

Christ's Messenger



"To know Christ,
and make Him known."

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches

February 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

Foundations for Renewal in 2023

It has been three years or so since restrictions were placed on our Church during the COVID-19 pandemic. The rising censorship of churches, Christian-based organizations and leaders has made it all the more apparent that opposition toward the Christian faith and morality is only increasing. An increased number of Christians have stopped attending worship services!

I believe we are stepping into the times of severe testing where we are about to find out if we are made of the same stuff as the apostles. We are about to find out if we are willing to stand for God's truth, whatever the cost. We must reevaluate our priorities.

The past 36 months have been in recovery from crisis. Now, we must take hold of the open door for transformation and renewal of our Church. We must take the following action steps for Christ Lutheran Church to move into spiritual renewal:

1. As Christians, we should morally and spiritually purify ourselves — turning from sin and turning to God for forgiveness and restoration. For God has promised, *"If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."* (2 Chron. 7:14). How do we move in this direction?

- With a new desire for the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, as God's living Word
- With a deeper experience of the reality, holiness, and transcendence of God
- With a deeper understanding and love of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
- With a deeper understanding of the Lordship of Jesus Christ
- With a deeper understanding of the Person and work of the Holy Spirit

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Assisting with February Ministry

February 5

Ushers: Grace Wells; Mark Youngren; Mike & Wendy Pickar

Trustees: Wendy & Carol

Scripture Reader: Gary Lofald

Communion Assistant: Jim Carlson

February 12

Ushers: Wendy Pickar; Grace Wells

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

Scripture Reader: Keith Youngren

February 19

Ushers: Jim Carlson; Bill & Jan Arezzo

Trustees: Laurie & Jim

Scripture Reader: Sue DeSha

Communion Assistant: Keith Youngren

February 22—Ash Wednesday

Ushers: Jim Carlson; Bill & Jan Arezzo

Trustees: Bill & Grace

Scripture Reader: Jim Carlson

February 26

Ushers: Jim & Sandy Carlson

Trustees: Bill & Grace

Scripture Reader: Mark Wiita

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

Coffee/Fellowship Servers

February 5: Sue DeSha

February 12: Esther Circle

February 19: Karen Blakesley

February 26: Esther Circle

March 5: Sue DeSha

March 12: Esther Circle

March 19: Karen Blakesley

March 26: Esther Circle

Financial Update

December, 2022 Income:
\$10,435.00

December 2022 Expenses:
\$15,851.31

Monthly income was under
expenses by \$5,415.31

2022 Total Income:
\$137,871.23

2022 Total Expenses:
\$145,928.55

2022 income was under
expenses by \$8,057.32

December Mission:
FCA: \$1,090.00

Full financial reports are



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wed. Bible studies 6:30 PM
- Monday, February 13, 9 AM - 3 PM Come join us for fun and fellowship while making quilts to keep someone warm and wrapped in God's love. No previous experience required, just a willingness to learn. Please bring your own sewing machine if you desire (best to have a quarter inch quilting foot, too). All fabric and other supplies are provided. Bring a bag lunch/beverage. Contact Sandy Carlson with any questions.
- Ash Wednesday Service—February 22 at 6:30 PM.
- 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, February 21. Distribution is Thursday, February 23 from 11:30-12:30. Thank you so much for all of your prayers and support of this ministry!

2) As Christians, we must pray for our nation. I urge you as believers to thank God for our country and ask Him to send revival to His Church. Pray for God to turn every church and home into a house of prayer; ask Him to purify His people so that the bride of Christ would be faithful and holy; and ask Him to set us apart as His followers, consecrated to His service and the preaching of His Gospel. How do we move in this direction?

- With a renewed and revitalized spirit in the lay leadership of Christ Lutheran Church
- With a new desire for praying for the healing of the sick

3) As Christians, we must persevere in declaring the Gospel to everyone around us. Whether people receive the Good News with joy or reject it, we must never give up. We must never compromise. Do not ever stop giving your testimony, or ever stop witnessing. How do we move in this direction?

- With the renewal of the spiritual life of Christ Lutheran; each and every member coming alive in Christ.
- With a new urgency for evangelism, missions, and witnessing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- With a renewed spontaneity, openness, freedom, and joy through praise and worship in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The apostles could have prayed, ‘Lord, stop these evil men! Silence them! Defeat them! Thwart their plans!’ That was not the prayer of Peter and John. Instead, they prayed, ‘Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak Your word with great boldness’ (Acts 4:29). They prayed for boldness! To follow the Apostolic way, the following is our model:

“And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. And fear came upon every soul; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were dividing them up with all, as anyone might have need. And daily devoting themselves with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47 (LSB)

Time is even shorter now. We must pray for renewal and transformation, boldness rather than safety, courage rather than fear, confidence rather than despair. At Christ Lutheran Church, we must obey God rather than any human being or government.

It’s beyond time to pray. Please join me in ministry to proclaim Christ to our community and accept this challenge. Make Him known! We can move beyond where we used to be, into a whole new place where God wants us to be!

God bless Christ Lutheran Church!



Pastor Gary DeSha



2023 Calendars are still available!

They are \$10 each, proceeds will be used towards the AALC Youth Conference this summer.

Please see Sue DeSha to purchase a calendar.

February Maintenance Report

Other than what has turned into routine snow removal and shoveling, we are thankful that we have not had much for other maintenance this year to date. A big thank you to Gary Lofald for shoveling off the garage roof at church and also the parsonage/garage roof. Also, to Jim Carlson for snow blowing and Gary Glad, our custodian, for his help with shoveling. With this cold snap, we are keeping the kitchen cabinet doors open under the sink as the pipes run along that cold wall. The cardboard in the exhaust fan has helped tremendously to keep the cold out.

Our custodian continues to keep everything cleaned and sanitized in the church for us. We do have Clorox wipes available on the coffee counter to use if you feel the need. We have had comments from visitors on how clean we keep our church! You may not know this, but Gary Glad even took a day off from his other job to volunteer to help with cookies! He always pitches in to help with tree decorating and undecorating and where ever else help is required or he sees a need. He also drove down to the DECC and helped us set up and decorate for our Father Daughter Ball on the 21st. We are blessed to have him!

Our next projects will be to go through some items in the utility closet, the old copy room and some containers that were donated. If you like to organize and would like to help with that, please let me know.

As always, volunteers to help with projects are much appreciated. Many hands make for a lighter load. Please call me at 218-390-8357 with any questions and/or concerns. We are blessed to take care of our church and in all things, give the glory to God!

In Christ,

Carolyn Lofald
Maintenance Chair

To all the men and women of Christ Lutheran who helped set up the luncheon and clean up, my sisters and I want to say thank you!!

We really appreciate all of your help and doing the set up/clean up for my mom's funeral luncheon.

Love,

Judy Stocke's daughters

Debbie, Kelly, & Kim



Dear Christ Lutheran Family,

Thank you so very much for the cookies, calendar and beautiful nice warm throw, I love the color.

God bless you.

Diane Malander

Dear Church Family,

Thank you, and thanks again for your generous gift to us for Christmas!

Blessings and love,

Pastor Gary and Sue

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

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: AALC
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.

Our first Father Daughter Ball was on January 21st.
We had 422 people purchase tickets for that night.
It was a wonderful evening!



WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR BALL ON FEBRUARY 11th

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex to use or you can call Carolyn at 218-390-8357 to sign up.
Please continue to pray for this event.
We will give a full report in our March Messenger.

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

Ouitdee Carson	February 1
Sharon Widell	February 4
Al Decker	February 4
Darlene Saaf	February 25
Hannah Allen	February 27
John Kubiak	February 28