

# Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches

**FEBRUARY 2024**

**Christ Lutheran  
Church**

2415 Ensign St  
Duluth MN 55811  
[clcduluth.org](http://clcduluth.org)

Church Office  
218-722-7537  
[church@clcduluth.org](mailto:church@clcduluth.org)

**Interim Pastor**  
Pastor Scott Strohkirch

**President**  
Mike Pickar  
651-338-4171

**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:**  
4th Thur. of the month  
11:30 AM -12:30 PM

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

**AA**  
Mondays at 6:30 PM

From the Desk of Pastor Strohkirch

Greetings to you in Christ Jesus,

First, I want to thank you as a congregation for your wonderful support and for sending me to Fort Wayne, to be with my bride as she underwent the third lower back surgery in 14 months. I'm writing this to you as she is undergoing said surgery. Those who were instrumental in helping me to procure plane tickets and a rental car have been a true blessing to me, but they are part and parcel of the whole who are behind their efforts.

In just a few weeks we enter our second penitential season of the Church year; the season of Lent. The season begins on February 14, yes, I realize that is also Valentine's Day. This Lenten season we will be looking at Christ's Passion through the eyes of St. John the Evangelist. St. John is responsible for 5 books in the New Testament. There is of course the Gospel according to John, 1, 2, and 3 John in the Epistles and finally the Revelation of St. John. Come Join us, first for a good meal followed by great worship. Ash Wednesday worship will begin with the Imposition of Ashes and then conclude with Holy Communion. I look forward to see you there.

In Christ,

Pastor Scott Strohkirch

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

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



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

## Assisting with February Ministry

### February 4

**Ushers:** Bill & Jan Arezzo; Gary & Carolyn Lofald

**Trustees:** Wendy & Carol

**Scripture Reader:** Gary Lofald

**Communion Assistant:** Mike Pickar, Hannah Allen

### February 11

**Ushers:** Jim Carlson; Mark Youngren

**Trustees:** Laurie & Laura

**Scripture Reader:** Dave Schreyer

### February 14 (Ash Wednesday)

**Ushers:** Volunteers

**Scripture Reader:** Jim Carlson

### February 18

**Usher:** Jim & Gayle Maruska; Mark Youngren, Grace Wells

**Trustees:** Laurie & Jim

**Scripture Reader:** Keith Youngren

**Communion Assistant:** Gary Lofald, Gabe Wiita

### February 21

**Ushers:** Volunteers

**Scripture Reader:** Mark Wiita

### February 25

**Ushers:** Bill & Jan Arezzo

**Trustees:** Bill & Grace

**Scripture Reader:** Dave Schreyer

### February 28

**Ushers:** Volunteers

**Scripture Reader:** Sandy Carlson

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

## Coffee/Fellowship Servers & Helpers

DATE	TREATS	TABLE WASHER
February 4	Sandy C.	Karen B.
February 11	Esther Circle	Karen B.
February 18	Volunteers	Karen B.
February 25	Esther Circle-Trudy Y.	Karen B.

## Financial Update

December Income: \$12,900.00

December Expenses: \$9,247.98

Monthly income was over expenses by \$3,652.02

YTD Income: \$128,138.55

YTD Expenses: \$117,937.62

YTD income was over expenses by \$10,200.93

December Mission  
American Lutheran Theological Seminary: \$2,110.00

Full financial reports are available in the office upon request



MATTHEW 6:21

We are asking everyone to put on a name tag when they arrive to help Pastor Scott and our visitors get to know us. Look for your name tag hanging in the coat rack

## Livestream Operators

**February 4:** Gary L.

**February 11:** Keith Lund

**February 18:** Eli A.

**February 25:** Lydia W.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Esther Circle meets the first Thursday of the month at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to join.
- Band of Brothers meets every Wednesday at 7 AM at Caribou Coffee by Cub Foods. All men are welcome to join this time of fellowship and devotions.
- Quilting on Tuesday, February 13 at 9:00 AM. Contact Sandy Carlson (349-2786) with any questions you have. This is a great time for some fun and fellowship.



The 28th Annual Father/Daughter Ball is scheduled for February 10 and February 24, 2024 at the DECC. We are looking for volunteers to help both evenings. Please look for the sign-up sheet and/or call Carolyn if you are interested in helping.

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,  
Thanks so much for the red bag of gifts - calendar, cookies, cocoa, and chocolate spoons.  
God bless  
Diane Malander

*Thank  
you!*



### Join us for Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday Service & Soup Supper - Wednesday, February 14

Supper 5:15 PM Service 6:30 PM

Wednesday Lenten Services at 6:30 PM

(Feb. 21, Feb. 28, Mar. 6, Mar. 13, & Mar. 20)

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*

## MAINTENANCE REPORT

The basement flooring in the parsonage has been installed!! It looks very nice. We have moved the furniture back into place and have also moved the twin beds back downstairs so pastor now has an upstairs guest room. We have attached a couple pictures for you to see.

We have contacted our electrician and he will be installing a new outlet in the balcony to provide an additional receptacle for our livestream equipment. We have also been in contact with DADS Electronics to ask for some advice on our equipment and sound system.

We are thankful that we have not had a lot of snow and that the cold weather snap was brief. On below zero days, Gary, our custodian, is keeping the church kitchen sink cabinet doors open so the pipes don't freeze. To help keep the cold out, we have also installed Styrofoam pieces in the kitchen overhead exhaust fan. If you need to use the kitchen fan, please call, so the Styrofoam can be removed.

We thank those of you that have volunteered to help when needed. We are blessed to have our church looking so nice – many of our guests have made compliments. We are thankful that everything is working well and not requiring attention at this time. If you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to call. My phone number is 218-390-8357.

God's blessings,

Carolyn Lofald  
Maintenance Chair



Food Share: Thursday, **February 22** from 11:30-12:30  
Packing starts at 10:00 AM  
Thank you for supporting this ministry.

## **MISSIONS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN**

As many of you know, we choose a “Mission of the Month” each month to collect monies to bless various organizations. We also have some missions that are ongoing that are not on that list. We thought it would be good to share with you two of them and give you a little history on how they provide for members and those in need.

### **Christ Lutheran Food Share**

This Food Share is an outreach mission of our church. We have been blessing many families the past couple of years that have come to receive a bag of food. Some have become regulars. We ask if they are in need of prayer and have prayed with them. As you know, the cost of food has increased over the past few years. We watch the grocery ads for what is on sale and plan our meals around that. We try to provide two or three meals in each bag to make the drive to our church worthwhile for these families. This last month we had spaghetti sauce with meat, noodles, parmesan cheese, 2 cans of green beans, peanut butter, grape jelly, pancake mix, and syrup. We also personally hand out a \$15.00 gift card to Super One so the family can buy meat, bread or dairy items they may need and an information sheet of upcoming events at our church and service times. The cost per month for this mission runs between \$900 to \$1000.00. To continue serving needy families, we ask if you would consider a monetary donation. Boxes of cereal are also welcome! Please keep this mission in your prayers! Thank you.

Our Evangelism Committee also serves the families of the Food Share that have young children. We provide a gift bag with one or two Bible Crafts and coloring books. Sometimes we include crayons, paints, chalk or markers. We also put in a snack – like Goldfish crackers. We also have birthday bags available as we ask if there is a family member that has a birthday. We have cake mix, candles, a birthday napkin, and a birthday card. We feel blessed that we are able to provide for these families.

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### **Christ Lutheran Good Samaritan Fund**

Many of you may not know this, but our Church has a program called the Good Samaritan Fund. This fund was put into place many years ago to provide assistance for people in need. We have used it to buy gas cards, to pay for eye glasses, to offset costs for medical and dental procedures and help with moving and travel expenses. We have a group of three overseers who prayerfully work confidentially with the recipient to assist them as best we can with their request. This fund does not get used very often, but when it does, it provides an enormous blessing - a weight lifted from their shoulders so to speak. This fund is in need of replenishment. By providing a donation, you will allow us to bless others in the future. If you would like to contribute by check, please write Good Samaritan Fund in the memo. If you’re contributing cash, please place in an envelope with a note earmarked Good Samaritan Fund. We thank you for considering a donation to this fund.

First and foremost, we thank each of you for your prayers and financial contributions each month to meet our financial obligations. If you are able to give over and above your regular giving to these missions, we thank you. We thank our Lord for His provision over us.

## **February Mission of the Month: The AALC**

The AALC is committed to being honest and gracious in our relationships and does so by Confessing, Caring, and Calling:

**CONFESSING:** The AALC believes that God has saved us by grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from any of our own works.

**CARING:** The AALC is a small but growing church body. This means every pastor and every congregation is dear to us. There are no disposable people here. We work hard to genuinely care for each pastor and every congregation in our Association.

**CALLING:** We believe that God has called us to care for people beyond ourselves. We are called to reach out to people as the hands and heart of Christ. The AALC is committed to pioneering new missions across America.

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, Sunshine Bakers, and Denfeld Alumni,  
On behalf of the Denfeld Girls Basketball Program, I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your contributions to our team's success this season. Your donations and well wishes have warmed the hearts of the coaches and the players. Your generosity has been incredible. Thank you all so very much!

Though we have not won a lot of games this season, we have made a lot of progress. We are getting better at basketball. The number of points we are scoring each game is going up and the number of points our opponent is scoring is going down. Our hard work on the basketball floor is paying off and that is encouraging to see.

More importantly than that, however, is that being a part of the team is having an impact on the girls' lives. Though it doesn't always come easy, each day we strive to provide a safe and positive environment for the girls to escape into after class so they can grow as people. Each day we work together to live out our five core values of: doing unto others, doing our best, staying positive, building each other up, and keeping things in perspective. We believe that practicing these things, and getting better at them, will pay far greater dividends in life than practicing our dribbling and shooting will. Please continue to pray for us as we endeavor to have a positive impact on these girls' lives so they can have a positive impact on their school and their community.

With much love and appreciation,

Erik Reinertsen  
Head Denfeld Girls Basketball Coach



(For those of you that may not know, Erik Reinertsen is the pastor at The Waters Edge Community Church. He and his wife have been blessed with seven daughters and a son. Pastor Reinertsen has been a guest speaker at our Father Daughter Ball quite a few times in years past and always provides a heartwarming message. He is a blessing to our community.)

### **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: TAALC

### **THOSE WITH HEALTH NEEDS:**

Carol Johnson  
Florence Kubiak  
Brian McDonald  
Linda Anthony  
Del Sandberg  
Carol Sogard

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

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

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

# **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
Marilyn Nelson	February 8
Hannah Allen	February 27
John Kubiak	February 28

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



Our sympathy to the family and friends of our dear sister,  
Arlene Ziemer who passed away January 16, 2024.  
Please remember her sister Carol and the rest of her family in your prayers.  
Services were held at Christ Lutheran Church Saturday, January 20.