

THE MESSENGER, AUGUST, 2025

*Claimed by Christ, Gathered
for Worship, Sent to Serve*



Pastor's Ponderings

“We look...for the life of the world to come. “—Nicene Creed

These words from the Nicene Creed are the theme of the 2025 ELCA Church-wide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ taking place July 28-August 2. And guess what? I am a voting member!

The ELCA Church-wide Assembly is the primary decision-making body of our church. It is a process of communal spiritual discernment, voting members meeting with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry out their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members will hear reports and review the work of church-wide officers and units. We will receive and consider proposals from memorials passed along from synod assemblies. We will elect officers and board members, including a new Presiding Bishop and Secretary of the ELCA! We will adopt a budget. We will also hear recommended structural and constitutional changes forwarded from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church which is discerning what the church will look like and need as it continues to experience decline in membership and resources.

I am most excited to hear and consider this last piece. We are a people who look for “the life of the world to come!” What does that look like for a church and congregations facing an uncertain future? I hope the assembly is an opportunity for the ELCA to embrace the challenge and seek a gospel-centered, neighbor-focused, less-corporate model future.

I look forward to sharing this experience with you all and exploring what ideas are generated from this looking for the life of the world to come!



Worship Schedule

Sunday, August 3 Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalm 49:1-12

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:1-11

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Sunday, August 10 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm 33:12-22

Second Lesson: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Sunday, August 17 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalm 82

Second Lesson: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:49-56

Sunday, August 24 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm 103:1-8

Second Lesson: Hebrews 12:18-29

Holy Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Sunday, August 31 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm 112

Second Lesson: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:
Tuesday, August 12 @ 6 p.m. and
Tuesday, August 26 @ 6 p.m.





August 9

Workday
9am- Noon

We will do some of the final
preparation of the pollinator garden,
assembling benches, and more!



OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

AUGUST

10

10 AM

**BRING A
CHAIR IF
YOU HAVE
ONE!**

Worship Matters:

Summer Ordinary Time – August

Join us this month as we continue to follow Jesus' journey to Jerusalem (the travel narrative from Luke's Gospel) and the teachings about discipleship along the way.

- August 3 – Jesus warns about being “rich in things” and “poor toward God” and invites us to live a life tied not to possessions, but to our love for God. In the Parable of the Rich Fool we consider the relationship between our spiritual life and material goods.
- August 10 – We gather outdoors to consider the future and what a life of faith and trust means. We are reminded of God's care, “do not be afraid,” and to trust in the promise of fullness of life in God's kingdom.
- August 17 – We hear some hard-hitting words, as Jesus describes himself as the one who brings fire to the earth. They are words that don't seem to fit our image of Jesus as a gentle peacemaker, but it is hard to ignore Jesus' impatience with the sinfulness and unbelief of the world. Would Jesus have something different to say if he walked into our churches today?
- August 24 – Jesus heals a woman on the Sabbath in the synagogue and is criticized for this breach of law, creating another confrontation with religious authorities (it is the last instance in Luke where Jesus teaches in the synagogue). Law and Gospel . . . God still calls for proclamation and liberation, every day of the week.
- August 31 –We join a banquet at the house of a Pharisee leader. Jesus shares a parable about being a good guest and a parable about being a good host. Jesus speaks of humility and being able to see ourselves in proper relationship to each other and to God.

Thank You - On **August 24**, we say farewell and thank you to Anneliese Braaten. We have been blessed by Anneliese's presence and musical gifts for the past year and a half as the pianist for our ELW services. We are grateful for her time with us and wish her well as she relocates. **Thank you, Anneliese!**

AUGUST, 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>JUNE, 2025 FINANCIALS</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
INCOME	\$12,906.50	\$13,696.17	\$71,676.42
EXPENSES	\$14,148.38	\$14,537.42	\$86,539.79
NET	(\$1,241.88)	(\$841.25)	(\$14,863.37)

Pastor Jeff will be at Churchwide Assembly July 28–August 3 and away August 4-6. In case of an emergency requiring pastoral care between July 28 and August 3, please contact Pastor Jeff Holter at (218) 310-7617. From August 4-6, please contact Pastor Liz Davis at (218) 461-0933.

Pastor Jeff will be away Aug 15-17. In case of an emergency requiring pastoral care, please contact Pastor Liz Davis at (218) 461-0933.

SAVE THE DATE-SEPTEMBER 14, FOLLOWING WORSHIP: Concordia will be dedicating our new peace/prayer garden, part of Pastor Jeff's sabbatical award. A light lunch will be served under the tent following the dedication. Watch for more details closer to the date.

Please don't forget that your ongoing donations to the CHUM food shelf are always appreciated. Our requested focus is canned soups and/or single meals. Please be sure that you do NOT include cream soups. And pop-top cans are always appreciated, if you can find them. Simply place them in the boxes in the Narthex. If you would prefer to donate cash, please remember that CHUM's resources can provide food stuffs at a lower price than we can find in the grocery store. Checks made out to CHUM or a cash in an envelope labeled CHUM can be placed in the collection basket on Sunday morning, left in the office or given to Jane Wedin.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our project in Mexico! To date, we have sent 8 boxes filled with a variety of fabrics and sewing notions to our friends in the Copper Canyon region of Mexico. We hope this has helped them with their work in creating beautiful items for their homes and families as well as for sale in their local markets. The boxes have included a wide variety of fabrics -- from felts to calicos, quilting squares to lengths of fabric ready for the imagination. Also included are dozens of spools of thread, sewing sheers, thimbles, and so many other useful tools. Some brand new, some from retired sewing baskets. I know that everything has been greatly appreciated and put to good use. Sometimes we all ask ourselves "what can I do"? **Again, thank you for all that we do together at Concordia! Best always, Jane**

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.

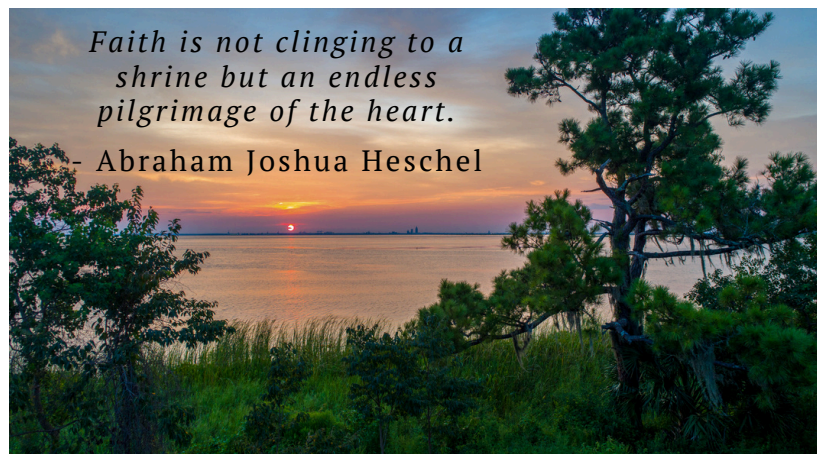
Please remember those in our congregation who are in nursing homes or are homebound. Please pray for them and consider stopping by for a visit. Prayer and visitation is an important ministry of the congregation.

Open Arms: Warren Roberts

Aftenro: Wayne Kari

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: The people of Palestine (Phillip Hedges, Those unlawfully detained, Carrie Birdseye-Erickson, The families, the survivors, and communities where mass shootings have occurred. Patti Pearson, Shawn Jamison, Those marginalized for their sexual or gender identity, race, or ability, Tom Nelson, Max, Wayne Kari, the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Iran, and Russia, Roger Erickson, Tim Bell, and migrant families.



August Birthdays

- 2 Greg Raymond
- 3 Ann Tjepkema
- 5 Mary Broman
Gerald DeMeo
- 6 Shelley Michalicek
- 7 Tor Anderson
- 9 Gayle Nelsen
- 12 Carmen Norlien
- 15 Chris Bergman
- 29 Timothy Isaacson
- 30 Carter Meints
Ethel O'Leary



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."





MORE WAYS TO HELP SAFE BAY

VOLUNTEER. Volunteer hosts are needed in the evenings and mornings to welcome guests and ensure the space is safe and all guests are welcomed with dignity. Register to volunteer [here](#).

CONNECT us with **MECHANICS** and **AUTO TECHS** who would be willing to assist with minor repairs and oil changes at a reduced rate. This can be a lifesaver for families that are just making ends meet and saving up for housing. For more information, contact [Drew Filkins](#).

Safe Bay Saves Lives

Many Safe Bay residents are experiencing homelessness for the first time. Many are working. Many are families opting to live in their cars rather than take the risk of living in crowded congregate shelters. Homelessness can be a very scary and isolating experience. Safe Bay is a lifeline that allows people to maintain their employment and health goals and work to secure housing. We are a stronger community when we all people have the support they need to survive and thrive.



SAFE BAY

Following a unanimous decision by Duluth City Council, Safe Bay will be officially reopening on Saturday, June 7th at 6pm and will remain open every night until the end of October.

What is Safe Bay?

Safe Bay is a program that offers secure overnight parking for people who are living in their vehicles. It is open nightly from May 1 through October 31 and provides:

- Access to showers, bathrooms and drinking water
- Room to stretch and walk pets
- Wi-Fi
- Peer support
- Help with housing applications and connecting to other services

Safe Bay is operated by Chum, with services provided onsite by other Stepping On Up partners.

Who can use Safe Bay?

Safe Bay is open to anyone who doesn't have a permanent place to live and is relying on their personal vehicle (car, truck, van or camper) for shelter. Families are welcome. Pets are allowed as long as they are leashed when out of their vehicle and owners are sure to clean up after them. For the safety and comfort of all residents, Chum does not allow alcohol, cannabis or illicit drugs at Safe Bay.

How can I help?

DONATE \$. Financial support is desperately needed to help Safe Bay operate in 2025. Donations cover the cost of overnight staff, direct support to program guests, and supplies like coffee and printing. Donate online [here](#), checks can be made out to Chum with "Safe Bay" in the memo and mailed or delivered to 102 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN 55802

DONATE SUPPLIES. The following donations are also needed and can be delivered in person or shipped to the Chum office at 102 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN 55802. Please do not bring donations to our host site.

- Car sunshades (simple, accordion style shades help protect people from streetlights and heat in the summer)
- Coffee
- Coffee creamer
- Granola bars
- Gas cards (\$20, for fuel only)

NEMN SYNOD HUNGER & JUSTICE

MOVING AGAINST HUNGER

AUGUST | 2 | 8:30 AM

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

204 5TH ST. N. CARLTON MN

BIKE + RUN + WALK EVENT
LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW



DONATE HERE:



FAMILY
FRIENDLY
EVENT
FOR
ALL AGES
&
ABILITIES



REGISTER HERE:





Earth Pushed to its Limits: "Today's Children Will Pay the Price" - Center For Science In The Public Interest (CSPINET.ORG) Researched by Laura Raedeke from Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa

1. 2024 was the warmest year on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), topping pre-industrial (1850-1900) temperatures by 1.46 degrees Celsius (2.63 degrees Fahrenheit). Concentrations of gases like carbon dioxide are **50% higher than pre-industrial levels**, while methane and nitrous oxide are also up about **150% and 25% respectively**. Heat waves, heavy rainfalls, and wildfires are all signals of this change, with U.S. residents per person emitting **nearly twice as much greenhouse gas emissions as people living in China**. NOAA issues about **1.5 million forecasts and about 50,000 warnings every year**, all of which are threatened by federal cuts to this critical service. Let your elected leaders know that public safety relies on reliable reporting from NOAA.

2. The Arctic's summer sea ice content is only **50% of what it was in the 1980s**, with continued warming at rates **3.5 times faster** than the rest of the world, according to research at NOAA, Cornell University, and the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado. The Arctic has massive amounts of carbon in its soils locked up in permafrost that has been frozen for hundreds of thousands of years that is now thawing and releasing emissions of CO2 and methane into the atmosphere as more intense Arctic wildfires burn up vegetation and soil organic matter. Due to human-induced burning of coal, oil, and gas, this translates into faster sea level rise, and higher chances of extreme weather, stronger hurricanes and wildfires, stronger precipitation and drought events. **Be an advocate** of those working to reduce heat-trapping emissions.

3. Scientists at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany warn that Earth is warming at a faster rate than previously thought, with average temperatures climbing by 0.26 degrees Celsius in the decade since 2014 (up from 0.18 degrees Celsius per decade from 1970 - 2010). Even the temporary and natural El Nino weather cycles that add warming to the globe go back down very little, if at all, at the end of the cycle. Until recently, **53% of the CO2 from fossil fuel burning and land system change** has been soaked up by intact nature on land and in the ocean, but forests in Canada, Russia, Germany, and elsewhere are losing their capacity to absorb carbon, while the Amazon forest, the Earth's richest biome on terrestrial land, has tipped over into emitting, not storing, carbon. **Support efforts to reduce our dependence on coal, oil, and gas**, as well as making changes to our agricultural systems that produce heat-trapping emissions.

4. Research at the Woodwell Climate Research Center in Falmouth, Massachusetts, the U.K. Meteorological Office, and NOAA finds that the world's oceans, which have absorbed **90% of the heat caused by human-induced climate change**, are now losing resilience and are at risk of releasing heat into the atmosphere. Since 1980, the oceans have steadily warmed, while big systems like the Greenland ice sheet, the overturning of heat in the North Atlantic, the coral reef systems, and the Amazon rainforest are being pushed from contributing to cooling and dampening to being part of the warming tipping point. The only solution: **a rapid transition away from fossil fuels and toward sustainable food systems, regenerating forests, and more.**

5. Worldwide, the food system accounts for roughly **25% of man-made greenhouse gas emissions**, according to researchers at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, much of which is due to the proliferation of **large-scale confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs/factory farms)**. The Environmental Working Group (EWG), a research and advocacy organization, says that more than **25,000 feedlots** in Minnesota farm country annually produce **49 million tons of manure, the waste-equivalent 17 times the state's entire population**, requiring local governments and individuals to spend millions to remove harmful nitrates from drinking water as a result of excess animal waste and farm runoff. Minnesota-based Land Stewardship Project (LSP) invites all of us to **support local farmers who raise animals and farm responsibly, with care for healthy soils and clean water, and who contribute to resilient and healthy local economies.**

MORE CHUM NEWS
Under the Bridge:
The Criminalization of Homelessness

...an award-winning documentary film about one summer in Indianapolis, a tent city under a bridge, and the criminalization of homelessness in the United States. Contact Rev. Patricia Benson at pbenson@chumduluth.org to host a showing in your neighborhood! Or register for free tickets with one of the showings scheduled in August. This program is an invitation for your community to engage your neighbors around concerns about encampments, unsheltered homelessness, and invites your ideas about solutions that work for our community. Responses are being collected in a document that will be shared in a town hall meeting with policy makers as we seek to address the housing crisis in our community. Your voice matters!

6 PM on Wednesday, August 13th at Trinity Lutheran Church

6 PM on Monday, August 18th at St. Andrew's by the Lake on Park Point

Stepping On Up Volunteer Teams

?Do you have skills in the building trades, design, fundraising, event planning, research, advocacy or communications? Are you looking for ways to share your gifts to help end homelessness and build a stronger community? The Faith Community Housing Committee of Stepping On Up is seeking members of Duluth congregations (and others) to join us in a bold, community wide movement to develop and support housing and people-centered programs on faith community campuses. Please join us Wednesday, July 23rd 5:30-7:00pm at Trinity Lutheran Church(1108 E 8th St) for an opportunity to learn more and imagine together what is possible when people bring their talents to the table to solve a problem. Meal provided. Vegan and GF options available. Pre-registration encouraged: tfaforms.com/5184673

National Night Out

This year's National Night Out on **August 5th** will be the last one before we begin construction on the Chum Drop In Center and Shelter. We'll be celebrating the progress Chum has made in getting to this moment in our history with all our neighbors. In lieu of food contribution, we are asking each congregation to make a small financial "NNO" contribution to the event. It can be in the form of a freewill offering or donation, which will go a long way towards making the event a meaningful one.

BOOK DRIVE

Big Red Bookshelf

**Donate new or gently used children's books to the Big Red Bookshelf,
a program of Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative.**

The mission of the Big Red Bookshelf is to give children of Duluth access to free, age-appropriate books that will encourage a love for reading and learning. Bright red bookshelves stocked with these children's books are located across Duluth in locations available to families and now Big Red Donation Bins are also available!

For more info call 218-464-0588 or email rachel.lpcfc@gmail.com.

Donation Locations:

- Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative
 - 2424 W 5th St, Duluth MN 55806 Suite 108
- Whole Foods Co-op Denfeld
 - 4436 Grand Ave, Duluth, MN 55807
- Whole Foods Co-op Hillside
 - 610 E 4th St, Duluth, MN 55805
- Duluth Area Family YMCA
 - 302 W 1st St, Duluth, MN 55802
- Duluth Children's Museum
 - 2125 W Superior St, Duluth, MN 55806
- Lake Superior Community Health Center
 - 4325 Grand Ave, Duluth, MN 55807
- Lake Superior Zoo
 - 7210 Fremont St, Duluth, MN 55807
- St. Louis County Probation Office
 - 100 N 5th Ave W. rm 319, Duluth, MN 55802
- Proctor Area Community Center
 - 100 Plonk Dr, Proctor, MN 55810
- St. Luke's Pediatric Associates
 - 1012 E 2nd St 4th Floor, Duluth, MN 55805



**YOU MAY ALSO BRING GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S
BOOKS TO CHURCH AND PLACE THEM IN THE
BASKET IN THE NARTHEX.**

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

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Website: 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
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August 19. Please email your items, corrections,
questions, or comments to
duluthconcordia@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit your items.
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