

THE MESSENGER, JANUARY, 2026

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



Pastor's Ponderings

"It really boils down to this: that all life is interrelated. We are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied into a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. We are made to live together because of the interrelated structure of reality."-- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "A Christmas Sermon on Peace"

These words from the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. serve to frame the month ahead of us a Concordia. Beginning in the Christmas season, this Christmas sermon given on Christmas Eve in 1967 helps us to remember what the Incarnation of God as Jesus Christ is all about: Deepening our interrelated connectivity as human beings who depend on one another. God puts on humanity as Jesus Christ to join with us in our joy and sorrow, exclusion and welcome, suffering and health, out of love. Called, gathered, and enlightened through this incarnation, we extend this reality to each other and others as a church, a community that seeks to embrace one another in solidarity and understanding.

The Epiphany star leads us to reach and think and act beyond our congregation to the wider community. We share this single garment of destiny with others throughout the world. What affects one, affects all and so we work for the well-being of all people, be they Somali immigrant or Palestinian refugee. As the star beckoned sojourners from afar with their gifts, we become open to the gifts people who are not like us bring to our community and world.

The Annual Meeting taking place on January 25th is an embodiment of this inescapable network of mutuality. Concordia depends on the commitment, participation, and contributions of everyone who finds it to be their community of faith and service. On that day, we review the year behind and look ahead to the year ahead. We decide who will help lead us into the future. We consider who we want to be and who the community needs us to be. Since we are a congregation growing older and smaller, it is important that each of us embrace our interrelated mutuality in support and care, doing what we can and what we are called to do to nurture and sustain Concordia and serve the mission God has for us.

Thank you for all you do and who you are in and for this community!



Worship Schedule

Sunday, January 4 Second Sunday of Christmas

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 147:12-20

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Holy Gospel: John 1:1-18

Tuesday, January 6 Epiphany of Our Lord

First Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:1-12

Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday, January 11 First Sunday after Epiphany Baptism of Our Lord

First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 18 Second Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Holy Gospel: John 1:29-42

Sunday, January 25 Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

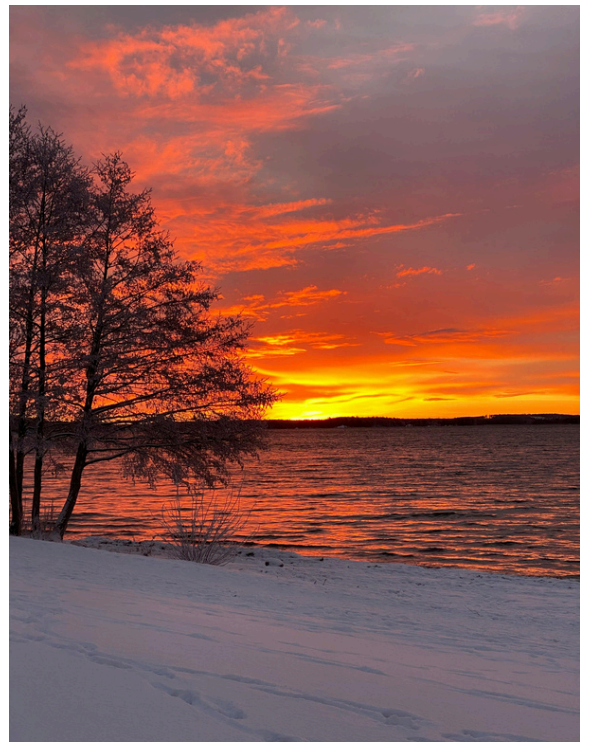
Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:

Tuesday, January 13 @ 6 p.m. and

Tuesday, January 27 @ 6 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 season of rejoicing continues with the Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25 – January 5) and concludes with the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. Epiphany (from the Greek *epiphaneia* meaning appearance, revelation, manifestation) celebrates the manifestation of God and revelation of Christ to the Gentiles (i.e. to all nations).

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 will have the opportunity to reflect upon how we have been touched by the presence of God made manifest in Jesus Christ. We move from one beginning to another, from Jesus coming among us in flesh, celebrated at Christmas, to his coming among us in ministry. Jesus' baptism by John, which we commemorate on January 11, inaugurates this ministry. Throughout the season, we give thanks for Christ's revelation to the world, and we look to the mission of the church to the world in light of the Nativity. Themes of call, vocation, and renewal are abundant in these weeks.

We will celebrate the light of Christ, and we will see how Christ calls us to be light to the world. Our liturgy will include an Affirmation of Baptism as we celebrate the **Baptism of our Lord** (1/11). We remember our baptismal promises on this day: to hear the word of God, to proclaim the good news through word and deed, to work for justice and peace, and consider how we might be more intentional about living out these promises. We will remember that Christ is light for ALL people as we celebrate the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (1/18 – 1/25). Our Gospel readings will invite us to live in that light: "come and see," "come and follow," "go and tell."

In the reading from Isaiah appointed for the **Feast of Epiphany** (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 is the source of our light . . . We pray in these days that we will serve as beacons of that light to those living in the shadows of violence, fear, and poverty.

DECEMBER, 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER, 2025 FINANCIALS	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME	\$13,399.00	\$13,696.17	\$132,098.67
EXPENSES	\$16,969.16	\$14,537.42	\$155,466.97
NET	(\$3,570.16)	(\$841.25)	(\$23,368.30)

Concordia Announcements

Bridges To Christ would like to thank everyone for donating winter gear for **Center for Changing Lives**. There were 21 hats, 10 hand warmers, 10 toe warmers, 2 gloves & an ear muff. Thank you so much!

Bridges To Christ will be meeting on Monday, January 5th in the Fellowship Hall at 6:45 p.m. Dessert is provided.

Quilters will be meeting on Thursday, January 8th at 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bring your lunch & dessert is provided.

Eventide Quilters will be meeting on Thursday, January 8th from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Light refreshments are provided.

The Concordia Giving Tree was once again a huge success! The Stowe Staff was thrilled to see the arrival of a truck load of toys, books, school supplies, hat, mittens, socks, as well as \$300 in SuperOne Gift Cards! This year there were 145 students (up from 115 last year) who applied to be part of this Giving Program. Our contributions were so important to Stowe, allowing them to meet their goal of including each student who applied!

The following was delivered to Stowe Elementary School:

\$300.00 in Super One Gift Cards

40 Christmas Gift Tag Gifts

23 winter hats

21 pairs of socks

8 pairs of gloves/mittens

2 pairs of slippers

6 boxes of markers

6 boxes of colored pencils

6 boxes of crayons

5 ABC writing notebooks

12 spiral notebooks

2 bags of pencil erasers

12 chapsticks

1 large box of gently used clothes/boots

2 large boxes of gently used toys/books

THANK YOU for your generous donations and providing the opportunity for these struggling families to create special Christmas memories!

Ready for something new and different within Concordia or community/world outreach! Concordia members are invited to submit a funding request to the Concordia Endowment Fund. There is a 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 deloresgrunwald@gmail.com or in the Endowment mailbox. You will be notified if any additional information is needed to complete the evaluation process. Note: Funds are not intended for current budget items nor capital improvements to Concordia facility.

(more announcements on following page)

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in so many ways with Concordia's continued efforts to help our neighbors!

Thanks to the Endowment Committee, Concordia has been able to provide a little over 200 bag lunches over a 4 week period. The lunches were distributed at Our Savior's in West Duluth at the end of CHUM'S Food Shelf on Monday mornings. The need was, and continues to be, great. Those folks who received a bag were appreciative.. Concordia may revisit providing another 4 weeks of lunches in January. Please watch for possible details. Thank you to the crews that worked on Sundays following worship preparing the bags. We were blessed to have young and more mature helping hands to make light work. **Again, thank you to everyone who was able to help-You Were Great!**

CHUM is creating and raffling another beautiful, one-of-a-kind QUILT! Tickets, \$5 each, are currently available in Concordia's Church office, through the Wedins, or at the new CHUM office at 21 West First St. The raffle will be held on February 12. The hope is to raise \$10,000. While that initially sounds like a lot, . . . that breaks down to about 50 tickets at \$5 each per member congregation!"

Please add to your shopping list: Canned Soups (please not creamed) &/or Canned Spaghetti meals in Pop-top cans. Keep in mind ease of preparation & serving. Some don't have a kitchen, a can opener, or a serving dish. Look for items that are nourishing; shy away from sweets.

As we've discussed in the past, CHUM has a bigger buying power for foods through sources other than our traditional grocery stores. So CASH can go farther when given directly to CHUM. Add a check of cash to the offering basket on Sunday, note that it is for CHUM. The shopping will be done for you. Whatever works best for you! Thanks for your help.

Winter is here: new pairs of sox of all sizes, hats, mittens, sleeping bags, hand warmers, gloves. Remember that some folks live outside even as the weather gets colder. Thank you to Bridges to Christ for their continued knitting, crocheting, and fund raising to help provide warm wear in abundance! And to all who are involved in Love Laundry, another amazing cause.

Fabric for Mexico: To date, we have sent 11 boxes of fabric and sewing supplies to our neighbors in the Copper Canyon region of Mexico. These amazing families live in the rugged mountain areas where they farm in the fertile valleys, growing corn, potatoes, goats & chickens. When we were there, we woke most mornings to the beautiful sunrise over the mountains, the crowing of roosters, and the giggles of the children as they chased their goats down the side of the mountains to better grazing spots. They live simply -- being light, not burdened by so many things. Sewn and woven items are often sold at market or traded for what they need. Again, thank you to the Endowment Committee for supporting this project, and to all of you who have donated. At least 3 of the 11 boxes were made of donations from your sewing boxes and fabric supplies. There are so many ways to be involved in helping our siblings who need us. Thank you for all that you do & please, let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Best always,
Dave & Jane Wedin

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 Scott Tessier, Tim Bell, Migrant families, The people of Palestine, Sudan, 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, Wayne Kari, and Roger Erickson.

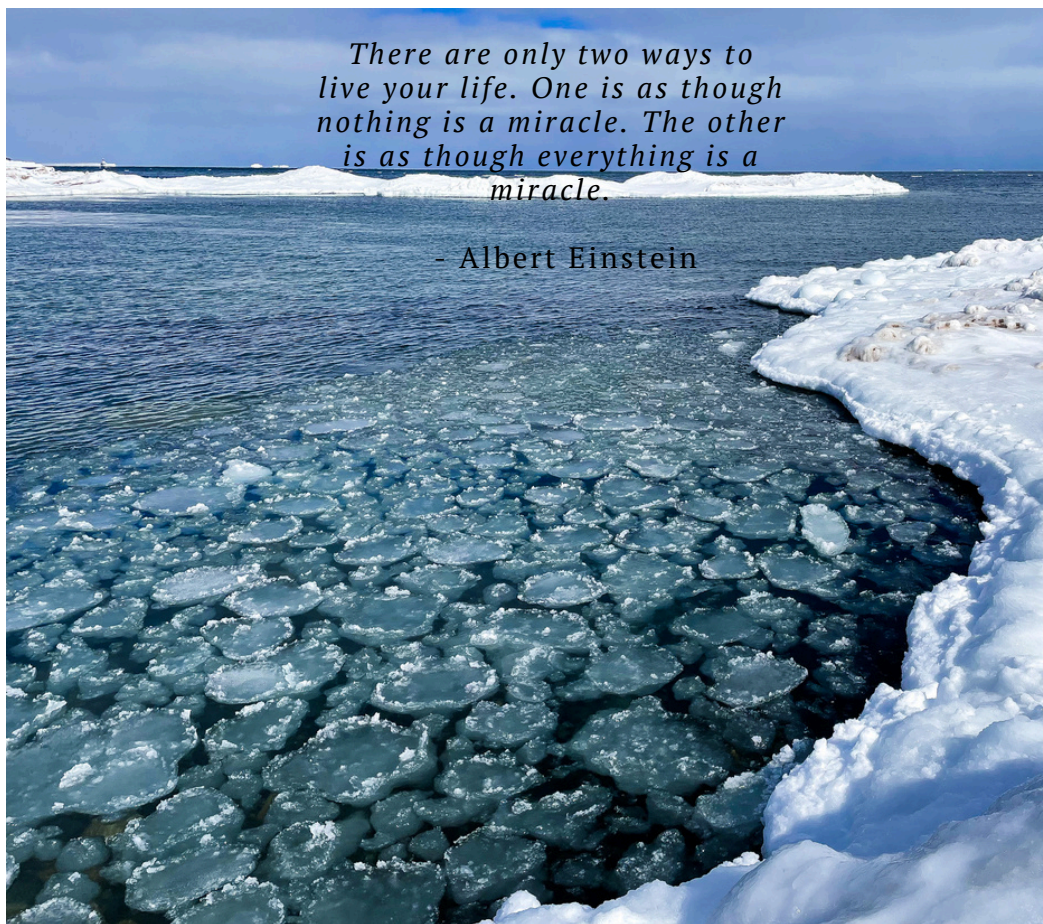
Prayer and Visitation Ministry

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.

Open Arms: Warren Roberts

Aftenro: Wayne Kari



January Birthdays

- 1 Pastor Liz
- 3 Gabrielle Martenson
- 6 Makenzie Haney-Morse
- 13 Denise Fish
Eileen Fish
- 15 Jessie Kohn
- 18 Susan Richards
- 19 Susan Pillsbury
- 29 Dan Norlien
Paul Norlien
- 30 Lynn Carlson
Madi 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."





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



Help us raise \$10,000 for Chum, one ticket at a time!

Chum Quilters invites you to purchase a chance to win this unique, designer quilt in support of a great cause! With borders added, this quilt will fit a queen size bed.

Just \$5 a ticket!

Please contact Dave or Jane Wedin for tickets

"Love is Here to Stay"
Quilt design by local artist Jordan Sundberg
Tincupdesignco.com



A celebration and fundraiser for the Honduras Companion Synod. All are welcome!
Food is catered by Oasis del Norte.
January 17, 2026, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Our Savior's LC Duluth 4831 Grand Avenue, Duluth, MN, 55807, United States \$20
as
See Events Website for registration



©Photo by Rudy Osorio



The Global Tipping Points Report 2025 (Part II) The Risks They Pose and Opportunities to Act,

Laura Raedeke, EcoFaith Network NE MN Team, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, MN, NEMN Synod

The Global Tipping Points Report 2025 (Part II): The Risks They Pose and Opportunities to Act

1. With contributions from 160 authors, 23 countries, and 87 institutions, The Global Tipping Points Report 2025 finds that already at 1.4 degrees C of global warming, a tipping point is being crossed that reduces Earth's ability to cope with the human interference that creates negative tipping points (diebacks of coral reefs, rainforests, polar ice sheets, extreme drought, flooding, storms, etc), mainly from the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas). As we approach overshooting the 1.5 C (2.5 degrees F) threshold of irreversible negative tipping points, the report issues positive tipping point strategies to minimize the magnitude and duration of global temperature overshoot. Renewable energy such as solar PV, for example, is doubling capacity every 2-3 years, while storage battery prices have plummeted by 84% in the last decade with capacity growing exponentially. This will reduce emissions in the heating, transportation, and industry sectors, stimulating new investment in overall efficiency, grid upgrades, energy storage, and demand flexibility.

2. Pollution from gasoline-powered cars and trucks is the major contributor to planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in the U.S., yet the federal government has recently proposed weakening vehicle mileage rules for the auto industry, and has already relaxed auto tailpipe emissions rules, repealed fines for automakers that do not meet federal mileage standards, and terminated consumer credits for new and used EVs (electric vehicles). In the meantime, EV adoption is accelerating in leading markets, with China dominating global production, while oil-rich Norway has nearly total adoption of EV technology. The Gulf States and Saudi Arabia are rapidly expanding their renewable energy and EV fleets with low-cost wind and solar, saving their oil for export, while the U.S. is encouraging increased domestic oil consumption. The key to mass adoption of EV technology requires price parity, battery performance, and charging availability, all of which determines a better outcome for consumers and provides a positive tipping point for fighting global warming.

3. The Global Tipping Points Report 2025 emphasizes the short, yet crucial, time we have to stay under the 1.5C (2.5F) rise in global warming (we are already at 1.4C) that threatens every aspect of life on Earth, including our health, safety, and economic security. While other countries invest billions of dollars in clean energy development, the U.S. has chosen to cut investments that create high-wage jobs, drive innovation, and lower energy bills for Americans. The fiscal year 2026 Energy and Water Appropriations bill cuts energy efficiency and renewable energy programs at the Department of Energy by \$1.6 billion, a 47% cut. Developing our own homegrown clean and sustainable energy has given Minnesotans 62,000 jobs in clean energy, and more than 44,000 jobs in energy efficiency, job growth that is five times faster than Minnesota's overall growth. With climate change making nations around the world more unstable and less safe, investing in clean energy is a matter of national security as well as economic security.

4. The adoption of solar PV, wind power, EV technology, battery storage, and heat pumps is an example of how tipping points in one sector (eg. battery storage) can increase the likelihood of tipping points in another (renewable energy). Similarly, clear policy changes can positively tip our food system by eliminating the 25% of greenhouse gases linked to food, farming, and deforestation, and help reduce biodiversity loss. Regenerating nature (avoiding the dieback of the Amazon rainforest, for example) will require a legal framework supported by public/private finance to shift to sustainable production and consumption, and away from currently subsidized harmful practices. Together with low-carbon, reliable electricity that meets increasing energy demands, crucial changes in our food system are critical to avoiding negative tipping points in nature (diebacks of rainforests, coral reefs, polar ice sheets, etc,) and instead creating the positive tipping points in nature needed to nurture all of life.



Winter Wonder Wednesdays is a discounted ticket day that happens every Wednesday through Feb. 25. The Early Childhood Classroom is open for exploration from 10 a.m. to noon so families can play and learn together. There are new activities each week.



Winter Reading Gathering with the Duluth Public Library

Jan 18, 2026, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm | Free | Dovetail Café & Marketplace,
1917 West Superior Street

A relaxed afternoon of quiet reading, warmth and community. Attendees can bring their current read or discover something new while enjoying some peaceful reading time in the company of fellow book lovers. They can also sign up for DPL's Winter Reading Program and enter a raffle for a cozy prize.

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.

Donation Locations:

- Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative
 - 2424 W 5th 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

Rachelle Anderson
Trevor Christensen, President
Bridget Bohn, 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: 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
February newsletter are due by Tuesday, January
18th. Please email your items, corrections,
questions, or comments to
duluthconcordia@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit your items.
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