



Christ's Messenger



"To know Christ,
and make Him known."

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



August 2023

**Christ Lutheran
Church**

2415 Ensign St
Duluth MN 55811
clcduluth.org

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

Acting President
Carolyn Lofald
218-390-8357

Deacon Chair
Jim Carlson
218-343-6755

Every Month:
**Wed. Summer
Study**
6:30 PM - *The Chosen*

Council Meeting
2nd Thursday at
6:30 PM

Food Share
4th Thursday
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

AA
Mondays at 6:30 PM

Esther Circle
Meets again on
Thur., Sept. 7 at 10 AM

Dear Church Family,

It is our hope that you are enjoying your summer and time with your family. Some of our members have been out camping or spending time at cabins and enjoying the great outdoors. We continue to ask our Lord to watch over our church family and to keep everyone safe and healthy. We have been blessed to have visiting Pastors come and provide our services for us and communion. They have blessed us with wonderful messages, too! They share they really enjoy Duluth and spending an extra day or two to do some sightseeing. Some have suggested that we should really open a B&B as the parsonage is so comfortable and they are able to relax and come and go as they please.

We are very thankful that our deacons have been helping out with reading during our services and sometimes providing the whole service for us when we cannot schedule a pastor to come up. Please keep them in your prayers. With August being so busy for everyone, we are not able to have visiting pastors available as frequently to provide our services for us. Our deacons will be reaching out if anyone would like to have communion in their home and have been assigned shut-in's to visit as needed.

When Dr. Cary Larson was up a couple of weeks ago, he confirmed he had received all the necessary paperwork from our Call Committee and was prayerfully asking God for wisdom to choose candidates for us to interview. Again, our call committee members are: Gayle Maruska, Cindy Kent, Karen Blakesley, Don Olson, Bill Arezzo, Mark Youngren and Mike Pickar serving as our Chair. I do sit in on all the meetings as the acting president of the church, but I do not have a vote. All of the information we have turned in to the AALC to date is available in our church office to review during office hours if you would like to read through what we have submitted to them. Please reach out to any one of us if you have questions about the process. We ask that you please continue to keep this Call process in your prayers; asking that God would give wisdom to the Call Committee when they begin their interviewing process and that He would provide us with a wonderful man to shepherd us. We trust He already has a man for us.

We also would like to thank Gayle Maruska for overseeing the Altar Guild. She has been preparing communion for our services more frequently as we are asking our visiting Pastors to provide that for us when they are here. Please contact her if you would like to place flowers on our altar for special occasions.

(continued on page 3)

Assisting with August Ministry

August 6

Ushers: Grace Wells; Carolyn Lofald

Trustees: Laurie & Jim

Scripture Reader: Keith Youngren

Communion Assistant: Jim Carlson

August 13

Ushers: Jim & Gayle Maruska

Trustees: Bill & Grace

Scripture Reader: Gary Lofald

August 20

Ushers: Bill & Jan Arezzo

Trustees: Wendy & Carol

Scripture Reader: Dave Schreyer

Communion Assistant: Mike Pickar

August 27

Ushers: Jim & Sandy Carlson

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

Scripture Reader: Sandy Carlson

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

Coffee/Fellowship Servers

August 6: Lowaine M.

August 13: Esther Circle -Sandy

August 20: Lowaine M.

August 27: Esther Circle

September 3: Volunteers

September 10: Volunteers

September 17: Volunteers

September 24: Esther Circle

Livestream Operators

August 6: Gary L.

August 13: Keith L.

August 20: Keith L.

August 27: Eli A.



We are still looking for Livestream operator volunteers!

If you are interested in serving in this ministry, we are willing to train!

If you have a favorite hymn, please contact the office so we can compile a list for our hymn singing time. Call 218-722-7537 or send an email to: church@clcduluth.org



Financial Update

June Income: \$7,921.00
June Expenses: \$11,643.55

Monthly income was under expenses by \$3,722.55

YTD Income: \$55,190.55
YTD Expenses: \$76,767.19

YTD income was under expenses by \$21,576.64

June Missions
Camp JIM - \$787.50
AALC Youth Conference - \$877.50

Full financial reports are available in the office



Again, just a reminder that the secretary's summer office hours are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 to 1:30 with Friday's off. She will resume regular office hours after Labor Day. We will try to have volunteers checking the phone for messages over the long weekends. **Again, if you have an urgent need, please do not leave a message on the answering machine - reach out and give one of us a call** – Carolyn at 218-390-8357, our Deacon Chair, Jim Carlson at 218-343-6755, Mike Pickar – 651-338-4171, Keith Youngren – 218-491-3668, Mark Wiita – 218-391-2003 or Gary Lofald – 218-590-8217 and we will do our best to help however we can. Please pass this information along to family members too.

We invite you to attend our Wednesday Night Bible Study Time. We have been watching the DVD series of *The Chosen*. It is a portrayal of how Jesus began His ministry and has introduced how the disciples were chosen to follow Him. We have approximately 25 attending each Wednesday evening at 6:00 pm. Episode 6 was a portrayal of the healing of the leper and also of the paralytic being lowered through the roof and healed. The Character Nicodemus, a Pharisee, has also been portrayed in this series and it has been moving to watch him see the miracles and hunger for knowing who Jesus is. We thank Mike Pickar who has been facilitating for us. We read the corresponding Bible verses before the DVD and we have some discussion afterwards of what we have just watched. This has been very well received. Please join us if you are able. If you would like a ride, please contact the office. Volunteers take turns bringing treats to share and there is a sign-up sheet if you would like sign up.

The last Food Share went well and all the remaining bags were given out! The Evangelism Committee will be meeting again to plan the food items for our next Food Share which will be on August 24. If you would like to bring a box of dry cereal to place in our bags, that would help out! That can be placed in the food barrel in the narthex west entrance.

We were blessed to have the Evangelism Committee represent our church at the Neighborhood Night Out on August 1 at the Piedmont Dental office parking lot. We put up a tent and a table with our banner on it and provided Gideon bibles, tracts, devotional books, and information about our services with a treat bag for the adults. The children were given gift bags that included crayons, sidewalk chalk, a craft, Goldfish crackers and a few other items. Frozen Ices were handed out as a dessert treat for the attendees. We had a drawing that people entered and gave away two sets of tickets for our upcoming Father Daughter Ball. The Dental office staff came last week and made cookies in our kitchen to hand out – they have been great neighbors! We thank them for providing this wonderful event for our neighborhood! They estimated 600 people attended! It will be fun to hear the actual number so we can share with you.

In closing, we ask you to continue to pray for Dr. Larson to provide us with candidates so our Call Committee can begin the interviewing process, and that our Lord would continue to give our Deacons all things needed as they help with our church services and the needs of our shut-ins. We also ask for your prayers for the leadership of this church, that in all things we would bring glory and honor to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our verses to encourage & remind us of God's provision:

Psalms 145:15-16: *The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.*

Philippians 4:19: *And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His Glory in Christ Jesus.*

God bless each of you!
Carolyn Lofald

2023 AALC YOUTH CONFERENCE



It was such a special trip - many thanks for sending me along to pray, teach, meet wonderful new friends, and reconnect with others. It was a great privilege to serve on the youth commission for this event.

Early Sunday morning we (me, Eli, Hannah) got on the road at 6am with our first driver, Pastor Gary, to meet up with Mark and Gabe north of the Twin Cities. Next we headed south on I35 to Ascension Lutheran Church in Ames IA to join up with the larger group from area churches who would be riding the bus together to the YMCA of the Rockies for the 2023 AALC Youth Conference. We would be stopping in Omaha NE for an exciting

escape room adventure at "Conundrum," then grabbing pizza to go, and finally resting in Oglalla NE before our final leg up to Estes Park CO and the YMCA Camp of the Rockies!



Two weeks before departure I started to pray earnestly for all aspects of the trip which included sending detailed prayer requests to the leadership team. One week out, I began requesting prayer from the AALC Women of Life by way of written prayer requests on the WOL Facebook page. Many continued to pray for us as I sent updates through Facebook.

Each day began with leadership prayer and announcements. Each hour of the day was packed and went slowly, but the days sped along. The theme verse for the week was John 8:32, "And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." We enjoyed powerful, on-the-edge of your seat preaching from Pastor Gabe Kasper. This was his first year ministering to the AALC youth, and we were deeply impacted by his teaching on different aspects of the truth from God's Word.

Also new this year was "Silly Time with Scotty." Scott Yount and his wife Lena, our missionary team in Ukraine, joined the Youth Conference this summer to challenge the kids with hilarious, silly, intensely competitive games and skits on stage...some experienced the thrill of victory and others ended up in the penalty box!



Swen and Dean returned for another year with the best camp songs and stories, many well-known and loved along with some fresh and new. Their ministry to AALC youth has been a deeply loved and multi-generational gift that is marked by great joy, high energy, and a deep, deep love for God and kids of all ages. They make all of us feel so loved and accepted.

Thank the Lord for our worship team! They helped us sing our hearts out to Jesus! Each morning and evening all of our ministry and worship leaders served us with the Word, music, prayer, joy and laughter. We were blessed and refreshed daily along with great teaching and learning at workshops, service to the YMCA camp helping with laundry, great meals, outdoor activities, and new friendships.



I think many, both adults and youth, would say the highlight of their week was a trek up the mountain to Bible Point where heaven and earth meet, eyes are opened by the power and beauty of God's creation, and hearts are touched with the greatness and love of God and all of His people together in the unity of Christ.

What a week! Special thanks to all at Christ Lutheran Church for your continued support for this life-changing youth experience.

Sue DeSha &
Mark Wiita
Eli Allen
Hanah Allen
Gabe Wiita



AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH: LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS



Martin Luther wrote, "I wish that every village had its own interpreter and that this book alone would live in the hands, eyes, ears, and hearts of all people."

Lutheran Bible Translators has been partnering with language communities for nearly 60 years. More than 100 partnerships in translation and literacy efforts have equipped them to grasp, embrace, and hold God's Word in their hands and in their hearts. When you give to Lutheran Bible Translators you carry the LIGHT of

God's Word to those still feeling lost, confused, and frustrated. You can give them hope, confidence, and put God's Word in their hands.

Please prayerfully consider a donation to this month's chosen mission. You may make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church. Thank you for your continued support in our mission "To know Christ and to make Him known."

August Maintenance Report

The flower gardens and pots are beautiful! We thank the Esther Circle ladies for taking such wonderful care of them for us! We have had many comments, especially from the visiting Pastor's and their wives.

Thank you to Jim Carlson for mowing and trimming for us. The grass seed that Mike and Gary planted near the dumpster and along the parsonage driveway is coming up so nice. Gary Glad has been watering that for us!

Our Parking lot fund is at approximately \$13,000.00. Eleven thousand of that was put into a CD earning 5% and will mature in a couple more months with interest to add to that total. We have revamped the old sign that Bob Hanson made for fund raisers, thanks to Judi! We will keep the sign in Fellowship Hall to have a visual on how much money has been collected. Our goal is about \$150,000.00.

Gary G., our custodian, always has our church looking so nice for us We also will be replacing the faucet and arm on the dishwasher that we use to rinse the dishes before they are put into the washer. That is also on our list for fall repairs also.

We continue to have the visiting pastors stay at our parsonage. Thank you to Grace Wells and Wendy Pickar for cleaning between stays, changing out bedding and doing the laundry. We also thank Don Olson for his donation of some end tables, a chair and a lamp for the living room at the parsonage. It now looks more homey and complete over there. We still need to make a final decision on the flooring for the basement. We are planning to repair the retaining wall on the east side of the parsonage and fix a couple of downspouts this fall. The air conditioning units that were installed are working out well. They are only used when the visiting pastors need to use them.

We ask for volunteers to step forward and help with the jobs that need to be completed at our church. Please bring any maintenance concerns to our attention.

We continue to thank God for providing the resources for us to take care of all that He has blessed us with. We thank Him for giving our church members the gifts and abilities to repair items when needed If you have questions or concerns, please notify me at 218-390-8357.

God's blessings,

Carolyn Lofald
Maintenance Chair

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

*Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

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
Pastor Yount and his ministry in Slovakia

The steadfastness of our faith
Mission of the Month:
Lutheran Bible Translators
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
Carol Sogard

Barb Hanson
Jane McLean
The Lund Family
Carol Schramm
Jean Clark
Luanne Wachula

Mary Jenny
Mark Malander
Donna Swanson
Carol Schneeberger
Lynn Erickson
Tom & Marlene Stauber

Kaylea Guddeck - upcoming surgery

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



*Our congratulations
to Jacob Curtis
and Abigail Allen
who were married
July 5, 2023*



Sunday services are livestreamed on our Facebook page:

Christ Lutheran Church Duluth at 9:30 AM



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Food Share: Thursday, August 24 from 11:30-12:30

Packing starts at 10:30 AM

Thank you for supporting this ministry.