



THE MESSENGER, JULY, 2026

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



“Christian community is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate. The more clearly we learn to recognize that the ground and strength and promise of all our fellowship is in Jesus Christ alone, the more serenely shall we think of our fellowship and pray and hope for it.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together

And with serenity and thankfulness, I think of you all!

Last month, we issued an emergency appeal for financial assistance to help us through a challenging time. Concordia, we really came through! Because of your generosity, we were able to catch up on outstanding bills, keep up with current obligations, and gain a little cushion going into the summer months. Thank you!

This does not mean that this will not happen again, however. I guess that’s a truth related to what Bonhoeffer says above about reality versus the ideal. As a smaller and aging congregation with a decent percentage of children participating in our life together, there are sure to be other financial challenges ahead. But we know that when we come together, we are capable of responding to need and facing difficulties. This capability is a gift from God given to our community and even to us for the sake of our neighbors and world who we are called to serve.

Thanks be to God for this gift and for all you and for who we are together as Concordia!

Pastor Jeff



Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 5

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm 145:8-14

Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday, July 12

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:10-13

Psalm 65:1-13

Second Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday, July 19

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 44:6-8

Psalm 86:11-17

Second Lesson: Romans 8:12-25

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday, July 26

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Psalm 119:129-136

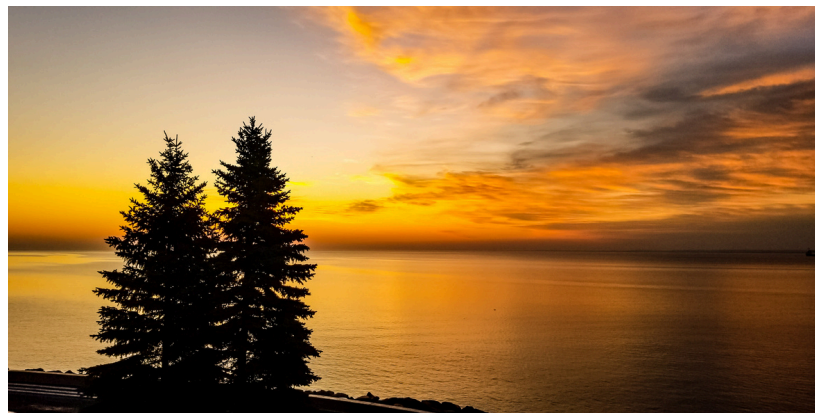
Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

Holy Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:

Tuesday, July 7, @ 6 p.m.



Worship Matters:
Summer Ordinary Time: A Growing Season

Our common life and shared faith story take root in the rhythm and soil of Ordinary Time, reminding us that Christian life is an everyday vocation and inviting us to grow in faith. The lectionary this month invites us to consider how we are tending what is planted so that the Word can take root and grow – not just for ourselves, but for the life of the world.

As we continue reading from Matthew's Gospel, our texts include the "Sermon in Parables" (the middle discourse recorded in Matthew's Gospel). We begin with an invitation and a promise.

July 5 *"Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens."
"And I will give your rest."*

On this Sunday following the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we pray: Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

July 12 *"A sower went out to sow . . ."*

This is the first of three parables that uses the image of seed. The parable challenges us to be prepared to receive the seed (God's Word), and to cultivate it through study and prayer; it also reminds us that we are sowers. Each of us (individually and as a congregation) have fields to walk and seeds to sow. We are called to do that – to live as our faith calls us to live, sharing the love of God that has been given so abundantly to us.

July 19 *Parable of the weeds.*

Our growth as "children of the kingdom" takes place in and among the people of this world, good and bad. We do not choose who belongs in the field and who should be weeded out. Our task is to foster growth of the wheat, following the values of God's kingdom. We are part of a wheat field called the church, witnesses to the mercy and grace of the One who planted us.

July 26 *"The kingdom of heaven is like . . ."*

"Have you understood all this?" Jesus asks. Today we consider the kingdom of heaven – perhaps a state of being rather than a place – and maybe we begin to seek it . . .

Outdoor Worship



June 28
July 19
August 16

APRIL, 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>MAY, 2026 FINANCIALS</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE 2026</u>
INCOME	\$17,330.00	\$13,683.67	\$64,451.05
EXPENSES	\$17,601.85	\$14,761.83	\$73,109.68
NET	(\$271.85)	(\$1,078.17)	(\$8,658.63)

Concordia Announcements



Voyageurs's Lutheran Ministry (VLM) is alive with activities. The first Canoe Country trips have launched, hockey camp has happened, and the week of June 28-July 3 the first week of "traditional" campers kicks off. Several of our youngest Concordia members will be there! Thanks to your generosity in supporting the giving tree and ice cream floats, Canoe Country was able to purchase the necessary satellite emergency communications equipment, and first aid supplies needed for this summer. VLM is extremely grateful for your ongoing support of the Canoe Country Program and their outdoor ministry in God's Great Northwoods!

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, struggling, or those grieving since our last newsletter: Max, David and Jen Norlien, Jordan Sauter, Tim Bell, Migrant families, The people of Palestine, Iran, Lebanon, and Ukraine, 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, and Tom Nelson.

Prayer and Visitation Ministry

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 are important ministries of our congregation.

Benedictine:

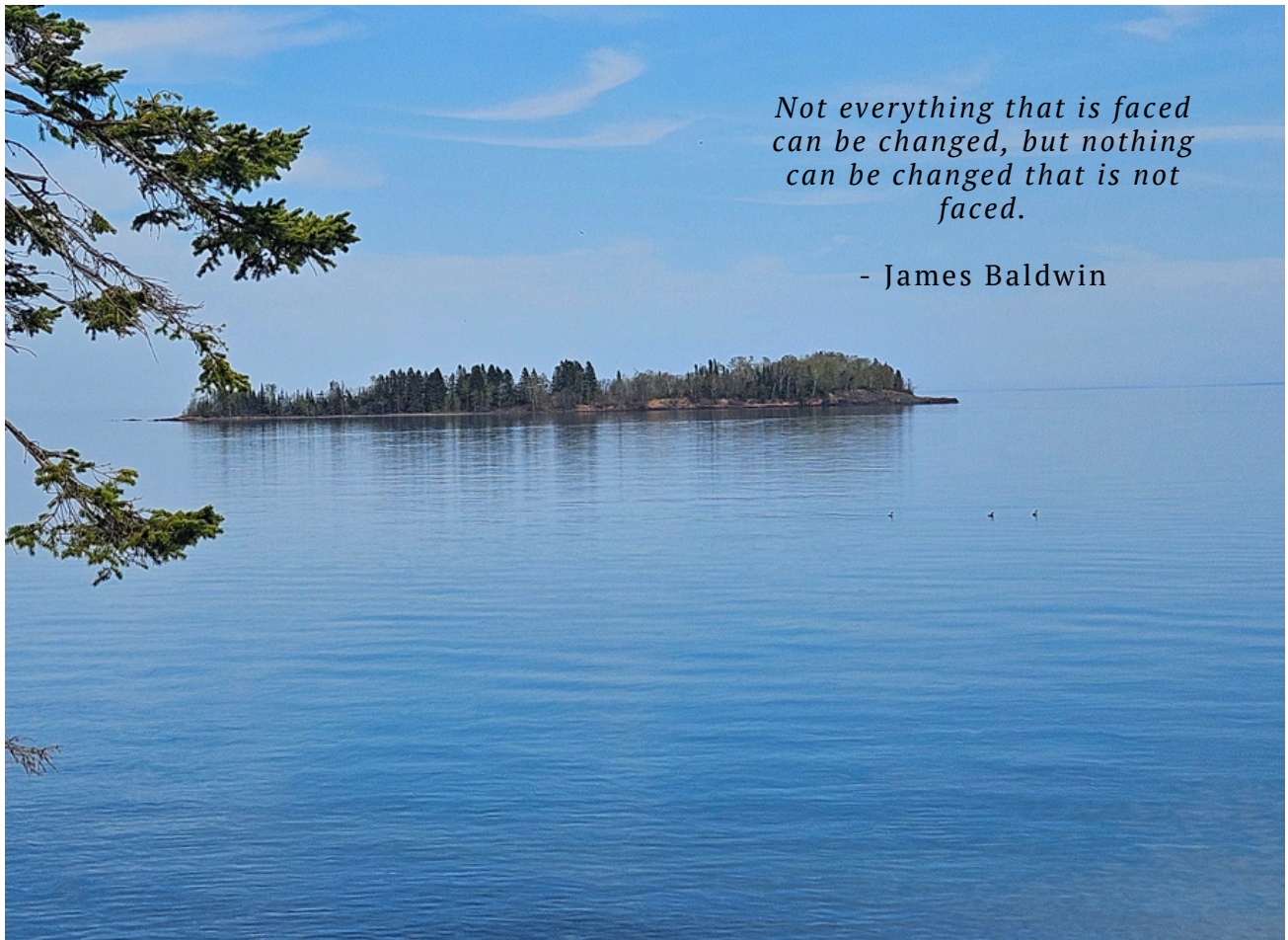
Lorraine Brayden

Sylvia Jamar

Edgewood:

Ethel O' Leary

Pat Tessier



July Birthdays

- 3 Ron Pearson
William Voltzke
- 9 Jeannette Turchi
- 12 David Wedin
- 14 Olivia Bohn
- 16 Joan Peterson
- 18 Norma Wittich
- 21 Bryan Anderson
- 23 Rebecca Holecek
- 29 Kayla Christensen
- 30 Paul Peterson

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 \$40 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."





The story of our planet's future: Observe deeply and let those observations change us

1. Decades ago, when gas was seen as the future of home heating, the practice of having existing utility customers pay for the connection of new customers was built into their bills as a fixed charge every month. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is considering ending this policy as the installation of new pipelines to large users (for example, hyperscale data centers) will not only increase our costs, but also our use of fossil fuels, adding to carbon emissions. Greenhouse gas emissions from Minnesota homes and apartment buildings have increased 38% over the past 17 years, and the largest source of these emissions is natural gas used for home heating and appliances. That number has to go down in order to meet our state's climate goals, which is why the state Legislature has directed the PUC to review current gas policies. Be aware of how we can stop expanding this fossil fuel system and move to cleaner, healthier technologies for home heating that benefit us all.
2. According to the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), Minnesota gas utility customers pay roughly \$34 million dollars each year to expand the gas utility system to add new customers, a practice that began decades ago to expand fossil fuel use in home heating and appliances. The state Legislature has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to reconsider this policy as large-scale new users (such as data centers) drive up the costs of subsidizing this current "free" option. If a new customer had to pay to connect the gas line, they might instead opt for technologies that are better for our climate, such as heat pumps that are starting to take off as an alternative to gas furnaces. Minnesota is also working on enabling broad-scale geothermal energy, so let policy makers know that our state policies should support the investment in these alternatives.
3. Pope Leo XIV recently issued an open letter to "all people of goodwill" that set out a sweeping vision for corporate executives, politicians and individuals who will determine the future of artificial intelligence (AI). The pope warns that we all will also be shaped by AI, requiring the safeguarding of humanity from AI's most disruptive effects. Energy analysts at the Union of Concerned Scientists (ucs@ucs.org) have shown that utilities and other power managers are passing the costs of the massive amounts of energy for data processing onto consumers - because current regulatory practices allow them to do this. UCS and others are working to prevent the data center boom from raising electricity bills, straining the electricity grid, and increasing reliance on polluting fossil-fueled power. Legislation has been filed in Congress and several states that would prioritize clean energy generation to meet demand and ensure that corporations driving this demand assume a share of the costs. Visit act.ucs.org/sp26-data-centers to stay updated on these efforts.
4. The Minnesota Conservation spring newsletter observes that the states in our region using the most wind and solar are the ones with the lowest electricity rates. When we work together, Minnesotans can achieve clean, affordable energy, and already more than half of our electricity comes from clean sources. That number is climbing, thanks to the 100% Carbon Free Electricity by 2040 law we passed in 2023, although we will need to keep protecting that law from efforts to weaken it with loopholes and workarounds. Clean, renewable energy is a crucial part of mitigating the 51% increase in carbon dioxide and other man-made, heat-trapping greenhouse gases since 1850 that have triggered global warming, with the last three years being the warmest on record, worldwide. Minnesota Star Tribune columnist Aaron Brown writes that "climate is about much more than carbon; it's the way we live, as cultural as it is ecological. Climate solutions will improve people's lives, or they aren't solutions at all."

**From Green Blades Rising Newsletter, by Laura Raedeke, Eco Faith Network NE MN Team,
Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, MN, Northeastern Minnesota Synod**



Wish List

The Chum Wish List is where we keep what we need most for each program.

For non-food, in-kind donation drop-offs:

21 W 1st Street, Duluth, MN 55802
Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM

For food, in-kind donation drop-offs:
120 N 1st Avenue W (Chum Food Shelf),
Duluth, MN 55802

Monday-Friday, 7AM-3PM
(Door in the alley is labeled for food
drop offs with a door bell)

For mailing (except for Amazon
deliveries), address to:
102 W 2nd Street, Duluth, MN 55802

For Amazon deliveries, address to:
21 W 1st Street, Duluth, MN 55802

We do not accept miscellaneous
clothing items; kindly take
miscellaneous clothing items to the
Damiano Center

or the Salvation Army. Thank you so
much for partnering with us and
supporting our mission!

Check out our **Amazon Wishlist** to
have items sent straight to those in
need.

**There are copies of the wishlist in
the narthex, on the table where the
newsletters are.**

Safe Bay

The 2026 Safe Bay season will begin on Friday, May 1, at 6 pm at the Vineyard Church. Safe Bay has been a wildly successful program that was first hosted at the Damiano for two years. Last year, with the shelter moving into the Damiano, Safe Bay needed a new location. The Vineyard Church, located on Arrowhead Road, offered to partner with Chum by providing their back parking lot as a safe, secure, and comfortable place for people to park and sleep overnight. We are extremely grateful to Vineyard for this continued support and partnership this season.

Last year, we had 164 guests stay with us. 100 of them stayed 2 or more nights. Of our regular guests, 20% found housing, with many others finding other resources and being able to work on their own stability thanks to the rest and resources offered by Safe Bay. As we open this new season, we are always looking for volunteers who want to support the program through their presence. Safe Bay is always in need of \$20 fuel-only gift cards to offer as incentives to guests who stay at Safe Bay for 5 of the 7 nights in a given week and meet with an outreach worker.

A focus group of clients provided feedback at the end of the 2025 season. One participant, who had stayed with Safe Bay at the Damiano, "I love the peaceful, quiet place. Downtown there was a lot of noise at night but out here there isn't much at all. And it is great to have a quiet place to rest." This is again thanks to the support of the partner congregations and their gifts to the general operating budget of Chum, individuals who support Safe Bay and similar programs with their gifts, or by buying a pie at Rhubarb fest, the Vineyard Church for offering such a wonderful location, and the volunteers who make Safe Bay feel like a home. What you give makes a difference in the lives of so many individuals and for that we are grateful.

Kenwood Lutheran Church Fish Fry



Tuesday, July 14, 2026

5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. 2720 Myers Ave.

Outdoor seating (weather permitting)

Takeout available

On the menu:

Smelt w/option for other Fish or hamburger,
French fries, Coleslaw, Beverage, Dessert

Cost-

\$12 per person or \$30 for a family

LLO Science on Deck

Fri, Jul 17, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm | Free | DECC Harbor Side Convention Center



Scientists and staff of the University of Minnesota Duluth's Large Lakes Observatory invite the community to board and tour the Blue Heron research vessel on the Duluth Harbor behind the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. The Science on Deck event is free and runs from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tours are provided by scientists, crew and students to provide an overview of the R/V Blue Heron's layout and research capabilities.

This edition of Science on Deck is a collaboration with the Duluth Public Library for its "Libraries Love Lakes." It offers interaction with graduate students working on freshwater research. In addition, lists of lake-related literature are provided and a special guest author gives a presentation at 1:30 p.m.

The Blue Heron is part of the University National Oceanographic Laboratory System and is chartered by research scientists to explore any of the Great Lakes. For more info visit scse.d.umn.edu.

Pastor: Rev. Jeffery Davis
Cantor: Jennifer Dums
Joyful Voices Pianist: Patti Martenson
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

Trevor Christensen, President
Delores Grunwald
Ashley Hoppe
Makenzie Morse
Mark Morse, Treasurer
Dan Norlien

Committees

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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

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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
August newsletter are due by Tuesday, July 21st.
Please email your items, corrections, questions,
or comments to duluthconcordia@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit your items.
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