

# 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**

## *Candid November Reflections*

We have to fight against harboring hurt. Those hurts that someone has done against us, or against someone we either care about or love. Bitterness robs us of joy and peace. Have you ever thought about forgiving someone, then some kind of trigger brings those negative thoughts back to mind? As we mature in Christ, we must ask God to work in us to get rid of those thoughts. We must forgive instantly and continually. What we have to realize is that God is transforming us into the image of His Son, and that the fruit of the Holy Spirit must be manifest in our life. A holy life is the goal, and faith is the key, knowing that God is working in us.

There are questions we have to ask ourselves and ask them all the time. More importantly, we should ask the right questions of ourselves. Asking the right questions would involve the following: 1) Am I obeying God? 2) Am I living a holy life unto God? 3) Does my life reflect Jesus Christ in everything I say or do? 4) Am I praying? 5) Am I devoting myself to the study and meditation of God's Word? 6) Am I giving and hospitable? 7) Am I forgiving others as Jesus Christ has forgiven me?

The main question above these is: *Do I love God with all of my heart, and all of my soul, and all of my mind and all of my strength, and my neighbor as myself?* These are the questions we must be asking ourselves every day, 24/7.

I believe that God enables a person to recognize their encounters with God via the Holy Spirit. It may be that as your pastor, I pass along to you through a prophetic word what the Lord desires for you to hear. As your pastor, I would like to take your hand and say, "Let us follow Christ together."

I believe that as your pastor I can aid you in understanding the reason for your existence and the direction God has purposed you to go. Discipleship is going deep into God's Word and hearing what His Word means for us. Upon hearing, we are to obey His Word, and your example of following Christ will glorify God.

It is my task as your pastor to lead you to transformation - not production. Several years ago, I received in the mail a magazine called *The Leadership Journal* published by *Christianity Today*. In the edition, an article entitled "Meet the Dones" spoke about people who have left the church for various reasons. There was a prominent dynamic with everyone the article spoke of regarding those who left. The dynamic was that every one of the people who left the "institutional church" was those who were deeply involved and "worked" extremely hard in their church. Church activities, programs, volunteering, plus many more ways to "contribute." From the article, it seemed like Christianity to these people was just "doing." There was no talk or speak of transformation. There was just production. These people were fed up with "how" things were done.

Therefore, they left blaming the pastors and the people or the councils or the "institution" or the fact that church has a government. People need to be disciplined, they should know Law, they should know the Gospel and know the difference between the two. Then, they would come to know freedom in Christ.

Some people say pastors should impact their congregations atmosphere, help people see old things in new ways, and should be followed because of who they are not because of the position they hold. These are all nice descriptions of a charismatic person leading others.

I do not think Jesus modeled leadership this way. Jesus was/is truly human and truly God, and at the same time the Word incarnate delivering salvation, healing, and deliverance to the Jews first, then the Gentiles. He was obedient to God, fulfilled every aspect of the Law and its ordinances. He lived by example God's moral Law. He claimed to be God. He claimed to be the Messiah. He claimed oneness with the Father. All of which are true.

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(Candid November Reflections continued from page 1)

However, can we mere human beings, and pastors, claim that also? No, we are sinners saved by God's mercy and grace, and we must follow His example and follow Him, being enabled by grace and the Holy Spirit to live by faith a Christ like life to the glory of God, and thereby help others to live a life of faith, discipleship, service to God, and others.

When I think about ministry here at Christ Lutheran Church. I think about how effective I am or can be. I have discovered that the marks of an effective pastor are *character, courage, and total dependence upon God*. I think about this a lot. My thoughts bring to mind several questions.

- 1) Where do I obtain the character needed to be an effective pastor?
- 2) Where do I obtain the courage to be an effective pastor, and what is this "courage?"
- 3) Lastly, in what ways am I dependent upon God as a pastor?

When I think of *character*, especially the character of a pastor, I think of two things. First, 1 Timothy 3:1-7 "This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover, he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil."

Second, the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are character traits of someone living a Spirit-controlled life. A person who has submitted every aspect of his life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Character is described as the combined features and traits that form the individual nature of a person; one such feature or trait; characteristic; moral or ethical quality; qualities of honesty, courage, integrity, etc. I also think of when I miss the mark – I thank God for His forgiveness and healing. The mark of an effective pastor is a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led characteristic that is the result of a Holy Spirit controlled life.

The second mark, *courage*, is a mark of the *type of character* in a pastor. 1 Corinthians 16:13 says, "Be watchful! Stand firmly in the belief! Be manly! Be strengthened." This is courage. To watch, or be vigilant, against all the evils of which Paul had admonished them, the evils of dissension, or erroneous doctrines, of disorder, of false teachers, etc. To stand firm in holding and defending the truths of the Gospel. Not yielding to any foe, but maintain the truth, and adhere to my confidence in God, my dependence upon God, and to the doctrines of the Gospel with unwavering constancy. To stand firm in maintaining what I believe to be true, and in holding on to my personal confidence in God, notwithstanding all the arts, insinuations, and teachings of seducers and collaborators of false doctrine. To act like a man, to be manly or brave; to show myself as a man; that is, not to be a coward, or timid, or alarmed at enemies, but to be bold and brave.

The third mark is *total dependence upon God*. I am not to be strong for the faith or be strong in myself. My strength comes from the Lord, and in the power of *His might*; from the grace that is in Christ Jesus; believing in Him, looking to Him for strength as well as righteousness; trusting in His power, relying upon Him Whose arm is not shortened; dependent upon His grace, which is always sufficient; to take heart, be of good courage, and fear no enemy because the SOVEREIGN LORD is with me, He is my strength and my shield!

Please pray for me. Please pray that God grant me faith for Spirit-filled *character, courage, and total dependence upon God*. I desire Him to be your righteousness, your strength, and your shield too.

God bless your November and have a happy Thanksgiving! Give thanks with a grateful heart!

November blessings,

Pastor Gary




## Christ Lutheran Church

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 Christ Lutheran  
Church Duluth

 Christ Lutheran  
Church Duluth

Website: clcduluth.org  
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 10:00 AM

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 join us for a service of  
Thanksgiving to God and  
Holy Communion  
Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 PM**

## November 2020 Maintenance Report

With the sudden drop in temperatures, all the HVAC people are up to their eye-balls with “no heat” calls. Thankful that our boilers are working well! We turned the heat up in the sanctuary as we heard that it was cold in there! We hope to have our inspection when they get caught up. Waiting to hear from the fire extinguisher folks, too for that inspection.

Again, a big thank-you to Gary Glad and Judi for all the painting help over at the parsonage. We were blessed to see their talents at the open house. The house is now a home and looks absolutely wonderful. Good job decorating Sue, not to mention all the yummy treats Pastor and Sue had for us at their open house! A big thank-you to Mike Pickar for tackling the garage at the parsonage. He brought his pressure washer and gave it a good scrubbing. We now have a special mat on the floor for the car to park on so we won’t have any issues with leaks into the basement.

Also a big thanks to Gary our custodian for painting the conduit on the back of the church and the bench by the back door. Everything looks so nice. Very thankful he takes such good care of us. He also brings his knowledge to clean and sanitize our church surfaces.

Another big thank-you to Mike Pickar and Gary Lofald for getting the heat tape installed on the roof of the church over the parking lot entrance. It seems to be working so far!!!! Hopefully we will not have anymore leaks due to ice dams and danger from the long sharp icicles. While the guys were doing that, Wendy and I were able to tackle the church garage. We went through a number of items and made a pile for Savers, scrap metal and the land fill. The scrap was taken with a quick phone call from Mike and thanks to Jim Carlson, the other items were sent to their new homes. Thanks Wendy! We also had Glen Nelson and Terry Flood inspect the two old pieces of sheeter equipment that we had been hanging on to for parts. It was decided that those could find a new home and within hours we had a volunteer ready to take them off our hands and be put to use. Seems the fellow used to be a baker of sorts. Thanks to Glen and Terry for the fast and speedy work! Now, we have ample room for Pastor and Sue to park another vehicle and more room for Jim to work around when he pulls out the snow blower and lawn mowers. Sunshine also was willing to purchase another floor mat for this garage to contain the melting snow off the car.

Our parking lot has already been plowed twice. Thankful that we have Peterson Excavating doing that for us and that the dental office is still willing to share in paying for that service.

We are on the schedule with Perrault in regard to the siding at the back entrance of the church. They are trying to button up their scheduled jobs as they were a little delayed with the snow and cold snap.

Well, we hope we have gotten to all the jobs that needed to be tackled before the snow flew and as we settle in for our long winters nap... We hope this finds everyone healthy, safe and cozy warm.

God’s blessings!  
Carolyn Lofald, VP/Maintenance

Dear CLC Family,

Praise the Lord! God helped me complete the 2021 Bible Study for the women of the AALC, and I was privileged to present it at the National Convention last week. The study is both a devotional and a Word & Prayer Workshop to do with a group. Its purpose is to enrich your fellowship with God within a group of friends and grow in your prayer life. Some of the lessons are written for women, but all of the lessons introduce different prayer mentors and ask questions for all of us to think about. I pray that God will bless you as you read the introduction to *Beloved Apprentice: Becoming a House of Prayer*.

## BELOVED APPRENTICE LESSONS

January “Becoming a House of Prayer”

February “How to Interpret Scripture” and “Lessons from the School of Prayer”

March “The Holy Trinity: Praying Our Creation, Fall and Redemption”

April “Moses: Loving and Praying God’s Law”

May “David: Psalm of Repentance”

June “Jesus Christ: The God Who Prays for Us”

July “Hannah: Pouring Out Our Soul”

August “Esther: Standing in the Breach”

September “Miriam or Mary: Choosing the Better Way”

October “Paul: Praying for the Church”

November “Martin: Prepare to Die”

December “The Puritans: The Valley of Vision”



## LESSON ONE INTRODUCTION - APPRENTICESHIP

Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, was a carpenter who taught his son how to be a carpenter. Jesus learned how to make furniture and build houses as his father’s apprentice; by watching, listening, assisting, practicing, asking questions, making mistakes, completing projects, receiving encouragement, correction, and redirection. Sometimes we call this process learning by osmosis. Joseph as master and teacher would be in the best position to determine when his son had achieved a mastery level of carpentry skill, ready to work successfully on his own, and equipped to apprentice others.

Many vocations still rely on the apprenticeship model to teach men and women a craft or trade. Contemporary apprenticeships often include textbooks, online resources, and updated terminology, but the emphasis is still on learning by observing, assisting, and then doing under supervision until the apprentice becomes proficient to work on her own. Trade proficiency is accompanied by degrees of certification that correlate with increased compensation, responsibility, opportunity, and professional status.

Becoming proficient in a craft or trade is a process that requires time, commitment, and hard work, but there is more to vocation than skill proficiency. True vocation requires passion and purpose. Its source is a gifting and calling from God. Similarly, our life in Christ requires passion and purpose, and spiritual transformation is a lifetime process initiated by our heavenly Father who promises to complete the good work He started in us (Philippians 1:6). “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2)

## THE MENTORING RELATIONSHIP

Every successful apprenticeship relies on a strong mentoring relationship. The mentor must be skilled, confident, and invested in the apprentice. The apprentice must be teachable, humble, and committed to the mentor and the process. In the case of our Divine Mentor, He shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8), and our union with Christ and our love for God positions us to become His Beloved Apprentice.

We see many different kinds of mentoring relationships in the Bible and each one has been included by God as an example or model to help us reject conformity to the world and pursue the renewing of our minds that will result in the transformation God desires, commands, and enables for each of us. Notice the beautiful variety of Biblical mentoring relationships.

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- Jesus and the Twelve: our Savior calling and mentoring a small group of disciples who would become His sent ones, apostles who would take the Gospel to the world
- Paul and The Church of Ephesus: an apostle who had once been a persecutor of Christians who becomes a spiritual father to the leaders of a large group of new Christians
- Esther by Mordecai: an uncle parenting an orphaned niece who would become a queen
- Ruth by Naomi: a Jewish mother-in-law and a fiercely faithful, gentile daughter-in-law, both widowed and returning to Israel with nothing
- Timothy by Lois and Eunice: a Jewish grandmother and mother discipling a young man whose father was Greek
- Timothy by Paul: the apostle equipping a young man to become bishop of Ephesus

### **DOES ANYONE NEED A RIDE TO WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY?**

I am available between 6-6:30pm on Wednesdays to provide a ride to and from Bible Study. Just give me a call on my mobile number 320-815-1561, or call the church office 218-722-7537.

### **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - SAMARITAN'S PURSE National Collection Week is November 16-23!**

Let's gather together with kids, parents, and grandparents to build boxes for this loving Christmas ministry. Keep your eyes peeled for a "build date" coming soon!

### **CLC FOOD SHARE - THANKSGIVING TURKEYS!**

We will be distributing groceries to school families the fourth Wednesday of every month. Grocery packing on Tuesday evenings the day before. November Food Share packing on Tuesday 11/17 at 6:30pm and distribution on Wednesday 11/18 from 11:30am - 12:30pm. Please remember to give as you are able to meet our monthly goal of \$500 and check in with Pastor if you want to help packing or passing groceries.

### **CLC YOUTH WEDNESDAYS AT 5PM WITH ME AT THE PARSONAGE FOR BIBLE STUDY**

We're starting a new study on November 4th! A Study of Romans. This study and the hot chocolate will be rich. Invite a friend :)

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS WEDNESDAYS AT 4PM WITH PASTOR GARY IN THE SANCTUARY!**

Blessings and love,

Sue

320-815-1561 / suedesha@gmail.com

*Thank  
you!*

*A big thank you to Julie Guddeck and Sandy Carlson for donating masks to the church! They have been much appreciated.*

*Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes  
need to be returned to the church by  
Monday, November 16th.*



## November Mission of the Month:

The AALC

The AALC is our supporting organization and we need to help spread the Good Word by our continuing financial support. 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."*

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Christ Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting was held Sunday, October 25. The budget for 2021 was approved at the meeting. The total budget is \$141,635.00. The weekly need to meet the budget is \$2,725.00



For the 2021 Church Council, the vote was to continue with the same officers and council members. There is still a need for deacons and trustees, if you are interested in serving in either position please contact President Ouitdee Carson or vice president Carolyn Lofald to be considered by the board.



Pastor appreciation was October. We honored Pastor the morning of our congregational meeting. Our council president, Ouitdee Carson, thanked Pastor for his dedication to our church and presented him with a gift .

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### **A Note About Offering Envelope Numbers:**

Please be aware that your offering envelope number may change this year. Make sure to look for your name on the label and not the number you previously had. Thank you.

### **Financial Update**

Dear devoted members of CLC, 2020 has certainly been a challenging year and we are grateful for your continuing prayers and financial support for your church. The council has been working hard to keep expenses down and the Paycheck Protection Loan has helped to carry us through the summer. Please continue your support either by mailing your offering envelope, dropping it off in the office, or dropping it off when you come for communion in the parking lot. Thank you.

Sept. Income: \$10,944.30	Sept. Expenses: \$16,878.91	Sept. Income \$5,934.61 under expenses
YTD Income: \$116,553.09	YTD Expenses: \$142,141.62	YTD income \$25,588.62 under expenses
With PPL adjustment: YTD Income \$1,811.47 over expenses		

September Mission: Gideons—\$1,089.00

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

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: 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:

Vi Boder  
Bob Johnson  
Mary Jenny  
Kathy Stevens  
Tom & Marlene Stauber  
Diane Malander  
Dennis Peterson  
Mark Malander  
Don & Laviere Johnson  
Norma Johnson

Jane McLean  
Jean Sundstrom  
Katie Lund  
Susan Johnson  
Judy Stocke  
Carol Johnson  
Carol Sogard  
Barb Hanson  
Brian MacDonald

Ruth Peterson  
Ruth Dahl  
Carol Schramm  
Florence Kubiak  
Evelyn Johnson  
Bryan Goeppinger  
Donna Swanson & Family  
Darlene Saaf  
Del Sandberg

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

*We are very blessed to have such a thoughtful and kind church family. We appreciate the cards and well wishes sent to us for our 50th Wedding Anniversary.*

*Love and blessings,  
Bob & Barb Johnson*

*Thank  
you!*

*Dear friends at Christ Lutheran,  
Grace and peace to you! Thank you for again remembering my ministry. I know you are both praying and giving. You are part of our work to bring real, live, face-to-face pastoral care to the college communities of Columbia, Missouri. Though the pandemic has forced us to change some of our methods, the goal is still the same—to make disciples of all nations. Our international students are receiving care, though our dinners have stopped. The Bible study in the Fraternity has been growing. The Lord is making a way. Thanks so much for standing with me.  
Pastor Spotts  
Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry*

