

THE MESSENGER, APRIL, 2026

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



Pastor's Ponderings

“...but a new creation is everything!” (Galatians 6:15b)

Happy Easter to you all!!!

This is the season where we remember together that God has set the new creation in motion in raising Jesus from the dead. Nothing can ever be the same again! God is at work making everything new and has called you and me and Concordia to be a part of that! It is an honor to continue this work and witness together in this community of faith.

That community is even wider than we imagine. Later this month, our Synod will gather in assembly to elect a new Bishop. It is our deepest hope that God will raise up a leader to guide our Synod in what are sure to be challenging years as the church experiences decline and as it lives out its calling amidst the growing threats of Christian nationalism and political authoritarianism. We trust that God is guiding the church forward into a future made new.

As for our life together, I encourage you to continue your faithful stewardship. As our community changes and costs rise, we will feel the pressure on the financial front of the congregation. Regular giving and periodic increases in gifts will help us withstand that pressure. We can do anything, if we do it together!

I look forward to worshipping with you during Holy Week and exploring how God's new creation is forming within us and in our world!

Pastor Jeff



Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 5 Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Day

First Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:1-4

Holy Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

Sunday, April 12 Second Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Holy Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 19 Third Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Holy Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Wednesday, April 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 2:19-25

Holy Gospel: John 10:1-10



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:

Wednesday, April 1, @ 5 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14 @ 6 p.m.



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Holy Week

2501 Woodland Ave, Duluth



4/2 Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM
4/3 Good Friday 6:30 PM
4/4 Easter Vigil 7 PM
4/5 Easter Sunday 10 AM

Worship Matters: Triduum

*Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle, tell the triumph far and wide;
Tell aloud the wondrous story of the cross, the Crucified;
Tell how Christ, the world's redeemer, vanquished death the day he died.*

“Sing, My Tongue” (ELW #355), Venantius Honorius Fortunatus (530-699)

Since the fourth century the Church has celebrated Christ's journey from death to life in a continuous liturgy that encompasses three consecutive days (*Triduum* from the Latin word meaning “three days”). The greeting and sign of the cross are given on Maundy Thursday and the dismissal occurs at the Easter Vigil. In between are three of the most beautiful and meaningful liturgies we celebrate as a Church. We retell the sacred story of Christ's passion and resurrection and journey together from fear to hope, sin to grace, darkness to light, and death to new life . . .

Maundy Thursday - Our Lenten observance concludes with the confession and forgiveness that begin our service this evening. *Maundy Thursday* takes its name from the Latin word ‘*mandatum*’ (commandment), and the Word focuses on the new commandment Jesus gives us, to love one another as he has loved us. We also remember the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples on this night. Following the post-communion prayer, a psalm is chanted and the altar is stripped bare in preparation for Good Friday (a symbol of Jesus being stripped of his garments prior to his crucifixion). There is no benediction or dismissal, and the service concludes in silence.

Good Friday is the second segment of the Triduum liturgy. We gather in silence for this solemn celebration where we will pray the Stations of the Cross. For centuries, Christians have walked the Via Dolorosa (the legendary path of Jesus to Golgotha), stopping at several places (stations) associated with the passion of Jesus to remember, meditate, and pray. The Lord's Supper is not celebrated at this service and we do not say the Creed. We conclude with a time of reverence, as we “Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.” As on Maundy Thursday, there is no dismissal and we leave the sanctuary in silence.

The *Easter Vigil* is the third segment of our liturgy, and it begins around a new fire. The Paschal Candle is lit, and then the candles of the assembly. The procession of light enters the sanctuary we left silently and in darkness on Good Friday to experience in word, song, and symbol, the history of our salvation. We look now to the resurrection which promises our own, as the Gospel is proclaimed. We join with Christians around the world on this night as we rejoice, we sing, we affirm our baptism, we celebrate the Eucharist, and we are sent forth to share the Good News.

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

FEBRUARY, 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

FEBRUARY, 2026 FINANCIALS	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	YEAR TO DATE 2026
INCOME	\$9,650.05	\$13,683.67	\$22,378.05
EXPENSES	\$16,047.40	\$14,761.83	\$28,751.58
NET	(\$6,397.35)	(\$1,078.17)	(\$6,373.53)

Concordia Announcements

Bridges To Christ will be meeting on Monday, April 6th @ 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who gave monetary donations to CHUM!

Daytime Quilters are meeting on Thursday, April 9th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your lunch & dessert is provided.

Eventide Quilters will be meeting on Thursday, April 9th from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Learn piecing, sewing & tying quilts. Light refreshments provided.

Toddler Shower for Safe Haven sponsored by Bridges To Christ. Grab a tag on the clothesline in the Narthex, purchase the item, & return with the tag by April 12th. No need to wrap. We can shop for you if you'd like, so give cash or a check (written to BTC) to a Bridges member. Safe Haven is a shelter & resource center for Moms & children.

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 30th and either dropped off in the Endowment mailbox at church or emailed to deloresgrunwald@gmail.com. Interviews will follow in May and awards announced by June 8th.



The Endowment Board is pleased to offer camperships to Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (VLM) to attend up to one week of camp per year. Each youth member or non-member with consistent worship attendance cost will be matched half the cost to attend. In addition, \$100 is offered towards the cost of one non-member friend attending with a member. Furthermore, half the cost of attending family camp per member family and \$100 for non-member individuals attending with member family is offered. Please contact Delores Grunwald or Dave Wedin if you are interested in cost match to attend VLM this summer.



FROM
FEAR TO FIRE

IGNITING COMMUNITY FOR A PLANET IN PERIL

ECOFAITH SUMMIT OF THE UPPER MIDWEST

We gather to be refined through crossgenerational repentance and lament.

We gather to be refueled in creation, community, worship, and art.

We gather to be reignited by a constellation of speakers and organizers - youth, young adults, and elders.

We gather to be a renewed community, ablaze with New Life for God's beloved Creation.

We gather for our FEAR to become our FUEL...

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 E. SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH MN

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 2ND

APRIL 18, 2026

CHECK-IN BEGINS AT 8:30 AM

UNDER 30
FREE

PRESENTED BY:
LUTHERAN ADVOCACY - MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS AREA SYNOD
NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD
NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN
NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD
SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD

TO LEARN MORE
OR REGISTER:



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: Jordan Sauter, Tim Bell, Migrant families, The people of Palestine, Iran, Lebanon, 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, and Wayne Kari.

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.

Aftenro: Wayne Kari

Benedictine:


Lorraine Brayden

Sylvia Jamar

Edgewood:

Ethel O' Leary

Pat Tessier



*Yes - the springtime needed
you. Often a star was waiting
for you to notice it.*

-Rainer Maria Rilke

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 Edwards



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 \$40 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."





The St. Louis River Alliance and St. Louis River Area of Concern coordinators present this celebration of the recovery of manoomin (wild rice) in the St. Louis River Estuary.

Discover why manoomin is vital to the health of the river, what its return tells us about decades of restoration work, and what this progress means for the future of the community. Local organizations will be tabling and eager to share their projects, stories and opportunities to get involved.

The evening features special guest speaker Deanna Erickson, director of the Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve, sharing insights on the importance of this sacred plant and all the St. Louis River relatives wild rice supports — including people living along, paddling and ricing these waters.

Free pizza will be served.

Tuesday, April 7 @ Clyde Iron Works, Free, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

BAD FAITH

**Film Screening &
Virtual Q&A**

Saturday, April 11th

2 - 4:30pm

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Duluth 835 W. College St.



Bad Faith is an award-winning documentary on the rise of Christian Nationalism in the United States.

A virtual Q&A with one of the filmmakers follows the screening.

This event is free.



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



"Our failure to care for our common home...undermines public health, economic stability, and our future." Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN

1. On Thursday, February 12, 2026, the federal government announced the repeal of the scientific finding that climate change endangers human health and the environment (the 2009 endangerment finding). By removing limits on CO₂, methane, and four other greenhouse gases that supercharge heat waves, droughts, wildfires, and other extreme weather, the U.S. EPA will no longer enforce the fuel efficiency of America's cars and trucks, even though transportation is the largest single source of greenhouse gases in the U.S. Gas guzzlers cannot be sold in Europe or China, so the U.S. risks ceding automotive technology to Chinese electric vehicle giants, while increasing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 10% over the next 30 years, according to an advocacy group, the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). The way is now cleared for the EPA to repeal limits from other sources of pollution, such as power plants and oil and gas wells, a process that it has begun. The decision is expected to face fierce legal challenges, to which you can add your voice.

2. Overwhelming scientific evidence shows that burning coal, the dirtiest of the fossil fuels, is harming public health and driving dangerous levels of global warming; yet in mid-February, 2026, the U.S. EPA weakened pollution limits for coal-burning power plants by repealing the stringent limits set in 2012 and updated in 2024 that made it much more expensive to burn coal. The burning of coal releases mercury into Earth's atmosphere, where it can settle in waterways and accumulate in fish, other aquatic organisms, and in humans. Mercury can cause heart disease and severe damage to the brain and central nervous system, and in babies and fetuses it can cause significant developmental delays, lower IQ scores, and impaired motor skills. In addition to mercury, heavy metals released by burning coal include cadmium, chromium, lead, and nickel, all of which are linked to health risks including cancer, infertility, and neurological damage. The most marginalized members of our society live nearest to the source of pollution and suffer the worst consequences, making this a social justice issue as well.

3. State law requires Minnesota's electric utilities to reduce their carbon emissions to zero by 2040, and additional statutory goals aim to cut overall emissions by 30% in 2025, 50% by 2030, and 100% by 2050. Minnesota failed to hit the 2025 target, although state carbon pollution fell by one-fifth between 2005 and 2023, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Progress has largely been driven by the power sector (emissions cut in half) and the transportation sector (emissions reduced by 9%), but emissions from agriculture, industry, and residential and commercial buildings all went up between 2005 and 2023. Minnesota and other states struggle with the February 2026 repeal of federal authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, which is delaying the roll out of several state-administered programs, such as a rebate for Minnesotans to install heat pumps and a federal program to weatherize buildings. Share your concerns with your state and federal representatives.

(Continued on next page)

4. In January 2026, the U.S. pulled out of the Paris agreement, the international treaty aimed at keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius, while rescinding billions of dollars in federal climate spending. In February 2026, the endangerment finding of 2009 that gave the U.S. EPA the authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions was also repealed. According to the MN Dept. of Commerce, the state will now find it more difficult to help Minnesota farmers cut their emissions, which have risen by about 1 million metric tons, or 1%, between 2005 and 2023. Federal grants, now rescinded, had been awarded for farmers to install solar or buy electric farm equipment, as well as expanding programs to help farmers adopt cover crops and other practices that can improve soil health and reduce carbon emissions. But state legislators hope to help the state cut emissions by, for example, proposing funding for homeowners to install heat pumps, and a bill setting new energy efficiency standards for existing buildings that would encourage investing in electric appliances.

5. The environmental nonprofit Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) is tracking at least 21 potential data center proposals in Minnesota alone, a fast-moving industry built as part of a drive for generative AI, funded by huge corporations that often describe a project as a "technology park" or "light industrial development." With data centers known for their considerable use of electricity, water and metals, as well as being noisy and brightly lit at all hours, MCEA urges the development of a statewide strategy on this new industry, which has no permitting protocols in our state. As yet, there is no government agency that can impose guardrails on water use, energy use, or the cumulative effects that multiple facilities would have on our resources. The U.S. already has 10 times as many data centers as any other nation in the world, so concerned Minnesotans can demand that we create a framework for rational development that respects our natural resources.

**From Green Blades Rising Newsletter, by Laura Raedeke, Eco Faith Network NE MN Team,
Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, MN, Northeastern Minnesota Synod**

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

Trevor Christensen, President
Delores Grunwald
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

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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



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Concordia Lutheran Church. Items for the April
newsletter are due by Tuesday, March 17th.
Please email your items, corrections, questions,
or comments to duluthconcordia@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit your items.
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