30 Confirmation 4-9 Dance	7	Pastor's Day Off Father/Daughter Ball at the DECC	8
9	9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study 6:30 Luth. For Life <i>Coffee: CLC Lighthouse</i>	10	Pastor's Day Off 6:00 AA 7:30 AA	11	9:30 Pastor at Daycare 1:00 Dorcas Circle 4-9 Dance Class	12	6:00 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:30 CLC Lighthouse	13	5:30 Deacon/Trustee Meeting 6:30 Council Meeting No Confirmation 4-9 Dance Class	14	Husband & Wife Valentine Ball at Proctor Blackwoods	15
16	9:30 Worship/Comm. 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study 5:00 Youth Dinner <i>Coffee: Council 2</i>	17	Pastor's Day Off 6:00 AA 7:30 AA	18	9:30 Pastor at Daycare 4-9 Dance Class	19	6:00 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 6:30 CLC Lighthouse	20	6:30 Confirmation 4-9 Dance Class	21	Pastor's Day Off	22
23	9:30 Worship 11:00 Sunday School 11:15 Bible Study <i>Coffee: Esther Circle</i>	24	Pastor's Day Off 6:00 AA 7:30 AA	25	9:30 Pastor at Daycare 4-9 Dance Class	26	Pastie Making 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service & Dessert	27	6:30 Confirmation 4-9 Dance Class	28		29