



THE MESSENGER, MARCH, 2026

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



## **Pastor's Ponderings**

With this recent snowfall event bringing plentiful, heavy snow, I had a number of conversations with people who were utterly tuckered out from all of the shoveling, the snowplowing, and traipsing through the icy depths. Moving snow has a way of exhausting both body and mind, bringing brain fog and sore joints and tired muscles. Yet one person shared with me how ritually satisfying the shoveling of snow is to them. Snowplowing is too loud and jarring, they said. Shoveling is methodical, mindful, and gratifying. You see the path unfolding, slowly but happening because of your work. You hear the audio of each scraping shovel full, developing a rhythm as the process becomes musical. The mind clears and is free to wander and to ponder and reflect. The ritual of removing snow was meaningful to them in a way that I never considered before.

Church life can be like that, too. Sometimes it feels like a chore, just another thing to do, another obligation that makes us tired or adds to an already busy schedule. For some with religious trauma, the feelings are even more complicated as they wrestle between participation and distance. For others, the ritual of silence, prayer, song, and story is satisfying in some intangible way. It brings calm or a sense of purpose or energizes for action. Connection with others in community, too, can be exhausting (introverts anyone?) or life-giving. As we continue to find our way through a renewed era of fear, hatred, and injustice, we also struggle to see how what we do together and who we are has a positive effect on the wider world.

As we enter more deeply into the Lenten season, I invite you to adopt the perspective of the happy snow shoveler. The work needs to be done. It's hard to avoid! Still, there is a tempo therein. There is sound and sight of progress, slow, but steady progress being made. What starts as duty can develop into a practice of deepening connection and community and commitment. The ritual of our life together is like that shovel by shovel clearing away of snow. It can be exhausting, but it can also be satisfying. When we stick it out and power through, we come out on the other end a bit sore, but also impressed that so much got done, that is....until the plow comes by again. Back to work and the ritual again!

Pastor Jeff



## **Worship Schedule**

### **Sunday, March 1 Second Sunday in Lent**

First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121

Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17  
Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17

### **Sunday, March 8 Third Sunday in Lent**

First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95

Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11  
Holy Gospel: John 4:5-42

### **Sunday, March 15 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13  
Psalm 23

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14  
Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41

### **Wednesday, March 22 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130

Second Lesson: Romans 8:6-11  
Holy Gospel: John 11:1-45

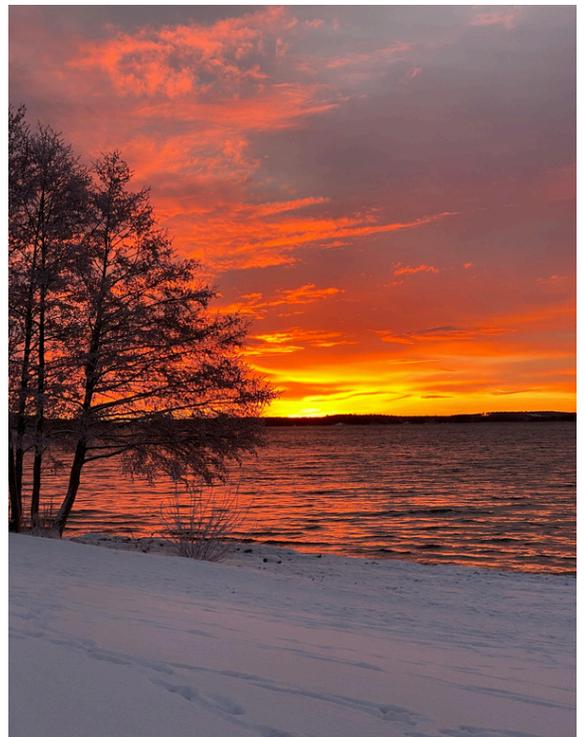
### **Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday**

First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11  
Holy Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66



**Joyful Voices Rehearsals:**  
Tuesdays, March 3, March 10, and  
March 24 @ 6 p.m.



## **Worship Matters: A Lenten Invitation: Return to Me**

We enter the season with an awareness of tension, unrest, and conflict in our world and community, conditions that require us to face our human failings and the vulnerability of humankind. In the midst of all this, the graciousness of God continues to be offered to us.

Lent is a season of being invited by God, “return to me with your whole heart.” It is the springtime of the spirit, of renewal and returning . . . and it challenges us to open our hearts and take a journey toward new life.

Since the mid-fourth century, Christians have observed a time of preparation before the Easter celebration. The forty days of Lent we observe (excluding Sundays) recall the forty days that Jesus fasted, prayed, and was tested, the gospel proclaimed on the First Sunday in Lent in all three lectionary cycles. As our Lenten journey continues we will be guided by stories of faith along the way, and God’s promise of protection, support, love, and new life that sees us through each day.

Lent is a season that encourages reflection on our need for repentance and forgiveness, but we also understand the season as a time of baptismal preparation and renewal. It is a season of faith formation that not only prepares people for baptism; it prepares people for life as the baptized. The Gospel readings from John proclaimed in this lectionary cycle are some of the longest readings from the entire three-year cycle of the lectionary. They are the readings used by the early church and correlate with statements or questions (sometimes referred to as examinations of conscience or scrutinies) historically offered publicly to those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil (sometimes called Catechumens).

Our worship changes to reflect all of these themes. Our liturgy will be *Mass of Mercy*, a setting that incorporates chants and hymn tunes long associated with the season of Lent. The joyful praise and Alleluias we sang throughout the Time after Epiphany are set aside as our worship is simplified and becomes more subdued and pensive. This time of individual and congregational reflection suggests that the joyful nature of “alleluia” be reserved for our Easter celebration when it is given full and jubilant voice. The color of the paraments changes to purple, suggesting solemnity and reminding us of the penitential nature of the season. Altar flowers and other decorative items are removed, drawing our focus to the primary symbols of worship – cross, font, and table. Mid-week (Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.) we will gather and pray for the Healing of the Nations.

Join us as we explore these ancient practices, texts, and teachings that are equally relevant for all of us on the journey today. We are invited to listen carefully to all they have to say as we rededicate ourselves in this season to the kind of life Jesus taught us to live . . .

## JANUARY, 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>JANUARY, 2026 FINANCIALS</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE 2026</u>
INCOME	\$12,578.00	\$13,683.67	\$12,578.00
EXPENSES	\$12,704.18	\$14,761.83	\$12,704.18
NET	(\$126.18)	(\$1,078.17)	(\$126.18)

### Concordia Announcements

**Bridges To Christ is meeting on Monday, March 2nd at 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Bring \$ for CHUM. Watch for the future Toddler Shower announcements for Safe Haven.

**Day Time Quilters will be meeting on Thursday, March 12th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Bring your lunch & dessert is provided.

**Eventide Quilters will be meeting on Thursday, March 12th from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** Learn piecing, sewing & typing quilts. Light refreshments provided.

**Palm Sunday: The Power of Love**

**Sunday, March 29, 3-5pm**

**First Lutheran Church, 1100 Superior St, Duluth, MN 55802**

Since September, Christian clergy across the country have been planning for Palm Sunday as a meaningful moment to live our faith in public. Who is this Jesus who walked into Jerusalem and eventually to the cross? The Gospels depict him as a leader who stirred up an obvious contrast between the power of domination and the power of love. Together with Christians across the Northland, representing over a dozen congregations and counting, we will gather for worship, hospitality, and mutual aid, not just proclaiming but also living Jesus's call to love and care for our neighbors.



As the Voyageur's Lutheran Ministry delegate from Concordia, I attended the VLM Annual Meeting on Saturday February 21. This outdoor ministry consists of two camps, Camp Vermilion in Cook, MN and Camp Hiawatha in Deer River, MN, and provides an amazing outdoor space for youth ages Kindergarten through 12th grade to build their relationship with Jesus Christ. Camp Hiawatha also offers an option for a family camp. My own children have had wonderful experiences at Camp Vermilion the last two years.

As is the case with many organizations right now, VLM needs the support from it's member congregations. Concordia has a rich history of support for this ministry by sending our youth to camp, as well as financial support from our congregation. In past years, we have helped to sponsor the Canoe Country program, and we will continue to do so, but there is also an additional ask this year. Please prayerfully consider, through the month of March, making a one-time contribution of \$20.26 (or any amount you would like) to VLM as they are trying to raise money specifically this year for the cost of new docks for the waterfront at both camps. There will be envelopes available in the Narthex for your donation. Please make checks payable to VLM.

Thank you for helping to make this ministry the best it can be in God's Great Northwoods

*Lent at Concordia*



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY  
18TH AT 6:30 PM

EVENING PRAYER FOR THE  
HEALING OF THE NATIONS  
6 PM

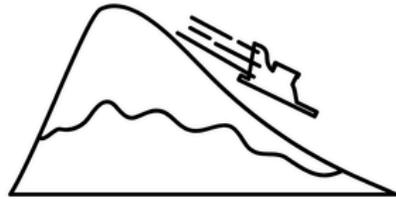
WEDNESDAYS  
FEBRUARY 25, MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25



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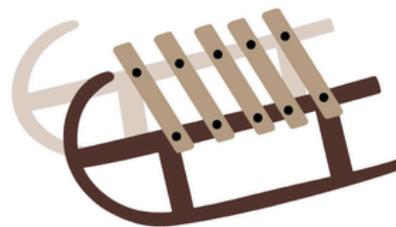
# SANDWICH AND SCRIPTURE

**Concordia Narthex**  
**11:30 A.M.**  
**Wednesdays**  
**February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**



## *Concordia Family Event*

March 15th after worship  
Sledding at Ridgeview Golf Course  
Bring warm gear, a sled/tube, and a  
friend!





**SOCIAL JUSTICE  
POTLUCK  
MARCH 22ND**

## **What is Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression? (SOGIE)**

We will explore the identities expressed in the  
LGBTQIA+ acronym.

**BRING A DISH TO  
SHARE**



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 Gayle Nelsen, The family of Warren Roberts, The family of Julie Ann Petersen Soderberg, Roger Erickson, Tim Bell, Migrant families, The people of Palestine, Iran, 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, Max, and Wayne Kari.

### **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.

**Aftenro:** Wayne Kari



*Those who dwell among the  
beauties and mysteries of the  
earth are never alone or weary  
of life*

-Rachel Carson

## March Birthdays

- 3 Thaen Doughty-Rosas
- 5 Raylene Gomon
- 6 Margaret Roeser
- 11 Scott Gomon  
Wayne Kari
- 12 Matt Wedin
- 18 Kurt Michalicek
- 19 Mike Edwards
- 21 Jean Voltzke
- 31 Bob Almquist



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."





### **Wish Lists**

The Chum Wish List is where we keep what we need most for each program. Donations can be brought to our administrative office at 102 W 2nd St from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. If possible, please sort your donations into separate bags/containers by item. We do not accept miscellaneous clothing items; kindly take miscellaneous clothing items to the Damiano Center or the Salvation Army. We are no longer in need of blankets or coats this winter.

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.

### **St. Francis Apts.**

#### **High Priority: Furniture**

- We're running out of "nonessential" furniture for tenants, especially the ones just moving in.
- Comfy chairs
- Bookshelves
- Small dressers
- Tables

#### **Always Need**

- Monthly bus passes
- Gift cards for grocery stores, dollar stores, pharmacies etc.
  - when tenants have no cash, it would be nice to have gift cards to get them through the month
- Toiletries
  - shampoos
  - conditioners
  - deodorants
  - mouthwash
  - air fresheners
- Quart-size Ziplock bags
- Can openers
- Cleaning supplies
  - dish soap
  - bleach kitchen cleaner
  - Tide Pods/Laundry detergent
  - window cleaning solution
  - disinfectant wipes
  - Scrubbing bubbles fresh gel toilet cleaning stamp or Clorox toilet cleaning wand
- Towels of all kinds
- Regular light bulbs
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels

### **Steve O' Neil Apts.**

#### **High Priority:**

- Shelf-Stable Food Donations
- Sponges
- Mops
- Brooms
- Laundry baskets
- All purpose cleaner
- Laundry detergent
- Dish soap
- Lysol wipes
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Lice Kits
- Garbage Cans

#### **For Those Who Are Living Outside**

- Two Person Tents Preferably with a rain fly.
- 0 Degree Sleeping Bags.
- Rain Tarps.
- Winter Gear: Socks, Hats, and Mittens.
- Gas Cards to Gas Stations \$20.

#### **For Those Who Are Hungry**

- Canned Fruits and Vegetable
- Juice
- White or Brown rice
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Tuna and Chicken
- Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned Soups (not Creamed)
- Canned Pasta

#### **For Those Staying in Our Shelter**

- Hygiene Products
- Combs
- Sewing Kits
- Socks
- New Underwear (Men's and Women's)
- Towels
- Washcloths
- Fitted Single Sheets
- Adult Coloring Books and Markers

#### **What we do not need**

- Mouthwash Containing Alcohol
- Make-Up
- Perfumes
- Stuffed Animals
- Decorative Pillows
- Miscellaneous Clothing
- Used bottles of any product



**"What you do makes a difference. And you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." Primatologist/Scientist/Author Dr. Jane Goodall (d. 2025)**

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

1. As of January 26, 2026, the U.S. has become the **only country in the world** to abandon the Paris Climate Agreement, an international commitment to slow global warming. The U.S. is also leaving the United Nations Treaty (unanimously ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1992 and signed by President George H.W. Bush) that underlies the Paris agreement. Currently the planet's second largest climate polluter (after China), and **historically the largest emitter** of the carbon that traps heat, contributes to sea level rise, heat waves and intensifying extreme weather like floods, wildfires, and droughts, the U.S. is simultaneously throttling back clean energy while promoting more drilling and mining of coal, oil, and gas. Henry David Thoreau, in the mid 1800s, asked *"What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?"* Let your representatives know that you see what is happening - and that you care.

2. Eight data sets from international climate monitoring teams recently found that **the past three years are the hottest on record**, with average temperatures coming dangerously close to the internationally agreed-upon limit of **1.5 degrees C (2.7 degrees F)**. The teams (including the U.S.'s NASA, NOAA, teams from U.K. and Japan, the E.U.'s Copernicus service, the World Meteorological Organization) warn that **the last 11 years have been the hottest 11 years on record**, signifying a disturbing acceleration in warming that will intensify heat waves and other extreme weather, endangering people and causing billions of dollars in damage. Most of the teams used temperature data that goes back to 1850, employing a combination of satellite data, computer simulations, and ground and sea observations, with the eight data sets being within less than a tenth of a degree apart. According to the lead climate scientist at the Copernicus service, "The culprit is clear: the burning of coal, oil, and natural gas."

3. According to the Minnesota State Climatology Office, it was common to **see 30 to 50 nights at or below zero degrees** in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, while the current average, as reported by Minnesota meteorologist Paul Douglas, is roughly **19 to 22** nights per year, a clear signal of climate change. You can help address climate change: **1)** start a climate-friendly garden with native plants that require less water, avoid chemical pesticides, and plant trees to absorb carbon dioxide and provide shade; **2)** reduce food waste and compost scraps instead of sending them to landfills; **3)** ditch single-use plastics in favor of reusable bottles, bags and containers; **4)** encourage your community to act - spread awareness, share tips and organize local climate initiatives; **5)** hold leaders accountable - know elected officials' climate policies and urge them to champion clean energy.

4. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), whose core responsibility is to protect human health and the environment, has been ordered to consider only the costs to industry of curbing two of the most widespread deadly air pollutants - **fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and ozone** - and not the health benefits, according to internal agency emails and documents reviewed by the New York Times. **PM2.5** particles from coal-burning power plants, oil refineries, steel mills and other industrial facilities are small enough to penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, while **ozone**, a smog-causing gas emitted from power plants, factories, and vehicles, is linked to asthma, heart and lung disease, and premature death. The move to not consider public health benefits ignores the 2015 Supreme court case Michigan vs. EPA in which Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the majority, said that if an agency considers the benefits of a regulation, it must also consider the costs, and vice versa.

# 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](mailto:rachel.lpcfc@gmail.com).*

### Donation Locations:

- Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative
  - 2424 W 5<sup>th</sup> 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  
**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 April  
newsletter are due by Tuesday, March 17th.  
Please email your items, corrections, questions,  
or comments to [duluthconcordia@gmail.com](mailto:duluthconcordia@gmail.com)

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