

Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



"To know Christ,
and make Him known."

September 2022



In the Hands of the Refiner

The Strangest Things Can Produce Patience

2 Peter 1:5-8 (KJV)

*"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance **patience**; and to **patience** godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Ok, right off the bat, God's Word is telling me to be patient, "1 Timothy 6:11-12, *"But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, **patience**, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."* Wow, that is very convicting when my dog Scout will not go potty, but proceeds to act like *La Cheins Mechant* (a mad dog) running furiously across the yard. Going around and around on his leash like a whirling dervish, huffing and puffing, choking and panting.

Sheesh, God did you put it into my heart to want another Golden Retriever in order to teach me more patience? I'm no spring chicken, I can't run my dog a hundred miles an hour to get him tired. A tired puppy is a happy puppy. Whew, around and around he goes, where he stops, nobody knows. Well, it stops here in Titus 2:1-2, *"But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in **patience**..."* Ding, ding, ding, well Gary, what do we have here – it is time to exercise your patience!

When you get a new, 8-week-old puppy, he is a tiny little hot water bottle that has fluffy fur all around him. He is so cute and cuddly. Then, it begins. Potty training, eating, potty training, sleep, potty training, play (a lot), potty training, eat, potty training – and on it goes. Over and over and over and over again. Routine after routine. Almost like the military; like clock work every day. When the bugle sounds, its time to get up, go potty and eat. Then play, then crash. He is so cute when he is sleeping. Isn't any baby? Ha ha

Now, Scout is 12 weeks old, and in three days of camping he is so much bigger! I'm getting up earlier than usual, and then God tells me again in Hebrews 6:11-12, *"And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and **patience** inherit the promises."* God, it's hard not to be sluggish when it's 6 am and Scout is whining to get out of his kennel and go outside. I'm half asleep, staggering out with the dog on a leash, and he wants to play, and I want to go back to bed. It's a beautiful morning! God, it's hard to learn to be patient when you're half asleep! So, Scout and I go back inside; Scout to his kennel, and me to my bed. The command shoots out of my mouth, it's not time to get up yet, Scout. Go back to sleep. After an hour of baby whining from Scout is time for me to get up and get ready for work. Yes, God is teaching me patient endurance; that I can function with less sleep. God will give me strength.

Ah ha! Today is different. My boy Scout is amazing. So mindful and cooperative and on schedule. Then we get home and boom – let the games begin! Scout who is a Billy goat in disguise, he starts to root in the grass, digging up things, bugs, roots, bees, pine cones, whatever he can fit into his little mouth. Now, I'm scared that he'll choke or eat something that will make him sick.

(continued on page 3)

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

September Ushers, Trustees & Scripture Readers

September 4

Ushers: Keith Youngren; Mark Youngren

Trustees: Laurie & Jim

Scripture Reader: Sue DeSha

September 11

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo

Trustees: Bill & Grace

Scripture Reader: Jim Carlson

September 18

Ushers: Grace Wells; Wendy Pickar

Trustees: Wendy & Carol

Scripture Reader: Mark Wiita

September 25

Ushers: Carolyn Lofald; Grace Wells

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

Scripture Reader: Jim Carlson

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

Financial Update

July Income: \$11,304.00
Expenses: \$9,408.85

Monthly income was over expenses by \$1,895.15

YTD Income: \$82,187.62
YTD Expenses: \$86,335.24

YTD income was under expenses by \$4,147.62

July Missions
Wittenberg Door \$475.00
Women's Care Center \$475.00

Full financial reports are available in the office upon request



CLC Food Share

The next food packing date is Tuesday, September 20.

Distribution is Thursday, September 22

from 11:30-12:30.

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



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

Ahhhh, I have to pry his mouth open to get that alien out of my dog's mouth! Jeepers, Scout, why do you do that? Oh, it's natural for Golden's to do this or that. I'm thinking to myself, Jack (the late Jesus dog) never did this stuff. Well, actually Jack used to pick up rocks, toss them in the air, and catch them in his mouth. I know he must have swallowed a couple. It makes you so nervous! So, what does God say? James 1:2-4, "*My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces **patience**. But let **patience** have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*" How does it test my faith? Well, I hope and pray my dog hasn't eaten anything that will make him sick, or that he hasn't swallowed something that he could choke on or that can get lodged in his stomach or intestines. Yuck! Yes, it tests your faith. Is raising a puppy something mundane? I don't think so. This little man, Scout, is now a part of our "pack" so to speak, where he has to learn that we are his pack leaders and he must follow what the pack leaders teach him. Once he understands all that, Scout the Golden Retriever will be a wonderful addition to our family. It takes time. It takes a lot of patience. It takes a lot of time and effort and love.

Raising a puppy is the strangest thing God will use to create patience in us. You may think it has nothing to do with faith or God or our relationship with Him, but it does. We were born again, transferred from darkness to light, and are now going through the process of being transformed into the image of God's Son, Jesus Christ. We are not to be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Our mind is where patience has its beginning and end. Ecclesiastes 7:8 says, "*The end of a thing is better than its beginning; The **patient** in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.*" Being proud edges God out of your life. Being proud doesn't let patience take its course. When we lose our patience, we are overtaken with pride because we are not getting our way immediately.

So, what do I do when I am at my wits end, and the dog is acting like a maniac? Pray! I must ask God to enable me with patience, so that I can teach the dog the appropriate behavior or even just to walk on the leash. I must rest in God, trusting that He will guide me and teach me patience as I teach Scout how he is to behave in our pack. Psalm 37:7-8 says, "*Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret-it only causes harm.*"

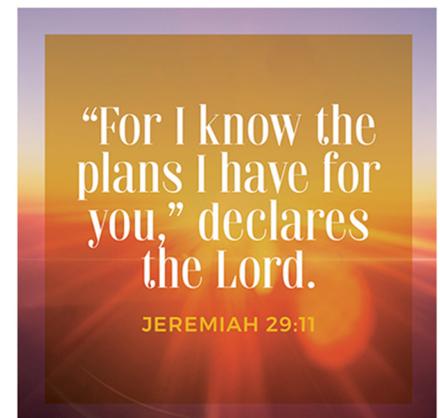
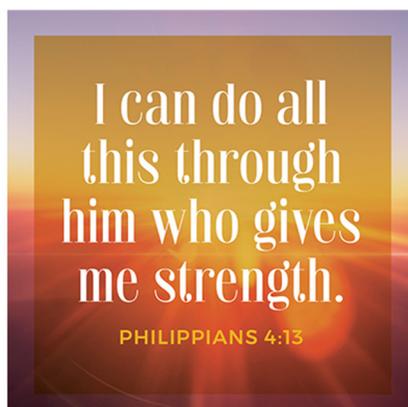
So, when things get to the point where they are trying your patience, remember Psalm 40:1-3, "*I waited **patiently** for the LORD; And He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth- Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD.*"

See you, in September!

God bless you all!



Pastor Gary DeSha



Dear CLC Family & Friends,

“A New School Year”

We know dear ones who are starting a new school year! We may be starting a new school year too. Remember the night before the first day organizing supplies, laying out new clothes (especially new tennis shoes), having butterflies of excitement and some anxiety, and not being able to fall asleep until the wee hours. Take a moment and gather your dear ones who are starting a new school year into your heart; a daughter who is teaching, a grandson who loves school and can't wait to start, a son in a demanding degree program across the country, a homeschool mom who works full-time, extended family near and far with known and unknown challenges, and our neighbors across the street at Piedmont Elementary... all who need our prayers and support.



With humble and thankful hearts, join me in prayer for the 2022-2023 school year.

FOR UNDERSTANDING

Father in heaven, teach _____ Your ways so they may walk with understanding hearts. Show them the difference between right and wrong, and guide them in choosing what is good and true. Give them courage to stand for what is right, love those they meet, and respect their leaders, teachers, and peers. Help them to understand and remember every good thing they are taught this year. Teach our dear ones to grow in self-understanding, to recognize their strengths and weaknesses, and to ask for help with thanks.

FOR PROTECTION

We thank you, Father, that you are always present with _____. When challenges or trouble arise, protect and guide our dear ones. Be for them a refuge and a strong tower. In every way they travel to and from school, surround them with Your safeguards. Keep their hearts and their minds in peace, help them not to fear, and hold them steady and focused as they put their trust in You.

FOR EVERY NEED

Father in heaven, You are our provider and You know our every need. Give _____ compassionate and wise teachers, strong and fair administrators, abundant resources for every lesson and project, and organized attention to the details. Open doors of opportunity for them to grow in the arts, craftsmanship, sports, history, science, technology, writing, communications, literature, mechanics and building things, and all the beautiful ways of helping and serving others. Open their eyes to the unique vocation You have prepared in advance for them.

FINALLY

For all these things, and those special things that came to mind as you prayed along with me, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. I am so thankful that we have an advocate with the Father who hears our prayers, Jesus Christ; Lord, Savior, and Forever Friend. God bless you all as we start a new school year.

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



Sola 500 500
Alone Can Make a Difference!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

American Lutheran Theological Seminary is asking for your support! At the 28th General Convention of The AALC, a new Financial Support Campaign was established for our seminary. It is called Sola 500. Those who belong to the Sola 500 will pledge \$25 per month (\$300 per year) in order to give basic support to American Lutheran Theological Seminary (ALTS). The goal is to enlist five hundred Sola 500 Sponsors by the end of 2023. When five hundred Sola 500 Sponsors have been enlisted, the total contribution to the seminary will be \$150,000 per year. Reaching our goal of 500 Sponsors each year will bring financial stability to the American Lutheran Theological Seminary, ensuring that all ALTS students will continue to receive the very best confessional Lutheran seminary education for years to come!

Solus Christus: Christ Alone
Sola Scriptura: Scripture Alone
Sola Gratia: Grace Alone Sola Fide: Faith Alone
Sola 500: 500 Alone Can Make The Difference

If you want the message of God’s saving grace to be given to future generations, perhaps you too will become one of the Sola 500. To make your commitment, pick up a form from the office or fill out the one below and mail to: ALTS 921 East Dupont Road #920 Fort Wayne IN 46825 or visit: <https://donorbox.org/sola-500>

If you have any questions, please contact:
The Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins: 410.441.0122 or
Mrs. Bonnie Ohlrich: 260.755.9401

Sola 500
500 Alone Can Make a Difference!
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please print all information.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Check all that apply:

My first monthly pledge of \$25.00 is enclosed.

My yearly pledge of \$300 is enclosed.

I am unable to pledge at this time, however I would like to give a gift for ALTS in the amount of \$_____.

I will pray for the Seminary, Staff, and Students.

September Maintenance Report

The Church Gardens are still looking beautiful! “Thank You” again to the Esther Circle ladies for watering and caring for all the shrubs and flowers. If anyone is interested in helping water, please contact one of the ladies. Thanks again to Jim for mowing and keeping the grounds looking so nice for us too!

Our custodian Gary Glad and Gary Lofald stained the garage for us. We still need to do a minor repair to the playset and check all the bolts. The playset is also in need of stain. We are asking for volunteers to help with that project!!!

Gary, our custodian also primed and painted the vent in the kitchen and the gas line. Looks so nice!

We are still waiting to make a decision on the basement stairs at the parsonage in hopes we can get that completed for Pastor and Sue here soon.

We have not purchased a coach light for the front west entrance. Will keep looking for something appropriate for that area.

We have not heard back from the elevator people. We will need to have the battery back-up for the phone replaced and we will update the light bulbs in the car. Our elevator is inspected on a quarterly basis.

We are waiting for price estimates and suggestions for air conditioning for the offices and sanctuary.

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. If you have an idea, please share that with us before fall.

We welcome any thoughts and suggestions for improvements you feel are needed. We always welcome volunteers for those projects. You can reach me at 218-390-8357.

Praying we have a beautiful fall!

God’s blessings!
Carolyn Lofald

September Mission of the Month: Gideons



GIDEONS
INTERNATIONAL

Members of The Gideons International share their faith because they realize how often people today need someone to come alongside them in finding their way to true salvation that is available only through the grace of God. As opportunities arise, they take time to share the Gospel message with friends and family, business acquaintances, and other people they meet who are struggling in their daily lives.

They believe distributing copies of God’s Word plants powerful seeds God can use according to His own timing (I Corinthians 3:6), allows many to read the truth for themselves (John 8:32), provides a lasting witness (Hebrews 4:12), and makes it easier for those they reach to boldly spread the Good News (II Timothy 2:2).

Members of The Gideons International personally witness and distribute God’s Word to police, fire, and medical personnel; prisoners; military personnel; students in the fifth grade and above; and to those with whom they interact on a daily basis. Scriptures are also placed by Gideons and Auxiliary in key locations, including hotels, motels, hospitals, convalescent homes, medical offices, domestic violence shelters, prisons, and jails.

The Gideons International began distributing the Word of God in 1908. Today, there are more than 269,500 Gideons and Auxiliary – and an untold number of supporters – in some 200 countries, territories, and possessions across the globe. These dedicated individuals have given their time and money to make it possible for others to learn about the love of God by giving them access to His Word. They have placed and distributed more than 2 billion Bibles and New Testaments around the world.

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: Gideons
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
Kathy Stevens	Tom & Marlene Stauber	Maggie Kaptonak
Jerry Wiita	Linda Anthony	

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

Happy Birthday!

Diane Malander	September 13
Kelly Carson	September 19
Gayle Maruska	September 20
Sandy Carlson	September 24
Cindy Kent	September 29



Back to Church Sunday is September 18, 2022

Let's mobilize to spread the message of the Gospel to our community!