

CHRIST'S MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

To know Christ and to make Him known

February 2026

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)

To be a Christian is knowing with confident assurance that you are a child of God. When you were baptized, you were marked with the sign of the holy cross, both upon your forehead and your heart, marking you as redeemed by Christ the crucified. This began a spiritual journey filled with the blessings and promises of Almighty God, a lifetime of growth, a lifetime of commitment, a lifetime of being a living witness to the work of Jesus Christ and His salvation. What you say, what you think, how you act, your character and behavior reflect Christ – bringing glory to Him.

While there are many blessings that come with being a child of God, there is also struggle, heartache, battles that you become involved in, because of sin. You confess in the Divine Service, "I am by nature sinful and unclean. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart, I have not loved my neighbor as myself." You are not perfect, because the Law of God shows you that you are a sinner. You ask for God's mercy, His forgiveness, because you know you need a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

There is however, one who will stand in your way, one who is a predator seeking to hunt you down, to kill and destroy you, and that is the devil. He is a powerful enemy, a mighty adversary, a murderer from the beginning.

Just as the roaring of a lion is intended to terrorize and intimidate other animals, as he goes ahead to seek out his prey, making them cower in fear and cringing in helplessness, the devil will make use of similar tactics against you, a Christian. The devil is evil, and every day he unleashes his evil intent against YOU. He seeks to devour you through doubt, through fear, through threats, through terrors, and through suffering. He intends to plunge you into destruction, into eternal destruction.

Luther says, "For the devil is a furious enemy . . . he prowls and moves about on all sides. He tries every trick and does not stop until he finally wears us out, so that we either renounce our faith or throw up our hands and put up our feet, becoming indifferent or impatient." (Large Catechism)

Peter says to "Be sober, be vigilant." A Christian should always be alert, on guard, be attentive and not live a life of carelessness. The devil in the Garden of Eden, caused Eve to doubt what God had spoken, and she and Adam plunged this world into the darkness of sin which leads to death and hell. But God in His mercy immediately set forth His plan to defeat this enemy, by sending His only-begotten Son to come and to crush the devil's head, defeating him forever. Jesus was born becoming human like you, except without sin;

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Christ Lutheran Church

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

@ 11:15 AM

Wed. Bible Study

@ 6:30 PM

Council Meeting

2nd Thur. @ 6:30 PM

Food Share:

4th Thur. of the month

11:30 AM -12:30 PM

Esther Circle

First Thur. of the month @

10:00AM

AA

Mondays @ 6:30 PM

Assisting with February Ministry

February 1

Ushers: Carolyn L., Grace W., Mark Y., Keith Y.
Scripture Reader: Danielle M.
Communion Assistant: Mike P.
Livestream: Lydia W.
Coffee Server: Birthday Donuts

February 8

Ushers: Bill & Jan A.
Scripture Reader: Mark W.
Livestream: Keith L.
Coffee Server: Esther Circle

February 15

Ushers: Mike & Wendy P., Mark Y., Keith Y.
Scripture Reader: Sandy C.
Communion Assistant: Jim C.
Livestream: Gary L.
Coffee Server: Youth

February 18 - Ash Wednesday

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn L.
Scripture Reader: Pastor Mark

February 22

Ushers: Mark S., Jim C.
Scripture Reader: Mark W.
Livestream: Gary L.
Coffee Server: Esther Circle

February 25 - Lenten Service

Ushers: Jim C., Gary L.
Scripture Reader: Pastor Mark

Financial Update

December Monthly Income:
\$14,997.13
December Expenses: \$14,362.16
December income was over
expenses by \$634.97
YTD income is under expenses by
\$11,094.41
December Mission of the Month:
ALTS: \$860.00

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This Month Events

Talk To Us

218-722-7537
church@clcduluth.org
clcduluth.com
2415 Ensign Street
Duluth, MN 55811



Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, February 18
at 6:30 PM



Lenten Services
Begin Wednesday, February 25
Dinner at 5:15
Service at 6:30 PM

UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

- **SAVE THE DATE:** We are planning the 75th Anniversary of Christ Lutheran Church on September 12&13, 2026. Please share this information with your family and friends. We are working on a formal invitation and will have more information forthcoming.
- The 30th Anniversary of the Father Daughter Ball will be celebrated at the DECC on January 31 and February 7. Look for a full update in the March Messenger. Please keep this event in your prayers.
- Services for Ash Wednesday will be on February 18th at 6:30 PM.
- Volunteers are needed for the light meals served prior to Lenten services. Team up with a few friends and pick a night. There will be a sign-up sheet or you can call the office. Traditionally it has been called Soup Suppers, but feel free to pick your own menu. Keep it easy and light. The fellowship with our family of believers is amazing. Sandy Carlson is the point person, contact her if you have questions. Suppers will begin at 5:15 PM February 25. Lenten services will be at 6:30 PM.
- Pastor will be taking a week of vacation beginning February 8th. and will be gone for the week. Please contact one of our deacons if you are in need of anything during that time and they would be glad to assist you.
- Our congregation has been invited to attend the Youth For Christ Spring Gala on Thursday, March 5 at the Garden on Lake Avenue. YFC also serves Campus Life Clubs and the Juvenile Justice Ministry. The cost is \$40.00 per person and goes from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Bridgeman's will be hosting an ice cream social at the end of the evening. If you would like us to sponsor a table to sit together we would need to have your RSVP by February 22nd. Please contact Gary or Carolyn if you would like to attend.
- Esther Circle will meet the first Thursday of the month at 10 AM. in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome to join us for food, fellowship and our bible study.
- Band of Brothers meets every Wednesday at 7:00 AM at Chick-fil-A by the Mall.
- Band of Brothers breakfast Saturday, February 21 at 9 AM. Free-will offering accepted. All men are invited.
- We continue to have the first Sunday of the month as "Birthday Sunday". We would like to recognize you during your birthday month so please call the office to share that with us.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: THE AALC

The AALC The AALC is committed to being honest and gracious in our relationships and does so by Confessing, Caring, and Calling:

CONFESSING: The AALC believes that God has saved us by grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from any of our own works.

CARING: The AALC is a small but growing church body. This means every pastor and every congregation is dear to us. There are no disposable people here. We work hard to genuinely care for each pastor and every congregation in our Association.

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 America.

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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He was obedient to His Father's will in every way, and kept the Law of His Father perfectly, 100% - the Law which you cannot keep; He suffered, He was crucified and hung between heaven and earth for your sins, and died; then He rose mightily again sending the devil right back into the depths of hell. The cross of Christ indeed crushed the head of the devil beneath it, giving salvation to all who believe in this Gospel. Be sober, be vigilant – keeping your eyes on the cross of Christ. The cross IS the power of God, it gives strength to live the Christian life in faithfulness, in watchfulness, in victory. The devil will attack you every day, from every direction, his attacks come swift, come hard, and are intended to destroy your faith. So, child of God, remain alert, remain steadfast, unwavering, standing firm in the faith of Jesus Christ. You bear the mark of the cross, and thus you bear the power of Almighty God against all the devil's schemes. For faith clings to Christ and holds His Word close, knowing that one single word taken from God's eternal truth is sufficient to make the devil fall with all his power.

Though devils all the world should fill, All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill; They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him. (LSB #656:3)

MAINTENANCE REPORT

With the frigid weather, we are very thankful that the boilers are working well and the church is staying warm! Praise the Lord! Our yearly maintenance check is scheduled for February 5th.

The flooring was installed in the basement bathroom of the parsonage on January 20. Marianne and Pastor chose the pattern and it looks very nice. We are thankful that project is now complete!

The freon charge is still holding on our church double door refrigerator. We will continue to keep an eye on the temperature and will hold off on the purchase of a new unit until necessary.

Styrofoam insulation sheets have been installed in the kitchen exhaust fan above the ovens. If you need to use the ovens, please let us know so they can be removed. They are working nicely to keep the cold out. Also, on these cold days, please keep the doors open under the kitchen sink to help keep the pipes warm.

As a reminder, PLEASE DO NOT USE THE KITCHEN SINK TO RINSE OFF YOUR DISHES OR COFFEE GROUNDS - use the garbage disposal by the dishwasher. We have been having issues with the drain running slow and there is a lot of grease build up in the drain pipes.

**Keeping our "To-Do" list for future and spring:

- Removing the cracked grout and re-grouting the outside edge of the tile in the upstairs bathroom
- Plan for a deck or patio area at the back entrance of the parsonage
- Rebuild the retaining walls in the back and the front upper east side of the parsonage
- Addressing some drainage issues at the church to reroute the rain gutter water
- Washing windows at the parsonage and church

We thank our custodian, Gary Glad, for keeping our church clean and tidy. If you note something that needs attention, please make us aware. We are always looking for volunteers to help with our projects as many hands make for a lighter load. We are thankful for the tithes and offerings of our faithful parishioners. By sharing what God has entrusted to each of us, we are able to continue to pay the bills and keep our church thriving!

In Christ,
Carolyn Lofald, VP-Maintenance Chair

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Duluth Area Team, I sincerely thank you for the shoebox 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 almost 8,000 shoeboxes collected in our area. May God bless you and your ministry!
Christine Johnson
Duluth Area OCC Church Relations Team

To the CLC church family,
Thank you so much for your understanding, kindness and prayers during my stay with my mom in New Hampshire.
It was so evident that God was working through all the details of what was going on. Mom is doing well and has moved into an assisted living facility.

With gratefulness,
Judi Morgan

Dear Christ Lutheran Church,
On behalf of the Duluth Public Schools, we wish to thank you for the In-kind donation for Piedmont School of the Duluth Public School District. (gloves & hats)
The entire staff at the Duluth Public Schools works to inspire every student to achieve their potential, and prepare students to lead productive, fulfilling lives as citizens of Duluth and the wider world. Your thoughtfulness will help us in our efforts to provide the highest quality of education to our students. Thank you again for your generosity. It is truly appreciated.
Sincerely,
John Magas, Superintendent & Kelly Durick Eder, School Board Chair

Christ Lutheran,
Thank you so much for your generous gift to Youth for Christ in the amount of \$945! Your support means more than you know. Because of you, we're able to continue reaching students with the hope and love of Jesus in the Public schools and the juvenile detention center.
Your partnership encourages us deeply.
Erick Hermanson, Head of the Lakes YFC

Hi everyone,
I wanted to share something I'm really excited about. I'm going on a mission trip to Reynosa, Mexico to work at a children's home. While we are there, we help with a lot of different things. We do work projects like painting and remodeling the kid's houses. We also help make food and serve the meals. We spend time teaching the kids English, which is very important because knowing English really helps them get a better job when they finish school.
Every year we also set up a carnival in the gym for the kids. They look forward to it all year, and it's one of their favorite things. It's a fun way to show them God's love and how much we care for them.
Please pray for our travels, that we would have a safe trip and reach Mexico with no trouble. Please pray for all those kids, that we would be able to touch their hearts and be able to give them a fun week.
The cost for this trip is \$1,300. I'm asking you to prayerfully consider helping me by giving toward this trip. If you are able to help, please mail checks payable to New Hope for Families. My address again is, 2223 W 13th ST, Duluth MN, 55806.
Thank you so much for considering,
Elliot Miner



CLC MONTHLY FOOD SHARE REPORT

On Thursday, January 22nd, our volunteers bundled up to bring food bags out to the cars of those families that also braved the cold to accept our bags of grocery blessings during our January Food Share. We filled 48 bags with the following menu: a one-pound box of spaghetti noodles, a large can of spaghetti sauce with meat, a small container of parmesan cheese, a can of green beans, a can of fruit cocktail, an 18-ounce container of Quick Cook Oats, a box of Mac & Cheese and a box of chocolate pudding. The cost per bag this month was \$9.08. We had 7 bags of groceries left from last month that we gave out first and we distributed 28 bags this month with 27 bags remaining to start with in February. We also gave out a few craft bags for the kids and a couple of birthday bags. Of note, the craft and birthday bags are paid for out of our Evangelism Budget, they do not come out of the Food Share Account.

We blessed these families at our Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Share's with quite a few items so they could celebrate these holidays with a full meal - we also had included a \$20.00 gift card both times to Aldi to purchase their meat. Our Food Share account has now become depleted. In order for us to continue this mission WE ARE ASKING FOR DONATIONS TO REBUILD OUR FOOD SHARE ACCOUNT. Easter is just around the corner and we would love to continue blessings these families. One family just had to make car repairs so they were struggling with how to pay for food this month. Many that come on a regular basis share that they are so grateful for the extra help to provide food for their family table. We ask you to continue to pray for these families and if God impresses upon your heart to give a separate donation, we know they would be very grateful.

In Christ's Love,
Our Evangelism Committee

Thank you for reading!

PRAYER

Our Shut-ins

Mission of the Month:

The AALC

Health Needs:

Jim Melander

Brian MacDonald

Steven Moe

Laura Cruz

Michael Wilson

Michael Wilson

Mark Melander

Judy Ikonen

Janice Peterson

David Wood



Our Sympathy to the family of Jean Flood who passed away on January 9, 2026. Her funeral was held here at Christ Lutheran on Monday, January 27.

Altar Plants & Flowers

All are welcome to place fresh flowers or floral plants on the church altar for a Sunday service. It can be for a memorial, 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!

Connect With Us:



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

Sunday Services are livestreamed on our Facebook page at 9:30 AM

Happy Birthday

Sharon Widell

February 4

Al Decker

February 4

Marilyn Nelson

February 8

Hannah Allen

February 27