

CHRIST'S MESSENGER

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES**

To know Christ and to make Him known

March 2026

What Is Truth?

Jesus answered "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" (John 18:37c-38a)

The world has found no satisfactory answer to Pilate's question: "What is truth?" Everyone that lives in this world today has their own individual truth. Truth is what you make it; based on one's personality; based on one's politics; based on one's own individual morals. Everyone has his/her own truths that he/she believes. Period – end of story. With the emergence of social media, we are inundated with individuals who believe their truth IS the truth.

This is infinitely more dangerous when we begin to transfer these "individual truths" to the matters of our spiritual life, our faith, our soul. In a world that has placed a question mark after almost everything our fathers and mothers believed in, have we truly been able to hold firmly to the Rock of our salvation and to say: "This is the truth!"?

There is the continuous danger that we unconsciously drift into the frame of mind of Pontius Pilate and say that in matters of religion, it is simply a matter of one's individual opinion – a toss-up, a flip of a coin, a matter saying that my way of thinking is

better than yours and definitely better than what God thinks. If you are born into one church, that church is true for you; if you are born into another church, you may be sure its truth is "true enough." This is a tragic deception! Truth is still true, and error is still false, right is still right, wrong is still wrong, no matter where we find it, or how we desire to define it. Jesus says clearly to us: **"If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32); "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6; "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17).**

God's truth is the only truth for our eternal welfare; the world with Satan will only give lies, saying their words are truth, always deceiving, always causing doubts, always wanting to destroy faith in Christ with lies. Never doubt the central truth of Holy Scripture: **Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, came down from heaven to suffer and die for us, that will live with Him forever in the eternal mansions of His Father.**

To Pilate's question: "What is truth?" our confident reply must always be: **"Christ is truth. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, both now and forever."**

Pastor Mark

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 MARCH MINISTRY

March 1

Ushers: Carolyn L., Grace W., Bill & Jan A.
Scripture Reader: Pastor
Communion Assistant: Keith Y.
Livestream: Keith L.
Trustees: Sharon &
Coffee Server: Birthday Donuts

March 4 - Lenten Service

Ushers: Volunteers
Scripture Reader: Pastor Mark
Trustees: Laurie & Laura

March 8

Ushers: Jim C., Gabe W.
Scripture Reader: Aaron M.
Livestream: Gary L.
Trustees: Laurie & Laura
Coffee Server: Esther Circle

March 11 - Lenten Service

Ushers: Volunteers
Scripture Reader: Pastor Mark
Trustees: Laurie & Julie

March 15

Ushers: Carolyn L., Grace W., Mark S., Keith Y.
Scripture Reader: Gary L.
Communion Assistant: Jim C.
Livestream: Keith L.
Coffee Server: Youth
Trustees: Laurie & Julie

March 18 - Lenten Service

Ushers: Volunteers
Scripture Reader: Pastor Mark
Trustees: Bill & Grace

March 22

Ushers: Jim C., Gabe W.
Scripture Reader: Keith Y.
Livestream: Lydia W.
Trustees: Bill & Grace
Coffee Server: Esther Circle

March 25 - Lenten Service

Ushers: Volunteers
Scripture Reader: Pastor Mark
Trustees: Sharon &

March 29 - Palm Sunday

Ushers: Grace W., Mark S., Bill & Jan A.
Scripture Reader: Danielle M.
Communion Assistant: Gary L.
Livestream: Lydia W.
Trustees: Sharon &
Coffee Server: Volunteers

Upcoming Events

Talk To Us

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



Maundy Thursday
April 2
6:30 PM



Good Friday
April 3
6:30 PM



Easter Service
April 5
9:30 AM

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.
- 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 be meets 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.
- 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: KDNW RADIO



Life 97.3 promises to always be family friendly and play positive and uplifting music that helps you connect with God. Life 97.3 exists to lead people to Christ and nurture believers in their spiritual growth through Christ-centered media.

Life 97.3 is a part of the Northwestern Media Network, from The University of Northwestern in Saint Paul, MN. They provide the transmitter for our area to receive Christian broadcasts from Northwestern college which includes broadcasting on 90.5 Faith Radio. Today, Northwestern Media operates 14 listener-supported Christian radio stations throughout the Midwest.

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."

CLC FOOD SHARE

Due to our cold weather back in January, we did not have as many families stop by for groceries, and as we shared, we ended up with 27 bags left over. We decided to use only these leftover bags in February and not purchase any extra food items. God provided just enough bags and we were able to hand out all 27 this month! We also gave out quite a few craft bags which contained a St. Patrick's Day craft and a few birthday bags, too! We thank those parishioners who have been donating nonperishable items to our food barrel, with these items on hand we have enough in our pantry to make up a few extra bags if needed.

As we shared last month, our Food Share account had become depleted. We thank those of you that were able to help in rebuilding our balance in January and February, but we still have a ways to go. It is our hope to have enough money in our Food Share account by early March to provide an Easter meal for these families and also a gift card. All those that come on a regular basis continue to thank us and are truly grateful for the extra help to provide food for their family table. We ask you to continue to pray for these families and this mission. 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

MAINTENANCE REPORT

I spoke too soon! We had to call for service to our church boilers before our regularly scheduled maintenance appointment in February. Gary, our custodian texted to inform me that there was a fault code on Boiler #1 and it was not working. I was not able to get it to reset. Thankfully, we have a two-boiler system. Upon technician inspection, the code pointed to the circulation pump which was not pumping enough water through Boiler #1. The remaining service inspection and cleaning of both boilers confirmed they were both functioning properly. Each boiler has its own circulation pump. Thankfully, Boiler #2 continued to work with the blessings of a warmer stretch of weather. The cost of the new circulation pump itself was \$2234.46, and holds a three-year warranty. The total bill came to \$2510.41.

The freon charge is still holding on our church double door refrigerator. Again, we will continue to keep an eye on the temperature and keep that purchase on hold for the time being.

AS REMINDERS:

- The Styrofoam insulation sheets are 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.
- 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.

The boiler is working well at the parsonage at this time. We will be entertaining a few second opinions for future needs and repairs.

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 west and the upper front 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 and watching over things on a daily basis for us. If you do note something that needs attention, please make us aware. We are always looking for volunteers to help with our projects so if you have a gift to share, please let us know. We thank our congregation for their faithfulness in sharing the gifts that God has entrusted to each one of us and we pray for His continued provision to take care of our church home.

In Christ,
Carolyn Lofald, VP-Maintenance Chair

OUR 30TH ANNUAL FATHER DAUGHTER BALL!!

We were truly blessed to celebrate the milestone of our 30th Annual Father Daughter Ball on Saturday, January 31st and again on February 7, 2026 in the Lake Superior Ballroom of the DECC. We had 484 guests purchase tickets on the 25th and 718 on the 7th. Many were there for their first time. One couple had been with us all 30 years! We had two daughters fly in to celebrate with their dads, one from Texas and the another from San Diego. They wanted to continue their daddy-daughter tradition! The one from Texas told me she remembered that I had sewn her torn dress when she was 7 years old, she is now 35. I told her I was sorry that I did not remember. Our ticket prices stayed at \$35.00 per person.

Our guests were able to reserve their tables when they ordered six or more tickets. Pastor Mark provided a wonderful message for our guests both evenings to complement our “Pearl” theme which two young ladies suggested to us last year. Gary Lofald emceed the first evening and Mark Wiita the second. Mark Cpin from Diamond MC Entertainment DJ’d for us. He agreed to being paid \$900 each night (giving us a price break). Visit our fatherdaughterballduluth.org to see pictures!

No “lost” dads or daughters this year, so no tears! Seventeen guests attended from MN Teen Challenge on the 7th. We had three generous outside donations to cover their expenses. These MN TC families also received courtesy beverage tickets and Lynnette’s provided them with a free photo packet.

We offered three entrées’: Champagne Chicken, Cheese Manicotti, and Chicken Tenders for the younger ladies. Ice cream was served for dessert. Guests could purchase pop or lemonade if they chose. We used 28 gallons of coffee both nights at a cost of \$38.00 per gallon totaling \$1064.00. The cost to rent the ballroom, coat room, Will-Call area, Board Room and French River Room for pictures cost \$1,350.00 per night.

We reflected the theme of the pearl in our centerpieces. On a mirror tile we placed 9” glass cylinder which contained water and a floating circular wire of pearls and a floating candle. We then took a square of white pearl tulle fabric, bunched it around the base of the cylinder and placed battery lights under of it which luminated through the tulle. Hershey kisses were sprinkled around the mirrors. We used white table cloths with white napkins both nights. Northland Special Events provided our décor; our backdrop consisted of layered white swooping drapes with white 3” pearls cascading in swoops on top of each swoop. We ran white fabric swooped from the ceiling with lights and chandeliers throughout the ballroom ceiling at a cost of \$2970.00 for both nights. Our banners were hung to each side of the center backdrop with up-lighting from the floor to accentuate them. Our DJ brought his own center table and we had a small table on each side of his and two white columns on each outside edge wrapped with ivy. White lights and white tulle ran along the stage floor. The rest of the room had white uplighting on the wall. Our Logo was projected onto the walls and floor of the ballroom. Ken Pogin, the owner of Duluth Event Lighting provided our accent lighting and chandeliers free of charge for both nights. This is well over a \$3,000.00 value. He also provides a spot light for us to use. We are truly blessed by his generosity and kindness. Without the generosity of Ken and our donors, we could not provide an evident of such grandeur. Carrie Bruns (Lofald) designed the cover of our program this year with the theme of the pearl. We referenced Matthew 13:45-46, 1 Timothy 2:9 and Job 28:18, alluding to how precious a daughter is and how quickly she will be grown. ShelDon printed and folded our programs for both evenings and we printed our tickets in house.

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Thank You!



Denfeld Girls Hoops Club

Your donation has helped the Hoops Club provide new uniforms, warm up shirts, sweatshirts, coaches gear, tournament fees, bussing to away games, team bonding, and team dinners. The most important gift is the memories these girls will create together, Thank you for your support, generosity and kindness!



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We are so thankful for our monetary contributors to help offset our overhead costs. Arrowhead Orthodontics donated \$1,000.00, Lynnette's \$400.00, Piedmont Dental \$250.00 and discoverpc.net \$100.00. Teen Challenge donations were from the gifts of the Sola's for \$455.00, Esther Circle \$140.00, and an anonymous \$70.00 gift. The church budget provides \$2,000.00 each year. Our FDB January Mission of the Month collected \$690.00. We were blessed to receive gift certificates and gift baskets to use for our giveaways from Applebee's, Skyline Social and Games, Texas Roadhouse, Olive Garden, Rachel's Floral Studio, Valentini's, Great Lakes Aquarium, DECC, KDNW, The Loft, 4th Street Auto Repair and Mall Super One Foods. We had stuffed animals as door prizes some of which we purchased at a discount last year; thirteen bags full were donated by Kim Kirkland and also quite a few from Sandy Carlson's aunt. Our Volunteers: Jim & Sandy Carlson, Grace Wells, Laura Melander, Frank & Sue Munns, Mike & Wendy Pickar, Sandy Merritt, Gary Lofald, Mark Wiita, Gary Glad, Kim Kirkland, along with our committee members. Our coatroom attendants were Julie and Alondra Guddeck and Brody Bruns. Julie's candy ministry earns tips for our ball, this year \$220.00! Without these dedicated volunteers, our event would not happen!

We have been truly blessed to celebrate 30 years of this ministry. We thank our congregation for supporting this mission and keeping it in your prayers. God bestowed enough money to provide our keepsakes of a small picture frame and a pearl angel keychain with a card that read "thank you for celebrating with us" which were handed out to each daughter attending. Our hope is that we may continue providing a quality and memorable event for our guests under God's hand of blessings. A non-refundable deposit of \$2,000.00 will secure next year's dates of 1/30 & 2/6 of 2027. We hope to have a slide show to share soon.

We are honored to serve our community through this mission and we pray that through Pastor Mark's message that "pearls" were planted and these relationships will continue to grow stronger. It's truly amazing to witness God's hand in all of this.

Our Father Daughter Ball Committee: Kolleen Carlson, JoAnna Carlson-Danielson, Kristine Holt, Laurie Wiita, & Carolyn Lofald

Respectfully Submitted, Carolyn Lofald - treasurer

Thank you for participating in this ministry!

PRAYER

Health Needs:

Our Shut-ins

Mission of the Month:
KDNW Radio

Brian MacDonald
Steven Moe
Laura Cruz
Michael Wilson

Michael Wilson
Mark Melander
Judy Ikonen
Janice Peterson

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!



Scan this code to go to our giving page

Financial Update

January Monthly Income: \$8,342.47
January Expenses: \$9,890.14
January income was under expenses by \$1,547.67

January Mission of the Month:
Father Daughter Ball: \$690.00

Connect With Us:



Christ Lutheran Church Duluth



YouTube Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

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

Happy Birthday

Carol Sogard	March 25
Laviere Johnson	March 26
Olivia Allen	March 28
Lowaine Morris	March 29