



THE MESSENGER, MAY, 2026

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



At our 2026 Northeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, voting members from some 125 congregations from across our region came together to consider who God is calling us to be for the sake of our neighbors and world. In hearing reports and updates, in gathering for worship, in upbuilding conversation, community was nurtured and greater clarity around our shared mission was sought. Here is a brief rundown of some of the decisions that were made!

We elected a new bishop! A bishop is a pastor to the whole synod, but also a leader who can further a collective vision and serve as a public voice, speaking to society words of blessing and challenge. The Bishop-elect is Pastor Taryn Montgomery who currently serves as the Synod Minister for Discipleship and Christian Community. She has extensive gifts around stewardship, congregational vitality, discipleship building, and discernment practices. I look forward to her leadership for these next six years!

When we gather at Assembly, we also consider a budget that reflects the mission priorities of the synod, but also takes into account the current state of the church. Due to declining benevolence, the synod council presented a budget that eliminates a synod staff position. This will likely mean that either a current priority will no longer be, or that a new member of the bishop's staff will be asked to do more.

The assembly also considered resolutions that shape our ministry together. Two of these involved care for creation, encouraging ecological resilience in the face of climate change for our congregations and furthering on to church-wide assembly a memorial to create staffing and funding for the work of climate justice. We also approved a measure that would provide seed money for hunger justice related grants beginning in 2028. Lastly, the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) presented a resolution that will allow congregations to send an additional voting member under 18 years old to assembly. Passionate debate on both sides of the resolution, including by current youth voting members, led to the adoption of the resolution.

At an evening gala, a celebratory dinner with a live and silent auction was held with the goal raising money for our synod's Emmaus Fund. This fund supports leadership development, youth and young adult engagement, and congregational outreach through micro-grants for ministry opportunities. If I remember correctly, over \$30,000 was raised for the second year in a row!

The assembly is only a small part of the work we do together as a wider church, but it always heightens the awareness that we are not alone as a congregation. We share a ministry with many others that proclaims Christ, works for justice, and creates community. We are part of something!

Pastor Jeff



Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Holy Gospel: John 14:1-14

Sunday, May 10 Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Holy Gospel: John 14:15-21

Sunday, May 17 Seventh Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 1:6-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

Holy Gospel: John 17:1-11

Sunday, May 24 Day of Pentecost

First Lesson: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-23

Sunday, May 31 The Holy Trinity First Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:4a

Psalm 8

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:

Tuesday, May 12, @ 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 26 @ 6 p.m.



Worship Matters: Easter The Great Fifty Days

Easter is not a one day event, but a fifty day celebration known as The Great Fifty Days. The hope and promise of the Easter message, the central belief of Christianity, is observed for a week of weeks (7 x 7). The season begins with the Easter Vigil (after sundown on Holy Saturday) and includes the events of Christ's Resurrection, Ascension on the 40th Day (May 14), and concludes with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, the 50th day (May 24). This is the principal and oldest festival of the Church Year (first mentioned by name in 130 AD).

The early church called this period of time *mystagogia*, and those baptized or affirming their baptismal vows at the Easter Vigil reflected on the meaning of their baptism and the 'mysteries' of faith. Today the whole church enters into this period of reflection and contemplation. It is a season for discovering and claiming our identity in the Risen Lord and preparing for our ministry as the body of Christ.

The color for the season is white, and the symbols associated with the season are beautiful and bright. Altar flowers, absent throughout Lent, now bring the colors of spring into our Sanctuary. Our worship invites us to rejoice (Alleluia!) and to go forth and share this joy – as we offer praise and thanksgiving to God who makes all things new. The Paschal Candle (lit at the Easter Vigil from the new fire), a symbol of the resurrection and the darkness of death giving way to light and life, is lit for every liturgy in this season. The Lectionary also takes a turn during Easter. The Sundays of Easter are unique in that all three of the readings come from the New Testament. The First Reading, in all three lectionary cycles, is from Acts of the Apostles (stories of the early church), and our Gospel readings are mostly from John. Except for the Psalms (the "hymnal" of our Bible), we close the Old Testament during these 50 days.

This month, as the season continues to unfold and we move closer to Ascension and Pentecost, our readings foreshadow the ongoing life of the church; and our Gospel texts shift to that part of John known as the "Farewell Discourse," in which Jesus prepares his disciples for his departure and for the coming of the Holy Spirit. We look at Jesus' life, his words, his work, and contemplate what it means for us to carry this name – to be called Christians, for Jesus' sake and for the sake of the world God so loves.

We are sent forth, witnesses to Christ's life and resurrection, entrusted to share this love with the world, "that all may be one."

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

Social Justice Potluck: El Paso Border Immersion

with Bryan Anderson, Greg Grunwald, and Pastor Jeff

**May 3rd after worship
Bring a dish to share!**





Spring

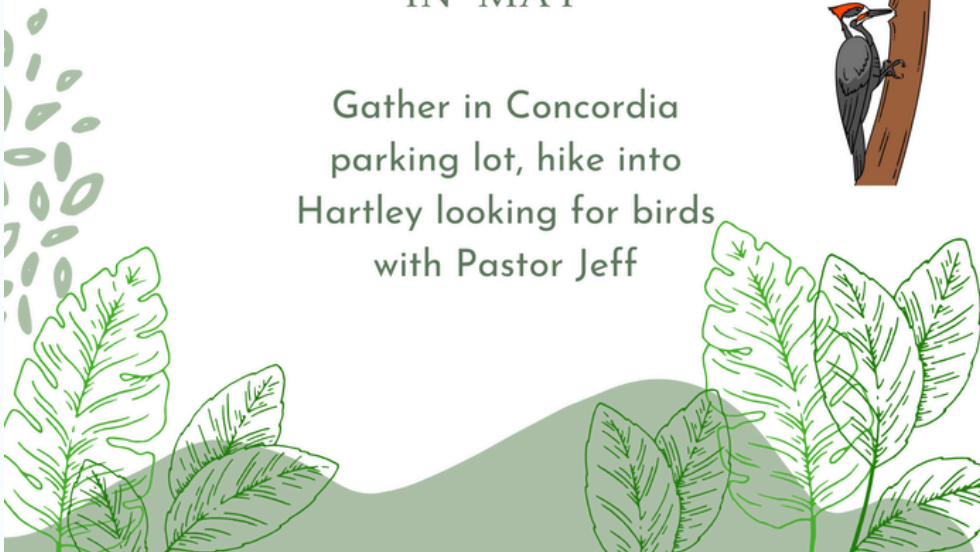


B I R D

W A L K S

8:00 AM MONDAYS
IN MAY

Gather in Concordia
parking lot, hike into
Hartley looking for birds
with Pastor Jeff



MARCH,2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

| <u>MARCH, 2026 FINANCIALS</u> | <u>ACTUAL</u> | <u>BUDGETED</u> | <u>YEAR TO DATE 2026</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| INCOME | \$14,417.00 | \$13,683.67 | \$36,795.05 |
| EXPENSES | \$14,865.00 | \$14,761.83 | \$43,616.58 |
| NET | (\$448.00) | (\$1,078.17) | (\$6,821.53) |

Concordia Announcements

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Women's Spring Luncheon is on Saturday, May 2nd from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. It includes a sandwich lunch, gardening message, special music & a youth activity. Tickets are \$10/adults; 12 & under are free. You can also bring guests. Bridges To Christ members are attending, so please come with us! Ann Edwards (218-390-3095) can purchase tickets or you can get them online by going to the Good Shepherd website.

Thank you to everyone for donating items for the Safe Haven Toddler Shower! There were 9 boxes of diapers & pullups, wipes, 41 sleepers/outfits, hats, blankets/afghans, soxs & briefs.



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 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.

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: 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, 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

Benedictine:

Lorraine Brayden

Sylvia Jamar

Edgewood:

Ethel O' Leary

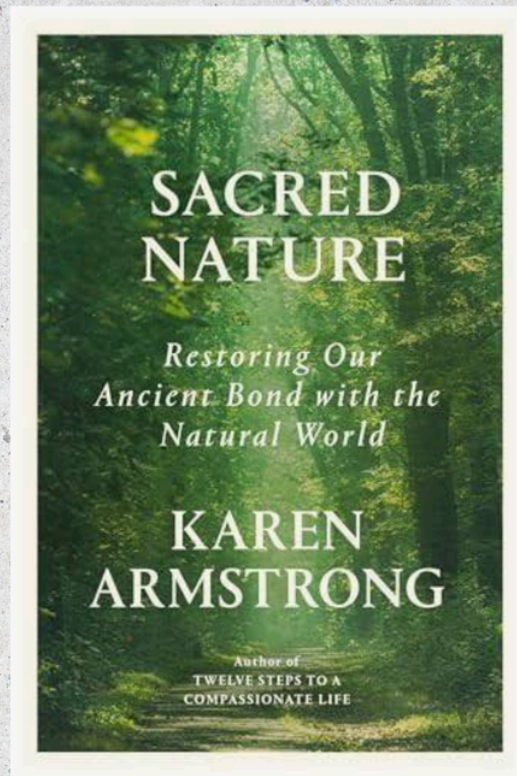
Pat Tessier



One sees clearly only with the heart; anything essential is invisible to the eye.

-Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Deeper Things



*Join a summer book discussion of
Sacred Nature by Karen Armstrong*

Let Pastor Jeff know if interested!

May Birthdays

- 3 Kevin Erickson
Delores Grunwald
Emilia Voltzke
- 5 Michaela Gaffey
- 10 Cory Erickson
Mark Morse
- 11 Jane Wedin
- 14 Lynsey Carlson
- 18 David Bohn
- 21 Adrianna Doughty-Rosas
- 31 Reba 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 \$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.
- 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.



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Hellen Keller

1. The American Geophysical Union finds that in just this past year, the federal government has removed data from federal websites, frozen or canceled grants for climate research and weakened regulations designed to protect public health and the environment. At the same time, it is pouring billions of dollars into propping up failing coal-fired power plants whose carbon emissions are responsible for human-caused climate change, according to the World Weather Attribution, an international group of scientists who study the causes of extreme weather events. Heat and cold waves, downpours and drought in the past couple years are afflicting the U.S. with inflation-adjusted billion-dollar weather disasters twice as high as just 10 years ago, and four times higher than 30 years ago. Climate experts and scientists at NOAA, Climate Central, and FEMA warn that communities and infrastructure built within the last 100 years of past weather are "starting to break," as evidenced by "insurers walking away."

2. In addition to cuts to federal funding and the firing or early retirement of thousands of government scientists this year, the latest cut to science is to dismantle the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado, one of the world's premier climate and weather science institutions. The center's 830 employees conduct research on weather, climate, and energy systems, and operate supercomputers that are used by thousands of scientists across the globe. The center's research led to technological advances in aviation, hurricane prediction and space weather, and helped inform the insurance industry to better predict risk from extreme weather. Now is the time to join together and demand that our elected leaders represent our communities and prioritize public safeguards informed by science.

3. In 2009, the National Science Foundation (NFS) allocated \$386 million to build the Ocean Observatories Initiative (strings of stationary buoys and moored instruments in four locations around the U.S.) that measure the ocean's long-term shifts in ocean circulation affecting climate change, and other disruptions. The observatories were completed in 2016, but the federal government this past year has slashed the \$40 million each year needed to keep the 900 scientific instruments running, according to senior scientists at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. With a Super El Nino warm phase of the Pacific brewing (a natural process amplifying background warming triggered by burning fossil fuels), state meteorologist Paul Douglas cautions that while the last three years have been the warmest on record, worldwide, this year will bring perhaps the worst wildfires we have experienced yet. Be an advocate for the science that helps us navigate the challenges we face.

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



Music is a profound language that brings together community members, generates medicinal impacts, and has positive impacts throughout an individual's body. We are excited to have James Harvin, Pink Marlana, Annie Humphrey, and Keith Secola with Geneviève Gros-Louis, who is a world class Native violinist, joining us for our music festival and sharing their gifts with the community.

WHEN: Saturday, May 9, 2026

TIME: 5:00 - 9:00 pm

WHERE: Sacred Heart Music Center, 201 West 4th Street, Duluth

TICKETS: \$35 per person, Gathering Circle Pass - must be purchased before May 8, 2026

\$40 per person, Good Life Pass - purchased at the door.

Over the last 30 years, AICHO has been instrumental in providing safety and shelter for people who experience domestic, need permanent supportive housing, as well as offer traditional health and healing programming for residents and community members.

AICHO has been a voice on local, state and national levels particularly for Indigenous people.

Please join us for this spectacular gathering to support the work we are doing in our community.

This event is alcohol and substance free.



First Lutheran Foundation Dialogue in Action Speaker Series 2026.

Join Austen Hartke, author of “Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians,” for an evening of education and storytelling. Tuesday, May 12, 2026 5:00 p.m. Austen will describe his experience growing up in and out of church, touching on a few of the Bible stories that helped him feel seen along the way, before moving focus to our current context. What does it mean to be transgender today? What struggles do trans people face, and what unique joys do they bring to the world? How can we, as friends, family, and neighbors, support the gender-expansive people in our lives? A Q&A and book signing will follow the lecture. Austen Hartke is also the founder and former Executive Director of Transmission Ministry Collective, an online community dedicated to the spiritual care, faith formation and leadership potential of transgender and gender expansive Christians. Austen is a graduate of Luther Seminary’s Master of Arts program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies and is the winner of the 2014 John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing from the same institution.

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

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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

We reserve the right to edit your items.
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