

Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
The American Association of
Lutheran Churches



APRIL 2025

**Christ Lutheran
Church**

2415 Ensign St
Duluth MN 55811
clcduluth.org

Church Office
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Pastor Mark Raitz
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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

Bought - for a Purpose

"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:20)

A visitor had attended the instructional meetings of a large assembly of church laity. At the conclusion of these meetings he was asked for his reaction to the instruction. He thought about his words carefully and said, "I will not believe in the Redeemer of these people until they have shown me that they have been redeemed."

This man was clearly outspoken and skeptical, but this reaction should cause each of us to seriously think about what he said. It is possible for us to speak so much about redemption - that we forget that we have been redeemed - redeemed to be God's own child.

The word "redeem," literally, means to **"buy back."** The Lord who made us, and from whom we stray away by the fact that we are sinners, has bought us back by paying the ultimate price through the perfect life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ - all on our behalf. That is why Peter tells us that we are a **"purchased people"** - purchased for a purpose, namely, to live and to witness to the wonderful works of Him who bought us.

As a purchased people we belong to the Lord who paid the price of our redemption. Does this relationship become evident in our daily behavior, in our family life, at our church activities? Do we really **walk** as Christ's redeemed or do we merely talk about His great redemption?

It is good to read the full context of this passage: Paul writes: ***"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)*** Truly we have been redeemed, by the Savior and Redeemer we walk with in the Lenten season. Holy Week will be upon us soon and together, we observe services remembering Jesus' death on Calvary and celebrating His glorious resurrection! Praise be to God! Let us sing with the hymn writer:

Lord of Glory who has bought us With Thy life-blood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
May our lives show forth Thy praises, May they tell Thy wondrous love,
May we live for Thee, Thee only Till we reach our home above.

Assisting with April Ministry

April 2 - Lenten Service

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

April 6

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

Scripture Reader: Dave S.

Communion Assistant: Gary L., Gabe W.

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

April 9 - Lenten Service

Trustees: Julie & Laurie

April 13

Ushers: Bill & Jan A., Grace W., Carolyn L.

Scripture Reader: Mark W.

Communion Assistant: Dave S., Birdie M.

Trustees: Julie & Laurie

April 17 - Maundy Thursday

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn L., Jim C.

Scripture Reader: Dave S.

Communion Assistant: Keith Y., Birdie M.

Trustees: Bill & Grace

April 18 - Good Friday

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn L.

Scripture Reader: Jim C., Dave S., Gary L.

Trustees: Bill & Grace

April 20

Ushers: Grace W., Mark Y.

Scripture Reader: Aaron M.

Communion Assistant: Jim C., Gabe W.

Trustees: Bill & Grace

April 27

Ushers: Bill & Jan A., Mark Y., Keith Y.

Scripture Reader: Jim C.

Communion Assistant: Gary L., Birdie M.

Trustees: Wendy & Sharon

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

Financial Update

February Income: \$27,628.00

February Expenses: \$11,346.46

Monthly income was over
expenses by \$16,281.54

YTD Income: \$36,429.36

YTD Expenses: \$23,791.78

YTD income was over
expenses by \$12,637.58

February Missions:

AALC: \$870.00

Full financial reports are available
in the office upon request



Coffee/Fellowship Servers & Helpers

April 6	Birthday Donuts/Council
April 13	Esther Circle
April 20	Youth
April 27	Esther Circle

Livestream Operators

April 6	Keith L.
April 13	Keith L.
April 20	Keith L.
April 27	Keith L.

UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

- April 13 - Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast following the morning service.
- April 17 Maundy Thursday - Supper at 5:00 PM Service at 6:30 PM.
- April 18 Good Friday Service at 6:30 PM.
- April 20 Easter Worship at 9:30 AM.
- 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.
- CAIN's **Jesus Music Tour** is coming to the Northland on April 25! contact Gary Lofald if you are interested in attending.

APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH: AALC YOUTH CONFERENCE

July 14-18, 2025, presents the opportunity for congregations across The AALC to send their youth to the National AALC Youth Conference where youth feel safe to express their faith. There will be five days of God-filled opportunities to learn more about Christ and all his wonderful works and love for us. Youth will meet others from across the country and share their walk with Christ. The event will equip youth with faith-based responses to the daily challenges of growing up in an ever-changing world.

If you have ever wondered if there was value in sending your youth members to the National Conference, let this serve as a promise to you that love will abound with Christ at the center. Send your youth to the 2025 Youth Conference at the YMCA of the Rockies, and you will be preparing them to face the challenges of the world with faith in Christ.

Please prayerfully consider a donation to this month's chosen mission. You may make checks payable to Christ Lutheran Church. Thank you for your support in our mission "To know Christ and to make Him known."



NEW! ONLINE GIVING OPTION

Our Church Council made the decision to add online giving. This option is an alternative way to make an offering and donation.

We chose to go with VANCO, a well-established company. This additional way of sending an offering and other donations is used by many churches today. It will not replace our current system of placing your offering into the collection plate as you enter the sanctuary, but is another option for giving. A "DONATE" button has been added to our church website. Clicking the button will take you to the donation page. A QR code may also be scanned with your cell phone which will take you to our donate page. Donations may be made to our Food Share and the Mission of the Month along with your regular offering if you wish. There is a small fee associated with the online giving which can be covered by the giver. There is a 1% fee if you donate with your checking or a 2.9% fee if you choose to use a debit or credit card. Please contact Sandy Carlson or a Council member if you have questions.

Our Church Council is very thankful for the faithful financial support of our members.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

We're looking forward to spring and our Esther Circle will soon be prepping the gardens for planting. We will be doing some clean up of the grounds and applying some weed-n-feed to the lawn when the time comes.

Our service contract for the elevator came due March 1st and was paid. Our church building insurance comes due May 1. We will be reviewing that in April. We are still looking into Ring cameras and the Wi-Fi throughout the church. We are planning to have the altar refinished after Easter. We installed conduit in fellowship hall to house the cords around the double doors for the sound system. The base that was missing in fellowship hall has been installed. Just a reminder, the Styrofoam is installed in the church overhead kitchen exhaust fans. If you need to use the fans, please contact me so we can take them down. They continue to work well to keep the cold out of the kitchen! We now have a regularly scheduled pick-up of our 6-yard dumpster with Hartel's. This will be the second Tuesday of each month.

The new appliances that Pastor and Marianne ordered and bought were delivered and installed in the parsonage. The old ones had been there for quite some time and needed to be updated. They are keeping the old refrigerator. The stove and microwave were donated to the Salvation Army. The dishwasher was not functioning well and was scraped. We will be replacing the blinds in the basement bedroom of the parsonage.

Please contact me if you note something needs attention or repair. We thank God for blessing us with a beautiful home to worship Him in and are thankful that He provides for all of our needs.

May You have a Blessed Easter!

FOOD SHARE REPORT

As our March Messenger was sent out early, we were not able to give you our report for our February Food Share. We had packed up 25 bags for February at a cost of \$12.72 per bag. We included spaghetti sauce with meat, noodles, and a small parmesan cheese as the main meal. We had 13 bags left over from January, so all totaled we gave out all 40 bags! One family came late so we quickly put together a few odds and ends items from the our food pantry.

In March, we packed 48 bags. Our main meal was canned chicken, chicken helper, a jar of cinnamon applesauce, and a can of green beans. We gave out jars of peanut butter and jelly, mac & cheese, and a box of Honey Nut Cheerios, too. We make a point to include items for breakfast, lunch and supper in each bag. The cost for each of these bags was \$17.10 a piece. We handed out invitations with our Lenten service times. Evangelism made up craft bags and 14 of those were handed out with a few birthday cake bags, too. We have 13 bags left over to hand out in April which will be on April 17, Maundy Thursday. We will plan to make up 48 bags again and give out gift cards to Aldi so they can purchase their Easter ham or meat of their choice.

These families thank everyone for their generosity. We thank you for your continued support of this mission. God bless you as you bless others with your kindness.

April Food Share
Food Share: Thursday, April 17
from 11:30-12:30

PLEASE PRAY FOR....

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy

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: AALC Youth Conference
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
Steven Moe	Norma Johnson	Janice Elting

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



Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the family and friends of Pat Paszak, Laurie Wiita's mother, who passed away March 27, 2025.

EASTER FLOWERS

Please drop flowers off the morning of April 18 between 8:30-12:30 or April 19 between 10 AM and noon. 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

Gary Lofald	April 5
Ethan Wiita	April 17
Don Olson	April 20
Grace Wells	April 29

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