

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



The season of Lent has often been thought of as a season of self-reflection, feeling sorry for sin, and facing the reality of our mortality. While all of these things are accurate portrayals, the overarching theme of Lent under which all these and more are tied together is authenticity.

Starting with ash and dust, we revisit and remember that we are what God has made us, beloved creatures made from the dust of the earth. We are invited to align our identity with the truth of who God has made us to be rather than be hypocrites who pretend to be something else to get God's attention or the favor of others. When not in alignment, we are told to repent, that is, to return to who we are. We are gifted with faith practices and opportunities to love the neighbor to assist in that return to authenticity.

During Lent we contend with all of the forces that would have us forget our identity as beloved. Our LGBTQIA+ siblings are often dealing with others who, out of malice or misunderstanding, try to redirect them away from who they know themselves to be. Cultural and political pressure to support politicians, parties, or nations is applied on churches to try to get us to neglect our calling to serve and shelter. The rituals, stories, and practices of Lent reorients us to who we are and who we are called to be.

As does the example of others. Our midweek Lenten intergenerational gatherings will bring us together around the stories of the saints. We will listen to tales of courage which will strengthen us for our journey of faith and service. Together, we are being formed to be authentically ourselves as God made us, as God loves us, as God sends us.

Pastor Jeff

This Issue:

Pastor's Ponderings

Lent Service Schedule
Page 2

Worship & Music Schedule
Page 3

Worship Matters
Page 4

Social Justice Potluck
Page 5

**Concordia Financials and
Announcements**
Page 6

Prayer and Visitation
Page 7

Encourage
Page 8

EcoFaith Summit
Page 9

CHUM
Page 10

ELCA Foundation Presentation
Page 11

**Leadership & Staff
Congregational Delegates &
Liaisons: Page 16**

Lent at Concordia



ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2ND
AT 7 PM

LENT WITH THE SAINTS
INTERGENERATIONAL MEAL,
WORSHIP, AND ACTIVITY
6PM

MARCH 12, 19, 26; APRIL 2, 9



Worship Schedule

Sunday, March 2
Last Sunday after Epiphany

First Lesson: Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Holy Gospel: Luke 9:28-43a

Sunday, March 9
First Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Second Lesson: Romans 10:8b-13
Holy Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Sunday, March 16
Second Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Second Lesson: Philippians 3:17-4:1
Holy Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, March 23
Third Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Isaiah 55:1-9
Psalm 63:1-8
Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, March 30
Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Lesson: Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:

Tuesday, March 11 @ 6:15 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18, and Tuesday,
March 25 @ 6:15 p.m.



Worship Matters: A Lenten Journey

We set aside 40 days (excluding Sundays) for this season that we often refer to as a journey. Our destination is Easter, and the readings, songs, and prayers of the season will guide our pilgrimage.

On **Ash Wednesday** (March 5), we begin the journey that will lead to the new life and resurrection of Easter. “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). It is a journey for the sake of life, but we begin by recalling our mortality and the sin that deadens us. We enter these 40 days bearing the mark of ashes, a reminder of God’s love and claim on our lives.

On the **First Sunday in Lent** (March 9), our journey will take us to the wilderness. The forty days of Lent we observe recall the forty days of temptation of our Lord when he fasted and prayed, the gospel proclaimed on the first Sunday in Lent in all three lectionary cycles. We pray today that we will discern and accept God’s will in our lives, and that we will answer the tempter with the strength of Jesus.

On the **Second Sunday in Lent** (March 16), we join Jesus as he journeys toward Jerusalem. There are stops along the way to teach, to heal, and to be with the people. In today’s pericope, Jesus is warned to move on quickly because Herod Antipas is after him. Jesus ignores the threat and remains clear about his path (which includes Jerusalem and a cross) and his desire for the people, to gather them together “as a hen gathers her brood under her wings.” God still comes, still invites, still seeks, still weeps for us, and still longs to gather us . . .

Our readings on the **Third Sunday in Lent** (March 23) focus on the Lenten theme of repentance, of turning away from what does not please God and rededicating ourselves to the kind of life Jesus taught us to live. The Gospel includes a parable where the gardener asks for a tree to be spared for “one more year.” Could this be our ‘year’ for turning, for bearing fruit? We still have time to be faithful, to be fruitful, to live as God’s people in this place and at this time . . .

The **Fourth Sunday in Lent** (March 30) calls us home . . . to reconciliation with God and one another. Joshua and God’s people arrive in the Promised Land and the prodigal son returns to his father’s house. This Sunday is also known as *Laetaere*, taking its name from the opening words of the traditional Introit for this day “Rejoice, O Jerusalem.” It is a Sunday to recall and rejoice in the gift of God’s grace. Our merciful Father longs to embrace and celebrate with us. God welcomes us home . . .

Join us on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7:00 PM. Enter the journey



**SOCIAL JUSTICE
POTLUCK**




SCRIPTURE

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE
LEARN ABOUT THE INCLUSIVE WAY
LUTHERANS UNDERSTAND
SCRIPTURE**

MARCH 9TH

JANUARY, 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>JANUARY, 2025</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGETED</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
INCOME	\$9,047.00	\$13,696.17	\$9,047.00
EXPENSES	\$14,933.35	\$14,537.42	\$14,933.35
NET	(\$5,886.35)	(\$841.25)	(\$5,886.35)

Bridges To Christ will be meeting on Monday, February 3rd at 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All women are welcome to join us!

Quilters will meet on Thursday, February 13th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch, but dessert is always available! We would like to thank Karin Cummings for her great leadership for the past eight years.

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

BTC-Thank you to Concordia for your generous donation to Opportunity Palestine. A check for \$400.00 will be sent to support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land's (ELCJHL) four K-12 schools, as well as a kindergarten on the Mount of Olives and an Environmental Education Center. Currently, over 2,100 students are being educated, regardless of gender, race, religion, or ability to pay. Peace education and interfaith dialog are embedded in the curriculum. **Thank you again for supporting this critical ministry.**

Thank you to the Endowment Committee for providing a Community Grant donation to Another Door Emergency Shelter. Another Door, a new shelter located at Peace Church, provides emergency housing for young adults ages 18-24. The \$500 grant was used to purchase items listed as "most wanted" on their Target Online Wishlist (silverware set, dinnerware set, baking pans, baking utensils, food processor, kitchen towels/dishcloths/oven mitts, etc). To learn more, you can visit their website at steppingonupduluth.org/another-door

Thank you to the Endowment Committee for providing a Community Grant donation to Laundry Love. Laundry Love provides free laundry services once a week to people with low and no incomes. Volunteers, from local churches, staff a Spirit Valley laundromat offering people the chance to wash up to two loads of clothes per week. Volunteers also provide snacks and an opportunity to build and celebrate community. The \$600 grant will provide the quarters to operate the laundry machines for just one week. To learn more, you can visit their website at steppingonupduluth.org/laundry-love

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. Interviews will follow in May and awards announced by June 8.

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 Rachele 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: Carrie Birdseye-Erickson, Ethel O'Leary, The families, the survivors, and communities where mass shootings have occurred. Patti Pearson, Those marginalized for their sexual or gender identity, race, or ability, Tom Nelson, Max, Wayne Kari, the people of Ukraine, Palestine, Syria, Israel, 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.

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!

SANDWICH AND SCRIPTURE WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26



Even in a world that's being shipwrecked, remain brave and strong.

- Hildegard of Bingen

March Birthdays

- 3 Thaen Doughty-Rosas
- 6 Margaret Roeser
- 11 Wayne Kari
- 12 Matthew Wedin
- 18 Kurt Michalick
- 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."





**ECOFAITH SUMMIT
OF THE UPPER MIDWEST**

**EARTH'S
CRIES,
EARTH'S
CALL**

**BECOMING MIDWIVES
OF HOPE FOR THE
HEALING OF CREATION**

Join with others to give birth to active hope for the healing of Creation.

**LEAD SPEAKER:
DR. CYNTHIA MOE-LOBEDA**

**FEATURED PRESENTER:
DR. KELLY SHERMAN-CONROY**

APRIL 5, 2025

9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

CHECK IN BEGINS AT 8:30 AM

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1100 E. SUPERIOR STREET
DULUTH, MN

**TO LEARN MORE OR
TO REGISTER**



Co-Presented by:
Northeastern Minnesota Synod
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
St. Paul Area Synod



Chum's Shelter Expansion Project is Moving Forward!

While there's still work to be done, we are making steady progress toward creating more space for people experiencing homelessness in Duluth.

Right now, we are meeting weekly to plan the temporary transition of our shelter operations to the Damiano Center, ensuring a smooth move that maintains the care and dignity our guests deserve. Then when construction is complete, our guests will move into the new building at the old shelter location! At the same time, we are actively working to secure additional funding and obtain contractor quotes to bring our vision for a larger, more sustainable shelter to life.

Every night, more people seek shelter than we have space for. Expanding our capacity isn't just about adding beds—it's about ensuring that no one in our community is left outside, especially in the harsh Minnesota winters. With this expansion, we aim to provide more safe shelter space to meet the growing need, better resources and support for our guests, and a long-term solution to keep people off the streets and on a path toward stability.

The success of this project depends on community support. We are still working to close the funding gap, and every contribution—big or small—makes a difference. If you'd like to help, consider making a donation to support construction and operational costs, spreading the word about Chum's expansion efforts, or attending our Expansion Extravaganza on February 27 to raise critical funds.

Together, we are creating more than just a bigger shelter—we are building hope, dignity, and a future where no one in Duluth has to sleep outside. Thank you for being part of this mission!

St. Francis Van

Here's some highlights of our program:

- We got our van! We've already been able to take tenants to dental appointments, medical appointments, and to the emergency room. We've also taken a group trip to the grocery store and to the Vineyard food shelf.
- One of our regular volunteers donated 27 fleece tie blankets on the coldest day of the year. She was able to make this many with the help of her friends. It was a greatly appreciated donation and very thoughtful.
- Our art supply drive was a HUGE success. We have tons of crafts that our tenants are enjoying and we're having a great time planning what to do with all of them.

Thank you so much for all who donated to our drive

Can you also put in a link to our wish list? We're in need of various items for our tenants, and you can help them out with the link below!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/24861X4VXT3Q1?ref_=wl_share

March Food Share!

Mark your calendars, Minnesota March Food Share is coming back in March 2025. We are aiming to raise \$80,000 and 40,000 lbs of food for the Chum Food Shelf. These donations are crucial in continuing to support families and individuals who use our services.

Now is a great time to support the food shelf. More to come soon!



Your passion...

Your plan ...

Your gift for those you love, and for God's work in the world!

You are invited to explore how you can make a difference in the lives of your loved ones and to ministry, both now and in the future.

Your passion...

Your plan ...

Your gift for those you love, and for God's work in the world!

You are invited to explore how you can make a difference in the lives of your loved ones and to ministry, both now and in the future.

On April 13th, Tharan Leopold with the ELCA Foundation will be here to share a forum on legacy gifts. This information will get you thinking about the gifts you've received from God throughout your lifetime, and how your family and ministry, such as our congregation, can benefit from these gifts to make a lasting and meaningful impact in this world.

Please join us on April 13th for this thoughtful conversation! A light lunch will be served.

The ELCA Foundation has professional gift planning staff throughout the nation and gift planning tools for every situation.

All gift planning services are made available to individuals and congregations without obligation or cost. It is our ministry to be of service.

www.foundation.elca.org



Tharan Leopold

ELCA Foundation Gift Planner

Cell: 507-838-1980

tharan.leopold@elca.org

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 April
newsletter are due by Tuesday, March 18.
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.

Photo credits: Creative Commons, Canva, public
posters, <https://familyproject.sfsu.edu/posters>,
and Scott Gomon.