

JANUARY, 2024

THE MESSENGER

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



Happy New Year!

During the year ahead, we will, in various ways, immerse ourselves in the dual themes of immigration and migration as a way to connect to the upcoming Clergy Renewal Project. Our first Sunday in January, we will jump right in as we welcome Rev. Loren Anderson-Bauer to preach on and share about the good work that goes on in our community through CHUM. Through preaching and a potluck forum, we will become acquainted with the reality that the movement of human beings isn't just something that happens on our nation's borders or from one country to another. We have refugees of another sort right here in our community, braving harsh conditions, moving from place to place, hoping for a better future. Bring a dish to share and an offering to give for the work of CHUM!

On January 14th, our Sunday School children will remember the Christmas story through Las Posadas, a Hispanic traditional dramatic representation of Mary and Joseph being unable to find a place to safely give birth to Jesus. This, too, centers us in the reality of many across the globe who live as migrant people, displaced, and seeking refuge. Even Jesus was a refugee prior to birth and after when political conditions forced his family to leave the country. We are looking for folks to take part in Las Posadas as actors spread throughout the church, letting the kids know that there is "no room."

On January 20th, the Synod Reconciling in Christ (RIC) process continues with a gathering at 10 AM at Gloria Dei. We will explore a variety of ways Lutherans read Scripture that allows for more inclusive understandings. Many in the LGBTQIA+ community have found a welcome and home in our congregations after experiencing exclusion and rejection on their life's journey.

Our Congregational Annual Meeting will take place on January 28th. As part of my report, I'll share in detail the upcoming plans for the Renewal Project.

Here's to a healthy and hopeful New Year to you and your beloved ones!

Pastor Jeff

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Worship Schedule

Sunday, January 7 **First Sunday after Epiphany**

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Second Lesson: Acts 19:1-7
Holy Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Sunday, January 14 **Second Sunday after Epiphany**

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Holy Gospel: John 1:43-51

Sunday, January 21 **Third Sunday after Epiphany**

First Lesson: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Holy Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Sunday, January 28 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:
Tuesday, January 2 and Tuesday,
January 16 @ 6:15 p.m.



Worship Matters:
Christmas – Time after Epiphany: A Light Shines . . .

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.
(John 1:5)

The Christmas cycle began on the First Sunday of Advent (December 2), followed by the Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25 – January 5) and concludes with the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. As we reflect on the hope and promise of the season, even during these dark days of 2023, we celebrate the glory of God, the mystery made known, the light that shines through darkness.

Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphaneia* meaning appearance, revelation, manifestation. This festival can be traced to the early third century in the Eastern Church, a combined celebration of the birth and baptism of Jesus that appears to predate the establishment of Christmas. During the fourth century the Western Church disassociated the Baptism from the feast of Epiphany, emphasizing the manifestation of the Good News to Gentiles through the figure of the Magi. The first to visit the Christ-child, they reveal Jesus to the world as Lord and King.

The **Time after Epiphany** is the season that bridges Christ's birth and passion. The length of this season is determined by the date of Easter and it can be anywhere from four to nine weeks. This year over six weeks we have the opportunity to reflect upon how we have been touched by the presence of God made manifest in Jesus Christ. The theme of identity runs throughout this season of discovery as Jesus' public ministry is launched and Jesus becomes known through his gifts of invitation, encouragement, and compassion.

We will celebrate the light of Christ, and we will see how Christ calls us to be light to the world. We will commemorate the **Baptism of our Lord** (1/7) and remember our baptism that seals our relationship with our gracious God. We'll remember that Christ is light for ALL people as we celebrate the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (1/18 – 1/25).

In the reading from Isaiah appointed for **Epiphany of Our Lord** (Isaiah 60:1-6), the prophet says the darkness of despair will be lifted and a new day of restoration will dawn. This is no ordinary light that Isaiah speaks of, but the glory of God that encircles the nation, so transforming it, that in turn it will be a light for others. As we begin a new calendar year, and enjoy a little more light each day, we pause to remember that it is God, not the social or economic or political structures of the day, that it is the source of our light . . .

and our call to in turn be a light for others . . .



**Social
Justice
Potluck**

CHUM

**January 7th after worship
Rev. Loren Anderson-Bauer will join us!
Bring food items for CHUM and a dish to
share!**






Image by Kelly Latimore Icons

-[Now] the work of Christmas begins; to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart.

*-Howard Thurman,
"The Work of
Christmas"*



Renewal Grant

Book Group

***Exploring Immigration and
Migration!***

That grant we received provides an opportunity to gather as a book group. If you would like to be a part of it, contact Pastor Jeff!



CONCORDIA FINANCIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOVEMBER, 2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>NOVEMBER, 2023</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
INCOME	\$11,582.75	\$12,141.67	\$144,827.14
EXPENSES	\$14,810.73	\$13,595.27	\$142,623.98
NET	(\$3,217.98)	(\$1,453.61)	\$2,203.16

Bridges To Christ is meeting on Monday, January 8th at 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Plans underway for a pie social during the annual meeting. Bring food for CHUM.

Bridges To Christ would like to thank everyone who donated winter garb! Twenty-three hats, 7 pairs of gloves/mittens, and 1 scarf were given to CHUM & The Center for Changing Lives.

Quilters will meet on Thursday, January 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Equal Exchange Coffee and Chocolate Bars for Sale: Bridges to Christ has a variety of coffee (ground- \$10 each) and chocolate bars (\$4 each) available for sale while supplies last. Please contact a Bridges to Christ member if you wish to purchase.

Reports for the Annual Report are due no later than Thursday, January 11. Thank you.

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: Tom Nelson, Wayne Kari, the people of Ukraine and the Holy Land, Roger Erickson, Tim Bell, Gary Williams, 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 persecuted for their sexual or gender identity.



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.

Barross Cottage II, Two Harbors: Irja Pedersen

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!

January Birthdays

- 6 Makenzie Morse
- 13 Denise Fish
Eileen Fish
- 15 Jessie Kohn
- 18 Susan Richards
- 19 Susan Pillsbury
- 29 Dan Norlien
Katelyn Mayne
- 30 Lynn Carlson
Madilyn Roeser
- 31 William Emery
John Pillsbury



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."





...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!

SPRING QUILTING RETREAT, MARCH 7-10

Spring is a beautiful time of the year to be in God's great Northwoods, and VLM's Quilting Retreat offers a chance to tackle some of your big projects.



**VOYAGEURS LUTHERAN
MINISTRY
ANNUAL MEETING**

 **Saturday, February 10th 2024**

 **11:00 AM** a light lunch will follow the meeting

 **Messiah Lutheran Church**
8590 Enterprise Dr S, Mountain Iron, MN 55768


www.vlmcamps.org



SCAN FOR MORE INFO



A Look Into Next Year - One of Promise by John Cole, Executive Director

With all the wonderful things that have happened during 2023, I am even more excited as I look to 2024.

The children and the parents in the Steve O'Neil Apartments will receive even greater support when interns from the University of Minnesota Duluth begin their placements. The residents at St. Francis Apartments will have access to additional therapeutic services through a program offered by the College of St. Scholastica.

Lots of plans are in process for improving shelter offerings for those unhoused and unsheltered in our facilities and across Duluth. I continue to receive calls about SafeBay and Stepping on Up from across our state, and around our country. They are excited about the news they are hearing about how we are responding to homelessness in Duluth.

I am excited too, as our staff complement grows not only in numbers, but in the skills necessary to serve members of our community going through the lowest periods of their lives. We lift each other up even as we work to lift up those who turn to us for shelter, food, dignity, and hope – indeed, a way out.

And while all of these program innovations will be taking place, our yearlong observance of our 50th Anniversary will continue with various activities, all of which will culminate with the Super Rhubarb Festival in June 2024. Certainly, lots to look forward to!

Let us look forward to deeper congregational engagement and partnership as Chum in this 'post covid' era reopens to volunteering, finds better pathways to steward our voices and our resources, and draws us closer to being a just and compassionate community.

Let us look forward to even more innovation as we shift to a crisis response mode to confront the steady deterioration of the human condition in our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness.

Let us look forward to the promise of even more partnerships with community members and organizations as Stepping On Up moves us toward "all in" action to create a better system to address homelessness.

That's a lot of forward-looking, but it's all because 2024 will be a new year of hope, a new year of possibility, and a year of dreams manifesting.

Thank you for joining us on our journey.

Hunger rates are climbing in America, as rising costs and a continued uncertain economy affect a growing number of people. For thousands of people in St. Louis and surrounding counties, the Chum Food Shelf is more than a source of nutrition – it's a beacon of hope and human kindness.

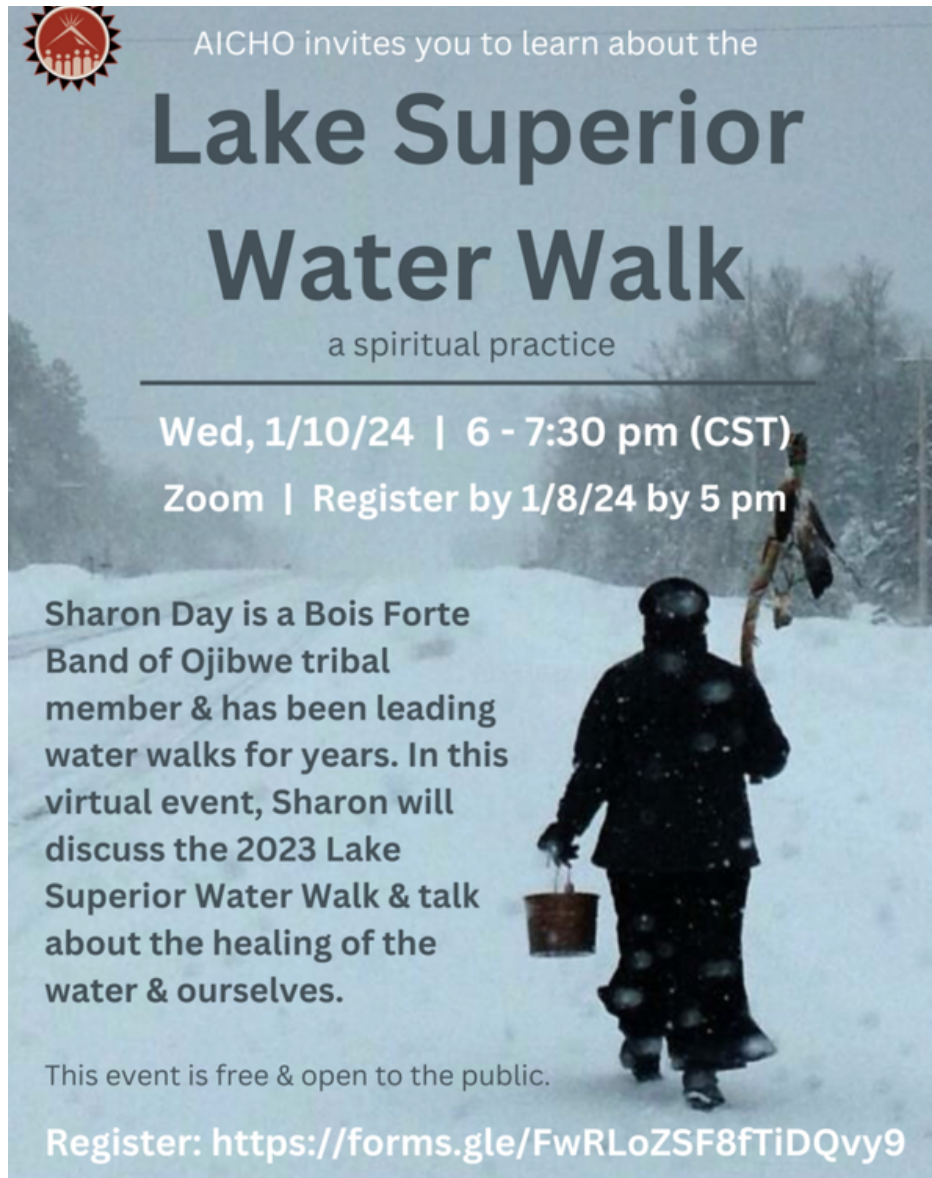
Last year, 15,691 people visited our food shelf. Some of them never dreamed they would ever need to rely on the kindness of strangers to feed their families. We have seen this trend continue in 2023, as more and more new visitors come in. They receive so much more than food for a meal. They receive nutritious food distributed by compassionate volunteers. They have access to fresh produce, milk, eggs, cheese, and meat to help them build healthy lifestyles. And they find a warm environment dedicated to helping them work through their challenges – nutritional, social, and emotional.

Times are hard, and a dollar doesn't stretch as far as it used to. With decades of experience serving our community, we know how to make a little go a long way.

In 2023, the Chum Food Shelf served over half a million pounds of food to nearly 16,000 people. Generous contributors brought in almost 480,000 pounds of food. As 2023 draws to a close, we expect an even greater need for our services in 2024. We will rise to the challenge with the help of generous people like you. Your support is what makes it possible for us to carry out life-changing work in this community.

From all of us at the Chum Food Shelf – we wish the best of holidays and a happy new year. Thank you for your support.





AICHO invites you to learn about the

Lake Superior Water Walk

a spiritual practice

Wed, 1/10/24 | 6 - 7:30 pm (CST)
Zoom | Register by 1/8/24 by 5 pm

Sharon Day is a Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe tribal member & has been leading water walks for years. In this virtual event, Sharon will discuss the 2023 Lake Superior Water Walk & talk about the healing of the water & ourselves.

This event is free & open to the public.

Register: <https://forms.gle/FwRLoZSF8fTiDQvy9>

In this Zoom presentation, Sharon Day will present the spiritual practice of the Lake Superior Water Walk and discuss the importance of healing the water, the environment and ourselves through these water walks. On these Nibi Walks, participants carry water along a river or lake to speak to the nibi spirits and pray for the health and future of the waterways.

Nibi is the Ojibwe word for water. **Registration Deadline is Monday, January 8 by 5 pm.** Registrants will receive the zoom link on January 9. Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Human Services Behavioral Health Division via our Waaseyaa Traditional Healing Grant.



How can a person reliably identify trees in the winter when their leaves, the most obvious identifying feature, are gone? Twigs and buds provide many subtle clues to identification and learning to identify those features and key them out will be the focus of this event.

Field trip leader Clark Christenson has worked as a forester, both as a consultant and for the city of Duluth, for almost 20 years.

RSVP on the Arrowhead Native Plant Explorers website to ensure there will be enough reference guides for all. The event is being held in the conference room on the second floor of the Duluth Facilities Management building. Parking is free by the building.

Arrowhead Native Plant Explorers events are free the first time. Subsequent events are \$10 per person for nonmembers.

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
Kalina Groothuis, Secretary
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:

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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

Julie Larson-Williams
Carmen Norlien

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 February newsletter are due by Tuesday, January 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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