# CHRIST'S MESSENGER

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

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

October 2026

### Why So Much Gospel???

*"We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ." (Galatians 2:16)*

We are in the season of Fall once again: the leaves on the trees are beginning to change and bring in a beauty that is breathtaking; the temperatures are cooling off telling us that summer is past; the hours of light during the day are getting shorter. Fall is a beautiful season, and it also marks the beginning of looking to what is ahead. October marks for us as Lutherans the celebration of Reformation, a festival in the church which can easily be overlooked as not important.

The message of St. Paul in the teaching of the doctrine justification by faith in Jesus Christ. To some Christians in the church they will say, "Again? Why is this message being preached again?" Some will view that the Lutheran Church preaches this doctrine too much. People will feel that it is too much to focus on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And the message of sin, that is way too much.

The truth is – is that it is not too much – for this IS the focus of our Christian faith! Jesus Christ and His work of justifying each one of us IS the OBJECT of our Christian faith and life! We can never take the message of the Bible for granted; we can never take the message of God's Holy, inspired, inerrant, infallible Word for granted. Luther and the Reformers fought hard for the truth of the Gospel; they wrote confessional writings that stand for eternity, because they were defending the very truth of God wanted every person to know regarding the Christian faith and life! That is a gift we as Lutheran Christians need to appreciate and treasure every day of our lives.

Again and again, it happens when a lifelong member of the church, when brought face to face with death, begins to point to his/her many wondrous works – years of service on the church council, or as a deacon, or some other work, as though these were the things which would enable him or her to stand before the presence of Almighty God.

That is exactly what the Bible denies! "We know that a person is not justified by the works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ." (Galatians 2:16) It is not what we have done, but what Jesus Christ has done for each of us! Not our accomplishments, but Christ's atonement! Let us never get tired of hearing that precious life-giving Gospel again and again. Let us cling to Christ Jesus and Him alone. Let us treasure this message so that when we individually stand in the presence of Almighty God, we will be able to say with a believing heart:

*By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.*
*Why stager at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?*
*No! Then this word must true remain: By grace you too will life obtain.*
(LSB #566:1)

A Blessed October as we celebrate the Reformation,
Pastor Raitz

**OCTOBER 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 Morning Bible Study at 11:15 AM

Wednesday 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
Second Tuesday of the month at 10 AM

AA
Mondays @ 6:30 PM

# ASSISTING WITH OCTOBER MINISTRY

**October 4**
Ushers: Sandy M., Wendy P., Mark Y., Jim C.
Scripture Reader: Mark W.
Communion Assistant: Mike P.
Livestream: Keith L.
Trustees: Bill & Grace
Coffee Server: Birthday Donuts

**October 11**
Ushers: Eli A., Jim C.
Scripture Reader: Keith Y.
Livestream: Keith L.
Trustees: Wendy & Sharon
Coffee Server: Esther Circle

**October 18**
Ushers: Grace W., Carolyn L., Mark S., Mark Y.
Scripture Reader: Danielle M.
Communion Assistant: Gary L.
Livestream: Gary L.
Trustees: Laurie & Laura
Coffee Server: Youth

**October 25**
Ushers: Gary & Carolyn L.
Scripture Reader: Aaron M.
Livestream: Gary L.
Trustees: Laurie & Julie
Coffee Server: Esther Circlee

**October Altar Guild**: Sandy C. & Trudy Y.

*God is our refuge and strength,*
*a very present help in trouble.*
*Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,*
*though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,*
*though its waters roar and foam,*
*though the mountains tremble at its swelling.*

*Psalms 46:1-3*

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

Scan this code to
go to our giving page

August Monthly Income: $10,189.07
August Expenses: $10,250.26
August income was under expenses by $61.19
YTD Income: $117,700.503
YTD Expenses: $115,672.19
YTD Income was over expenses $2,028.31
August Mission of the Month:
Lutheran Bible Translators: $1,100.00

Full finacial reports are avalable in the office

# UPCOMING MINISTRIES AND EVENTS

- Wednesday Night Bible Study meets weekly at 6:30 PM.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, october 18 at 11 AM.
- All men are invited to the Band of Brothers Breakfast on Saturday, October 24 at 9 AM. A free-will offering will be taken.
- The youth will be selling *God's Creation* Wall Calendars to fund raise for future activities and next year's Estes Park Youth Conference. They will be $10.00 each. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
- Esther Circle meets the second Monday of the month at 10 AM.
- 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.
- It's time to start packing shoe boxes again for Samaritan's Purse! Boxes and informational brochures are in the Narthex. Please note that you can also build a box online and they will shop for you through samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. You can also use their QR code. Your packed boxes will need to be returned to church no later than Sunday, November 15th. Thank you for participating in this wonderful mission.
  If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Lofald at 218-390-8357.
  God's blessings!

## MISSION OF THE MONTH: GIDEONS

The Gideons International is an evangelical association that equips and mobilizes Christian business and professional men, along with their wives, to share God's Word, winning others for Jesus Christ worldwide. Their single mission is to win others for the Lord Jesus Christ by strengthening one another, sharing the Gospel message, and distributing copies of God's Word in hotels, hospitals, shelters, and other places where people often seek hope.

In partnership with local churches in the more than 12,000 areas where they serve worldwide, The Gideons International has reached over 2.6 billion people with hope of the Gospel. With more than 240,000 Gideons and Auxiliary members dedicated to this mission, it is not merely about placing a book into someone's hands—it is about seeing God's Word take root in hearts and transform lives.

Please prayerfully consider a donation to this month's chosen mission. 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."

# FOOD SHARE & EVANGELISM REPORT

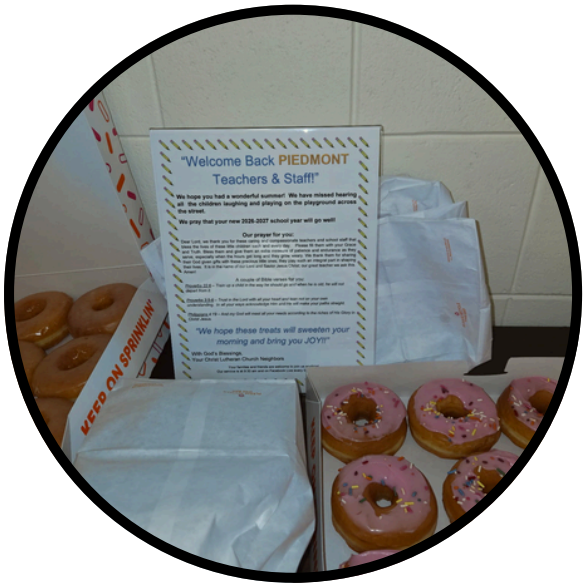
We prepared 24 bags for this month's food share. Each bag consisted of a large can of spaghetti sauce with meat, a pound of spaghetti noodles, a small shaker of parmesan cheese, a can of green beans, a large can of fruit cocktail, a package of orange Jello, a large can of chicken noodle soup, a box of saltine crackers, and a box of cereal. The cost per bag this month was $13.99. To offset our costs this month we were able to fill some of the bags with canned vegetables and boxes of cereal from our food pantry. We gave out a total of 27 bags on 9/24th comprised of the 13 bags left from August and 14 of the new – leaving 10 bags left over for our October Food Share.

Evangelism provided craft bags again for the kids that we had left from the Neighborhood Night Out - that included Goldfish crackers, fruit snacks, color books, and a craft. We gave out a few of our Birthday Bags, too! We thank our church families that donate to this mission to bless those that need a hand up with their grocery bills. Those of us that serve this mission are blessed to visit and get to know our regular recipients, sometimes sharing hugs, prayers or just catching up from what they had shared the month before. If you would like to help offset our grocery costs, your monetary donations along with filling our food barrel in the Narthex with cans of vegetables and non-sugary cereal would be greatly appreciated!

Our Evangelism Committee provided a "Welcomed Back Treat" for the teachers and staff at Piedmont School on September 11. At 7 AM we brought into their teacher's lounge a gallon of orange juice, napkins, and a wonderful assortment of rolls, donuts, muffins, and bagels from Dunkin Donuts. They were so excited to start their morning with the "sweet treats". We typed a welcome back message and a prayer for them and had it on a plastic stand on display with the treats. Dunkin provided a generous discount for us, and Ali, their manager, donated two dozen on her own as she was so moved by our gift to the school. We are waiting to hear back from the kindergarten teachers on what they would like to have for snacks in their classrooms so that we can refill snack cupboards.

Thank you again for supporting these missions and acts of kindness – living our mission statement "To Know Christ and To Make Him Known" with our neighbors and community!

In His Service,
The Food Share & Evangelism Committee



# MAINTENANCE REPORT

We are excited to have the upper portion of the lot paved by Sinnott Blacktop. It may be done by the time this Messenger reaches you. We are now saving towards paving the bottom sections of our lot.
The new tables in Fellowship Hall have been working great and so much easier to move for the activities that we have had to set up for. This was a wonderful way to use our Memorial Fund. We thank you for your patience while we were having elevator issues. The technician found that there were a couple of loose wires. Good news, no extra expenditures for appliances at the church or the parsonage!!!

Just a reminder that Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays the Micro School will be in session in the Fellowship Hall. We ask you to be mindful of their class time and not enter through the basement door on those days. Please contact the office or Mike if there is a reason you need to access that area on those days. There is a sign posted on the back door to call the school only if you have an urgent need!

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

The parsonage driveway has been seal coated and looks very nice.
We did a few fix-ups for our Anniversary – we painted the inside back door – a much-needed improvement! We painted the bench at the back entrance, stained and replaced some damaged stop in the main downstairs hallway. We replaced the backsplash on the butcher block counter in the kitchen and made improvements to the lower shelf. We also framed the mirror in the ladies' bathroom downstairs.
We have placed locking doorknobs on the fireside room doors for safety when the back door is left open for activities such as voting. We removed the yellow slide on the playset due to damage and have closed off the opening that had provided access for that. Gary Glad has offered to do some touch up staining on the worn areas.

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

We thank God for blessing our church over the last 75 years and providing for all our needs through the gifts of our Christ Lutheran family. Thank you to those of you that serve the church by giving of your time to volunteer and to help out when there is a need. Please continue to keep our church in prayer, asking for God to provide workers for the harvest.

In Christ,
Carolyn Lofald, VP-Maintenance Chair

# 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We had a wonderful gathering of 67 attendees on Saturday, September 12 to celebrate our 75th Anniversary.

We had a delicious lunch catered by Sarah Mae's, serving Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, coleslaw, ham, rolls and a wonderful relish tray. We had a variety of bars, cookies, and a pumpkin spice layer cake for dessert. Gary Lofald was Master of Ceremonies for our event. Mark Wiita sang for us the song he composed called *"I Believe."* It is the Apostles Creed in song that we used to sing in church years ago.

We received many well wishes through emails from previous pastors that Gary read aloud for us - starting with Dr. Cary Larson, our presiding pastor; followed by Pastor Joe Marsh, our regional pastor. Pastor Aadland sent his blessings, he is now serving a LCMS church in West St. Paul and could not attend as it was their Rally weekend. Pastor Myke was not able to attend. He misses all of us and writes "May the Lord bless you and keep you in His care, abounding in joy and thanksgiving as you celebrate this milestone in the life and witness of Christ Lutheran Church." Pastor Carl Bengtson, our interim Pastor also sent his blessings, reflecting on his walk across the frozen tundra from the parsonage to the church to share God's message with us. Pastor DeSha also sent his best regards for our Anniversary. We were blessed to have one of our pulpit supply pastors, Pastor David Johnson the sheep herder and his wife Sonja, drive up from Arcadia, Wisconsin to share a few words with us in person. Our dear Pastor Chris Schroder and his daughter Sarah drove in from Hudson, South Dakota to celebrate with us. He shared a few of his favorite memories, one being placed in the dunk tank. It was so good to see him.

We recognized some of our church family that had parents that were charter members. Cindy Kent and Mark Wiita played two hymns for us as we sang together *"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"* and *"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing."* A few of the attendees got up to share some past memories with us, too. Pastor Mark also shared a few words with us and opened and closed our gathering with prayer as we sang the final song *"God Be With You."*

Pastor Stoner arrived late that afternoon and provided the message for our Sunday morning service. We all communed and the service ended with *"Go Now in Peace."* Many of us went downstairs to enjoy the Anniversary cakes and have fellowship with one another. All in all, it was a wonderful weekend of celebration with old and many new members of our church. Christ Lutheran has been so blessed and we are so thankful to God for his provisions.

To God be the Glory!

# PRAYER

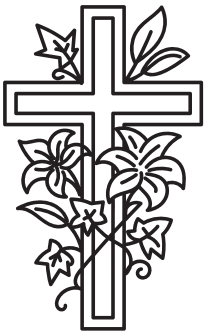
**Our Shut-ins**

**Mission of the Month:**
Gideons International

**Health Needs:**

Brian MacDonald
Steven Moe
Laura Cruz
Michael Wilson
Sharon Peterson
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 Diane Malander who passed away on Sunday, September 27, 2026.
Services will be at 11 AM on Monday, October 12 at Christ Lutheran Church.
Please keep Diane'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

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|---|---|
| **Elliot Miner** | **October 10** |
| **Pastor Mark** | **October 11** |
| **Lydia Wiita** | **October 16** |
| **Jim Carlson** | **October 22** |
| **Donna Swanson** | **October 26** |
| **Jason Allen** | **October 28** |
| **Jennifer Harvey** | **October 30** |
| **Becky Starkey** | **October 31** |