

THE MESSENGER, JULY, 2025

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



Pastor's Ponderings

A few years ago, we began to post guidance in the newsletter regarding how to handle the sharing of medical and other information. I advised you to be cautious, to care for your friends and neighbors by asking permission to share with the church whether someone is in the hospital or nursing home, and would like a call or visit. This counsel was given primarily to encourage individuals to notify the church and pastor on their own or to direct a family member or friend to do so. The reasoning was that hospitals and care facilities no longer contact the church as they once did. Another reason was that the "grapevine" sometimes failed to let me know something was going on in a timely way. It is always best to communicate your own information, wishes, and needs as poor communication can lead to hurt feelings and missed opportunities.

While direct communication is still the best course, it has become clear through experience, conversation, and reflection, that this advice is also not working! Doh! Caring friends have felt unable to share that a loved one is lonely or struggling. There is also a bit of embarrassment around asking for permission to let people know. It has always been uncomfortable for individuals to express their own needs.

So, I am calling an audible! Scrap the previous counsel! Well...not totally. Please exercise caution in sharing information. It is always best practice to ask permission to divulge another's experience or communicate directly what is happening to you. However, if this leads to me not knowing anything at all, please disregard and let me know that a fellow Concordia person has been hospitalized or would appreciate me stopping by. I am eager to be present with you in the ups and downs of life and want to know what is going on. I will bring prayers, communion, and maybe even a cribbage board.

Thank you for your continued care for another as we seek to be a neighborly, compassionate community!



Worship Schedule

Sunday, July 6

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 66:10-14

Psalm 66:1-9

Second Lesson: Galatians 6:1-16

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Sunday, July 13

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Psalm 25:1-10

Second Lesson: Colossians 1:1-14

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Sunday, July 20

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalm 15

Second Lesson: Colossians 1:15-28

Holy Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

Sunday, July 27

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138

Second Lesson: Colossians 2:6-19

Holy Gospel: Luke 11:1-13



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:

Tuesday, July 1 @ 6 p.m. and Tuesday,
July 22 @ 6 p.m.



Worship Matters:

Summer Ordinary Time – July

The first Sunday in July follows a national holiday, Independence Day, and it provides an opportunity to consider how our membership in the Kingdom of God might provide a model for our citizenship and the principles of liberty and justice for all.

*Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold to what is good;
return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;
help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve our God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

"Affirmation of the Vocation of the Baptized in the World,"
Welcome to Christ: Lutheran Rites for the Catechumenate
(Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1997, page 60)

In our gospel for this Sunday, Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few" and sends out 70 disciples to proclaim peace, bring healing, and announce that God's kingdom is at hand. Connecting the power of God to the people of the world, Jesus sends the disciples out in pairs. They are to travel light, with a deep trust in God and those who will receive them. Peace, stability, nourishment, healing, rejoicing, this is no ordinary harvest; this harvest is the fruit of God's kingdom "at hand" through the ministry of Jesus and his disciples. We are reminded that the world still has a great need for laborers who will bring to life the kingdom of God. People to go forth in peace and in Jesus' name . . .

On the Sundays that follow, Pastor Jeff will focus on the Second Reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians, and our Gospel will follow the journey of Jesus and his disciples to Jerusalem as described in Luke. This journey provides the backdrop for some of Jesus' most memorable stories as Jesus teaches about discipleship and shares spiritual truths that can be found in everyday circumstances – a conversation with neighbors and friends, a meal, prayer. Through Jesus' conversations with the disciples, the seekers, the doubters, the challengers, we begin to get a sense of the diverse and expanding community that becomes the church.

Join us on this summer journey as we explore what these stories mean for our discipleship today.

JULY, 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>MAY, 2025 FINANCIALS</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
INCOME	\$14,673.00	\$13,696.17	\$58,769.92
EXPENSES	\$13,897.74	\$14,537.42	\$71,776.41
NET	\$775.26	(\$841.25)	(\$13,006.49)

Pastor Jeff will be gone the week of July 6. Pastor Jeff Holter will be the emergency contact during this time and his phone number is 218-310-7617.

The next workday is on Saturday, July 12, 8-12.

Thank you to the many Concordia members who contributed new and gently used books and baskets in support of the recent CHUM Rhubarb Festival. A total of 6 baskets full of books were created and added to the ticket auction. As for rhubarb itself, Concordia's own Ron Pearson contributed a grocery cart filled with rhubarb from his garden! Many delicious pies and other goodies were baked from his and so many other gardens.

We delivered our second meal to the St. Francis Apartments, served on June 23 to approximately 40 people. This time, the meal consisted of Roast Turkey in gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, fresh bread and Blonde Brownies. Again, all of the residents were so appreciative; Mary Broman received a thank you note from a friend of hers who lives there, adding that they were even able to save some left overs in freezer containers for future meals. Our next meal is in the planning stages for sometime in September. Please let me know if you are interested in helping. Most tasks take no major cooking skills, and usually take a hour or so.

Please don't forget that your ongoing donations to the CHUM food shelf are always appreciated. Our requested focus is canned soups and/or single meals. Please be sure that you do NOT include cream soups. And pop-top cans are always appreciated, if you can find them. Simply place them in the boxes in the Narthex. If you would prefer to donate cash, please remember that CHUM's resources can provide food stuffs at a lower price than we can find in the grocery store. Checks made out to CHUM or a cash in an envelope labeled CHUM can be placed in the collection basket on Sunday morning, left in the office or given to Jane Wedin.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our project in Mexico! To date, we have sent 8 boxes filled with a variety of fabrics and sewing notions to our friends in the Copper Canyon region of Mexico. We hope this has helped them with their work in creating beautiful items for their homes and families as well as for sale in their local markets. The boxes have included a wide variety of fabrics -- from felts to calicos, quilting squares to lengths of fabric ready for the imagination. Also included are dozens of spools of thread, sewing sheers, thimbles, and so many other useful tools. Some brand new, some from retired sewing baskets. I know that everything has been greatly appreciated and put to good use. Sometimes we all ask ourselves "what can I do"? **Again, thank you for all that we do together at Concordia! Best always, Jane**

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, half the attendance cost will be matched. 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 Rachelle Anderson or Delores Grunwald if you are interested in attending a VLM camp this summer.

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.

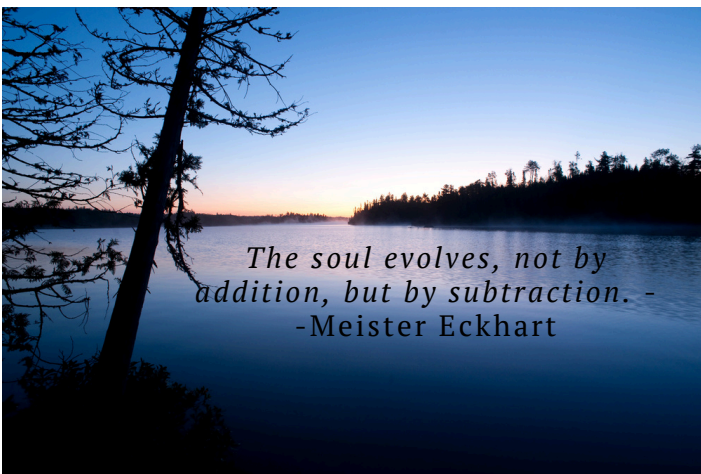
Remember in Your Prayers

Please remember the following people who have been hospitalized, under a doctor's care, those recuperating, struggling, or those grieving since our last newsletter: The family of Roger Lee, 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, the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Iran, and Russia, Roger Erickson, Tim Bell, migrant families, and Phillip Hedges.

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.

Open Arms: Warren Roberts

Aftenro: Wayne Kari



July Birthdays

- 3 Ronald Pearson
- 9 Jeannette Turchi
- 12 David Wedin
- 14 Olivia Bohn
- 16 Joan Peterson
- 18 Norma Wittich
- 21 Bryan Anderson
- 23 Rebecca Holecek
- 29 Kayla Christensen
- 30 Paul Peterson

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."





MORE WAYS TO HELP SAFE BAY

VOLUNTEER. Volunteer hosts are needed in the evenings and mornings to welcome guests and ensure the space is safe and all guests are welcomed with dignity. Register to volunteer [here](#).

CONNECT us with **MECHANICS** and **AUTO TECHS** who would be willing to assist with minor repairs and oil changes at a reduced rate. This can be a lifesaver for families that are just making ends meet and saving up for housing. For more information, contact [Drew Filkins](#).

Safe Bay Saves Lives

Many Safe Bay residents are experiencing homelessness for the first time. Many are working. Many are families opting to live in their cars rather than take the risk of living in crowded congregate shelters. Homelessness can be a very scary and isolating experience. Safe Bay is a lifeline that allows people to maintain their employment and health goals and work to secure housing. We are a stronger community when we all people have the support they need to survive and thrive.



SAFE BAY

Following a unanimous decision by Duluth City Council, Safe Bay will be officially reopening on Saturday, June 7th at 6pm and will remain open every night until the end of October.

What is Safe Bay?

Safe Bay is a program that offers secure overnight parking for people who are living in their vehicles. It is open nightly from May 1 through October 31 and provides:

- Access to showers, bathrooms and drinking water
- Room to stretch and walk pets
- Wi-Fi
- Peer support
- Help with housing applications and connecting to other services

Safe Bay is operated by Chum, with services provided onsite by other Stepping On Up partners.

Who can use Safe Bay?

Safe Bay is open to anyone who doesn't have a permanent place to live and is relying on their personal vehicle (car, truck, van or camper) for shelter. Families are welcome. Pets are allowed as long as they are leashed when out of their vehicle and owners are sure to clean up after them. For the safety and comfort of all residents, Chum does not allow alcohol, cannabis or illicit drugs at Safe Bay.

How can I help?

DONATE \$. Financial support is desperately needed to help Safe Bay operate in 2025. Donations cover the cost of overnight staff, direct support to program guests, and supplies like coffee and printing. Donate online [here](#), checks can be made out to Chum with "Safe Bay" in the memo and mailed or delivered to 102 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN 55802

DONATE SUPPLIES. The following donations are also needed and can be delivered in person or shipped to the Chum office at 102 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN 55802. Please do not bring donations to our host site.

- Car sunshades (simple, accordion style shades help protect people from streetlights and heat in the summer)
- Coffee
- Coffee creamer
- Granola bars
- Gas cards (\$20, for fuel only)



Managing Your Garden and Landscape: Our Planet and Pollinators Depend on it.

By Laura Raedeke from Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa

1. As more people recognize that what's good for the environment is also good for them and their families, there is growing interest in making **gardens and landscapes better for the Earth**. Used since the 1940s, synthetic (chemical) fertilizers and pesticides have been shown to be harmful to our air, water, soils, wildlife, and to people. **Synthetic nitrogen** leaches nitrates into groundwater and surface waters, causing massive algal growth that harms aquatic life and threatens human life. For soil fertility, use certified organic products, OMRI-listed products (Organic Materials Resource Index), or your own compost. Use mulch or ground cover to retain soil moisture, limit weeds, and to act as compost as it breaks down. While the use of peat moss is popular with gardeners, peat bogs are being destroyed by environmentally unsound practices that deprive unique ecosystems for birds and animals, as well as releasing vast amounts of carbon dioxide in the process. Instead, use **coconut coir (also known as coco peat, or coir peat)**, which is the short fibers left over when coconuts are harvested and husked.

2. The interactions between animals, plants, humans and the environment form a complex web, and disruptions can have serious consequences for our own health. **80% of our agricultural food** depends on pollinators, yet, according to the Xerces Society, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting invertebrates (insects) and their habitat, our **chemically-driven way of producing food and managing our landscapes** is catastrophic for the insects on which food production depends. You can provide habitat and food for pollinators by converting parts of your lawn to native plants that do both. To learn how, go to the NE ELCA Synod's [ecofaithnetwork.org](https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org) website (<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/pollinator-project>). The Xerces Society (<https://www.xerces.org/>) has up-to-date information on pollinator conservation, endangered species conservation, and reducing pesticide use and impacts. Your county Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has an abundance of information and often is able to provide native seed mixes at no cost. Go to (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/soil-water-conservation-districts>) to find your county's SWCD.

3. The EPA estimates that **9 billion gallons of water a day** are used on lawns and **17 million gallons of gas** are used in mowers every year. Expanses of lawns also require the use of broad-spectrum chemicals (such as **neonicotinoids**) that kill many bees, butterflies, moths, caterpillars, dragonflies and ladybugs, as well as contributing to the death of nestling birds when their insect food disappears. According to the National Wildlife Federation, fish and other aquatic organisms can succumb when **pesticides end up in nearby ponds and lakes**. By replacing all or part of your lawn with **native flowers** (National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder at bit.ly/3vGsXz), you will mow less and provide plantings that will create a diverse and inviting ecosystem for **beneficial insects** such as dragonflies and damselflies that are voracious eaters of mosquitos. Turtles, frogs and bats, and many species of birds will also feast on the insects, and provide sustenance for their young. To learn how to grow the native plants that provide us with **cleaner water and air, and wildlife habitat**, check out the YouTube videos from the UM Extension Service.

4. Toxic, synthetic pesticides and fertilizers are popular because they have the ability to increase yields and reduce loss, though at great cost to the health of the soil and the living creatures who come in contact with the chemicals. **Glyphosate**, the synthetic weed- and pest- killing component in **Roundup**, is credited as the cause of cancer in Monsanto's costly and growing litigation, while **neonicotinoids (neonics)** are widely seen as destructive to all pollinators, many of which are helpful in controlling other pests in the garden. **Nature-based solutions** you can use instead are: **NEEM OIL**, made from the neem tree, which should be sprayed when you see the first adult bug; **INSECTICIDAL SOAPS** (you can make your own with **1 TBSP of dishwashing soap in a quart of water**); and **DIATOMACEOUS EARTH**, a fine dust made from tiny aquatic organism fossils that contained silica can be used on plant leaves or as a powder around the base of plants to discourage slugs. Find more tips at Green [America.org](https://www.greenamerica.org), and search "Climate Victory Garden."

COMMUNITY DAY CAMP

VOYAGEURS LUTHERAN MINISTRY

GOD'S
WORD
COMES
NEAR



JULY 14-17

9AM-3PM

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
701 3RD AVE, PROCTOR

REGISTER HERE:



Learn more at
proctorlutheran.org



YOU'RE INVITED!

KENWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

FISH FRY



TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025

5:00 P.M.—6:30 P.M.

OUTDOOR SEATING (WEATHER PERMITTING)

TAKEOUT AVAILABLE

ON THE MENU:

**SMELT W/OPTION FOR OTHER FISH OR HAMBURGER, FRENCH FRIES,
COLESLAW, BEVERAGE, DESSERT**

COST—

\$12 PER PERSON OR \$30 FOR A FAMILY

NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED!

NEMN SYNOD HUNGER & JUSTICE

MOVING AGAINST HUNGER

AUGUST | 2 | 8:30 AM

BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

204 5TH ST. N. CARLTON MN

BIKE + RUN + WALK EVENT
LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW



DONATE HERE:



FAMILY
FRIENDLY
EVENT
FOR
ALL AGES
&
ABILITIES



REGISTER HERE:



THE ARROWHEAD AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

A SUMMER FRENCH FESTIVAL

In observance of Bastille Day



Organists and friends of the chapter will present a program of French music on a French organ with delightful French pastries and other delicacies to follow.

SUNDAY, JULY 13TH

3:00 PM

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
2310 EAST 4TH STREET, DULUTH
\$20 suggested donation



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
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
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
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Please email your items, corrections, questions,
or comments to duluthconcordia@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit your items.
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