



THE MESSENGER, JUNE, 2026

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



Friends and members of Concordia,

Over the past two months, Concordia has struggled to keep up with our financial commitments as a congregation. Our treasurer, Mark, has been able to utilize timely delay and selective payment to meet most of our obligations. However, with upcoming anticipated expenses, your church council has decided that it is time to make an appeal, as we may not be able to meet those obligations.

We need a general increase in the amount of offerings that members and friends of Concordia contribute. As summer begins, we need a renewed commitment to participation and financial support, so that we escape the usual financial challenge that season typically brings about. We encourage you to give what you can, when you can. We also invite you into the possibility of “adopting a bill.” There are a number of regular expenses that come our way each month that fluctuate very little. Might you be willing to “adopt” one of these bills one time or as an ongoing commitment? We ask you to consider adopting one or part of the following bills:

Greenscape: \$2,101.15 (snowplowing) CLAIMED! THANK YOU!

Hartels: \$132.47 monthly (garbage) CLAIMED! THANK YOU!

CS Water: \$430 monthly (water)

CS gas: \$552 monthly (gas)

MN Power: \$257 monthly (electricity) CLAIMED! THANK YOU!

Spectrum: \$177.38 monthly (phone and internet)

NEMN Synod Benevolence: \$100 monthly

Adopting a bill, in addition, to your usual contribution will help to alleviate the challenge we are facing. If you wish to adopt all or part of a bill, as a one time gift or ongoing contribution, please notify Mark Morse or Pastor Jeff. We ask that this offering be sent through the church rather than direct to the above entities. We are excited that a few households have already sent in extra gifts, increased pledges, and adopted bills. We are thankful for your generosity!

Still, there is more work to be done to stabilize. If we are unable to consistently meet our obligations, your church council will likely need to begin conversation with Pastor Jeff about reducing his time. This is an outcome we hope to avoid, but may nevertheless be necessary. We also hope to explore more possibilities of renters using our space. We think it would be wise to also be open to the possibility of mutually beneficial shared ministry with neighboring congregations, should the opportunity arise. This option would be explored in conversation with the Synod Office.

We understand that in this current context of inflation and economic instability, many are making difficult choices. Under these circumstances, it is not easy to ask for increased generosity. Yet, we believe Concordia, as a community of faith, has good news to share for Duluth, the world, and our time! We graciously ask for your support to help us weather this season of challenge.

Blessings to you all,

Trevor Christensen, President Rev. Jeffery Davis, Pastor Concordia Council



## **Worship Schedule**

**Sunday, June 7**

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

First Lesson: Hosea 5:15-6:6

Psalm 50:7-15

Second Lesson: Romans 4:13-25

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

**Sunday, June 14**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

First Lesson: Exodus 19:2-8a

Psalm 100

Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-8

Holy Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8-23

**Sunday, June 21**

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Psalm 69:7-18

Second Lesson: Romans 6:1b-11

Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

**Sunday, June 28**

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 28:5-9

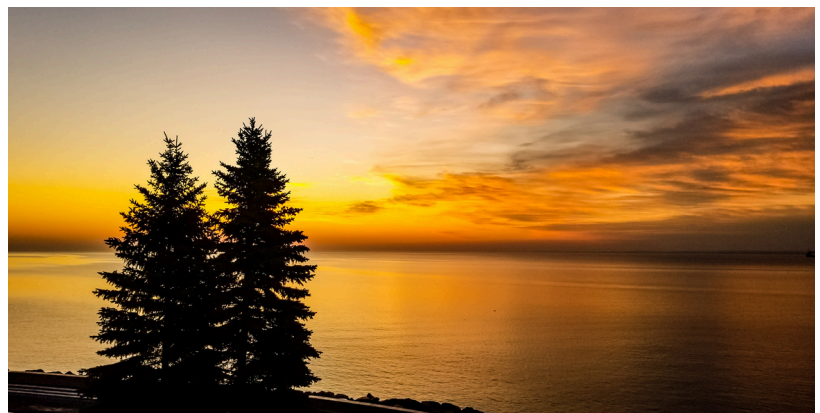
Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Second Lesson: Romans 6:12-23

Holy Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

**Joyful Voices Rehearsals:**

Tuesday, June 9, @ 6 p.m.



**Worship Matters:  
Summer Ordinary Time: A Growing Season**

It is a new season in the Church Year. The numbered Sundays “after Pentecost,” beginning this year on May 31 (Holy Trinity) and concluding November 22 (Christ the King) form the season in the Church Year known as Ordinary Time or Time of the Church. This is the longest season of the Church Year, and its name refers to something ordered or numbered (*ordo* or *ordinal*).

In the first half of our liturgical year, so rich in festivals, we focus on events in the life of Christ. Now, after fifty days of rejoicing (Easter Season), our focus moves from the celebration of significant events in Jesus’ life to a focus on Jesus’ teaching and ministry and what this means for our daily lives of discipleship.

The Gospel proclaimed on Holy Trinity (the “Great Commission”) is a fitting text and foundation for the season. As we enter this time with an emphasis on discipleship, we read this story from the end of Matthew’s Gospel that inaugurates the disciples’ mission and ministry. Jesus’ final instructions are for his followers to make disciples, baptize, and teach. “Go” Jesus says, in a message that sends us beyond our walls to live out the teachings of Jesus in our community and world. The ‘great commission’ concludes with a ‘great comfort,’ a wonderful promise: “I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Throughout the summer we will continue to read from Matthew’s Gospel. We will hear many familiar stories and teachings from Jesus’ ministry that call us and then send us to be messengers and agents of God’s hope, mercy, and love in the world. Pastor Jeff will provide additional focus on our Old Testament texts that include readings from Genesis and Exodus (two of the first five books of the Bible also known as the Pentateuch or Torah); 1 Kings (one of the 12 books of history); and readings from the prophets Hosea, Jeremiah, Zechariah, Isaiah, and Ezekiel.

After Holy Trinity (white), the color for the season will be green, the color we associate with life and growth. The songs of summer will draw from the wealth of music written to complement the texts that will be proclaimed. Some Sundays will be primarily traditional hymnody and other weeks will be music by contemporary composers. One Sunday each month we will gather outdoors for worship under the tent (this month on June 28).

Join us at 10:00 each week during this growing season, as we sing and pray and listen for what God is calling us to do now – together . . .

# Outdoor Worship



June 28  
July 19  
August 16

## APRIL, 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>APRIL, 2026 FINANCIALS</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE 2026</u>
INCOME	\$10,326.00	\$13,683.67	\$47,121.05
EXPENSES	\$11,891.25	\$14,761.83	\$55,507.83
NET	(\$1,565.25)	(\$1,078.17)	(\$8,386.78)

### Concordia Announcements



#### VLM Giving Tree

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (VLM) is filling up. Camp is showing strong numbers for summer programming.. Several of Concordia's younger members will be part of this amazing outdoor ministry.. As a member congregation, Concordia sponsors the canoe country trail shack. This year we will be asking for donations to purchase necessary first aid equipment and emergency beacons. There are already 21 groups booked to take canoe trips. The Giving Tree will be in the narthex May 10-June 7. Please make checks payable to Concordia with VLM Canoe Country in the memo line. Return donations to the box next to the tree. Ice cream flos will be served on June 7, after worship, with donations also going to Canoe Country. Thanks for your support of VLM as it provides opportunities for Christ centered spiritual growth, leadership development, and outreach in God's Great Northwoods!

There is still a need for canoe guides. If you know of someone who might be interested, please contact Bjorn Anderson at [vlmcamps.org](http://vlmcamps.org) under year-round staff. All training and wilderness certification will be paid for by VLM.

#### 2026/Make a Splash Dock Challenge for VLM

Thank you for your generous donations to help replace the docks at Camp Vermilion and Camp Hiawatha. Concordia raised \$300.78 to help the cause. Thanks to a generous memorial gift given to camp, our donation will be matched allowing us to help purchase 3 feet of dock (\$200.00 per foot). Thank you for helping to make camp happen!

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 cost will be matched half the cost to attend. 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 Delores Grunwald or Dave Wedin if you are interested in cost match to attend VLM this summer.

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## Concordia Announcements

We need your Help!!

Not for anything difficult or expensive!

We just need your time, energy & some chopping or stirring skills . . . and your Rhubarb!!

Let's band together to make rhubarb pies for the upcoming CHUM Rhubarb Festival. It's scheduled for the last Saturday in June.

Rhubarb Pie sells better than anything else, and together, we can produce a batch.

And if we have extra rhubarb, we'll make some loaves of rhubarb breakfast bread!

Come join in the fun in our Concordia kitchen. We need you to make it even more fun!

Tasks include:

Washing & Chopping rhubarb

Measuring rhubarb & other ingredients

Measuring & Stirring dry ingredients in with the chopped rhubarb

Filling pie shells with prepared ingredients

Waiting for pies to bake

Clean-up

Time Schedule:

Thursday, June 11, 6-8:30 PM

Friday, June 12, 1-4PM

Please join us for all or any of the times scheduled. Every bit helps.

Call the Wedins at 218-727-4570 to let us know when you are available to help out with the baking, and if you are willing to help pick on other days.

**\*\*Do you have rhubarb plants that need harvesting? Please call Jane & Dave Wedin @ 218-727-4570 to arrange for it to be picked & donated to this baking project.\*\***

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: The family of Wayne Kari, 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, Tom Nelson, and Max

### **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



*Thankfulness brings you to the place where the Beloved lives.*

- Rumi

## June Birthdays

- 1 Ella Gaffey
- 4 Caleb Wedin
- 13 Julie Larson-Williams
- 16 Beth Loiselle
- 18 Laila Davis
- 19 Wanda DeMeo
- 20 Arden Stabs
- 22 Lars Anderson
- 23 Lois Witchall
- 27 Kaylee Larson-Petras
- 28 Tracy Close
- 30 Mark Loiselle



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."





## IT'S RHUBARB TIME TWENTY-ONE YEARS AGO.....

Chum decided to do something extraordinary with a humble stalk of rhubarb. What began as a scrappy community fundraiser has grown into one of Duluth's most beloved summer traditions — 4,000 neighbors gathering on a summer morning, united by joy, generosity, and a shared commitment to one another. This year, as we celebrate the 21st Annual Chum Rhubarb Festival, we're calling on our congregations to rise to one of our greatest needs yet.

We need to bake—a lot.

Our goal this year is between 2,400 and 3,000 pies, crisps, and baked goods—plus jams, jellies, and anything canned. That's not a typo. To feed a festival of this scale and support Chum's mission of providing food, shelter, dignity, and hope to our neighbors, we need our congregations' kitchens, our members' hands, and the full force of our collective generosity. Every pie matters. Every jar of jam matters. Every pan of crisp matters. Every little bit counts — truly.

Fresh pies will need to be delivered on Friday, June 26th.

Here's how your congregation can answer the call:

### ***Bake in Your Own Kitchen***

- If your congregation has a commercial kitchen, we want to hear from you. Please send a letter of commitment to Bud Trnka outlining your baking goal — how many pies, crisps, bars, or other goods you plan to contribute. Whether you can commit to 12 pies or 120, we'll gratefully receive every single one. Jams, jellies, and canned goods are equally welcome and make wonderful festival items. There's no contribution too small.
- Reach out to Bud to commit your kitchen: [btrnka@chumduluth.org](mailto:btrnka@chumduluth.org).
- or (218) 438-5381.

### ***Partner with Another Congregation***

- Don't have a commercial kitchen — or want to multiply your impact? We'd love to connect you with a congregation that does. There's something powerful about two faith communities coming together around a shared oven and a shared mission. If you're interested in joining forces, reach out to Bud, and we'll make the match. It's a beautiful opportunity for cross-congregation fellowship in the spirit of everything this festival stands for.

## IT'S RHUBARB TIME (CONT.)

### ***Help Us Harvest Rhubarb***

- Before anything can be baked, the rhubarb has to be picked. We're organizing harvest days leading up to the festival and need willing hands. If your congregation wants to send a team to help harvest — or if you have rhubarb growing on your property that you'd like to donate — please let us know. There's something deeply grounding about picking the very ingredient that makes this whole celebration possible, and it's a wonderful way to involve all ages in the work.

### **Safe Bay**

The 2025 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.



## **Managing Your Garden and Landscape: The Health of the World We Share with Birds and Pollinators Depends on it.**

1. As more people recognize that what's good for the environment is also good for them and their families, there is growing interest in making gardens and landscapes better for the Earth. Used since the 1940s, synthetic (chemical) fertilizers and pesticides have been shown to be harmful to our air, water, soils, wildlife, and to people. Synthetic nitrogen leaches nitrates into groundwater and surface waters, causing massive algal growth that harms aquatic life and threatens human life. Synthetic nitrogen also releases nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that is 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide. For soil fertility, use USDA certified organic products, OMRI-listed products (Organic Materials Resource Index) , or your own compost. Ask your favorite garden center to carry these types of products. Devote a portion of your backyard, or a strip along your driveway, or on your patio for native wildflower plants (not hybrids) to create pollinator corridors in every neighborhood to support struggling birds, butterflies and other pollinators.

2. 70 out of 100 major crops- apples, blueberries, watermelons, zucchini, nuts, soybeans, squash, cucumbers, oranges, avocados, to name a few - rely on bees and other pollinators. But diseases, pests, climate change, and human encroachment on pollinator habitat have all been implicated in the loss of over 700 North American bee species, 40 percent of all wild insect pollinators, and 90 percent of Monarch butterflies. A growing body of science also points to neonicotinoids, or neonics, the world's most widely used insecticides, as a key factor in the nationwide collapse of bees and other pollinators. Ask retailers who sell plants and gardening supplies to eliminate neonics from the plants they sell. You can provide healthy habitat and food for pollinators by converting parts of your lawn to native plants that do both: go to the website of the EcoFaith Network (<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/pollinator-project> or to the Xerces Society (<https://www.xerces.org/>) for up-to-date information on pollinator conservation.

3. The EPA estimates that 9 billion gallons of water a day are used on lawns and 17 million gallons of gas are used in mowers every year. Expanses of lawns also require the use of broad-spectrum chemicals (such as neonicotinoids) that kill many bees, butterflies, moths, caterpillars, dragonflies and ladybugs, as well as contributing to the death of nestling birds when their insect food disappears. According to the National Wildlife Federation, fish and other aquatic organisms can succumb when pesticides end up in nearby ponds and lakes. By replacing all or part of your lawn with native flowers, (National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder at [bit.ly/3vGsXzZ](http://bit.ly/3vGsXzZ)), you will mow less and provide plantings that will create a diverse and inviting ecosystem for beneficial insects such as dragonflies and damselflies that are voracious eaters of mosquitos. Turtles, frogs, bats, and many species of birds will also feast on the insects, and provide sustenance for their young.

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4. Toxic, synthetic pesticides and fertilizers are popular because they have the ability to increase yields and reduce loss, though at great cost to the health of the soil and the living creatures who come in contact with the chemicals. Chemicals such as neonicotinoids (neonics) not only destroy the pollinators, but also likely harm up to 80 percent of all threatened and endangered species. Neonics are turning up in our food and drinking water, and are implicated in increased risk for birth defects like malformation of the developing heart and brain as well as increased risk of autism-like symptoms, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Nature-based solutions you can use instead are: 1) Neem oil, made from the neem tree, which should be sprayed when you see the first adult bug; and 2) Insecticidal soaps (you can make your own with 1 TBSP of dishwashing soap in a quart of water). Find more tips at [Green America.org](http://GreenAmerica.org) and search "Climate Victory Garden."

5. The Audubon Society reports that at least one-third of all American birds (around 300 million) have disappeared since the 1970s, the result of the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss from industrialization. Researchers are finding that artificial light at night can interfere with the behavior of animals, including migrating birds, dung beetles, pollinating insects and baby sea turtles, according to Dark Sky International, a nonprofit founded by astronomers in 1987. Light pollution can also disrupt the life cycle of tree leaves and increase the amount of carbon released by animals and plants. The late primatologist/author Dr. Jane Goodall taught us that when we truly see what is unfolding in the natural world, we are called to protect it. With the growing realization that natural darkness is as essential to the environment as clean air, clean water, and green space, each of us can use low-impact, or no outdoor lighting in our own spaces, and support a broader push across the nation for the legal protection of dark skies.

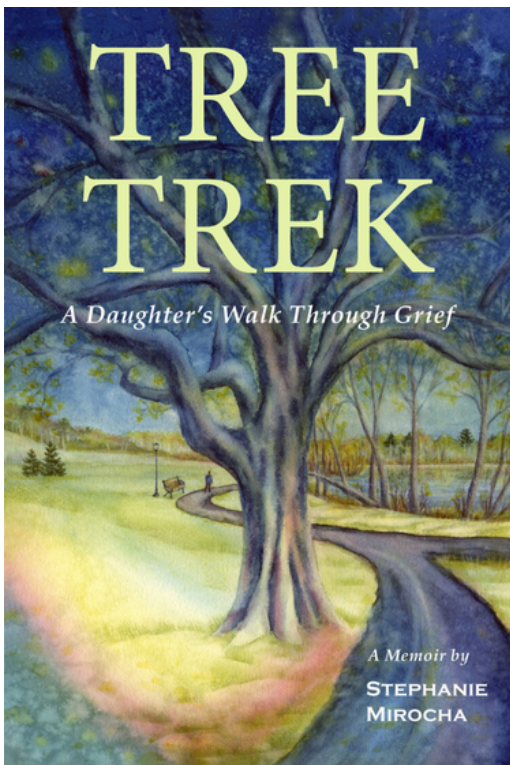
**From Green Blades Rising Newsletter, by Laura Raedeke, Eco Faith Network NE MN Team,  
Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, MN, Northeastern Minnesota Synod**





Duluth Monarch Buddies hosts a market featuring a pollinator/native plant sale from Shoreview Natives in Two Harbors, free resources on pollinator plants and gardening for Monarch butterflies, a native pollinator garden tour, and DMB merchandise for sale. DMB members will be on hand to answer questions, assist with plant purchases and provide direction on developing and increasing monarch and butterfly habitat in their yards and neighborhoods. Local partner organizations will host informational booths, including the Arrowhead Chapter Wild Ones and Boulder Lake Environmental Learning Center.

**Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. @ Hartley Nature Center, Free event**

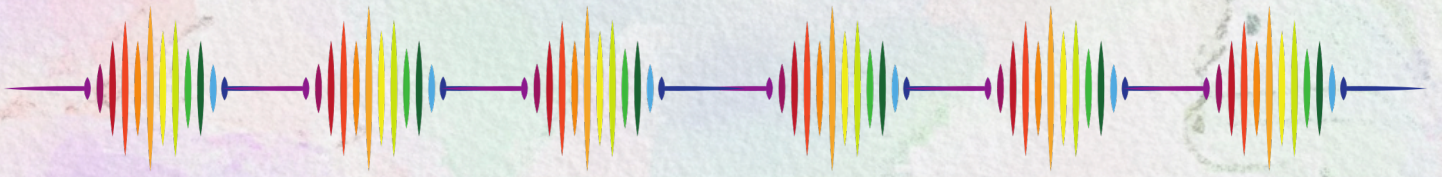


**Fri, Jun 12, 10:00 am | Free | Fairmount Park**

Author Stephanie Mirocha talks about her book *Tree Trek: A Daughter's Walk Through Grief* during this outdoor event. In *Tree Trek*, Mirocha weaves together accessible tree identification with her deeply personal journey through grief, revealing how the natural world can serve as both companion and guide toward healing.

The discussion takes place at Fairmount Park next to Lake Superior Zoo and is followed by an optional one-hour hike led by Duluth Parks and Recreation.

Registration is required on the [Parks and Recreation website](#).



# **SUMMER PARKING LOT CONCERT**

**JUNE 29**

**6:30PM**

(Rain date July 2)



## **Sara Thomsen & Paula Pedersen**

### **Freewill Donation**

Split between CHUM and  
First United Methodist's Choral Music Scholar Program  
Chairs available or bring your own!

**Concessions begin at 5:30**



**First United  
Methodist**

**The Coppertop Church on the Skyline  
230 E. Skyline Parkway • Duluth, MN**

**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**

**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 June  
newsletter are due by Tuesday, May 19th. Please  
email your items, corrections, questions, or  
comments to [duluthconcordia@gmail.com](mailto:duluthconcordia@gmail.com)

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