

OCTOBER, 2023

THE MESSENGER

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



Concordia Lutheran Church is coming to an awareness of our being located at a confluence of various migratory pathways!

This is the basic idea behind a grant proposal we forwarded on to the Lily Foundation this past spring. Our proposal would gift me a Sabbatical to explore regions where bird migration and human immigration overlap, areas like the border region of Southeast Arizona, the Bering Strait of Alaska, and New York City. It would also provide funding for Concordia to determine who our nearest creaturely neighbors are and improve our grounds to be more hospitable to these neighbors, the bees, birds, and butterflies that use or live on our campus. It would also help us think about how we might be a presence for rest and respite for the hikers who often sojourn through our churchyard on the Superior Hiking Trail.

We were awarded the grant!!!

Beginning the last Sunday in April, the project will begin in earnest as I embark on a Sabbatical in search of birds, rest, and renewal. The congregation will host speakers and hold events that help us to imagine our place at the crossroads of migration. Trees and flowers and grasses will be planted. Bird and bat houses will be made. Community will be nurtured as Concordia comes together in activity and learning.

Prior to the window of this renewal project, we will seek to explore the concepts of migration and immigration to get prepared for this adventure. Our Sunday School will do so through Bible story and activity (Hawk Ridge on October 8th!). We hope to schedule Social Justice potluck speakers. We are looking forward to Lent being a time to center ourselves around this theme.

As the project timeframe nears, we will have more details to share about how it all works. For now, I wanted to share with you this exciting news. I look forward to the renewal we will experience!

Pastor Jeff

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Worship Schedule

Sunday, October 1

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-9

Second Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Sunday, October 8

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 80:7-15

Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 15

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm 23

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:1-9

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 22

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 45:1-7

Psalm 96:1-13

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday, October 29

Reformation Sunday

First Lesson: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

Psalm 1

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:

Tuesday, October 10 & Tuesday,
October 24 @ 6:15 p.m.



Worship Matters: Harvest Season

Autumn is the season for bringing in the harvest, and outside our doors, there are signs of changes to come. We are surrounded by the colors of autumn's rich palette as trees begin to release their leaves to nourish the next generation of trees and plants release their seeds to replenish the earth. There are also signs of change as we continue our journey through Ordinary Time. As we move closer to the end of the Church Year, we look more closely at our response to the word. Two questions seem to circle around the lectionary in these days of autumn: How do we live in community and what are the values that create community? Jesus' teachings guide us, showing us how forgiveness, repentance, justice, and peace are central to the harvest's abundance.

We begin the month in the vineyard – a metaphor for God's kingdom and a place of God's grace. We will hear parables that describe and explore the meaning of what life is like in God's kingdom on October 8 and 15. On October 22, we hear a timely question about what belongs to God. As the month concludes, Jesus summarizes the commandments with what has been the core of his life and teaching: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind and . . . You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

October includes many commemorations (listed on pages 15-17 of Evangelical Lutheran Worship). When a commemoration falls on Sunday, an intercession is included in the prayer of the church. On October 15, we will remember Teresa of Avila, teacher and renewer of the church. Here are two excerpts from her devotional writings:

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.*

Lord, grant that I may always allow myself to be guided by you, always follow your plans, and perfectly accomplish your holy will. Grant that in all things, great and small, Today and all the days of my life, I may do whatever you may require of me. Help me to respond to the slightest prompting of your grace, so that I may be your trustworthy instrument, for your honor. May your will be done in time and eternity – by me, in me, and through me. Amen.

- St. Teresa of Avila



**Sunday School Field
Trip: Hawk Ridge**



**We meet at 11:45 AM
after worship on October
8th for a program at
Hawk Ridge!**



Bridges To Christ is meeting on Monday, October 2nd at 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring food items for CHUM. Bridges to Christ will be serving coffee on Sunday, October 29.

Olga Leeman funeral service will take place at 11 am on Saturday, October 7th. Lunch will follow worship.

October 8th Sunday School Field Trip! At 11:45 after worship on the 8th, Sunday school students, their families, and other interested adults will visit Hawk Ridge for an educational program and fun!

The Quilters will meet on Thursday, October 12th, at 9:30 AM. If you are interested in fun, fellowship and making some quilts, please join us. No need to know how to sew. If you can tie a knot, you'll be of great help. Bring your own bag lunch. Coffee and dessert will be supplied. Join us!

LEARN FROM ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST THROUGH THE STORIES OF MINISTRIES RIGHT HERE IN NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD

Encounters with Christ are often not what we expect. In Christ, God goes straight to the heart of the heart of the matter, inviting us to address questions that we weren't always aware that we had and revealing to us solutions that we might not have dreamed of on our own. These encounters change us and compel us to go out and tell others about the work God is doing in and through us and our congregations.

JOIN US!

October 14, 2023, from 9AM–4PM

Check-in and social time begin at 7:45AM

Open all day: Quilt Auction, Marketplace, VLM Bake Sale, and Zion's Bistro

Zion Lutheran Church, 2901 S. HWY 169, Grand Rapids, MN

Cost: Registration September 1 to October 14 – \$30

Registration includes lunch.

Workshop presenters are members of congregations and leaders in our synod who share the stories of their ministries and how this work has made a difference in their lives or the lives of others. To sign up to present, complete the presenter's form below.

New this year: Our Hunger and Justice ministry team will host a quilt auction and mini-market place while they visually tell the story of how people around the world encounter Christ through ministries supported through ELCA World Hunger.

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 Olga Leeman, Roger Erickson, Ethel O'Leary, Tim Bell, Emily Haavik, Gary Williams, Chuck Haavik, migrant families, Phillip Hedges, Katie Roper, Carrie Birdseye-Erickson, Jamie Desemone, Anne Holecek, the families of victims, survivors, and communities where mass shootings have occurred, Patti Pearson, Those persecuted for their sexual or gender identity, and the people of Ukraine.



Kindness enriches our life; with kindness mysterious things become clear, difficult things become easy, and dull things become cheerful.

- Leo Tolstoy

Matters of Record

† Olga Gertrude Leeman

December 16, 1925-September 18, 2023

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 have 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!

October Birthdays

- 2 Carson Henstorf
- 9 Janice Danielson
Chandi Katoch
- 10 William Carlson
- 11 James Gaffey
- 12 Donna Stabs
- 13 Macie Bergman
Carter Wedin
- 17 Rachelle Anderson
- 18 Sandra Mass
Sue Peterson
- 19 Roxanne Stahl
- 21 Karin Cummings
Melissa King
- 22 Lynda Glibbery
Patti Martenson
- 27 Aaron Roeser
- 28 Beverly Anderson
Marcia DeMeo-Morse

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."





THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE A GOOD ONE!

Big, community-building events are so important to us because our mission is, in part, building a more just and compassionate community. That is why we host so many events to nurture this reality!

This fall, on **October 17th**, we are hosting our Golden Gala, in commemoration of our 50th Anniversary. We are hosting the Gala to bring Chum’s mission and our stories to more people than ever before. There will be a gourmet dinner, silent and live auctions, inspiring stories, and awards.

We are also making this a bigger event because we need more support. Over the last few years, we have seen a decrease in contributions, which has led to heavy reliance on grants and other sources of funding.

We hope that with your help we will be able to raise money for our general operating budget. Our goal this year is to raise \$250,000 at the Golden Gala.

How can you help? Attending is one great way. Another would be to host your own table. Table hosts gather like-minded community members to attend the event with them. If you are interested you can fill out this short form (5-10 minutes). We also will need volunteers, silent auction donations, and sponsors for the event.

We are excited to see you there!

*Chum's
Golden Gala*

Honoring 50 years of service in the Northern Region. Join us for a fun night of pleasant company, good food, and regional impact.
More Info to Come.

OCTOBER
TUESDAY | 17 | AT 7 PM
2023



FAST SERVICE!!

We have never seen the demand we are seeing now: It used to take us up to 2 hours to get rid of 72 boxes of food at the Downtown Food Shelf—now we are doing it in as little as 45 minutes! And it is even busier and quicker out west, and at our pop-up locations!

We usually see an increase in need during the summer months due to kids being out of school, and while in years past we have tried to build a stockpile of food to keep us moving forward, it has proven most difficult to do that this year.

We are hoping that donations of food keep coming so we are able to keep up with the demand we are seeing. Any food will help us, but right now we are in most need of:

- Rice (1lbs)
- Dry Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Canned Soups (non-cream)
- Canned Pasta
- Peanut butter
- Macaroni and Cheese

Please take donations to 120 N 1st Ave W Monday - Friday 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM. Come down the alley and ring the bell, we will be happy to take any and all donations!





Five high-impact actions You can take to help the environment.

Fix your water leaks The average home leaks more than 10,000 gallons of clean water each year through leaky pipes, toilets, showerheads and other fixtures. That's equal to the water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry. Toilets are especially leak-prone (20% of all toilets leak), but because they are often silent, these leaks can go unnoticed. Learn more on how to fix leaks and save water: [Is your toilet taking a leak?](#)

Buy less stuff: Consumer goods that are cheaper to throw away than to repair have become common. And the amount of goods that we purchase, use, and then throw away has risen over time. This affects the environment in lots of negative ways. Here are some questions to ask yourself before heading to the store or the internet to shop: **1.** Do I truly need this (new phone or gadget, clothing item, other consumer product) or can I get by without it? **2.** Can I borrow, rent, or trade for this item? **3.** If I really need to buy it, can I get it second-hand? **4.** If I do buy new, is there a product with a Lifetime Warranty?

Slay your energy vampires: Do you leave your phone or laptop chargers, DVD player, video game console, or other electronic devices plugged in when you're not using them? If so, you likely have energy vampires lurking in your home. Energy vampires are big energy wasters! They can account for 10% or more of a home's electric use, which makes them expensive to own. Energy vampires are electrical items that continue to use electricity even when turned off — things that draw power when in standby mode and/or have a display light. Slay these vampires by unplugging them when not in use. Installing advanced power strips can also help.

Be an eco-driver: Sometimes it's not what we drive but how we drive that determines how much carbon and other emissions our vehicles generate. In 2016, consider using these eco-driving habits when you're behind the wheel. **1.** Speed up and slow down smoothly. **2.** Drive the speed limit. (The EPA estimates a 10-15% improvement in gas mileage by driving 55 mph instead of 65 mph) **3.** Keeping tires properly inflated. **4.** Maintain a steady speed. **5.** Avoid excess idling.

Water a tree: Did you know that trees help us to save water and energy? Trees keep us cooler during the summer, improve water quality, and reduce air pollutants, among many other benefits. If you have trees in your landscape or on your boulevard, one of the best things you can do is to water them. Newly planted trees especially need watering for the first 3-5 years after planting. Mature trees need extra water during periods of drought.

Source: <https://spas-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Five-high-impact-actions-to-help-the-environment.pdf>

Greetings on behalf of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod's Welcome and Reconciling Team!

Since the formation of our team some six years ago, we have been engaged in helping congregations discern their welcome of LGBTQIA+ members and neighbors. We have walked alongside congregations as they explored their openness to calling rostered leaders from the LGBTQIA+ community. Now, we are excited to be embarking on a new endeavor to help our synod discern whether we should become a Reconciling in Christ Synod!

Becoming a Reconciling in Christ Synod entails extending a public welcome to and affirmation of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, as well as a commitment to anti-racism in the policies, practices, and advocacy of our synod. In order to discover if the Northeastern Minnesota Synod is ready to make these commitments, our team will hold a quarterly gatherings in each of the five conferences of our synod. These gatherings will include discussion, education, and resourcing around a topic. Our first forums will explore what welcome means. The second forums will address how we read scripture as Lutherans and what that means for our welcome of LGBTQIA+ people. The third session will help those gathered to understand the various terms used by those in the LGBTQIA+ community to describe their orientation, identity, and expression. The fourth will center the experiences of those in the LGBTQIA+ community as we listen to their stories of faith. The fifth gathering will hone in on the importance of intersectionality and how working for justice for LGBTQIA+ people is intertwined with that for all marginalized people. The sixth and final quarterly session will help us explore how we as synod, congregation, and individuals can be advocates and allies.

At the conclusion of these gatherings, the Welcome and Reconciling Team will prayerfully consider whether our Synod is ready and willing to make these public commitments. If so, a memorial voicing these commitments will come before the Synod Assembly in 2025. If the memorial passes, we will be an RIC Synod and will be accountable for following through on the commitments we made!

It is our hope that members of our synod will make it a priority to participate in these gatherings to better aid our discernment process. As of now, the dates and places of most of our first quarter sessions have been settled!

Saturday, October 14 Zion, Grand Rapids as part of the Together Here event

Saturday, November 11 10 AM at Salem - Hermantown

We will seek a new location within each conference for each quarterly gathering in order to widen the scope of participation. Please pay attention to Northeastern Minnesota Synod communications to learn of the schedule for these forums. We are excited to guide this journey toward becoming an RIC Synod with you all!

Pastor Jeffery Davis and the members of the Welcome and Reconciling Team





**Thursday, October 26, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm | \$10.75 |
Zeitgeist Zinema**

A documentary film centering the daily experiences that Black lives encounter while bicycling. The film addresses critical conversations around police enforcement, historic disinvestment of infrastructure, racism, racial profiling and celebrating Black joy on two wheels. The film focuses on Los Angeles and speaks to wider issues of transportation safety and institutional racism.

Source:<https://www.perfectduluthday.com/the-event/biking-while-black/>

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
Sean Bedard-Parker
Bridget Bohn, President
Trevor Christensen, Vice-President
Kalina Groothuis, Secretary
Dan Norlien

Committees:

Building & Grounds: Pat Isaacson
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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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 November newsletter are due by Tuesday, October 24. 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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