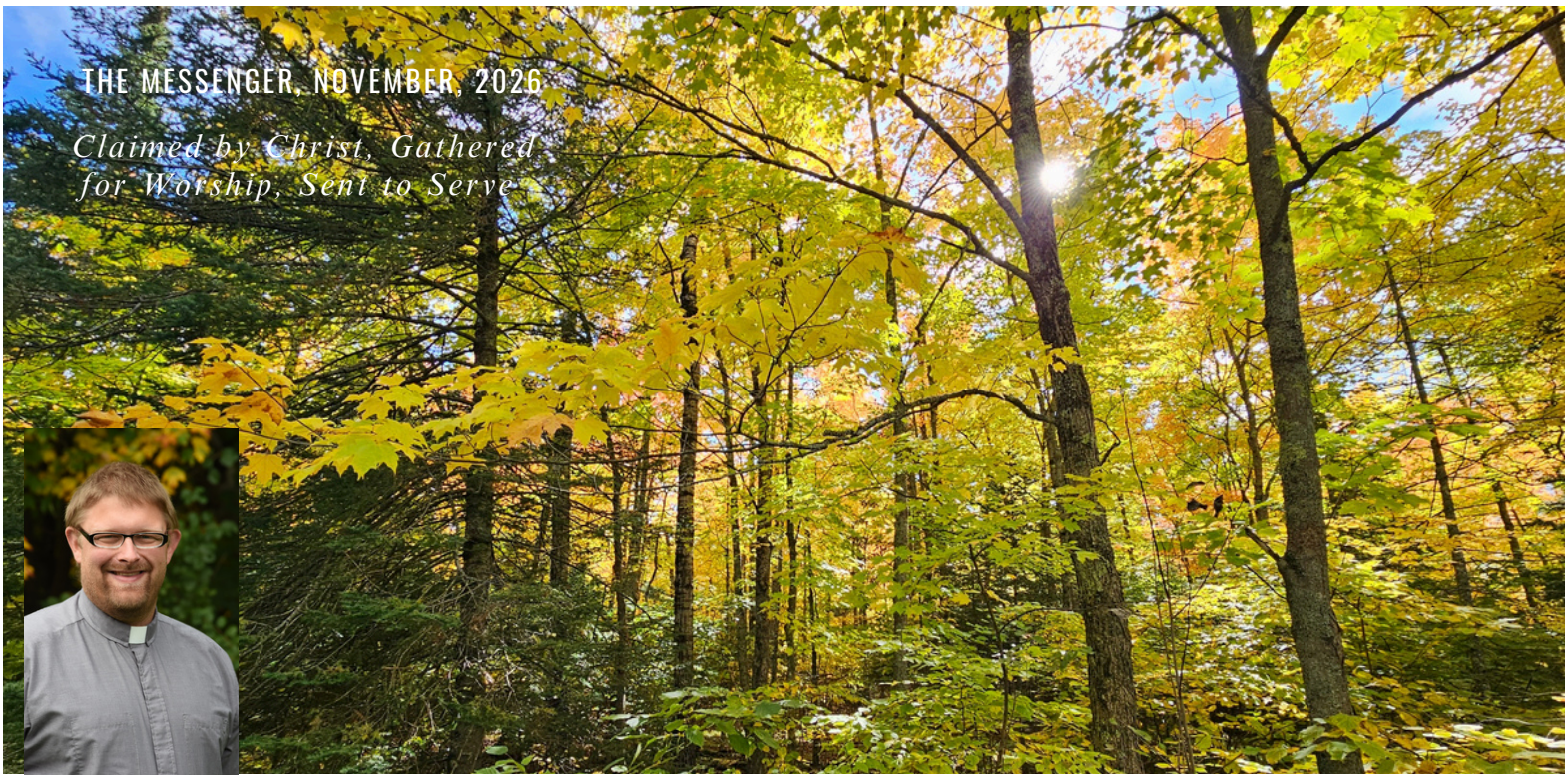


Pastor's Ponderings

Claimed by Christ, Gathered for Worship, Sent to Serve

Welcoming Community: We welcome all people into the Body of Christ; a spirit of caring binds us together as diverse, intergenerational community.

The Congregation council is revisiting our mission plan, exploring our identity and call as Concordia. This, however, is also the work of the whole congregation! In the newsletter, as well as in the weekly announcements, we will share with you a section of the 2017 Mission Plan along with prompts for further reflection and response. If you feel so moved, a white board in the narthex will be a place where you can share those respectful, faithful, imaginative responses.

The third core Core Value expressed in the Mission Plan is Welcoming Community. Below you will find a goal, as well as some concrete objectives. Take some time reading and reflecting. Think about what we do, what we have done, what we haven't done, and what we could do. Also think about the question of "why" we do these things and what difference it makes for the world that we do. The reflection prompts are to guide you in your pondering.

God's blessings to you as you explore who we are as Concordia and what we are called to be!

Pastor Jeff

To become known as a place of hospitality that welcomes all people into a diverse, intergenerational, caring community.

- Be more intentional about and enhance our hospitality ministry with visitors at worship (greeters, intentional conversations, coffee fellowship time, follow-up correspondence, etc.)
- Find more effective ways to publicize our ministry in the community.
- Continue to expand and keep up to date our on-line presence (social media, website - www.duluthconcordia.org, etc.)
- Encourage community use of the building.
- Explore opportunities to connect with college and university students and invite them to participate in our life and ministry
- Strengthen community by building relationships within our neighborhood and across barriers that typically divide us.
- As church membership grows work to create a Hospitality / Outreach / Evangelism committee to organize and oversee this area of congregational life.
- Explore becoming a Reconciled in Christ congregation

Goal: To become known as a place of hospitality that welcomes all people into a diverse, intergenerational, caring community.

What does Concordia do that fulfills this goal?

How does this goal meet the need of the world/neighborhood?

How can Concordia expand on this goal?

What needs to be updated about this goal?

Upcoming Opportunities:

Sunday School: During worship on November 29th.



Worship Schedule

Sunday, November 1
All Saints Day

First Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
Second Lesson: 1 John 3:1-3
Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, November 8
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 15
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-12
Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 22
Christ the King

First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23
Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24-37



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:
Tuesday, November 10 and Tuesday, November 24 @ 6 p.m.

Sing For Joy



Worship Matters:
"November Reflections"

We are in the last weeks of the Church Year, a transitional time reminding us that as a Christian community we live simultaneously in the past, present, and future. In this last month, we come full circle. There are visions of the last day and life everlasting, themes of the dominion of God in Jesus Christ, and the church existing beyond time and space . . . all leading us into another Advent (November 29) of watching and waiting.

As we move toward a new year (liturgical and calendar) our readings provide cautions and warnings, as well as hope and a reminder that there is nothing to fear – God is with us in all moments of our lives. What we shall become is not yet known, but Jesus tells us we are blessed now, and invites us to help bring about the reign of God. Our scripture readings speak of end times and judgment as well as the promise of the glory. The gospel writer Matthew reminds us to live out the fruits of the Spirit, to live lives of compassion, lovingkindness, truth, mercy, and justice. We are challenged to be good stewards of God's gifts, and we celebrate the generous goodness that comes to us daily, and then sends us forth to share with others. November is a time for celebrating the community of God's people, and to proclaim the gospel by what we do as well as what we say.

In these final weeks there are some special observances. On **All Saint**s (November 1) we remember the saints whose stories and lives have shaped our lives and the collective life of the church. We remember not only the martyrs and saints, but all the people of God who have gone before us in time and through whose lives the grace and love of God has shone. We light candles for members and friends of the congregation who have died in the past year, and we offer prayers and thanksgiving for this "great cloud of witnesses," a link of rich memory to a story that continues to shape us here and now . . .

The Church Year culminates with the celebration of **Christ the King** (November 22) and we are invited to renew our faith in a king like no other. Jesus reigns as a servant-king, a humble shepherd that rules with gentleness and care in a kingdom of enduring and redeeming love.

Our Gospel readings in these last weeks of the liturgical year conclude the public teaching of Jesus in Matthew. They are his final teachings to the disciples, a guide for discipleship "between the times" of Jesus' earthly presence and triumphant return. We pray in these lingering days of Ordinary Time that our lives will reveal the grace and promise of lives lived fully and freely for Christ, and that we will be authentic and faithful witnesses to this gospel that closes the Church Year (Matthew 25).

SEPTEMBER,2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER,2026 FINANCIALS	ACTUAL 2026	BUDGETED	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME	$8,651.00	$13,683.67	$123,827.05
EXPENSES	$13,884.46	$14,761.83	$114,639.48
NET	$762.54	($1,078.17)	$626.57

Concordia Announcements

NEW for Bridges To Christ! This women's group will be meeting in the afternoon on the 1st Thursday of the month beginning in November. First one is November 5th @ 1-3 p.m. @ Bulldog Pizza. Come join us for fellowship, beverage, lunch, or just dessert (your choice).

Day Time Quilters will meet on Thursday, Nov 12th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come help us with sewing and tying. Bring your lunch & dessert is provided.

Eventide Quilters will meet on Thursday, Nov 12th from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come learn how to create a donation quilt. Light refreshments provided.

The book drive for Spanish or bilingual books, targeting grades K-6, will continue until May. A donation box is in the narthex. Again, thank you for your support!

Duluth Center for Women and Children Nourish Program (a non-profit): Nourish's mission is to ensure families in the Central Hillside have access to healthy, affordable food. Nourish's vision is a community where everyone has access to healthy food and feels confident and comfortable preparing nutritious meals for their families. Nourish is looking for our help is spreading the word about their Meal Kit Program. A Meal Kit Subscription, can be purchased, which provides local fresh ingredients, easy-to-follow recipes, and weekly delivery to your door. The best part is that a purchased subscription helps sponsor a family in the Central Hillside to receive their meal kits for free. If you would like more information, want to sign up for a subscription, get involved as a volunteer, or donate you can visit Duluth Center for Women and Children online, email dcwcnourish.com, or call (218)-249-1644.

Concordia Giving Tree - The Concordia Christmas Giving Tree for Stowe Elementary School will be coming up very soon. This year's schedule is a bit earlier this year to enable the Stowe Staff to sort and deliver the gifts to their students before their school break. The Giving Tree supports the students and their families by providing holiday spirit to those who are unable to afford the extras during the holiday season. The Giving Tree, with the wishlist tags, will be available starting November 15th. Please deliver your wrapped or unwrapped gift(s) to Concordia by Monday, December 8th. Other items we will be collecting are SuperOne gift cards, school supplies, hats, mittens, chap stick, and winter outdoor clothing (new and gently used). If you do not like to shop, we will gladly do it for you (cash or checks, made out to Lynn Carlson). If you have any questions, please contact us at (218) 341-7190. Thank you so much for your generous support! Bill and Lynn



SANDWICH AND SCRIPTURE

Concordia Narthex
11:30 A.M.
Wednesdays
November 4th and 18th

SOCIAL JUSTICE
POTLUCK
NOVEMBER 29TH

Stories of LGBTQIA+ People of Faith

BRING A DISH TO
SHARE...PERHAPS
MADE FROM
THANKSGIVING
LEFTOVERS!



Blessed Abundantly to Share Abundantly

Estimate of Giving, 2027

As a member of Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church, I/we recognize and cheerfully accept my/our financial responsibility towards supporting our ministries. I/we will contribute the following:

Weekly OR

Monthly OR

Yearly

Name (s):

Phone:

E-mail:

To meet our typical budget, we need each giving unit (family or individual) to give an average of $3800/year. Not everyone can do this and some are able to do more. If you are able, you are invited and challenged to increase your giving toward this average.

2026 Budget: $164,204
Amount needed from 44 households: $3,800

Optimal Budget (Pastor at guidelines, office manager and custodian at 10 hrs., musicians, treasurer): $198,554
Amount needed from 44 households: $4,512

Half-Optimal Budget (Pastor part way to guidelines, office and custodian at 5 hrs., musicians near current, half treasurer): $177,079
Amount needed from 44 households: $4,024

Knowing this commitment should not represent a burden to my/our household, I/we may revise it at any time with notification.

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

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

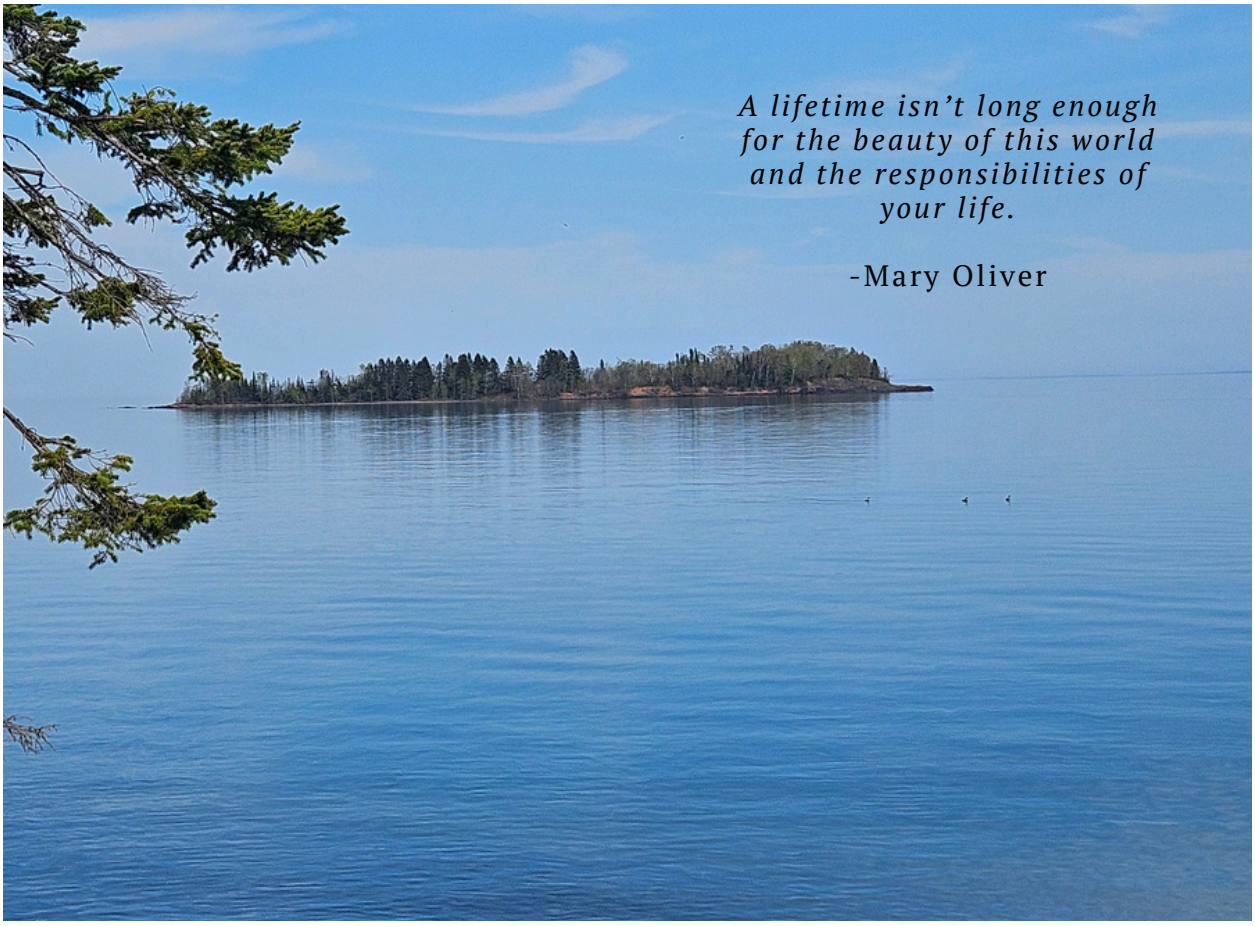
Please remember the following people who have been hospitalized, under a doctor's care, struggling, or those grieving since our last newsletter: Rhyder Sauter, Those marginalized for their sexual or gender identity, race, or ability, Tom Nelson, Those affected by natural disasters, Max, Jordan Sauter, Tim Bell, Migrant families, The people of Palestine, Iran, Lebanon, and Ukraine, Rory and Greg Raymond, Those unlawfully detained, Carrie Birdseye-Erickson, Kathleen Murphy Edwards, Baby Finn, The families, the survivors, and communities where mass shootings have occurred, and Patti Pearson.

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



November Birthdays

2 Joan Emery
Ashley Hoppe

18 Sylvia Jamar

19 Cooper Meints

28 Robert Glibbery

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 flowes 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 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!

Wish List Items

Underwear and Socks

Towels/Washclothes of any size
Reusable bags (backpacks, totes,

duffel bags)

Art supplies, including watercolor + acrylic paints and canvases

Peanut Butter

Cereal

How is it November already? For most of us, it means holiday preparations and tuning up our snow blowers & shovels. But for those whose living conditions and meals are in peril, the changes of seasons means additional insecurity! Here are some items that are especially needed to supply their shelves at the CHUM Food Shelf as plans gear up for winter and the **2026 Thanksgiving box giveaway! This year's goal is to fill 350 boxes with meal fixings that nurture gathering, community, and togetherness.**

Cans of green beans, cans of corn (not creamed), cans of cranberry sauce, cans of applesauce, boxes of mac & cheese, packets of turkey gravy, and pies.(Cans should be the standard size that you would buy for your own family, not the huge, jumbo sizes) Please leave your contributions in the CHUM box in the narthex & we will deliver them to CHUM for you. Always remember that CHUM has buying power through other sources that makes dollars go farther, so your financial donations can buy more than what you can buy at your favorite grocery store.

Checks and cash donations should be designated to CHUM. Please place them in the Sunday offering tray and we will deliver them to CHUM for you. Or you can always stop at the CHUM Food Shelf for a visit to see how things work. Work on the wonderful, enlarged shelter has been amazing!

October was designated as "**Socktober**" with an effort to collect new, warm sox for all ages and levels of need. Even though it's now November, that need still exists! so consider dropping off New sox of any size to continue fulfilling this need. Everyone of every size benefits from comfy, cozy, warm sox! **Please keep the October drive going all through November.**

CHUM history: There is a project going on at CHUM to document some of the history of CHUM's existence in our community. If you have any data, even if it's not perfect or complete, is greatly appreciated to help tell the story of the amazing work that organizations, congregations, businesses and groups have done, and are currently doing, for their community. I remember when, in the early 1970s, members of Concordia banded together to gather foods for the "emergency food shelf" with the goal of aiding a short term need. What those wonderful people and so many others thought of as temporary is part of that 53 year history of CHUM.

What memories do you have of our involvement in CHUM? What experiences do you have involving members of Concordia and yourself? Write a note & put it in the collection plate, or email the church office or jwedin@charter.net

Finally, thank you all for your continued generosity -- that's what it's all about!



Dear Friends of Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry,

Dear Concordia - Duluth,

We are filled with mixed emotions as we share that today is Bjørn Anderson's last day. Bjørn is leaving us to start a fantastic new role, and we are incredibly excited for him and his family.

For over four years, Bjørn has supported our community; whether he was leading our Canoe Country Program, running onsite summer camp, hosting retreats, or just helping out wherever he was needed, his deep love for the outdoors was obvious to everyone. While our team will deeply miss his leadership and presence, we are incredibly proud to support him as he steps into this new adventure. Please join us in thanking him for four unforgettable years and wishing him the very best on his next trail ahead!

If you or your camper would like to send a note of appreciation or share a favorite memory, please email us at Office@vlmcamps.org, or mail it to our main office so we can make sure he gets it. Moving forward, please feel free to reach out directly to me with any questions about Canoe Country or Camp Vermilion.

Speaking of next trails, as we look ahead to our own upcoming season together, we are thrilled to announce that our Summer 2027 schedule is now live on our website!

Bjørn helped set us up for a great future, and we can’t wait to keep that momentum going. You can view the upcoming camp sessions and start planning your camper's next adventure right here: **https://www.vlmcamps.org/summer-schedule-and-fees**







Never Stop Working Toward the Better World We Know is Possible

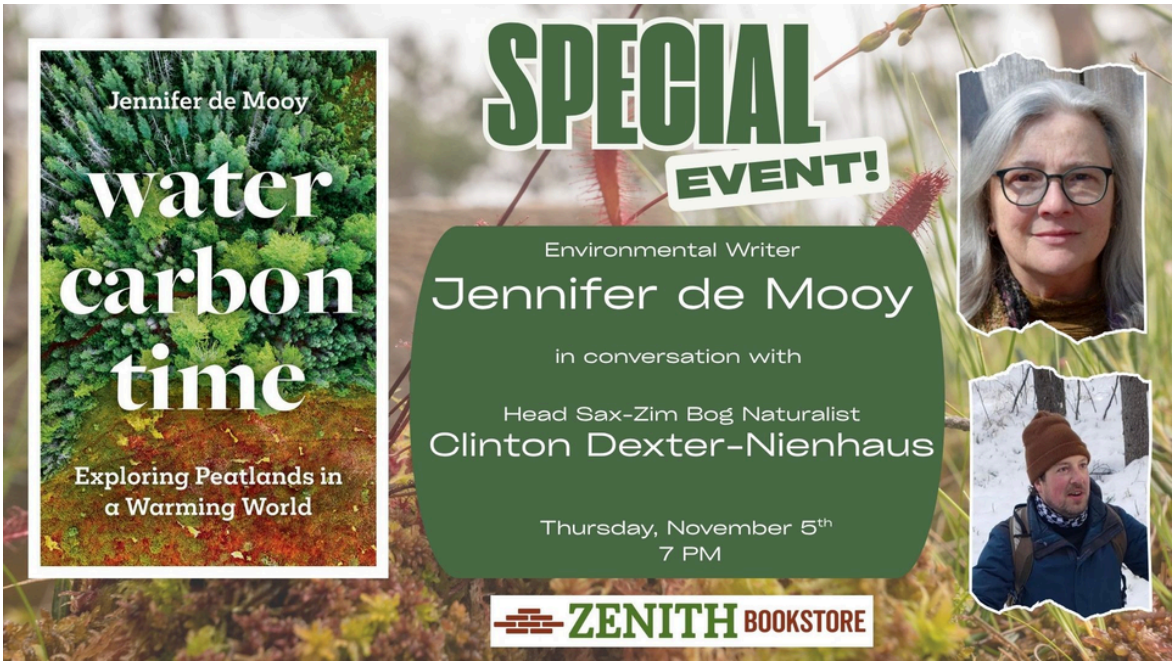
By Laura Raedeke, EcoFaith Network NE MN Team, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, MN, NEMS

1. Protections for our air and water are often accused of being "anti-business," but their function is to not let industry pollute as much as it wants and then pass on the costs of cleanup to the public at large (taxpayers). A group of more than 800 former employees of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is warning that federal plans to weaken pollution safeguards by allowing the burning of coal-fired power plants, gas turbines, and diesel generators to provide the surging electricity demands of data centers will increase carbon emissions and health risks. More than 1,300 data centers already operate in the U.S., and more than 2,000 more are planned, according to Cleanview, a market intelligence company that tracks U.S. power infrastructure. The weakened rules will also make it harder for communities to weigh in on proposed data centers through public comment, so let your voice be heard by those who represent us.

2. While the U.S. in late September 2026 steeply lowered the fuel economy standards that until now have helped us to burn fewer fossil fuels, China's rapid transition to electric vehicles (EVs) is making them the leader in lowering emissions from transportation. According to David Wellace-Wells, climate opinion columnist for the New York Times, and author of "The Uninhabitable World," China's diesel consumption in 2026 fell around 12%, while gasoline demand dropped 8%, and EV truck sales grew faster than EV auto sales. EV trucks in China cost around $21 to go 200 kilometers, compared to a U.S. diesel truck that costs $101 to go 200 kilometers. Mileage standards in the U.S., known as Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) requirements, have been implemented since the 1970s energy crisis, and would save 14 billion gallons of gasoline from being burned by 2050 had the standards remained in place. Let your representative know your thoughts on weakening standards that will come at a significant environmental cost as well as a human cost.

3. Federal incentive rollbacks to clean energy have introduced uncertainty in Minnesota's legally binding 2040 clean electricity standard, but for the sixth consecutive year, more than half of Minnesota's electricity came from no-carbon sources. Power sector emissions are 48% below 2005 levels, well ahead of the national average. Over the past five years, renewables accounted for 98% of all new generating capacity, while clean energy employment hit a record high in 2024, growing at twice the rate of the broader state economy. 2026 data from Clean Energy Economy Minnesota and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy shows that a 2025 uptick in the use of coal due to natural gas price spikes is a reminder that a fossil-fuel dependent grid is exposed to fossil fuel volatility. The answer is more renewables, more storage, and more transmission, so be a supporter of legislation that furthers Minnesota's climate goals. Large customers such as data centers must pay their fair share, meet the 2040 clean electricity standard, and not be allowed to shift costs onto ratepayers.

4. In 1903, on a three-day camping trip in the Yosemite Valley with naturalist John Muir, President Theodore Roosevelt was moved to emulate his hero Abraham Lincoln, the first president to extend federal protection to portions of what is now Yosemite National Park. Despite the deep popularity of conservation policies and protected public lands, since January 2025 the federal government has acted to eliminate protection from more than 96 million acres of U.S. public lands, an area equivalent to more than 70 Grand Canyons or 38 Yellowstone National Parks. These rollbacks weaken conservation and habitat protections across all public lands, while expanding extraction such as oil drilling and mining in protected areas, and slashing staff and funding at 433 sites managed by the National Park Service, according to a report by the New York Times. Protection of public lands (America's "best idea") is overwhelmingly supported by the American people, so be among those who speak out in their defense.



Zenith Bookstore hosts environmental writer Jennifer de Mooy in conversation with Clinton Dexter-Nienhaus, Head Naturalist at Sax-Zim Bog. They will discuss Jennifer's new book Water, Carbon, Time: Exploring Peatlands in a Warming World. Jennifer will sign her book after the discussion. If you can't make it, you can order a personally signed copy to pick up after the event. This event is FREE, but please RSVP by copying and pasting the following link:
https://zenithbookstore.com/events/6576420261105



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources offers free admission to all 75 Minnesota state parks and recreation areas on four days each year. On Free Park Days the DNR waives the requirement for a vehicle permit to enter state parks and recreation areas. The entrance fee waiver does not cover activities like camping, rentals or tours.

The goal of Free Park Days is to get all Minnesotans outdoors.

For more information, contact the DNR Information Center by emailing info.dnr @ state.mn.us or by calling 888-646-6367 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, or 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

Friday, November 27, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.



Thursday,
November 19
6:00 PM

FUN-PRIZES-FOOD

21 Bingo cards for $20

Raffles held throughout the evening

Kenwood Lutheran Church
2720 Myers Ave., Duluth
kenwoodlutheran.org

See items on display at the church,
bid online. Many unique items,
gift cards, gift certificates.

Bidding begins Sunday, November 15.

myminiauction.com/kenwoodlutheranchurch

Nov. 15-Nov. 29

Silent Auction

Pastor: Rev. Jeffery Davis
Cantor: Jennifer Dums
Joyful Voices Pianist: Patti Martenson
Organist/Pianist: Nicole Burdick
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
Phone Number: (218)728-4229
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 December newsletter are due by Tuesday, November17th. Please email your items, corrections, questions, or comments to duluthconcordia@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit your items.
This newsletter was produced using Canva.

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