

Christ's Messenger

November 2021

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



"To know Christ,
and make Him known."



In the Hands of the Refiner



A New Fall Day



What does fall mean? Merriam-Webster says it could mean: to descend freely by the force of gravity; used of birthing lambs in autumn (did you know this?); to become lower in degree or level; to leave an upright position suddenly and involuntarily; to commit an immoral act; to pass suddenly and passively into a state of body or mind or a new state or condition; or to occur at a certain time. Fall is also known as autumn.

Autumn, is known as fall in North America, and is one of the four temperate seasons. Autumn marks the transition from summer to winter in September. Autumn is the season when the duration of daylight becomes noticeably shorter and the temperature cools considerably. Day length decreases and night length increases as the season progresses until the Winter Solstice in December.

Sue and I traveled to Bayfield, Wisconsin to camp and see the leaves change this year. Last year, to the day, the colors of the leaves changing exploded across the expanses of the rolling hills as we neared Bayfield. This year, it was really disappointing because the leaves had not changed much. Some leaves changed or were changing, but the extreme colors weren't there. We expected the leaves to look exactly as they did last year. We expected that because that is normal for the leaves to react to cooler weather in this region.

When studying the definition for the word fall, just like most words, there are different ways they are used. Fall, falling, fallen, fell. The action of the verb changes.

When you wake up in the morning, what do you see when you look out the window? More leaves on the yard? Children skipping to school? When you wake up, do you want to start a new day? A day that is different from all the rest? A day that doesn't have all the troubles that the day before had? If we didn't rake up the leaves in the fall, they would just lay there on top of the grass and decompose. In God's purpose of creation, leaves fall to nurture the ground and make it fertile for growth. Then in the spring new leaves appear on the branches. It is a cycle of life, and death – it appears. However, as the leaf decomposes into the earth it creates nourishment for the ground in order to feed what is growing around it. When it rains or snows, that helps the process. The decomposing leaf is actually giving life. It feeds the earth, the soil. Even the trees roots take advantage of this nourishment. It is a marvelous fact of God's creation. There is nothing random about how God created the earth and all of its intricacies.

For the very same reason, an acorn falls from an oak tree. Or pine cones fall from pine trees with bunches of seeds in them. These acorns and pine cones look dead and worth nothing except to decorate your fall dinner table flower arrangement. Not so fast! The acorns are seeds. Just like within the pine cone are little seeds. These seeds die and when buried they sprout forth from the earth as new trees! How wonderful is our God!

The leaves fall to the earth to feed it, and acorns, pine seeds, or any other seed is designed to come forth as the plant, flower, or tree from which it came. God creates a cycle of life, not death!

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Christ Lutheran Church

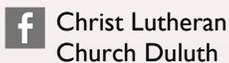
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President:



Quitdee Carson
Vice President:
Carolyn Lofald
Treasurer:
Sandy Carlson

Every Month:
Wednesdays:
10 AM Ladies' Bible Study
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

So it is with God's Word, yet in a different way. 1 Peter 1:23-25 declares to us, *"You have been born again not from some seed that will decay, but from one that cannot decay, through the living Word of God that lasts forever. For all humanity is like grass, all its glory is like a wildflower—the grass withers, and the flower falls off; but the Word of the Lord lasts forever. Moreover, this Word is the Gospel which has been proclaimed to you."*

The life giving seed that does not decay is the Word of God!

In Luke 8:5-15 Jesus tells us a parable, *"A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.'*

Then Jesus explains the parable, *"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance."*

Jesus the Messiah is the sower of the seed!

St. John exhorts us with these words about the Word of God planted in our hearts, *"No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."* (1 John 3:9)

If you are a Christian; a born again believer in Jesus Christ, God's Word has been planted within you! The seed of the Word of God abides in you. The Word of God lives in you! This seed is being nourished by God the Father, and watered by the water of the Holy Spirit. What results from the seed of the Word of God? The Christian will sprout forth fresh fruit. It is inevitable!

Galatians 5:22-23 says, *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*

We see the seed of the Word of God bearing fruit in believers whose lives have been transformed and are living a life of repentance and faith. They bear much fruit for the glory of God.

Going forward, each new fall day presents itself as a day where we can live a Christlike life, bearing the fruit of forgiveness, life, and salvation, loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. You can experience a **New Fall Day** with our Lord Jesus Christ, enabled and inspired by the Holy Spirit. God bless you!

Have a Colorful Autumn,

A Lesson from the Fig Tree

What do you know about figs? Not much. Me neither.

As I was previewing the readings for November, I was drawn to the Gospel of Mark, chapter 13, where Jesus says, “Now learn a lesson from the fig tree.” My first thought was, “What in the world...why?” However, my first thought should have been, “what in the world...when?”

You might think a fig tree lesson would be about fruit or orchards or planting or pinching (yup, search “pinching your fig tree” on YouTube). But the fig tree lesson Jesus wants us to learn is about time, particularly about discerning the signs of a really important time. Here’s the lesson from Mark 13:28-29.



Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When it's branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things taking place, you can know that [the Son Man's] return is very near, right at the door.

Jesus is talking about recognizing a season and that season is summer, the season when figs are harvested (once in early summer and sometimes a second time in late summer). Then Jesus compares the fig harvest with his return. This is where you need to grab your Bible and read Mark 13:1-27 to find out what harvest signs connected to Jesus’ return we need to watch for. You can also read more about these signs in Matthew chapters 24 and 25. And you can also visit the Book of Revelation where all is revealed in glorious symbols and times and mysteries.

As you think about this simple lesson and the epic time it prepares us for, keep the eyes of your heart focused on the hope we have in God’s love for us in Christ. We belong to God, we have been adopted into His family through faith in His Son. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us, and we have been commanded to be on guard, stay alert, and watch. Above all, watch for Jesus!

CLC YOUTH

Confirmation Class on Wednesdays at 9:00 am with Pastor Gary.

Youth Bible Study this Fall is “*Growing in Christ’s Church*” in the Fireside Room Sundays at 11:00am.

BELOVED APPRENTICE

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

ONLINE Tuesdays at 6:30pm

IN PERSON Wednesdays at 10:00am in Fellowship Hall

CLC FOOD SHARE - THESE DETAILS TENTATIVE

November grocery packing is Tuesday, November 16 at 1:30p.

Our Food Share this month is Thursday, November 18 from 11:30am - 12:30pm.

In Christ’s love,

Sue

320-815-1561

suedesha@gmail.com

November Mission of the Month:

The AALC

HERE WE STAND

Confessing • Caring • Calling

We confess our faith. We care for one another. We call others to faith in Christ.

All of our congregations are fortresses of safety in a post-Christian frontier. Each congregation is an outpost, carefully positioned as a haven, providing the protection of God's Word and the sustenance of His Holy Sacraments.

Each congregation is a fortress, an outpost from which God's people are sent forth with Christ's commission of Kingdom expansion and Gospel proclamation into a wilderness culture of immorality and unbelief.

Each congregational fortress in The AALC is precious. Some of our congregations are very small and some are located in remote areas, yet each one is connected to Christ Jesus and to the rest of our Association. We stand together, committed to the care and support of our brothers and sisters.

We focus on Keeping the Fortress, but we also focus on Taking the Frontier!

"Taking the Frontier" includes everything from congregational outreach to church-wide overseas missions. The gift of the Gospel of Jesus Christ must never be hoarded as our own personal possession, but instead be shared with a world lost in spiritual poverty and eternal darkness. God is ever expanding The AALC by motivating ministers and multiplying ministries.

With all of this said, however, we know that our efforts of protection and expansion are fruitless without Him. Though He uses clay vessels like us, it is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who is Keeping the Fortress and Taking the Frontier. Hallelujah! Amen.

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."*



Thanksgiving Praise & Communion Service

Join us for a service of praise and time of fellowship
and pie following the service.

Tuesday, November 23 at 6:30

IT'S PASTY BAKING TIME!

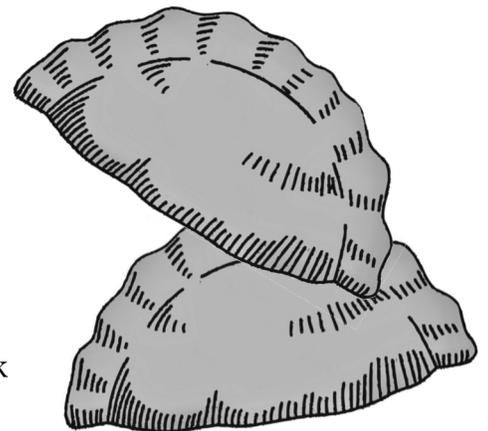
Sign up sheets for work days and purchase of pasties
are in the fellowship hall.

The price this year is 2/\$10.00

Pasties come in a package of 2

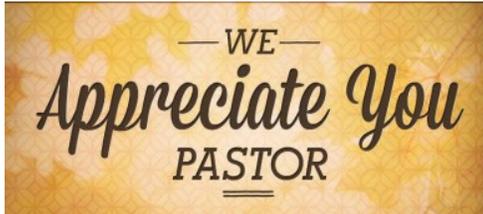
We have a smaller crew this year but still want to continue the tasty tradition! We would ask that you limit your order to no more than 5 packages to be able to accommodate as many people as possible. Thank you.

If you are not able to sign up for purchase at the church, please call Carolyn Lofald at 218-722-8392.



November 2021 Maintenance Report

Short and sweet report this month. The warranted part for our boiler will be installed as soon as it comes in. It is a gauge that needs to be replaced. The boilers are working well and we have good heat. Jim Carlson offered to remove the screens in the sanctuary and get those stored away. Finishing the odds and ends before the snow flies! Have a blessed Thanksgiving!



October was Pastor appreciation month. Following the congregational meeting we presented Pastor Gary with a gift and celebrated with cake.

Christ Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting was held Sunday, October 24. The budget for 2022 was approved at the meeting. The total budget is \$149,151.00. The weekly need to meet the budget is \$2,868.00

For the 2022 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.

Quilting: November 30

10 AM - 2 PM

Bring a willing spirit and a sewing machine if you have one. I will have plenty of tools, rulers, rotary cutters and best of all fabric to get us started. Beginners more than welcome. Stay for whatever time you can, bring a bag lunch and beverage if you plan to stay for the day. Contact Sandy Carlson (349-2786) with any questions you have. This is a great time for some fun and fellowship.



The church has shoeboxes and gift lists for Operation Christmas Child.

Please have your box back to the church by November 14 and remember your \$9 donation to cover shipping costs.

November Ushers & Trustees

November 7

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo

Trustees: Grace & Bill

November 14

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn Lofald

Trustees: Wendy & Jim

November 21

Ushers: Keith Youngren & Mark Youngren

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

November 24 (Thanksgiving Service)

Ushers: Grace Wells & Jim Carlson

Trustees: Laurie & Jim

November 28

Ushers: Laurie Wiita & Jim Carlson

Trustees: Laurie & Jim

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

Financial Update

September Income: \$12,048.00
September Expenses: \$10,473.05

Monthly income was over expenses by \$1,610.95

YTD Income \$117,506.41
YTD Expenses \$99,862.95

YTD income was over expenses by \$17,643.46

September Missions: Gideons \$728.00



Christ Lutheran Church's monthly Food Share is growing!

We are hoping to provide more food more often.

Any monies donated to the church for "food share" or "food shelf" will be directed to the monthly food share program.

Food donated to the food barrel will also be used for this ministry.

We would welcome new volunteers to help with this ministry!

If you can help pack food, the next date is Tuesday, November 16 at 1:30 PM

If you would like to help with the distribution, that will be on Thursday, November 18 from 11:30-12:30.

Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support of this ministry!



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: The AALC
Persecuted Christians throughout the world

The steadfastness of our faith
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	Carol Schneeberger
Linda Anthony (Dick McLean's Daughter)		Maggie Kaptonak
Pastor Jerry Albert		

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



The church has an extra piano that would be available for free.
It is 58" long x 41" high x 25" deep.

Happy Birthday!

*All the days ordained for me were written
in your book before one of them came to be.
How precious to me are your thoughts,
O God! How vast is the sum of them!*

Psalms 139:16,17

Abigail Allen	November 5
Kim Yeager	November 5
Mark Wiita	November 9
Betty Roseen	November 14
Susie Decker	November 18
Elijah Allen	November 18
Carol Schramm	November 22