

Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



"To know Christ,
and make Him known."

October 2022



In the Hands of the Refiner

What It Means To Be Lutheran

To be Lutheran – My Journey

My journey of faith has been an experience with the different expressions of Christianity. I have been told I am pan-denominational. My first experience was with the Baptist church, then United Methodist, then Pentecostal and Charismatic, then Evangelical Episcopal, then the Eastern Orthodox, then Reformed, and now Lutheran. God, it seems to me, has brought me around 180 degrees, and blessed me with an understanding of the reason for the Reformation, and why Martin Luther had to speak up and demand particularly critical changes within the Roman Catholic Church. Being Lutheran for me, began while studying Lutheranism after being called to a Lutheran Church as an assistant pastor for family and youth. I bought a copy of "Concordia – The Lutheran Confessions" and dove into the deep end.

To be Lutheran and the Word of God

To me, being Lutheran means, you love the Word of God. Being Lutheran means that the Word of God is central to life and faith. To be Lutheran means to appreciate how Martin Luther read Holy Scripture at face value and allowed Scripture to interpret itself. This led me to read and study the Scripture from a different hermeneutic than I had used before. The Bible was opened to me in a different light. To be Lutheran means I believe in the divine inspiration, infallibility, authority, inerrancy of the Bible as the Word of God. Reading Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechism's helped me understand how much he relied upon the promises of God in His Word for every aspect of his life. Being Lutheran and the Word of God being central, not only opened my eyes theologically, but opened them regarding family, marriage, society, the Church, and my neighbor; it was like a new light was shed upon my Christian experience. In being Lutheran, you stand apart from the other expressions of Christianity.

To be Lutheran and the Sacraments

To be Lutheran means that the Lord's Supper is spiritual nourishment, the forgiveness of sins, and what we eat, and drink is the true Body and Blood of our Lord. To be Lutheran is to believe in the real presence of Christ in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. To be Lutheran means we enjoy the fellowship we have with one another around the Lord's Table. To be Lutheran means that I understand that I have been born again by water and the Holy Spirit. I have been washed with water and the Word. Because of God's kindness and tender mercies, He has saved me with the washing of regeneration and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. To be Lutheran means I remember the promises of God in His Word; those promises are given in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and they bring peace, joy, comfort, and solace to my heart. They bring forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.


(continued on page 3)


Christ Lutheran Church

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pastor@clcduluth.org
218-727-2076

Church Office:
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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

Assisting with October Ministry

October 2

Ushers: Wendy Pickar; Jim Carlson
Trustees: Laurie & Jim
Scripture Reader: Gary Lofald
Communion Assistant: Mike Pickar

October 9

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo
Trustees: Bill & Grace
Scripture Reader: Sue DeSha

October 16

Ushers: Carolyn Lofald; Grace Wells
Trustees: Wendy & Carol
Scripture Reader: Jim Carlson
Communion Assistant: Keith Youngren

October 23

Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar
Trustees: Laurie & Laura
Scripture Reader: Sue DeSha

October 30

Ushers: Keith Youngren; Mark Youngren
Trustees: Laurie & Jim
Scripture Reader: Mark Wiita

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

Coffee/Fellowship Servers

October 2: Gail Vetzal

October 9: The Allens

October 16: Norma Johnson

October 23: Esther Circle - Teen Challenge Sunday

October 30: Volunteers

November 6: Sue DeSha

November 13: Lowaine Morris

November 20: Volunteers

November 27: Esther Circle

Financial Update

August Income: \$7,845.00
August Expenses: \$10,207.07

*Monthly income was under
expenses by \$2,362.07*

YTD Income: 90,032.62
YTD Expenses: \$96,542.31

*YTD income was under
expenses by \$6,509.69*

August Mission:
Lutheran Bible Translators \$775

Full financial reports are
available in the office
upon request



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

To be Lutheran Is to Believe, Teach, and Confess

To be Lutheran means that what we believe, teach, and confess is God's Word. To be Lutheran means what we believe comes from the Bible. Lutherans preach and teach the Bible. Lutherans have written down what they believe the Bible teaches as confessions of faith. The Book of Concord which contains the Lutheran Confessions is the result of this Lutheran biblical faith. Lutherans also believe that the Apostles Creed and Nicene Creed are descriptors of the biblical faith in which we believe. This has been a hallmark in my study of Lutheranism. I am a confessional Lutheran.

Being Lutheran is understanding the distinction between Law and Gospel. The Law tells me I'm a sinner and deserve God's wrath. The Gospel tells me I have been forgiven by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. There is nothing I can do to earn my salvation. Everything about salvation is all of God. The Law tells me I must be holy as God is holy. The Gospel tells me that I am holy based upon the righteousness that has been imputed to me, which is the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. To the Law, I'm a slave. To the Gospel, I am freed man. This is most certainly true.

To be Lutheran doesn't mean you're German, Norwegian, or Swedish

To be Lutheran means so much more than one's nationality. To be Lutheran means that I have been blessed with a spiritual legacy left by Martin Luther himself, and every other Lutheran that has come before me from whatever part of the world. To be Lutheran means that I am a part of a continual movement toward Reformation. To be Lutheran means that I believe in God's Word, the Law and Gospel, and to proclaim and teach it so that others may inherit eternal life. No matter what class of individual you are, no matter what race or culture you come from, no matter if you are male or female, young or old, what it means to be a Lutheran is that God makes you His own, and you are justified by grace through faith alone.

To be Lutheran doesn't mean you're an American Lutheran

Unfortunately, to be Lutheran here in America means you are not a "Luther" Lutheran. American Lutheranism is full of relativism. So many directions, so many destinations, so many routes, so many liberals, and so much confusion. American Lutheranism is not consistent within itself. Martin Luther wouldn't recognize most Lutherans of today. He would be shocked, mortified, and would rebuke its condition outrageously. To be Lutheran means I do not fit into the American evangelical mold, and I do not fit into the American Lutheran mold, nor do I fit into any denominational mold for that matter.

All I have tried to do, my adult Christian life, is to find the truth in Holy Scripture and stick to it. However, most importantly, my desire is to be a disciple of Christ, a follower of Jesus — to keep in step with the Holy Spirit and obey God's Word — to be transformed by the Word and the Holy Spirit into the image of God's Son, Jesus, and to be found a good and faithful servant of my Lord.

Am I an American Lutheran? No. However, if I were to be labeled, I would be a "Luther" Lutheran. I accept that label because I respect the changes Martin Luther vigilantly fought for against the Roman Catholic Church, and I respect what he taught, theology and all. I believe, teach, and confess it.

What really matters is that I follow Christ Jesus, obey His commandments, repent, and confess my sins, love, and worship God alone, love my neighbor as myself, be His witness, make disciples, and proclaim the Gospel. Isn't that what Jesus called His disciples to do?

May God bless you this Fall,

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

Discipleship Outfitters October 2022

Dear CLC Family & Friends,

As I travel to North Carolina, I am giving thanks to the LORD with you...for we are among the *Ecclesia*, the church and company of the upright, and our congregation is blessed with the faithful, constant witness of God's wondrous works in our Pastor and Teacher. In verse four of this Psalm, we hear that God "has caused his wondrous works to be remembered."

Psalm 111 **Great Are the LORD's Works**

- [1] *Praise the LORD!*
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- [2] *Great are the works of the LORD,*
studied by all who delight in them.
- [3] *Full of splendor and majesty is his work,*
and his righteousness endures forever.
- [4] *He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;*
the LORD is gracious and merciful.
- [5] *He provides food for those who fear him;*
he remembers his covenant forever.
- [6] *He has shown his people the power of his works,*
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.
- [7] *The works of his hands are faithful and just;*
all his precepts are trustworthy;
- [8] *they are established forever and ever,*
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- [9] *He sent redemption to his people;*
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!
- [10] *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;*
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!



Yes, it is God who faithfully preserves His Word for us; the Truth of the origins of life, the nature of God who is Trinity, the beauty of creation, glorious man and woman created in His image and likeness. God has preserved for us the History of His people and those whom He favors, the Law, the Prophets, the rich musical heritage of the Psalms, eye-witness testimony of the life of Jesus; God's eternal Word wrapped in flesh to bring the Trinity glory, to destroy the works of the devil, to save, deliver and heal us.

God proves to us that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever by speaking and revealing the same truth through many voices across time in Abraham, Moses, David, Elijah, John, Paul, and His Son. Like a beautiful banquet, all of God's precious promises for us in Christ Jesus are laid out across the table of Scripture, and our Pastor serves us a delicious and life-preserving plate from this banquet every Sunday and all the other occasions when he teaches God's Word.

Thank God today because He has caused His mighty works to be remembered. Thank God today for sending us Pastor Gary DeSha who helps us in the remembering, understanding, and appreciating. Remember the great and the small things God has done for you, and may you see His mighty handiwork in every leaf that leaps and dances with the breeze this Autumn. Praise Him forever!

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

October Maintenance Report

Fall is in the air and the frost is on the Pumpkins! The church gardens will soon be prepped for winter. Our thanks again to the Esther Circle for their dedication in keeping everything looking so nice for us. We thank Jim, too for doing all the mowing. I'm sure he's looking at tuning up the snowblower next!!!!

Jim Carlson has been on the hunt to replace light bulbs to fit the sconces on the outside of the narthex and up the stairs. We may have found some at Graybar!

Our custodian, Gary, has begun staining the playset for us. So thankful for his willingness to help. He also has done some touch up on the back door and repainted the bench that sits near it. He has painted out the overhead venting for our kitchen and is repainting the pipes overhead so they all look fresh and clean. We are blessed to have such a caring custodian. Please give him shout of thanks if you happen to see him.

The trustees have approved carpeting for the parsonage basement stairs so we will have Pastor and Sue pick this out and schedule an install.

The battery has been replaced in the elevator and the city inspector has signed off on our repairs to keep the elevator up to code.

We are still waiting for price estimates and suggestions for air conditioning for the offices and sanctuary to see if we are able to plan for that next year.

We owe a huge thanks to Mike Pickar for spearheading the job of fixing the uneven asphalt at our back entrance. Mike and Gary Lofald spent the day cutting, digging and hauling material in and out and running drain tile into our drainage system. Pavers have temporarily been set to test the fix. It is our hope this will take care of the problem and if it does, we will make some permanent fixes next year by also installing a large cement drain. Praying this will work! Asking you to still be cautious when entering and exiting. Thanks again to Glen Nelson for the "watch your step" sign. It has been put to good use!

Our boiler had its yearly maintenance inspection and we replaced a zone valve that was not functioning properly on the basement west side, closest to the kitchen double doors. These boilers have worked out very well for us. The fire extinguishers have had their yearly inspection and have all checked out fine, including the ones at the parsonage.

Again, we always welcome any thoughts for improvements. Let us know if you have a concern, too. You can reach me at 218-390-8357.

God's blessings on you!
Carolyn Lofald

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Esther Circle meets the first Thursday of the month at 10 AM. All ladies are welcome to join the Circle for devotions, prayer, and fellowship.
- **Hold the Line Conference** Saturday, October 22 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Lunch and refreshments will be served. Please register soon, there are forms in the narthex. Complimentary attendance for all Christ Lutheran Church members.
- MN Teen Challenge Choir will be with us on Sunday, October 23. There will be food and fellowship following the service.
- Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, October 30 at 10:45 AM

*Thank
you!*

Dear Friends at CLC,

Thanks again for hosting me, hearing about my my mission for the AALC, and your generous offering!

You are part of this work of sharing the Gospel with people from all around the world. Blessings to you!

Pastor Dave Spotts

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry



Adult & Teen Challenge
Minnesota

Freedom from addiction starts here.

October Mission of the Month: MN Teen Challenge

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.

In addition to your monetary support, there are several other ways you could help, job/intern opportunities, volunteering, or becoming a mentor.

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."

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: MN Teen Challenge
Persecuted Christians throughout the world
Lutheran Vicar Mwavu Ronald and his
two churches in Uganda

THOSE WITH HEALTH NEEDS:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Carol Johnson | Barb Hanson | Mary Jenny |
| Florence Kubiak | Jane McLean | Mark Malander |
| Brian McDonald | The Lund Family | Donna Swanson |
| Judy Stocke | Carol Schramm | Carol Schneeberger |
| Del Sandberg | Carol Sogard | Darlene Saaf |
| Jerry Wiita | Tom & Marlene Stauber | Maggie Kaptonak |
| Linda Anthony | | |

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



Kathleen Stevens passed into eternal life on September 20, 2022 at the BeeHive in Duluth. Our Christian Sympathy to her family. The family held a private "send off" (as they say in England) on September 28, with a few close friends. If you would like to extend your condolences to her family, you may send them to her nephew:

James Hamer
260 Sherwood Drive
Thunder Bay, Ontario 97B 6L2
Canada

Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| Lydia Wiita | October 16 |
| Jim Carlson | October 22 |
| Donna Swanson | October 26 |
| Jason Allen | October 28 |



CLC Food Share

The next food packing date is Tuesday, October 18
Distribution is Thursday, October 20 from 11:30-12:30.
Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support of this ministry!