



## Happy Spring!...April Fools!

How many false springs must we have before we enjoy the real thing? Isn't that an Easter question? Just as the weather often cycles through, giving us momentary fleeting moments of spring fever warmth and thunder shower only to give way to a foot of snow and ice storm, so the Easter promise and its hope of resurrection renewal teases us. I guess, in many ways, that is what is supposed to happen. Easter is not the end, the goal, the destination, but the glimpse of the end, the taste of the goal, the sound of the destination. Jesus' universe-shattering resurrection from the dead is so universe-shattering because it is promised to be the beginning, just the first incident of deathless life and cosmic justice that will be known and experienced on the way to real spring, to final Easter, to all things new.

So, much like how false spring functions for us as a welcome respite from the cold with an eye toward days to come of growth, as an injection of hope into what is sure to be more times of challenge, struggle, and frustration, we experience each Easter moment of unexpected, surprising life as God's way of stringing us along. Every spark of hope, every blade of growth, each possibility of hope, enlivens our hearts now and keeps us hungry for the future. We need the false spring moments to keep us moving forward into the promised change of season.

But it won't always be false spring! There's always that final April fools prank when spring decides to stay. We look forward to that day when Easter stays, too, and all is made right and well and new. As we wait for Easter to stick around, we keep after it, working, serving, trusting, together.

Pastor Jeff

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*Lent at Concordia*



ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND  
AT 7 PM

LENT WITH THE SAINTS  
INTERGENERATIONAL MEAL,  
WORSHIP, AND ACTIVITY  
6PM

MARCH 12, 19, 26; APRIL 2, 9





### **Worship Schedule**

#### **Sunday, April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

Holy Gospel: John 12:1-8

#### **Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday**

First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11

Holy Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56

#### **Sunday, April 20 Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Day**

First Lesson: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

#### **Sunday, April 27 Second Sunday of Easter**

First Lesson: Acts 5:27-32

Psalm

Second Lesson: Revelation 1:4-8

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

### **Joyful Voices Rehearsals:**

Tuesday, April 8 @ 6:15 p.m. Monday  
or Tuesday, April 14 or 15, and  
Tuesday, April 22 @ 6:15 p.m.



## **Worship Matters: The Journey Continues**

April 6 is the beginning of **Passiontide**, the last two weeks of our Lenten journey. Our readings and prayers of the liturgy in these weeks will focus on the Passion of Our Lord and will take us through some of the most poignant scenes in Jesus' ministry and last days in Jerusalem. Our Gospel on this Sunday will take us to the time just before Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We find Jesus in Bethany where his friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus are preparing a special supper for him. In the midst of this meal, Mary, without regard for cost or the customs of the day, expresses her devotion by anointing Jesus with a costly ointment, wiping his feet with her hair. Mary, our teacher for today, acts from her heart, responding to all that Jesus has been in her life. She gives extravagantly, without counting the cost, expressing an understanding about Jesus and what he must do. The anointing foreshadows Jesus' death, just as the raising of Lazarus, foreshadows his resurrection, and we recall the words of the prophet Isaiah from our Old Testament reading: "I am about to do a new thing . . ."

Join us this month as we remember and retell the sacred story of Christ's passion and resurrection.

- **Palm/Passion Sunday April 13, at 10:00 a.m.**

We wave palm branches and sing Hosanna as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

- **Maundy Thursday April 17, at 7:00 p.m.**

From the Latin *Mandatum* (command). Jesus gives us a 'new' commandment – to love and serve one another; and we commemorate the Last Supper.

- **Good Friday April 18, at 7:00 p.m.**

We remember Christ's passion and death and conclude with a time of reverence as we "Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world."

- **Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil) April 19, at 7:00 p.m.**

We gather around a new fire and process with candles into the sanctuary to experience in word, song, and symbols, the history of our salvation. We begin in darkness that bursts into Easter light and joy at this our first celebration of the Resurrection – God's victory over sin and death.

**Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter April 20 at 10:00 a.m.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## APRIL, 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>FEBRUARY, 2025</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGETED</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>\$9,515.00</b>	<b>\$13,696.17</b>	<b>\$18,562.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$13,845.76</b>	<b>\$14,537.42</b>	<b>\$28,779.11</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>(\$5,886.35)</b>	<b>(\$841.25)</b>	<b>(\$10,217.11)</b>

**Bridges To Christ will be meeting on Monday, April 7th @ 6:45 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who gave monetary donations for CHUM!

**Quilters will meet on Thursday, April 10th from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Bring your lunch, dessert provided. **Eventide Quilters will meet on Thursday, April 10th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Our Amish quilt will be donated for the NEMN Synod World Hunger Marketplace at the Assembly on May 3-4. On-line bidding will start a few days before the Assembly (look at the Synod website).

**Fabric to Mexico:** 4 boxes of fabrics and sewing supplies have shipped to our neighbors in the Copper Canyon region of Mexico. These amazing families live in the rugged mountain areas where they farm in the valleys, growing corn, potatoes and so many other produce. When we were there, we woke most mornings to the beautiful sunrise over the mountains, the crowing of the roosters, and the giggles of the children as they chased their goats back to graze. These families believe in living simply -- being light, not burdened by so many things. Fabric and woven items are often sold at market or traded for what they need. Again, thank you to the Endowment Committee for making these supplies available to them.

And lastly, thank you to Bridges to Christ for their ongoing support of CHUM with so many donations of funds, clothing and supplies. Your help is invaluable.

**And to the Concordia Quilters for their many generous contributions of fabrics, quilt pieces and supplies that have been added to the shipments to Copper Canyon.**

**Concordia continues to make a difference in so many parts of our world!**

**Endowment Fund Scholarship:** The Endowment Fund board is offering two \$1000 scholarships towards attendance of a post-secondary school in the fall. Application forms are available on the church website. Completed forms and recommendations are due April 30 and either dropped off in the Endowment mailbox at church or email to [celcendowmentfund@gmail.com](mailto:celcendowmentfund@gmail.com). Interviews will follow in May and awards announced by June 8.

**The Endowment Board is pleased to offer camperships to Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (VLM) to attend up to one week of camp per year.** Each youth member or non-member with consistent worship attendance, half the attendance cost will be matched. In addition, \$100 is offered towards the cost of one non-member friend attending with a member. Furthermore, half the cost of attending family camp per member family and \$100 for non-member individuals attending with member family is offered. Please contact Rachelle Anderson or Delores Grunwald if you are interested in attending a VLM camp this summer.





# SANDWICH AND SCRIPTURE

**Concordia Narthex  
11:30 A.M.  
Wednesday, April 23**

Your passion...

Your plan ...

Your gift for those you love, and for God's work in the world!

You are invited to explore how you can make a difference in the lives of your loved ones and to ministry, both now and in the future.

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You are invited to explore how you can make a difference in the lives of your loved ones and to ministry, both now and in the future.

**On April 13th, Tharan Leopold with the ELCA Foundation will be here to share a forum on legacy gifts.** This information will get you thinking about the gifts you've received from God throughout your lifetime, and how your family and ministry, such as our congregation, can benefit from these gifts to make a lasting and meaningful impact in this world.

Please join us on April 13th for this thoughtful conversation! A light lunch will be served.

The ELCA Foundation has professional gift planning staff throughout the nation and gift planning tools for every situation.

All gift planning services are made available to individuals and congregations without obligation or cost. It is our ministry to be of service.

[www.foundation.elca.org](http://www.foundation.elca.org)



**Tharan Leopold**

**ELCA Foundation Gift Planner**

**Cell: 507-838-1980**

**[tharan.leopold@elca.org](mailto:tharan.leopold@elca.org)**

## Prayer and Visitation Ministry

Let the Prayer Chain members join with you in your prayers and supplications. They are just a phone call away. All prayers are confidential and names or details are not needed. God is aware of all circumstances and waits to hear from you.

Please contact Reba Almquist at 525-6968.

For hospital or other visitations, please contact the office at 728-4229.

### Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember the following people who have been hospitalized, under a doctor's care, those recuperating, struggling, or those grieving since our last newsletter: Dan Norlien, Earthquake victims in Myanmar and Thailand, Jennifer Dums and family, Carrie Birdseye-Erickson, Ethel O'Leary, The families, the survivors, and communities where mass shootings have occurred. Patti Pearson, Those marginalized for their sexual or gender identity, race, or ability, Tom Nelson, Max, Wayne Kari, the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Syria, Israel, and Russia, Roger Erickson, Tim Bell, migrant families, and Phillip Hedges.

*If everything seems dark,  
look again, you may be the  
light.*

- Rumi



Please remember those in our congregation who are in nursing homes or are homebound. Please pray for them and consider stopping by for a visit. Prayer and visitation is an important ministry of the congregation.

### Heritage Haven: Warren Roberts

A reminder that, on account of privacy, hospitals and nursing homes will NOT contact the Church to share that you have been admitted unless you or a family member tell them or the hospital chaplains to do so. Protecting privacy is also a way we care for our friends who may or may not wish for others to know of their illness or condition. If you hear that someone is sick or hospitalized, do not tell others unless you have been given permission by them to do so. **If you wish to be visited by the Pastor or placed on the prayer list, contact the Church office.** If you have a conversation with someone who is ill, hospitalized, or has come to be in a short or long term care facility, ask them if they want the congregation and Pastor to know what is happening before you pass the word along. Do not assume that because you know, that the individual wants everyone else to, as well. Honoring the privacy of our neighbors, as well as expressing our own desire for the church or pastor to know of our condition, helps to prevent troublesome situations and helps us support one another!



## April Birthdays

- 7 Jake Carlson  
Pastor Jeff
- 8 Morgan Holecek
- 14 Trevor Christensen
- 15 Ryan Scharnott  
Grace Loiselle
- 16 Madison Morse
- 19 Ken Broman
- 20 Maijaliisa Sauter
- 22 Lily Bohn
- 29 Ann Marie Edwards

If your birthday isn't listed or has the wrong date, please let the office know.



## Flower and Sanctuary Candle Sign-up

A nice way to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion is to have altar flowers or the sanctuary candle on Sunday morning. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for both. Cost for flowers is \$22 and the candle is \$8. Contact the office with any questions.

Please note that when you have altar flowers for worship, you may take them home following worship. The glass vases must stay at church, however.



## Equal Exchange Coffee Donations

Equal Exchange coffee donations needed for church coffee supply. Coffee funds are running low. Donation envelopes are available in the narthex information rack. Place an envelope with any donation amount in the offering plate with note "Equal Exchange coffee fund."





**THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025**  
**5:30 P.M. | CHECK-IN & SOCIAL HOUR**  
**6:30 P.M. | DINNER & PROGRAM**

**CLYDE IRON WORKS**  
**2920 W. MICHIGAN STREET**  
**DULUTH, MN**

**REGISTER AT THE FOLLOWING LINK BY MAY 1**  
**[HTTPS://WWW.LSSMN.ORG/EVENT/BENEFIT-YOUTH-DULUTH-1](https://www.lssmn.org/event/benefit-youth-duluth-1)**

Personal growth comes in fits and starts, oftentimes zigging and zagging as we experience life's ups and downs. Trusted, nonjudgmental support can make navigating life's challenges easier and lead to personal growth that exceeds even our own expectations. This is the work of LSS.

**In gratitude,**  
**Your neighbors from LSS**



**CHUM:** We delivered 54 pounds of various items to the CHUM food shelf on Friday, March 21. This included everything from wash cloths, to cans of stew, to lots of Girl Scout Cookies! All are much appreciated.

CHUM continues to have the need to restock their shelves for the next day. When we arrived on Friday after being gone for 2 weeks, we dove in to sorting and bagging, however, it was easy to see that quantities were lower. Every social service seems to be struggling. Needs continue to be great.

**Focus on Cans of Soup:** When in doubt, bring cans of soup to fill the CHUM donation box in the Narthex. Please remember that they should be Non-Cream soups, and preferably in pop-top cans for our homeless neighbors without can openers. Soups and/or Stews or other meals in a can are always an urgent need.

And as we discussed a few Sunday's ago, your dollars contributed to CHUM go much farther than your dollars at the grocery store. So write a check to CHUM, mail it to the CHUM Office, 102 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN 55802, or give your check or cash to Dave or me and we will hand deliver it to the office for you.

The need is great, and we are so blessed.

**Rhubarb Festival 2025:** The date has been set -- **June 28, 2025** -- and plans are being set in motion. Save the date & look forward to a day of delicious treats and festivities at this annual fundraising event for CHUM. Please check out your rhubarb plants!! Plan to donate that abundance of rhubarb to a worthy cause.

What an easy way to help out! More information to come on drop-off points. Concordia is on the list of possibilities!!

**St. Francis House:** The former Best Western Hotel in downtown Duluth, MN has been transformed into housing for up to 40 senior households needing CHUM's assistance. During the fall & winter of 2023-24, a group of CSS students used the Concordia kitchen to complete some of the prep work for meals served 3 or 4 times to the residents at St. Francis House. Upon their graduation, no group has replaced the students in this much-appreciated task.

So churches throughout the city have been asked if they are available to help. The Endowment Committee has generously assigned funds to allow Concordia to take part in preparing some of these meals.

Dave & I have met with the staff at St. Francis House as well as those at CHUM, and the beginnings of a plan are taking shape. Now, we need your help in that work at Concordia's kitchen. We will schedule times to complete tasks like chopping vegetables, baking cakes, preparing salads, etc. On the day of service, those available will deliver the prepared meals to the St. Francis house where their staff will do the serving. Or we can stay and help if we are available. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of this amazing way of serving our brothers and sisters who need our help.

We are currently waiting to confirm with CHUM staff, however, our first suggested date is April 12. We have a simple menu plan. We just need to know who is willing to help so that we can formulate a schedule. Who can chop onions & celery? Who can cut up apples for a salad? Who likes to bake cakes?





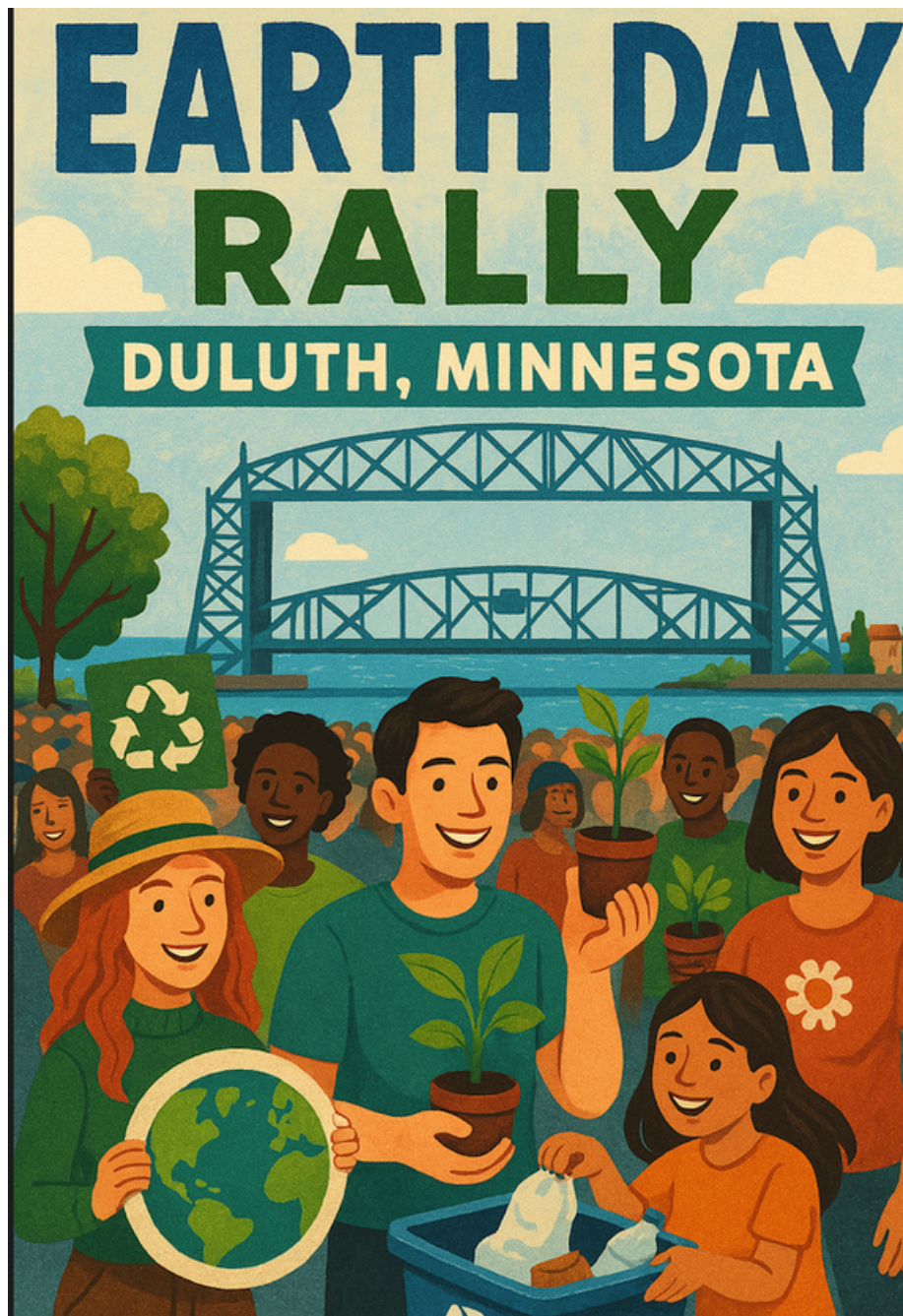
## DULUTH 101: DULUTH'S CLIMATE; PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

THU, APR 17, 6:00 PM | FREE | DULUTH FOLK SCHOOL



Introducing “Duluth 101”, a free monthly event series at the Duluth Folk House that will feature presentations about historical, cultural, and natural aspects of our community.

First up: Duluth’s climate. Dr. Kenneth “Kenny” Blumenfeld, Senior Climatologist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, speaks about Duluth’s weather history, how Duluth’s climate is trending at present and what everyone may expect down the road.



The event starts at Leif Erickson park, where speakers and a rally for environmental protection are held.

The route then continues to Gitchi Ode Akiing, where groups table for how local community members can get active and involved with important environmental and climate advocacy opportunities. The length of the route is about 3/4 of a mile. Parking is available at the rose garden and Endion Station.

Sponsors include local environmental, climate, indigenous and non-profit groups, with a list available later by organizers.

**Tuesday, April 22 from 4-6:30 p.m.**

**Pastor:** Rev. Jeffery Davis  
**Cantor:** Jennifer Dums  
**Joyful Voices Pianist:** Patti Martenson  
**Pianist:** Anneliese Braaten  
**Sunday School Teachers:** Rachelle Anderson,  
Bryan Anderson, Bridget Bohn, and Marcia  
DeMeo-Morse.  
**Office Duties:** Carmen Norlien  
**Custodial Duties:** David Haavik  
**Treasurer:** Mark Morse

### **Church Council Members**

Rachelle Anderson  
Trevor Christensen, President  
Bridget Bohn, Vice-President  
Ashley Hoppe  
Makenzie Morse  
Mark Morse, Treasurer  
Dan Norlien

### **Committees**

**Building & Grounds:** Trevor Christensen  
**Social Justice:** Pastor Jeff  
**Stewardship:** Pastor Jeff  
**Worship & Music:** Lynne Erickson, Mary Johnson,  
and Patti Martenson

### **Ministries**

**Altar Guild:** Reba Almquist  
**Bridges To Christ:** Ann Edwards  
**Caring Ministry:** Jane Wedin  
**Quilters:** Lynn Carlson and Ann Edwards

### **Contact information**

**Email:** [duluthconcordia@gmail.com](mailto:duluthconcordia@gmail.com)  
**Phone Number:** (218)728-4229  
**Website:** [www.duluthconcordia.org](http://www.duluthconcordia.org)  
**Facebook:** Concordia Lutheran Church of  
Duluth  
**Address:** 2501 Woodland Avenue  
Duluth, MN 55803

**Office Hours:** Please call first, as circumstances  
vary from week to week.

### **CHUM**

David and Jane Wedin

### **Conference and Synod Assemblies**

Carmen Norlien

### **Lutheran Campus Ministry Duluth Board**

Patti Martenson

### **NE Minnesota Synod Youth Board**

Margaret Roeser

### **Union Gospel Mission**

Lois Witchall

### **Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry**

Bridget Bohn



The Messenger is a monthly publication of  
Concordia Lutheran Church. Items for the May  
newsletter are due by Tuesday, 17.  
Please email your items, corrections, questions,  
or comments to [duluthconcordia@gmail.com](mailto:duluthconcordia@gmail.com)

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