
CHRIST'S MESSENGER

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

APRIL 2026

"To know Christ and to make Him known"



According to the Scriptures

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures. (1 Corinthians 15:3)

As we enter Holy Week, we reflect on these words from St. Paul, as he states the precise reason for which Jesus came – to die for our sins. Paul was remembering the prophecies that the Old Testament writers had written concerning the work of the Messiah.

Isaiah had written hundreds of years before Christ's crucifixion: *Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5).* (You can also read in Acts 8:26-35 as Philip spoke and demonstrated that Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy.)

Again and again throughout the Gospels we read this amazing love story of our Savior's passion and the refrain: *that it might be fulfilled!* The drama of Gethsemane and Golgotha was the fulfillment of a pattern which had been declared by the Holy Trinity in ages past. Once again, we hear and meditate on our Savior's work for each one of us – His suffering, His death, His burial, and His glorious resurrection! The enemies of our soul – sin, death, and the devil have been defeated forever.

On the first Sunday after our Lord's Resurrection we hear the risen Savior speak to the disciples of Emmaus and He showed them how according to the Scriptures it was necessary for Him to suffer and die for the sins of the world: *"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Luke 24:27).* ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES.

This is a comfort that is declared plainly for each of us as we live in this life. Our Savior's death was not a tragic accident, not the unfortunate end of an unfortunate life, but a glorious culmination of the Father's plan to ransom, redeem and restore His lost children. God planned it that way. God had willed it that way. God had predicted it that way. Now God carries it out that way. That is what Paul means when He declares: **that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.**

A Blessed Holy Week and A Blessed Easter!!

How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word;
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell
should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never, forsake!

(LSB #728: 1, 3)

APRIL 2026

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. @t 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

Talk To Us

218-722-7537

church@clcduluth.org

clcduluth.com

2415 Ensign Street

Duluth, MN 55811

ASSISTING WITH APRIL MINISTRY

April 2 - Maundy Thursday Service

Ushers: Jim C.

Scripture Reader: Pastor Mark

Communion Assistant: Keith Y.

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

April 3 - Good Friday Service

Ushers: Gary & Carolyn L.

Scripture Reader: Jim C., Gary L.,

Aaron M., Pastor Mark

Trustees: Laurie & Julie

April 5

Ushers: Carolyn L., Grace W., Jim C.

Scripture Reader: Aaron M.

Communion Assistant: Jim C.

Livestream: Keith L.

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

Coffee Server: Birthday Donuts

April 12

Ushers: Carolyn L., Jim C.

Scripture Reader: Danielle M.

Livestream: Keith L.

Coffee Server: Esther Circle

Trustees: Laurie & Julie

April 19

Ushers: Carolyn L., Grace W., Jim C.,
Keith Y.

Scripture Reader: Sandy C.

Communion Assistant: Gary L.

Livestream: Lydia W.

Trustees: Bill & Grace

Coffee Server: Youth

April 26

Ushers: Mark S., Jim C.

Scripture Reader: Jim C.

Livestream: Gary L.

Trustees: Sharon &

Coffee Server: Esther Circle

*Therefore, my beloved brothers,
be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in
the work of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord
your labor is not in vain.*

1 Corinthians 15:58

Upcoming Events



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



- Confessional Service and Communion offered Monday, March 30 thru Friday, April 3 at 10:00 AM
- Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday Dinner at 5:30 PM. Service at 6:30 PM
- Friday, April 3: Good Friday Service of Tenebrae at 6:30 PM
- Band of Brothers breakfast Saturday, April 11 at 9 AM.
- 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.
- Esther Circle 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.
- We have locked in the dates for our 31st Annual Father Daughter Ball at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. January 30, and February 6, 2027. Praying for another wonderful event!

MISSION OF THE MONTH: CLC YOUTH

This month's mission is our own CLC Youth. Monies collected will go towards the upcoming Estes Park Convention in 2027. Please prayerfully consider a donation to this month's chosen mission. You may make check's payable to Christ Lutheran Church. Thank you for your support in our mission "to know Christ and to make Him known."



MAINTENANCE REPORT

Spring is just around the corner and we have a few items to address in the coming months.

We have been trying to keep a walkway open for Pastor Mark to get to the church through the snowbank that closes off our east entrance. This will be melting down soon and our church council will be discussing a safety remedy for that entrance moving forward.

The Memorial Garden sign blew off in the high winds and was broken. We will reorder a new one which we will pay for through the Memorial Fund.

Our commercial back hall freezer has failed. It was purchased in 2002. We are obtaining pricing to purchase another.

The freon charge is still holding on our church double door refrigerator. The last charge lasted almost a full year. A purchase is still on hold.

The Styrofoam insulation sheets in the exhaust fan above the ovens have now been removed.

The valance for the vertical blinds in Fellowship Hall has been repaired.

Again, a reminder to PLEASE NOT USE THE KITCHEN SINK TO RINSE OFF YOUR DISHES OR COFFEE GROUNDS – we ask you to use the sprayer and garbage disposal by the dishwasher.

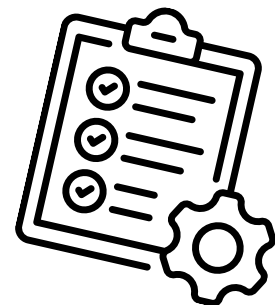
**Keeping our “To-Do” list for future and spring:

- 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

Our Peterson plow people have been doing a nice job of keeping the lot cleared and sanded for us. Please use caution when walking into the church.

If you do note something that needs attention, please make us aware. Volunteers for projects are always welcome, so, if God places on your heart to help with a project, please let me know. We pray for God’s continued provision to take care of our church home. We thank our faithful parishioners for their prayers and offerings.

In Christ,
Carolyn Lofald, VP-Maintenance Chair





White Pines Learning Center

Dear Church Family,

After much prayer and community research, Jensin Clark, executive director of White Pines Learning, approached us about the possibility of utilizing available space at Christ Lutheran Church on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from Labor Day through Memorial Day during regular school hours. This is a building use request only.

White Pines Learning is a faith-based kindergarten through 5th grade microschool, committed to providing high quality Christian education in a space that adheres to biblical beliefs, which are in alignment with our beliefs at Christ Lutheran. Parents are registered as homeschool parents with a qualified teacher providing education.

A microschool is a "close-knit, multi-aged learning environment that blends

traditional school with individualized learning". Enrollment in a microschool is intentionally small. White Pines Learning anticipates 7 to 10 students with one teacher and a volunteer for the first year, with the prayer for growth and expanded grade levels in future years.

The church Council has had two meetings with Jensin, including one with two of her board members. Pastor Mark was present as well. Council has unanimously agreed to enter into a Building Use Agreement with White Pines Learning for the 2026/27 school year.

We are excited that God has provided the opportunity for us to open our doors to the children and families at White Pines Learning.

Pastor Mark & CLC Council

CLC FOOD SHARE

We started out fresh for our March Food Share with 48 bags of groceries purchased from Super One. We concentrated on providing an Easter meal for each of our families. We are able to offset some of our costs through the non-perishable food donations that we collect in our Food Barrel in the Narthex. Due to those donations, we did not need to purchase cereal this month. We always welcome cereal, soups and non-perishable items (please check the expiration dates).

Our March menu consisted of a box of Au-Gratin Potatoes, sweetened applesauce, a can of sweet potatoes, Kraft Mac & Cheese, a box of brownie mix, a box of orange Jello, a 2# bag of carrots, a box of various varieties of cereal, and a dozen eggs at a cost of \$18.53 per bag. Each family also received a \$20.00 gift card to purchase their Easter ham and/or other items they may need. We also personally handed each family a postcard invitation to our Holy week and Easter services with a special message. We had eleven bags left to start our April Food Share with.

Our Evangelism Committee was able to provide craft bags for the kids. They consisted of two Easter crafts, a color book, markers, an egg decorating kit, a package of Goldfish crackers, and a bag of fruit snacks.

A BIG, BIG THANK YOU to those of you that stepped up to replenish our Food Share Account, we praise God for you! Our account is once again healthy! Our regular families are truly grateful for your generosity to offset their grocery costs and we were honored to be able to provide them with supplies and a gift card for a nice Easter family dinner. We ask you to please continue to pray for these families and this mission. Those of us that volunteer for this mission feel truly blessed to be able to share Jesus through our words, actions and prayers with His children.

In Christ's Love,
Our Evangelism Committee

Psalm 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.

And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him.

Praise the LORD!

PRAYER

Health Needs:

Our Shut-ins

Mission of the Month: CLC Youth

Brian MacDonald
Steven Moe
Laura Cruz
Michael Wilson
Sharon Nylander
Jan Arezzo
Lowaine Morris

Michael Wilson
Mark Melander
Janice Peterson
Becky Cubero
Maggie Malone
Val Honer

If you have a prayer request please let Pastor Mark or a deacon know

Special Announcement for Easter Garden Flowers

Please drop off your flowers for the Easter Garden on Saturday, April 4th after 10 AM.

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!

Financial Update

February Monthly Income: \$13,154.07

February Expenses: \$14,886.25

February income was under expenses by \$1,732.18

February Mission of the Month:

The AALC: \$930.00

Scan this code to
go to our giving page



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

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