CHRIST'S MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

June 2026 *"To know Christ and to make Him known"*

You Have Jesus

"And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:3 ESV)

To get the full force, the full strength and comfort of these words, we must remember that it was Jesus Himself who spoke them. It was on the night before His crucifixion, while speaking to His Father in prayer, that Jesus said these words to Him: ***"And this is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*** Jesus Himself has told us: ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life" (John 10:27-28a).***

Jesus gives eternal life to His followers because He has earned it for them, He accomplished the work of redemption fully. It is His to give. By His sinless life Jesus has perfectly fulfilled all of God's Law for mankind, and by His innocent suffering and death He has paid the entire debt of human guilt. That is why Holy Scripture says of Him that He has ***"abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel" (2 Timothy 1:10).***

Please remember, that YOU have Jesus! You don't have Him because of anything you have done or said or think you can do; you have Him because of the work of the Holy Spirit within you. You possess Jesus Christ and you have eternal life - life now and life forever. ***"And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life" (1 John 5:11-12).***

Jesus never steers you wrong; He never points you in the wrong direction; He won the victory over sin, over death, and the power of the devil for you. Live everyday in His words, His promises, His cross, His life. These words of Holy Scripture are crystal clear. The hymn-writer speaks these truths:

You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find; In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.
You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart; You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.
You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm, And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.
You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know, That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.
(Lutheran Service Book #526)

-Pastor Mark

JUNE 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
Meets again in September

AA
Mondays @ 6:30 PM

ASSISTING WITH JUNE MINISTRY

June 7
Ushers: Bill & Jan A., Gary & Carolyn L.
Scripture Reader: Gary L.
Communion Assistant: Mike P.
Livestream: Keith L.
Trustees: Julie & Laurie
Coffee Server: Birthday Donuts

June 14
Ushers: Keith Y., Mark Y.
Scripture Reader: Sandy C.
Livestream: Keith L.
Coffee Server: Esther Circle
Trustees: Bill & Grace

June 21
Ushers: Carolyn L., Wendy P., Jim C., Mark S.
Scripture Reader: Aaron M.
Communion Assistant: Keith Y.
Livestream: Gary L.
Trustees: Wendy & Sharon
Coffee Server: Youth

June 28
Ushers: Jim C., Mark Y.
Scripture Reader: Danielle M.
Livestream: Gary L.
Trustees: Laurie & Laura
Coffee Server: Esther Circle

June Altar Guild: Sandy C. & Trudy Y.

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Scan this code to
go to our giving page

Financial Update

April Monthly Income: $39,380.07
April Expenses: $13,973.02
April income was over expenses by $25,407.05

April Mission of the Month:
CLC Youth: 1,595.00

UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

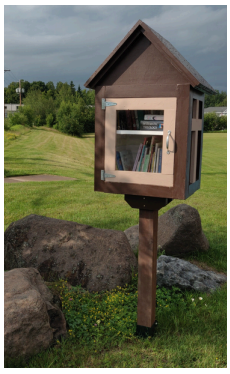
- Wednesday Night Bible will continue through the summer at 6:30 PM.
- The Esther Circle will be planting our annuals on Wednesday, June 3rd, providing that the weather is favorable. We plan to meet at 10:00 at the gardens up in front of church. Anyone that has a passion for gardening is welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided. Bring a pair of gloves, a kneeler and your favorite spade/shovel and "dig in" to help! More hands (even dirty ones) make for a lighter load!
- Esther Circle will be taking a break for the summer. Please join us again in September.
- 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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 3-7, 2026 for five mornings – 8:30 to 12 noon. The curriculum will cover Creation, The Flood, Parting of the Red Sea, Jonah and the big fish, and Jesus's Baptism – Our Baptism. 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".

Our "Little Lutheran Library" is getting a lot of use! We especially could use your donations of gently-used children's books. If you have any books that you no longer need, that are appropriate for our little outdoor library, please feel free to drop them off. Our little library is always open!



MAINTENANCE REPORT

We thank our congregation for their patience as we prayerfully consider options for closure of the east entrance to our parking lot. Mike P.,Mark S., and Gary L. have moved some of the boulders from the soccer field and placed them at the east entrance as a safety solution to the drive-through traffic. As we have shared, we have had two close calls with cars speeding through and nearly hitting pedestrians and now with the Esther Circle beginning their watering schedule, it will also keep drivers from running over their hoses and having to have the ladies keep a look out so they don't get run over! We are also getting some estimates and advice from paving companies in regards to making a bigger turn-around in that area and paving the upper driving lane. We were also advised by two of the paving companies that the holes and uneven payment are a potential tripping hazard so please watch your step! We will provide more information in our next newsletter.

The two dead trees on the front lawn have been cut down with branches and wood removed. We also rented a stump grinder to finish out the job. A big thank-you to Mike P., Jim C., Gary L., and Derek L. for helping with that project! We will be putting down weed and feed soon to curb the weeds.

The new Memorial Garden sign has been installed. The walk/pavers under the sign have been redone. The gardens have had weed preventer added to them and the soil has been turned over and is ready for the annuals to be planted.

We have made the decision to purchase a new commercial size Arctic Air Freezer and it is now on order. The old freezer led a good life and we were able to get 25+ years out of it! We thank Chuck Morris for his help finding this one at Twin Ports Paper!

The downstairs janitors sink faucet was not dispersing cold water well. A. G. O'Brien came out on 5/22 and found that the cold-water valve just needed an adjustment. Praise God we did not have to open the wall! As an FYI, the shut offs for the hot and cold water are located at the bottom of each faucet. To replace the whole faucet, the church water main needs to be shut down.

The freon charge is still holding on our church double door refrigerator. Again, we have pricing and are ready to purchase new when this one fails.

The Toshiba 2525 AC Color MFP color copier for the office will be arriving any day.

We have installed a garage door opener for the far door of the garage.

We will be getting bids on seal-coating the driveway at the parsonage. That is holding up very well and was a wonderful improvement which now allows for two cars to park side-by-side in the driveway.

We reached out to a few local HVAC companies looking for advice/options for our parsonage eleven-year-old Lochinvar boiler. At the advice of A.G. O'Brien, we have installed a magnetic filter to make sure there is no debris in the system as our current plumber feels there is something in our circulating water that may be causing issues. After the water has circulated for a few weeks, we will check that and make further decisions on how to move forward. The current relay will be replaced under warranty.

We have re-homed the items in the white/cork board cupboards in Fellowship Hall to make way for the White Pines Micro School. The school will be needing a place for their storage. We also have utilized the donated rolling altar and turned that into a new home for our table clothes. The old storage container will now be used for the school to store outside play equipment. We pray that they will have a good response with the Open House dates. Our custodian will be doing some painting in the room divider areas to freshen things up too.

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

God continues to supply for all of our needs to keep his house running and functioning smoothly. We thank our parishioners for their offerings to care for His home and His kingdom. If you are willing and able to help with one or more of our projects, please reach out.

God's blessings,

Carolyn Lofald, VP-Maintenance Chair

Breezy Point 5k

This event is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together in fellowship, fitness, and support of our mission and outreach efforts.
Monies collected go toward support of MN Teen Challenge.
Event details:
Date: Saturday, July 4th, 2026
Location: 4819 Breezy Point Road, Island Lake Duluth
Time: 8:00am-11:00am
Registration: https://runsignup.com/Race/MN/Duluth/BreezyPoint5K
or scan the QR code on the flyer
Thank you so much for your support and your prayers.
We hope to see you this summer at the Breezy Point 5K!

MISSION OF THE MONTH: UNION GOSPEL MISSION

On November 1, 1922, nearly two dozen churches came together with one unified goal: to provide food, shelter and hope to Northland neighbors in need. UGM has been continuing this mission for over 100 years. Today, they are building partnerships and community relationships to become stronger together. Filling gaps so no one falls through them. And serving their guests in a way that preserves pride and inspires belief in a better tomorrow. Please prayerfully consider a donation to this month's chosen missions. 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."

MOUNTAIN VIEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, COLORADO

One of our "fortresses" for Kingdom expansion – Mountain View Lutheran Church of Thornton, CO, was recently given to The AALC. Although operations are currently paused, it is the hope of the local congregation leadership to "re-launch" under the Association's guidance a new ministry outpost to that community.We appeal to you as a member congregation of The AALC, to join us on this journey, as we seek the Lord's will. Our goal is to raise $100,000 each year, for the next three years, to get this re-launch off the ground. With your commitments and resources, a man called by God to serve Mountain View could be in place, as monies would now be available to cover a pastor's salary and building expenses for the next three years. (There is no debt on the property.)

How can you be a ministry partner on this project?

We are prayerfully asking each of our congregations of this Association to become a Congregation Sponsor, committing $1000 each year, or $250 per quarter, to this new ministry. Through your generous gifts, you will be a vital part of a renewed Word and Sacrament ministry outpost to the Thornton, CO area. This re-launch will be "taking the frontier," proclaiming Christ Jesus to people lost in this broken world, offering them hope through the Gospel message we have been entrusted to proclaim.

CLC FOOD SHARE

We had a beautiful day for our May 28th Food Share. This month we prepared 30 bags that contained a can of canned chicken, Fettuccini Sauce, a pound of Penne Pasta, two cans of green beans, a box of Mac & Cheese, a box of pancake mix, a bottle of syrup, a can of fruit cocktail and a box of chocolate pudding – at a cost of 22.42 per bag. If a family had more than four members, they were given two bags. We gave out 13 bags this time. Evangelism provided craft bags for the kids. They consisted of a fruit snacks, gold fish, a Father's Day Craft, color book, and crayons. We also gave out a few Birthday Bags!

We are honored to provide this gift to the members of our community that struggle to make ends meet. Please continuing praying for these families and this mission. We are blessed to share the love of Jesus with each of them.

In His Service,

Our Evangelism Committee

Our congratulations to Birdie Miner on her High School Graduation! Birdie is planning on working for a semester or a year, and then attending cosmetology school at Northwood Technical College in Superior.

Esther Circle will be looking for volunteers to help with watering the flowers at church on a weekly basis.
Please see Sandy C., Cindy K., or Carolyn L. to sign up.
There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex as well.
Thank you for helping with this important chore!

PRAYER

Our Shut-ins

Mission of the Month:
Union Gospel Missions

Health Needs:

Brian MacDonald
Steven Moe
Laura Cruz
Michael Wilson
Sharon Nylander
Michael Wilsonr
Janice Peterson

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

Our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Viola "Vi" Ann Boder. Vi passed away on May 12, 2026, at home surrounded by loved ones, at the age of 92. Please remember her family in your prayers.

Our Christian sympathy to the family of Jeffrey "Butch" Shanks of Cook, Minnesota – brother to Vicki Johnson - who passed away suddenly on May 19, from an accident. A Celebration of Life will be held on June 6, in Brainerd, MN. We ask you to please keep his family in your prayers.

If you would like to provide flowers for the altar, there is a monthly sign-up list 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.

Connect With Us:

Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

YouTube **Christ Lutheran Church Duluth**

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

Keith Rourke	**June 11**
Mark Starkey	**June 14**
Trudy Youngren	**June 18**
Jan Arezzo	**June 19**
Chuck Morris	**June 19**
Birdie Miner	**June 22**