



PASTOR'S LETTER

In with Both Feet, or Not?



November 2017 Messenger

I read an article a few days ago about a Christian man, Choi Kwanghyuk, 55, who escaped from North Korea. The headline of the article was, "North Korea is hell...America is Heaven." Choi had been arrested in North Korea for leading a Bible study. He had never heard of the term "underground church," but that is what he was leading. His group was meeting in as winter storage hole, he said. "In North Korea, we dig holes in the ground to store kimchee and potatoes over the winter. It's very cold in North Korea and if we don't bury it underground, then it will freeze up. We don't have heating system in North Korea."

"We meet in this rectangular hole and use (a) lantern to study the Bible. Since we cannot sing out loud, we praise by humming the hymn," he said. Once captured, soldiers tried to force him to renounce Christianity, but he would not. (Everyone is commanded to worship the ruling Kim family.) "I was tortured there, but I kept denying it," he said. He said Christians at the prison camp would not accept an offer of freedom if it meant renouncing their beliefs.

It is difficult for us to imagine such an existence, but try it for a moment. What would your life look like if Christianity was made illegal in the U.S.? If that were the case, you would likely face the most pivotal decision of your life. Would you take the easy road and renounce your faith? Would you be willing to endure torture and not give in to pressure? Consider the Bible verse that says, "What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" When forced to decide what matters most, where would the "chips fall?"

I do not wish for you to be put in that terrible situation but I do want you to consider the priceless value of your faith in Jesus Christ. Nothing else even comes close. But do our lives reflect that understanding? Are we only Christians when it's convenient? Do you see yourself crawling into a cold, damp, dark hole with the threat of prison and torture if you are found for the sake of a Bible study and worship opportunity?

As one who will have to answer to God for the condition of your soul, I have to admit that I worry about some whose names would be listed in our CLC family. What kind of spiritual depth is indicated by a worship pattern of once every other month, if that? Many in our family have never been to an informal, deeper look into God's Word. This past year I heard a young pastor give me "his story." He said, as a college student, he faced a crossroads in his own life. He had been raised as a Christian and was familiar with the amazing, historical account of the God of all creation being willing to pay a huge price to rescue sinful humanity—the terrible death of Jesus Christ as payment for sin but His resurrection to life being a sign of victory over sin and death for any who would put their trust in Him. This young pastor said, "I came to the conclusion that, if God's Word is true, and the only hope for forgiveness and life in heaven is through faith in Jesus, than I'd better get serious about it and learn more about who God is and what His will is. Through my study I was convinced it was all true. It made sense. So I decided to jump in with both feet."

I have to say that I have faced that same question and arrived at the same conclusion. Have you? Or, maybe, because our access to the Word is not illegal and faith-building worship is easily available, we could be led to convince ourselves that 'we'll do that stuff sometime later.'

Friends, the forces of light and darkness are clashing all around us. The battle between good and evil is ramping up. NOW is the time to jump in with both feet and to have your spiritual foundation reinforced so that the winds of trial will not be able to move us. I know God's Word is sure, certain, and powerful. The Bible speaks to us and says, "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." Will that be you? I pray so.

In His Service,
Pastor Mark

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JOYFUL FAITH CIRCLE

SUBMITTED BY Flower Ray

October 18th bible study: ABIGAIL continued:

Day 2--*1st Samuel 22:2* As DAVID in his outlaw years travels around to avoid the soldiers King Saul has sent out to kill them, he forms a community of misfits (400 men who are in trouble, owe money or just discontented with life.) *1st Samuel 25:8-13* Much of this property belongs to rich NABAL. (A calebite member of the tribe of Judah) This leads to two very strong minded leaders who do not understand each other. This lesson brings us to discussions on what makes good leaders and how to keep communities healthy. Points to remember: Godly character, discipline and trained make us effective leaders, especially during times of conflict. In our communities for home and church we need to frequently turn to the word of God as our guide for how to get along.

Day 3--*1st Samuel 25:14-31* The escalating tensions between DAVID and NABAL have led to a boiling point, than comes brains and beauty, ABIGAIL puts both to work, Without telling NABAL she brings DAVID and the 400 men food and drink and asks for forgiveness with the actions of her husband. This lesson brings us into discussions of making wise choices, traits of a noble woman in marriage (*Proverbs 31:10*) and we must fear the Lord.(*Deuteronomy:10:12*) Points to remember: Fearing the Lord minimizes our fear of those who have the potential to harm us. When tempers flare around us, centering ourselves on God's purpose will allow us to have His peace to act wisely.

We encourage other ladies of this congregation to join us as we have fun digging deeper into some of the little story gems of people and places of the Bible.

NEXT MONTH:

All women are invited and encouraged to attend
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, AT 9:30AM

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study met Monday, October 24th, 2017, finished discussion of Colossians Chapter 2: In Christ You Have Been Made Complete (from 2:10).

Next Meeting: Monday, November 13th, 2017, at 6:30 PM.

Note: This is a week earlier than normal, due to a schedule conflict. Begin Colossians Chapter 3: Living the New Life as a Member of God's Kingdom.



GIVING TREE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Christ Lutheran Church will once again be participating in the Spirit of Christmas of Chippewa County. The gift giving tree is up in the narthex with tags representing the gift wishes requested of children in Chippewa County. If you would like to participate, choose a tag and write your name next to the corresponding number on the tag list. Gifts are due back to the church by Friday, December 1st and should be unwrapped with the original gift tag attached. The organization depends entirely on the generosity of the community. What a great way for the children in Chippewa County to feel the presence of our hearts!

Also, on the Giving Tree are envelopes for CLS financial assistance. This school year we have a greater number of families in need of help. Please consider including an envelope and dropping it in the donation box marked below. Thank you so much for your generosity!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SUBMITTED BY Christi Krantz



This past month we had Bible Sunday for the 2nd graders and something new, storybook bibles for the new preschool students. We gave out 5 bibles to the 2nd graders and 11 story book bibles to the preschool class.

What a blessing these little ones are to our church!

Preschool Sunday School Students who received Story Book Bibles:

Owen Bodine	Bailey Bodine
Bailey Bodine	Aleah Schnoor
Eli Volrath	Danica Wright
Brooklyn Bowe	Olivia Thompson

BIBLE SUNDAY

ANFIN ANDERSON
KIPTYN CHITTENDON
BREANNA FREED
CHLOE THOMPSON
EVY LEDEBUHR

These are the 2nd graders who were gifted a Bible from the Christ Lutheran Church Congregation!

Mark your calendar...

This years *Christmas* Program will be December 17th.

Sunday School

Teacher Schedule:

- 11/5:** P – Marcy G.
E - Dan R.
- 11/12:** P – Holly W.
E – Misty B.
- 11/19:** P - Jessica W. & Abbi V.
E - Stephanie T.
- 11/26:** P - Staci M.
E - Amber A.

KICK Teacher

Schedule:

- 11/1:** P - Christi K.
E - Matt K.
- 11/8:** P - Staci M.
E - Jane S.
- 11/15:** P - Bob M.
E - Cari A.
- 11/22:** NO KICK

With donations and a Thrivent Action Team KICK was able to put together 36 Birthday Boxes for local food pantries! The kids had lots of fun putting them together.

November is a fun month for activities so we will be roller skating at High Roller on Sunday, Dec 3rd for Christian Music night. Each child will be encouraged to bring a friend to share our church and the Word with.





MEN'S CLUB CORNER

The Men's Club welcomes ALL men to our monthly breakfast and events. Breakfast meetings are informal gatherings during which we share some food and often some form of service to our church community or an informative lecture on a topic of interest (e.g. fish habitat, etc.).

our mission:

To support Christ Lutheran Church and School and its members through service and faith based activities while enjoying the camaraderie of friendship. To build our faith and knowledge of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit along with creating fellowship with our families and each other by serving and spreading the Word of God to our community.

upcoming events:

Saturday, December 2, 2017	8:00am	Breakfast Meeting
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service request:

If you are in need of a service to be performed, please contact us via the church office. We are happy to serve your need!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER SERVICE:

Is God calling you to use the gifts He has given you for His purposes? We have a continuing need for volunteers for home visitations, for ushers and involvement with board of Deacons. Or perhaps there is something else you'd like to help with. God gifts the Church through its members – even you!

THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY.

Please read each chapter prior to Sunday Service

Chapter 7—November 5th
Chapter 8—November 12th

Chapter 9—November 19th
Chapter 10—November 26th

Chapter 11—December 3rd
Chapter 12— December 10th

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY.

missions
UPDATE



NOVEMBER
CONFIRMATION

Joyful Faith Circle would like to thank all who donated items or purchased items at the Mission Festival. It was a great success and brought in \$1,100.90 which will be sent to the missions Christ Lutheran Church supports. Along with mission support from the church body, the following will benefit:

- The AALC
- Christ Lutheran School
- Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry
- Pastor Chou Vang, Hmong Lutheran Church Eau Claire

Acolyte Schedule:

- 11/5:** Evan Freed & Abbigail Volrath
- 11/12:** Nathan Cowell & Georgelle Benson
- 11/19:** Jordan Bergevin & Kelcey Bensen
- 11/26:** Conrad Ledebuhr & Abbigail Volrath

Meal Providers:

- 11/2:** (open)
- 11/9:** Ledebuhr Family
- 11/16:** Sommerfeld Family
- 11/23:** NO CONFIRMATION
- 11/30:** Benson Family



CLC
MITTEN TREE

Donate new or gently used, store bought or handmade mittens, gloves or hat/mitten sets for any age to the Mitten Tree located in the Narthex towards the end of November.

Items will be delivered to the Chippewa County Public Health and Human Services Departments to be given to local individuals and families in need.

A soft deadline has been set for Sunday, December 10th. Please stop in the church office with any questions.



THRIVENT CHOICE

You can direct your Choice Dollars to our school to assist with financial needs. It would be as easy as calling 800-847-4836 or going to thrivent.com/thriventchoice



- Coffee
- Cookies
- Napkins

Hot chocolate mix packets

Please designate all donations as CLC fellowship. Thank you for your generosity!



Daniel Rhody	4	Connie Cesafsky	17
Lisa Myers	4	John & Josie Steltenphol	19
Tory & Misty Freed	4	Kathy Likar	21
Carson Sedivy	7	Sally Sommerfeld	21
Maddy Buckwheat	8	Gene Morse	23
Mike Myers	8	Tory Freed	24
Jeffrey Dutter	10	Landon Alexander	24
Kayla Bodine	11	Brian Sommerfeld	29
Leitha Swanson	13	Sheila Kvapil	30
James Ledebuhr	14	Eric Volrath	30
Elijah Volrath	14		
Joanne Tanner	16		

USEFUL information and dates

NOV
USHERS



Don Lucas
Dan Alexander

THANKSGIVING
DINNER BOXES

You can still sign up and drop off food items in the Narthex. Food items will be due to the church by **Friday, November 17th**. Turkey meals will be boxed and delivered the week of Thanksgiving. Thank you!



WED
EVENINGS

K.I.C.K.
KIDS IN CHRIST'S
KINGDOM

5:30pm - 6:20pm
Kids Ages 3 - 11
Instructional Activities

SUBMISSIONS
FOR NEWSLETTER

The deadline for submissions for the December Newsletter is Monday, December 18th. You can email them to secretary4clc@gmail.com or drop in the office. Thank you!

CHURCH
WEBSITE

christlutheranchippewafalls.com

Check it out! Access this newsletter, most recent Sunday sermon, worship times, church facebook page and much more.

CONTACT
INFO



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NOVEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00AM Peacemakers 4:30PM Confirmation 5:30-6:30PM K.I.C.K. (3-11 years old) 6:30PM Worship	2	3 8:30AM Willing Workers	4 8:00AM Men's Club Breakfast/ Meeting
5 8:15AM Praise Group 9:30AM Worship/SS/ Communion Baptism of Rhett Olson 10:30AM Fellowship 10:50AM Bible Study 6:30PM Adult Volleyball	6 5:30PM Bible Study	7 4-10pm Monk's Fundraiser 6:30 pm Soul Sisters	8 9:00AM Peacemakers 4:30PM Confirmation 5:30-6:30PM K.I.C.K. (3-11 years old) 6:30PM Worship/ Communion	9	10 8:30AM Willing Workers	11
12 8:15AM Praise Group 9:30AM Worship/SS 10:30AM Fellowship 10:50AM Bible Study 6:30PM Adult Volleyball	13 5:30PM Bible Study	14 6:30 pm Soul Sisters 7:00PM CLS School Board Mtg	15 9:00AM Peacemakers 9:30AM Joyful Faith Mtg 4:30PM Confirmation 5:30-6:30PM K.I.C.K. (3-11 years old) 6:30PM Worship	16	17 8:30AM Willing Workers THANKSGIVING DINNER DONATIONS DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE	18
19 8:15AM Praise Group 9:30AM Worship/SS/ Communion 10:30AM Fellowship/ Birthday & Anniversary Celebration 10:50AM Bible Study NO Adult Volleyball	20 NO Bible Study 6:30PM Men's Bible Study Newsletter Submissions Due to the Church Office	21 No Soul Sisters	22 NO Peacemakers No Confirmation No K.I.C.K. 6:30PM Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	24 NO Willing Workers	25
26 8:15AM Praise Group 9:30AM Worship/SS DEACONS & ELDERS MEETING 10:30AM Fellowship POINSETTIAS ORDERS DUE 6:30PM Adult Volleyball	27 5:30PM Bible Study	28 6:30 pm Soul Sisters	29 9:00AM Peacemakers 4:30PM Confirmation 5:30-6:30PM K.I.C.K. (3-11 years old) 6:30PM Worship	30		