CHRIST'S MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

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

Afraid to Take God at His Word?

The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.
Deuteronomy 33:27

In the early days of our country a weary traveler came to the banks of the Mississippi River for the first time. There was no bridge to cross over it. It was in the middle of winter, and the surface of the mighty stream was covered with ice. Could he cross over? Would the uncertain ice be able to bear up, hold up his weight?

Night was falling, and it was urgent that he reach the other side. Finally, after much hesitation and with many fears, he began to crawl cautiously across the surface of the ice on his hands and knees. About halfway over he heard the sound of singing behind him. Out of the dusk came another man, driving a four-horse load of coal across the ice and singing happily as he went his way!

Here he was – on his hands and knees, trembling in fear that the ice may not be strong enough to hold up his weight! And there, as if whisked away by the winter's wind, went the other man, his horses, his sleigh, and his load of coal – being upheld by the same ice surface on which he, the weary traveler, was creeping!

Some of us have learned only to creep or crawl upon the promises of Almighty God. God has given us His inspired, infallible, inerrant Word for our life; this Word tells us of the life-changing, life-giving, story of our salvation as it is found in Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit used human beings to record, to write what God wanted His children to know, to guide in His wisdom and to stand on firmly every day on these promises without hesitation, without fear. This Word of God is ours each day, every moment of each day, and no matter what we face in these turbulent times – His almighty arms hold us and sustain us.

Let us not cautiously crawl on His promises as if He were not able to bear us up, let us dismiss such fears and doubts! Our faith is founded upon the unchangeable and unbreakable promises of God. ***I will strengthen you; yes, I will help you. The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.***

In days of trouble or when we are perplexed by this life, when our faltering faith seems no match for the upcoming storm, let us hold fast to the faith of the Christian poet:

Now I have found the firm foundation,
Which holds mine anchor ever sure;
'Twas laid before the world's creation,
In Christ my Savior's wounds secure;
Foundation which unmoved shall stay,
When heaven and earth will pass away.

-Pastor Mark

JULY 2026
Christ Lutheran Church

Church Office
Tues.-Fri. 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 JULY MINISTRY

July 5
Ushers: Bill & Jan A., Keith Y., Mark Y.
Scripture Reader: Danielle M.
Communion Assistant: Jim C.
Livestream:
Trustees: Julie & Laurie
Coffee Server: Birthday Donuts

July 12
Ushers: Jim C., Carolyn L.
Scripture Reader: Gary L.
Livestream:
Trustees: Bill & Grace
Coffee Server: Esther Circle

July 19
Ushers: Grace W., Mark S.
Scripture Reader: Deacons
Livestream:
Trustees: Wendy & Sharon
Coffee Server: Youth

July 26
Ushers: Mike & Wendy P., Mark Y., Carolyn L.
Scripture Reader: Mark W.
Communion Assistant: Mike P.
Livestream:
Trustees: Laurie & Laura
Coffee Server: Esther Circle

July Altar Guild: Pastor Mark & Marianne.

WATERING SCHEDULE

JULY
June 28-July 4 Laura M.
July 5-11 Sharon S.
July 12-18 Sandy C.
July 19-25 Grace W.

AUGUST
July 26-Aug 1 Volunteer
Aug 2-8 Carolyn
Aug 9-15 Grace W.
Aug 16-22 Volunteer

If you are available to water for one week,
please contace Sandy C. 218-349-2786

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Scan this code to
go to our giving page

May Monthly Income: $12,826.07
May Expenses: $28,273.01
May income was under expenses by $15,446.94

YTD Income: 89,403.75
YTD Expenses: 79,096.69
YTD Income was over expenses $10,307.06

May Mission of the Month:
Fellowship of Christian Athletes: $890.00

Full finacial reports are avalable in the office

UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

- Congregational Meeting July 19 following the morning service. We will be voting on repaving the upper portion of the parking lot and deciding what to do with the east entry access.
- VBS "River of Life" August 3-7 from 8:30-12:30
- Wednesday Night Bible at 6:30 PM.
- Band of Brothers meets every Wednesday at 7:00 AM at Chick-fil-A by the Mall.
- 75th CLC Anniversary. September 12 & 13.
- 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.

2026 AALC CONVENTION REPORT

Our convention was held on the campus of the American Free Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Minnesota. Their president, Dr. Wade Mobley, greeted us. The theme for our 30th General Convention was "Christ Jesus – Our Hope – Our Future". The AALC was formed on November 7, 1987, so we are coming up on our 40th Anniversary. We were honored to have Dr. Duane Lindberg, our founding father of the AALC with us. He is now 93 years old. He shared that he and Pastor Aadland still stay in touch. Many of the Pastors that provided past pulpit supply for us were in attendance. Pastors Stover, Brokenshire, Sollie, Anderson, Stoner, Marsh, Ishimaru and Strohkirch - all of whom send their best regards. Three of our Call Candidates – Pastor Ben Baker, Pastor Paul Heuter and the Reverand Doctor Jordon Cooper also send their regards along with Reverand Doctor's Cary Larson and Curtis Leins. We did extend invitations to each of them for our 75th Anniversary. Pastor Heuter's church in Wausaukee, Wisconsin is blessed to be celebrating their 100th year Anniversary the same weekend as our 40th Anniversary celebration.

Our convention began on Tuesday evening, June 23rd with a dinner and a wonderful church service in their Sanctuary. Forty-three Pastors all wearing their vestments with red stoles entered the sanctuary in a processional; following behind the cross held by a Cross bearer (Crucifer) and singing "The Church's One Foundation", accompanied by their pipe organ. This was very moving. Pastor Mark was our Celebrant for communion that evening; wearing his red chasable.

We started each morning at 8:00 AM and ended each evening with a communion service. There were 42 churches represented with approximately 97 voting delegates. Three congregations were added to the AALC – St. Matthew's in Wilmington, NC, Trinity Lutheran in Alexander, ND and Christ the King in Waseca, MN where Pastor Eric Ishimaru serves as pastor. Four pastors were colloquized and accepted to our clergy roster. Nine Pastors that will receive their doctorate at our next convention. There are 21 students in the Master of Divinity class at ALTS. This program consists of 30 courses and a 1-year Vicarage. ALTS has applied for an accelerated accreditation; awaiting approval from CHEA and the US Department of Education.

All ALTS classes are online which enables the students to interact with their classmates and professors while still living and working at their present job without relocating making our program very attractive. It was refreshing to see young men with families attending our seminary. ALTS is also less expensive than other seminaries as we do not have the overhead of a brick-and-mortar facility.

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All of the faculty that currently teach ALTS classes are working on a stipend more or less and are not being paid what other seminaries pay their instructors. As we grow, we will need to increase their salaries. Our online program has caused contention with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as some of their students have chosen to come to our seminary for the flexibility it offers. This brought a resolution to the floor to work with the LCMS and hold firm to our agreement of altar and pulpit fellowship dating back to 2007/2009. This resolution passed. Another resolution that was brought to the floor was in regard to radical Islam. This was sent back to the CDCR (Commission on Doctrine and Church Relations) for further review.

The 496th Anniversary of the Augsburg Confession on June 25, 1530 was recognized. Doctor Cooper provided a two-day presentation on the history of the Lutheran Church and our Scandinavian and German descent. Reverend Doctor Aric Fenske, the Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, shared that June 24 was the 4th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade being overturned. Noting that 13 states now allow assisted suicide. Pastor Joe Marsh our Regional Pastor, celebrated his 80th birthday on the 24th. He shared he has no plans to retire as his wife said if he did, he would have to do all the cooking!

Gary Lofald attended a *Serving the Church in a Digital Age* workshop. The presenters discussed technology and the use of streaming for services and Bible studies; reminding us not to show faces, especially children. There was a suggestion to place photos or do a walkthrough of the inside of our church on our website for outsiders/visitors that may experience "Crippling Anxiety" as to make them feel more welcomed and familiar with the layout. They presented some Church Plant Media that could be purchased with a monthly fee with a watch live button on a podcast – easier than You Tube.

Pastor Mark and Carolyn Lofald attended a *Proposal for a New American Lutheran Hymnal* workshop. Our ALC history was reviewed, dating back to 1756 with morning and evening vespers and prayers and how our 1958 red hymnal had evolved over the years with our German and Scandinavian roots. The hymnal would keep to the Confessional Lutheran Tradition with liturgical parts having flexibility to fit each congregation's need, providing three setting choices. It would also contain all three creeds – using the NKJV Salter for occasional services. They plan to start digitally for bulletins and PDF's/Word would be available on the AALC website to download. As they are still in the formative stage they will be reaching out to each of the AALC congregations for input before this is finalized.

We were thanked for donating $1000.00 to the relaunch of the Mountain View Church. This church is in the process of setting up a new church council and finding a pastor. The AALC will hold further donations in a Church Plant Fund to disperse as needed.

Gary and I felt privileged to represent Christ Lutheran as voting delegates and we would be happy to answer questions you may have. We ask you to keep the AALC and ALTS in your prayers and to include Reverend Doctor Cary Larson, our Presiding Pastor, as he cares for those that care for us and keeps our association running smoothly. Please keep Pastor Rich Sheilds in your prayers also as his Alzheimer's is progressing. We encourage our congregational members to support our seminary.

Respectfully submitted, Gary & Carolyn Lofald

Contributions can be sent to: ALTS
921 East Dupont Road #920
Fort Wayne IN 46825

or contact the office for more information on ways to donate. Thank you for your support!

MAINTENANCE REPORT

The lawn and gardens are looking vibrant and healthy! We thank all those that give special care and attention to keep everything looking so nice. Pastor, Jim & Sandy were able to freshen up the front garden at the parsonage too!
We will be obtaining estimates on repaving our parking lot, focusing on the upper drive and east entrance. More information will be coming on our July 19th meeting.
We have moved the flags from the altar area and rehomed them in our Narthex to be visible when you enter. The bench next to the Welcome Podium has been shortened to allow for the American flag. The Christian flag is on the opposite side of our Narthex next to the mailboxes. As there are length regulations, we were not able to shorten their poles.
The new Arctic Air Freezer is in and working great! We need to have more ice cream sundaes and floats! The freon charge is still holding on our church double door refrigerator. The freon charge continues to work for us.
The Toshiba color copier for the office was delivered and up and running.
Council has approved the purchase of new tables for Fellowship Hall and they have been ordered. Money had been set aside for these in our Memorial Account. Looking to the future we will want to buy new chairs – they currently cost $55.00 each. We will be selling our old tables – more information on that is to come.
Of note, the Fire Marshall came through and for fire evacuation purposes, calculated that the Fellowship Hall will hold 140 people safely.
Gary Glad, our custodian has been painting all the pipes along the ceiling in Fellowship Hall. We will be looking at a date for Gary to wax our floors. We will put pads on the bottoms of our current chairs to guard against scratching the wax.
We have re-arranged the Blue Room to provide a reading area for the Micro School. Gary G. and Mike have been working closely with Jensin to make sure that she has the space she needs when she opens after Labor Day. She just had her second open house. Per our agreement with the Micro School, we needed to provide a Food Safety and Kitchen Use Reminder format for them to follow. This will be posted in the kitchen. We ask that those using the kitchen abide to the reminder. We ask that if you use utensils, etc., that they be placed back where they were taken from to make finding items easier.
Moving forward, we will be working with A. G. O'Brien at the parsonage for our boiler needs. They were out on the 29th and checked the magnetic filter which was working well. They flushed the whole system again, cleaned the heat
exchanger (did not need to replace the gasket) and used infrared on the basement floors to check for leaks as the water was very dirty again. The technician felt that everything was in good order and unless something unforeseen would happen the unit should serve us well for a few more years.
We are on the schedule to have our driveway at the parsonage seal coated.
**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 Lord and Savior for blessings us with a beautiful church home and pray that we are able to care for all He has given us through the gifts of our church family.
Have a wonderful and safe summer with your family and friends.

God's blessings,
Carolyn Lofald, VP-Maintenance Chair

CLC FOOD SHARE

This month we gave out all 23 bags that were left over from May 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. We added to those bags this time for their 4th of July celebrations a package of hot dogs, a package of buns and a bag of chips for an additional $5.50 a bag. We ended up running out of bags and quickly put together four bags of groceries from our pantry stock!!!!

Evangelism provided craft bags for the kiddos, they consisted of a fruit snacks, Goldfish crackers, a 4th of July craft and a few odds and ends that we had left on the shelf. We gave out Birthday Bags too!

Our regulars were very grateful to receive these groceries. Please continuing praying for these families. We feel blessed to be able to share the love of Jesus with each of them through this mission.

In His Service,
Our Evangelism Committee

MISSIONS OF THE MONTH: PROJECT MANANA & WOMEN'S CARE CENTER

Project Mañana in the Dominican Republic is a charitable organization dedicated to sharing the gospel and breaking the cycle of poverty by investing in impoverished children, their families and communities through clean water, nutrition, education, and discipling projects.

They achieve their goals through charitable donations and child sponsorship, which unites children in need with individual sponsors who wish to address the children's immediate and basic needs.

The Women's Care Center provides free, confidential counseling, support, and education to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Thanks to partners like you, since opening here, over 1,900 babies have been saved. You are touching the lives of so many women...and saving so many babies!

After a choice for life, you help women have healthy babies and build nurturing families. Hundreds of babies are being saved... because of you!

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."

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".

Please Sign up by July 24

PRAYER

Our Shut-ins

Missions of the Month:
Project Manana
Women's Care Center

Health Needs:

Brian MacDonald
Steven Moe
Laura Cruz
Michael Wilson
Sharon Nylander
Michael Wilsonr
Janice Peterson
Ken & Sue Allen

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

Our Christian sympathy to the family and friends of Jane McLean. Jane passed away on May 29, 2026. Services were held at Daugherty's Funeral home on June 4, 2026.
Please keep keep Jane's 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.

Happy Birthday

Janice Spindler	July 6
Carol Blair	July 14
Julie Fairchild	July 18
Carolyn Lofald	July 24

Connect With Us:

Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

YouTube Christ Lutheran Church Duluth

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