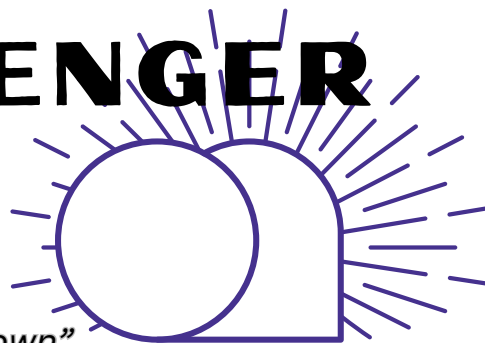

CHRIST'S MESSENGER

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

MAY 2026

"To know Christ and to make Him known"



Refuge in a World of Chaos

Psalm 61:2 – “From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the Rock that is higher than me.”

Few know better what it means to stand within the protection of a rock than those who defended the island of Malta in 1941. From the safe ledges of their rock-built caverns they watched day after day, UNHARMED, as the chaos and confusion were all around them. Outside the rock they would have succumbed to death, but inside no danger would reach them.

This is striking example of that rock to which the Christian flees to – when the world seemingly is losing control, people are out of their minds, and everything around them is crumbling in pieces. There can be ruin, with the storms of life waging war against us, and all of this is too much for us. Life can be too overpowering, too overwhelming. Our little faith seems to be no match for the winds which seek to sweep us away into destruction.

BUT there is a Rock! A Rock that is stronger than any of us. A Rock that is higher than we – a Rock that is above and below the shifting sands of all temporary things here in this world. It is this Rock of which the Psalmist speaks so constantly when the foundations of this world are falling. ***The Lord is my Rock and Fortress. The rock of my salvation and my refuge is in God. He only is my Rock and my Salvation.***

We too often will think of our faith, our religion, as something that is just an idea, or feelings, or qualities that exist in each person's mind without having a physical or concrete form. We think of it as a set of propositions to be memorized or as a set of dull doctrines to be debated. We think that there must be more to this faith-stuff besides this Jesus. So, we come up with our own ideas, our own thoughts of what we think faith should be, and how our god is to be to us in our own mind. Nothing could be further away from the truth. At the center of our faith is glorious reality – a reality that has meaning here and now.

In the midst of this sin-filled, crazy, out of control world – **we have a Rock! It is the Rock of Jesus Christ, His love and His mercy. His words of unfailing guidance and protection. He is that Rock which, in David's words, is “higher than I.”** Jesus is that Rock to which we cling and of which we sing: *“Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.”*

In every circumstance of life let us each find our deepest assurance, not in the shallowness of this sin-sick world, not in the shifting sands of earthly wisdom, **but in the Rock that is higher and stronger than we, our Lord Jesus Christ.**

-Pastor Mark

MAY 2026

Christ Lutheran Church

Church Office
M-F 8:30-12:30
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

ASSISTING WITH MAY MINISTRY

May 3

Ushers: Carolyn L., Keith Y.,
Bill & Jan A.
Scripture Reader: Aaron M.
Communion Assistant: Gary L.
Livestream: Lydia W.
Trustees: Laurie & Laura
Coffee Server: Birthday Donuts

May 10

Ushers: Jim C., Gabe W.
Scripture Reader: Mark W.
Livestream: Keith L.
Coffee Server: Esther Circle
Trustees: Laurie & Julie

May 17

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

May 24

Ushers: Mike & Wendy P., Keith Y.
Scripture Reader: Jim C.
Communion Assistant: Jim C.
Livestream: Keith L.
Trustees: Sharon & Wendy
Coffee Server: Esther Circle

May 31

Ushers: Jim C., Mark S.
Scripture Reader: Keith Y.
Communion Assistant: Mike P.
Livestream: Gary L.
Trustees: Bill & Grace
Coffee Server: Volunteers

*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



Mother's Day
Sunday, May 10



Confirmation Sunday
Sunday, May 24
9:30 AM

UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS



- Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation Sunday is on May 24.
- 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 will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Christ Lutheran Church on September 12 & 13, 2026.

PLANS FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We are excited to share that we had a very productive VBS meeting last month and are moving forward with plans for our VBS this summer! It will run August 3-7, 2026 for five mornings – 8:30 to 12 noon. We chose a curriculum titled “River of Life”. This program shows how God uses water to bring LIFE to His children and emphasizes mission work throughout the world. The curriculum will cover Creation, The Flood, Parting of the Red Sea, Jonah and the big fish, and Jesus’s Baptism – Our Baptism. Marianne has offered to teach! We will fine-tune a registration process and advertise through the KDNW community calendar and other venues. Watch for more information to share with your family, neighbors and friends. Please pray for youth to attend and to grow in their walk with Christ. Please also pray for volunteers/workers for the harvest to fulfill our mission “To Know Christ and to make Him Known”.



MAINTENANCE REPORT

Spring has sprung and we are looking forward to warmer weather and maybe a few April showers to green things up and wash away the dirt and pollen. We have started cleaning up the grounds now that most of the snow has melted away. We will check into getting the lot swept and maybe plan a day to do clean-up if Jim doesn't beat us to it! Esther Circle has placed their order for annuals and plans to plant in June. We're all looking forward to how beautiful the gardens look.

Council has been discussing ways to permanently close off the east upper entrance due to drive-through traffic. Signage, caution tape and saw horses will block this off for now as the snow banks have melted away. We will be cutting down the two dead trees on the front lawn, too.

We have ordered a new Memorial Garden sign which we will pay for through the Memorial Fund. We have obtained pricing quotes to replace our upright freezer in the back hall. The trustees will make a decision on the purchase. The freon charge is still holding on our church double door refrigerator. We have pricing and are ready to purchase soon.

We are obtaining options for our eleven-year-old Lochinvar boiler at the parsonage; fix vs. replace. It has had it's share of issues and we want advice on how we should move forward. We have had a retired HVAC member look at it and we will contact two other HVAC companies for their opinions.

As a reminder, PLEASE DO NOT USE THE KITCHEN SINK TO RINSE OFF YOUR DIRTY 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

Volunteers are always welcome to help with our maintenance projects. If God places on your heart to help out, please let me know. God has blessed us with a beautiful house of worship and we thank our faithful parishioners for their offerings which allow us to provide for all the maintenance needs of our Church home. To God be the Glory!

In Christ,
Carolyn Lofald, VP-Maintenance Chair



Pentecost Sunday and Confirmation



Pentecost Sunday is May 24.

*“Not by might or by power but by My Spirit,”
says the Lord of Hosts.”*

Zechariah 4:6

The fifty-day celebration of the Easter Season climaxes in, and ends with, the Festival of Pentecost. This certainly is a high point in the Easter cycle. The risen and ascended Savior sends the Holy Spirit to take His place and lead us into all truth. By the working of the Holy Spirit God’s revelation in Christ Jesus becomes effective in history. He is our sanctifier, entering our hearts at our Baptism, nurturing us through the Word, enabling us to understand the Gospel and to live a life filled with Christian virtues, even as by His inspiration the Apostles on Pentecost were enabled to proclaim “the wonderful works of God” in many languages.

It is by His inspiration that the nations hear God’s message; the curse which ever since the Tower of Babel has prevented one nation from really understanding another is taken away by His sanctifying work.

The church lives and moves and has its being through His gracious inspiration. And without Him no one could come to Christ or believe on Him.

The liturgical color for Pentecost is red, the color of fire and of blood, significant of the Holy Spirit and divine love and of our Savior’s blood as well as that of the martyrs.

On this Pentecost Sunday we will be celebrating the Confirmation of our 2 Confirmands, Elliot and Olivia.

Keep them in your prayers as they begin their life of faith in Christ.



MISSION OF THE MONTH: FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

Fellowship of Christian Athletes 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.”

CLC FOOD SHARE

The rain held out for our Food Share Day! This month we prepared 24 bags that contained a jar of peanut butter, grape jelly, Honey Nut Cheerios, spaghetti sauce with meat, spaghetti noodles, a small container of parmesan cheese, canned green beans, chicken noodle soup, soda crackers, a can of pears, and a box of butterscotch pudding at a cost of \$20.04 per bag. We gave an extra bag of groceries to our families who had more than four household members with the 11 bags we had left from last month. We ended the day with 7 bags left over to add to next month's distribution – giving out a total of 28 bags. Evangelism was able to provide craft bags for the kids. They consisted of a Mother's Day fill in page, fruit snacks, bubbles, playdoh and a craft. We also gave out a few Birthday Bags!

Our regular families thank you for helping offset their grocery costs. One lady shared that with the rising price of groceries, she was grateful for our Food Share. Please continuing praying for these families and this mission. We feel blessed to share the love of Jesus with each of them.

In His Service,
Our Evangelism Committee



thank you!

Dear Friend ,

Thank you for your gift to Life 97.3! We will put it to use immediately to change the lives of all who listen! Like Tomi who shared, "Thank you for the wonderful encouragement you provide to so many people. I recently moved and thanks to unlimited data, I can stream Life 97.3 all of the time. I listen to your station for many hours every day!"

This note of thanks is really for you--because your gifts allow us to share God's love and hope on the airwaves and online! We can't do it without you.

Thank you for being a part of the Life 97.3 family!

Gratefully,
Niki Corbin
Life 97.3 Station Manager



Dear Christ Lutheran Family,

Thank you for the Administrative Professional's day gift and beautiful plant. It is a blessing to work together with all of you and I appreciate your taking the time to express your thanks to me!

Judi

PRAYER

Health Needs:

Our Shut-ins

Mission of the Month:
Fellowship of Christian
Athletes

Brian MacDonald
Steven Moe
Laura Cruz
Michael Wilson

Sharon Nylander
Michael Wilson
Mark Melander
Janice Peterson

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

Altar Guild News

Thank you to everyone that helped to make the Easter Garden beautiful again this year. We like the look of fresh flowers on the altar and are seeking volunteers to provide them. The fresh flowers usually last at least a month and are cared for by the Altar Guild. A monthly sign-up list will be posted in the Narthex. If the flowers are in memory of someone, please note that when signing up. An Altar Guild member will contact you to coordinate dropping the flowers off at church.



Financial Update

March Monthly Income: \$15,701.07

March Expenses: \$11,942.52

March income was over expenses by \$3,758.55

March Mission of the Month:

KDNW: \$410.00

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

Valery Petrowske

May 9

Marianne Raitz

May 19

Lynn Erickson

May 22