
CHRIST'S MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

To know Christ and to make Him known

January 2026



Nourishing Our Souls: The Sunshine Bakers

We had a lot of fun during our annual Spritz Cookie Making Extravaganza! Thanks to everyone that volunteered to help!!! From the oldest, Don Olson – and his classic rosettes (who isn't giving up his squeezing technique anytime soon so he tells us) to our youngest, Gabe Wiita (who by the way mastered finger making in the shortest amount of time on record) to our CEO Glen Nelson whom has groomed us on what and where and how to order supplies, prep, and set-up for all the stations needed. He still squeezes a mean cookie too!! We still need a little work keeping an eye on the ovens so the cookies don't get too brown – which took a few tries to get just right. This trial and error period enabled the volunteers to have many samples - always a perk!!

We trained in a lot of new helpers in chopping cherries to just the right size, decorating with the red and green sugar in just the right spots on the trees and wreaths, and dipping our fingers (the cookies..) in the melted chocolate. As some of you may remember, we used to shave the chocolate almond bark to melt into the crock pots, a slow process; now we just pop it in the microwave two minutes with a couple of stirs and "Voila!" perfectly creamy! For lunch we enjoyed the yummy egg salad that Marge Youngren sent over – which we always look forward to and Don Olson treated us to Super One fried chicken!! Many others brought items to share too and all the visiting was priceless! (continued on page 4)

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 January Ministry

January 4

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

January 11

Ushers: Bill & Jan A.
Scripture Reader: Sandy C.
Livestream: Lydia W.
Coffee Server: Esther Circle

January 18

Ushers: Mike & Wendy P., Mark Y., Keith Y.
Scripture Reader: Danielle M.
Livestream: Lydia W.
Coffee Server: Youth

January 25

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

Financial Update

November Monthly Income:
\$10,670.05
November Expenses: \$10,387.16
November income was over
expenses by \$282.89
YTD income is under expenses by
\$11,952.38
November Mission of the Month:
Youth for Christ: \$945.00

Thank you to all who supported
the Red Kettle Salvation Army
Sundays at church.
We collected \$861.00

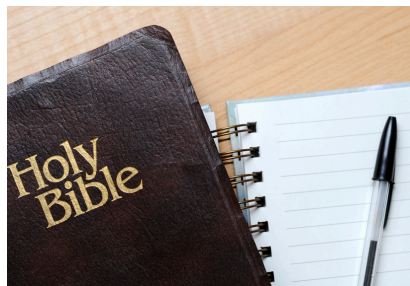
Scan this code to
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This Month Events

Talk To Us

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



Wednesday Bible Study

With Pastor Mark Raitz
Theology of the Cross
Begins again on January 7th at
6:30 PM



Father Daughter Ball

Saturday, January 31, 2026
Saturday, February 7, 2026

UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

- Installation of Officers and Altar Guild will be Sunday, January 4
- Band of Brothers Breakfast Saturday, January 17 at 9 AM. Free-will offering accepted. All men are invited.
- Esther Circle meets the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM. All ladies are invited to join..
- Band of Brothers meets every Wednesday at 7:00 AM at Chick-fil-A by the Mall.
- Our 30th Annual Father Daughter Ball is just around the corner. It will be held on Saturday, January 31st, and again on Saturday, February 7th. We are in need of volunteers to help with decorating on Saturday the 31st at 9:30 at the DECC and also that evening beginning at 5:00. We will need evening volunteers for the 7th also, same time and those that would like to stay late that night to help with clean-up. The event is over at 10:00. Watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex in the next week or so.
- 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 (you don't need to share your age)!

FOOD SHARE REPORT

Our December food share was held on Thursday, December 18. We again made up 48 bags of groceries for our visitors and handed out \$20.00 gift cards from ALDI to each family to help with their Christmas dinner. Each bag contained a box of Au Gratin Potatoes, a can of sweet potatoes and a bag of mini marshmallows to place on top of them, two cans of corn, a variety pack of Quaker Oatmeal, a bag of brown sugar, a jar of grape jelly, a jar of peanut butter, a large can of tomato soup, and a box of soda crackers. We made up an additional 5 bags from our pantry supply to have on hand just in case. We have used up almost all of our pantry supplies now that we had on hand. We had four bags left over to hand out next month. The cost of each bag this month was \$24.13. We gave each person an invitation to our 4:30 Wednesday Evening Candlelight Service and wished everyone a Blessed Merry Christmas!

Our Evangelism Committee made up 26 craft bags with a Christmas tree craft, fruit snacks, Goldfish snack crackers, a bracelet, crayons, a small coloring book, book mark and pencil. We quickly made up an additional 5 craft bags with left over supplies from previous months. One family shared they were going to give their children these bags as Christmas gifts. We also supplied birthday bags to each family that was celebrating an upcoming birthday!

We always welcome boxes of cereal (non sugary please) and other nonperishable items (please check the expiration dates!) We feel blessed to be able to pass along these blessings to those that come to our Food Share, they are so appreciative. We ask you to please continue praying for this ministry and supporting it with a monetary gift if you are able.

A Happy & Blessed New Year everyone!
Your Evangelism Team

SUNSHINE REPORT (Continued from page 1)

We had orders for 193 packages which we were able to prepare in two days time. We also gifted 13 packages, for a grand total of 206 packages that we wrapped and placed our “Sunshine Bakers” stickers on. After expenses, we had a profit of \$1,839.61. Thank you to everyone that ordered cookies, we hope you enjoy them, they were made with LOVE!

MAINTENANCE REPORT

We are happy to report that we don't have any major repairs scheduled at this time! We are on the schedule to have the church boilers serviced and cleaned. That was done in January of last year due to a technician shortage. We are thankful that the heat in the whole church is working well at this time.

- The freon charge is still holding on our church double door refrigerator.
- We will be installing the insulation in to the kitchen exhaust fans after Christmas.
- We received two bids on the flooring for the parsonage basement bathroom. We will be going with Cloquet Interiors. They will put us on the schedule for January.
- We had another issue with no heat again at the parsonage before Thanksgiving. The splits were working well to provide heat. They cleaned the unit and made the repair. Thankfully they had one in stock and they were able to fix the pressure gauge. All has been working well now! Praise God!
- Keeping our “To-Do” list which again is non-emergency, but some day...
 - 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

God has blessed each of us with a variety of gifts, so if you are able, please let me know if you would like to help with one of our projects. We thank God for our beautiful Church home and for providing for all of our needs.
Happy New Year to all!

In Christ,

Carolyn Lofald, VP-Maintenance Chair

MISSION OF THE MONTH

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.

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.*”

Welcome New Members!

We warmly welcome our newest members, Scott Merritt, Sandy Merritt, and Carol Veron.

We are excited to be growing in the Lord together as the builds His church.

If you are interested in becoming a member or have questions about Christ Lutheran Church we encourage you to speak with Pastor Mark.



Thank You!

I wanted to let you know how much I have appreciated you, your husband and your church family. The ways that you support our school have made an impact on us all. From the Welcome back breakfast for staff to the use of your field for Field Day; from the simple gift of a pen (which I still use!) to the Food Sharing you provide to the community; It all shows your care and is a wonderful example of Christian values. I know that as a school, that side of things is not always acknowledged, but I want you to know that I acknowledge and am thankful for that.

Thank you for your continued support of our Piedmont family. And thank you for being a wonderful person!!!

With much gratitude,
April

Thank You!

To Everyone at Christ Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for my Christmas gift, I appreciate your thoughtfulness!

Judi

To Everyone at Christ Lutheran Church,
Thank you for the Christmas gift!

Gary



Youth for Christ: A Students Story at Denfeld

I wanted to share a story from this morning that reminded me again why Youth For Christ matters so much.

At Denfeld Campus Life, a student walked in for the very first time. Picture a classic Duluth snowboarder: shaggy hair peeking out from under a beanie, a hoodie layered under a jacket, and that easygoing, outdoorsy vibe. He did not come with a church background, and honestly, he was not even sure what Campus Life was. But he came because one of our student leaders, who has been friends with him since kindergarten, invited him.

Today we had students share their own salvation stories and talk about how God used people and moments to tug at their hearts. When it came to this student's turn, he told us something incredible.

He said he has never been to church, does not own a Bible, and is not really sure where to begin with God. But this summer, he and a friend were walking through Canal Park when a couple of strangers approached them and asked if they could pray for them. That one simple moment sparked a long conversation between him and his friend about God.

It stuck with him, left him curious, and months later led him to walk through the doors of Campus Life today.

When I asked if he had a Bible, he said no. Our leaders immediately stepped in, gently sharing where someone new to faith might begin, what learning to follow Jesus can look like, and how God meets us right where we are. And that same student leader, his friend since kindergarten, welcomed him in and helped him feel like he had found a place to belong.

It was beautiful. And this is exactly the kind of moment your support makes possible.

Every gift, every prayer, every encouragement helps create spaces where students like this young man can hear about Jesus for the very first time, sometimes because a stranger prayed for them on a sidewalk months earlier.

Thank you for standing with us. God is moving in our schools, and stories like this remind us that He is preparing hearts long before students ever show up.

Thank You for Supporting YFC! Your November donation of \$945.00 is greatly appreciated!

Thank you for reading!

PRAYER

Our Shut-ins
 Mission of the Month:
 Father Daughter Ball
 Health Needs:
 Jim Melander
 Brian MacDonald
 Steven Moe
 Laura Cruz
 Michael Wilson
 Mark Melander
 Judy Ikonen
 Janice Peterson
 David Wood

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

Jean Clark	January 4
Mary Paschke	January 5
Dale Lund	January 14
Laura Melander	January 15
Mike Pickar	January 15
Wendy Pickar	January 17
Gabe Wiita	January 22
Glen Nelson	January 29