

# 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

July 2021

## "True Independence"

### What is independence?

Basically, independence is not depending upon something or someone. When we think about depending upon something or someone, we think about our lives and what is involved in living them. We are dependent upon sustenance; food and water. We are dependent upon air to breathe. We are dependent upon light for vitamin D and healthy skin. We are dependent upon shelter from the heat and cold. We are dependent upon medicine when we are sick. When we were infants, we depended upon our parents for care, nurture, and nutrition. When we were children, we depended upon education to teach us reading, writing, and arithmetic, in order to learn how to be self-sufficient, take care of ourselves, obtain employment, etc. Some of us, when we were older, became dependent upon a college education to increase our marketability for employment, in order to provide a better life for ourselves and our families. We depend upon our State and local law enforcement and our military to keep us safe and free. We're dependent upon a lot of things.

Then, we become dependent upon another. Maybe a spouse or a care giver, a mentor, a teacher or professor, or even our children. Come to think of it, independence is not a reality in most of our lives. We are dependent upon some things or someone. We are dependent on those who love us – because we need love. As a citizens looking at our city, state, and country what do we see?

*We see that independence has never been easy. Nearly 250 years ago, it was something worth fighting for. The idea of a people who stood on equal footing, free to speak, free to wander, free to live. These were ideals worth risking everything for.<sup>1</sup>*

### What were these ideals?

"The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."<sup>2</sup>

*Today we find ourselves fighting old battles. Not with past foes, but with ourselves. We are a nation divided. It seems the very freedoms we once fought for have become stumbling blocks.<sup>3</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> 2021, Footbridge Media. Pensacola, Florida

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>

<sup>3</sup> 2021, Footbridge Media. Pensacola, Florida

## Christ Lutheran Church

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 Christ Lutheran  
Church Duluth

 Christ Lutheran  
Church Duluth

Website: clcduluth.org

President: Quitdee 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

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

AA meets at the church  
every Monday at 6:30 PM

*If My people who are  
called by My name will  
humble themselves, and  
pray and seek My face,  
and turn from their  
wicked ways, then I will  
hear from heaven, and  
will forgive their sin and  
heal their land.*

*2 Chronicle 7:14*

## What are the stumbling blocks?

Life. Liberty. The pursuit of happiness. Today, the right to life has been challenged; it has been discarded; it has been denied. It has been challenged, discarded, and denied by people who have determined in their minds that what was once considered lawless; a part of themselves they consider theirs, is really not theirs at all. Liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Evil has deluded people to see these lawless acts as ideas of freedom and self-determination. Freedom to be who they want to be, to do what they want to another, not concerned with the outcome, concerned only with what they will receive. What makes people happy? Wars, and fighting amongst people of all colors. drug lords, gang leaders, political party leaders, nations against nations – all in the name of what they want, what they consider valuable, what makes them happy, whether or not in reality, it may be harmful or deadly. Greed, self-centeredness, licentiousness, lawlessness, pride and avarice control the minds of the ungodly. These are the stumbling blocks we set before ourselves and at the same time wonder why we're tripping over them.

*Are we too busy seeking ourselves to even recognize the tragedy which surrounds us? In this moment; the truth of Scripture rings especially true. What does God tell us in His Word?*

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.” Romans 1:18-32 (NKJV)

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<sup>4</sup> 2021, Footbridge Media. Pensacola, Florida

“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV)

*If we the people will humbly pray, turn from this wickedness, and seek His face, then He will hear us, He will forgive us, and He will heal this land.*<sup>5</sup>

### **What is true independence?**

“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8:31-36 (NKJV)

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:2 (NKJV)

*Today, may we remember this one simple truth...True independence is found only in our dependence on God*<sup>6</sup> alone.

Stay cool and have a blessed and safe July!



Pastor Gary

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<sup>5</sup> 2021, Footbridge Media. Pensacola, Florida

<sup>6</sup> 2021, Footbridge Media. Pensacola, Florida

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## **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."

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Dear CLC Family and Friends,

## “Independence or Dependence”

July 4th is Independence Day! How do you celebrate this patriotic holiday? Many of us get together with family and enjoy summer by the backyard grill, at the cabin, or camping at our favorite spot. All of us love the fireworks ... except for Jack (and other furry family members). Some of us remember our military service and our oath to the Constitution, others honor loved ones who have served in war or are on active duty.

But really, how many of us recall the struggle of the Revolutionary War and ponder our independence from Great Britain? The thirteen American colonies of British America rallied behind the slogan “No taxation without representation” and fought to throw off British rule from April 19, 1775 to September 3, 1783. That’s more than eight years of life and death battle over taxes and government representation on what is now the sovereign soil of the United States of America.

Our forefathers were determined to abandon their dependence and submission to British rule and forge ahead independently. Holding the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness endowed by our Creator to be self-evident, they signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. They organized and developed our system of government; they framed the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and established a tripartite balance of powers shared by the executive, congressional, and judicial branches. They determined that the colonies would become states and retain powers, rights, and responsibilities within the framework of a republic. They spent their lives, land, and livelihoods to form a more perfect union under law. Being of like mind, they formed an admirable, though imperfect, system of government ratified in ink and blood in the throes of war.



Consider this - were these men independent or dependent? In fact, they were both. In the words of the Declaration they believed it was “necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which had connected them with another.” They turned away from Britain severing their allegiance to it and then entered into a mutual pledge with firm reliance on divine Providence to become the United States of America.

It is a perfect time to refresh our memory with how this land we love was formed and established, and these historical facts about the 4th of July also reflect truths about our life in Christ Jesus.

Our Heavenly Father is calling and commanding us to fight for our independence from earthly pursuits and fleshly passions. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we have been set free from the bondage of sin and death, and this freedom has been ratified in His blood. The one who has been set free in Christ is free indeed, praise be to God! We are also called to daily dependence on God and interdependent unity with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank God for the privilege of living a life of faith, of independence and dependence, that is made possible through our Savior and Lord!

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*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body! (2 Corinthians 6:19ESV)*

May God bless and keep you during the 4th of July Holiday and in all of your summer events and celebrations!



### **CLC YOUTH NOTES**

The AALC Youth Conference is less than two weeks away! Youth who are road-tripping with Pastor Gary and I will leave early Sunday morning on July 11th. The Wiita's will be flying out of Minneapolis on July 12 and the Virkus' will be departing from Bemidji on July 12th as well. We will all meet up with the rest of the AALC adventurers for a week "on the edge" at the YMCA Camp of the Rockies, Estes Park CO.

PLEASE PRAY FOR US AS WE TRAVEL AND WHILE WE ARE IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS COMMUNING WITH GOD, HIS CREATION AND OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS! Pray that God will open our hearts and minds to receive life-changing truth from His Word & Spirit. Pray that we will forge life-long friendships. Pray that we will hear and receive God's call to love Him more and serve Him faithfully. Pray that we will be healed, strengthened and equipped for the days ahead. Thank you! We love and appreciate you all!

### **BELOVED APPRENTICE IN JULY**

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

**ONLINE Tuesday July 20 at 6:30pm by email invite on Google Meet**

**IN PERSON STUDY Wednesday July 21 at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall**

### **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. July grocery packing is Tuesday 7/20/21. Food share distribution is Wednesday 7/21/21 from 11:30am - 12:30pm. See you there!

In Christ's love,

Sue

320-815-1561

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

## July Maintenance Report

Our church Memorial Gardens have been flourishing and are just beautiful. Thank you to the Esther Circle for lovingly tending them for us. We are also thankful to Jim Carlson for his mowing and trimming and help with watering when needed.

The sidewalk at the west upper entrance (parking lot side) is currently scheduled for the week of July 11 – weather depending. The low concrete will be removed and replaced (Lord willing and the creek don't rise!). Also, remember that the pavement at the lower entrance door has settled some. We have placed some flower pots to direct pedestrian flow. So, PLEASE WATCH YOUR STEP.

As a reminder, eventually, our whole parking lot will need to be redone – the cost was over \$120,000.00 when quoted a few years back. Please continue to pray about that. The repairs we made in 2019 are still holding up well as well as the few pot holes we just recently had repaired.

We are still waiting for Arrowhead to complete the window work at the parsonage. The surge protectors have been ordered for our main power supply and subpanels. Due to backorders, we are still waiting for these to arrive. Again, this was a suggestion from our insurance company to protect our equipment if we experience lightning.

Pastor's microphone was not working properly with the wireless transmitter and we sent that off to DAD's Electronics to be evaluated and it came back with no issues and is working fine now.

Gary, our custodian will be getting to a few more areas of the playset that need water sealant. He will also be cleaning the carpets at the church in July when the youth are on their trip to Colorado.

The garage will need to be re-stained in the fall. If anyone is interested in that project, please let me know!

God's blessings on your summer!

Carolyn

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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



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### **Financial Update**

May Income \$11,614.00

May Expenses \$10,323.34

*Monthly income was over expenses by \$1,290.66*

YTD Income \$55,582.00

YTD Expenses 57,174.61

*YTD income was under expenses by \$1,592.61*

May Mission: Project Timothy - \$2,045.00.00

*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: *Wittenberg Door Campus  
Ministry & Women's Care Center of Duluth*  
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	The Lund Family	Donna Swanson
Brian McDonald	Carol Schramm	Eli Miletich
Judy Stocke	Ruth Peterson	Darlene Saaf
Del Sandberg	Carol Sogard	Jane McLean
Kathy Stevens	Tom & Marlene Stauber	Bob & Barb Johnson

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.*

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**Ushers & Trustees**

**July 4**

**Ushers:** Quitdee Carson & Zach Carson

**Trustee:** Laurie & Laura

**July 11**

**Ushers:** Jim Carlson & Grace Wells

**Trustee:** Jim & Laurie

**July 18**

**Ushers:** Bill & Jan Arezzo

**Trustee:** Bill & Grace

**July 25**

**Ushers:** Wendy Pickar & Jim Carlson

**Trustee:** Wendy & Jim

**Happy Birthday!**

**Janice Spindler** July 6

**Gwen Nelson** July 11

**Carol Blair** July 14

**Carolyn Lofald** July 24

**Zach Carson** July 24

**Bob Johnson** July 31

If you have a conflict with these dates, please contact  
Jim Carlson at 343-6755