

Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



"To know Christ,
and make Him known."

May 2022



In the Hands of the Refiner

The Benefits of Jesus Resurrection

"Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Therefore, consider the members of your earthly body as dead to sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. On account of these things, the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them." -- Colossians 3:1-7

Did you know that the word "May" is a verb? Yep. It sure is. What does the word "May" mean? Well, it means 1) expressing possibility; "I may go to work today!" or 2) expressing permission; "Teacher, may I go to the restroom?" The month of May marks the beginning of Summer. I know that sounds weird for those of us who live here in Duluth, Minnesota, where Spring hasn't even sprung yet!

May means possibility and permission. So, what does the Scripture text above have to do with the Month of May? Well, we're just coming off of Lenten observances, Palm Sunday, and Resurrection Sunday, and the Church lectionary calendar calls for several Sundays to remember Resurrection Sunday. May 1st is the first Sunday in May and the 3rd Sunday of Easter. This observance continues until the end of the month.

What we see in the text are the benefits of Jesus resurrection and our responsibilities as Christians that go along with it. So, I want you to understand the following truths from God's Word regarding the benefits of Jesus resurrection and how they apply to your life as a Christian.

To start, we must understand that because of Jesus resurrection:

1. Jesus Christ rules and reigns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Jesus Christ is our God!
2. Humanity is no longer held captive by sin, sickness, disease, death, and the devil.
3. If Jesus would not have risen from the dead, we would have no hope of salvation and eternal life!

As Christian believers, we have a responsibility to God and our faith:

4. As benefactors of Jesus resurrection, you have a responsibility to God:
 - a. To continually make Jesus Christ Lord of your life.
 - b. To continually commune with God through Jesus Christ; maintaining a personal relationship with Him through the Word of God, the Sacraments, and prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - c. To continually worship God in Spirit and in Truth with other Christians.

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Christ Lutheran Church

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 Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

 Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

Website: clcduluth.org

President:
Quitdee Carson

Vice President:
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

d. To live holy lives by actualizing the fact that our sinful nature (the sin principle within) has been rendered powerless! We no longer have to sin!

e. To remember that God will judge unbelieving, rebellious sinners: *“the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.”* So, be a witness to Christ Jesus!

5. Therefore, experience for yourself the power and benefits of Jesus’ resurrection! This is indicative of the life of a Spirit-filled Christian.

Philippians 3:8-10 says, *“More than that, I count all things to be loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own which is from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God upon faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”*

Therefore, 1) there is nothing on this earth that has more value than knowing Christ Jesus the Lord; 2) If you lose something, count it as rubbish, because there is nothing better than to *gain Christ* (i.e., your salvation) and be *found in Him* (i.e., your resurrection); 3) all of this is through faith in Christ Jesus, and the righteousness we receive from God is a gift through faith; 4) the reason for it all is to know Him and the power of His resurrection in your life, and to share in His sufferings, as we are conformed to His death, so that when we die, we too shall rise from the dead with a glorious body like Jesus!

As you contemplate Jesus glorious resurrection and all the benefits that are yours this month of May, pray with thanksgiving that God has enabled you with faith to believe in the hope of your resurrection because it is promised, and connected with, and initiated by Jesus resurrection.

God bless your month of May!



Pastor Gary DeSha

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

Dear CLC Family and Friends,

GOING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

The night before Jesus was crucified, he ate supper with his closest friends; the twelve, his disciples who would be sent in his name as gospel witnesses...except for one. That night Jesus washed their feet, spoke of his great love for them, and shared a final meal that included the bread of his body and the wine of his blood. He shared final words; instructions, encouragements, warnings and prayers. Stark and menacing among his warnings was that one of his friends would betray him (Matthew 26:21, Mark 14:18, Luke 22:21, John 13:21). “*And they [the disciples] were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, ‘Is it I, Lord?’*” (Matthew 26:22 ESV). The last man to ask, “Is it I?” was Judas.

During Holy Week we gathered to remember Palm Sunday and sing “Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.” We recalled the last supper by eating a supper similar to the Passover meal followed by worship and Holy Communion. We relived Jesus praying in the garden, standing before Pilate, rejected by the people, and nailed to a cross. We nailed our own sins to the cross in remembrance of Good Friday. We rose from sleep Easter morning to remember and celebrate Jesus, our Lord and Savior, who rose from the dead.

Remembering is an important part of our life in Christ. The Holy Scriptures are the living history of our faith; they contain God’s promises we trust in, His commands we seek to obey, and so much more. In the month of May we’ll be looking back at Jesus’ Ascension to the Father and remembering how the Holy Spirit was poured out on Pentecost. As we consider these two miraculous events from Acts 1 & 2, I want to highlight what took place among the disciples as Peter recalled the actions of Judas, the betrayer.



Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ‘Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.’ (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ‘For it is written in the Book of Psalms, ‘May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it’] Psalm 69:25]; and ‘Let another take his office.’] Psalm 109:8] (Acts 1:12-20 ESV)

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The disciples have gathered to wait and pray for the coming Holy Spirit, but their number is incomplete. The twelve are only eleven, and the wound of Judas' betrayal has not been healed. Peter emphasizes to those gathered that the Scriptures "had to be fulfilled" - the plan of salvation required one to betray Jesus, and Judas' betrayal was not outside God's sovereign control. Peter reminds them that Judas was numbered among the disciples and had a share in the ministry, but he acted on Satan's temptation and his sinful desires, quickly succumbing to God's judgment. No doubt this betrayal weighed heavily on the other disciples, and God brought them together in extended unity and prayer in advance of Pentecost; He was getting them ready to be fully immersed in the Holy Spirit's power.



Have you ever experienced a betrayal that stopped your forward movement? Do you need to remember and forgive? Nothing has taken place in your life outside of God's sovereign control. Ask Him to heal the broken places, fill the empty spaces, and restore you to completeness. Seek unity in prayer with other believers and wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon you with comfort and power to be a faithful witness for Jesus. If you need a friend to pray with and lend a helping hand, call Pastor or me.

In Christ's love,
Sue
320-815-1561
suedesha@gmail.com

May Mission of the Month: MN Teen Challenge Green Space

For over 30 years Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge has been assisting teens and adults in gaining freedom from chemical addictions and other life-controlling problems by addressing their physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Teen Challenge offers a residential program for teenage girls and boys struggling with chemical addictions, as well as behavioral problems.

For teens, there are both long and short term options. Programing is provided in a structured therapeutic community offering continuous observation and treatment by professional multidisciplinary staff members.

Additionally, they offer a long term faith-based residential recovery program for adults that assists individuals in gaining freedom from drug and alcohol addiction and the life controlling problems associated with it.

Theses programs are not offered cost free. Each resident is required to pay monthly room and board fees. Some fees are covered by outside agencies, but the majority of funding comes from private sources such as churches, businesses, and individuals.

The Duluth MN Teen Challenge Center is planning on constructing a green space at their facility to provide a calming, welcoming environment for clients. This month's Mission of the Month monies will be put towards that project.

Please prayerfully consider a donation to this month's chosen mission. 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.*"

May Maintenance Report

Happy Spring! Pastor Gary gave us a great reminder on Sunday the 24th when he referenced from Psalm 148:8 “*fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling His Word.*” Our human nature is to grumble about the weather (as any true Minnesotan will do), but we also need the reminder to be thankful for all the seasons and weather God gives us; not just when the sun is shining and it is over freezing! We certainly don’t understand His plan, but we will all continue to pray for **WARMER WEATHER!** Our Esther Circle is hoping it will be warm enough to actually plant on the first Thursday in June. They have pre-ordered some of our annual bedding plants to be kept at the greenhouse until we are ready for them. I think we are all excited to be digging in the warm soil again. Jim Carlson has been busy with fixing the sod around the parameter that was torn in places from the plowing. He will be placing some weed and feed on the lawn when the temperature gets warm enough too. Thank you, Jim!

We also need to look into re-staining the garage when the weather warms up. Please **watch your step** when coming in the basement entrance – the asphalt has settled down some, but please be cautious! We will be making some decisions on how to fix this issue.

In regard to the basement back hall heater; it was decided to forgo the installation of the fan part and instead move the thermostat to a better location as it is mounted on an outside wall by the entrance door and this has caused the fan issue. We have our electrician, Chris, looking into moving this for us. We are also working with Benson Electric to change out two lights on the back entrance of the church and to place a dusk to dawn light on the parking lot upper door entrance. We have also signed a contract with Benson Electric and Thompson Lightning Protection to provide a lightning protection system on our roof in the event we have a lightning strike again. This will dissipate the lightning and was recommended by our insurance company. This way we will have done our due diligence in protecting everything we physically can for our church in that regard. As a reminder, we also had surge protectors installed previously to protect our main service panel and other components in our church. MN Power will be coming to redirect the light on the pole in our parking lot to point toward Ensign Street. They will be upgrading that light to an LED for better visibility.

The middle awning window in the upstairs parking lot entrance has a seal leak so we are looking into replacing that.

We had the front bedroom window at the parsonage also replaced under warranty as that had a seal leak also. Hopefully all the window issues at the parsonage have now been taken care of.

So thankful we are able to keep up with our maintenance items and keep our church in good working order.

Thank you, Lord for blessing our church!

In Christ,
Carolyn

Quilting: Thursday, May 26 at 10:00 AM

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.



May Ushers, Trustees & Scripture Readers

May 1

Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar

Trustees: Wendy & Carol

Scripture Reader: Jim

May 8

Ushers: Andrea Allen & Jim Carlson

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

Scripture Reader: Sue

May 15

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn Lofald

Trustees: Laurie & Jim

Scripture Reader: Sue

May 22

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo

Trustees: Bill & Grace

Scripture Reader: Gary Lofald

May 29

Ushers: Jim & Sandy Carlson

Trustees: Wendy & Carol

Scripture Reader: Jim

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

Financial Update

March Income: \$25,284

Expenses: \$11,436

Monthly income was over
expenses by \$13,848

YTD Income: \$42,642

YTD Expenses: \$34,907

YTD income was over
expenses by \$7,734

March Mission: KDNW
\$370

Full financial reports are
available in the office
upon request



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Philippians 3:8-10

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: MN Teen Challenge Green Space
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	Carol Schneeberger
Judy Stocke	Carol Sogard	Darlene Saaf
Del Sandberg	Tom & Marlene Stauber	Bethany White
Kathy Stevens	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.



CLC Food Share

The next food packing date is Tuesday, May 17.
May distribution is Thursday, May 19 from 11:30-12:30.

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

*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!
Psalm 139:16,17*

Happy Birthday!

Valery Petrowske

May 9