



CHRIST'S MESSENGER

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCHES

"To know Christ and to make Him known"

August 2026

The Hem of His Garment

"If I only touch His garment, I will be made well." (Matthew 9:21)

There comes a time in the life of every believer, when it seems that every door is closed, when there seems to be no escape from the troubles that follow us: a loved one lying on a sickbed for years, a broken marriage which results in untold grief and pain, a child that we raise in the Christian faith – and we hope he or she holds to and continues to believe in Christ – remaining in the faith, to live within this broken – sinful world – and its endless rebellion against God, and the list goes on and on and on.

So, where do we turn when every door seems closed, when there seems to be no God in heaven who is conscious of our needs, or who, if He is there, seems to turn a deaf ear to our every request?

This unnamed woman in the passage above provides each of us with an excellent example of what to do in such a circumstance. There she was in a large crowd, with people just hanging seemingly on each other trying their best to get to Jesus, and she is suffering from a physical ailment for 12 years, she approaches Jesus from behind and says to herself, ***"If I only touch His garment, I will be made well."*** There was no spoken prayer; in fact, there was no prayer at all! She had faith, she simply had faith in Jesus and had faith that by only touching Jesus' garment, she would be healed. She trusted, she believed, her unspoken confession of trust in the power and the love of the Son of God.

"If I only touch His garment, I will be made well." You and I can do just that. Trusting in Jesus' omnipotence, His wisdom, and His love are that close to us. With the hand of faith, hold on to Jesus – no matter how weak we are feeling, no matter what ailments we are wrestling with, no matter what doors seem closed to us as believers and trust in His Words of promise every day. For Jesus has conquered sin and its effects on this world and redeems us, assures us of His presence and continuously gives us His gifts of forgiveness and strength. Jesus will never fail us!

Let this hymn be on our lips in times of fear, of doubt, and when it seems that every door of life is closed:

*I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.*

*I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev-'ry day and hour supplying
All my need.*

Jesus loves us as His own, and He is always there to help us – we have His Word on it! Let us in faith believe in the Son of God to strengthen and guide us and know that the doors which are seemingly closed in our minds are wide open in our Savior's power and love.

Pastor Mark

ASSISTING WITH AUGUST MINISTRY

AUGUST 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:

No Sunday Bible Study

Thru August

Wednesday Movie Night

@ 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

Meets again in September

AA

Mondays @ 6:30 PM

August 2

Ushers: Carolyn L., Sandy M., Keith Y., Mark Y.

Scripture Reader: Aaron M.

Communion Assistant: Gary L.

Livestream: Gary L.

Trustees: Julie & Laurie

Coffee Server: Birthday Donuts

August 9

Ushers: Jim C., Mark S.

Scripture Reader: Danielle M.

Livestream: Keith L.

Trustees: Bill & Grace

Coffee Server: Esther Circle

August 16

Ushers: Grace W., Carolyn L.

Scripture Reader: Deacons

Livestream: Gary L.

Trustees: Wendy & Sharon

Coffee Server: Youth

August 23

Ushers: Sandy M., Grace W., Mark S., Jim C.

Scripture Reader: Keith Y.

Communion Assistant: Mike P.

Livestream: Keith L.

Trustees: Laurie & Laura

Coffee Server: Esther Circle

August 30

Ushers: Wendy P., Carolyn L., Mark Y., Jim C.

Scripture Reader: Sandy C.

Communion Assistant: Keith Y.

Livestream: Keith L.

Trustees: Julie & Laurie

Coffee Server: Esther Circle

August Altar Guild: Grace & Jan

AUGUST WATERING SCHEDULE

July 26-Aug 1 Lynell R.

Aug 2-8 Carolyn

Aug 9-15 Grace W.

Aug 16-22 Volunteer

Aug. 23-29 Volunteer

Aug. 30-Sept. 5 Sue Munns

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

FINANCIAL UPDATE



Scan this code to
go to our giving page

June Monthly Income: \$9,204.00

June Expenses: \$14,416.99

June income was under expenses by \$5,212.99

YTD Income: \$98,606.36

YTD Expenses: \$93,513.68

YTD Income was over expenses \$5,092.68

June Mission of the Month:

Union Gospel Mission: \$925.00

Full financial reports are available in the office

UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

- VBS “River of Life” August 3-7 from 8:30-12:30
 - Wednesday Night Movie Nights 6:30-8:30 PM. Coffee and lemonade provided. Please bring a snack to share. There is no movie on August 5.
 - 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.
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NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT OUT

The Evangelism Committee is busy preparing for this event set for Tuesday, August 4th in the Piedmont Dental parking lot from 5PM-7 PM. Mike, our president, was able to meet with the new administrator, Jed Jansen and discuss how we could contribute and be a part of this event. Our Youth are willing to do face painting. We have ordered a new banner. We have ordered materials for children and adult gift bags. We will have a full report in our next Messenger.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: PARKING LOT

Our July 19, 2026 meeting opened with prayer. Our president, Michael Pickar, presented the information on all three bids that we received in regard to repaving the parking lot. Mike again shared the reason for closing off the east entrance where the boulders had been placed due to safety concerns. A map of the proposed area to be paved was passed around. Questions were asked and answered.

A paper ballot was passed to members. Those present voted unanimously to proceed with paving the upper part of the driveway from the east entrance, along the front of church and all the way over to the west upper entrance on Church Street. Sinnott will do this for \$46,000.00. We currently have the funds to pay for this section in full.

The vote to permanently close off the east entrance passed by a majority vote. We will make a boulevard and keep the boulders where they are currently and enlarge the cul-de-sac area for turning around.

A motion was then made to pave another section or the entire lot if we were to receive additional donations. For example, if we had 50 giving units that each give above their regular giving \$2,00.00, the entire project would be completed! This motion carried by show of hands. Mike made the call to Sinnott, the contract was signed and they will place us on their fall paving schedule. If you have any questions regarding the parking lot, please call Mike.

FOOD SHARE

We prepared 30 bags for this month's food share. Each bag consisted of a box of elbow macaroni, a can of tuna, a can of peas, a jar of mayonnaise, a can of pears, a box of lime Jello, a jar of peanut butter, a jar of grape jelly, and a box of Honey Nut Cheerios at a cost of \$15.69 per bag. A total of 22 bags were handed out. Evangelism provided craft bags again for the kids and gave out Birthday Bags, too!

We thank the members of our congregation that donate to this mission. The recipients are so grateful for these groceries to help make ends meet. Please remember them in your prayers. We ask God to provide for their needs.

In His Service,
Our Evangelism Committee

75th ANNIVERSARY



The flyer features a large image of the Christ Lutheran Church building at the top. Below it, a circular inset shows a photo of Pastor Mark and Marianne Raitz. The text is primarily in gold and white on a dark brown background. It includes the church name, the anniversary date, an invitation to celebrate, and a list of events for Saturday and Sunday. Contact information is provided at the bottom.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Save the date for our 75th Anniversary
Saturday, September 12 2026
Sunday, September 13, 2026

We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating Christ Lutheran Church's 75th Anniversary! Come and be part of this special day filled with gratitude, worship, and fellowship.

Welcome and Gathering 11:00 AM September 12
Fellowship Lunch & Program Saturday, 12:00 September 12
Worship Service Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 AM
Please RSVP by August 29, 2026 to church@clcduluth.org

clcduluth.org 218-722-7537 2415 Ensign St Duluth MN 55811

The committee is busy preparing for this special celebration. Invitations were mailed to our previous pastors. They were asked to send a note if they are not able to attend. We are working on the program for Saturday and Pastor Mark is preparing the service for Sunday. We have ordered some mementos for the lunch on Saturday and are planning the menu. We hope to make this a very memorable weekend. If you are planning to attend, please contact the church office no later than August 29th, to place your reservation. Please keep this event in your prayers.

** (Note there is a correction to the AALC report in the July Messenger. Pastor Paul Heuter's church will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary the same weekend as our 75th).

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Thank you to the Esther Circle ladies for watering and keeping the gardens and planters looking so nice! In regard to the parking lot, we received estimates from three local blacktop businesses – Sinnott, Asphalt of Duluth and Kiminski Paving. These were presented at the special meeting on July 19th after service. Please see the Special Congregational Report.

The freon charge finally failed on our refrigerator. Our new True refrigerator was purchased from Upper Lakes Foods and delivered on July 21st. We hope it will provide many years of service for us. Of note, as the temperature got too warm in the old refrigerator to keep condiments safe, they were tossed and we will start fresh.

The new tables for the Fellowship Hall are here!!! We have placed the old tables in the garage temporarily. If you would like to purchase one of the old tables before we sell them outright, please contact the office. We will sell each table for \$20.00.

A ballast failed in one of the hall lights by the downstairs bathrooms. The fixture was replaced. We kept the old lens in case one becomes broken and it is stored in the garage. This light has a five-year warranty. We now have the occupancy sign posted on the wall by the back stairwell going up to the sacristy.

A big thank you to Mike and his grandson Timothy for blowing out and vacuuming the old dust in the registers in Fellowship Hall. Gary Glad is now in the process of painting them. What he has done looks great and really freshens things up. He has finished painting all the pipes, too. So thankful he is willing to paint for us and keep everything looking so nice. We will put pads on the bottoms of our current chairs and set a date to get the floors waxed before our Anniversary. We also need to give some attention to the door in the back hall by the bathrooms – possibly sanding and giving it a coat of paint or stain.

White Pines Learning has been busy setting up the area for the Micro School. You will note many classroom items now on the walls as the area gets set-up to get ready for the new school year. If you know of anyone who may be interested in enrolling in White Pines, we now have brochures around the church with contact information.

The *Food Safety and Kitchen Use Reminder* signs are now posted in the kitchen. We ask that those using the kitchen follow the reminders. Please be mindful of what drawer you take spatulas, tongs, etc., from and place them back in the same location to make it easier for the next group to find them. Thank you for helping with that!

We are still on the schedule to have the parsonage driveway seal coated.

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

- 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

Looking forward to our 75th Anniversary and getting everything spruced up! If you note something that needs attention or would like to volunteer to help with a project or two, it would be much appreciated!

God's blessings on your summer!

Carolyn Lofald, VP-Maintenance Chair

MISSIONS OF THE MONTH: LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS & CAMP JIM



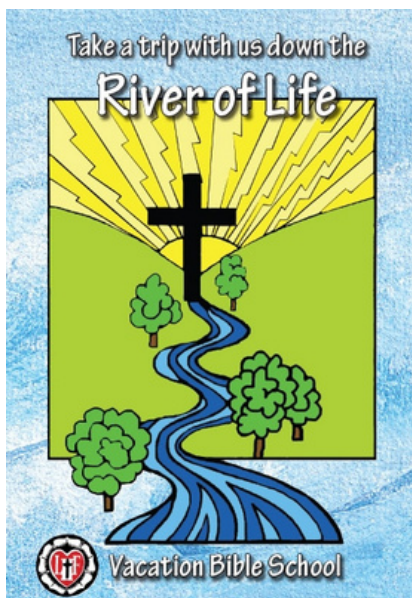
Martin Luther wrote, "I wish that every village had its own interpreter and that this book alone would live in the hands, eyes, ears, and hearts of all people."

Lutheran Bible Translators has been partnering with language communities for nearly 60 years. More than 100 partnerships in translation and literacy efforts have equipped them to grasp, embrace, and hold God's Word in their hands and in their hearts. When you give to Lutheran Bible Translators you carry the LIGHT of God's Word to those still feeling lost, confused, and frustrated. You can give them hope, confidence, and put God's Word in their hands.

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."



Camp JIM has been providing quality, affordable, year round Camps, rentals and retreats to Churches, youth, families, and adults for over 90 years. Camp JIM exists to lovingly teach and model the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ, and to encourage people to grow in faith and service.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

AUGUST 3-7

VBS runs from 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".

PRAYER

Our Shut-ins

Missions of the Month:
Lutheran Bible Translators
Camp JIM

Brian MacDonald
Steven Moe
Laura Cruz
Michael Wilson
Sharon Peterson

Health Needs:

Sharon Nylander
Michael Wilson
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
Lowaine Morris who passed away on July 21, 2026.
A celebration of life was held at
Christ Lutheran Church on July 27, 2026.
Please remember Lowaine'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.

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

Sandra M.

August 5

Aaron M.

August 12