

Christ's Messenger



"To know Christ,
and make Him known."

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches

January 2023



In the Hands of the Refiner

Christ Lutheran Church

Pastor Gary DeSha
320-237-7448 or 218-727-2076
pastor@clcduluth.org

Church Office
218-722-7537
church@clcduluth.org

2415 Ensign St
Duluth MN 55811

Website: clcduluth.org

Every Month:

Adult Bible Study
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Esther Circle
First Thursday at 10:00 AM

Council Meeting
Second Thursday at 6:30 PM

Food Share
4th Thursday from 11:30-12:30

AA
Meets at church Mondays at
6:30 PM

Our New Covenant Relationship with God

The new year is just around the corner. With the new year comes new responsibilities, new ways to do things, new considerations, new relationships, and new beginnings. Can we start over on the new year? Can we handle new responsibilities? Can we adapt to the new way of doing things? Do we want a new beginning? With God's help, I feel I can say yes to all of these questions.

What about our relationship with God? What is the basis for that relationship? Can you start over with God? Can you do new things with God? Can you handle new responsibilities that God may be showing you? I believe you can.

I believe that entrance into the Kingdom of God is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. My call to ministry is one based upon God's faithfulness to fulfill His revealed purpose in my life. I had no ability to acquire salvation on my own. His loving grace granted me repentance and faith. God enabled me to make the choice of trusting in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. He transformed me into a new creation in Christ Jesus, and now His sanctifying grace is making me holy in my daily life.

The Holy Spirit baptized me into the Body of Christ, the Church, of which I am a member. Now, I am a member of the Community of Jesus Christ. God created a community of worship, dedication, and faith in the time of the Old Covenant. Now, the community has changed with the coming of the new and better covenant. Within this community of the Kingdom, I am able to view my calling more clearly. It means that being a "covenant person" of a covenant people (the Church); Called to a mission along with many others and equipped by God through the Holy Spirit as an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher, I pursue the Missio Dei (the Mission of God).

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Assisting with January Ministry

January 1

Ushers: Carolyn Lofald; Bill & Jan Arezzo

Trustees: Bill & Grace

Scripture Reader: Gary Lofald

Communion Assistant: Mike Pickar

January 8

Ushers: Wendy Pickar; Grace Wells

Trustees: Wendy & Carol

Scripture Reader: Deacons

January 15

Ushers: Jim Carlson; Bill & Jan Arezzo

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

Scripture Reader: Mark Wiita

Communion Assistant: Gary Lofald

January 22

Ushers: Jim & Sandy Carlson

Trustees: Laurie & Jim

Scripture Reader: Jim Carlson

January 29

Ushers: Grace Wells; Mark Youngren

Trustees: Bill & Grace

Scripture Reader: Keith Youngren

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

Coffee/Fellowship Servers

January 1: Sue DeSha

January 8: Lowaine & Laviere

January 16: Volunteers

January 22: Esther Circle

January 29: Volunteers

February 5: Sue DeSha

February 12: Volunteers

February 19: Volunteers

February 26: Esther Circle

Financial Update

November Income: \$7,924.00
November Expenses: \$11,295.73

*Monthly income was under
expenses by \$3,371.73*

YTD Income: \$127,915.62
YTD Expenses: \$129,793.54

*YTD income was under
expenses by \$1,877.92*

November Mission:
ALTS (seminary): \$1,090.00

Full financial reports are
available in the office
upon request



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wed. Bible studies 6:30 PM. No Bible study Jan. 4 or 11.
- 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, January 24. Distribution is Thursday, January 26 from 11:30-12:30.

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Therefore, I can speak with conviction along with the Apostle Paul when he said in 2 Corinthians 3:6, “He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant – not of the letter but of the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” Therefore, I see that those members of the Community of Faith are ministers unto each other, the world, and unto God.

So, for 2023, I strongly encourage Christ Lutheran Church to emphasize evangelism more than at any point in the past three decades. We should understand that we can’t lead a church to growth with cultural Christians and transfer growth. If we desire truly to make disciples, and grow our congregation, we must begin with evangelism.

My call and the call of Christ Lutheran Church, God’s Church, (Matthew 25:35-45) is to minister unto a world that is lost. We are to be beacons of light to those who are blind in darkness. We are to be workers of justice and freedom for the oppressed and captive. We are to demonstrate to the poor the power of His greatness and His faithfulness from which we hope, and to proclaim the Gospel and His Kingdom!

May God grant you a happy and prosperous New Year!

In Christ’s Love,



Rev. Gary DeSha, Pastor



Notes from the Treasurer:

Thank you to the CLC family for supporting the Church and our missions. The end of year reports will be available after the January council meeting. They are posted in the narthex and available by request from the church office. Giving statements will be sent out by January 15; please contact me directly by phone or email if you have any questions and/or you do not receive one. (218-349-2786, skcarlson@charter.net)

The Trustees work hard to ensure all contributions are recorded properly. The offering envelope boxes have been available in the narthex. Please note that some changes have been made to our numbering system and you may have been assigned a new number. We greatly appreciate use of the envelopes; if a box has not been assigned to you, please call the office and the request will be forwarded to me. All members have been assigned a number for ease of entering offerings into our system. If you prefer not to use the boxed envelopes you can call the office to find out your assigned number and note it on the memo line of any checks and or on the outside of any generic envelopes. The assigned number is at the top of your annual giving statement. Generic envelopes are available in the pew card holders.

Praying all have a Blessed New Year,
Sandy Carlson, Treasurer.

Dear Christ Lutheran Church Family,

As we begin this New Year, we thank our Heavenly Father for all the blessings we have received. We also want to share with everyone that Ouitdee Carson has stepped down from his presidency position. Ouitdee shared his decision with our church council at our December meeting. We accepted his resignation, and gave him our blessing. We were very thankful for Ouitdee and his many years of service to our church. He was a great instrument in the purchase and setting up of our computers for livestreaming and the education and training of volunteers in the streaming process. He was prayerful in his decision making and was very fair and understanding when navigating concerns. Always humble, wise and gentle. We wish him and his family well; he will be missed.

Our church council will be re-convening in January and we will have discussion on nominating and filling the presidency position along with our vision and future needs of our church. We ask that you keep this in prayer and that God would raise up another servant heart to serve. If you feel God is tugging on your heart to lead our congregation, please call and share this with me. We are reviewing our constitution in regards to the replacement process.

As Pastor has stated, we have had many members enter the church triumphant this past year and we keep all of those families in our prayers. May God grant them strength and peace as they continue to mourn and as our congregation mourns with them. We are so thankful for the gift of memories and the legacy they have all left behind. We will also be reinstating our Memorial Committee. If you are interested in serving, we need two more volunteers to serve. We have begun a list of items that members can direct their memorials to. We will work together to publish that list.

Our Father Daughter Ball is also just around the corner and we ask that you would keep that outreach mission in your prayers also. The events this year will be on January 21, and again on February 11, in the Lake Superior Ballroom of the DECC. This will also be our Mission of the month for January. If you would like to donate to this mission, it will help offset expenses and the costs to bless our Teen Challenge fathers and their daughters to attend one of the evenings. We are also looking for volunteers to help each evening of the event. Please watch for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

We look to the New Year with wonder and excitement and ask God to guide and direct us and give each of us a gentle spirit as we serve our church, our church family members, our outreach missions and whatever path God chooses to lead us. We also pray he will raise up new members and volunteers. Remember, no matter what trials we may face, God is in charge and allows all things to happen for a reason and in His perfect timing. We need to trust as we move forward in faith that He will provide all things needed and bless each of us with wisdom and guidance. In all things, to God be the Glory!

In Christ's Love,
Carolyn Lofald,

Discipleship Outfitters
January 2023

Thank you all for your prayers, support, and generosity to us in 2022!

As we look ahead this is our confidence, that in all circumstances God who began the good work of faith in us will bring it to completion. Let's do all we can to build up our faith by encouraging each other, praying for each other, and trusting in God's promises.

My prayer for each of us in 2023 is that we will grow in sincere love that issues from a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith in Jesus Christ.

Love and blessing from God, our Father through Christ, always!
Sue DeSha



January Maintenance Report

We have been very fortunate that most of our snow has fallen during the week, as the dental office is billed and pays for that snow removal! We are blessed to have this understanding between us, in turn, we provide parking spots for their employees to park during their business hours. The frontend loader was sure put to good use during our heavy snowfalls and so thankful that it is right here onsite for Peterson Excavating to use. They also plow the parsonage driveway for us. Jim Carlson has been busy with the snow blower and Gary our custodian is also helping with the shoveling when needed.

Our custodian, Gary and Judi our secretary have placed cardboard up in the exhaust fan above the stoves to keep the cold air out. This has sure proven helpful in keeping the kitchen warm. If you need to use the kitchen stoves, please be mindful that those are in place and will need to be removed if the exhaust fan is used. Gary is also keeping the sink doors open during the cold days and monitoring the heat in the kitchen for us.

The heated concrete at the backdoor has been working very well and the installation of the pavers and drain tile in that area seems to be working to date! We will continue to monitor that during the winter.

Pastor and Sue's carpeting has been installed! It looks very nice. Thankful that they now have finished stairs when entertaining their company.

As always, we welcome suggestions and appreciate those that volunteer to help with projects! Please call me at 218-390-8357 with any questions and/or concerns that you may have.

A Happy & Blessed New Year to all!

Carolyn Lofald
Maintenance Chair



Pastor Gary,

Thank you so much for visiting my mom, Barbara Hanson. She loves that blanket.

Mom was a great supporter of the church and hopes this donation comes in handy. She is and would support this. God bless, keep visiting Mom.

Love and Merry Christmas.

Tami Hendricks & Family

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much to Mike and Wendy Pickar for their special visit and the wonderful Christmas gift bag from the church. The gifts were so thoughtful and much appreciated. It was so nice to catch up and visit with them and have Mike pray for me. Also a special thank you for the cookies that we all look forward to receiving. I want to thank all that helped to make the cookies. It is a big undertaking and I so miss helping with them. So many wonderful memories of all the fun we used to have.

God's blessings to all in 2023

Carol Schneeberger

To my church family,

I want to thank you for the visit I had from Mike and Wendy Pickar, and the many useful and wonderful gifts they brought from the church family! I will enjoy them and use them wisely!

God bless you all, I am grateful for all of you.

With love from

Del Sandberg

To everyone at Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the Super One gift card I received for Christmas! Looking forward to another year of ministry together as we prepare for our next journey around the sun! Enjoy the ride!

Judi Morgan

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: Father/Daughter Ball
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 accidently overlooked, please contact the church office. We apologize for any oversights.

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



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

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

Jean Clark	January 4
Mary Paschke	January 5
Pastor Gary	January 10
Dale Lund	January 14
Laura Melander	January 15
Mike Pickar	January 15
Wendy Pickar	January 17
Courtney Carson	January 19
Gabe Wiita	January 22