



Happy Easter to you!

While we embrace with joy the Easter message of life that death cannot overcome, there are a number of opportunities to expand our imaginations and enliven our hopes this April!

On April 6th at First Lutheran, renowned eco-theologian Larry Rasmussen will present at the Eco-Faith Summit “Cross Currents in the Flood: Building Arcs Together for a Livable Planet.” This will help us imagine a future in the face of ecological crisis.

On April 7th, after worship, our Sunday school children will gather to assemble care kits to be given to homeless people in Duluth. In this way, we can communicate to our unhoused neighbors that they are deserving of dignity as God’s children. Please join them in this project, encouraging our youth to be God’s message of hope for our community!

On April 14th, Sarina Partridge from Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light will hold a Voices for Climate Song Circle at Concordia! Taking place at 11:30 AM after worship, Sarina will lead simple songs that can help us experience joy, hope, and community. There is no-need to be a singer!

On April 21st, we will have a Social Justice Potluck with presenters Clinton and Kristina Dexter-Nienhaus! Clinton, the head naturalist at the Sax-Zim Bog, will share with us the ins and outs of bird migration. Why do they do it? How? Where are they going? Bring a dish to share!

On April 28th, we will have a sabbatical shindig to bless Pastor Jeff on his way as the clergy renewal project begins. Stay after worship to enjoy some food and to say “see you soon.”

Through learning, singing, eating, and serving the Easter promise is alive among us and in our world bringing life!

Pastor Jeff

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Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 7 Second Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
Second Lesson: 1 John 1:1-2:2
Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 14 Third Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
Second Lesson: 1 John 3:1-7
Holy Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
Second Lesson: 1 John 3:16-24
Holy Gospel: John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
Second Lesson: 1 John 4:7-21
Holy Gospel: John 15:1-8



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:
Tuesday, April 2 (possibly),
Tuesday, April 9, and Tuesday,
April 23 @ 6:15 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 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 9), and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, the 50th day (May 19). It is the principal and oldest festival of the Church Year (first mentioned by name in 130 AD).

These joyful fifty days are also known as "Eastertide," and for a week of weeks (7 x 7) we proclaim the hope and promise of the Easter message. 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 vivid colors of spring into our Sanctuary. Our worship invites us to rejoice and to go forth – to share the joy – as we offer praise and thanksgiving to God who makes all things new. "This is the Feast," our hymn of praise, calls us to "join in the hymn of all creation" and reminds us of our redemption through Jesus Christ. Our voices join the heavenly throng described in Revelation 5:12-13 as we sing "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Our Greeting is the Easter greeting used by Christians for centuries: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Response: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! The Paschal Candle (lit at the Easter Vigil from the new fire) stands near the altar. A symbol of the resurrection, the darkness of death giving way to light and life, this candle is lit for every liturgy in this season. After the Day of the Pentecost, it returns to its place by the font, a reminder that in baptism we are crucified and resurrected with Christ. 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, comes 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.

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.

As we set out on the Easter path ahead, we reflect on where our Lenten journey led us. What have we found—or let go of—along the way? Is there a word, a message, that Christ is calling us to carry from the Easter garden to proclaim in the world?

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

Social Justice Potluck

April 21st after worship



**Naturalists Clinton and Kristina
Dexter-Nienhaus join us to
share the ins and outs of bird
migration! Bring a dish to share!**





Pastor Jeff's

SABBATICAL SEND-OFF!

April 28th after worship

We gather to begin Concordia's renewal project! We will eat together, wish Pastor Jeff a "see you soon!" and hear about the next stages.



Recently, Dave and I returned from an amazing 9 day trip to Mexico. This adventure took us into the northern desert and mountain regions, not usually included in a winter get-away. As part of a group of 18, we visited small towns and villages, stayed in small hotels that were once family haciendas, and were treated to the artistry of local native dancers, mariachi, and traditional potters. We also toured Mexico's Copper Canyon, a huge volcanic canyon, which is larger by far than our Grand Canyon. Native families continue to live in this canyon, as they have for generations, usually in small family groups determined by available sources of water. They raise goats, chickens, other small animals, and produce as possible. From our hotel balcony, we could hear their children giggle as they chased their goats down the mountain slopes, back to their grazing ledge half-way down to the canyon floor! A larger community forms between these family groups based on farming together, social gatherings, and other support systems. Many of these resourceful folks can be seen daily at the local markets selling their beautiful creations – baskets woven from long pine needles, kitchen utensils carved from unusual local woods, jewelry of many designs and so many other lovely works of art. Friendly, reserved, kind people! As the sun came up each morning over their beautiful canyon, we woke to the crowing of their roosters! A reminder of how blessed we are!

Our group, together, asked our guide what we could do to help this beautiful community. To our surprise, he explained to us their desire to “be light”. Too many things only make one heavy! They possess what they need for their families each day, nothing more. This is their community belief, this has been their way of life for generations.

After explaining “lightness”, he did suggest an option to help – and we are asking that you join us if you'd like.

Dave and I are putting together a box of colorful cotton fabrics, sewing needles and threads, and other sewing notions which are difficult for the Rammuri people to find. Items can be new or gently used, preferably preshrunk cotton fabric remnants or yardage. We'll ship them to our guide who will take care of delivery to the Copper Canyon on his next trip. Thank you in advance for your gifts!

Best always,
Jane & Dave Wedin

8TH ANNUAL
ECOFAITH SUMMIT
2024

APRIL 6TH
9AM - 4PM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
DULUTH, MN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

LARRY RASMUSSEN

CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICIST
AWARD WINNING AUTHOR OF *THE PLANET YOU INHERIT*



CROSS  CURRENTS IN THE FLOOD

BUILDING ARCS TOGETHER
FOR A LIVABLE PLANET

APRIL 6, 2024
9 AM - 4 PM
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW



TO LEARN MORE
OR TO REGISTER:



<https://ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2024>



Thursday, April 4, 5 p.m. at the St. Louis County Depot

The St. Louis County Historical Society is unveiling the newly commissioned Samuel Zimmerman/Zhaawanoogizhik painting, *Maang Sings to the Manoomin*, as part of the Twin Ports Festival of History. Zimmerman, a direct descendant of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (Ojibwe), will share his process and inspiration for the painting and answer questions.

The unveiling location is in the Union Lounge off of the Great Hall – the artwork will be exhibited in the Lake Superior Ojibwe Gallery on the fourth floor after the unveiling.

Source link:<https://www.perfectduluthday.com/the-event/maang-sings-to-the-manoomin-artwork-unveiling/>

CONCORDIA FINANCIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY, 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>FEBRUARY, 2024</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
INCOME	\$9,047.79	\$13,433.33	\$19,826.06
EXPENSES	\$12,686.67	\$14,611.42	\$25,434.76
NET	(\$3,638.88)	(\$1,178.08)	(\$5,608.70)

Bridges To Christ will be meeting on Sunday, April 7th at 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring food for CHUM.

Quilters will meet on Thursday, April 4th at 9:30 a.m.

Concordia Endowment 2023 Year End Financials:

The Concordia Endowment year end 2023 financial statement was \$122,490 total investments with over \$72,000 available for distribution.

Ready for something new and different within Concordia or community/world outreach! Concordia members are invited to submit a funding request from the Concordia Endowment Fund. There is a new Grant Request Form (available on church website or Endowment mailbox). The form is preferred, but not required for submission. You may submit all email applications to celcendowmentfund@gmail.com or in the Endowment mailbox by April 30th for consideration in the semi-annual cycle. You will be notified if any additional information is needed to complete the evaluation process. Grants will be reviewed, and awards will be determined by the end of May. Note: Funds are not intended for current budget items nor capital improvements to Concordia facility.

Endowment Fund Scholarship: The Endowment Fund board is offering two \$1000 scholarships towards attendance of a post-secondary school in the fall. Application forms are available on the church website. Completed forms and recommendations are due April 30 and either dropped off in the Endowment mailbox at church or email to celcendowmentfund@gmail.com. Interviews will follow in May and awards announced by June 4.

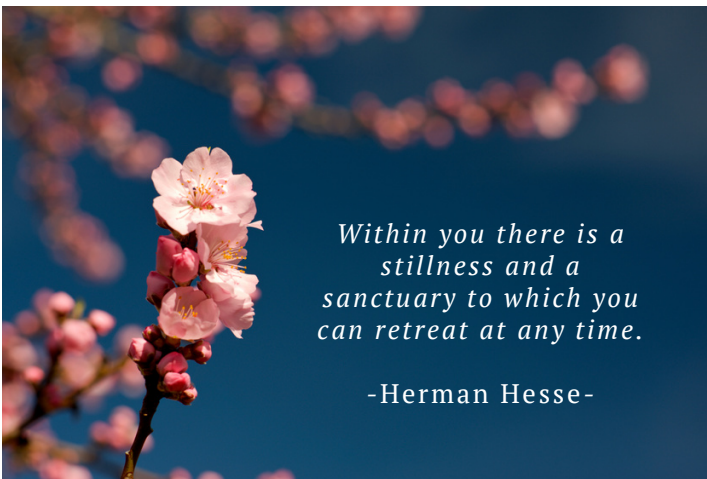
Let the Prayer Chain members join with you in your prayers and supplications. They are just a phone call away. All prayers are confidential and names or details are not needed. God is aware of all circumstances and waits to hear from you.

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: Donna Stabs, Dan Norlien Tom Nelson, Max, Glen Broman, Wayne Kari, the people of Ukraine and the Holy Land, Roger Erickson, Tim Bell, migrant families, Phillip Hedges, Carrie Birdseye-Erickson, Jamie Desemone, Anne Holecek, the families of victims, survivors, and communities where mass shootings have occurred, Patti Pearson, and those marginalized for their sexual or gender identity, race, or ability.



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 is an important ministry of the congregation.

Heritage Haven: Warren Roberts

A reminder that, on account of privacy, hospitals and nursing homes will NOT contact the Church to share that you have been admitted unless you or a family member tell them or the hospital chaplains to do so. Protecting privacy is also a way we care for our friends who may or may not wish for others to know of their illness or condition. If you hear that someone is sick or hospitalized, do not tell others unless you have been given permission by them to do so. **If you wish to be visited by the Pastor or placed on the prayer list, contact the Church office.** If you have a conversation with someone who is ill, hospitalized, or has come to be in a short or long term care facility, ask them if they want the congregation and Pastor to know what is happening before you pass the word along. Do not assume that because you know, that the individual wants everyone else to, as well. Honoring the privacy of our neighbors, as well as expressing our own desire for the church or pastor to know of our condition, helps to prevent troublesome situations and helps us support one another!

April Birthdays

- 1 Cheryl Pillsbury
- 5 Julie Wallene-Carlson
- 6 Glenn Meints
- 7 Jacob Carlson
Pastor Jeff
- 14 Trevor Christensen
- 15 Ryan Scharnott
Grace Loiselle
- 16 Madison Morse
- 19 Ken Broman
- 20 Maijaliisa Sauter
- 22 Lily Bohn
- 29 Ann Marie Edwards



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."

If your birthday isn't listed or has the wrong date, please let the office know.





We need your help to reach our goal of \$100,000 and 50,000 lbs of food. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for our food shelf, and meeting our goal is crucial to staying stocked up for the remainder of the year.

Once summer hits, kids are back at home, and families need extra support. Your contribution will help us stay stocked up in the busier months of the year, ensuring all our guests and families have the food they need.

What do we need more, money or food? The answer is both! But, we can take your \$1 donation three times further through our partnerships in town, and the power of buying in bulk. If you are interested in supporting us, please click the button below! Donations can also be sent to 102 W 2nd St. Duluth, MN 55802.

Food donations can be brought to 120 N 1st Ave W Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Come down the alley and ring the bell!

As of 3/27, we have \$45,000 to go. With your help, we can make Duluth a more just and compassionate community!

What food you CAN donate to Chum:

Chum accepts dry and canned food donations. What does that mean? Basically, any food that is “shelf-stable” or nonperishable – you can keep it in your pantry and it won’t go bad. And remember, only donate food that hasn’t reached its “sell-by” date yet. Specifically, Chum often need items like:

- Peanut butter (Small Jars-16oz)
- Canned soup (Non Cream)
- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned stew and Canned Pasta
- Canned fish
- Canned beans
- Pasta
- Rice
- Cereal

That’s not an exhaustive list, but it covers much of what Chum regularly needs. Additionally, Chum accepts NEW personal care and household items since many families struggle to afford them and aren’t covered by other food assistance programs like SNAP.

Look in your pantry if you’re still stumped about what to donate. Families struggling with hunger often can’t afford the staples that we normally have stocked at home. So, check your pantry out and go from there. Even specialty foods like olive oil, dressings, or marinades can be helpful if they don’t need to be refrigerated.

What not to donate to Chum:

The number one rule to remember is this: if your donation is perishable, i.e., it’s something with a limited shelf life if not refrigerated, Chum can’t accept it. But there are other categories of food that you can’t donate. We’ve broken it all down into this handy list:

- **Items needing refrigeration:** As we’ve already mentioned, this is the big one. Food like produce, dairy, and meat can spoil easily and we often times do not have the refrigerator or freezer space needed to keep these items fresh. While an individual can’t donate a bunch of bananas or a frozen turkey, Chum works directly with farmers, retailers, restaurants, and other companies to source these perishable foods for donation.
- **Expired food:** When considering what to donate, think about what you’d be comfortable serving your family. Chances are, you don’t eat food that’s past its “use-by” or “sell-by” date, so avoid donating anything past those dates as it could be unsafe to eat.
- **Leftovers:** While it may be tempting to want to share the bountiful food from big meals like Thanksgiving, it’s best to keep leftovers for the family. To ensure the people they serve are safe, Chum can’t accept leftovers or anything made in personal kitchens because they aren’t individually sealed and Chum can’t verify the ingredients or preparation process.
- **Food with packaging concerns:** This includes food with damaged packaging such as dented or bloated cans, packaging that is already open, or even items in glass containers, which can shatter and cause food safety concerns for any other food they’re stored near. A good rule of thumb is if you wouldn’t consider buying it new, don’t donate it.
- **Baked goods:** Similar to leftovers, since Chum can’t confirm how your baked goods were made or their ingredients, they can’t be donated. But, Chum has relationships with local restaurants and bakeries which will donate extra food that is properly labeled and handled to Chum.



...In God's Great Northwoods!

UPCOMING EVENTS MORE INFORMATION (800) 331-5148 www.vlmcamps.org

REGISTER NOW FOR SUMMER CAMP

Registration for both Camp Hiawatha and Vermilion is open for Summer 2024!
Register now to take advantage of our Early Bird Discount!

APPLY FOR SUMMER STAFF

A summer at camp can prove to be the hardest job you will ever have, but also one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever have. Apply today!

Pastor: Rev. Jeffery Davis
Organist: Unfilled at this time
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

Rachelle Anderson
Bridget Bohn, President
Trevor Christensen, Vice-President
Ashley Hoppe
Makenzie Morse
Mark Morse, Treasurer
Dan Norlien

Committees

Building & Grounds: Trevor Christensen
Social Justice: Pastor Jeff

Stewardship: Pastor Jeff
Worship & Music: Bryan Anderson, Lynne
Erickson, and Patti Martenson

Ministries

Altar Guild: Reba Almquist
Bridges To Christ: Ann Edwards
Caring Ministry: Jane Wedin
Quilters: Karin Cummings

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

Open

Conference and Synod Assemblies

Open

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 March newsletter are due by Tuesday, February 23. Please email your items, corrections, questions, or comments to duluthconcordia@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit your items.
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