

# Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



"To know Christ,  
and make Him known."

March 2022



In the Hands of the Refiner

## What Will You Have Me To Do?

Since the 16<sup>th</sup> of January, all of February, and now into the first 3 days of March, life for Sue and I has been both freeing and a struggle. Why do we say we "take a vacation?" What do we do with it when we take it? The third definition for vacation is "freedom or release from duty, business, or activity." I like to say, "I'm going on a vacation." It is a time of feeling a freedom I hadn't felt in a while and a temporary release from responsibilities that were mine 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our vacation to Florida was wonderful – I went to my birth place; the place where I grew up until I enlisted into the U. S. Army. It had been 15 years since I set foot into Florida.

Toward the end of our Florida visit, we received very concerning news about our Jack dog. Jack the Jesus dog, our Golden Retriever was very ill. He was dying. We left Florida, drove straight to North Carolina, visited with Sue's sister and brother-in-law; spent the night and decided to drive non-stop to Menaga, Minnesota. We drove for 24 hours, I drove for the most part, Sue helped – we motored on.

Wore out from the drive, we got to Menaga about 9:30am, and saw Jack. Our pup was dying; he couldn't even give us a wag or barely lift his head. Jack went to be with his creator early that Thursday afternoon. We were devastated – and cried for most of the rest of the day. That was the beginning of our struggle.

We got home Thursday afternoon. We rested up Friday. We attended the Father Daughter Ball Saturday evening. Later Saturday evening, Sue became very sick – it was COVID-19. I cared for her until I got sick the next Tuesday. She became better, and I became worse. She was three days ahead of me with the COVID-19. We struggled from the loss of Jack, and at the same time struggled with COVID-19. We prayed the Jesus prayer almost incessantly, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me a sinner." It came to the point where we were pleading for God's deliverance, for God to miraculously heal us, and show His mercy toward us. Sue was worried that she would lose me. Sue and I felt we were captive to COVID-19 and to the devil with this illness. It was like the icing to top off the cake of struggle. Then, after Sue recovered from COVID-19, being three days behind her, I finally began to recover and start to feel like a normal human being again. Then, about a week after feeling somewhat normal, I found out that I had acquired a viral upper respiratory infection. Now, I am recovering from that, and I am once again, fighting to feel normal again.

We worshiped a lot during our illness. Trying to sing, we listening to worship music and prayed. We received kindnesses from people from Christ Lutheran Church, and from those who aren't members, but are wonderful Christian friends.

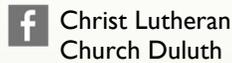
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**Christ Lutheran Church**

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clcduluth.org

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pastor@clcduluth.org  
218-727-2076

Church Office:  
218-722-7537  
church@clcduluth.org



Website: clcduluth.org

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

**March Ushers, Trustees & Scripture Readers**

**March 6**

**Ushers:** Bill & Jan Arezzo  
**Trustees:** Wendy & Carol  
**Scripture Reader:** Jim

**Lenten Service Ushers March 9:** Gary & Carolyn

**March 13**

**Ushers:** Jim Carlson & Gary Lofald  
**Trustees:** Laurie & Laura  
**Scripture Reader:** Jim

**Lenten Service Ushers March 16:** Gary & Carolyn

**March 20**

**Ushers:** Jim & Sandy Carlson  
**Trustees:** Laurie & Jim  
**Scripture Reader:** Mark

**Lenten Service Ushers March 23:** Grace

**March 27**

**Ushers:** Keith Youngren & Mark Youngren  
**Trustees:** Bill & Grace  
**Scripture Reader:** Gary

**Lenten Service Ushers March 30:** Jim

**Lenten Service Ushers April 6:** Wendy

*If you have a conflict with these dates,  
please contact Jim Carlson at 218-343-6755*

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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 clcduluth.org**



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

Those kindnesses lifted our spirits and humbled our pride. During worship it was apparent that Jesus was always near, and that His Holy Spirit still resided within us. We wanted to be done with being sick so very badly – but we remembered that Jesus said that He would never leave us alone, and that He would never forsake us. At a certain point, we felt we were being held as captives. We were in a tremendous spiritual battle. I wondered where God was exactly.

However, upon entering into worship, the Spirit within me gave me strength. My resolve to get better increased. I was assured that He is my Savior from sin, sickness, death, and the devil. For Sue and I, our love grew exponentially. For Sue and I, our love for God grew even more. We sought deliverance, and He was there helping us endure. We sought relief, and He was there giving us hope. We cried in pain, and He was there wiping away our tears. We sought Him, and His gentle Spirit reassured our hearts.

No one but Jesus can give deliverance to captives. What is freedom? What is liberty? Real freedom and liberty comes from Him only. It is a liberty righteously bestowed; for the Son, who is Heir of all things, has the right to make men free. We saints of God, honor the justice of God, which now secures our salvation. Your liberty is dearly purchased. Christ speaks it by His power, but He bought it by His blood. He makes you free, but it is by His own bonds. You go clear, because He bore your burden for you: you are set at liberty, because He has suffered in your place.

*“Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”* (Isaiah 53:4-5)

Nevertheless, though dearly purchased, He freely gives it. Jesus asks nothing of us as a preparation for this freedom and liberty. He finds us sitting in sackcloth and ashes, and bids us to put on the beautiful array of freedom; He saves us just as we are, and all without our help or merit. When Jesus sets us free, that liberty is forever; no chains can bind us again.

The Master only has to say to me, "Captive, I have delivered you," and it is done; forever. Satan may plot to enslave you, but if the Lord is on your side, whom shall you fear? The world, with its temptations, may seek to ensnare you, but mightier is He who is for you than all they who bet against you. The machinations of our own deceitful hearts may harass and annoy us, but He who hath begun the good work in us will carry it on and perfect it to the end.

The foes of God and the enemies of man may gather their hosts together, and come with concentrated fury against us, but if God forgives us, who is he that can condemn us? How free is the eagle that mounts to his rocky mountain ledge, and afterwards soars above the clouds, than the soul that Christ has delivered? If we are no more under the law, but free from its curse, let our liberty be practically exhibited in our serving God with gratitude and delight.

Beloved, tell the good Lord, "I am Your servant, and the child of Your handmaid: You have loosed my bonds." "Lord, what will You have me to do?"

May the joy of springtime be yours as you enjoy the freedom and liberty of serving God and others with gladness.

God bless you all!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary DeSha". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the page.

Pastor Gary DeSha

## Our 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Father Daughter Ball!!

We were so blessed to celebrate our Ball this year in person! A big thank you to all who supported us through prayer. As you may remember, we had to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary virtually due to Covid. Our events this year were held on Saturday, January 29, and again on Saturday, February 5, 2022. We had 496 guests purchase tickets for the first evening. When asked to raise their hands, over half of these attendees acknowledged they were there for their very first time. We had 500 tickets purchased for the second evening – with a waiting list of 14. Due to Covid we capped our attendance so that we could socially distance in the Lake Superior Ballroom. We also spaced the tables father apart. We offered our guests the ability to reserve a table when they ordered six or more tickets. The largest reserved table held ten. This made the seating process much easier. For those that did not reserve a table, we provided tables that would hold 6 to 8 guests. The mask mandate also went into effect right before our first event. We asked our guests to please adhere to Romans 13:1 and to extend grace to the situation. Guests were able to remove their masks for the dinner hour and when enjoying their beverages. Ouitdee Carson was our emcee the first night and Pastor Gary provided the message. Pastor had asked his sisters about their dad and shared their family dynamic with their dad while growing up. On February 5, Gary Lofald emceed and Pastor Erik Reinertsen from The Water's Edge Community Church provided the message. Erik is a dad to seven daughters and has spoken at our event many times in the past. We were thankful he was able to step in as Pastor Gary was not able to attend. He shared about his being a girls basketball coach and watching a young lady cry when her dad who promised to be at their game didn't show up – stressing how important it is for girls to have their father's presence in their lives - echoing our mission of strengthening the Father/Daughter relationship.

We blessed 9 dads from MN Adult and Teen Challenge to bring their daughters and attend free of charge on February 5. We thank those that contributed to our Father Daughter Ball Mission of the Month to offset that cost. Total collected was \$742.00. Last minute, because of the weather, two families had to make the decision not to drive up from the Twin Cities with the snowy roads and another cancelled as they were having a baby! Fortunately, their food did not go to waste; we are able to provide our volunteers their meals. If we have paid guests that are not able to attend the unused meals can be served to our volunteers which our volunteers sure appreciate! We served salad, rolls, mashed potatoes, lightly breaded chicken breast with champagne gravy and whole baby carrots. It tasted just wonderful (The DECC has a new chef this year and did a great job for us). We also had a pop, lemonade and juice station where guests could purchase a cold refreshment. We served ice cream for dessert with sprinkles on top which was a big hit!

Our theme this year was “Winter Wonderland”. We decorated 76 tables for each night using white table cloths. We placed a 9” glass cylinder vase on a square mirror tile in the center of each table with Navy, white and silver Christmas balls inside with a few flocked pinecones tossed in. They also contained battery operated LED fairy lights. We placed three votive candles around each vase and sprinkled Hershey kisses on the mirrors too. We used navy napkins to complement our color theme. We worked with Northland Special Events. They hung white icicle lights from the ceiling and large snowflakes over our dance floor. The backdrop was done in silver draping with blue lights across the top. Large snowflakes were projected on the draping and our Banners were hung on either side with up lighting from the floor to accentuate them. Behind the DJ table on the stage, we had five Christmas trees with cotton on them that looked like snow. Snowflakes were also projected around the room as was the up lighting. We hope to have a slide show on our Facebook, our web site and to show pictures on our church monitors one morning for all to see.

Lynnette's Portrait Design was there to take pictures of all the dads and their daughters both nights. Lynnette also gifted our Teen Challenge Dads by taking their photos at no charge. We are so thankful to Ken Pogin, the owner of Duluth Event Lighting. He provided all the beautiful lighting around the room at no cost! We were able to receive a discount on the programs from ShelDon. We were blessed to have Joanna (Carlson) Danielson design them for us! Judi made our tickets at church to help save on costs. We also chose a keepsake – a 5 ½” clear plastic snowflake photo ornament to give away to each of the girls when they left.

We are so thankful to our contributors for their monetary donations. Arrowhead Orthodontics gifted us with \$1000.00. The Sunshine Group, The Lofald's, and Hovland Masonry each donated \$500.00, and discoverpc.net donated \$100.00. These donations certainly help offset our overhead costs. The Pickar's donated 24 more mirror tiles for our tables so we would have enough. We were blessed to receive gift certificates to give as prizes to our guests from Applebee's, Black Wood Grill in Proctor, Duluth Huskies, Glensheen, Great Lakes Aquarium, Hermantown DQ, Nevada Bob's Golf, Olive Garden, Perkins Family Restaurant, Sammy's Pizza in Hermantown & Valentini's. We gave stuffed animals away which were purchased at a discount from Walgreens the day after Valentine's Day in 2021.

We thank our members that stepped up to volunteer this year: Mike & Wendy Pickar, Jim & Sandy Carlson, Grace Wells, Sue DeSha, Gary Lofald, Carol Blair, Ouitdee Carson, and Kim Kirkland, along with our committee. We also had Derek Lofald and his friend Libby Bodin operate the coat room for us both nights and one evening the Lofald's grandson, Brody Bruns, helped in the coat room too. Derrick Ellis, of Skyline Entertainment was our DJ for both evenings and his daughter Lilli took requests the first night and his son Eli helped the second night. Derrick is the son-in-law of Mike and Wendy Pickar. He did a great job for us!

We thank the DECC Staff for their support of our event. They worked with us on a meal plan to keep our prices consistent with years past. Unfortunately, moving forward, they are required to charge a nonrefundable deposit for each night of \$1300.00 to save our dates for 2023. We have paid the deposit and secured January 21, and again February 11, of 2023. Unfortunately, other events are now booked out for many years so we are not able to get back-to-back weekends as we have had in the past. To continue this mission for years to come we look to our church for help with this cost and will consider applying for some grants. By the Grace of God and with His hand of blessing, we hope to provide this event for years to come and share His Word with our attendees. It is truly a wonderful and memorable evening for all that attend and we are honored to bring it to our community.

Your Father Daughter Ball Committee:

Kolleen Carlson, Joanna Danielson, Debbie DeRocher,  
Kristine Holt, Carolyn Lofald, and Laurie Wiita



## Discipleship Outfitters

### *The Noise of War*

March has come in like a lion, not with harsher winter weather but with the sights and sounds of war. Some of you may have hazy or sharp memories from your childhood of leaning into the wireless with family listening to reports from the battlefield in Germany or the Pacific. Others recall watching the nightly news on TV from Korea and Vietnam - or coming home overcome with the horror of military service and sacrifice. We watched events unfold on the internet in real time from Iraq and Afghanistan culminating in the shocking withdrawal of troops a few months ago, and this week we have been assaulted from every direction by the intensity and swift advance of war in Ukraine. We are all worried and wondering, "How far will this go?"

The Old Testament is filled with prophetic warnings of war and judgments against the nations including the apple of God's eye, Israel. There are chronicles of the lives of godly and wicked kings, historic battles, the fulfillment of many prophecies, stark eye-witness accounts of kings and nations striving with each other to achieve control, dominance, and glory... all under the sovereign watch and control of God according to His will and purpose. How can this be? It doesn't feel like God is in control!

Let's consider the prophetic words of Isaiah. In chapter 8:1 God said to Isaiah, "Take a large tablet and write on it concerning *Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz*." Isaiah only had one son at the time, *Shear-jashub* meaning "a remnant shall return." But shortly thereafter, his wife bore a second son who God commanded Isaiah to name *Maher-Shalal-Has-Baz* meaning "swift is the plunder, speedy is the prey." One of the burdens a prophet bears is being required to live out some aspect of the prophecies he receives from God, and in this case one son was a sign and symbol of mercy, and Isaiah's second son was a sign and symbol of the judgment that was about to sweep over Judah.

There is also a warning to Isaiah in 8:12, "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread." We are all tempted to focus our attention on the swirling fog of news, rumor, and propaganda during wartime that is amplified by 24/7 coverage in the palm of our hands. Instead focus on the safety and security of obeying God's commands and trusting in his promises.

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### **CLC Food Share**

February's food share served over 40 people.  
For the March Food Share we are asking for donations of boxes of cereal.  
They can be dropped off in the bin at the front entry. Thank you!

The next food packing date is Tuesday, March 15.  
March distribution is Thursday, March 17 from 11:30-12:30.  
Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support of this ministry!

Chapter 8 explains that before Isaiah's second son learns to speak, the king of Assyria will overtake Judah and the people will be broken. But in Chapter 9 a great promise is given for the remnant that returns from the fire and ashes of judgment.



*For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle and garments rolled in blood will be burned and used as fuel for the fire. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. (Isaiah 9:5-7)*

On the other side of trial and tribulation for God's people is mercy and recovery. In the days to come, commit with me to look beyond the noise of war to our soon coming King. Draw near to God and examine your heart like David. Remind yourself daily of God's unfailing love for you and his promise to never leave nor forsake you.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. (Psalm 51:10-12)*

To learn more, read all of Isaiah Chapter 8 and 9.

Blessings and Peace from God, Our Father!  
Sue  
320-815-1561  
suedesha@gmail.com



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### **Quilting: March 8 from 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.



## March Mission of the Month:

KDNW

Life 97.3 is family friendly radio that plays 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.

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

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."

## 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*

## Financial Update

January Income: \$8,738.00  
Expenses: \$13,171.00

Monthly income was under  
expenses by \$4,433.00

January Mission:  
CLC Father/Daughter Ball—\$761.00

Sue DeSha	March 4
Carol Sogard	March 25
Laviere Johnson	March 26
Olivia Allen	March 28
Lowaine Morris	March 29
Florence Kubiak	March 30



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  
The ministry at Union Gospel Mission  
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 Radio  
Persecuted Christians throughout the world  
The steadfastness of our faith  
Lutheran Vicar Mwavu Ronald and his  
two churches in Uganda

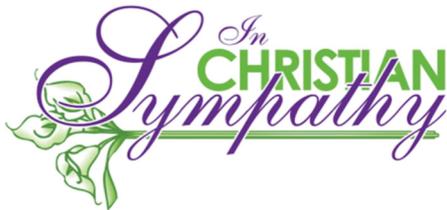
**THOSE WITH HEALTH NEEDS:**

Dick McLean	Barb Hanson	Mary Jenny
Carol Johnson	Jane McLean	Mark Malander
Florence Kubiak	The Lund Family	Donna Swanson
Brian McDonald	Carol Schramm	Eli Miletich
Judy Stocke	Carol Sogard	Darlene Saaf
Del Sandberg	Tom & Marlene Stauber	Bethany White
Kathy Stevens	Carol Schneeberger	Maggie Kaptonak

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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Our sympathies to the family of Ruth Dahl who passed away Thursday, March 3.  
Please remember her family in your prayers.

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The church humbles us.

It is one of the few places in our societies today where we sit with rich and poor, young and old, black and white, educated and uneducated, and are focused on the same object.

It is one of the few places where we share the problems and hopes of our lives with people we may not know.

It is one of the few places where we sing as a crowd.

Although the church needs its outsiders to prevent it from drifting into dull conformity, the outsiders need the church to stop them from drifting into individualized religion.

-Steve Turner