



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches

April 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

What's The Best Way to Say Good-bye?

It is time to say good-bye. Good-bye, farewell, aloha, au revoir, adios, arrivederci, ciao, auf wiedersehen, adjö, and hade.

From English to Hawaiian, from French to Spanish, and Italian. From German to Swedish and Norwegian, each have their own ways of saying good-bye.

I remember watching "The Last Crusade" with Sean Connery and Harrison Ford, a scene in which the Jones boys were tied up back-to-back and the traitorous woman kisses Indiana saying, "this is how we say good-bye in Austria." Then the German SS officer comes up to Indiana and says, "this is how we say good-bye in German," and punches him in the face, sending his head to bounce off of his fathers head. Indiana then says, "I like the Austrian way better!"

Yes, there are different ways to say good-bye. Bob Hope used to sing "Thanks for the memories..." Carol Burnett used to sing, "I'm so glad we had this time together..."

Saying "thank you" is one way of saying good-bye. I know Sue and I want to say thank you to the congregation for allowing us to move into the parsonage, and give us license to paint and decorate to make it our home. We loved our time there and are very grateful for the roof over our heads.

Sue and I would like to say thank you to the congregation for taking such good care of us in the many ways you have. We are very grateful. I would like to thank you again for the Keurig coffee machine downstairs in the kitchen. What a blessing it is to be able to make a cup of coffee at any time!

I would like to say thank you again to Jim Maruska, Mike Pickar, and Don Olson who made bookshelves for the Pastor's Office, and installed them. They were placed precisely upon the walls in the office. My books and Bibles were kept safe surrounded by their strength. The bookshelves are a permanent fixture of Christ Lutheran Church. They still look absolutely wonderful!

Sometimes, saying good-bye is not enjoyable. In 2022, we had 22 of our loved ones pass away and go be with the Lord. 22 funerals; 22 times of sadness and mourning.

(cont. on page 3)

Assisting with April Ministry

April 2

Ushers: Carolyn Lofald; Grace Wells; Bill & Jan Arezzo

Trustees: Wendy & Carol

Scripture Reader: Sandy Carlson

Communion Assistant: Jim Carlson & Hannah Allen

April 9

Ushers: Carolyn Lofald; Grace Wells

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

Scripture Reader: Gary L.—OT; Keith Y. — Gradual;
Mark W. — NT

Communion Assistant: Gary Lofald & Gabe Wiita

April 16

Ushers: Jim Carlson; Mark Youngren

Trustees: Laurie & Jim

Scripture Reader: Jim Carlson

Communion Assistant: Keith Youngren & Gabe Wiita

April 23

Ushers: Mike & Wendy Pickar

Trustees: Bill & Grace

Scripture Reader: Mark Wiita

April 30

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo

Trustees: Wendy & Carol

Scripture Reader: Gary Lofald

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

Financial Update

February Income: \$7,497.80
February Expenses: \$10,048.27

*Monthly income was under
expenses by \$2,550.47*

YTD Income: \$15,576.80
YTD Expenses: \$21,261.75

*YTD income was under
expenses by \$5,684.95*

February Mission:
The AALC: \$1,100

Full financial reports are
available in the office
upon request



Coffee/Fellowship Servers

April 2: Sue DeSha

April 9: Lowaine & Laviere

April 16: Karen Blakesley

April 23: Esther Circle

April 30: Farewell Brunch

May 7: Volunteers

May 14: Deacons

May 21: Volunteers

May 28: Esther Circle

Livestream Operators

April 2: Lydia

April 9: Gary L.

April 16: Eli

April 23: Lydia

April 30: Keith

22 families that came together to say good-bye for the last time with hopes of a reunion in heaven. 22 times saying ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Sometimes, saying good-bye isn't pleasant.

Sometimes saying good-bye is bitter-sweet. I cannot say that my time here at Christ Lutheran Church hasn't been challenging. There were surprises and conflict, joy and sweet Spirit-filled worship that washed away any hurt, discouragement or pain. There were times of warm wonderful visitation, lunches, dinners, and breakfasts with those of kindred spirit.

COVID-19, I believe was one of our biggest struggles here at Christ Lutheran Church. It was very challenging. God gave me the resolve to stay and fight; fight for you, the beloved membership, and Christ Lutheran Church as an institution. I would not close the doors. I pray that Christ Lutheran Church would not concern herself with certain groups of people within the Church, but with all your membership, as the Body of Christ here in Duluth.

As I write this, I am remembering these words from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, *"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace."* (NRSV)

During our four years together, we have probably experienced almost everything on the list. I remember the baptisms, weddings, baby showers, grilling out, anniversaries, VBS, Lenten studies, Christmas, singing, praying, preaching, Bible studies, fellowship, and friendship. There was some tearing down of old ideas and planting of new ideas, some disagreements, and some resolutions, some remembering, some forgiving, some not forgiving.

We have collected car loads full of food for the CLC Food Share, distributing food to those in need. Clothing, hats, and gloves for Piedmont Elementary kids. Prayed for and provided needed items for the teachers at Piedmont Elementary. We have laughed and cried, and danced and ate way too many Swedish meatballs, hot dishes, and desserts! But never too much banana bread, pumpkin, or lemon bars! We have said goodbye to beloved members who have moved or have left the church and we have welcomed new people as well.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to Gary Glad for keeping this facility in tip top shape, clean and tidy for worship, funerals, events, and fellowship hour. He's helped with countless things related to this church. I really liked our conversations about music, cars and general topics. It was always fun. I truly appreciate all his hard work at the parsonage to get it ready for painting. He is one of the best "Gary's" associated with Christ Lutheran Church. Thank you, and God bless you, Gary Glad.

My last "Thank You!" goes to our beloved office administrator, Judi. I am so thankful that she would listen to me and my concerns. I enjoyed our conversation, her ideas, her creativity, and especially her Christian faith. I never held it against her that she is a Baptist (ha ha ha), but we have enjoyed common theological interests, and shared books, and thoughts about the ever-changing face of America. I am thankful that she would always remind me that "it's Messenger time," and other scheduled events. I am thankful that she mastered putting the Sunday worship outline together and printing it perfectly. She is fast, too! She has a great sense of humor. Cat lovers aren't all bad. Ha ha! I am thankful that she is easy to work with. She is and was a blessing to me. I want to thank her for the Tim Horton coffee, she and Steve gave me. She could be a closet coffee snob. Ha, ha! Thank you, and God bless you, Judi.

Thank you, Christ Lutheran Church, for helping me grow as a pastor, leader, and child of God. Thank you again for your faithfulness, hard work, and participation in God's ministry. You have been a blessing to me and Sue. May God's presence and power be with you always.

So now, may the grace of Christ, our Savior, and the love of God, our Father, and the fellowship of the Spirit be with you. Forever and ever, and unto the ages of ages, Amen.

Rev. Gary DeSha



Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church

Remembering Together

I am determined to remember, with thanksgiving, everything we have shared together at Christ Lutheran Church.

We shared four Christmases and five Holy Weeks. Oh, the praise and worship we have offered up together to God!

We worked and played and sang together for VBS at God's Wonder Lab in 2022 and Marvelous Mission in 2019.

We shared the Gospel at Piedmont Elementary with the Child Evangelism team, and coffee for the teachers, and those beautiful, quilted gift boxes with the five things every teacher needs to start the year, including a devotional.

We traveled to the YMCA of the Rockies for Youth Convention in 2019, 2021, and coming up in July 2023.

We gathered in twos and threes, sometimes more, to study God's word, to have a coffee, to pray, to get to know each other better.

We survived Covid together. We may not have agreed on everything, but we are still standing when many churches and congregations no longer are.

We have gathered together for 223 Sundays, either in person or on Facebook Live. When Pastor and I were away, we always signed onto Facebook to worship with you.

We planted flowers together for four years.

We packed some grocery bags together and we shared with our neighbors.

We served coffee and treats after worship on Sunday.

We enjoyed some pretty, tasty pancake breakfasts, potlucks, funeral meals from Sarah Mae, hospitality with the Teen Challenge choir, and special meals like our Passover Dinner on Maundy Thursday in 2022 and a Husband & Wife Valentine's Dinner in 2019.

We have prayed together, worshiped together, worked together, played together, grieved together, and sometimes struggled together. I have learned that I must listen better, forgive more, pray harder, but I haven't learned how to say good-bye. My love for you will never end, and I will carry your heart in mine until we meet again . . . both here and in heaven.

I know there are some things I haven't remembered, and I hope you will remind me in the next few weeks.



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

April Maintenance Report

As we still can't see over the snowbanks, it's hard to believe it is now officially spring! We hope to have a slow thaw to avoid flooding. Please be extra careful entering and exiting our entrances as it is hard to see cars on the road. We will be having the plow driver push a few of the entrance banks back the next time he has the loader out. Thank you again to our custodian Gary for shoveling for us! Please be careful at the back entrance also as there is some pavement irregularity. We have the "watch your step" sign out! Some of the ice has melted in the lot, so please be careful walking in from your car as a couple of us have had falls.

Just a reminder if you are cooking in the kitchen that you will need to have the cardboard removed from the overhead vent fan if you want to use it. It is in place to keep the cold air out.

We have installed a new indirect hot water heater at the church that will run off the new boiler system. This will reduce our gas costs as the units are 97% efficient compared to the 60% we had with our 25+ year old 75 gallon tank. We had been noticing brown tinged water when running the hot water faucets so felt it best to take care of it now before we had further problems.

Our custodian, Gary, would like to get the floors waxed near the end of May if the weather is warm enough. If you would like to use the church, please reserve your time and mark the calendar so he can work around that schedule. Thank you!

We thank God for blessing us with all the material things we have been given. We are honored to be able to take care of His home. Please call if you have any suggestions, questions and/or concerns. My number is 218-390-8357.

In Christ,
Carolyn Lofald
Maintenance Chair



The CLC Quilters recently brought a donation of handmade quilts and pillowcases to Duluth's Safe Haven Shelter and Resource Center.

The quilters meet next on April 18 at 9 AM. Everyone is welcome to join the group.

So then, as we have opportunity let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:10



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Wed. Bible studies 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, April 25. Distribution is Thursday, April 27 from 11:30-12:30.
- CLC Quilters will meet Tuesday, April 18 at 9 AM.

LIVESTREAM OPERATORS



We have a manual ready to go with start-up directions at the computer in the balcony.
Please follow the directions and let us know if there are any additions you would like to have listed or inserted.
We would like to have a volunteer list set for a month in advance.
Please sign up on the sheet in the balcony/narthex (two locations).
If for some reason you are not able to keep your assigned date, please call one of the other volunteers to have them fill in for you and let Gary Lofald know. Thank you!

REMINDER: PLEASE ARRIVE AT CHURCH NO LATER THAN 9:10 TO BEGIN THE START-UP PROCESS SO THAT ALL WILL RUN SMOOTHLY AT 9:25 AM.

Dear Church Family,

Our church council will be hosting a brunch for Pastor Gary and Sue on their last Sunday with us, April 30th, following our church service. We wish them both the best as they move on to their next call under the leadership of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please keep them in your prayers.

Our Church council met with Dr. Cary Larson, the Presiding Pastor of the AALC and Pastor Joe Marsh our regional pastor of the AALC on March 21. We were given information on the Call process and were offered their support moving forward to work with our deacons and church council to provide pulpit supply and communion for our congregation and for our shut ins. We have been given the required paperwork that will need to complete and turn in before the Call process can begin. We will be in communication with all of you as we move forward with that process. We ask you to keep this in your prayers – specifically for God’s hand to be over all of this and to grant us wisdom and guidance. We know that He already has a plan for Christ Lutheran Church and we need to trust in His provisions as we wait on Him.

God’s blessings

Carolyn Lofald, Acting President

Jim Carlson, Deacon Chair

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: Union Gospel Mission
Persecuted Christians throughout the world
Lutheran Vicar Mwavu Ronald and his
two churches in Uganda

THOSE WITH HEALTH NEEDS:

Carol Johnson
Florence Kubiak
Brian McDonald
Linda Anthony
Del Sandberg
Jean Clark

Barb Hanson
Jane McLean
The Lund Family
Carol Schramm
Carol Sogard
Tom & Marlene Stauber

Mary Jenny
Mark Malander
Donna Swanson
Carol Schneeberger
Darlene Saaf
Maggie Kaptonak

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



Our sympathies to the family of Carol Jackson who passed away Friday, March 24. Please remember her family in your prayers. Services will be held at Christ Lutheran Church at a later date.

Our sympathies to the family of Marlys Nelson who passed away Tuesday, March 28. Marlys had been a member of Christ Lutheran but currently lived in Hugo, MN. She loved watching the worship service every Sunday. Please remember her family in your prayers

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 od!
How vast is the sum of them!*

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| Gary Lofald | April 5 |
| Carol Schneeberger | April 6 |
| Jim Maruska | April 10 |
| Ethan Wiita | April 17 |
| Don Olson | April 20 |
| Grace Wells | April 29 |

*You are invited to help us celebrate Carol Schneeberger's 90th Birthday!
We will have an open house for her on Saturday, April 8, from 1-4 in the
Fellowship Hall at church. No gifts, please. Cards are welcome.*