



In the Hands of the Refiner

Are You Unsettled Too?

Dear Beloved of Christ Lutheran Church,

For a considerable time now you have been strangely unsettled in your spirit. This has perplexed you - as you have just been getting on with your Christian walk even though participating in the general life of the church had all but ceased for the past three months. You have been disturbed in yourself. You have re-read the pages of the Bible relating to the dynamic works of the apostles and the early disciples; and then compared these with what you have been experiencing in your own life and church setting.

You have perceived a gap between where, spiritually-speaking, things are now, and where the early followers of Jesus Christ were in their day. I am not suggesting that Pentecost is to be repeated; but rather continued, for Ephesians 5:18 says, "Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts." (NLT)

In different times and circumstances, you may have felt that it was time to reevaluate your journey with Jesus Christ, but in a strange way you have not felt any clear direction regarding which way to go. Maybe you have been feeling and continue to feel that you need strive to identify more closely with your community and the section of your neighborhood/ workplace, in which you live.

You may be sensing that any striving that you have done to draw closer to Jesus Christ, and to be more committed to His calling and God's word, has increased rather than reduced the dissatisfaction and unrest that you have been feeling. You have felt lonely because you haven't been surrounded by other Christians. Most other "Christians" in fact seem to be happily getting on with their lives. This adds to your perplexity. "Is it just me? Why am I feeling this way? There must be something wrong with me; as most others seem to be getting along OK."

You have been concerned that you might be getting cynical and critical over what you see as the increasing worldliness in the church. You may be long for fellowship with others whom you feel might understand - in some measure at least - "where you are." As you cautiously and honestly open up to others whom you sense may be walking the same path; you find that they too, in their heart of hearts, have been going through exactly the same inner spiritual processes and turmoil as yourself.

If you have been sensing or experiencing any of these things take heart beloved child of God. I believe that what you have been going through is a God-given unsettledness, a Holy dissatisfaction with "what is." What He has been creating in you is preparing you for the days ahead.

I believe a great crisis is coming - for our society, its peoples, the current religious systems, and what many would call "the church." God desires those who have been weaned away from dependency on the structures, programs, and other facets of organized "churchiness." He is looking for those who hunger and thirst after righteousness; those who long to be filled with the life-giving Holy Spirit of God. He is desiring and preparing those who will seek to know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified; those who will find no satisfaction in the trinkets of this world and who will spurn worldly methods and sinful passions, the fixation with "success," and the worldly measurements of "spirituality" and "commitment" that have invaded the visible church. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is building His Church. God rules and reigns. His Kingdom has no end!

(continued on page 2)

Christ Lutheran Church

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 Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

 Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

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

Every Month:
Every Wed. at 6:30 PM
Bible Study

Mary Circle
First Thursday of each month
at 9:30 AM (Postponed until
further notice)

Esther Circle
First Thursday of each month
at 6:30 PM (Postponed until
further notice)

Dorcas Circle
Second Tuesday of each
month at 1:00 PM
(Postponed until further notice)

Lutherans for Life
Second Sunday of each
month at 6:30 PM
(Postponed until further notice)

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

Please consider the following questions. Are you a believer who is prepared to "abandon all" for the sake of Jesus Christ and His Great Commission to reach the lost? Have you considered the cost, and are you prepared to pay that price in the context of the measure of grace that has been given to you? Do you, in your spirit, realize that nothing short of total submission will quench your thirst for God and satisfy the desires of your heart?

The way ahead could involve great sacrifice; and you may face rejection and much criticism - even from those around you and those close to you in the "church." It is this type of sacrifice in which the Lord delights for Jesus says in Matthew 5:11-12, "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are My followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way." (NLT) Indeed the cost of turning away from His calling upon your life will be even greater.

Take heart dear follower of Jesus Christ, you are not alone. Many others are being spoken to in exactly the same way as God is speaking to you. It may not be apparent to you yet; but time will reveal those who will stand with you. Meanwhile equip yourself with the knowledge of His Word and abandon yourself to the leading of His Spirit, that He might use you according to His will and purposes, as the God of all ages works out His purposes in this lost and dying world.

Your God and my God has clearly stated through His Son Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, because they shall be filled."

Lastly, remember God's encouraging words in Joshua 1:9, "Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (CSB)

May God the Father, the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the gracious Holy Spirit be with you all – One God, be praised, both now and forever, even unto the end of the ages. Amen.

Have a blessed July,

Pastor Gary

Sunday services are still livestreamed on our Facebook page:

Christ Lutheran Church Duluth at 9:30 AM



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Drive-thru communion services at Christ Lutheran Church will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

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
Mission of the Month: Wittenberg Door Campus
Ministry & Women's Care Center of Duluth

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	Jane McLean	Ruth Peterson
Bob Johnson	Jean Sundstrom	Ruth Dahl
Mary Jenny	Katie Lund	Carol Schramm
Lorna McLean	Susan Johnson	Florence Kubiak
Marlene Stauber	Judy Stocke	Evelyn Johnson
Laura Melander	Carol Johnson	Bryan Goeppinger
Dennis Peterson	Carol Blair	Donna Swanson & Family
Mark Malander	Barb Hanson	Darlene Saaf
Diane Malander	Brian McDonald	Del Sandberg
Kathy Stevens		

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

Maintenance Report

A few of the recent maintenance projects:

We are so thankful that Jim Carlson has been regularly mowing and trimming the grounds for us. The gardens are looking wonderful and we are thankful to all that have cared for them.

We will be doing some updates on the parsonage as we prepare that for Pastor and Sue to move in. Their lease is up in August.

We shout out a big "Thank you" to our Judi for painting the ceiling and walls in the kitchen. They look great! When August rolls around she will tackle the refrigerator area!

Gary, our custodian has been busy with the floors downstairs. They are so shiny you can see yourself! His last area will be the back entry hall.

The electrician was at church on June 27, and installed the new outlet and a switch so that we can purchase and install heat-tape on the roof on the parking lot entrance over the windows.

The plumber will be coming on Tuesday the 29th to check some issues with our upstairs toilet.

Pastor and Sue offered to seal the wood on the place-set! A big thank-you to them for that under taking. We are still looking for a volunteer or two to stain the back entrance.

We are waiting to hear from Perrault on some siding that needs to be repaired where the City removed the old gas meter. We will be doing some landscape maintenance by that area, too and may lay some sod here at some point. Looking for willing hands to help with that also.

Looking forward to being back in our church again. Please contact the church if there is something you would like to be involved in helping with.

God's blessings,
Carolyn

Many, many thanks to all of you at Christ Lutheran!

It has been a wonderful blessing getting to know you. I have truly appreciated your kindness, generosity thoughtfulness and especially your prayers .

Thank you Grace, Carolyn, Laurie and Sandy for all your kind and thoughtful ways and for all the hard work you put in to keep the daycare going . I am so thankful for all of you and for your friendship, too.

Thank you Jim for all you dedication mowing, removing mountains of snow over the years and garbage removal which I am sure most times was not very pleasant! Still you always helped us with a big smile on your face. I appreciate you so very much. Thank you also for your kind words of wisdom when we had a moment to chat on a Friday morning.

Thank you so much Gwen and Norma for bringing great joy to the kids and to me too. The kids loved snuggling up to you for story time, Gwen. Your special homemade cookies and chocolate treats always made for happy kids. Thank you for blessing us in so many ways. ♡ Your lessons, Norma were always so well planned and organized. The kids loved having school time with you. They were always excited when you would surprise them with special projects and fun snacks.

Thank you Pastor Gary for wonderful musical adventures on the drums. I think Samuel will be in a band someday because of you and your fun drum lessons. He loved playing on the drums with you. Singing and stories with you, Sue were always so special. Thank you both for being so sweet and sharing your gifts with the kids.

Thank you to Marge and Peggy and Priscilla and all of who have been so kind to me and the kids. You have all blessed me in so many ways. Special thanks to Judi for all your help over the years printing and delivering important things to the daycare. Sharing your super secretary skills has been so helpful. You are great and we were always happy to see you when you would stop by with a smile. The past six years have gone fast and there have been so many funny stories to tell. Although I am sad that the daycare had to close, I am blessed to have had the opportunity to meet all of you. Thank you for loving on me and the children at the daycare and thank you for the blessing of being able to share Jesus with them.

Lifting you all up to the Lord in prayer. May you feel his comfort and may you have many blessings and experience great joy in the years to come! Thanks again for blessing my life in so many ways.

Love and giant hugs to all of you!

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind. Matthew 22:37

Mary Jo

Dear Congregation:

Kathleen Stevens was moved to the BeeHive Memory Care unit on June 3. Her new address is 4014 Trinity Rd. Suite 29 B. Duluth, MN 55811. Kathy is doing well. I had an opportunity to have a window visit with her on Tuesday June 24. She did recognize me and we visited for about 20 minutes. The staff says she is doing very well and she is just a delight. She and her roommate are visiting and chatting away all the time. Kathy has a nephew that lives in Thunderbay and they are quarantined. I have been corresponding with him on a regular basis. I was asked by her nephew to care for Kathy jointly, and have been court appointed as an emergency co-guardian/conservator. We have another Zoom meeting with the Judge on July 14, to have them appoint a permanent guardian/conservatorship. I would strongly recommend that if you do not already have a durable power of attorney in place that you look into having that drawn up so that in an event, the court system does not have to get involved. There is lots of paperwork and extra responsibility that comes along with that as now the County has to be aware of all assets and cares for the person involved. Please continue to pray for Kathy, her nephew Jim and for me as we go through this long application process. We are thankful that we saw signs early and that Carol Ziemer and Norma Johnson were involved in getting a key to Kathy's home and caring for Kathy's needs during this Covid pandemic.

In Christ,
Carolyn Lofald



Hello CLC Family,

The first half of 2020 has often caught me off guard. As I watch events unfold I have felt anxiety, distress, confusion, loneliness, and even anger. The solid ground under my American way of life is shaking. Justice and truth seem like injured soldiers limping away into the darkness. And yet...it is well with my soul.

The beautiful and deeply loved hymn, It Is Well With My Soul (or Peace Like a River), was written by Horatio Spafford in 1873. He was a wealthy attorney, businessman, husband and father of five children, but multiple tragedies struck; first in the loss of his young son and the loss of his business in the great Chicago fire of 1871, then in the sinking of the SS Ville du Havre in 1873 where he lost all four daughters to the sea. Spafford learned of this great loss by telegraph from his wife with the barren words, "Saved alone."

In the midst of great emotional pain, our Lord raised up faith and hope in this man of sorrows and enabled him to pen a song that comforts and encourages us today. God has not promised us a life free of fears, sorrow or loss; but He has promised to bring us comfort in all circumstances, a deep deposit of comfort and compassion that we can lavish on others in times of trouble.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Receive God's great love and comfort to sustain you in 2020, and don't hesitate to give His comfort away. May it be well with your soul today!

Sue

320-815-1561 / suedesha@gmail.com

A note from Pastor Gary, the Church Council and the Evangelism Committee

Christ Lutheran Church will be hosting a
Community Food Share & BBQ
on July 24, 2020!

It all started with a generous donation and challenge from one of our members. At the June council meeting we began talking about ways to bless our neighbors and the families of Piedmont Elementary. Pastor Gary and the church council with the evangelism committee are working together to organize a Community Food Share & BBQ.

Piedmont Elementary continues to provide school lunches during the summer. They will hand out invitations to school families for the food share and dinner. We are in the planning stages and need to move quickly.

Dear Church Family! Get Ready to Serve!

Ways you can serve before the Food Share

- Invite CLC neighbors to the Food Share & BBQ
- Donate money for a grocery bag (\$10 per bag)
- Shop from a list, pack and deliver grocery bags to church
- Pray for our neighbors and guests, for the planning and preparation, and good weather

Ways you can serve at the Food Share

- Set up
- Registration Table
- Cook, package and serve
- Clean up



More details coming! Remember to Save the Date!

Community Food Share & BBQ

Hosted by Christ Lutheran Church-Duluth
CLC Soccer Field

Friday 7/24/20 6:00 – 8:00 pm

July Missions of the Month

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry brings the good news of Christ's perfect life, his death in the place of sinful people, and his role as the one who promises eternal life and hope to the college and University campuses in the Columbia, Missouri area. Central to this work is having a pastor often present on campus, ready to talk, and, more important, ready to listen .

Having a pastor means you have someone who can help you find that hope. You have someone who will pray for your specific troubles, meaningfully and confidentially. You have someone who will walk with you through your trials, not judging you, but bringing God's words of guidance, guarding your confidentiality, and treating you with respect. When you realize you need God's forgiveness, the pastor reminds you that Jesus came to earth, suffered, and died for all your failings and that he lives to bring you eternal forgiveness .

Through individual and small group Bible studies we can explore the riches of God's Word together. Occasionally we have larger gatherings, either in local churches or on campus, for celebrations of historic worship.

Women's Care Center of Duluth

The Women's Care Center provides free, confidential counseling, support, and education to women facing unplanned pregnancies.

Please prayerfully consider a donation to this month's chosen missions. 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."



Janice Spindler
July 6

Gwen Nelson
July 11

Carol Blair
July 14

Carolyn Lofald
July 24

Zach Carson
July 24

Don Johnson
July 27

Bob Johnson
July 31

Financial Update

As of the end of May:

Year to date expenses of \$87,406.46

Year to date income of \$85,365.61

Expenses are under income by \$2,040.85

Christ Lutheran did receive a Paycheck Protection Loan; the amount used in June is included in the reported income. Full financial reports are posted after each council meeting and available by request from the office.

May Mission of the Month Project Timothy—\$1,075

God Bless the continued support of our members,

Sandy Carlson, Treasurer

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