

# Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH The American Association of Lutheran Churches



**JANUARY 2024**

**Christ Lutheran  
Church**

2415 Ensign St  
Duluth MN 55811  
clcduluth.org

Church Office  
218-722-7537  
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  
January 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

January is that month of the year when we take stock of our lives and make some kind of determination about what we'd like to change in the new year. What do you think is on most people's resolution list? Believe it or not, it's joining a gym to either lose weight or build their muscles. Some try to work on their relationships with family or their spouses.

The relationship we can all work on together is our time with God and His Word. Devoting 5, 10 or more minutes a day reading scripture can be the beginning of a better relationship with your Lord. I encourage anyone to spend just a few minutes at the beginning or ending of your day reading something from Portals of Prayer, or another devotional. Go into your Small Catechism and re-learn Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers. If you would like, I can develop a reading plan of the Bible where you would read an Old Testament and New Testament reading each day. With a plan, you can find yourself reading the whole Bible in a few years.

I'm not saying that getting a good physical workout isn't a good idea because I certainly could benefit from one if I wanted to improve my health, but getting a good spiritual workout will definitely improve your relationship with the Lord and give you eternal benefits that are out of this world. It can't hurt to give it a try. Feel free to stop by and give me a progress report on how spending a little time in the Word has improved your walk with Christ. I will see you all when I return from our cruise. God bless you all.

Pastor Scott L. 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 January Ministry

### January 7

**Ushers:** Carolyn Lofald & Grace Wells

**Trustees:** Wendy & Carol

**Scripture Reader:** Mark Wiita

### January 14

**Ushers:** Wendy Pickar & Jim Carlson

**Trustees:** Laurie & Laura

**Scripture Reader:** Keith Youngren

### January 21

**Usher:** Carolyn Lofald, Jim Carlson, Mark Youngren

**Trustees:** Laurie & Jim

**Scripture Reader:** Dave Schreyer

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

### January 28

**Ushers:** Gayle Maruska, Mark Youngren, Keith Youngren

**Trustees:** Bill & Grace

**Scripture Reader:** Jim Carlson

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

## Coffee/Fellowship Servers & Helpers

### **DATE**

<b>January 7</b>	Volunteers
<b>January 14</b>	Esther Circle
<b>January 21</b>	Volunteers
<b>January 28</b>	Esther Circle

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.

## Financial Update

November Income: \$8,920.00

November Expenses: \$6,785.86

Monthly income was over expenses by \$2,134.14

YTD Income: \$115,238.55

YTD Expenses: \$108,689.64

YTD income was over expenses by \$6,548.91

November Mission

Salvation Army: \$700

Israel Mission: \$2,175

Full financial reports are available in the office upon request



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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Esther Circle meets January 4 at 10 AM. All ladies in the church are welcome to join us!
- Quilting on Tuesday, January 16 at 9:00 AM. Contact Sandy Carlson (349-2786) with any questions you have. This is a great time for some fun and fellowship.

## January Maintenance Report

We have been blessed with a mild start to our winter. In turn, we have not had any plowing and sanding expenses!

The long-awaited flooring at the parsonage is finally being installed. Thanks to Mike for bringing over his appliance dolly and moving all the furniture to the tuck-under garage area so the workers are able to keep moving without delay. We are all excited to see what the final product will look like. We will finish off the flooring with base trim - quarter round which we will paint out to match the base color. It will be so nice to get the lower level back in order again. Hopefully we can work out a time with Pastor Scott to hold an open house to see it.

We had our annual church boiler inspection with ASP. The routine cleaning was done and all the mechanical elements were working well. Jim Maruska has blessed us by installing the new commercial faucet next to the dishwasher. We are excited to see that put to good use! He also replaced a few gaskets on the other kitchen faucets. Thank you, Jim! Gary, our custodian is doing a wonderful job keeping everything clean for us. He goes above and beyond by stepping up to help in other areas, too. He took a vacation day to help with cookies and also make himself available to help with our food share!

God continues to provide us with the resources to continue caring for our church. Again, 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

Dear CLC Family,  
Thank you so much for the nice visit from Mike Pickar and Pastor Scott and for bringing me such thoughtful Christmas gifts and the yummy cookies. Thanks to all of you that made them for us, too. I so miss helping make them. I was also so thankful to receive communion. I appreciated it so much. God's blessings to all in 2024 - Happy New Year!

Carol Schneeberger



To everyone at Christ Lutheran Church,  
Thank you so much for the gift of money received for Christmas!  
Looking forward to another year of ministry together.

Judi Morgan

To Christ Lutheran Church,  
Thank you for the Christmas gift.

Gary Glad



Food Share: Thursday, **January 28** from 11:30-12:30  
Packing starts at 10:00 AM  
Thank you for supporting this ministry.



## January Mission of the Month: Father Daughter Ball

The 28th Annual Father/Daughter Ball is scheduled for February 10 and February 24, 2024!

The mission of the Father Daughter Ball is to provide a quality, memorable, and wholesome event for fathers and daughters of all ages. We acknowledge that the unique and significant relationship between fathers and daughters is a mirror of God's love for His children, and that God has entrusted fathers with the role of bringing up daughters to live in His truth.

We support MN Adult & Teen Challenge and through gifts of our partners we are able to provide complimentary tickets to those fathers and their daughters as they rebuild their relationships.

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 Church Family,

It is our hope that everyone was able to celebrate Christmas with their families and reflect on the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We had a wonderful Christmas Eve service here at church and we are thankful that Pastor Scott was able to provide this for us along with communion. We thank our praise team too for their hours of practice each week as they share their gifts with us.

We thank all that participated in our annual spritz cookie making on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Glen Nelson again mentored us and taught his squeeze technique and Don Olson showed us how to dip those chocolate fingers. We were blessed to donate some of our proceeds to the following organizations: Union Gospel Mission, Salvation Army, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Youth for Christ Duluth Ministries, Denfeld Girls Basketball team, The Father Daughter Ball, and Teen Challenge will receive tickets for their men to attend our event with their daughters and continue to mend their relationships.

All of our shut-in Christmas gifts were delivered. The gift included a calendar, spritz cookies, non-scented body lotion, a devotional, hot chocolate and a few other Christmas goodies. Thanks to Wendy and Mike for getting that together for us this year. Many of our homebound were able to meet Pastor Scott and have the sacrament of holy communion given to them. Pastor Scott will form a visitation schedule when he returns from his trip. We thank our deacons for assisting Pastor and introducing him to these beloved members of our church family. Please continue to keep these members in your prayers. We know they would welcome a card or phone call from you. If you need an updated address, we do have some directories in the church office. Please let us know if you would like one and also let us know if we need to make updates to your contact information.

Tickets for our annual Father Daughter Ball went on sale December 16. In 2024 will celebrate our 28<sup>th</sup> year of this event. This year's dates are February 10<sup>th</sup> and again on February 24<sup>th</sup> at the DECC. The mission behind this event is to strengthen the relationship between a father and his daughter(s). As the world and dynamics of the family keep changing, we feel it is so important for the father to lead his family and it is our hope that by spending an evening together and making some wonderful memories it will help keep that bond strong.

Our monthly food share went well. We gave out approximately 40 bags. We have been making 48 bags each month. Along with our food items we gave a \$20.00 Kwik Trip card this month and enclosed a card with our church service times and a paper on why we celebrate Christmas. We hope it was well received.

May God bless you and keep you and grant you all things needed in the New Year!

In Christ's Love, Carolyn

**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: Father Daughter Ball

**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

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

*If there are any people who have been accidently 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*

- Jean Clark January 4
- Mary Paschke January 5
- Dale Lund January 14
- Laura Melander January 15
- Mike Pickar January 15
- Wendy Pickar January 17
- Courtney Carson January 19
- Gabe Wiita January 22
- Glen Nelson January 29

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

*We send our congratulations and God's blessings to Will & Rachel DeRocher  
who were married here at church on December 16.*

*Many of our congregational members were blessed to take home and enjoy  
the roses that they left for us from their wedding. Rachel has the gift to play guitar,  
piano and some flute. Will, we hear, can play the drums. We hope they will share  
their gifts with us in the future.*

