

Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The American Association of Lutheran

**FEBRUARY
2025**

**Christ Lutheran
Church**

2415 Ensign St
Duluth MN 55811
clcduluth.org

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

Pastor Mark Raitz
313-268-0319
pastor@clcduluth.org

President
Mike Pickar
651-338-4171

Deacon Chair
Gary Lofald
218-590-8217

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

Wed. Bible Study
6:30 PM

Council Meeting
2nd Thur. at 6:30 PM

Food Share:
4th Thur.
11:30 AM -12:30 PM

Esther Circle
1st Thur. at 10:00 AM

AA
Mondays at 6:30 PM

Is It Enough to BE Religious?

“Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, ‘Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious.’” (Acts 17:22)

Is it enough for any one of us to be “religious”? We find a stunning answer to that very question in the Book of Acts. The Apostle Paul was visiting the city of Athens, and as he walked along its streets he saw many statutes of gods and goddesses and as many altars on which the so-called faithful brought their sacrifices. All of these were symbols of pagan worship. To be “pagan” meant that one didn’t believe in religion or one would worship more than one god (polytheism). Pagans understand deity to be shown within nature itself and recognize divinity as taking many forms, thus gods and goddesses.

When Paul came to that part of the city where students of art, literature and philosophy would gather together, he went up to Mars Hill, and began to speak: ***“Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.” (ACTS 17:22-23)***

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Paul proclaimed to them the God whom they can know, namely, the God of ***“every nation”*** who had revealed Himself in the life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Paul pointed them away from their gods of silver, gold, precious metals, TO THE God and Father of all men whose love embraces ALL. In other words, Paul preached the Gospel which God had commissioned him to proclaim!

That many understood what he was saying is evident from their reaction, for we are told that some mocked what Paul was saying. But Paul was faithful to God; Paul trusted God; Paul relied on God! Merely being “religious” is not enough. The object of our worship and praise MUST ALWAYS be the God and Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ – who has called us to be His children through the work of the Holy Spirit.

What about us? Are we merely “religious” – going through the motions prescribed by rituals, living our lives that just measure up to the requirements of respectability? Or are we really children of God, trusting, believing, relying daily in His mercy and grace revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer? Let us answer the call in our lives, living for Jesus Christ, living for His glory and spreading the Good News of the Gospel to a world which so desperately needs it.

Lord, let me never be content with being “religious.” But, let my faith be firmly grounded in the truths of Holy Scripture and firmly in Jesus Christ, my Lord, and let Him shine bright in my living this Christian life. Amen.

Pastor Mark Raitz

Assisting with February Ministry

February 2

Ushers: Grace W., Carolyn L., Mark Y., Keith Y.

Scripture Reader: Aaron M.

Communion Assistant: Jim C., Birdie M.

Trustees: Wendy & Sharon

February 9

Usher: Mike & Wendy P.

Scripture Reader: Jim C.

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

February 16

Ushers: Bill & Jan A., Carolyn L., Jim C.

Scripture Reader: Mark W.

Communion Assistant: Dave S., Gabe W.

Trustees: Julie & Laurie

February 23

Ushers: Jim C., Mark Y.

Scripture Reader: Danielle M.

Trustees: Grace & Bill

Coffee/Fellowship Servers & Helpers

February 2	Birthday Donuts/Council
February 9	Esther Circle
February 16	Volunteers
February 23	Esther Circle

Livestream Operators

February 2	Keith L.
February 9	Gary L.
February 16	Gary L.
February 23	Keith L.

Financial Update

December Income: \$13,186.00

December Expenses: \$13,837.22

Monthly income was under expenses by \$651.22

YTD Income: \$133,433.00

YTD Expenses: \$122,346.33

YTD income was over expenses by \$11,086.67

December Mission

ALTS: \$1,235.00

Full financial reports are available in the office upon request



Sunday services are livestreamed on our Facebook page:

Christ Lutheran Church Duluth at 9:30 AM

You can also log onto our website clcduluth.org



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

- Esther Circle meets on the first Thursday of the month at 10 AM at church.
- Band of Brothers meets every Wednesday at 7 AM at Caribou Coffee by Cub Foods.
- Quilting Tuesday, February 11 at 9 AM. Bring a bag lunch.
- Wednesday night Bible studies at 6:30 PM.
- Upcoming Services for Lent: Ash Wednesday-Mar. 5th, Wednesday Lenten Services, Maundy Thursday-Apr. 17th, Good Friday-Apr. 18th, and Easter Sunday-Apr. 20th - watch for times and services in our March Messenger!
- CAIN's **Jesus Music Tour** is coming to the Northland on April 25! contact Gary Lofald if you are interested in attending.

We celebrated the first evening of our 29th Annual Father Daughter Ball on January 25th. We had 405 guests purchase tickets. The evening went very well. Pastor Mark gave a wonderful message for our guests. We hope we didn't overwhelm him with having to speak in front of that many people! We prayed for him! We are thankful that Marianne came down to help us too. Our DJ, Derrick Ellis has made the decision to not be a DJ anymore. We wished him well. We ask for prayers that our new DJ, Mark Cpin, will fit right in where Derrick has left off. He has DJ'd the Father Daughter Ball in Two Harbors for many years, an event that our FDB Committee helped Two Harbors start, as our mission is to encourage fathers to be intentional in their relationship with their daughter(s) and in their role to lead their family. We will give you a full report in the March Messenger. As of this writing, we have just shy of 600 tickets sold for February 8th, two hundred more attendees than our first night! To God be the Glory!!!!



February Maintenance Report

We are thankful that the weather has been fairly mild and there are no new items that need attention. We were able to cross a couple of items off the list. Due to the busyness with the Father Daughter Ball, a few things were placed on the back burner.

We were able to do some touch-up painting and are working on the mopboard in fellowship hall.

The new closet door and hanging rack for the parsonage front hall are here. We appreciate Pastor and Marianne's patience in getting that done. Praying that it will all fit well.

We have contacted a gentleman to refinish portions of the altar that have peeling varnish. We will see how to fit that into the calendar and how long the repair will take.

We are still wanting to add a track rack to hang by our back door for our visitors and parishioners.

We are waiting to hear back from Arrow Lift in regard to scheduling our load test for the elevator.

MN Power has now installed the light to illuminate the bottom part of our parking lot. The extra lighting is great!

We are still looking into some ring cameras and the WiFi throughout the church.

The Styrofoam is now installed in the kitchen exhaust fans. If you need to use the fans, please contact me so we can take them down. They are working well to keep the cold out of the kitchen!

Please bring to my attention anything you feel needs addressing so we are able to take care of it. We are so blessed with a beautiful church home and grounds and are thankful for the blessings God has bestowed on us!

In Christ,

Carolyn Lofald – VP/Maintenance Chair

A NEW Photo Directory is coming soon.

**Please submit photos to the church email -
church@clcduluth.org**

A Note to Thank you

A special thank you to my Christ Lutheran Church family for the special gifts, the card, cookies, calendar, lotion, chapstick, and special visit from Pastor Mark Raitz and Jim Carlson.

All so much appreciated.

Love

Carol Sogard



January Food Share Report

Even though the weather was cold and blustery on January 23rd, we did have some families bear the cold and 28 bags of groceries were handed out. We made up 41 bags and the content cost came to \$17.61 per bag. We had tuna and tuna helper, chicken noodle soup and crackers, mac & cheese, a box of cereal, canned fruit, and canned vegetables. Those that had children also received a craft bag for each child and we did have a few birthday bags that were given out too! We did not give out gift cards this month. We thank you for supporting this mission and our families are so thankful for your contributions. We thank Gary Glad for stepping in to help us hand out bags too!

DONATIONS NEEDED

Please bring a box of cereal for the monthly food share. Cash donations are always appreciated!



**Food Share: Thursday, Feb. 27
from 11:30-12:30**

February Mission of the Month: The AALC

Three characteristics have described The American Association of Lutheran Churches from the start:
CONFESSING, CARING, and CALLING.

Confessing

We believe that God has saved us by grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from any of our own works. Martin Luther called this, "the chief article of the whole Christian faith."

The Bible alone is the source of our theology and doctrine. We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. It is the indisputable authority and rule in all faith and life. The Holy Bible has greater authority than our feelings, our understanding, our culture, or our comforts. Simply stated, it is God's Word.

Caring

By the grace of God, we are growing and planting new churches. But no matter how large we grow, we are committed to being honest and gracious in our relationships among ourselves and with others. We take seriously the biblical command to be "diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

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 the globe.

God is blessing our beloved body of churches and calling new people to "walk together" with us every day.

This is where we stand:

- We believe we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- We believe the Holy Bible is God's infallible, inerrant Word.
- We accept the Lutheran Confessions because they are the right interpretation of the Holy Scripture.
- We are a church body that counts every pastor and congregation as precious.

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."

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. Hebrews 4:16

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: The AALC

Please Pray for Those with Health Needs:

Jean Clark
Vi Boder
Florence Kubiak
Jane McLean
Luanne Wachula

Carol Sogard
Donna Swanson
The Lund Family
Laura Cruz
Brian MacDonald
Norma Johnson

Mary Jenny
Mark Malander
Michael Wilson
Janice Peterson
David Wood

If there are any people who have been accidently overlooked, please contact the church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS AND PLANTS

All are welcome to place fresh flowers or floral plants on the church altar for a Sunday service. It can be for a memoriam, tribute, celebration, or just because. We need to know at least 2 weeks before you would like to place them -unless they are from a funeral.

Please call the church office to get more information. Thank you!

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