



When the Magi had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. (Matthew 2:9)

Magi from far-off lands, sailors traversing the sea, birds in seasonal migration. These all follow stars to help them to where they are going, to get them to their goal. As do we! We follow Jesus, “the bright morning star.” (Revelation 22:16) Jesus, our star, is leading us and our congregation into the future.

As we meet for our annual meeting on the 26th of January, we will follow this star and see where it leads. Every meeting, every budget, every decision is a statement of belief about who we are, who we want to be, and where we are going. As we, along with many other congregations, likely will face another budget deficit, might there be creative responses to explore, new futures to consider, fresh initiatives to start? Our star, Jesus, is leading us somewhere and our meeting is a way in which we seek to follow and discover, imagine and dream.

A direction that I find we are being led is into deeper community through shared transportation. There are many in our congregation who have entered a season of life where driving a vehicle to church is no longer or rarely happening. We should meet the need for our fellow community members to participate in worship through organizing a rideshare that gets our siblings in Christ from home to church as often as they are able! Are you willing to follow this star and be a driver? Let me know! Are you wanting to attend worship, but finding driving there a scary prospect? We can get you there! Let me know!

As a community, we join with sages, sailors, and Scarlet Tanagers in following the star! We are being led!

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Worship Schedule

**Sunday, January 5
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 12
Baptism of Our Lord**

First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Second Lesson: Acts 8:14-17
Holy Gospel: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

**Sunday, January 19
Second Sunday after Epiphany**

First Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Holy Gospel: John 2:1-11

**Sunday, January 26
Third Sunday after Epiphany**

First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12-31a
Holy Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

Joyful Voices Rehearsals:

Tuesday, January 7 @ 6:15 p.m. and
Tuesday, January 21 @ 6:15 p.m.



Worship Matters: Epiphany

The Feast of Epiphany follows the Twelve Days of Christmas (December 25 – January 5). We have moved our celebration of this Feast this year to **Sunday, January 5**.

Epiphany comes from the Greek *epiphaneia* meaning appearance, revelation, manifestation. This festival can be traced to the early third century in the Eastern Church, a combined celebration of the birth and baptism of Jesus that appears to predate the establishment of Christmas. In the fourth century, the Western Church disassociated the Baptism from the feast of Epiphany, emphasizing the manifestation of the Good News to Gentiles through the figure of the Magi. As we gather for worship on **January 5**, we will remember the journey of these wise men. The Magi are familiar characters in our holiday scenes, but we know very little about them. Their story is told only in Matthew, and we do not know how many there were, where they came from or their names. Because they offered three gifts, tradition has assumed there were three, and legend has named them Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. We do know these things: they possessed the ability to read the heavens, they felt compelled to follow a star, and they traveled a great distance to welcome and pay homage to Jesus. The first to visit the Christ child they reveal Jesus to the world as Lord and King,

In the season that follows (Time after Epiphany), we give thanks for Christ's revelation to the world and we look to the mission of the church in the world. We'll celebrate the light of Christ, and we'll 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** (1/12). 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 intentional about living out these promises. We'll remember that Christ is light for ALL people as we celebrate the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (1/18 – 1/25).

This is a season of discovery, and the depth of God's great love is revealed in our readings. The Magi will discover that revelation in a baby lying in a manger, John will hear it in a voice from the heavens at Jesus' baptism, and a wedding party at Cana will experience it in a special gift of wine.

Signs of hope are everywhere as we begin this journey. The star that called the wise men to travel such a distance, also calls to us, and invites us to find Christ and the joy that characterizes the kingdom of God



SANDWICH AND SCRIPTURE

Concordia Narthex
11:30 am
January date TBD

Family Behaviors that Increase Your LGBTQ Child's Health & Well-Being

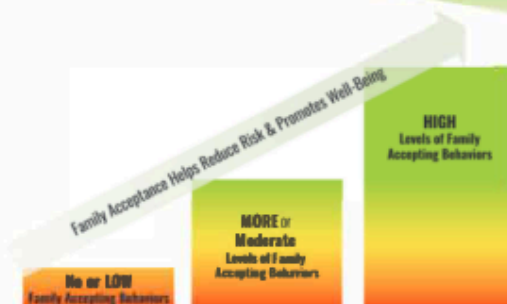
Research from the Family Acceptance Project[®] found more than 50 family accepting behaviors that help protect your lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer-identified (LGBTQ) child against health risks like depression, suicide and illegal drug use and help to increase your LGBTQ child's self-esteem, health and well-being. A little change makes a difference in decreasing your child's isolation and risk and giving them hope that their family will be there for them.

Family support saves lives!

BEHAVIORS THAT HELP...

Tell your LGBTQ / gender diverse child that you love them	Support your child's gender expression	Talk with your child or foster child about their LGBTQ identity and listen respectfully – even when you feel uncomfortable or think that being gay or transgender is wrong	Require other family members to treat your child with respect	Show affection when your child tells you or when you learn that your child is LGBTQ
Ask your child if – and how – you can help them tell other people about their LGBTQ identity	Welcome your child's LGBTQ friends to your home	Use your child's chosen name and the pronoun that matches their gender identity	Bring your child to LGBTQ groups and events	Get accurate information to educate yourself about your child's sexual orientation, gender identity and expression
Find a congregation that welcomes your LGBTQ / gender diverse child and family	Participate in family support groups and activities for families with LGBTQ and gender diverse children to get support for yourself and your family and guidance for supporting your LGBTQ child	Talk with your religious leaders to help your congregation become supportive of LGBTQ people	Tell your LGBTQ / gender diverse child that you're proud of them	Speak openly about your child's LGBTQ identity
Tell your LGBTQ / gender diverse child that you will be there for them – even if you don't fully understand	Connect your child with LGBTQ adult role models	Express enthusiasm for your child having an LGBTQ / gender diverse partner when they're ready to date	Stand up for your child when others mistreat them because of their LGBTQ identity or gender expression – at home, at school, in your congregation and in the community	Believe that your child can be a happy LGBTQ adult – and tell them they will have a good life

The more of these behaviors that parents and families do, the better your LGBTQ child's health & well-being



- Better health
- Higher self-esteem
- Stronger social support
- Better family relationships
- Less likely to be depressed
- 3 times less likely to attempt suicide
- 3 times less likely to think about suicide
- Less likely to have substance abuse problems



For more information about acceptance and rejection and your LGBTQ child's risk & well-being - Family Acceptance Project - <https://familyproject.sfsu.edu>

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NOVEMBER, 2024 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>NOVEMBER, 2024</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
INCOME	\$11,815.00	\$13,433.33	\$129,256.16
EXPENSES	\$12,550.70	\$14,611.42	\$144,296.53
NET	(735.70)	(\$1,178.08)	(\$15,040.37)

Annual Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, January 26. Please have all reports for the Annual Meeting to the office by Tuesday, January 14.

There will be Sunday School during worship on January 26.

Add Pie Social to your calendar! Bridges To Christ will be selling pie slices and coffee prior to the annual meeting on Jan 26th. Proceeds will be donated to Opportunity Palestine.

Bridges To Christ will be meeting on Monday, January 6th at 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Beginning to plan for the Pie Social (selling of pie slices & coffee) before the January annual meeting.

Quilters will meet on Thursday, January 9th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There are several quilt tops that need finishing.

Eventide Quilters will meet on Thursday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is another opportunity to help with piecing, sewing, & tying quilts.

Endowment Board Member Opportunity: The Endowment Board is looking for two new members to fill open positions starting in February for a five-year term. Members manage incoming donations and distribution of funds. The board meets two or three times a year.

Please prayerfully consider joining this important church ministry. If you are interested, please contact Delores Grunwald (218-724-3210) or [email:deloresgrunwald@gmail.com](mailto:deloresgrunwald@gmail.com).

Sprucing Up the Narthex: If you have ideas for purchasing supplies (e.g. extension cords) or small updates for the narthex, please let Delores know (218-724-3210, deloresgrunwald@gmail.com) by January 12. I will be placing a request for memorial/gifts for these items. Thank you!

Thank you to the Care Committee for sending me cards while I was recuperating!
Eileen Fish.

CONCORDIA GIVING TREE:

A huge THANK YOU to our generous Concordia members for donating Giving Tree gifts, SuperOne gift cards, cash donations, clothing, school supplies, and chapstick to the students and families of Stowe Elementary School! Your support and kindness has provided an opportunity for struggling families to create happy Christmas memories.

THE FOLLOWING WAS DELIVERED TO STOWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:



\$275.00 Super One Gift Cards

40 Christmas Gift Tag Gifts

8 extra Christmas toys

2 stuffed bears

10 scissors

15 erasers

9 chapsticks

5 notebooks

3 glue sticks

4 bottles of glue

7 boxes of crayons

2 boxes of pencils

2 boxes of colored pencils

1 box of markers

4 backpacks

3 hats

4 pairs of socks

2 winter coats

2 snow pants

2 large bags of gently used clothes, boots, shoes



Prayer and Visitation Ministry

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: Jamie Desemone, Those affected by natural disasters, Rory and Greg Raymond, Anne Holecek, the families of victims, the survivors, and communities where mass shootings have occurred. Patti Pearson, Those marginalized for their sexual or gender identity, race, or ability, Neil and Barb Parikh, Tom Nelson, Max, Wayne Kari, the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Syria, Israel, and Russia, Roger Erickson, Tim Bell, migrant families, Phillip Hedges, and Carrie Birdseye-Erickson.

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!



January Birthdays

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

If your birthday isn't listed or has the wrong date, please let the office know.



Flower and Sanctuary Candle Sign-up

A nice way to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion is to have altar flowers or the sanctuary candle on Sunday morning. The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for both. Cost for flowers is \$22 and the candle is \$8. Contact the office with any questions.

Please note that when you have altar flowers for worship, you may take them home following worship. The glass vases must stay at church, however.



Equal Exchange Coffee Donations

Equal Exchange coffee donations needed for church coffee supply. Coffee funds are running low. Donation envelopes are available in the narthex information rack. Place an envelope with any donation amount in the offering plate with note "Equal Exchange coffee fund."





TWIN PORTS MLK EVENTS

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Activities Planned for January 19 and 20 in Duluth

Led by the Martin Luther King Jr. Day (MLK Day) planning committee of the Duluth NAACP, the Twin Ports will be celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King on January 19 and 20, 2025.

This year, the theme is “One People” recognizing Dr. King’s insight that all people are” caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” The holiday events consist of:

- **Sunday, January 19, 4:00 p.m.:** Community Worship Service at Peace United Church of Christ, 1111 N. 11th Ave East., Duluth, featuring worship in the tradition of Dr. King. Rev. Angela Barnes, the new pastor at St. Mark AME, will be the featured preacher and music includes Clinton Strother as well as the Central Hillside Community Gospel Choir.
- **Monday, January 20, 7:00–9:30 a.m.:** Community Breakfast at First United Methodist Church, 230 E. Skyline Parkway, Duluth, with a large-screen broadcast of the event at Minneapolis Convention Center. The featured speaker is journalist Michele Norris. More information at mlkbreakfast.com .
- **Monday, January 20, 10:30–11:45 a.m.:** Gathering at Family Freedom Center (Washington Center Gym), 310 N 1st Ave W., Duluth, to march to the DECC.
- **Monday, January 15, Noon–1:30 p.m.:** DECC Symphony Hall, 350 Harbor Dr., Duluth, A collection of speakers and performers will inspire and challenge the community to carry on Dr. King’s work.

All MLK events are free and open to the public. Please come and invite someone to join you!

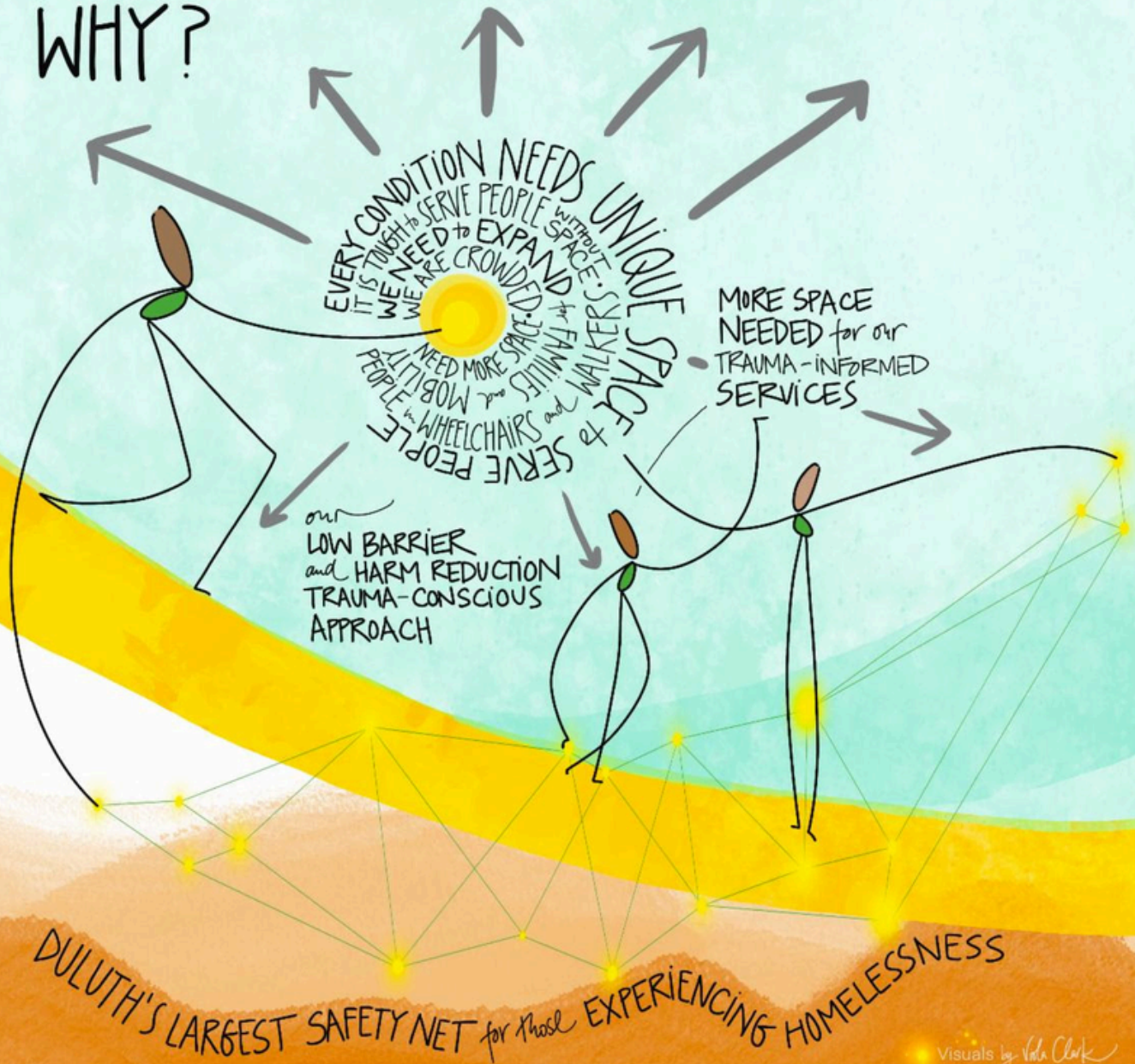
As the weekend’s events continue to grow in attendance and reach, the financial needs have also continued to grow. A goal of the MLK Planning Committee is to organize its events entirely through community donations and sponsorships.

To see a list of sponsors and ways to support the events, visit duluthnaacp.org/mlk. Contact Doug Bowen-Bailey, MLK Holiday Planning Committee Chair - 218-310-7940, dbb@digiterp.com





CHUM'S TRANSITION WHY?





A BIG YEAR IS COMING...

At Chum, we have seen a dramatic and unprecedented rise in the number of people seeking shelter. Every night, more individuals and families turn to us for a safe place to stay, a warm meal, and the chance to rebuild their lives.

This is a crisis. Duluth is facing an overwhelming need for shelter, and Chum is stepping up to meet it. We are actively expanding our shelter capacity, thoughtfully stretching our resources to ensure that every Duluthian in need has a place to go — whether they are facing mental health or substance use challenges, are part of the nonbinary community, are couples, or are people with disabilities.

Our low-barrier approach has been a lifeline for so many. At Chum, we welcome everyone, regardless of circumstance, and provide a place of refuge and support. But we also understand that some individuals require a more tailored environment to feel safe and begin their journey toward stability. That's why our new shelter design will include dedicated spaces to accommodate diverse needs, such as those working toward sobriety or individuals who benefit from quieter, more private environments.

This vision requires extraordinary effort. From relocating to a temporary site to renovating existing facilities and constructing new additions, the logistical and financial challenges are significant. Moving guests and staff, setting up essential services, and maintaining our current programs all require meticulous planning and support.

This is where you come in. Your financial contribution can be the bridge that helps us complete this vital expansion and meet the growing demand for shelter in Duluth. With your support, we can provide more people with stability, safety, and a path toward a brighter future.

Your generosity has the power to change lives and transform our community. Together, we can address this crisis and ensure no one in Duluth faces homelessness alone. Thank you for standing with us in this critical moment.

Give To The Max Day and Turkey Giveaways

This Give to the Max Day, our community came together in an incredible way, raising \$45,000 to support Chum's food shelf. Thanks to your generosity, we can continue providing essential groceries to hundreds of families who rely on us every month.

While this is an amazing achievement, the need in our community remains greater than ever. The rising costs of food and increased demand for our services mean we must stretch every dollar further to ensure no one goes hungry. With your continued partnership, we can sustain the food shelf and be there for everyone who turns to us in their time of need.

If you weren't able to give during Give to the Max Day or feel inspired to contribute further, know that your support makes a tangible difference every day. Together, we can create a stronger, healthier community where everyone has enough to eat.

Thank you for standing with Chum and our neighbors in need. Your kindness fuels everything we do.

The week of Thanksgiving, the Chum Food Shelf gave away 300 Thanksgiving boxes complete with turkeys, potatoes, gravy, and all the fixings for a great meal! Everyone was so grateful to be able to enjoy this meal. Thank you to everyone who donated food and funds to make this possible.

Number of People Housed

This year, we at Chum have witnessed the remarkable power of resilience and community support. We're thrilled to share that 115 individuals and families have transitioned from our homeless shelter into positive housing situations. This milestone is a testament to the collective efforts of our staff, volunteers, and supporters who make this life-changing work possible.

For those who have experienced the uncertainty and hardships of homelessness, finding stable housing marks a fresh start. It's more than just a roof overhead—it's a foundation for rebuilding lives, nurturing families, and finding hope. Thank you to all of you who made this happen.

10 WARNING SIGNS OF ALZHEIMER'S

An education program presented by the Alzheimer's Association®



WHAT TO WATCH FOR IN YOURSELF AND OTHERS.

Alzheimer's causes changes in memory, thinking and behavior that are not normal aging.

Join us to learn about:

- » The difference between normal aging and Alzheimer's.
- » Common warning signs.
- » The importance of early detection and benefits of diagnosis.
- » Next steps and expectations for the diagnostic process.
- » Alzheimer's Association resources.

**Wednesday, January 8
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Kenwood Lutheran Church
2720 Meyers Ave.
Duluth, MN 55811**

Visit alz.org/CRF to explore additional education programs online and in your area.

**ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION**
Minnesota - North Dakota
Chapter

23953045

Pastor: Rev. Jeffery Davis
Cantor: Jennifer Dums
Joyful Voices Pianist: Patti Martenson
Pianist: Anneliese Braaten
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: Lynne Erickson, Mary Johnson, 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
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

Open

Lutheran Campus Ministry Duluth Board

Patti Martenson

NE Minnesota Synod Youth Board

Margaret Roeser

Union Gospel Mission

Lois Witchall

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

Bridget Bohn



The Messenger is a monthly publication of Concordia Lutheran Church. Items for the February newsletter are due by Tuesday, January 21. 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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