

Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



"To know Christ,
and make Him known."

November 2022



In the Hands of the Refiner

The Principles of Faith

The Symbol of Faith

A person without faith is like a blind man. Faith gives man spiritual vision by which he can see and understand the essence of all that surrounds him: how and why everything was created, what is the goal of life, what is right, and what is not and ultimately toward what one must strive.

What does the word, "symbol" mean? Dictionary.com defines "symbol" to mean "a word, phrase, image, or the like having a complex of associated meanings and perceived as having inherent value separable from that which is symbolized, as being part of that which is symbolized, and as performing its normal function of standing for or representing that which is symbolized: usually conceived as deriving its meaning chiefly from the structure in which it appears, and generally distinguished from a sign."

From earliest times, Christians have used a symbol of faith to remind themselves of the principles of the Christian faith. In the ancient Church, there existed various short symbols. In the 4th century, there appeared false teachings about the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Thus, it became necessary to complete these short symbols and more accurately define the Gospel of Christ and the teachings He handed down by the Apostles. Two of the most familiar symbols are the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed. We will discuss the more complete Symbol of Faith, the Nicene Creed.

A Historical Survey

The word *creed* comes from the Latin "credo" which means, "I believe." In the Church, the Creed is usually called the Symbol of Faith, which means the expression or "confession" of the faith.

Early Church leaders of the first and second Ecumenical Councils composed the Nicene Creed. The first seven articles of the Creed were drawn up at the first Ecumenical Council, and the last five were drawn up at the second Ecumenical Council. The first Council met in Nicaea in 325 A.D. to confirm the true teachings about the Son of God, Jesus Christ and to oppose the false teachings of Arius. Arius believed that God the Father created the Son of God. The second Council met in Constantinople in 381 A.D. to confirm the true teaching on the Holy Spirit and to oppose the false teachings of Macedonius. He rejected the divine origin of the Holy Spirit. The Creed named the "Nicene-Constantinopolitan" after the two cities in which the leaders gathered for the first and second Ecumenical Councils. The Creed consists of twelve articles. In the 1st article we speak of God the Father; from the 2nd through the 7th articles, we speak of God the Son; in the 8th article about God the Holy Spirit; in the 9th article about the Church; in the 10th article about Baptism; and in the 11th and 12th article about the resurrection of the dead and eternal life.

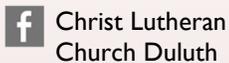
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President:
Ouitdee Carson

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

Assisting with November Ministry

November 6

Ushers: Carolyn Lofald; Jim Carlson
Trustees: Bill & Grace
Scripture Reader: Sue DeSha
Communion Assistant: Mike Pickar

November 13

Ushers: Keith Youngren; Mark Youngren
Trustees: Wendy & Carol
Scripture Reader: Keith Youngren

November 20

Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar
Trustees: Laurie & Laura
Scripture Reader: Jim Carlson
Communion Assistant: Gary Loflad

November 22—Thanksgiving Service

Trustees: Laurie & Jim

November 27

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo
Trustees: Laurie & Jim
Scripture Reader: Gary Lofald

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

Coffee/Fellowship Servers

November 6: Sue DeSha
November 13: Lowaine Morris
November 20: Jennifer Harvey
November 27: Esther Circle
December 4: Sue DeSha
December 11: Lowaine Morris
December 18: Volunteers
December 25: Esther Circle

Financial Update

September Income: \$18,367.00
September Expenses: \$11,878.14

*Monthly income was over
expenses by \$6,488.86*

YTD Income: 108,399.62
YTD Expenses: \$108,420.45

*YTD income was under
expenses by \$20.83*

September Mission:
The Gideons \$885.00

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

The Nicene Creed (The Symbol of Faith)

“I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate and suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge the living and dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets. And I believe in One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come. Amen.”

The Symbol of Faith begins with “I believe.” This is because the essence of our faithful convictions depends not on external experiences but on our acceptance of God-given truths. Surely, one cannot prove truths of the spiritual world by a laboratory experiment. These truths belong to the sphere of personal spiritual experience. The more a person grows in the spiritual life – the more one prays, thinks about God, does good toward others – the more his inner spiritual experience develops, the clearer the spiritual truths become to him. In this fashion, faith becomes for him a subject of personal experience.

The Most Holy Trinity in the Symbol of Faith

God is the fullness of perfection, and He is perfect spirit, timeless, without beginning, all-powerful and all-wise. God is everywhere, sees all, and knows beforehand when something will happen. He is good beyond measure, just and all-holy. He needs nothing and is the reason for everything that exists.

God is one in Essence and Trinity in Persons (i.e., the one true God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). The Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the Trinity, one in Essence and indivisible. The Father is not born and does not proceed from the others. The Son pre-eternally was born of the Father, and the Holy Spirit eternally proceeds from the Father.

All the Persons of the Holy Trinity are equally in divine perfection, greatness, power, and glory. That is, that the Father is true and perfect God, the Son is true and perfect God, and the Holy Spirit is true and perfect God. Therefore, in prayer, we simultaneously glorify the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as one God.

God created the entire visible and invisible world. God created the invisible, great angelic world, otherwise known as the heavenlies. As stated in the Bible, God created our material or physical world from nothing. This was not done at once, but gradually during a period of time, which in the Bible are called “days.” God created the world not out of necessity or need but out of His all-good desire to do so in order that His other creations might enjoy life. Being Himself endlessly good, God created all things good. Evil only appeared in the world from the misuse of free will, with which God has endowed both angels and people. For example, the devil (Satan) and his demons were at one time angels of God. They rebelled against their Creator and became demons. God cast them out of heaven, and they formed their own kingdom. From that moment on, they tempt people to sin and became our enemies and the enemies of our salvation.

All things are under God’s control; that is, He provides for every creature and guides everything to a good goal. God loves and looks after us as a mother looks after her child. Good or bad, God causes all things to work for the good of those who love Him.

The Lord Jesus Christ in the Symbol of Faith

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, came down from heaven for our salvation. He came to earth and took on our flesh by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. Being God from all eternity, He in the time of King Herod took on our human nature, both soul and body, and is therefore truly God and truly man, or the God-man. In one divine Person He combined two natures, divine and human. These two natures will remain with Him always without change, neither blending nor changing from one into the other.

The Lord Jesus Christ, while living on earth, enlightened the world by His teaching, His example, and miracles. He taught people what they should believe and how they should live so that they may inherit eternal life. By His prayers to His Father, His complete obedience to the Father's Will, His sufferings and death, He defeated the devil and redeemed the world from sin and death. By His resurrection from the dead, He laid the foundation for our resurrection. After His ascension in the flesh to heaven, which took place forty days after His resurrection from the dead, our Lord Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God the Father; that is to say, He received equal power with God the Father and since then is King of Kings and Lord of Lords in all the world.

The Holy Spirit in the Symbol of Faith

The Holy Spirit proceeds from God the Father, together with the Father and the Son give existence to all creation, gives life, governs and is sovereign over all. He is the source of a grace-filled spiritual life, both for angels as well as people, and equally with the Father and the Son is worthy of all glory and worship. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament spoke through the prophets. Then in the beginning of the New Testament, He spoke through the Apostles and now lives in and speaks through the Church of Christ, guiding her leaders and people in the truth.

The Lord Jesus Christ founded the Church on earth for the salvation of all who believe in Him. He sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles on Pentecost. Since that time, the Holy Spirit abides in the Church through each individual member, that grace-filled community or union of believing Christians and preserves her in the purity of Christ's teachings. The grace of the Holy Spirit abides in the Church through each individual member, cleansing those who repent of sins, helps the believers grow in good deeds, and sanctifies them, making them holy.

The Church in the Symbol of Faith

Jesus Christ builds the Church. The Church is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. The Church is One because all Christians are one family together with the angels and saints in heaven. The oneness of the Church depends on the oneness of faith and grace. The Church is Holy because the Holy Spirit through the Word of God is sanctifying her faithful children. The Church is catholic (universal) because we believe all true Christians everywhere represent the Body of Christ. The Church is called Apostolic because it preserves apostolic teaching. The Church will remain until our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ comes again at the end of time.

The Sacraments in the Symbol of Faith

In the sacrament of Baptism, the believer dies with Christ, the believer rises from death with Christ, the believer is united with Christ, and the believer is forgiven their sins. The believer becomes a member of the Body of Christ, the Church. During the sacrament of Baptism, the Catechumen (new believer) recites the Symbol of Faith. Immediately after baptism, the believer receives the anointing. The believer is anointed with holy oils and the minister prays for the believer to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion/Eucharist becomes available to the believer after baptism.

The Symbol of Faith is said during worship and should be read daily while praying. An attentive reading of the Symbol of Faith strengthens our faith. This happens because the Symbol of Faith is not just a formal statement of belief but a prayer. When we say, "I believe" in a spirit of prayer, along with the other words of the Creed, we enliven and strengthen our faith in God and in all those truths, which are contained in it. This is why it is so important for the Christian to read the Creed daily or at least regularly.

The Resurrection and Return of Jesus Christ in the Symbol of Faith

The Symbol of Faith teaches us that before the end of the world as we know it, Jesus Christ, accompanied by the saints and angels, will come again to the earth in glory. Every person, according to His Word, will resurrect from the dead. A miracle will occur in which the souls of people who have died will return into the bodies that they possessed during their earthly life. All the dead will come to life. During the resurrection, the bodies of the saints, both those resurrecting and those still living will be renewed and become the image of the resurrected Body of Christ. After the resurrection, everyone will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, to receive the reward that he is due, according to what he has done when he lived in his body, good or evil. After the judgment, unrepentant sinners will enter into eternal torments and the righteous into eternal life. This will consummate the Kingdom of God, which will have no end.

With the one word "Amen," we witness to the fact that we accept and acknowledge with our whole heart the truths that we believe.

The Season of Thanksgiving

The season of Thanksgiving is upon us. Let us give thanks for the gift of faith. Let us give thanks for the Nicene Creed. That from it and with it we can worship God by expressing our sincere belief in the biblical truths which it declares. Let us come together as a family and give thanks daily for our salvation and all the benefits from that salvation which are forgiveness of sins, the gifts of the Spirit, life, healing, and deliverance. Let us give thanks for our friends, families, children, and grandchildren. Let us give thanks for our church, Christ Lutheran Church, and for all her members past and present, and her pastors past and present. Let us give thanks for God's inspired, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word – which brings to us the Law and Gospel. Let us give thanks for all that we have and all that we are in Christ and give Him the glory for it all.

May you and your families have a wonderful season of Thanksgiving this November.

Your Pastor,



Thank you Christ Lutheran Congregation for the generosity and kindness shown to us during Pastor Appreciation month!

We are so thankful for all of you and the ministry we share at Christ Lutheran Church.

Pastor Gary and Sue



The Heart & Hands of Reformation

Photo credit from unsplash.com 10/27/22

Dear CLC Family and Friends,

Reformation Sunday celebrates the reforming influence of Martin Luther who nailed a piece of parchment on the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. On that heart and mind transforming piece of paper were 95 urgent points of biblical correction that Luther believed must be addressed by church and seminary leaders of his day.

His passionate hope was to see the Roman Catholic Church repent of corrupt practices and return to God as revealed in Holy Scripture. Luther wasn't seeking to start a new denomination; rather, he wanted to see the church return to biblical truth for the glory of God and the eternal good of God's people. Some heeded God's reforming word that was delivered by that reformed monk. Many did not and they rejected the reforming work of Word and Spirit in Martin Luther.

On Reformation Sunday we wear red to remember the saints and martyrs, those who loved God, were filled with the Holy Spirit, lived holy lives, and were faithful witnesses of Christ even unto death. Twenty weeks ago we wore red and remembered what the Lord did on Pentecost, sending the Holy Spirit with fire and power and gifts for God's people so they and we can live holy lives and be courageous, faithful witnesses for Jesus Christ.

What do you remember on Reformation Sunday?

I remember the people God reformed by His Word and Spirit who shared His reforming grace with me; parents, pastors, teachers, mentors, and friends - foremost among them, my pastor, Gary DeSha. I remember God's faithfulness to me when I wasn't faithful. I remember what Jesus Christ has done for me.

I remember that God is the Potter and I am the clay, and I remember this heart-felt song by Tommy Walker that we sing in church sometimes.

*I have a Maker
He formed my heart
Before even time began
My life was in His hands*

*He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call*

*I have a Father
He calls me His own
He'll never leave me
No matter where I go*

*He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call*

Now is the perfect time to open our hearts and hands to the beautiful and holy work of God's reformation.

GOD FORMS US: Genesis 2:7

The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

GOD FILLS US: 2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

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

GOD REFORMS US Isaiah 64:8

But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand

The Third Thursday Bible Study

~ **Patient Endurance**

I am so thankful for our times of Bible study, friendship and prayer each month. All women are invited and you can join in anytime. You will each receive a copy of the study.

- **IN PERSON** Thursday 11/17/22 at 10:00am in the Fireside Room
- **ONLINE** Thursday 11/17/22 at 6:30pm on Google Meet

Hope is found when God's Word is grasped in a language people can understand. Thank you for sharing the light of scripture through Lutheran Bible Translators.

Donna M.
Lutheran Bible Translators

Thank you!

Pastor Gary & Christ Lutheran family,

Thank you so much for hosting us. We really enjoyed the morning service and the awesome lunch.

Thank you so much for the gifts and prayers. God Bless.

Brandon & MNTC Choir

Darlene Saaf is in room 51 at Viewcrest Health Center. She would love to have visitors and it would certainly help brighten her spirits!

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.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD.
FOR HE IS GOOD:
HIS FAITHFUL LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER.

1 Chronicles 16:34

CalChristianCollege.edu

November Maintenance Report

We have been so blessed to have these warm days to finish up our outside projects for the year. There certainly is no shortage of leaves! Weather reports and the Farmers Almanac predict we will have a very snowy winter...We have talked with Jay, owner of Peterson Excavating and we are all set to have the lot plowed when needed. As you may remember, the dental office also uses our lot during the week and pays for the plowing during the weekdays. They also bless us with a monthly donation to park in the lot. Jim is also ready with the snowblower!

Our custodian, Gary, has been working on staining the playset as time allows. So thankful for his willingness to help.

We received estimates for air conditioning for the offices and sanctuary right before our last council meeting. We will meet again with the trustees to discuss at our next meeting. Pastor also brought some information to us at our last council meeting.

Again, our thanks to Mike Pickar for spearheading the job of fixing the uneven asphalt at our back entrance. Praying this will work! Asking you to still be cautious when entering and exiting. We will keep a close eye on this and place the "watch your step" sign as needed.

The high-rise toilet in the downstairs lady's bathroom had its flush valve replaced. Working well now.

We had outdated florescent lighting replaced with new LED fixtures on the landing by the secretary's office and at the base of the stairs. We also removed and replaced the two lights in the downstairs hallway by the bathrooms. In addition, we replaced the lights in the men's washroom. All these light fixtures match and were replaced with LED to give us better illumination – better light! There was discussion of using our memorial monies to pay for these.

Pastor and Sue will pick out some carpeting for their basement stairs and schedule the install.

Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We always welcome your suggestions and appreciate volunteers! You can reach me at 218-390-8357.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Carolyn Lofald



CLC Food Share

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

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: ALTS
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 |
| Jean Clark | Tom & Marlene Stauber | Maggie Kaptonak |
| Linda Anthony | Gwen Nelso | |

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

Please keep the family and friends of Fred Nylander in your prayers. Fred passed away on September 12, 2022. A private service was held in Carlton, MN.



Please remember the family of Jerry Wiita in your prayers. Jerry went home to be with the Lord Saturday, October 23. Services were held at Christ Lutheran on Wednesday, October 26.

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! Psalm 139:16,17

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Mark Wiita | November 9 |
| Betty Roseen | November 14 |
| Abigail Allen | November 15 |
| Elijah Allen | November 18 |
| Susie Decker | November 18 |
| Carol Schramm | November 22 |