



Christ's Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The American Association of Lutheran Churches

MAY 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

Christ Defeated...the Enemy!

"And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.'" (St. Mark 16:5-6)

There is a story that is told of long ago: when the Battle of Waterloo was being fought, the people of England were dependent on a system of semaphore signals to learn of the news of battle which was being waged fiercely on the opposite side of the channel - against Napoleon Bonaparte. One of these signals was on the tower of Winchester Cathedral.

Late in the day it flashed the disheartening signal: **"Wellington defeated."** Precisely at that moment, one of those sudden English clouds of fog hid the signal, and the entire countryside was launched into a deep despair. Once the fog lifted, the remainder of the message became clearly visible: **"Wellington defeated...the enemy!"** Within a few seconds sorrow was turned to joy, and defeat was actually a victory!

After the death and burial of Jesus, His disciples were living in a moment of defeat and despair. Their Master, their Teacher, their Lord was now dead and buried, and they were hiding for fear that the Jewish leaders would come for them, and do to them what they had just done to Jesus. Their faith was shattered, and they were not certain of what they would do next in their lives. All they knew was the disheartened message: **"Christ defeated!"**

But on that first Easter morning, as the sun rose, the traces of the defeated death of Jesus was lifted, and the full message could be read: **"Christ defeated . . . the enemy!"** The angel that appeared where the body of Jesus was laid, gave a message of joy, a message of victory to the faithful women coming to the tomb that morning. **HE IS RISEN!** What words of unspeakable victory, hope and joy. Jesus said this would happen, He would suffer, and die, AND that He would rise again!

In the women and in the disciples, unbelief was turned into belief, lack of faith was turned into strength of faith. His victory over death and the grave was theirs, and it is also ours! Our Savior, our Redeemer completed the work He was sent to do. He has given us salvation, forgiveness and strength for the lives that we live! We are all washed clean of sin in His atoning blood, and have victorious hope of the treasures of a heavenly home he has prepared for us!

Live in His victory! Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Rev Mark Raitz

Assisting with May Ministry

May 4

Ushers: Grace W., Mark Y., Jim C.

Scripture Reader: Sandy C.

Communion Assistant: Keith Y., Gabe W.

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

May 11

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn L.

Scripture Reader: Dave S.

Trustees: Julie & Laurie

May 18

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

Scripture Reader: Gary L.

Communion Assistant: Mike P., Birdie M.

Trustees: Bill & Grace

May 25

Ushers: Mike & Wendy P.

Scripture Reader: Ilya M.

Trustees: Wendy & Sharon

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

Financial Update

Monthly income is under expenses
by \$2,670.10.

YTD income is over expenses by
\$9,233.12.

YTD expenses are under budget by
\$4,022.32.

March Missions:

KDNW Radio: \$490.00

Full financial reports are available
in the office upon request



Coffee/Fellowship Servers & Helpers

May 4	Birthday Donuts/Council
May 11	Esther Circle
May 18	Youth
May 25	Esther Circle

Livestream Operators

May 4	Gary
May 11	Keith
May 18	Keith
May 25	Gary

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 Chick-fil-A by the mall.
- Wednesday Night Bible study meets at 6:30 PM



**May Food Share Thursday, May 22
from 11:30-12:30**

FOOD SHARE REPORT

As we mentioned last Messenger, we had 13 bags of groceries left over from March. For April we made up another 48 bags that we distributed on April 17, Maundy Thursday. As we wanted to bless those that came with an Easter meal, each bag contained a box of scalloped potatoes, ingredients for pistachio dessert, 2# of fresh carrots and a \$20.00 gift card to Aldi to purchase their ham or other items they may have needed for that meal. As we also want to provide something for a lunch and a breakfast meal, we included a box of Mac & Cheese (.83 cents a box) and a box of pancake mix and a bottle of syrup (\$5.48 combined). The total contents of each bag came to \$18.09. If a family had more than four members, we gave them an additional bag that was left over from last month – all of which are nonperishable. All total we gave out 52 bags of groceries in April. (We have 9 left)

These families were so grateful and some asked us to pray with them. Pastor Mark was there to honor their request. Having him here with us is such a blessing! One lady brought us some t-shirts last month and asked us to please give them to someone that could use them. We took those down to MN Adult and Teen Challenge and they were very grateful. She inquired about those shirts this time and was so pleased to hear that they were given to such a good cause.

Evangelism gave out craft bags that included an Easter Craft, a plastic egg with a treat inside, an Easter coloring sheet and a snack bag of Goldfish. We had some egg coloring kits too that we handed out. Each family was also given an invitation card with our church service times and information on it. We gave out 7 birthday bags too!

It is such an honor and gift to share these bags of food with those in need and show God's love to them; many of whom are regulars. Thank you for your contributions so we are able to continue fulfilling this mission blessing!

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.

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.



MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH: FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

Fellowship of Christian Athletes focuses on serving local communities around the globe by engaging, equipping and empowering coaches and athletes to unite, inspire and change the world through the gospel.

FCA works to connect individuals through events in many different environments, building genuine trust and sharing the gospel. They strive to connect with coaches and athletes where they are on their spiritual journey. After cultivating relationships and seeing coaches and athletes come to faith in Christ, they want to equip them with Christ-centered training, events, resources, and on-going support in what it means to be a follower of Christ, growing in God's Word and applying it to life.

Once equipped, they empower faithful leaders who desire to use their time, talents and treasures to help other coaches and athletes experience the gospel, grow in their faith and share Him with others. FCA wants to develop disciples who make disciples, assisting them so that they can in turn engage, equip and empower others to know and grow in Christ and lead others to do the same.

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."

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Mr. Jim Carlson has the lawn mower ready to go and we will be addressing lawn and soccer field clean up at our council meeting. The Esther Circle will be preparing the gardens for planting. Our parking lot will need to be swept and we may fill in a few more cracks and holes. We are trying to keep the lot patched and cared for as best we can until we are able to have it redone.

We are still looking into the purchase of Ring cameras and the Wi-Fi throughout the church. We will be purchasing a new router for better reception.

We are planning to have the altar refinished in the near future.

The Styrofoam has been removed from the kitchen fans. The kitchen convection oven has been cleaned and the awful noise it made upon starting up has been remediated. Thank you Gary Lofald!

We are preparing the electrical boxes at the church to accommodate the air conditioning units that we approved at our annual meeting. We are all ready at the parsonage to just install the unit.

We have installed a new mini blind in the basement bedroom at the parsonage.

There are a few things on our to-do list that we would like to get accomplished this spring and summer:

Regrouting the outside edge of the tile in the upstairs bathroom.

Giving the library a refresh and painting the walls.

Repairing the retaining walls at the parsonage.

Addressing some drainage issues at both the parsonage and the church to reroute the rain gutter water.

We are looking into installing some sort of patio area at the back entrance of the parsonage.

We are looking forward to spring and summer! Please contact me if you note something needs attention or repair. We welcome volunteers to help! We thank God for blessing us as he provides for all our needs.

God's blessings on your Spring!

Carolyn Lofald – VP/Maintenance Chair

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:
Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Please Pray for Those with Health Needs:		
Jean Clark	Florence Kubiak	Mary Jenny
Vi Boder	Donna Swanson	Mark Malander
Carol Sogard	The Lund Family	Michael Wilson
Jane McLean	Luanne Wachula	Janice Peterson
Laura Cruz	Norma Johnson	Brian MacDonald
Steven Moe		

If there are any people who have been accidentally 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!



Thank you church family for thinking of me on Administrative Professional's Day!

Judi

*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*

Happy Birthday!

Valery Petrowske	May 9
Marianne Raitz	May 19
Lynn Erickson	May 22

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