

Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



"To know Christ,
and make Him known."

December 2022



In the Hands of the Refiner

"O, Come Let Us Adore Him"

Advent (and Christmas) is an excellent time of year to create family traditions and to cultivate a culture of worship with your children (or grandchildren). Family worship can be wonderfully informal. Try observing family worship after breakfast or before bedtime. Depending on the circumstances and attentiveness of the children, plan on anywhere from 10-20 minutes. Perhaps you might talk about each of the following teachings about the promise of the Messiah's arrival to the fulfillment of the promise at His birth.

From the prophecies recorded thousands of years before He came, to the incredible things that occurred when He arrived, Jesus' birth was surrounded by the astonishing. God used these amazing events to communicate that Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah who would be the Savior of the world.

1. God Promised Christ's Arrival Throughout History

The promise of the coming Savior appears like a thread running through the Old Testament, starting with a hint after the first recorded sin, when God promised the serpent (Satan) that Eve's offspring would crush him (Gen. 3:15). The next promise came to Abraham when God said He would bless all people through his line (Gen. 12:3). Abraham's great grandson, Judah, was promised that an eternal scepter would come from his lineage (Gen. 49:10). Thousands of years later, David, the son of Jesse, came from that line to rule Israel. Isaiah prophesied that from him would come the ultimate king (Isa. 11:1-5). Isaiah also foretold that a virgin would bear Jesus (Isa. 7:14) and of the miraculous works He would do (Isa. 35:5-6). The prophet Micah said Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Zechariah accurately described His humble circumstances and betrayal (Zech. 9:6; 11:12-13). Isaiah vividly foretold the torturous death Jesus would die and why (Isa. 53), and David told of Jesus' resurrection (Ps. 16:10).

2. God Became a Man

The most astounding message of the Nativity is that God became man. John tells us God became flesh and lived with us (John 1:14). Paul says, "God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him" (Col. 1:19). Rather than simply tell us what He was like, God came to us personally.

3. Angels Testified to Christ's Coming

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, not only to prepare her, a virgin, for bearing the Son of God, but to give her specific instructions concerning Him. Gabriel told her to name the baby Jesus (meaning "God saves"), that Jesus would be the Son of the Most High, that God would give Him David's throne, and that His kingdom would never end. An angel told Joseph that Jesus would be called Immanuel, which means "God with us." The angel who appeared to the shepherds told them of joyous news that was for all people, that a Savior had been born—Christ the Lord.

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Christ Lutheran Church

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 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

Assisting with December Ministry

December 4

Ushers: Carolyn Lofald, Grace Wells,
Jim Carlson, Mark Youngren
Trustees: Bill & Grace
Scripture Reader: Keith Youngren
Communion Assistant: Gary Lofald

December 11

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo
Trustees: Wendy & Carol
Scripture Reader: Mark Wiita

December 18

Ushers: Mark Youngren, Keith Youngren
Trustees: Laurie & Laura
Scripture Reader: Jim Carlson
Communion Assistant: Jim Carlson

December 24

Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar, Jim Carlson,
Mark Youngren
Trustees: Laurie & Jim
Scripture Reader: Mark Wiita, Jim Carlson

December 25

Ushers: Jim & Sandy Carlson
Trustees: Laurie & Jim
Scripture Reader: Sue DeSha

Coffee/Fellowship Servers

December 4: Sue DeSha

December 11: Lowaine Morris

December 18: Volunteers

December 25: Esther Circle

January 1: Sue DeSha

January 8: Volunteers

January 16: Volunteers

January 22: Esther Circle

January 29: Volunteers

Financial Update

October Income: \$11,592.00

October Expenses:

\$10,077.36

Monthly income was over
expenses by \$1,514.64

YTD Income: 119,991.62

YTD Expenses: \$118,497.81

YTD income was over
expenses by \$1,493.81

October Mission:

MNTC: \$1,483.00

Full financial reports are
available in the office
upon request



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wed. Bible studies through December 21 will be a special Advent study.
- 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.
- The next food packing date is Tuesday, December 13. Distribution is Thursday, December 15 from 11:30-12:30.

4. Witnesses Proclaimed Christ the Messiah

After Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple. Simeon, who had been promised he wouldn't die before seeing the Lord's Christ, said, "My eyes have seen your salvation...a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32). A prophetess, Anna, told everyone that Jesus was the child they had been looking for to redeem Jerusalem (Luke 2:38). Later the Magi followed a star, which they knew to mean that a king had been born. When they found Jesus, they worshiped him. Their gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh were fit for a king (Matt. 2).

So, what do we do during Advent? We wait and prepare ourselves. We commit ourselves to spiritual renewal through weekly Sunday worship, Advent Bible study, and daily prayer as the means of God's grace. We fast by giving up something we enjoy on a regular basis to deepen our hunger and desire for God. We give alms for those in need. We tell others about the joy and hope of Jesus' return to be king and put the world to rights. We pray the final prayer in the Bible, "Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20). Let's pray together:

"Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen."

May God grant you and your families a very thoughtful Advent, and a very Merry Christmas!

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Gary DeSha

December Maintenance Report

Well, we've had a little practice shoveling snow already, the Farmers Almanac is right! Jay Peterson, our plow person has asked if we can help him out by allowing him to park his front end loader back in the holler next to the garage. We have checked with our insurance company and they requested that we have Jay provide us with a certificate of insurance naming us as an additional insured and also a waiver in case of theft or damage to his equipment while parked on our property. He is very thankful for allowing this as his business is homebased in Twig - quite the distance to bring equipment down when the weather is bad. He has also offered to give us a donation if he needs to plug in the engine heater when the temperature drops.

Our custodian, Gary, has been busy keeping everything cleaned up for us. He is now working on painting the men's bathroom ceiling. So thankful that he enjoys doing that type of work. Always willing to lend a hand where needed. We also replaced a flush valve in the men's bathroom. Good we have people that know how to do this so we do not have to pay for a plumber to come.

Pastor and Sue have picked out carpeting for their basement stairway. This will be installed on December 12. They also purchased a new shower head for their upstairs bathroom and installed it for us! Bless their hearts!

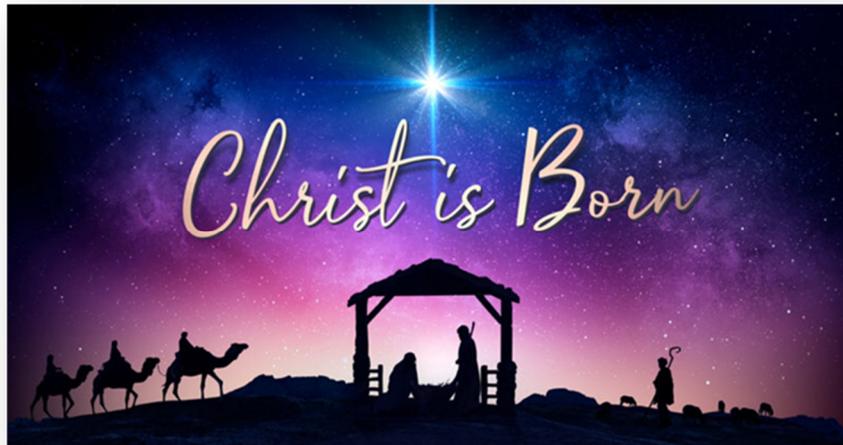
We always welcome your suggestions and appreciate volunteers! You can reach me at 218-390-8357 with any questions and/or concerns.

A blessed Christmas to all!

Carolyn Lofald
Maintenance Chair

The Word of God is Born!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:1-5 ESV



A word and a prayer for you this December...

My head and heart are filled with so many words as I pour myself into my studies, and my fingers are busy with many things. So I share with you this brief and beautiful passage about the Son of God who is also the uncreated, but always creating Word of God. He is your life. Trust in Him to be your light that overcomes every darkness. He was born in flesh like us to show us the way home to our Heavenly Father.

Lead Us to Your Word

Heavenly Father, lead us daily to Your Word that we may find healing of spirit, soul and body. Be near to us as we celebrate our Savior born, died, and risen. We give thanks to You for seeking us, finding us, and saving us. Keep us in the faith no matter what we face, and help us share the hope and love we have received from Christ with others, some who have never heard and some who have heard but may have forgotten. Be born in us each day, in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

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



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



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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:
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
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
Linda Anthony	Carol Schramm	Carol Schneeberger
Del Sandberg	Carol Sogard	Darlene Saaf
Jean Clark	Tom & Marlene Stauber	Maggie Kaptonak

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

Please remember the family of Gwen Nelson in your prayers. Gwen went home to be with the Lord Sunday, November 6. Services were held at Christ Lutheran on Thursday, November 10.



Please remember the family of Judy Stocke in your prayers. Judy went home to be with the Lord Saturday, November 26. Services were held at Christ Lutheran on Friday, December 2.

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

Sharon Super	December 5
Andrea Allen	December 5
Carol Johnson	December 24
Carol Miletich	December 28