



THE MESSENGER, MAY, 2025

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

*We have only begun to know
the power that is in us if we would join
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.*

*So much is unfolding that must
complete its gesture, so much is in bud.* + Denise Levertov

This snippet from Denise Levertov's poem "Beginners," speaks to me the promise and hope of the Easter season. Easter is not a finished thing, a once for all, check the resurrection box kind of thing. It is the beginning of something going on in our lives and in the midst of the struggle, sorrow, and shadow places of the world. There are tombs starting to crack open, there are shoots of growth just breaking the surface, there are buds about to blossom. Easter is about experiencing these beginnings of new life and living into them, about entering into the unfolding of a new world and a new way of being in that world.

Of course, the anticipation within the poem and the Easter season combined with Spring migration...that is perfect! All around us, life is on the move. So much is unfolding, completing its gesture! The birds are arriving! Soon, the woods and fields and swamps will be alive with song, heralding the growing swell of new and returning life. Will we join in their song? We are beginning to know the power that is in and around us if we would join our "solitudes in the communion of struggle," and work together with the Risen One, the unleashed Holy Spirit, the bursting buds, and the singing birds. What resurrection life is unfolding in, around, and between us?

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Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 4 Third Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Second Lesson: Revelation 5:11-14

Holy Gospel: John 21:1-19

Sunday, May 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 9:36-43

Psalm 23

Second Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

Holy Gospel: John 10:22-30

Sunday, May 18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

Holy Gospel: John 13:31-35

Sunday, May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Lesson: Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Second Lesson: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

Holy Gospel: John

Joyful Voices Rehearsals:

Wednesday, May 7 @ 6 p.m. and

Tuesday, May 20 @ 6 p.m.



Worship Matters: The Great Fifty Days Celebrating Easter!

Easter is not a one day event, but a fifty day celebration, known as the Great Fifty Days. The hope and promise of the Easter message, the central belief of Christianity, is observed for a week of weeks (7 x 7). The season begins with the Easter Vigil (after sundown on Holy Saturday) and includes the events of Christ's Resurrection (Easter morning), Ascension on the 40th day (May 29), and the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, the 50th day (June 8). This is the principal and oldest festival of the Church Year (first mentioned by name in 130 AD).

The early Church called this time *mystagogia*, and those baptized or affirming their baptismal vows at the Easter Vigil reflected on the meaning of their baptism and the 'mysteries' of faith. Today the whole church enters into this period of reflection and what it means to live a life of faith. It is a season for discovering and claiming our identity in the Risen Lord and preparing for our ministry as the Body of Christ.

The color for the season is white, and the symbols associated with the season are beautiful and bright. Altar flowers, absent throughout Lent, now bring the vivid colors of spring into our Sanctuary. Our worship invites us to rejoice and to go forth – to share the joy – as we offer praise and thanksgiving to God who makes all things new. Our Greeting is the Easter greeting used by Christians for centuries: Alleluia! Christ is risen! Response: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! The Paschal Candle (lit at the Easter Vigil from the new fire) stands near the altar. A symbol of the resurrection, the darkness of death giving way to light and life, this candle is lit for every liturgy in this season. After the Day of the Pentecost, it returns to its place by the font, a reminder that in baptism we are crucified and resurrected with Christ.

The Lectionary also takes a turn during Easter. The Sundays of Easter are unique in that all three of the readings come from the New Testament. The First Reading comes from Acts of the Apostles (stories of the early church). Our Second Reading in this lectionary cycle (Year C) is from the Book of Revelation, and our Gospel readings are mostly from John. Except for the Psalms (the "hymnal" of our Bible), we close the Old Testament during these 50 days. Our Eastertide readings offer a glimpse of the glory and power of God's love; and on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, we are brought full circle. We read the verses that close the Book of Revelation and the entire Bible; and in John we have a prayer for unity of mission, proclaiming God's love for all. We see a God who is truly the "Alpha and Omega, the first and last, the beginning and the end." And the ascended Christ promises to come again . . . "Amen. Come Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20)

MAY, 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

MARCH, 2025 FINANCIALS	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	YEAR TO DATE
INCOME	\$12,281.92	\$13,696.17	\$30,843.92
EXPENSES	\$13,609.65	\$14,537.42	\$43,688.76
NET	(\$1,327.73)	(\$841.25)	(\$12,844.84)

May 4-Ice Cream Floats following worship. Proceeds will be given to VLM to support Canoe Country. Join us for a treat and to celebrate all that camp has to offer.

Bridges To Christ will be meeting on Monday, May 5th @ 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to everyone who gave monetary donations for CHUM!

Quilters will meet on Thursday, May 8th from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bring your lunch, dessert provided. **Eventide Quilters will meet on Thursday, May 8th from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** Bring your creativity, snacks provided.

Boiler Debt Fundraiser: The Concordia Quilters will sponsor a fundraiser to help reduce the boiler debt. Ann Edwards has pieced and quilted an absolutely beautiful half-square quilt made from multi-colored batik fabric. Please see the quilt on display in the Narthex. Suggested donation for the drawing is \$5 for 1 ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets. This quilt will be given to the lucky ticket holder on May 11th. You do not need to be present at the drawing to win. **Tickets available in the Narthex after church, or by calling Lynn at (218) 341-7190 or Ann at (218) 390-3095.**

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (VLM) is getting ready for another exciting year of programming for kids and families! Concordia is a VLM member congregation. We sponsor the Canoe Country equipment room. VLM has asked us to raise funds to purchase lumber for new canoe racks. The estimated cost, at this time, is \$300.00. Thanks to the generosity of 2 anonymous donors, Canoe Country was able to purchase 8, lightweight Kevlar canoes. These additions will help move Canoe Country forward and make trips more attractive to new groups. Camp staff and volunteers will be building the racks to hold them.

The VLM Giving Tree will be in the narthex April 27-May 18. Please consider supporting this important outdoor ministry. Several of Concordia's younger members will be attending camp this summer. THANKS for helping to make camp happen in God's Great Northwoods!

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 Rachelle Anderson or Delores Grunwald if you are interested in attending a VLM camp this summer.



SANDWICH AND SCRIPTURE

**Concordia Narthex
11:30 A.M.
Wednesday, May 7**

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 Pastor Harry Ecklund, The Roman Catholic Church, Those unlawfully detained, Carrie Birdseye-Erickson, 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.

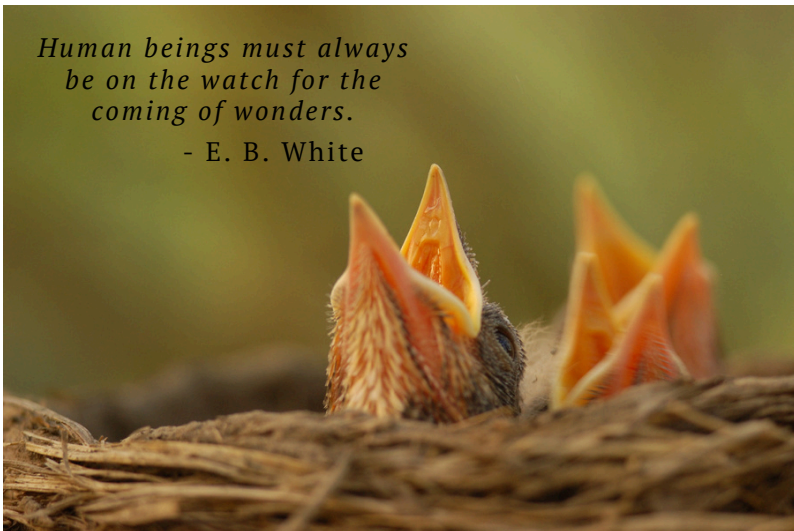
Please remember those in our congregation who are in nursing homes or are homebound. Please pray for them and consider stopping by for a visit. Prayer and visitation is an important ministry of the congregation.

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!

*Human beings must always
be on the watch for the
coming of wonders.*

- E. B. White



May Birthdays

- 3 Delores Grunwald
Emilia Voltzke
- 5 Michaela Gaffey
- 10 Mark Morse
- 11 Jane Wedin
- 14 Lynsey Carlson
- 18 David Bohn
- 21 Adrianna Doughty-Rosas
- 31 Reba 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."





THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025
5:30 P.M. | CHECK-IN & SOCIAL HOUR
6:30 P.M. | DINNER & PROGRAM

CLYDE IRON WORKS
2920 W. MICHIGAN STREET
DULUTH, MN

REGISTER AT THE FOLLOWING LINK BY MAY 1
[HTTPS://WWW.LSSMN.ORG/EVENT/BENEFIT-YOUTH-DULUTH-1](https://www.lssmn.org/event/benefit-youth-duluth-1)

Personal growth comes in fits and starts, oftentimes zigging and zagging as we experience life's ups and downs. Trusted, nonjudgmental support can make navigating life's challenges easier and lead to personal growth that exceeds even our own expectations. This is the work of LSS.

In gratitude,
Your neighbors from LSS



The Minnesota March FoodShare Campaign wrapped up on April 6, and by all accounts it was a success. We met or surpassed our goals—collecting 56,353 pounds of nonperishable food and \$76,718.29, not including a match to come from MN FoodShare later this month. And it's all because of you!

The need is great: Last year, the Food Shelf distributed 436,442 pounds of food to 9,744 (unduplicated) people in Duluth, and visits to the Food Shelf have been continuing to increase this year—our Food Shelf is a major source of nutrition for many individuals and families. Chum Director of Distributive Services April LeDoux explains, “We see growing numbers of individuals and families coming to the Food Shelf. They’re running out of food. They’re struggling to feed their children.”

The gifts we received came from individuals and groups, congregations and businesses, students and older adults. The involvement by youth was particularly heartening—groups of students worked together on their own, each netting hundreds of pounds of food—children at Stella Maris Academy (see photo, above) collected 2,000 pounds of food during the drive!

Focus on Cans of Soup: When in doubt, bring cans of soup to fill the CHUM donation box in the Narthex. Please remember that they should be Non-Cream soups, and preferably in pop-top cans for our homeless neighbors without can openers. Soups and/or Stews or other meals in a can are always an urgent need.

And as we discussed a few Sundays ago, your dollars contributed to CHUM go much farther than your dollars at the grocery store. So write a check to CHUM, mail it to the CHUM Office, 102 W 2nd St, Duluth, MN 55802, or give your check or cash to Dave or me and we will hand deliver it to the office for you.

The need is great, and we are so blessed.

St. Francis House:

Here are some highlights:

- We have two new residents moving in from the Chum shelter, and we couldn't be happier. St. Francis Apartments is for seniors who have had long experiences of homelessness, and it has become home to 32 people in this special community.
- Volunteer groups hosting events or other activities continue to be immensely appreciated by tenants and staff. This is a great way to help build our community and provide a meal for our tenants. If you would like to host a game night or a meal or some other activity at Saint Francis Apartments, [contact us by email](#). This is a great way to get together with friends or other groups and provide a wonderful service for Chum.
- The tenants love putting on their own events, too! They prepared an Easter dinner for themselves with hams from the Chum Food Shelf, and dyed Easter eggs to make things even more festive.
- Spring is around the corner! We're looking for donations of flowers for our flower boxes and garden beds. We have full sun and shade flower boxes off our lobby windows, and our front gardens would be perfect for some bushes! If you have any questions or want to donate, please [email us](#).
- We are also decorating for spring, so if you have anything that you would like to donate, again, please feel free to reach out through email.

volunteer@chumduluth.org

Dave & I have met with the staff at St. Francis House as well as those at CHUM, and the beginnings of a plan are taking shape. Now, we need your help in that work at Concordia's kitchen. We will schedule times to complete tasks like chopping vegetables, baking cakes, preparing salads, etc. On the day of service, those available will deliver the prepared meals to the St. Francis house where their staff will do the serving. Or we can stay and help if we are available. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of this amazing way of serving our brothers and sisters who need our help.

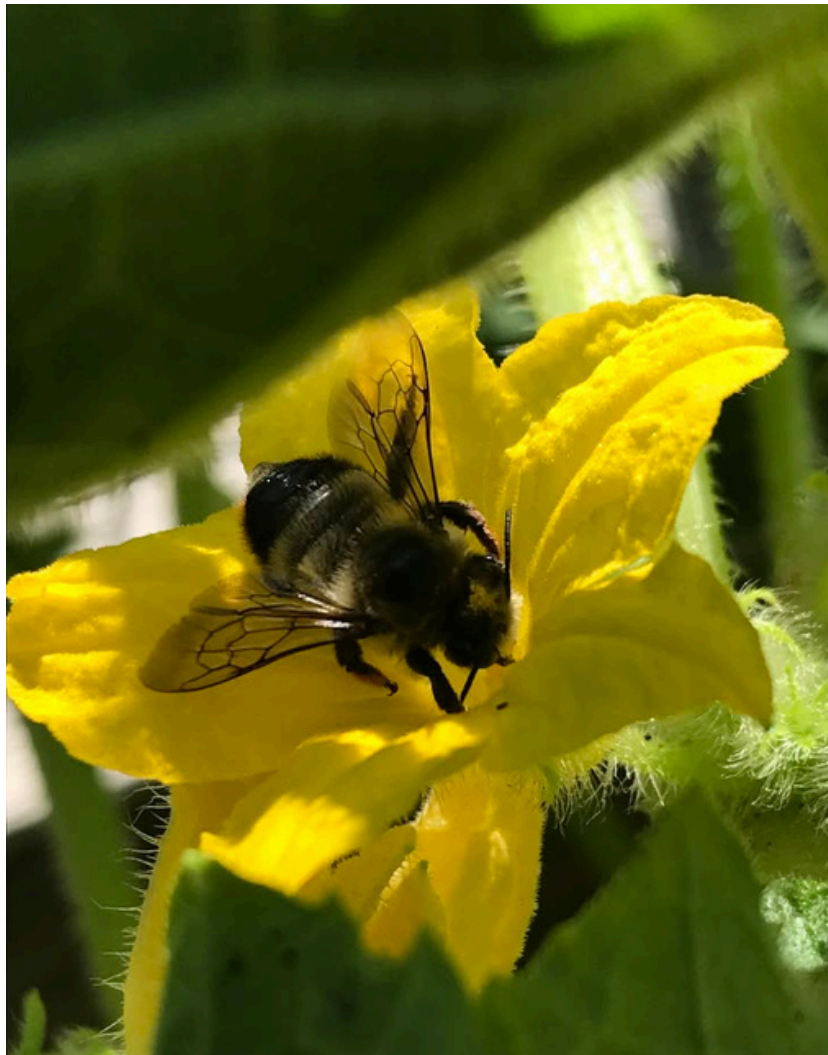
We are currently waiting to confirm with CHUM staff, however, our first suggested date is April 12. We have a simple menu plan. We just need to know who is willing to help so that we can formulate a schedule. Who can chop onions & celery? Who can cut up apples for a salad? Who likes to bake cakes?



May 05, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

5th Annual National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Relative

The City of Duluth will be lighting Enger Tower & Aerial I Bridge "Red for MMIWR" May 5th & 6th 2024 in Honor of: National Day of Awareness Day & Week of Action for MMIWR **Please join us for the Main Event at City Hall on Monday 5th, 2025 @ 1- 5pm.** We Encourage Community to Please Support MMIWR Families on May 5th with Awareness Events and Search Efforts for the Missing We will be posting event links and posters with information. Wear Red for MMIWR - Solidarity Now - Bring Them Home Twin Ports City Proclamations - Duluth & Superior MMIWR Families Speakers, Advocates Supporting Families Red Dress, Red Shirts Public Art Displays for MMIWR Red Ribbon Memorial & Honoring Duluth Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag & Honor Fire Red Shawl - Honoring Survivors of Violence, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, 2 Spirit People and Relatives Community Round Dance - Rally - Youth Led Art Projects Honoring Our Youth Leaders- Youth Led March - Smudge Walk Calling Jingle Dress Dancers - Hand Drum Singers Please Join Us Community Partners & Orgs Tabling and Sharing Resources Hosted by Natives Lives Matter with community cohosts



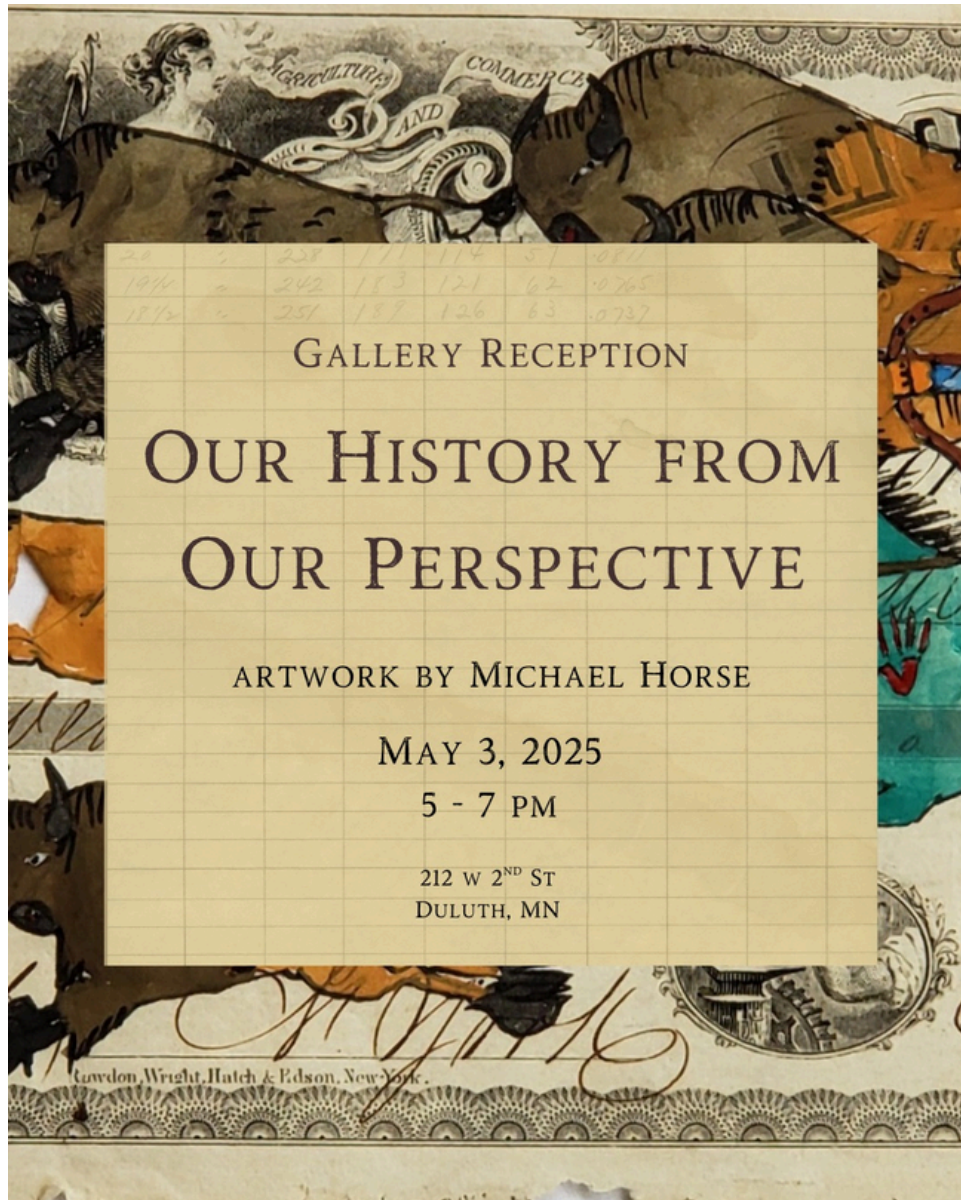
**Saturday, May 31, 10am-2 pm, 5996 Cant Road at Bending Birches
Greenhouse**

Did you know that 1 out of every 3 bites of food are pollinator dependent? How can we all best support them? Come to the Pollinator Fest to learn, discover, share and celebrate! We will have:

***Free classes for all:**

- Container Gardening for Pollinators
- Attracting Birds with plants, trees and Shrubs
- Composting
- Butterflies and Bugs
- *Face Painting
- *Free Perennial Giveaway
- *Drawings for Prizes
- *Free Demo for willow wreath making
- *Updog Food Truck will be on site for lunch

Join us out at Bending Birches Greenhouse for a day to understand how we can each make decisions that will support a thriving pollinator population.



The American Indian Community Housing Organization hosts the gallery opening reception for Yaqui artist Michael Horse, best known for his roles in television and film: *Twin Peaks* (1990 & 2018), *Godless* (2017) and *Motherland Fort Salem* (2022).

The gallery features traditional Native American artwork and jewelry created by Michael, hors d'oeuvres are served. A questions and answers session follows, where attendees can ask him questions about his life, artwork, and career.

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

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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



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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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