

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

May 2021

"What Comes With May"

"Life is not a highway strewn with flowers; Still it holds a goodly share of bliss; When the sun gives way to April showers; Here is the point you should never miss,

Though April showers may come your way; They bring the flowers that bloom in May; So if it's raining, have no regrets; Because it isn't raining rain, you know, (It's raining violets,)

And where you see clouds upon the hills; You soon will see crowds of daffodils; So keep on looking for a blue bird, and listening for his song; Whenever April showers come along

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The first part of the Nicene Creed states, "We believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible."

As I write this, it is still April. It rained heavily yesterday. Yet, it is spring time all over the United States and here in Duluth, Minnesota. God has given humanity the responsibility to care for this earth. Have we done so? I don't think we have. Not really. With the rise of technology, and the knowledge of how to turn rock into steel, we have come to pollute our air and waterways.

From a Christian point of view, life is eucharistic. The word "eucharist" means thanksgiving. It is used as the definition of the Sacrament where we receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. But in viewing life and the creation, we must see it all as a Eucharistic celebration. The celebration is the outcome of being responsible for our earth and all of its contents.

The life we live on this earth is a life of communion with God. When Adam and Eve sinned, we lost the earth as a means of communion with God. The earth before the fall of humanity was filled with the Divine Presence of God. Since then, and now, the earth appears void of the Divine Presence.

The Holy Scriptures tell us that in God "we live, move, and have our being." That includes the earth! When we purposely destroy rain forests that disrupt the ecology; when we purposely shoot pollutants into the air creating holes in the O-Zone layer, we go against the sacramental meaning of our relationship to this planet. God gave humanity everything it needed to survive. God gave us fruit, vegetables, and plants to eat from. But then, after the fall, and after the great flood of Noah's time, God allowed us to eat meat. This isn't a plug for being vegetarian, but humanity was vegetarian in the beginning. The killing of an animal is opposed to the understanding of our relationship with the earth and all of creation that God inherently gave us.

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann wrote in his book entitled *Holy Week: A Liturgical Explanation for the Days of Holy Week*, "...world and food, once they are deprived of their initial sacramental meaning as means of communion with God; once they are not received for God's sake, and filled with hunger and thirst for God; once, in other words, God is no longer their real "content," can give no life, satisfy no hunger, for they have no life in themselves." This is what has become of humanity. Nothing satisfies, so we go for more. Nothing gives life, so we think we can create it. Our hunger and thirst is not for food or that which satisfies, but it is a hunger and thirst for union and communion with God.

(Continued on page 2)

Christ Lutheran Church

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218-727-2076

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church@clcduluth.org

Website: clcduluth.org



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

Every Month:

Wednesdays:
4 PM Confirmation
5 PM Youth Bible Study
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study

Third Wednesday of the
Month from 11:30-12:30
Community Food Share

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

What Comes With May (cont. from page 1)

This month of May, as we celebrate spring time, and getting ready for camping fun, let us look to God as our source, as our satisfaction, and the One who fills our hunger and quenches our thirst. For nothing is more important to the earth today, than our coming back to what was once sanctified; what was once transformed into a world of thanksgiving and adoration of God our Creator. Let us yearn and repent toward a more perfect eucharistic life, that is filled with God, and watch it become again a Divine and immortal life that He has given to all humanity especially to those who believe in Him.

Enjoy the wonderful month of May, for April showers have brought all the blossoms!

In the Name of our Creator God, the Eternal Logos, Jesus the Messiah. Amen.

God bless your spring time!

Pastor Gary



**Congratulations to Courtney Carson
and Gabe Wiita on their confirmation!**

May Maintenance Report

A year has passed since we opened our doors for church services. Our custodian, Gary, continues to clean and disinfect for us. Thankful that he is conscientious about our church and our health. After a year of wear and tear, Sue and Pastor updated our painters' tape on the wood arm rests of the pews and placed indicators on the pew backs of where to sit so we can socially distance. This has been working very well! **Please be cautious** when you walk in from the parking lot. The pavement at the upper entrance and the lower entrance doors has become uneven. We are watching to see if after the frost leaves this will settle. If not, we will need to address these issues. So, please "Watch your Step"! Thanks again to Glen for making the sign for the back entrance of church! The church lot will be swept soon and we are inquiring about filling a few pot holes. We are still waiting for the window repairs to be completed when the weather warms up – one in the sanctuary of the church and the others at the parsonage. We have completed all the "Exit" signage that was requested by the Fire Marshall and are waiting to have them sign off after their final inspection. We are waiting to get information from Benson Electric on installing surge protectors on our main and subpanels to help protect from lightning issues and power surges. This was a suggestion from our insurance company. DAD's Electronics has completed the hard wiring for the Video Camera and that is working well. We have two new monitors that we use for Live Streaming. Thanks to Ouitdee for getting that up and running for us. We are making step-by-step instructions and welcome anyone that would like to learn and run that for us on Sundays. We have the old copy room back in order and the shelving now houses our table decorations and some other items. We understand that it is hard for some of you to be in church, but want to keep you informed of what is going on.

God's blessings on you!
Carolyn

May Mission of the Month: Project Timothy

We are part of an unbroken chain. Paul - Timothy - faithful pastors - and on and on through the years. This pattern of carefully passing on the faithfully entrusted message is the heartbeat of the Christian church and her mission. The death of Jesus Christ has made a way for God to bring sinful men back to a right relationship with Him – by grace alone through faith alone. This is the message to be proclaimed!

From its inception the Christian church has sent teachers into the world with this message. Well-trained pastors are critically needed in Kenya. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya is the fastest-growing Lutheran church in Africa today. But the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya has a mere 140 pastors to serve 700 congregations with 100,000 members. Project Timothy-Kenya is dedicated to providing a remedy for this need, equipping leaders for the dramatically growing church in Africa.

Please prayerfully consider a donation to either of 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."*

Dear CLC Family and Friends,

BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

There's something about this time of year - Mother's Day, the Fishing Opener, Memorial Day - these late spring milestones that enhance the anticipation of summer; precious months of sunshine, warm breezes, the sound of water along the shore, and campfires; even digging in the dirt to beautify the earth and grow good things to eat.

As we look forward to summer, I encourage you to also be on the lookout for what the Holy Spirit is doing in our community, church, and especially in our hearts. Leading up to Pentecost Sunday, we will be reading from the Book of Acts. Whenever I read from Acts my anticipation builds for what God will do when His people spend extra time together in worship and prayer. It's almost like adding more wood to a campfire; you know, when a fire that has dwindled down to embers suddenly bursts forth in bright flames once again.

Before Our Lord, Jesus Christ, ascended into heaven to take His place at the right hand of God, he encouraged the disciples that he would not leave them alone without another Helper. He instructed them to wait in Jerusalem; to gather the faithful together to wait and pray with great expectation.

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4 ESV)

Many people from the marketplace gathered near the epicenter of God's visitation in amazement. They wondered what was taking place as the Apostles, filled with power from the Holy Spirit, spilled out the door glorifying God and testifying of the Christ in many languages so that those who heard and understood with faith were transformed on the spot. Later in Acts we are told of another visitation by the Holy Spirit where God demonstrated that salvation and the gift of the Holy Spirit wasn't only for the Jews, but for all peoples.

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days. (Acts 10:44-48 ESV)

Is this not amazing, and does God not say that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever? Dig into the Book of Acts this month. Read again of all the great things God did to birth and grow the Church of Jesus Christ. Let your faith reach out for what God will do in your life. Anticipate new things for Christ Lutheran Church. Get ready to bless your neighbor.

Be on the lookout for the Holy Spirit!



CLC YOUTH NOTES

Bible Study is finished for the summer a bit early. We are finalizing travel plans for the July Youth Conference in Estes Park CO. I will be sending out all the details the first week of May. Youth, parents, and adult sponsors will be invited to a BBQ with prayer, praise, plans and games in June. Dates to be announced.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER FRIDAYS

I am so thankful for our special times of Bible Study, friendship and prayer each week with "Beloved Apprentice." Remember all women are invited and you can join in anytime.

ONLINE Tuesdays at 6:30pm by email invite on Google Meet

IN PERSON STUDY Wednesdays at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall

You are welcome to attend either study or both - whatever works best for your schedule. Invite a friend! Call 320-815-1561 if questions or to request a ride.

CLC FOOD SHARE

Thank you for your generous donations and volunteer service for the CLC Food Share. We will continue sharing groceries with school district families the third Wednesday of every month. The mini VBS-in-a-Bag gifts we started sharing in March with early elementary children are greatly appreciated. If you have a theme or gift idea for this mini-ministry, please let me know. Our FoodShare friends also love the Birthday Cake Kits! April visits were a bit slow, but we will stay faithful. May grocery packing is Tuesday 5/18/21 at 6:30pm. Food share distribution is Wednesday 5/19/21 from 11:30am - 12:30pm. See you there!

In Christ's love,

Sue

320-815-1561

suedesha@gmail.com

Happy Birthday!

Valery Petrowske

May 9

Book Of Acts

H K E H U N V K W H G N E S W S I D S P C J L S
 G B F K M M S M C O P T T V H T N A U M U Z J A
 W C X K C S B A Q D J A W A N X M X X D I G D D
 O O F S K A E H C A D I D U C A A G E E L C L U
 Q M L U K E H K F H W S U B R M Y A D Y Z I F E
 T M N C W N H H A N X H I I A L Y Z J M U J G H
 F U P Z B E S I D L Y V A H U Y C Q E U M U D T
 D N Z W A A S I K H M N A D S N N G V W D O D A
 F I Q K P S V U C W I R X C E S A C R O D A B X
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 F N I M W Y F H D A P A A O T M O U E J F G O A
 E S C R S P T E T R N F Y J S Q P P M Q D E K U
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 L M Q U P N B Y N E R S L N P A Y Y K T Q T H R
 O B J S A A E A N R T A C J A M K V L Z O I E D
 W Q V S A R L T N C Z M Z M C A H A O N T L O U
 S J N F G L E D H R J Z M A P R U N K I Y E P N
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 X W M E H H O L Y S P I R I T S T A F J T A Q K

Abraham
 Barnabas
 Fellowship
 Jesus Christ
 Nazareth
 Sanhedrin
 Aeneas
 Communion
 Gentiles
 Judas
 Pentecost
 Sapphira
 Ananias
 Didache
 Holy Spirit
 Judea
 Prayer
 Theophilus
 Apostles
 Dorcas
 Jerusalem
 Messiah
 Samaria
 Theudas

Financial Update

March Income \$10,893.00 March Expenses \$10,758.56

Monthly income was over expenses by \$134.44

YTD Income \$30,230.24 YTD Expenses \$33,423.67

YTD income was under expenses by \$3,193.43

March Mission: Spiritual Orphans Network \$715.00

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
All of our students from pre-school to college
Our Country, Military & Police
The teachers and students at all schools
Mission of the Month: Project Timothy
Persecuted Christians throughout the world

The steadfastness of our faith
Please pray for the family of Shirley Randa
*Lutheran Vicar Mwavu Ronald and his 2 churches:
St. John's Lutheran Church,
Nankandulo, Kamuli, Uganda
St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Buluva, Namendwa, Uganda*

THOSE WITH HEALTH NEEDS:

Ruth Dahl	Barb Hanson	Mary Jenny
Carol Johnson	Evelyn Johnson	Judy Stocke
Florence Kubiak	Katie Lund	Diane Malander
Brian McDonald	Steve Petrowske	Eli Miletich
Dennis Peterson	Ruth Peterson	Darlene Saaf
Del Sandberg	Carol Sogard	Jane McLean
Kathy Stevens	Donna Swanson	Tom & Marlene Stauber
Linda Anthony (Dick McLean's Daughter)		

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



Shirley Jeanne Randa "Shirl" passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 18, 2021. Please pray for Shirley's family during this time.

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



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



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