



In the Hands of the Refiner

Our Living Hope 1 Peter 1:3-9

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.”

Background:

The apostle Peter wrote this letter. He was once a fisherman but now was an apostle, having been “a witness of the sufferings of Christ.” He probably wrote the letter from Rome around 62–63 AD, during Nero’s reign. The letter is addressed to Christians scattered throughout what is modern-day Turkey.

Praise

Peter begins the body of the letter by *blessing* God because He gives believers new life and guarantees their future glory in eternity. Therefore, Christians are to praise God for His promised salvation.

Why would Peter “bless” God? Shouldn’t God be blessing us instead? Well, the translation uses the term “blessed” in the sense of “worthy of praise” as this is in keeping with the traditional translation of certain Psalms.

God’s Great Mercy

Salvation is due to God’s great mercy; He miraculously causes us to be born again or regenerated. That which is dead is brought to life.

St. Paul explains this in his letter to Titus which reads, “He saved us, not by deeds of righteousness that we have done, but because of His mercy, through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit...” Titus 3:5

This does not mean the act of washing, but the instrument of washing, i.e., the place of washing, the laver/basin of regeneration. We are brought to life and made new by means of the Holy Spirit.

What is the laver? The laver was a large basin used by Tabernacle priests to wash themselves, their utensils, and animal parts in it to ceremonially cleanse them as seen in Exodus 30:18-21.

On certain solemn occasions Aaron and his sons were required to bathe their whole body in the bronze laver, e.g., Exodus 29:4 & Leviticus 16:4., Also, they were to wash their hands, so that when they touched the holy things, and their feet, with which they were on holy ground, “that they might not die.”

Christ Lutheran Church

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

Every Month:
(All ministries postponed
until further notice)

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

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That was emphatically stated more than once. For touching holy things with unclean hands, or treading upon the floor of the sanctuary with dirty feet, would have been a sin against Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, deserving of death.

Therefore, the laver or basin of regeneration is baptism. And, according to St. Paul, it is the Holy Spirit Who regenerates and renews in baptism with God’s Word (Ephesians 5:26). Also, St. Peter explains baptism in chapter 3:21 relating it to Noah’s ark and the flood. We are born again...

Into a Living Hope

It is not a dead hope or like a dead faith. The present hope for the Christian is resurrection to newness of life, and the future hope is the resurrection of the body. Believers have an unshakable hope for the present and the future, for Jesus Christ’s resurrection is a pledge of their own future resurrection.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Peter says *through* the resurrection of Jesus Christ, meaning that being born again is made possible because God considers those who believe in Jesus Christ as being united to Him in His resurrection, as they are united to Him in His death.

An Imperishable and Undeiled Inheritance

Inheritance means God’s promises of salvation and entrance into His eternal heavenly Kingdom. It is not subject to breaking down, and it lasts forever. It is a pure inheritance. Which means it is free from the stain and blemishes of sin, sickness, death and the devil.

It Will Not Fade Away

The inheritance will never lose its quality or its beauty. It is eternal and it is sustained and maintained by the eternal Almighty God! It is...

An Inheritance Reserved in Heaven for You

This means our inheritance is *to be kept* in a certain state, in a certain position, regarding all that God in His glory has waiting for us in His Kingdom. How blessed we are!

Who is Protected by the Power of God

How can we not be excited about this? God IS protecting us! We are guarded by God, we are under His secure and watchful care! This guarding is effected, on the part of God, by His “power,” the efficient cause; and on our part, “through faith,” the effective means.

Through Faith

Remember, faith is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8-10. Faith makes God’s protection real for us when we trust in and rely upon His Word. Do not flatter yourself that you are being guarded by the power of God unto salvation, if you are not walking by faith. It is through faith that salvation is both received and kept.

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Greatly Rejoice! Because God has Saved Us

Salvation is not *merely accomplished* for us in title by Jesus Christ, and given to us upon our believing, but is actually manifest, and finally completed by means of God's powerful Holy Spirit. There will be change. There will be transformation.

Your Faith Will Be Tested to Prove It Is Genuine

This is a test of genuine faith, to make sure the "Christian's" faith is not a faith that is fake or counterfeit. God is like a refiner of fine silver and gold. Let me explain His process of refinement: The Silversmith

As I watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

I thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then I thought again about the verse that says: 'He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.'

I asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time.

He answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

I was silent for a moment. Then I asked the silversmith, 'How do you know when the silver is fully refined?'

He smiled at me and answered, 'Oh, that's easy -- when I see My image in it.'

This is what Peter means when he wrote, "so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire..."

Therefore, if you should pass the test of the genuineness of your faith, then there will be praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ returns!

What is the result of genuine faith? Peter says that because you believe in Him, "you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

So, if there is a day or time when you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you during this refining process, until He sees His image in you.

May the Lord God Almighty Be Praised!



Congratulations to Zach Carson on his graduation from Hermantown High School!



Have we missed someone's graduation day?
Please contact the office if we have overlooked your achievement.

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: KDNW
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

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



Pastor Dennis Schlossin, previous pastor at Christ Lutheran Church from 1961-1991, passed away recently. Due to present circumstances, services will be for the family only. Please keep Pastor Schlossin's family in your prayers.

Sunday services livestreamed on our Facebook page:
Christ Lutheran Church Duluth at 9:30 AM
You can also log onto our website clcduluth.org



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

Maintenance Report

A few of the recent maintenance projects:

- The small leak in the boiler room piping was fixed without complication, and the boilers are working well.
- We are moving right along with some painting and touch up.
- Our custodian will be planning a date to get the Fellowship Hall floors waxed in the next couple of weeks.
- We will be installing an outlet on the outside of the west entrance so we have a power source to hook up some heat-tape over the entrance windows. We had those giant icicles again this winter which caused some leaking.
- We will be weed and feeding the lawn when it warms up. Thankful for Jim Carlson's help with that.
- We are currently looking for volunteers for the following areas:
 1. Seal the wood on the playset
 2. Stain the Textured plywood on our back entry
 3. We are waiting to see if the grass seed will come up by the new heated patio. If not, we would like a couple volunteers to lay some sod for us.

Thank you for all your help.

Carolyn Lofald

Annual Spring Planting Sponsored by Esther Circle June 4 at 3PM

We are all excited that spring is finally here and getting anxious to start planting flowers. We are thankful for those that are willing to help in these areas and we are looking for volunteers to help us maintain these areas, too. If you would like to help with planting flowers, we will be planting on June 4, at 3:00. We will be social distancing; everyone will be assigned a section to plant. Bring gardening gloves and your own trowel. This year we will not be having a potluck after but we can picnic together by bringing something for ourselves and have a time of fellowship outside after the planting is done.



We also would appreciate help with watering. We have a weekly watering schedule, if any church member or family would like to sign up for a week, please contact the office and/or a circle member.

June Mission of the Month:

KDNW—Life 97.3 Radio

Whether you are a Mom getting little feet out the door each morning, or a Dad heading home from work, or any other member of the family, Life 97.3 is there for you.

Life 97.3 promises to always be family friendly and play positive and uplifting music that helps you connect with God.

Life 97.3 exists to lead people to Christ and nurture believers in their spiritual growth through Christ-centered media.

Life 97.3 is a part of the Northwestern Media Network, from The University of Northwestern in Saint Paul, MN.

Today, Northwestern Media operates 14 listener-supported Christian radio stations throughout the Midwest.



Dick McLean
June 23

Bonnie Kubiak
June 29



Communion services at Christ Lutheran Church will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Financial Update

April 2020 Income: \$19,882

April 2020 Expenses: \$16,683

Monthly income was over expenses by \$3,199

YTD Income: \$65,838

YTD Expenses: \$70,014

YTD income was under expenses by \$4,176

Collection for April Mission of the Month - AALC \$1,397.00

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

Dear Church Family:

We are excited to begin worshiping together again! We are making every effort to comply with federal and state guidelines so that everyone will be comfortable attending. Therefore, we have drawn up a Worship Plan:

- Please use WEST ENTRANCE (Parking lot side only) Use the automatic button to open the doors (push with your elbow).
- Please allow time and space (social distancing) for each member to enter without crowding the doorway.
- We encourage you to wear a mask. If you would like one, we will have some by the door.
- Place your offering in the collection plate in the narthex – collection will not be taken during the service. There will be an usher at the door to guide you.
- Please use the hand sanitizer that we have provided before entering the sanctuary
- We will have an usher in place to direct you into the sanctuary. Please take your coat in with you. We will not be shaking hands.
- Green painter's tape will be placed on the cushions to indicate where to sit; members of the same household may sit together.
- On Communion Sundays, communion cups will be distributed as you enter the sanctuary and we will all take communion at the same time during the service.
- Hymns, lessons, and liturgies will all be projected on screens so we do not have to sanitize after each service. Please bring your bible from home.
- After service, an usher will dismiss each row so that we do not crowd the aisle when leaving. Please let each pew empty and stay 6 feet apart. Please take all items with you (bulletins, communion cups, etc.) and throw away in the narthex.
- There will be no fellowship after service for the first few weeks. No coffee or snacks will be available.
- Bible study will resume on Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own bible. Family groups may sit together.
- Adult bible study will be in Fellowship Hall following the service. Tables will be set up and we ask you to sit where we have chairs provided. (Again, family groups may sit together).

We hope we will be able to ease up on restrictions in a reasonable amount of time. Please do not come to church if you feel ill or uncomfortable. Please call the office if you have questions, comments or concerns. Blessings on you & thank you for your understanding.