



**In the Hands of the Refiner**

June 2021

## "Return to Prayer"

*1 Timothy 2:1-6, 8*

"First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time. Therefore, I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or argument."

As we begin the summer months, we must remember that Jesus taught His disciples to how pray and modeled it as He trained them. Also, prayer moves the heart of the church toward the heart of God for His mission. Prayer opens the doors in our community and the world for the Gospel to advance. Prayer empowered by the Holy Spirit ignites the message of those going to share the Gospel clearly and without fear.

St. Paul exhorts believers "to practice habitually" prayer before God. There are four synonyms (or words) for prayer to God:

1. **supplications** - this means to plead humbly before God; to request, to beg, to petition something from God (a prayer of petition). James 5:16; Ephesians 6:18

2. **prayers** - these are the sacred and reverent prayers that are prayed during worship toward God as in Acts 2:42 (the prayers) or specific prayers read during worship. Isaiah 56:7

3. **intercessions** - Intercession is holy, believing, with childlike trust, persevering prayer whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who desperately need God's intervention. Hebrews 7:25

4. **thanksgivings** - Is gratitude toward God in worship; grateful language to God, as an act of worship. This is where we get the word *eucharist*, which means thankfulness or thanksgiving. Psalm 100:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:18

The plural of each word is a collection of concrete examples representing the manner of prayer in which the early church prayed; and it also helps to give the force implied by the whole context, which is *common, public* prayer.


St. Augustine says that the four words refer to the liturgical form of administration of Holy Communion: we may certainly see this in the ancient liturgy (1) "In earth peace, goodwill towards men: (2) we bless thee, we worship Thee, O Lord, (3) Thou that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us; (4) we give thanks to Thee, God the Father Almighty" or during worship we see (1) the *supplication* for mercy and grace in the Kyrie after each Commandment (2) the *prayer of worship* in the prayers of humble access and consecration, (3) the intercession in the Lord's Prayer and following prayers, (4) and again the thanksgiving of the Gloria in Excelsis summarizes all the prayers prayed before.

## Christ Lutheran Church

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 Christ Lutheran  
Church Duluth

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Church Duluth

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

Every Month:  
Wednesdays:  
6:30 PM Adult Bible Study

Esther Circle  
First Thursday of each month  
at 10:00 AM

Mary Circle  
First Thursday of each month  
at 9:30 AM (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

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Here is some wisdom from Dr. Martin Luther:

**Supplications** - These are prayers with which we pray for evils to be averted, so that when I pray for *the President, governor, mayor, or any elected official*, I shall pray, God, the evils which threaten his official position are countless. There will be great danger in the *U. S. government*. Satan will call the participants away from serious matters so that they discuss trifles. They will finish no business. Neither peace nor harmony will result. They will not end preparation for war against those who may come against us. The princes will arrange whatever pleases them. It is the duty of Christians to see whose fault it is that nothing happens in meetings. We must pray that God would instill a good spirit so that they consider all good and salutary things. There will be infinite evils at the *Capitol* if we shall not have prayed that the Lord would stimulate them to thoughts of peace. Were we to pray, we would accomplish something and would do battle against Satan in the midst of the princes, even though we would be absent in body.

**Prayers** - These are requests for good things: that the Lord would remove every lamentable condition with which *America* is being oppressed; that instead of those evil men He would give prudent, wise, pious princes who are eager for peace. In this way we pray for the kings of other countries we deal with. They are good gifts of God, but the devil is in their midst. We must do what we can.

**Intercessions** - We correctly apply them to our enemies, according to Matt. 5:44, who do not seem worthy of our praying for them. We must, however, pray for our enemies. Here is the reason. If you have prayed that God remove evils but one or two who are persecuting all honorable things and the Gospel still stand in the way, then you pray for them: "Lord, forgive them. They do not know what they do," lest He should lay the fault to their charge as to people who do not know, etc. Let them place Christ before themselves, as Stephen did (Acts 7:56-60). "Pray for those who persecute you" (Matt. 5:44). First, we must pray for all public officials, whether they are ours or someone else's, that He take evils away from them and give them good things. We must also pray for tyrants, who persecute us and hinder our prayers when tyrants and sects hinder the fruit of the Gospel. We must pray and ask God to listen and permit His Gospel to be sown and to produce fruit.

**Thanksgivings** - Gratitude always merits the receipt of more; ingratitude drains the fountain of divine goodness. Gratitude consists of more than the expression "I thank you, Lord God." It also involves acknowledging first that it is a gift of God, that a person knows that peace, which today holds sway here in *America*, a type of government, and the security that allows one to marry are pure gifts of God. It is a gift of God to have a king and a state and the pest without poison, etc. After all, Satan wants the air polluted, all the land burdened with pestilence and death. That this does not occur is a gift of God. We have so many kings and peoples, so much produce, food, and property, purely out of His goodness. This gratitude consists not only in our words alone but principally in our acknowledgment of the blessing we have received. Those people are rare who make such an acknowledgment. Thus no one gives thanks, nor do people pray. Even those who pray with their mouth do not make this acknowledgment. Gratitude must be involved with prayers because one must confess the gifts he has received.

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Dear CLC Family and Friends,

## “Know Your Enemy”

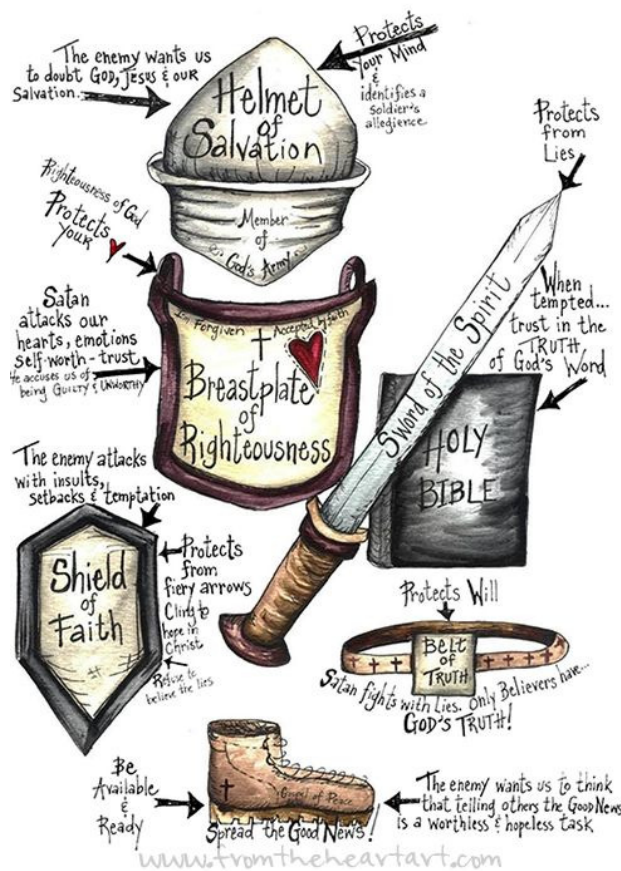
**Have you ever** wondered to yourself, “Who is my enemy?” Maybe you’ve thought it’s a disability or a disease like cancer, a political ideology or a powerful person who threatens your security, maybe someone who cut you off in traffic, or the person who hurt you as a child, even your own mistakes and failures. These feelings, thoughts, and experiences present us with trials to overcome, and we need to forgive those who harm us, but none of these are our real enemy.

We meet our mortal adversary in the first garden. *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, “You shall not eat of any tree in the garden”?”* (Genesis 3:1 ESV)

Speaking lies through the mouth of the serpent, Satan targeted Eve by attacking God’s character and God’s word. Take a few minutes to open your Bible and read Genesis 3:1-24 carefully to refresh your memory about how Adam and Eve opened the door to sin and death for all creation. Consider how Eve entered into a discussion with her enemy until she doubted both the goodness of God and the truth of His Word. After Eve and Adam ate of the fruit of the forbidden tree, who or what did God curse? How do the consequences of their sin echo into the present?

Our real enemy is affirmed again in the New Testament. *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.* (Ephesians 5:11-12 ESV)

Our Heavenly Father wants us to know with certainty that we should not wrestle against people; instead we wrestle in prayer to overcome dark, spiritual forces using the Sword of the Spirit which is the Truth of God’s Word. Remember that God is sovereign over all and He loves us! *Submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee.* (James 4:7 ESV)



Finally, we rest in the finished work of Jesus Christ who overcame sin, death, and the devil on the cross; and at the same time we reject sin and embrace righteousness.

*Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.* (1 John 3:8-9 ESV)

In the July Messenger we’ll take a closer look at Jesus Christ, our Deliverer, to learn more about how He set the captives free from evil spirits, infirmities, and disabilities!

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### **CLC YOUTH NOTES**

Our travel plans for Estes Park CO are set! Youth and parents watch for an email from me.

Youth, parents, and adult sponsors will be invited to a BBQ with prayer, praise, plans, and games in June.

WHAT DATES WORK FOR YOU?

### **BELOVED APPRENTICE WILL MEET ONCE EACH MONTH THIS SUMMER**

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**

**JUNE 15, JULY 20, AUGUST 17**

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

**JUNE 16, JULY 21, AUGUST 18**

You are welcome to attend either study, 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 each month this summer. June grocery packing is Tuesday 6/15/21. Food share distribution is Wednesday 6/16/21 from 11:30am - 12:30pm. See you there!

In Christ's love,

Sue

320-815-1561

[suedesha@gmail.com](mailto:suedesha@gmail.com)

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*Return to Prayer continued from page 2*

In verse 8 the Greek word "men" **means** men as opposed to women. God intends for men to be the leaders when the church meets for corporate worship. When prayer for the lost is offered during those times, the men are to lead it. When Paul says *in every place* he means regarding the official assembly of the church. Men are to lead the church in prayer and worship.

It is imperative that a church prays and engages in the spiritual work of proclaiming the Gospel. When the church prays, Christians begin to get a clearer glimpse of the church's mission. It is by prayer that God's people move closer toward the heart of God for their community and the world. It is by prayer that fears about sharing the Gospel are defeated.

May Christ Lutheran Church be a church that rises up by falling to our knees in order to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations.

Have a blessed summer!

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Gary



**All are invited to enjoy a morning of flower planting and church beautification hosted by Esther Circle**  
**Thursday June 3, 2021 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**BYO Bag Lunch - Dessert and Coffee will be served**



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## **June Maintenance Report**

This warm weather is such a blessing and we have started our outdoor maintenance projects! Jim has been raking and cleaning up areas that need attention. The lawn mower is ready to go! The potholes in the asphalt at the east entrance and the low spot in front of the west side walk have been patched. The sidewalk entrance at the west door (parking lot side) will be redone to take care of the uneven walk way. So, PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP. We are on the schedule for end of June. The pavement at the lower entrance door has settled some. We will do some barricades, so to speak, to direct pedestrian flow. So, please continue to “Watch your Step” there, too! We need to do some berm work to the area by the back door to direct the water flow that comes down the lot that is causing this issue. Eventually, our whole parking lot will need to be redone – the cost was over \$120,000.00 when quoted a few years back. Please pray about that. The repairs we made in 2019 are still holding up well. The church parking lot will be swept by our plowing service, Peterson Excavating. The sand is removed and reused. Piedmont Dental will help us with that expense.

The sanctuary window that had the stress crack has been replaced and the stained glass reinstalled. We are still waiting for Arrowhead to complete the window work at the parsonage.

The Fire Marshal has done his final walkthrough of our church and we are now compliant with City of Duluth code. The surge protectors have been ordered for our main power supply and subpanels and will be installed in June. This was a suggestion from our insurance company.

Ouitdee is updating and making step-by-step instructions for the Facebook livestream/videoing and we welcome anyone that would like to learn this process and run that for us on Sundays.

Gary, our custodian will be getting to a few more areas of the playset that need water sealant – we ran out of time last fall. The garage is needing to be restained. If anyone is interested in that project, please let me know!

God’s blessings on you!

Carolyn

## **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. They provide the transmitter for our area to receive Christian broadcasts from Northwestern college which includes broadcasting on 90.5 Faith Radio.

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

Please prayerfully consider a donation to this month's chosen mission. You may make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church. Thank you for your support in our mission "*To know Christ and to make Him known.*"

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**Sunday services are livestreamed on our Facebook page:**

**Christ Lutheran Church Duluth at 9:30 AM**

**You can also log onto our website [clduluth.org](http://clduluth.org)**



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

**You Tube**

Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

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### **Financial Update**

April Income \$13,734.00

April Expenses \$13,722.62

*Monthly income was over expenses by \$11.38*

YTD Income \$43,968.00

YTD Expenses \$46,886.96

*YTD income was under expenses by \$1,835.04*

April Mission: AALC Youth Conference - \$738.00

*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: KDNW  
Persecuted Christians throughout the world

The steadfastness of our faith  
The family of Dennis Peterson  
*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	Mark Malander
Florence Kubiak	Katie Lund	Donna Swanson
Brian McDonald	Steve Petrowske	Eli Miletich
Judy Stocke	Ruth Peterson	Darlene Saaf
Del Sandberg	Carol Sogard	Jane McLean
Kathy Stevens	Tom & Marlene Stauber	Priscilla Olson

Linda Anthony (Dick McLean's Daughter)

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



*Our sympathies to the family and friends of  
Dennis Peterson who passed away on May 4.*

**Happy Birthday!**

<i>Jan Arezzo</i>	<i>June 19</i>
<i>Dick McLean</i>	<i>June 23</i>
<i>Bonnie Kubiak</i>	<i>June 29</i>