



# Christ's Messenger

**December 2023**

**Christ Lutheran  
Church**

2415 Ensign St  
Duluth MN 55811  
clcduluth.org

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

**Interim Pastor**  
Pastor Scott Strohkirch

**Acting President**  
Carolyn Lofald  
218-390-8357

**Deacon Chair**  
Jim Carlson  
218-343-6755

Every Month:  
**Sunday Bible Study**  
11:00 AM

**Council Meeting**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 6:30 PM

**Food Share: Nov.**  
**Food Share will be**  
**on Dec. 21**  
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Esther Circle**  
1<sup>st</sup> Thur. at 10:00 AM

**No Wed. Bible Study**  
**until further notice**

**AA**  
Mondays at 6:30 PM

Greetings to All!

A warm Christ Lutheran Welcome to Pastor Scott Strohkirch! So good to have Pastor Scott here as our interim Pastor! We have made the parsonage as cozy as we can for him and hope to be finishing the lower-level flooring soon so it will be ready for him to entertain his guests. We are thankful that Pastor is ready to visit our shut-ins and bring them communion – just in time for Christmas! Our Deacons will assist Pastor as he begins these visits. We will be working closely with Pastor to make this new transition as smooth as we can for him. He is anxious to get to know everyone!

Our installation of officers will take place on Sunday, December 31, during our church service. Our thanks again to our Treasurer – Sandy, Trustees – Laurie, Grace, Wendy, Bill, Laura, and helper Carol Z. and to our Deacons – Jim, Mike, Gary, Keith, and Mark for their steadfastness to keep everything running smoothly this past year. Our thanks also to our music team – Cindy, Mark, Dave, Sandy, and our dear Carol Blair when needed. Also, to Gayle for her dedication for our communion and altar preparations. We are so thankful for our faithful congregation, even though some say they are “too old” to help; your prayers, faithfulness and encouragement is all that is needed. We look up to all of you – you have mentored us for many years! We look forward to another year of working together under the prayerful wisdom and guidance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

During this season of Advent, may we all look with anticipation to the celebration of the birth of our dear Savior; Christ Jesus, our Messiah, Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel! It was so good to read through the book of Mark in our Portals of Prayer during the month of November and walk through the life of Jesus’ ministry. Find some time each day to reflect on what this world would be like without Jesus and be reassured that through all the toil and trouble we see in the media, that God is in control and that everything happens for a reason and all for His Glory.

May God grant you and your families a wonderful and blessed Christmas Celebration of Joy, Hope and Love!

In Christ,  
Carolyn

## Assisting with December Ministry

### December 3

**Ushers:** Keith Youngren, Mark Youngren

**Trustees:** Bill & Grace

**Scripture Reader:** Dave Schreyer

**Communion Assistant:** Mike Pickar

### December 10

**Ushers:** Carolyn Lofald & Grace Wells

**Trustees:** Wendy & Carol

**Scripture Reader:** Sandy Carlson

### December 17

**Ushers:** Bill & Jan Arezzo

**Trustees:** Laurie & Laura

**Scripture Reader:** Gary Lofald

### December 24

**Usher:** Jim & Gayle Maruska

**Trustees:** Laurie & Jim

**Scripture Reader:** Jim Carlson

### December 31

**Ushers:** Jim Carlson & Mark Youngren

**Trustees:** Bill & Grace

**Scripture Reader:** Jim Carlson

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

## Coffee/Fellowship Servers & Helpers

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TREATS</b>	<b>SERVERS</b>	<b>TABLE WASHER</b>
<b>December 3</b>	Council	Volunteers	Volunteers
<b>December 10</b>	Esther Circle	Sharon Widell	Volunteers
<b>December 17</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers
<b>December 24</b>	Esther Circle	Volunteers	Volunteers
<b>December 31</b>	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers

## Livestream Operators

**December 3:** Lydia Wiita

**December 10:** Keith Lund

**December 17:** Gary Lofald

**December 24:** Volunteers

**December 31:** Volunteers



## Financial Update

October Income: \$11,877.00

October Expenses: \$4,986.39

Monthly income was over expenses by \$6,890.61

YTD Income: \$106,318.55

YTD Expenses: \$101,903.78

YTD income was over expenses by \$4,414.77

October Mission

MNTC - \$1,212.00

Full financial reports are available in the office upon request



We are still looking for Livestream operator volunteers!

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

## Getting to Know Me-

My name is Scott Larry Strohkirch. My middle name is also my Father's first name. I was born September 9, 1961 in Saint Paul, Minnesota. I grew up in Eagan and I have a Sister, Stacy, who is just a week shy of being 4 years younger than me.

I was born with congenital hypothyroidism which means I was born without a thyroid gland and I take medication almost everyday since I was diagnosed at the age of 3 months.

I was Baptized on October 8, 1961 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saint Paul, MN and Confirmed May 2, 1976 at Christ Lutheran Church, Eagan (LCMS)

I went through all 12 grades in the Rosemount School District and graduated from Rosemount High School.

My journey to the ministry took me through schooling for radio broadcasting, hospitality management, Business Management and finally got a degree in Public Policy and Business Economics from Concordia University-St. Paul.

I got married and had a family of 2-daughters at the end of the 1990s and beginning of the 2000s. Both are College Graduates. Jordyn works for Fifth-Third Bank in Grand Rapids, MI and Piper graduated Summa Cum Laude from McMurry University in Abilene, TX in May 2023. She married her dream man, Frand Sorenti in June of 2023.

Unfortunately the union between their mother and I didn't last and we divorced in 2010. I got married again in 2013 to Tammie Jewell.

I attended Concordia Theological Seminary beginning in June 2006 and graduated in November 2010 with my Masters of Divinity.

Through a series of events, I left the LCMS in 2014 and joined the AALC in 2015. I received my first call into the ministry in 2016 at Abiding Grace Lutheran Church in Gillette, WY. I was ordained November 20, 2016.

The Congregation was unable to grow any further and I was given a peaceful release due to a lack of funding for my salary. We left Gillette in early 2020 and in March, covid slowed everything down. I had just started doing pulpit supply with the church in Piqua, OH and also in Augusta, KY. After Covid hit, I had an almost 3 month period with no opportunities to lead worship. During that time, I pick up a gig-service with Door Dash and have been doing that on and off for the past 3, almost 4 years.

I have prayed to God to give me another parish to be a Pastor full-time again. I am looking forward to serving God's Children at Christ Lutheran Church in Duluth, MN. I come to you with the desire to know only Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2). The Gospel frees us from the demands of the Law because Christ fulfilled that demand for us and he then went to the Cross to die the death you and I deserve.

I am your humble Servant,

Pastor Scott Strohkirch.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Cookie making is Tues., Dec. 5 & Wed., Dec. 6. Join us at 9 AM if you can help.
- Esther Circle meets December 7 at 10 AM. All ladies in the church are welcome to join us!
- Quilting on Tuesday, December 12 at 9:00 AM. Contact Sandy Carlson (349-2786) with any questions you have. This is a great time for some fun and fellowship.



Esther Circle is sponsoring their hat and mitten drive for the students at Piedmont School. We are accepting homemade and purchased items. Please place these items in the Narthex under the tree. We will bring what items we have over to the school before Christmas. We will still accept items after Christmas as winter is long and the kids can sure use these items through spring!

We are asking everyone to put on a name tag when they arrive to help Pastor Scott and our visitors get to know us. These can be found on the entry table and narthex table.



### **Christmas Services:**

#### **Advent Services**

**Wed. Dec. 6 @ 6:30 PM**

**Wed. Dec. 13 @ 6:30 PM**

**Wed. Dec. 20 @ 6:30 PM**

#### **Christmas Eve Service**

**5:00 PM Candlelight Service**



There are still 2024 calendars available to purchase.

\$10.00 each.

Proceeds support  
Youth activities



Food Share: Thursday, **December 21** from 11:30-12:30

Packing starts at 10:00 AM

Thank you for supporting this ministry.

**Sunday services are livestreamed on our Facebook page:**

**Christ Lutheran Church Duluth at 9:30 AM**



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

## December Maintenance Report

The snow is starting to fly! Time to start the "Penguin Shuffle"! Please watch your step walking in the lot and on our walks. Our thanks to Jim Carlson for taking care of all our outdoor needs. The markers have been set, marking off our perimeter for the snow plow to navigate. Jim also has a supply of salt and sand all ready to go for our walks. Peterson Excavating will be plowing again for us this year and they will salt and sand the parking lot as needed. Per our agreement, the dental office will pay for the plowing during the week days.

Lowaine is all set to put out the table decorations for Christmas! We are so thankful for her willingness to keep our Fellowship Hall looking so festive! Our thanks to the Esther Circle, too for decorating the trees and getting the church ready for Advent and Christmas!

Gary Glad has been busy keeping our church clean and helping where ever needed. He also helps with our food share distribution.

The annual church boiler inspection with ASP has been rescheduled for December 20th due to their busy schedule. The extinguishers in the church and parsonage have all passed inspection and were tagged.

We have changed rug companies for the church to Cintas. The rugs will be changed out once a month.

Our thanks to Gary Lofald and Mike Picker for removing and replacing all the ceiling tile in the family room downstairs at the parsonage. Looks very nice! We replaced some bulbs and also a ballast for one of the ceiling lights too. The new flooring has been ordered, but due to the busy holiday season, we are not able to have that installed until the end of December. Mike jumped on the chance to get the inside garage walls painted; so nice that it is insulated as a little space heater worked great to keep it warm. Now it looks too nice to park a car in! Carolyn and Wendy spent a couple of days bringing up all the old dishes and small appliances that Pastor Carl used during their stay and put the kitchen in order. Some of the furniture was rearranged to accommodate what Pastor Scott will need when he moves in on November 29. Grace was able to sew us a new valance for the master bedroom to match the curtains. All the upstairs rugs and floors have all been steamed cleaned and everything wiped down. Again, our thanks to Grace and Wendy for doing all the laundry and keeping the parsonage clean for our visiting pastors.

The trustees made the decision to go with Asphalt of Duluth to redo the parsonage driveway and the Sunshine Committee wrote a check for the downpayment. We are now on the schedule for late spring!

Our Church Parking lot fund is now sitting at approximately \$17,000.00. The CD came due and we re-invested that with the interest earned We also added another \$4000.00 to the six-month CD that had been accruing in the parking lot savings. Thank you to those that have contributed to that fund. The money that the dental office donates to our church to park also goes into that fund. Please keep an eye on the sign in our Fellowship Hall for updates. Our goal is to reach \$150,000.00.

Again, we are so grateful to God for providing us with the resources to continue caring for our church. We give thanks for our church members that share their gifts and abilities to repair items when needed. If you are willing to volunteer for any of our projects, please reach out or visit with me at church – as you know, many hands make for a lighter load. My phone number is 218-390-8357.

God's blessings,

Carolyn Lofald  
Maintenance Chair



## December Mission of the Month: ALTS

The American Lutheran Theological Seminary is Christ Centered and Cross Focused to train future pastors for the American Association of Lutheran Churches.

The three goals of the seminary are to:

- Provide Christ-Centered and Cross-Focused training for the future pastors of The American Association of Lutheran Churches
- Provide sound biblical education for the laity of our member congregations
- Be a beacon of light and a source of biblical education for the secular world

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."

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Dear Christ Lutheran Church Family,

Thank you so much for hosting the MNTC choir last Sunday. I am terribly sorry that I missed out. I'll be back next year for sure.

We hope you all enjoyed it as I know we did. Thanks for lunch!

God bless,

Brandon



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Thank you to our faithful congregation for contributing to Brian Wiita's mission to go to Israel.

Our congregation collected over \$2,100.00 for him to use on his trip to share the Gospel.

Please keep him and the others in your prayers!

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you so very much for your great love and generous gift for my mission to Israel. All of your donations will go to supply the needs of the Jewish nation at war with Hamas. Many Jewish families are displaced from their homes and many have greatly suffered from the Hamas attack. I will be helping the soldiers by bringing food to the front lines at the Lebanon border as well as a few days by the Gaza Strip.

God is honored by your gift and may the name of Jesus be elevated among all the earth.

Thank you again and God bless.

Pastor Brian Wiita

Update from Melissa Wiita November 28:

"Thank you to all that donated to support Brian's opportunity to serve our Lord and proclaim the Gospel Message! Today Brian started his ministry up north. They prepare 1000-1500 meals per day. Some units pick up meals, then Brian drives to the Lebanon border to deliver meals. The men danced & sang with excitement. They haven't had a hot meal since Friday. It costs about \$1000 day for food. Brian brought \$10,000 for them. The pastor he is with said "this is a believer from MN that came to volunteer for you and even bring finances that he collected to feed you." It was really emotional. Quiet day fighting wise. Preparing for things to ramp up following the cease fire, but things may remain quiet for a while now. Thank you for your prayers!"

**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 Call Committee  
The leadership of the church  
Dr. Cary Larson & the AALC  
The ministry at Union Gospel Mission  
Students and Teachers from pre-k to college

Our country, military & police  
Pastor Yount and his ministry in Slovakia  
The steadfastness of our faith  
Persecuted Christians throughout the world  
Mission of the Month: ALTS

**THOSE WITH HEALTH NEEDS:**

Carol Johnson  
Florence Kubiak  
Brian McDonald  
Linda Anthony  
Del Sandberg  
Carol Sogard  
Pastor Myke Main

Jane McLean  
The Lund Family  
Carol Schramm  
Jean Clark  
Luanne Wachula  
Kelly Carson

Mary Jenny  
Mark Malander  
Donna Swanson  
Sharon Nylander  
Lynn Erickson  
Tom & Marlene Stauber  
Ken Allen

*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 and friends of Larry Jentoft who passed away Saturday, September 30. Please remember his 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 God! How vast is the sum of them!  
Psalm 139:16,17*

Andrea Allen	December 5
Sharon Super	December 5
Carol Johnson	December 24
Marlene Stauber	December 24
Carol Miletich	December 28

If you would like your birthday included in the messenger please contact the office