

# Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



"To know Christ,  
and make Him known."

July 2022



In the Hands of the Refiner

## The Pure Milk of the Word

### 1 Peter 2:1-3

*"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that you may grow up into your salvation, if you have tasted that the Lord is good."*

#### **Power Point:**

Peter describes in verse 1 the problem of why so many children of God have so little love for the Word of God. He says, "Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander."

Believers are to avoid behavior that would lead to dissention and feed on the pure milk of the Word of God. In other words, because a Christian's new life is to reflect the character of Jesus Christ, believers must end "all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all slander" – those things are the opposite of a sincere and God-kind of love.

#### **Therefore –**

Peter goes back to what he said in chapter 1 of the new life imparted to his readers through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. In view of what Peter said in the previous chapter, there is a new kind of experience for the believer.

#### **Rid yourselves –**

To cast aside, to put away, to lay aside, like putting off clothing; This is an imperative. The believer is commanded to separate himself from sin. This act of separating himself from sin must be a once for all action. There must be a complete about face. Then, march in the direction of God and away from sin.

#### **Of malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, slander –**

**Malice** = Ill-will, a desire to injure another, a wickedness that is not ashamed to break laws; **deceit** = treachery, deception, lying, fraud, falsehood; **hypocrisy** = a hypocrite, one who assumes the mannerisms, speech, and character of someone else, thus hiding his own identity; **envy** = the hatred of someone because of something which they have and we do not; **slander** = evil speaking, defamation of character, talking behind someone's back, backbiting, speaking against another person.

From each succeeding sinful behavior springs forth that which immediately precedes it, to form a domino effect of the sins against love. Out of malice springs deceit; out of deceit, hypocrisy; out of hypocrisy, envy of those to whom we think ourselves obliged to play the hypocrite; and out of envy, slander, the malicious and envious criticism of others.

Malice delights in another's hurt; envy pines at another's good; deceit imparts deception to the heart; hypocrisy imparts deception to the tongue; slander wounds the character of another.

#### **Like newborn infants –**

Peter is saying that his readers should be just like those who are just born, like a newborn baby -- a newborn baby in Christ, a new believer, a new Christian.

#### **Desire –**

"Desire" speaks of an intense yearning. Peter is exhorting his readers to have an intense yearning. Just like a newborn baby has an intense craving to nurse.

(continued on page 3)

**Christ Lutheran Church**

2415 Ensign St.  
Duluth, MN 55811  
clcduluth.org

Pastor Gary DeSha  
320-237-7448  
pastor@clcduluth.org  
218-727-2076

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

 Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

 Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

Website: clcduluth.org

President:  
Ouitdee 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

**July Ushers, Trustees & Scripture Readers**

**July 3**

**Ushers:** Keith Youngren & Mark Youngren

**Trustees:** Laurie & Laura

**Scripture Reader:** Sue DeSha

**July 10**

**Ushers:** Bill & Jan Arezzo

**Trustees:** Laurie & Jim

**Scripture Reader:** Jim Carlson

**July 17**

**Ushers:** Carolyn Lofald & Jim Carlson

**Trustees:** Bill & Grace

**Scripture Reader:** Gary Lofald

**July 24**

**Ushers:** Mike & Wendy Pickar

**Trustees:** Wendy & Carol

**Scripture Reader:** Keith Youngren

**July 31**

**Ushers:** Jim & Sandy Carlson

**Trustees:** Laurie & Laura

**Scripture Reader:** Sue DeSha

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

**Financial Update**

May Income: \$9,356  
Expenses: \$19,374

Monthly income was under expenses by \$10,018

YTD Income: \$63,550  
YTD Expenses: \$65,495

YTD income was under expenses by \$1,945

May Mission  
MN Teen Challenge Green Space: \$790

Full financial reports are available in the office upon request




**CLC Food Share**

The next food packing date is Tuesday, July 19.  
June distribution is Thursday, July 21 from 11:30-12:30.

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

(continued from page 1)

### ***The pure milk of the Word –***

When you read a novel, a text book for school, the paper, or a magazine, there usually is an underlying theme or agenda behind what is written. However, the Word of God has no ulterior motives like so many human writings or teachings, however, its only purpose is that of nourishing the soul. The Word of God is pure, and unadulterated.

### ***So that you may grow up –***

Peter says that the Word of God is the food for our spiritual growth, especially for new believers, or new Christians. Peter reminds his readers that it is the same living and enduring Word of God, through which we are born again, that provides the nourishment for their spiritual growth.

The Word of God is to be desired with an insatiable appetite, to be chewed as cud, like contemplating it with understanding, then swallowed in the hearing, and digested with faith.

### ***Into your salvation –***

This means until we come to a perfect knowledge of Jesus Christ, and to be perfected in Him; having arrived at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Jesus Christ, and are in possession of that salvation He has obtained for us.

*Grow up into your salvation*, is the measure of the fullness of salvation, not only our rescue from destruction because of sin, but a positive blessedness and eternal life, which is ours in salvation.

### ***If you have tasted that the Lord is good –***

To “taste” of something, according to the usage in the Scriptures, means to “experience,” or to “understand.” The expression is derived from the fact that “taste” is one of the means by which we ascertain the nature or quality of something; The proper idea here is this: it is assumed that you have “experienced” the grace of God in your life.

Are you acquainted with the grace of God? Then, you should desire to increase more and more in the knowledge and love of God. Therefore, when you taste something wonderfully good, it is a taste that excites the appetite. You want more!

Psalms 34:8 says, “Taste and see that the Lord is good. How happy is the person who takes refuge in Him!”

### **Application**

The prerequisite to intensely crave the Word of God is to once and for all put sin out of our lives. We must rely upon the promises of God’s Word when it tells us that we are “*dead to sin*” and “*alive to God*.” We must rely upon the promises of God’s Word when it tells us “*let not sin reign in your mortal bodies*.” The reign of sin is over within you. Sin in our life destroys the appetite for the Word. The Christian who tries to find satisfaction in the substance of the world, has no appetite left for the things of God. His heart is filled with the world and has no room for the God’s Word. A healthy infant is a hungry infant. A hungry infant who is not fed will die. A spiritually healthy Christian is a hungry Christian. A “Christian” who is not hungry for God, is not spiritually healthy, is one who does not feed upon the Word of God. This person will die.

The Word of God is appointed as a means of our spiritual growth, and by the enabling of God, the Holy Spirit, it becomes a blessing to us. Therefore, this pure milk of the Word of God is desirable, for the increase of faith, and the furtherance of our joy in it; for our growth in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and in the experience of spiritual strength from God Himself.

Drink in the Word of God and enjoy the warmth of July!

In Christ’s Love,



Pastor Gary DeSha

## AM I REALLY LISTENING?

Do you recognize this Bible verse?

*For I know the plans I have for you,  
declares the LORD,  
plans for welfare and not for evil,  
to give you a future and a hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11*



It is a prophecy from Jeremiah, a very popular verse, and is shared often to encourage people. I have heard it and seen it on Christian cards, wall art, and quoted in prayers, but I have never studied it in context until today. Here is a summary of what leads up to this beautiful word of encouragement from the weeping prophet, Jeremiah. In your Bible devotions this July, consider reading these chapters in Jeremiah so you can see, hear and confirm the word of the LORD.

### JEREMIAH 26

There is a new King in Judah, Jehoiakim, who is a son of the good king Josiah. Jeremiah receives the word of Lord and delivers it to the king and all the cities of Judah, “If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth” (Jeremiah 26:4-6 ESV). The priests and false prophets rise up demanding Jeremiah’s death because he’s spoken against Judah, but the people came to Jeremiah’s defense and his life was spared.

### JEREMIAH 27

There is another new King in Judah, Zedekiah, another son of the good king Josiah. The LORD requires Jeremiah to strap a wooden yoke onto his neck as a symbol of the prophecy about what God is going to do next. King Nebuchadnezzar, his son, and his grandson, of Babylon will rule over many nations including Judah. Jeremiah must wear the yoke as he prophesies to King Zedekiah and all the people, “Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people and live” (Jeremiah 27:12 ESV). To any nation including Judah that refuses to wear the yoke of service to Babylon that God has ordained, He says, “I will punish that nation with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence” until consumed by Nebuchadnezzar’s hand (Jeremiah 27:8 ESV).

### JEREMIAH 28

The same year that Jeremiah puts on the symbolic yoke, Hananiah rises up and declares that God will break the yoke of Babylon off Judah in just two years. He actually breaks the wooden yoke off Jeremiah, but the LORD commands Jeremiah to tell the false prophet, “You have broken wooden bars but you have made in their place bars of iron” (Jeremiah 28:13 ESV). Hananiah caused the people to believe a lie and bring upon themselves a much harsher service. God speaks again through Jeremiah to the false prophet, “the LORD has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in in a lie. Therefore thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die’” (Jeremiah 28:16 ESV). That same year Hananiah died.

## JEREMIAH 29

Some of the people of Judah left everything behind and went to Babylon into exile. They listened and obeyed the word of the LORD delivered by Jeremiah. Some of the people did not make the hard decision to leave hearth and home; they refused to believe God's word and stayed in Judah. It is here that Jeremiah delivers God's directions to those who went into exile, "Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters... seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile and pray to the LORD on its behalf" (Jeremiah 29:5-7 ESV). Here is God's promise to those who obeyed, "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29: 10-11 ESV). For those who stayed, God made another promise back in Jeremiah 27 - they would suffer under sword, famine, and pestilence.

### AM I REALLY LISTENING?

How do we know when we're really listening? We know when we're really listening by how we respond. Who do we really listen to? We really listen to the voice we trust the most. Some from Judah trusted in the LORD, they left behind what was familiar and comfortable because they believed in God's love and care, and they feared His warning. Many stayed in Judah, trusting in the king and those priests and prophets who said everything was fine after generations of disobedience to God's word.

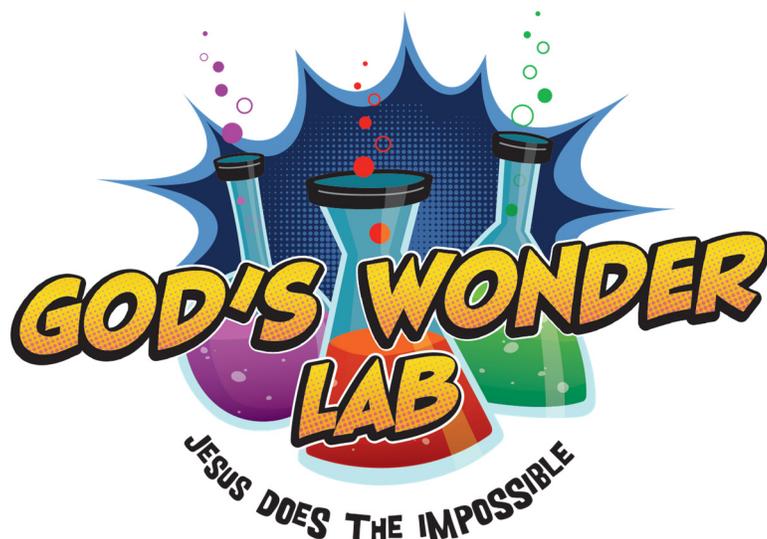
Now we see clearly who and what this encouraging verse is for. God's future and hope is for those who love and trust Him - for those who obey His word. My prayer for all of us is that we will love God more, trust God more, listen to God more, and obey Him more. Dear family of Christ Lutheran Church, let's pray for the welfare of Duluth and seek out more opportunities to bless our community.

In Christ's love,

**Sue**

320-815-1561

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



Hey Everyone!  
It's time for VBS!  
Invite your kids, your grandkids,  
your neighbor's kids, invite everyone!

July 18-21 9-Noon  
Science Experiments ~ Storytelling  
Songs ~ Snacks ~ Games

Ages K-5th Grade

Register Online at: [clcduluth.org](http://clcduluth.org)

## July Maintenance Report

The Esther Circle was busy during the month of June planting, watering and weeding. The flower gardens are looking so nice. It sure enhances our church. So thankful they volunteer to do this for us! Also, they say “thank you so much” to those that have made a donation to the flower fund!! We shout out a thanks to Jim Carlson, too for taking care of the church grounds by mowing and trimming for us. He also applied some weed & feed for us!

We did have a couple people volunteer to stain the garage so that will get done soon. The stain has been purchased. We are also in need of staining and making a few minor repairs to the playset in the back yard. The glider has been fixed. So nice to see the neighborhood children using this area.

Again, just a word of caution to **\*\*Please watch your step\*\*** when coming in and going out the basement entrance. We are still praying about the best way to fix this issue.

MN Power has redirected the light on the pole in our parking lot to point toward Ensign Street. A new light fixture was to be installed, but is on back order. So, for the time being, an LED bulb was placed in the fixture.

The middle awning window in the upstairs parking lot entrance has been replaced by the *Glass Guru*.

We will purchase a coach light to place above the front entrance windows.

Thank you to Mike Pickar for removing the old carpet from the parsonage stairs. We have met with Johnson Carpet One and they are giving us some options and pricing for a few different products to place on them.

Please bring items to our attention that need repair. We also welcome any thoughts and suggestions for improvements you feel are needed. You can reach me at 218-390-8357. Also want to give a shout of thanks to our custodian, Gary Glad, and for all he does to keep our church looking so nice. We are blessed!

In Christ,  
Carolyn Lofald

### July Mission of the Month:

#### Wittenberg Door

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.”

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  
The steadfastness of our faith

Mission of the Month: Wittenberg Door &  
Women's Care Center of Duluth  
Persecuted Christians throughout the world  
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	Maggie Kaptonak
Kathy Stevens	Linda Anthony	Jerry Wiita

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

---

**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



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

---

*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!**

Janice Spindler	July 6
Gwen Nelson	July 11
Carol Blair	July 14
Carolyn Lofald	July 24
Zach Carson	July 24