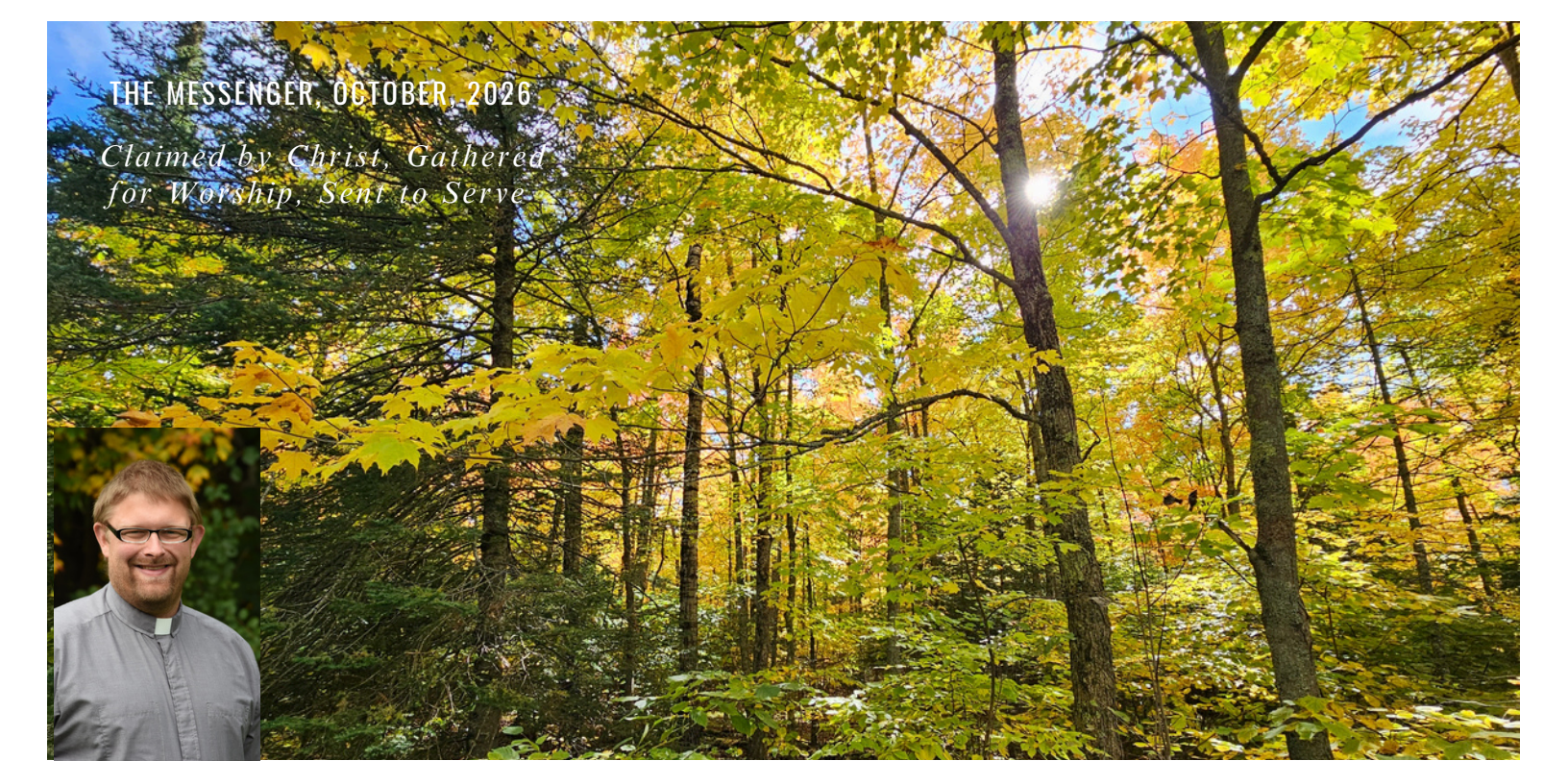




THE MESSENGER, OCTOBER, 2026

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

Pastor's Ponderings

Claimed by Christ, Gathered for Worship, Sent to Serve

Liturgical Worship: Weekly Word and Sacrament worship in the Lutheran liturgical tradition expresses and nurtures our faith.

As last month's newsletter shared, the Congregation council is revisiting our mission plan, exploring our identity and call as Concordia. This, however, is also the work of the whole congregation! In the newsletter, as well as in the weekly announcements, we will share with you a section of the 2017 Mission Plan along with prompts for further reflection and response. If you feel so moved, a white board in the narthex will be a place where you can share those respectful, faithful, imaginative responses.

While the first Core Value expressed in the Mission Plan is Christ Centered, we will begin with the second, which is quoted above. Concordia has a long and treasured history around vibrant, liturgical worship. It is likely what we are known for and a central component to the self-understanding of our identity. Below you will find a goal, as well as some concrete objectives. Take some time reading and reflecting. Think about what we do, what we have done, what we haven't done, and what we could do. Also think about the question of "why" we do these things and what difference it makes for the world that we do. The reflection prompts are to guide you in your pondering.

God's blessings to you as you explore who we are as Concordia and what we are called to be!

2. LITURGICAL WORSHIP: Weekly Word and Sacrament worship in the Lutheran liturgical tradition expresses and nurtures our faith.

To strengthen and sustain Concordia's long heritage of vibrant liturgical worship, where we encounter God in Word and Sacrament and where we are formed and sustained for lives of faith in the world.

- Continue the tradition of quality music and liturgical leadership (organist, pianist, choir, cantors, Joyful Voices, altar guild).
- Enhance the congregation's understanding of the meaning and significance of Lutheran liturgical worship (education, newsletter, temple talk, etc.)
- Increase lay involvement in worship (lectors, ushers, greeters, musicians, altar guild, etc.)
- Explore alternative worship opportunities (schedule, times, styles, etc.)
- Offer alternative opportunities to participate in worship, e.g. recording services and making available.
- Develop or expand existing ensembles (hand chimes, instrumental groups, children's choir, etc.)
- Ensure that preaching provides a meaningful encounter between God's Word and our daily lives.

Goal: To strengthen and sustain Concordia's long heritage of vibrant liturgical worship, where we encounter God in Word and Sacrament and where we are formed and sustained for lives of faith in the world.

What does Concordia do that fulfills this goal?

How does this goal meet the needs of the world/neighborhood?

How can Concordia expand on this goal?

What needs to be updated about this goal?

Upcoming Opportunities:

Sandwich and Scripture: A study of Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation will be at 11:30am on October 7th and 21st.

Sunday School: A family activity learning about the Dia de Muertos will take place after worship on October 11th.

Deeper Things: A study of A People's History of Christianity will gather on a tbd date in October. Let Pastor Jeff know if you would like to participate.

Reformation Sunday: We honor the Church's continuing reformation. We also rejoice in the Affirmation of Baptism (confirmation) of Laila Elanor Davis!

All Saints: We remember those dear to us who have died in the last year. Please submit the names of those you wish to remember to the church office prior to October 23rd.



Worship Schedule

Sunday, October 4 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14
Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

Sunday, October 11 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Second Lesson: Philippians 4:1-9
Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Sunday, October 18 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

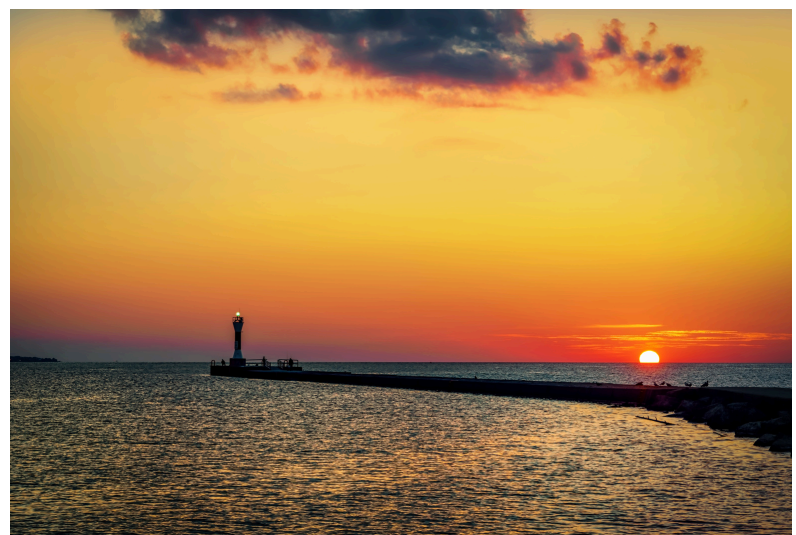
First Lesson: Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-13
Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Sunday, October 25 Reformation Sunday

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Second Lesson: Romans 3:19-28
Holy Gospel: John 8:31-36



Joyful Voices Rehearsals:
Tuesday, October 13 and Tuesday,
October 27 @ 6 p.m.



Worship Matters: “Changing Seasons”

There are signs of changes to come outside our doors. We are surrounded by the colors of autumn, as trees begin to release their leaves to nourish the next generation of trees and plants release their seeds to replenish the earth. At this midpoint of our journey through the autumn portion of Ordinary Time, there are also signs of change in the church year.

Autumn is the season for bringing in the harvest, and in this turning point of the year we are called to turn again to God. Our readings in this season challenge us with themes of discipleship, community, and stewardship. This is the year of Matthew, and community is at the heart of Matthew’s gospel. Two questions that circle around the lectionary in these days of autumn are: How do we live in community and what are the values that create community? Jesus’ teachings guide us, showing us how forgiveness, repentance, justice, and peace are central to the harvest’s abundance.

We begin the month in the vineyard – a metaphor for God’s kingdom and a place of God’s grace. We will hear parables that describe and explore the meaning of what life is like in God’s kingdom on October 4 and 11. On October 18, we hear a timely question about what belongs to God. At the end of the month we will celebrate **Reformation Sunday** and **Affirmation of Baptism** as one of our young people publicly professes her faith and affirms her baptism. We give thanks on this day for the Holy Spirit that continues to renew the church in every age.

Our hymnody will celebrate our lifelong journey of faith. We will recognize and give thanks for our abundance, the many gifts and blessing we have received; God’s power to heal and bring wholeness to the world; our call to share God’s justice and peace.

October includes many commemorations (listed on pages 15-17 of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*). When a commemoration falls on Sunday, an intercession is included in the prayer of the church. On **October 4** we will remember **St. Francis of Assisi**. Francis, the son of a wealthy merchant, renounced his wealth and inheritance and devoted himself to serving the poor. Francis traveled widely to serve those on and beyond the margins of society (such as those living with leprosy). St. Francis is also remembered for his care and gratitude for all of God’s creation (see *ELW* pg. 87 and #835 for a prayer and hymn attributed to him). Our liturgy on this day will celebrate that spirit and our call as people of faith to be good stewards of this gift.

Join us for worship each week as we contemplate these texts, pray and sing, and consider together our role in bringing the fruits of the kingdom to fullness . . .

AUGUST, 2026 FINANCIAL REPORT

AUGUST, 2026 FINANCIALS	ACTUAL	BUDGETED	YEAR TO DATE 2026
INCOME	\$14,647.00	\$13,683.67	\$115,265.05
EXPENSES	\$13,884.46	\$14,761.83	\$114,639.48
NET	\$762.54	(\$1,078.17)	\$626.57

Concordia Announcements

Bridges To Christ is meeting on Monday, Oct 5th @ 6:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring \$\$ for CHUM. Dessert is provided!

Day Time Quilters will meet on Thursday, Oct 8th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We have many quilts in the works. Come help us! Bring your lunch & dessert is provided.

Eventide Quilters (for those that have daytime jobs) will meet on Thursday, Oct 8th from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments are provided.

Manos Amigas-Thank you for your generous contributions to our school drive. Concordia will be donating 5 big boxes of much needed school supplies. This donation will help improve the quality of the school experience for children in the Manos Amigas program.

The book drive for Spanish or bilingual books, targeting grades K-6, will continue until May. A donation box is in the narthex. Again, thank you for your support!

Safer Together: Beyond the Gun Control Debate

Location: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth

Time: Tuesday, October 27, 6:30-8:45 PM CST

In person at regional gathering sites or online via Zoom

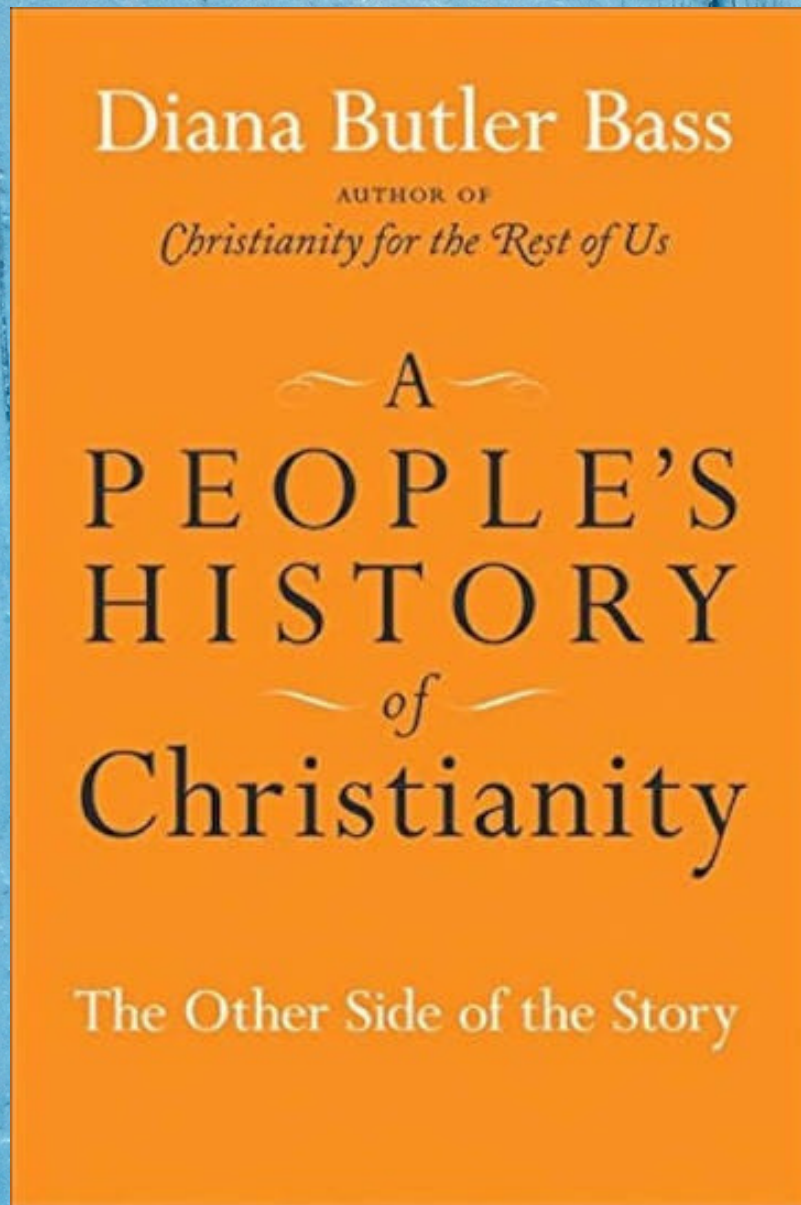
Join people from across eight ELCA synods for the launch of Safer Together, a regional initiative creating space for learning, conversation, and faithful action around gun violence.

The evening will feature Dr. Jillian Peterson, presenting "Mass Shootings in the United States: Sources and Solutions," followed by Q&A and guided conversation grounded in ELCA teaching.

Participants are encouraged to gather with others at one of our regional gathering sites, where there will be opportunities for conversation and discussion. Those unable to attend a gathering site are also welcome to participate individually via Zoom.

Copy and paste this link to register: <https://nwmnsynod.regfox.com/safer-together-free>

Deeper Things



Starting this Fall!

*Join a book discussion of A People's
History of Christianity by Diana Butler
Bass*

Let Pastor Jeff know if interested!

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, struggling, or those grieving since our last newsletter: Those marginalized for their sexual or gender identity, race, or ability, Tom Nelson, Those affected by natural disasters, Max, Jordan Sauter, Tim Bell, Migrant families, The people of Palestine, Iran, Lebanon, and Ukraine, Rory and Greg Raymond, Those unlawfully detained, Carrie Birdseye-Erickson, Kathleen Murphy Edwards, Baby Finn, The families, the survivors, and communities where mass shootings have occurred, and Patti Pearson.

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.

Benedictine:

Lorraine Brayden

Sylvia Jamar

Edgewood:

Ethel O' Leary

Pat Tessier



October Birthdays

- 9 Janice Danielson
- 10 William Carlson
- 12 Donna Stabs
- 13 Carter Wedin
- 17 Rachelle Anderson
- 18 Sandra Mass
Susan Peterson
- 21 Karin Cummings
- 22 Lynda Glibbery
Patricia Martenson
- 28 Beverly Anderson
Marcia DeMeo-Morse
- 29 Pat Tessier

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."





Wish List

The Chum Wish List is where we keep what we need most for each program.

For non-food, in-kind donation drop-offs:

21 W 1st Street, Duluth, MN 55802
Monday-Friday, 8AM-4PM

For food, in-kind donation drop-offs:
120 N 1st Avenue W (Chum Food Shelf),
Duluth, MN 55802

Monday-Friday, 7AM-3PM
(Door in the alley is labeled for food
drop offs with a door bell)

For mailing (except for Amazon
deliveries), address to:
102 W 2nd Street, Duluth, MN 55802

For Amazon deliveries, address to:
21 W 1st Street, Duluth, MN 55802

We do not accept miscellaneous
clothing items; kindly take
miscellaneous clothing items to the
Damiano Center

or the Salvation Army. 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.

**There are copies of the wishlist in
the narthex, on the table where the
newsletters are.**

A Pathway Forward

Pathway Forward is an initiative by Chum, Damiano and Union Gospel Mission (UGM) to commit to closer collaboration, eliminate duplication of services, improve service delivery for people experiencing homelessness, and alleviate pressure on the downtown community. Concerned with creating an optimal environment for all, this new arrangement will see some realignment of programs across the three organizations over several years.

The planned changes to Chum, as well as Damiano and UGM, will be seen in various ways. The type of shelter currently under construction at Chum's 2nd street location will shift, blending the best of emergency shelter and transitional housing operations. Damiano will absorb Chum's current drop-in and overnight shelter on their third floor. UGM will construct a new Mission Engagement Center and Housing project. Together, these three agencies will ensure a clear path to stable housing for those experiencing homelessness. Needed resources in the community will be added in addition to location shifts, such as mental health services, employment navigation, amongst many others.

Chum will, now and always, remain true to its mission of providing basic necessities, fostering stable lives and organizing for a just and compassionate community.



Dear Friends of Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry,

Dear Friends,

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Over the past few weeks, we have been deeply moved by the incredible wave of support, energy, and love shown for Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry. Whether you logged onto a virtual listening session, joined us in person at one of our church visits, or simply held this ministry and its future in your prayers—thank you.

Time and again, it is proven that VLM is blessed with the most passionate and dedicated supporters imaginable. The stories you have shared, the questions you have raised, and the sheer encouragement you have poured into this discernment process has given us, the Board of Directors, so much hope.

We are building on an incredible foundation, and we are so excited about where God is calling VLM next. **But to get the full picture, we still need to hear from you!**

If you were unable to join us for a live session, or if you walked away from a meeting with new ideas brewing, your voice is incredibly important to this process. We want to ensure that every single member of the VLM community has a chance to shape our path forward.

Copy and paste this link to fill out our Community Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FaithfullyForward>

Thank you for your time, your insights, and your partnership with VLM. We are profoundly grateful for each and every one of you.

Gratefully,

Dennis Anderson, Stephanie Anderson, Ryan Jagim, Kristin Klinefelter, Megan Moroff, Mike Olson, Jennifer Stefan, and Davin Tinquist (*The Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry Board of Directors*)



EcoFaith Action! October, 2026

Monarchs Need Milkweed!

Monarch butterflies need milkweed. It is the only plant upon which a female will lay an egg and the only food the caterpillar will eat. So, if milkweed were to disappear, monarchs would also disappear. For many years milkweed was considered a weed even though it is a native plant. Communities were more likely to encourage milkweed destruction than milkweed planting. Growing milkweed was even illegal in many places. Habitat loss was the greatest danger for monarchs. Fortunately, in more recent years milkweed has become more acceptable, but habitat loss still exists. So, planting milkweed helps keep monarch butterflies off the endangered species list.

There are over 100 kinds of milkweed and several are native to Minnesota. The three most common milkweed plants in Northeast Minnesota are common milkweed, swamp milkweed and butterfly weed. Also, but less common native milkweeds are whorled milkweed, poke milkweed, and showy milkweed. Female monarchs will lay eggs on these plants.

Female monarchs are experts at locating milkweed plants. They will lay only one egg on a milkweed plant and then fly off in search of another milkweed plant. Unfortunately, sometimes there are no milkweed plants available, and it is like a desert to the female. No more eggs will be laid. However, female monarchs are such experts at finding milkweed that they can find it when it is present. So, plant some milkweed to help the monarchs.

EcoFaith Actions is a new initiative of the NE MN Synod EcoFaith Network.

Rev. Beth Pottratz
EcoFaith Network Communication Coordinator
Subscribe to the [Green Blades Rising Newsletter](#)
Learn more at ecofaithnetwork.org
Find us on [Facebook](#)

Save the Date
Fall Pollinator Share & Learn
October 15, 2026, 12-1:00pm

Does your congregation have a Pollinator Plot? Is it on the wish list? How about in your own garden? Or do you have a plot and are looking to share your experiences or to hear what others are doing?

The NE MN Synod Pollinator Plot Steering Committee is having a **"SHARE AND LEARN" via zoom on Oct. 15, noon to 1 p.m.**

Copy and paste this link to register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/qVhx1ugIReGJgDpY9HWeSQ#/registration>



Local Panel: Immigration in Duluth

Free

Thu, Oct 8, 2026 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm Mitchell Auditorium

This year's Tom Morgan Honorary Local Panel on the Alworth Peace & Justice Lecture Series examines immigration in the Duluth community. After the tense politics and activism of immigration enforcement in Minnesota in the winter of 2026, a panel of engaged citizens will share perspectives on the legal, historical and social circumstances of immigration politics locally. This event is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Duluth.



Free Forest Bathing

Wednesday, October 14
4:30-6:30 p.m.

Chambers Grove

Meet nature in a new way!
Experience its transformative healing power
through guided sensory exploration with a
certified forest therapy guide.

Registration Required



This guided forest experience seeks to help participants rest, move slowly and observe nature while being present in the moment. Each forest therapy session is influenced by the environment and intentions set that day, with the goal of improving physical and mental health and promoting disease prevention. all while enjoying nature.

All Together in One Place
September 28, 2026
Celebrating Our Diversity

Dear beloved children of God,

As a church, we collectively continue to celebrate the diversity with which God has created the world. Scripture tells us that, from the very beginning, we were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). In the book of Acts, many were gathered in one place when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Each was given the power to witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:32-33). In 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, the human body serves as a metaphor, demonstrating that a healthy Christian community relies on the many distinct gifts and qualities of each unique member – emphasizing unity through continuing to be a connected church.

I am thankful to serve this church in the office of presiding bishop. I am also grateful for my experience as an activist and leader in communities and congregations that are at the margins. Whatever our role and wherever our place in the church, God calls us to develop trusting relationships with our neighbors. In the service of Affirmation of Baptism, the presiding minister asks, “Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism ... to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236). Striving for justice involves learning about underlying causes of division and inequity. It is a commitment our church makes because of baptism.

Celebrating diversity and striving for equity, inclusion and accessibility for all reflect this baptismal call. The words “diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility” and the initialism “DEIA” mean different things to different people. For the ELCA, as church together, these terms reflect our “delight in the fact that the people called, gathered, and enlightened” by God represent such a wide array of identities, backgrounds and life stories (ELCA social statement Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture, 1993, p. 3). The terms remind us of the gospel vision of community, in which all are truly welcome. They are terms this church has chosen to include in its teachings and constitutions as reflections of our faith in God, who creates, redeems and sustains all people.

Everyone matters in this church. I have celebrated with synods and congregations as they build communities that reflect the people and neighborhoods around them. I have worshiped in places where many languages are spoken and people from different backgrounds feel welcome. Together we have expanded our understanding of what it means to be church through relationships with companion churches around the world and through relationships between congregations in rural, urban and suburban settings here in the United States. We are joined together through holy baptism, through which God calls us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. “Diversity,” “equity,” “inclusion” and “accessibility” are reflections of justice when it is fulfilled. Like many saints before us have said, justice is the form love takes in society.

The road is long, but we go forth in faith, trusting in the risen Christ and inspired by one another for the work ahead. Let us continue in the covenant God has made with us, to serve all people in love.

In Christ,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Pastor: Rev. Jeffery Davis
Cantor: Jennifer Dums
Joyful Voices Pianist: Patti Martenson
Organist/Pianist: Nicole Burdick
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

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
November newsletter are due by Tuesday,
October 20th. Please email your items,
corrections, questions, or comments to
duluthconcordia@gmail.com

We reserve the right to edit your items.
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