

MARCH, 2024

THE MESSENGER

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



At our meeting last month, the congregation council spent some time thinking about the goals that we have for Concordia. Goals are both dangerous and difficult things to come up with and to follow through on! They always run the risk of that dynamic of thinking something should be done, but not necessarily wanting to be a part of getting that thing done! In the midst of a massive shift of changing demographics around worship attendance, congregational participation, aging building and people, as well as financial challenge, the prospect of goal making has additional weight. Our ideas of success and failure are so caught up in metrics thinking, that goal creation and completion is fraught with depression when things do not turn out as we hoped for or envisioned.

Nevertheless, we came up with some goals around what we would like to be part of, the kind of church we would like to be, who we think God is calling us to be for the sake of the community and world.

Among our goals was a focus on growing into being a congregation that is welcoming and inclusive of all. We are already quite welcoming, but there are always new dimensions of welcome to explore. We are hoping to move toward becoming a community that publicly welcomes and affirms those who are LGBTQIA+. We are brainstorming ways to be more welcoming toward visitors. We are thinking of how we can welcome more participants into worship and fellowship leadership. Speaking of fellowship, we have noticed the warmth and joy around conversation after worship when we have coffee and treats. We are hoping to create more opportunities for connection around fellowship time. We are also looking at how to create a more inclusive worship experience, avoiding gendered language for God and also inviting the various ministries of the congregation to share periodically what they are up to. Also among our goals, is to get ahead of the interest accruing on our recently purchased boiler through a campaign aimed at paying for it before its term is complete.

These goals express our aspirations and hopes, but also recognize that none of us can do this all on our own. We will be asking you, from time to time, to come alongside of us in these goals. If there is a project or idea you want to be a part of, let the council know! Together, we are Concordia, God's people in this place, at this time, called to serve the world!

Pastor Jeff

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## **Worship Schedule**

### **Sunday, March 3 Third Sunday in Lent**

First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
Holy Gospel: John 2:13-22

### **Sunday, March 10 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

First Lesson: Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:1-10  
Holy Gospel: John 3:14-21

### **Sunday, March 17 Fifth Sunday in Lent**

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Second Lesson: Hebrews 5:5-10  
Holy Gospel: John 12:20-33

### **Sunday, March 24 Sunday of the Passion**

First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11  
Holy Gospel: Mark 14:1-15:47

### **Sunday, March 31 Resurrection of Our Lord**

First Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
Holy Gospel: John 13:1-17, 31b-35



**Joyful Voices Rehearsals:**  
Tuesday, March 19 and Tuesday,  
March 26 @ 6:15 p.m.



## Worship Matters: The Lenten Journey

There are many dimensions to the Lenten season and journey we began last month. Consider some of the words from our Scripture readings so far: return, reconciliation, mercy, fasting, prayer, baptism, testing, faith, cross, covenant, kindness, giving. Lent is a time of conversion and repentance, renewal and rebirth, of turning to the foundations of our faith. How do we hear these words in light of all that is happening in our world today?

On March 17, we begin a time traditionally known as Passiontide. Our readings and prayers will take us through some of the most poignant scenes in Jesus' ministry and last days in Jerusalem. There is a theme of renewal in the readings appointed for this day and we are reminded that this time will transition to another. The prophet Jeremiah points to the future and the new covenant it will bring, a covenant of love and forgiveness written on our hearts. The psalmist prays for a new and right spirit and the restoration of joy and salvation. Jesus proclaims a renewal that will require sacrifice, even death. And the author of Hebrews writes that Christ has made the sacrifice necessary for renewal in our lives.

In the final week we come together as people of God to remember Christ's journey to the cross. We are witnesses to Christ's service, suffering, death, and the miracle of the resurrection – the center of OUR story.

•**Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24 at 10:00 a.m.** We wave branches and sing Hosanna as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, followed by the Passion Narrative.

•**Maundy Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.** From the Latin *mandatum* (command). Jesus gives us a 'new' commandment – to love and serve one another; and we commemorate the Last Supper.

•**Good Friday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.** We remember, meditate, and pray at "stations" associated with the passion of Jesus. We conclude with a time of reverence, as we "Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world."

•**Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil), March 30 at 7:00 p.m.** We process with candles into the sanctuary to experience in word, song, symbols, and actions the history of our salvation, culminating in our first celebration of the Resurrection – God's victory over sin and death.

•**Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.**  
Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

What began with a cross traced on our foreheads with ashes ends with the glorious celebration of Easter. We pray in these weeks to reach that destination more fully aware of God's great love for us and for all people, and our role in sharing this good news in a troubled world . . .



*Lent at Concordia*

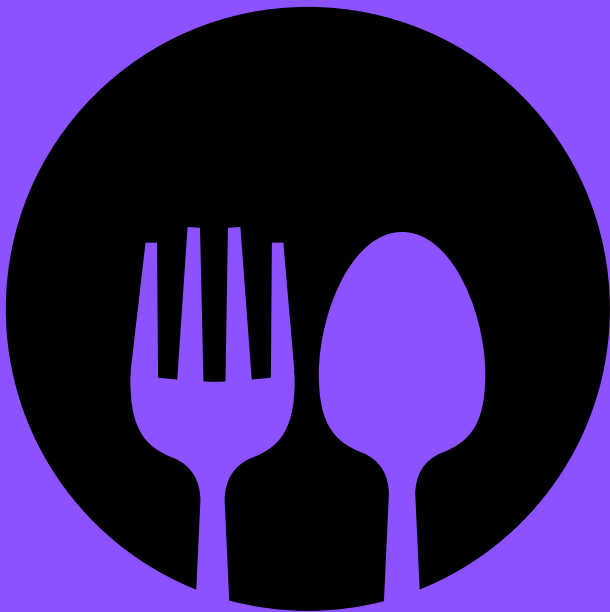


ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY  
14TH AT 7 PM

INTERGENERATIONAL MEAL,  
WORSHIP, AND ACTIVITY  
6PM

FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 6, 13, 20

# SOCIAL JUSTICE POTLUCK



**REV. CHARLOTTE FRANTZ WILL PRESENT ON  
IMMIGRATION BASICS AND THE CURRENT SITUATION  
ALONG THE US-MEXICO BORDER. BRING A DISH TO  
SHARE!**

The Arrowhead American Guild of Organists

# 2024 LENTEN ORGAN RECITALS

**02/21**

**DULUTH: VELDA GRAHAM BELL**  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**GRAND RAPIDS: JAN BILDEN,  
DARCY REICH & FRIENDS**  
ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

**02/28**

**DULUTH: BRIAN KAPP**  
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

**03/06**

**DULUTH: THOMAS HAMILTON**  
ST. SCHOLASTICA MONASTERY,  
COLLEGE OF ST. SCHOLASTICA

**03/13**

**DULUTH: BARBARA ERICKSON  
& DAVID TRYGGESTAD**  
GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH

**03/20**

**CLOQUET: VICKI ANDERSON  
& REBECCA HANSON**  
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

**TWO HARBORS: ROSEMARY GUINEY  
& DAVID TRYGGESTAD**  
HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

ALL WEDNESDAY CONCERTS BEGIN AT 12:15  
AND LAST APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES.

ADMISSION IS FREE BUT DONATIONS ARE  
GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED. PROCEEDS OF ALL  
DONATIONS TO BENEFIT THE ARROWHEAD  
AGO SCHOLARSHIP FUND.



# CONCORDIA FINANCIALS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## JANUARY, 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>JANUARY, 2024</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
INCOME	\$10, 778.27	\$13,433.33	\$10,778.27
EXPENSES	\$12,748.09	\$14,611.42	\$12,748.09
NET	(\$1,969.82)	(\$1,178.08)	(\$1,969.82)

**Bridges To Christ** will be meeting on Monday, March 4th at 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring food for CHUM. All women are welcome to join us for fellowship & dessert!

**Quilters** will meet on Thursday, March 7th 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](mailto: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](mailto:celcendowmentfund@gmail.com). Interviews will follow in May and awards announced by June 4.

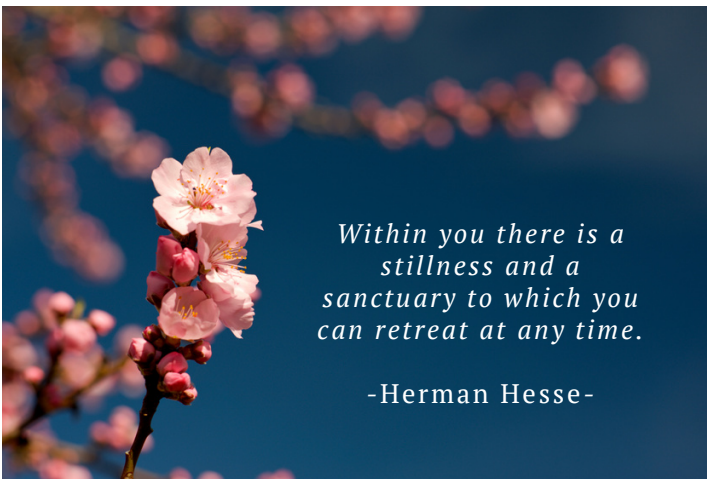
Let the Prayer Chain members join with you in your prayers and supplications. They are just a phone call away. All prayers are confidential and names or details are not needed. God is aware of all circumstances and waits to hear from you.

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: Dan Norlien Tom Nelson, Wesley, and Max, 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!



### March Birthdays

- 3 Thaen Doughty-Rosas
- 6 Margaret Roeser
- 11 Wayne Kari
- 12 Matt Wedin
- 18 Kurt Michalicek
- 19 Mike Edwards
- 31 Bob 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 \$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."





March is almost here and, the Minnesota March FoodShare Campaign will begin on February 26th and will continue until April 6th. Thank you for your past support. Because of the efforts of groups like ours, the 2023 campaign raised \$91,630 and 69,188 pounds.

CHUM's goal for this year is to raise \$100,000 and 50,000 pounds of food to stock their shelves, and they can achieve that success in this campaign with our help.

During 2023, the Food Shelf distributed 533,152 pounds of food to 15,781 people in Duluth. CHUM's Food Shelf was a major source of each visiting family's nutrition throughout the year. Together we are fulfilling our call to feed the hungry.

So what does CHUM need?? More money, or more food?? They need both! But the Food Shelf can do much more with money. As a member of Second Harvest Food Bank, CHUM's money goes much farther than it would shopping at Super One or Cub Foods. For every \$1 that gets donated, they can buy \$3 worth of food—that's three times more!!!

THE TIME TO DONATE IS NOW, BUT LET'S GET TO THE DETAILS ON FOOD DONATIONS!

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](http://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.



**Laura Raedeke's Green Tips from Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa**

**How to Spot the Misleading Advertising Labeling an Item or Action as Eco-friendly or Sustainable (Greenwashing)**

1. According to a 2020 survey by McKinsey, 78% of U.S. consumers favor a sustainable lifestyle, yet the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) plays a very limited role cracking down on greenwashing. Many companies and corporations use marketing tactics to create a sustainable appearance that doesn't actually exist. Buzzwords such as "all-natural," "eco-friendly," and "sustainable," cannot be taken at face value, but require us to investigate the packaging, website, or social media to see if the company clearly defines the reasoning behind their use of the term. When looking for products that are truly eco-friendly and sustainable, you can trust the following certifications: Green Business Network, USDA Organic, Leaping Bunny, B-Corp, Environmental Working Groups (EWG), Green Guard, GOTS, and Fair Trade Certified.

2. A report by Capgemini states that 77% of retailers found sustainability efforts led to increased brand loyalty, and that honest companies provided extensive product detail that included supply chain information, listing hazardous chemicals banned in factories, source-based carbon footprint, and general thoroughness and transparency. Buzzwords such as "carbon neutral" means that a company is reducing its emissions to the point that it equals emissions output, while "net-zero emissions" accounts for all greenhouse gas emissions from a company, not just carbon. To see if claims are genuine, look on a company's website for its programs for renewable energy and community projects, and verification of carbon offsets. The University of Massachusetts Amherst's top 100 Polluters indexes can provide more context for how company emissions rank as well as how to understand the classification system used in determining a company's greenhouse gas emissions.

3. Biodegradable materials can naturally decompose with help from bacteria and small organisms, but chemically treated items like wood and paper products can become toxic as they break down. Instead of buying products listed as "biodegradable" or "compostable," look for Biodegradable Products Institute certification - a verified third-party mark of true biodegradability. Many "compostable" items (like "compostable" bioplastics) only degrade in industrial composting facilities, but not in home compost bins, or when thrown into the garbage or landfills. Swap items like paper plates with versions that can be washed and reused, and check out "Breaking Down Barriers to Composting" at [greenamerica.org/composting-barriers](https://greenamerica.org/composting-barriers) to learn more.

4. Sustainability language is often confusing and used by corporations to promote false or questionable green certifications, product labels, or press releases and commercials. Trusted verifications are a good indicator that a company is honest about being green, and include: USDA Organic, Non-GMO Project, Rainforest Alliance, Environmental Working Group (EWG)-verified, Fair Trade America, Fair for Life, and Green America's own Certified Green Business. Read more about green certifications in "Is It Greenwashing? Or Is It A Sustainable Business?" at [greenamerica.org/greenwashed-or-sustainable](https://greenamerica.org/greenwashed-or-sustainable). Meanwhile, you can encourage advocacy groups, nonprofits, small businesses, and individuals to hold big businesses accountable when they can. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), in response to consumer demand for greater transparency and validation of company claims, is seeking public comment in support of the expansion and enforcement of the Green Guides, last updated 11 years ago. Educate yourself, friends, and family on tackling greenwashing as we step toward a greener world.

**Source:** <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Green-Blades-Rising-Newsletter-February-2024.html?soid=1134176315952&aid=LFj562H2DqA>



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>

**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](mailto:duluthconcordia@gmail.com)  
**Phone Number:** (218)728-4229  
**Website:** [www.duluthconcordia.org](http://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](mailto:duluthconcordia@gmail.com)

We reserve the right to edit your items.  
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