



# ***Christ's Messenger***

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The American Association of Lutheran

## **JANUARY 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

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

**Deacon Chair**  
Gary Lofald  
218-590-8217

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

**Wednesday Bible Study starting soon**

**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 PASTOR'S DESK**

It was during one of the many wars of ancient Greece. A small army was in hopeless retreat. Greatly outnumbered and unable to hold back the enemy that was advancing against them, the disorganized band of only a few hundred managed to make its way through a narrow mountain pass.

Once on the other side of the pass, their commander shouted a new order to them. "STAND! From here we can deal with the enemy." He further explained: "No matter how many men they have, they must come through the narrow passageway of that pass. They must come to us one by one – and one by one we shall conquer."

The Captain of our salvation tells us something very similar as we enter into a New Year of 2025 – the old year passes and a new year begins. Beyond the pass, in the old year that is hidden from our view, lie the problems and complexities that we faced.

Our hearts and minds struggle with the thought of another new year of unknowns, hard tasks, heavy responsibilities, and difficult decisions. In our human weakness we can be overwhelmed by the various possibilities of the unknown year that lies beyond our view.

But, thank God, EACH of those moments is in the hand of our gracious God, and He is going to let them come to us one by one. And with each moment will come the needed grace and power. He has promised that as our days, so shall our strength be. (Deuteronomy 33:25b)

We have the assurance that each moment of the coming new year will find us equipped with the amount of strength that will be necessary to bear its burden, to endure its trial, and to fight its battle through.

And so as we stand at the pass of this new year, let us not be frightened by the overwhelming greatness of its possibilities, but let us rather find comfort and strength in the knowledge that in God's good knowledge and protection ALL the moments of the new year will be coming single file – one moment at a time. And for each moment His needed grace will be supplied. St. Paul says in Philippians 4:19 – ***“And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”***

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## Assisting with January Ministry

### January 5

**Ushers:** Wendy P., Carolyn L., Mark Y., Jim C.

**Scripture Reader:** Keith Y.

**Communion Assistant:** Mike P., Birdie M.

### January 12

**Usher:** Jim C., Grace W.

**Scripture Reader:** Gary L.

### January 19

**Ushers:** Mike & Wendy P., Bill & Jan A.

**Scripture Reader:** Dave S.

**Communion Assistant:** Keith Y., Gabe W.

### January 26

**Ushers:** Jim C., Mark Y.

**Scripture Reader:** Sandy C.

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

## Financial Update

November Income: \$12,776.00

November Expenses: \$11,253.41

Monthly income was over  
expenses by \$152.59

YTD Income: \$120,247.00

YTD Expenses: \$108,509.11

YTD income was over  
expenses by \$11,737.89

November Mission

Youth for Christ: \$865.00

Denfeld Girls Basketball: \$150.00

Hurricane Relief: \$1,650.00

Full financial reports are available  
in the office upon request



## Coffee/Fellowship Servers & Helpers

**January 5** Birthday Donuts/Council

**January 12** Esther Circle

**January 19** Volunteers

**January 26** Esther Circle

## Livestream Operators

**January 5** Keith L.

**January 12** Gary L.

**January 19** Gary L.

**January 26** Keith L.

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](http://clcduluth.org)



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



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*God does not lead me year by year nor even day by day;  
But step by step my path unfolds as He directs my way.  
Tomorrow's plans I do not know: I only know this hour  
And Him who bids me walk each step supported by His power.  
And I am glad that it is so: Today's enough to bear.  
And when tomorrow comes, His grace will far exceed my care.  
What need to worry then or fret? My Lord, who gave His Son,  
Holds all my moments in His hand and gives them one by one.*

Let us, then, not try to live tomorrow today. We do not have to fear the unknown, because our God, the All-Wise, the Almighty, the Eternal – with whom there are no yesterdays and with whom there are no tomorrows – has gone ahead and when we reach our own tomorrow, we will find Him there! A Blessed New Year of 2025!

Pastor Raitz

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### **UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS**

- Installation of 2025 officers and altar guild will be on January 12.
- 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.
- Esther Circle is still collecting hats, mittens, & scarves for Piedmont Elementary School.
- Quilting Tuesday, January 14 at 9 AM. Bring a bag lunch.
- Look for Wednesday night Bible studies to start soon!

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### **COOKIE UPDATE!**

Our Spritz Cookie making went very well. We had a wonderful group of volunteers and our custodian took time off from work to help out, too. We were mentored by Glen and Don who have perfected the squeezing technique. We were baking all day Tuesday, December 10th and again the morning of the 11th then in the afternoon we completed all the wrapping to fill our orders for 262 packages. We also donated cookies to the shut-ins, our Pastor & Marianne, Judi, and Gary Glad. Of course, our bakers had to sample some of the cookies too! All in all, we made well over 6500 cookies! Volunteers got together two Sunday's ago and made decisions to bless many organizations with our earnings. A total of \$3225.00 was donated to various missions and \$3000.00 was set aside for the air conditioning units that were approved by our congregation at our annual meeting. A full list of donations is available in the office. Thanks to all that volunteered and those that purchased cookies. It is a wonderful to work together for the common goal to bless others outside and within our church.

## DEACON REPORT

We are so thankful for Pastor Mark and his willingness to provide our Advent and two Christmas Services for us. They were well attended and he had great messages. He has been leading us on Sunday morning Bible Studies through the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and presenting the uniqueness of their writing styles. We will be starting our Wednesday evening Bible studies soon; listen for the announcement.

Pastor Mark will also be starting a confirmation class for two of our youth. If you have neighbor or family member that would be interested in attending, they would be welcome.

Pastor Mark has been able to visit with many of our shut-ins and give communion. He plans to visit them at least once a month. He has also offered to help our area funeral home directors by performing funerals for families that do not have a church or pastor to share the message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our deacons were out visiting our shut-ins at Christmas, too and brought them gift bags from the church. We always enjoy our visits with them. We encourage you to send cards and or pay them a visit – it is very much appreciated. They miss being at Christ Lutheran with their church family.

On behalf of our Deacons, we wish all of you a very blessed and healthy New Year!

Gary Lofald, Deacon Chair

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## JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

### Father Daughter Ball

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. This ministry is specifically intended for fathers (and father figures) to strengthen their relationships with their daughter(s). It also provides an excellent opportunity for fathers to show their daughter(s) what a dating experience should be. These precious moments will always be cherished in both your hearts!

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."

The 29th Annual Father Daughter Ball will be held on January 25 and February 8, 2025 at the DECC. Cost of the tickets was increased this year to \$35.00 due to the increase in food prices. We are looking forward to another year filled with many memories and God's blessings!



## JANUARY MAINTENANCE REPORT

Winter is now upon us. We will be having Peterson Excavating plowing our parking lot for us again this year. Thankful that the Piedmont Dental Office takes care of the plowing expenses during the workweek. Their donation goes right into our parking lot fund. Peterson will also plow the parsonage driveway for us if needed at a cost of \$30.00 per time. Thank you to Gary L. for finding a used electric start snowblower for us and fixing a few small items and to Jim Carlson for snow blowing for us. Gary G. has also been shoveling the walks for us too as needed. So thankful that we have the heated slab at the lower level entrance.

These are a few items still on the "to do" list for winter.

- Basement Janitor closet doors
- Vinyl base repair in Fellowship Hall
- Grout repair in upstairs bathroom floor tile
- Base and mopboard areas need touch up

We have ordered a new closet door and hanging rack for the parsonage front hall and will get that installed.

The relay for the parsonage boiler pump has now been replaced as it had been making noise. It malfunctioned on Thanksgiving, but is working well now. Comfort Systems was at the parsonage on December 16, and installed a new water meter.

We will have the top portion of our altar refinished as the varnish is peeling. As you may remember, the fire may have contributed to these issues. There are some base and mopboard areas in the church that need some touch up, too. We will get this scheduled now. The trustees have approved the repair.

We also are looking into a tract rack to hang by the back door for our visitors and parishioners to take for Biblical insight into daily life.

Our church boilers had their annual inspection on December 11. The #1 boiler Breather on Condesate was leaking. They were able to clear the line and stop the small leak. Boiler #2 checked out fine.

The Narthex east side Trane ceiling heater was having vibration noises from the belt driven fans. The metal corners had worn. ASP repaired with zip ties. These are probably the original fans. They are still heating well.

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

MN Power will be installing another light on the lot pole to illuminate the lower part of our parking lot.

Mike Pickar is looking into some ring cameras and the WiFi throughout the church.

If you find there is an area that needs addressing, please bring it to my attention. We are so blessed with a beautiful church home and grounds and are thankful to God for all that we have.

The Esther Circle will be taking down the Christmas decorations after Epiphany Sunday. Everything was so beautifully decorated.

A very Blessed New Year to all!

In Christ,

Carolyn Lofald – VP/Maintenance Chair

To members of Christ Lutheran Church, a short summary of my recent illnesses.

First pneumonia then a stroke which robbed me of my strength. I had to work much harder to get my strength back. Pressure wound to my big toe, blister to my heel. It was overwhelming.

Thanks to all the people who visited, brought gifts, or just visited, prayed for me. I have so much to be thankful for this holiday season. The Lord saved me twice.

Thanks be to God.

David Wood

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Christ Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the Duluth Area Tema, I sincerely thank you for the show-box gifts you lovingly and generously prepared for Operation Christmas Child this year. Each gift is a tangible expression of God's love and is delivered with a clear presentation of the Gospel message. We thank God for what He will do through the more than 8,200 shoe-boxes collected in our area.

May God bless you and your ministry!

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To everyone at Christ Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the Super One gift card you gave me at Christmas, and also the Christmas cards from so many of you!

Looking forward to serving the Lord together with you in 2025!

Judi Morgan

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### **CLC FOOD SHARE REPORT**

The Evangelism Committee was able to bless many area residents with 49 bags of groceries on December 19th. The December bags contained pancake mix, syrup, a box of Au Gratin potatoes a pound of fresh carrots, grape jelly, peanut butter, a can of pears, a can of corn, and a box of chocolate pudding. The contents cost of each bag was \$17.83. These families also received a \$20.00 gift card to help with their Christmas dinner expenses. We thank Don and Priscilla Olson for getting this mission off the ground and we thank our congregation for their continued monetary contributions. The recipients are so appreciative and we were able to pray with many. The Evangelism committee made up 24 craft bags for the children which contained a few snacks, a color book and crayons, and a craft. They also made birthday bags which contain a box of cake mix, frosting, a can of 7-up, candles, a birthday card and a recipe to make the cake with the 7-up.



### **DONATIONS NEEDED**

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

Food Share: Thursday, January 23 from 11:30-12:30

Thank you for supporting this ministry.

## **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	Pastor Yount and his ministry in Slovakia
Dr. Cary Larson & the AALC	The steadfastness of our faith
The ministry at Union Gospel Mission	Persecuted Christians throughout the world
Students and Teachers from pre-k to college	Mission of the Month: Father Daughter Ball
Our country, military & police	

Please Pray for Those with Health Needs:

Jean Clark	Carol Sogard	Mary Jenny
Vi Boder	Donna Swanson	Mark Malander
Florence Kubiak	The Lund Family	Michael Wilson
Jane McLean	Laura Cruz	Janice Peterson
Luanne Wachula	Brian MacDonald	David Wood
Bryan White	Norma Johnson	Lynn Erickson

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

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## **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!

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## *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 Pashke	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