



# The Beacon

January  
2018

**Christ Ev.  
Lutheran  
Church**

**320 N 28<sup>th</sup> St E  
Superior, WI  
54880**

**Office Phone  
715.398.3680**

**Web Site  
Christlutheran-  
superior.org**

**Divine Worship  
Services  
Sunday - 8:00  
a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday - 6:30  
p.m.**

**Bible Study &  
Sunday School  
Sunday - 9 a.m.**



## ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past***

My, how time flies! Most of us say those words every year at the beginning of a new year, at a birthday, or other annual milestone.

And here's what else you're probably thinking: It's 2018 already! At this time on our calendars we often take time to reflect on the past—and wonder about the future: what kinds of blessings or successes did we experience in the year now behind us? What challenges or losses did we encounter? What changes does the future hold for us, our family and our friends? Indeed, for our country or the world?

It isn't just our generation that feels this way—that time flies or wonders about the future. Isaac Watts, the author of the hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* lived from A.D. 1674 to 1748. (By the way, A.D. stands for Anno Domini—which translated to English from the Latin means “In the year of our Lord.” And for Christians, every year is “the year of our Lord.”)

As we head into 2018 let's take a look at the verses of his hymn:

- 1) O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.
- 2) Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure,  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.
- 3) Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
- 4) A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,  
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
- 5) Time, like an ever rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;  
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the opening day.
- 6) O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

What more can I say? The words are self-explanatory. It's a hymn I like to sing or read to remember who God is and how gracious he has been to me. Here are just a few of God's attributes that I pulled from this hymn: He is “our help.” Here's a good one for us up here: He's our shelter from the stormy blast.” He keeps us—“saints” secure. He is powerful, the creator of everything. He is never-changing, eternal. Best of all, he is our hope, and he will guard us here until he takes us to our heavenly home.

I pray that since you can be certain that he is with us in the days and years ahead you will look forward with joy to what he has in store for you, both here on earth and in heaven forever! No matter what happens, you can be confident that God has you in his hands. Amen.

In Christ's service I remain,

Pastor Kirk Schield

## Epiphany Brunch & Guardian Angels

### Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch

We would like to invite you to join us on Sunday, January 7, 2018, following the 2nd service, for the Annual Guardian Angel Epiphany Brunch held in the fellowship hall. A delicious potluck brunch will be provided.

#### **What is a Guardian Angel?**

People participating will pick a name out of a hat. For the next year, the person who draws your name, will keep you in their prayers throughout 2018. You are welcome to remember your person on special dates, i.e., birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays, by giving cards or small gifts to this person. When signing your card, simply write, "From Your Guardian Angel."

The mailboxes located in the Narthex, will be used when delivering these surprises. Remember, we do not reveal ourselves to the person we are praying for until next year at the Epiphany Brunch of 2019.

If you would like to participate in the Guardian Angel drawing, please fill out a form located in the Narthex and place it in the Guardian Angel box on the counter. The form should be submitted "no later than" Wednesday, January 3, 2018. You will need to attend the event to pick out a name from the basket.

This event is a potluck. There is a sign-up sheet on the office door in the Narthex for breakfast/brunch type items needed for the Brunch. Please check the sheet and consider bringing one of the items to the brunch. We appreciate your help on this. **Your favorite brunch-type recipe would be appreciated.** Ideas include: egg bakes, muffins, fruit, and juice.

## Bible Study Opportunities for Everyone

*"How sweet are Your Words to my taste, sweeter than honey"*

### **Sundays, 9 a.m.**

Sunday School for age 3+  
Teen Bible Study – Youth Room  
Teen and Adult – Fellowship Hall

### **Wednesdays**

10 a.m. Morning Bible Class – Multi-purpose room  
4:15 p.m. Confirmation Class – Multi-purpose room

## Church Council Minutes – No Meeting

### **Stewardship**

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the

Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, "it is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

## **Why? A Layman's Guide to the Liturgy** **Why do we stand up for the last stanza of some hymns?**

A good number of our hymns have as a last stanza a *Trinitarian doxology*. This is an ascription of praise to the Holy Trinity. Doxology comes from two Greek words: **doxa**, which means "praise" and **logia**, which means "Words/" hence, "praise words." A Trinitarian doxology is therefore simply an ascription of praise to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost)\* This is a custom dating to the early church, when the psalms were sung with a Gloria Patri at their conclusion (as we still do when we sing psalms). The Gloria Patri (Latin for "Glory be to the Father," its opening words) is itself the earliest form of the Trinitarian doxology, and was added to the psalms to indicate that these Old Testament prayers have now been fulfilled in Christ our Lord, who commanded Baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, When Christian hymns began to be written, they were generally seen as psalms in verse, and hence the Gloria easily found its way into their last stanza. Since the Psalmist declares that it is by His name that God saves us (e.g., Ps, 54), it is good and fitting for Christian people, according to long-standing custom, to honor the blessed name of the Holy Trinity whenever it is expressed aloud. Indeed, not only standing but also the bowing of the head is appropriate at the point when the name Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is sung. Some churches even have the custom of making the sign of the cross at this point. Such bodily involvement in the liturgy is always helpful, as an indication that in Christ our whole body, mind, and soul are held captive to the Word of God, \*

## **Opportunities to Serve**

**Altar Guild.** Men and women who prepare the sacred vessels for Holy Communion and who care for the altar and its liturgical appointments. Their service beautifies the sanctuary and the sacred space in which God's people worship. They serve as assistants to the pastor and function under the authority of the Board of Deacons.

**Communion Assistant and/or Worship Assistant.** This opportunity is open to qualified men who would receive instruction from the pastor and/or choral director to assist in parish liturgies and/or distribution of Holy Communion. They function under the authority of the Bd. of Deacons.

**Grounds Maintenance.** A beautiful and well-maintained building and grounds says "this is a church that cares." Who plants and cares for our flowers, who cuts the lawn, cleans the building, shovels the snow? Our members do. Speak to any member of our Board of Trustees to volunteer.

**Prayer Chain.** Members intercede to the Lord on behalf of others in need.

**Quilting.** Hands on sewing of quilts that are sent to Lutheran World Relief and used around the world. Meet on Tuesdays from 9am – noon.

**Sunday School Teachers** (grades preschool through high school). More teachers are welcome.

**Shut-In Visitation.** Currently a member brings meals once a week to some. There is also opportunity for regular friendly visits to be made to one or more people.

**Usher.** This is a service of hospitality to members and guests. Ushers assist worshippers in our services of worship.

## **Lutheran Witness**

The Lutheran Witness is a magazine about you and your church. Each month it brings you a wealth of information that's important to you as you grow in faith and service to the Lord Jesus. You can receive the Witness in your home for the cost of \$22.01 for eleven issues. You will find a sign up form on the office door. When you sign up make your check payable to Christ Lutheran Church and leave it in the office. Any questions please contact the office. Sign up by January 22.

## **Annual Reports**

Another year is past and it is time for me to start compiling the Annual report. I will need everyone's reports by January 15. I will accept reports in whatever form they come in but it saves me some time if they can be emailed or saved to a flash drive or disc or typewritten. Thank you for your work.

## **Youth Upcoming Events**

All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade youth are invited to attend any or all events! We study God's Word in a variety of ways – music videos with today's current Christian artists, creative Bible lessons, and issues that relate to the youth! Join us! Bring a friend!

## **Christ's Men**

### **Men, Let's Do Lunch**

Christ's Men will meet on Tuesday, January 2 at 12 noon at the Upper Deck Restaurant at the Bong airport. This is an opportunity to gain guidance and spiritual support from God's Word as well as an excellent opportunity for Christian friendship.

## Leaving for Warmer Climate?

Take me with you! Kidding, sort of, but if you are one of our 'snowbirds' and you want to keep up on what's happening in your church you can get the newsletter online at our web site: [christlutheran-superior.org](http://christlutheran-superior.org). If you need your contribution statement mailed to you please remember to leave your winter address with the secretary.

## The Heating Season

The heating season is upon us again, please double check that all doors are locked, all lights are turned off (including bathrooms), and thermostats are turned down before your group leaves the church. Thank you!

## Defending the Faith, Teaching the Truth

Issues, Etc. is a talk radio show hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Recent topics include: Same-Sex Marriage, Reformation *Solas*, Depression, Radical Islam, What Boys Need, Pro-Life Women and more. Listen to what you want when you want at [www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org).

## Food for the Local Food Shelf

The first Sunday of every month is when you need to bring in your donations of non-perishable food items for the local food shelf. You may put your items under the table in the narthex. This is given to those in need and then to the local food pantry

## Do We Have Your Current Email Address?

Are you receiving email from Christ Lutheran? If not, you are missing important and timely information from your church. We will not flood your inbox or share your email address (addresses are always hidden when sent from church). Please help us keep you informed! Call the office at 715-398-3680 or send it to [clcoffice320@gmail.com](mailto:clcoffice320@gmail.com)

## Looking for something?

The LCMS staffs the "Church Information Center", which offers a great deal of help and resources on a variety of topics. To contact the CIC with your questions, you may write: [infocenter@lcms.org](mailto:infocenter@lcms.org) or call toll free 1.888.843.5267

## January Birthdays

1	Kathryn Swanson Erik Lull
2	Betty Knutson
3	Jan Larson
5	Ken Bedard Joan Pince
7	Kathleen Field
8	Eric Mack
9	Martin Pfeil
10	Brandon Derick Cody Krause
13	John Robinson
18	Chris Kirchoff
19	Matthew Vengrin Trevor Derick
20	Jeremy Winans
23	Allan Makela
24	Makayla Pitt Stacie Kirchoff
26	Deborah Klein
27	Kristin Kroll - Taly
28	Ricky Krause Susan Krause
30	Andy Anderson Elijah Kroeplin
31	Jacie Benesch

### Online Information

**LC-MS Website**  
[lcms.org](http://lcms.org)

**Minnesota North District Website**  
[mnn.lcms.org](http://mnn.lcms.org)

**Lutheran Witness Online**  
[www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)  
Click on 'Lutheran Witness' in left column

**LC-MS Synod Radio Stations**  
[www.kfuo.org](http://www.kfuo.org)—or—[classic99.com](http://classic99.com)  
[www.issuesetc.org](http://www.issuesetc.org)

**Information on Pregnancy, Parenting  
& Adoption**  
[getrealwithyourself.com](http://getrealwithyourself.com)