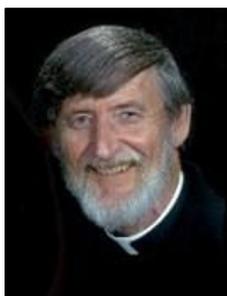




CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT 2017

In Memoriam

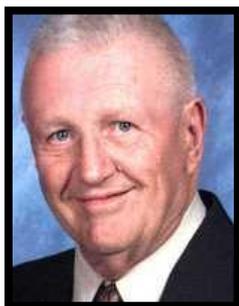


The Rev. Louis Bauer, 75, passed away at the Hospice and Palliative Care Center of Alamance-Caswell, on Sept. 12, 2016 following a brief illness.

He was preceded in death by his father, Louis Edwin Bauer Sr. and mother, Esther Brown Bauer. He is survived by his wife of 48 years Susan Bauer; son Jason (Beth); daughter Megan (David), grandson Dawson; brother Dale (Edee) of Albuquerque, NM, and his dog, Samantha Jane. Lou was born in Akron, Ohio on July 28, 1941. He earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Valparaiso University in 1963 and an M. Div. from Yale Divinity School in 1967. He pursued further post-graduate studies at the University of Tennessee, advanced Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, D.C. Lou was ordained into the ministry of the Evangelical

Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) on September 10, 1967. He served parishes in Manchester, CT; Gloucester, MA; Knoxville, TN; Chapel Hill, NC; and Charlotte, NC. From 1997 to 2003 Lou and Susan were missionaries in Africa for the ELCA's Division for Global Mission. Lou was a lecturer and Dean of Students at Paulinum United Theological Seminary in Windhoek, Namibia and a lecturer at Good News Theological College and Seminary in Accra, Ghana.

Agnes (Kircheis) Donahue, 93, a longtime member of Concordia died at St. Francis Hospital on November 16, 2016. She was surrounded by family and friends and her companion, Sharon Platt. She was born on August 20, 1923 and was predeceased by her husband Thomas Donahue. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Susan D. and Richard Berube.; two grandchildren, Ryan Berube and his wife Michele of and Nicole Berube. She had a bright and inquisitive mind and was an avid reader, embracing new technologies so that she could keep up with her reading. Her home was warm and always open to friends and family.



Ernest P. "Ernie" Noske, 89, a lifelong resident of Manchester, died peacefully on Friday, April 28, 2017 at Manchester Manor. He was born on March 7, 1928 in Manchester, son of the late Andrew and Katherina (Klein) Noske. Ernie attended local schools and was a graduate of MHS, Class of 1946. He was a veteran of the Korean War, serving his country in the US. Air Force, and prior to his retirement, he was employed for over 30 years with Hamilton Standard. Ernie loved baseball and was a standout pitcher in high school in the Greater Hartford Twilight Baseball League for a number of years. Ernie was elected into the Manchester Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. Ernie was an avid antique car enthusiast, and he was well known for driving around Manchester in his white 1959 Cadillac, which he often entered into the local car shows.

Ernie was a member of the Zipser Club in Manchester and a longtime member of Concordia Lutheran Church. He is survived by his two sons and daughters-in-law—Ron and Gail Noske of South Windsor and Alan and Carol Noske of Coventry, three loving grandchildren; Christopher and Katherine Noske of South Windsor and Tyler Noske of Coventry, a daughter, Carol Lewie and her family and his cousin Helen Klein of Manchester.



Ruth (Kroemer) Johnston, 87, of Manchester, beloved wife of 67 years of Benjamin H. Johnston died peacefully at home on Saturday, April 29, 2017. Ruth was born on January 17, 1930 in Mineola, L.I., NY daughter of the late William and Edna (Meyer) Kroemer and she had been a resident of Manchester since 1964. She earned her Associate Degree from Bryant College in Rhode Island. Prior to retiring she was employed for many years as an executive secretary for Lydall Inc. Ruth was a longtime active member of Concordia. She enjoyed crafting, sewing, crocheting and creating beautiful ceramic pieces that were often given as gifts. She also loved to travel with her family and took many trips nationally and abroad. Ruth was a volunteer at Manchester Memorial Hospital for many years. In addition to her husband Ben, she leaves her three daughters and sons-in-law; Kathryn and Victor Berardi of Duxbury,

MA, Lynn Baver Natale and Ralph Natale of Spencer, MA and Terri and Mark Hamilton of Bedford, NH, her ten loving grandchildren and her six great-grandchildren.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting June 4, 2017

Agenda

Call to Order

Devotions

Approval of the Agenda

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the January 2017 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Pastor's Report

The Rev. Douglas D. Barclay, Pastor

President's Report

Mark Winzler, Council President

Reception of Annual Reports

Elections

- Congregational Council
- Legacy for Ministry Board
- Worship and Memorial Garden Board

Congregation Council Motions

1. The Congregation Council unanimously moves the following resolution to the Congregation for consideration and action:

-Whereas the Concordia Lutheran Church has been worshipping on 40 Pitkin Street since October, 1961, and

-Whereas projects need to be done both inside and out to prevent damage to our 56-year-old building and

-Whereas, the Congregation Council has used an increasing amount of its operating budget addressing problematic areas (i.e. heat), and

-Whereas addressing the needs of our physical plant, will enable us to focus on ministry and "being the church".

-Therefore, be it resolved that the Congregation of Concordia Lutheran Church empowers the Congregation Council to borrow up to \$375,000 from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Mission Investment Fund for the purpose of funding capital replacement and improvement projects determined by the Congregation Council.

#2 The Congregation Council unanimously moves the following motion to the Congregation for consideration and action:

The Congregation empowers the Congregation Council to engage in a Capital Campaign to pay off the loan obligations to the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

Information

- The Nominating Committee for 2018 elections will be appointed at the January 2018 Semi-Annual Meeting. The January 2018 Semi-Annual Meeting will be held on January 21st.
- The Congregation Council will meet after this meeting to elect officers.

Adjournment

Minutes of January 22, 2017 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

Call to Order-Meeting was called to order by President Mark Winzler at 11:40.

Devotions-Devotions were provided by Pastor Barclay.

Approval of Agenda-Agenda was approved with no additions.

Approval of Congregation Meeting Minutes of June 2016-Approved.

Reception of Reports

- Pastor's Report- Where we are and where we are going.
Motion to receive, passed.
- Congregation President-Motion to receive, passed.
- Minister of Music report-Motion to receive, passed.
- Treasurer's Report-Motion to receive, passed.
- Legacy for Ministry- return on investment was 8% this year as contrasted to last years 1%. Portfolio was unchanged. Move to receive, passed.
- Worship and Memorial Garden-Motion to receive, passed.
- Nursery School Report-working to pay their fair share. Move to receive, passed. Auction is March 26.
- Stewardship Report-Move to receive report, passed.
- Finance Committee/Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer-Approval of 2017 proposed Ministry budget-receive report.

Approval of 2017 Proposed Ministry Budget

- Move to accept, passed.

Election of Synod Assembly voting Members

(Friday, June 9, 10:00 to Saturday, June 10, 5:00 in Springfield MA.)

David Smith nominated and accepted.

Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio nominated and accepted.

Appointment of Nominating Committee

David Smith Steve Graefe

Carol Stoneman Al Williams

Fred Winzler

Adjournment

Information

The next Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 4 at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Corl Council Secretary

Report of the Pastor

Dear Concordians,

As the disciples returned from Mt. Olivet following the Ascension, the Book of Acts tells us that the disciples joined together in the upper room with the women and Mary, the mother of Jesus and that “they all joined together constantly in prayer.”



As we read on, we learn the focus of their prayer: the coming of the promised Spirit.

Their unity and yearning for the Spirit’s guidance and wisdom led them to an experience of God’s breath coursing anew through their hearts and minds. Gathered together in prayer on that day of Pentecost, even in their incredible diversity, they could hear the common language of God’s love that would transcend and give them a common mission.

It could be easily missed with all the drama of the day of Pentecost, but they were praying for something that they had not yet experienced. They were pleading with God to give them something new to surprise their dullness and to bring vigor and life to their still grieving and troubled hearts.

Isn’t that the case with us?

Our prayers and hopes are for something far beyond what we already know. We ask God to expand the limits of our minds and hearts. We ask God to send a Spirit of peace and love, yes, but also a Spirit of disruption, newness and life-changing consequence.

We know that we cannot stay the same. Change is inevitable, whether we like it or not.

All change, however, is not created equal.

We have before us at least two very different types of change at Concordia in the near future.

The first type of change is concrete and familiar: a building and renovation capital projects campaign. Concordia’s building and grounds have been a centerpiece of our mission and ministry and we clearly see that in them we have a great gift from God that can be used for gathering, learning, teaching, growing and nurture. These resources are precious in as much as they help us to express God’s love and transforming power. We know that these physical resources are also subject to change and decay. We will embark on a major project and capital campaign to address these needs and to secure the building’s infrastructure so that it can be a place of mission and ministry into the future. As Concordia has done in the past, even with our small but mighty numbers, we will raise the money and do the hard work necessary to address all that needs to be faced.

That’s the good news and the easy type of change that is before us.

Now, as I promised, there is another type of change that is much more elusive, challenging, and scary. It is the change that is demanded of each of us as disciples of Christ and all of us together as a congregation within the body of Christ. It is a change of heart and mind. It is a change of perspective. It is a change that demands that we take risks to learn a new way of being church for the sake of the world in this time and place.

This is where we have less of a road map and less certainty. We know well how to build buildings and hire contractors and raise money. We can see the results easily and tangibly.

However, the type of change that is demanded of us needs to, above all, like those disciples awaiting the Spirit, be rooted in prayer: prayer that expects and demands that God is doing and will do something new with and for us in this place of Concordia.

Above all, the risk that must be taken is one of expanding our narrow parochial path and seeing anew the possibilities for transformation that are all around us: in our neighborhood, in our town, in our nursery school families and children, in our mission partners, in the pressing and demanding needs of those who struggle for food, health, and care in our midst, in our hurting worlds.

So, today, in this Concordia of 2017, in this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation that was sparked in 1517, we boldly pray for the Spirit to be poured out anew on us, our lives, and upon our whole world. It is good to recall that Luther's reformation was not primarily about church buildings or properties, but it was a struggling reaffirmation of God's grace and love as the foundation stone of the faith of Jesus Christ. It was, above all, a movement of the Spirit, changing hearts and minds, reigniting passion for the gospel and a reemphasizing of the pervasive love of God that has been poured into our hearts through Jesus Christ.

And so, dear Concordians, take heart that God's Spirit will comfort and cheer. Also, take heed and watch and wait for God's Spirit that will do something new and unexpected in our midst.

Finally, at the end of this second year as your pastor, I continue to express thanks to God for the faith, generosity and trust of this congregation. You will see within this report the amazing life, vitality and generosity of this congregation. In the year in review photos, you will see a slice of Concordia's active and full congregational life. It is a great privilege to be your pastor and to walk together with you into the future. May God's blessing continue to prosper the work of our hands and hearts even as we await the coming Spirit of Pentecost.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Douglas D. Barclay,
pastor

Report of the Council President

It has been another very active year at Concordia.

The Council has spent most of its programmatic year focusing on the needs of our ageing building and infrastructure, gathering information (sincere thanks to Dan Burnett!) and laying the foundation for a capital campaign to address the needs (to be voted on at the June 4 semiannual meeting). As part of the preparation for the vote, cottage meetings and a special congregational meeting were held in order to have an open dialogue with members about the needs and the process to address those needs.

As was emphasized, in order for us to move forward as a congregation and "be the church", we need to address our building needs so we don't continue to spend time focused just on them. I would also like to recognize, Jim Britton, Dan Burnett, John Corl Paul Goodrich, Steve Graefe, Ernie Scott and Phil Stoneman who have been pursuing the issue of bad shingles. In terms of the capital projects, there has been a lot of information disseminated (congregational letter, cottage meetings, etc.) hence I will not go into more detail in this report.



As also noted in the January report, Concordia is one of eight congregations participating in the “Forward Leadership” Community of the New England Synod. Forward Leadership is an initiative for congregations who are motivated and ready to engage in transformational ministry and feel called to connect more deeply with their communities. This is a year-long learning model developed to equip clergy and lay leadership teams (Pastor Barclay, Carol Stoneman and Mark Winzler for Concordia) to identify adaptive and technical changes through the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) and implement directions for action. Concordia enrolled in this in order to strengthen our mission and ministry and because we are ready to experiment, innovate and explore how to “be church” in the 21st century.

We took the CAT again in early spring and had Associate to the Bishop, Pastor Sara Anderson meet first with members of the Council and Mutual Ministry Committee and then with the congregation to review the results of the CAT. She shared that there Concordia has shown growth over the past two years since the CAT was first taken in that we are not clergy-focused, that the match with Pastor Barclay is a solid one and that we are moving in the right “direction”. This CAT is paramount to the Forward Leadership process as we talk about the present and look to the future.

We are moving ahead with some 500th Anniversary of the Reformation activities with Emanuel. We watched a screening of Rick Steves Luther Movie in May, Concordia will worship together at Emanuel on June 25 (they have air conditioning!) as we celebrate the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession. Emanuel will worship at Concordia on October 22 to celebrate the Reformation. The tentative plan is to have our German Oktoberfest right after worship on that day. There are also some other events in the making: 1) a possible music program with St. James Church and 2) Concordia possibly serving as host for an ecumenical liturgy with Bishop Hazelwood and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Hartford Leonard Blair. Stay tuned!

Other items of note:

- Fred Winzler was named Concordian of the Year last June.
- Bishop Hazelwood ordained three New England Synod Pastors at Concordia last September. The church was full. The Fellowship Committee and others staged a magnificent reception which was lauded by all who attended!
- A new Fund-Raising Policy and Building Use Regulations were passed by Council.
- Because we live in an age of litigation and because we have a number of groups (Nursery School, Cub Scouts, AA etc.) which use our facility, the Executive Committee met with Attorney Ryan Barry after he reviewed our insurance and liability policies. We need to define relationships in policy as well as work on liability waivers. This is in process.
- We worshipped with Emanuel, St. Mary’s and Faith for Ash Wednesday (preceded by a dinner), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil. It was a wonderful experience being together with our brothers and sisters during the Lenten Season.
- A joint meeting of the Emanuel and Concordia Councils was held in October to talk about things we could do together. The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation events came out of that meeting.
- For the first time, the front tree was “decorated” with white lights which were on during the Advent and Christmas seasons. (This was a dream of Barbara Baker many years ago!)
- Christmas postcards were mailed to 925 neighbors to inform them of our Christmas liturgies. Some neighbors did attend our worship as a result.

- We put together a plan to cover the Minister of Music position for 2017 utilizing Richard Hicks, John Anderson (Organ), Chris Davenport (piano) and Linda Hilliard (choir rehearsal director).
- A Prayer for Christian Unity service was held at Concordia in January with area clergy participating.

Treasurer Stephen Perkins has announced to Council that he will be stepping down from that position in June. On behalf of the Council and the Congregation, I want to thank Stephen for his many years of dedication to Concordia supplying us with meticulous, detailed reports and charts always keeping us abreast of where we stood with our finances. Your work has truly been appreciated!

Mark L. Winzler

Report of the Nursery School Director

Once again, we have been blessed with a wonderful year of loving, learning, and growing together at Concordia Nursery School. It has been my pleasure to serve as Director once again this year in addition to my teaching duties in the classroom. Maureen Briggeman continues to serve the school, as she has for well over twenty years, with unparalleled dedication in her role as Classroom Supervisor and Head Teacher. Kayle Gagnon also returned for her fifth year as a teacher. Jenna Soucier resigned from the school at the end of last school year to attend Eastern Connecticut State University full-time in pursuit of her teaching degree. We were fortunate to hire two new teachers to replace her. Amanda Lythgoe was hired as Assistant Teacher for the three-day class and Kristina Acuna was hired as Assistant Teacher for the two-day class. Both were trained and mentored this year by Maureen and plan to return for the next school year. Having two teachers to share one position proved to be an excellent arrangement; Amanda and Kristina were able to serve as substitute teachers on their days off, maintaining consistency and child-to-staff ratios.



Our year at school was full of many events for the children and their families. Children in the three-day class enjoyed our annual field trip to Hurst Farm in Andover as well as our Family Feast in November. Each class celebrated Christmas with a party for Jesus' birthday in December. This spring, field trips were also planned to Wickham Park and the Oak Grove Nature Center. As part of our end-of-year activities, children in the two-day class planted pumpkin seedlings in our raised bed. We can't wait to see what happens to them over the summer! Our classes concluded the year with an Ice Cream Social for the two-day class and a family picnic for the "graduating" children. These events are a wonderful reminder of the importance of relationships not only with the children we teach, but with their families as well.

The program was at near-capacity for the entire school year. Because of lower-than-usual enrollment in the previous year, along with two families choosing not to return, the three-day class had 18 children this year rather than the typical enrollment of 20. It is important to note that of those 18, six were new to the school. In no other year would six new enrollees be needed to fill the three-day class, so even though we were only at 18, it was an enrollment success in my opinion and not an indication of a lack of interest in the program. In fact, enrollment for that same class for next year currently has a waiting list of three students. The two-day class was full with 15 children, 14 of whom are planning to return this fall.

The CNS Policy Board continues to meet monthly to oversee school operations and provide support to the director. This year's members include Ellery Clark (chair), Hana Donnelly, Heather Adams, Elaine Briggman, Pastor Barclay (ex officio) and Laura Hart (ex officio). The makeup and scope of work of the board is currently under review by church leadership to ensure that all legal and fiscal matters are being handled with the best interests of the school and parish in mind.

One of greatest areas of support provided by the board is in the realm of fundraising. The school held several fundraisers over the course of the year to support our ongoing expenses, including the Butterbraid sale, Botticello Farms wreath sale, and Sweet Frog night. In March our biannual CNS Goods and Services auction was held and it was a great success! Nearly \$9,300.00 was raised for the school, which will be used as part of our operating budget over the next two years. A great amount of time and effort on the part of the CNS Board went into planning the auction, with special thanks going out to parishioner Carol Burnett for the beautiful staging of donations and decorating Kaiser Hall for the event.

We are indebted to the congregation for their continued support of our program and in the scholarship funds that are provided to enable families of diverse situations to attend the school. This year three families were granted financial assistance by the Board which was funded by the parish. This year, the school has begun making a monthly contribution to offset the expenses incurred by our use of the building. Our current contribution of \$5,000.00 annually, while challenging, is an acknowledgement that we are blessed to have the use of such a beautiful facility and the support that enables us to keep our focus on the families we serve. Thank you to all of you for all that you do, whether it's plowing, shoveling, carpet steaming, food-serving, auction-attending, fundraiser-supporting, praying for us and our families, and being a loving presence. We appreciate your love and support and hope you know how blessed we all feel to be a part of the Concordia community.

Special thank you to Kate Bozzo, Stephen Perkins, and of course Pastor Barclay for making things run so smoothly. It's a joy to come to work every day.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Hart
Director, Concordia Nursery School

Report of the Stewardship Committee

grat·i·tude'gradə,t(y)ood/ *noun*

The quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness.

"We expressed our gratitude to the congregation for their support."

Synonyms: gratefulness, thankfulness, thanks, appreciation, indebtedness;
recognition, acknowledgment, credit

This is an exciting time for us as a congregation as has been noted in the CAT results and our participation in the Forward Leadership program. In addition, we're considering a capital improvement drive to support our ministries by doing what Stewardship is all about, which is taking care of what God has blessed us with. If approved, members of this committee will certainly take part in the capital campaign.

Last fall, working with others, we developed the "Gratitude" stewardship theme, in which members of the congregation wrote down the characteristics and actions of others they were especially grateful for. We transcribed these onto note cards and sent them out with the stewardship materials last year. We received tremendously positive feedback on this and intend to do more with the information learned this year as well as continue the theme in future endeavors.

We are also looking for new members to expand the committee to help build out a year-round stewardship program that doesn't solely focus on the financial end of things, but positions us towards growths in all our

ministries. Years ago, the Stewardship Committee did a lot in the area of Evangelism and it's time we got back towards this. Whatever direction we take, it will be easier if we had some additional members to take these next steps.

Moreover, we're looking for new members with fresh ideas and new perspectives. This committee has been under the same leadership for a very long time and it's time for change. Committees don't need to have a permanent roster. We need to go where the spirit brings us and where the church needs us most. Please consider joining this or other committees as we build up the church for the future. Stay tuned for an invitation!

Respectfully submitted,
The Stewardship Committee
David Smith, Chair
Nancy Lynn Knauff
Carol Stoneman
Pastor Douglas Barclay

Report of the Mutual Ministry Committee

During the past year the Mutual Ministry Committee (MMC) has worked to fulfill the primary mission of providing support to Pastor Barclay and staff members. As a committee, we continued reading the book *Pastor and People* to provide a framework for discussing the church, our roles in it and expectations of staff members serving Concordia.

During the fall, the committee facilitated the resignation of the Minister of Music, and provided support to the Pastor and choir members during the process. The committee is thankful for the assistance and cooperation of Pastor Barclay and the choir during that time.

As a committee, we are currently fulfilling the role of steadfast supporters of the Forward Leadership Team made up of Pastor Barclay, Mark Winzler, council president, and Carol Stoneman, past council president. The FLT reports to us after attending synod sessions, and then we discuss the application of the ideas to our congregation.

An annual review of Parish Administrator Kate Bozzo was conducted during the summer. The MMC recommended a salary increase and additional paid vacation days for Kate to the church council and following council approval both items were approved at the annual meeting in January. During the summer, the MMC together with Kate plans to revise her position description, as the current position description no longer reflects the work that Kate performs on a day to day basis.

Current members of the Committee are:

Pastor Barclay
Mimi Boxwell, Chair; Susan Bourret; Irma Vincens; Karin Perkins; Phil Stoneman

Respectfully submitted,

Mimi Boxwell, MMC Chair

Report of the Christian Education - Youth Committee

Our committee meets monthly on Sunday after worship and has been focusing in three areas:

Faith Formation – Confirmation instruction

Adult Education and senior weekday gatherings – including bible study

Youth Activities - with a focus on combined activities for 5 area churches

Faith Formation / Confirmation Instruction

Classes are being held from October through June. We combined our group with a student from Nueva Creación with Pastor Persida sharing the teaching responsibilities and Orlando joining E.J. and Zack for study. Planning will begin this summer for continuation of classes this fall, with a possible summer activity. We are also looking into a combined activity with Emanuel.

Adult Education

Pastor Barclay is leading bible study discussions on Sunday mornings from 8:45 to 9:45 covering topics related to the scripture text for Sunday worship. During lent two opportunities for learning were provided at Concordia. We read the daily devotional “*Wondrous Encounters Scripture for Lent*” by Richard Rohr and discussed meaningful passages from this book on Sundays before worship. Pastor Barclay provided a Lenten study of Luther’s Small Catechism after worship each week. We were also invited to Emanuel for soup supper during a viewing of the movie “The 10 Commandments” followed by Holden Evening Prayer. Our fall Intergenerational event on gratitude gave us all a chance to write statements of appreciation about our many of our fellow Concordians. Gratitude statements were gathered and distributed to participants. We also sponsored two weekday events for seniors: a December soup and Christmas carol lunch and a May brunch - cottage meeting. These events have been well attended.

Youth

Sandy, Jeanine and Sara continue working with Emanuel and St. Mary’s of Manchester, Faith of East Hartford and St. Mark’s of Glastonbury to plan events for the combined youth group called “Youth Fusion”. Concordia hosted a games night last Fall. Planning continues for a picnic at St Mark’s for June 10th and a movie/lunch in early August. The committee will meet on August 20th to plan a full year's worth of events (4-6 total) for October 2017 through May 2018.

Future plans include working with Nueva Creación to provide a summertime bilingual vacation bible school.

Respectfully submitted for the committee,

Susan Bourret, chair

Other committee members: Jeanine Barber, Jan Salvatore, Sandy Baranowski, Kay Corl, Nancy Knauff, Sara Nilsen, Al Williams and Pastor Barclay.

Report of the Worship and Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee is responsible for the planning of Concordia’s worship service; including liturgies for seasons and festivals, the selection of hymns and other worship matters. There are many committees responsible for the execution of Concordia’s service beginning with the scheduling of deacons, prayer writers, acolytes, greeters and ushers, and bread bakers. The Altar Guild prepares the worship space for each Sunday. This is all accomplished prior to the actual service.

This past summer Sunday worship was at 10 AM in the Garden Room. Marty Haugen’s “Now the Feast and Celebration” was used for the setting. The service was very intimate and enjoyed by those that attended. In

addition, Concordia combined with Emanuel Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, St. Mark's Lutheran, and St. Mary's Episcopal Churches to have some services on Wednesday evenings during the summer. Sunday services resumed in the Sanctuary on September 18th.

Concordia again had an interesting fall season when Mary Douglas, our Minister of Music, resigned as of October 30. This activated Mark Winzler to immediately search for supply musicians and began the search for Mary's replacement. Pastor Barclay and Mark Winzler created an interesting proposal built around Richard Hicks, Linda Hilliard, John Anderson, and Chris Davenport. Richard ensured that the music for the Christmas and Easter seasons, including brass, was excellent. Linda Hilliard has done an excellent job of selecting the anthems and conducting the rehearsals. John Anderson's organ and choir direction skills have ensured that the music portion of Sunday service is to Concordia's standards. We look forward to having Chris Davenport as our summer musician in the Garden Room.

Concordia has continued its practice of joint services. There was a Manchester wide National Alliance of Mental Illness service at Concordia on October 5th. The Thanksgiving Eve Service was again held at St. Mary's. On Christmas Eve Concordia celebrated with Emanuel at 11 AM and the Concordia evening service was at 8 PM. During Lent Concordia was invited to join Emanuel for their Wednesday evening soup, bread and service. During Lent Concordia held a short program of study, soup and bread following the normal 10 AM service.

Due to the response from last summer Concordia plans to again worship in the Garden Room at 10 AM this summer and possibly add a short service in the Sanctuary at 8:30 AM.

It is the committee's feeling that Concordia's generosity in providing space for the worship services of New Horizon and Ministerio Nueva Creación has benefited Concordia as well! Thank you!

Submitted by Linda Lange and John Corl for the Worship and Music Committee of Pastor Barclay, Linda Lange, and John Corl

Report of the Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has had another busy and successful year.

Dinda House Thanksgiving dinners, and Christmas dinners along with gift cards from Dunkin Donuts were again provided to the Veterans. Thanks to Alice Smith, Dan and Carol Burnett, and Ron McCann for ordering and delivering the meals and cards.

April Time \$10 Dunkin Donut gift cards were given to the 34 residents at Christmas. Thanks to Carol Stoneman for purchasing and delivering the cards.

Beech Tree Pens The pens, made from our Beech Tree, crafted by Stephen Perkins, were sold at various functions by Alice Smith, totaling more than \$1000.

Highland Park School 9 turkeys were provided to help fill baskets for Thanksgiving dinners. Pastor Barclay, Carol Stoneman and Carol Burnett delivered the baskets to Jill Morey at the Highland Park School. Also, due to the generosity of a member of Concordia, 40 winter hats went to the school and another 10 hats went to our own nursery school.

Christmas Seasonal Sharing We were able to purchase all the fixings to feed 10 families. Through the "Giving Tree" we were able to provide gifts for 60 children and adults. Thanks to Karen Schauster, Carol Stoneman, Martha Winzler, and Linda Lange for assisting in the delivery of the food and gifts to MACC.

MS On November 13, 2016, Stacey St. Pierre from the MS Society was a guest speaker. At the conclusion, a collection was taken to benefit MS. As a result, a check for \$150 was sent to the Society. We will be packing 20 gift bags for the MS summer camp at Camp Hemlock, this year.

The Outreach Committee would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Jan McGarity and Irene and Ron Schack for their many years of dedication and support that they have shown this committee. And, as they leave we would also like to welcome Carol Stoneman as our newest member.

We would also like to thank all the members of the congregation, whose generosity and support allowed us to accomplish these many projects.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Burnett	Helen Wittkofske	Marion Pallein
Alice Smith	Martha Winzler	Fred Winzler
Carol Stoneman	Dan Burnett (council)	

Report of the Worship and Memorial Garden Board

After the pathway lighting was restored in the spring of 2016, we were able to mulch the garden with the help of the Cub Scouts and parents. The usual work of weeding and mowing continued all summer. However, in the fall we did hire Christopher Lucy of Better Tree and Shrub Care to trim the garden. Unfortunately, we lost a beautiful Pink Chimes Snowbell tree on the right entrance to the altar area of the garden. Better Tree & Shrub Care cut it down and hauled it away. We still have to grind up or dig out the stump before planting a new tree. BT&SC also recommended that we treat all the Azaleas to remove a bug which was done in the fall.

Dan Burnett and Ruth Sprong met with a contractor regarding the washing away of bluestone specifically the pathway around the garden room. He explained to us that we had a very dry summer, which made the ground very hard. The rains were downpours and the ground could not absorb the water at the rate it was raining. He did not recommend doing anything to the garden pathway for this problem because it is just the way the weather has been.

After the scattering of Pastor Stacey's ashes in the spring, Dana Husereau was interred in the wall in the summer. Agnes Donahue passed away on November 16, 2016 and will be interred in the wall in this year. Communication has been ongoing with John Gabbey regarding the internment of Marcie Gabbey's ashes. All Saints Day saw a recessional into the garden at the end of the service. Palm Sunday service began this year in the garden.

Council is working on getting us the dates of service for the following Pastors, then their stones will be engraved and placed in the pathway: Martha Klein Larson, Jonathan Vogel, JoAnn Post, and Rebecca Bourret.

We also consulted several people regarding the beech tree stump. One person was a wood carver which had some creative ideas regarding carving the stump into a bench. However, there was no guarantee that the stump would not rot away and much work would need to be done to cover up the roots of the tree so people could reach the beech tree bench without tripping. We didn't come up with any ideas on how to preserve the stump of the beech tree.

The Garden Board would like to thank Don & Elaine Briggmann for donating bags of mulch last year and a lawn mower this spring to the Garden.

In the future we will be working on:

1. Making the Garden handicapped accessible
2. Replacement of trees/plantings that have not survived
3. Fix stones in the altar area from tipping

Respectively Submitted:

Ruth Sprong, Chair

Report of Member Care Ministry

The Member Care Committee members have had on-going contact with our homebound members by:

- 1.) Visiting our members who were ill or homebound.
- 2.) Sending cards and making telephone calls
- 3.) Bringing holiday or seasonal gifts:
 - Decorated treat for the 4th of July
 - Small baskets of seasonal fruits in autumn
 - Homemade breads at Thanksgiving
 - Tins of cookies at Christmas
 - Pots of yellow tete flowers at Easter
- 4.) Maintaining contact with the Pastor, re: needs of members

Many thanks were given by members who attended the Christmas luncheon and the spring brunch. The day time scheduling enabled them to take part in church activities and they appreciated and enjoyed the effort made by Pastor and those who prepared and served the food.

We invite member of the congregation to join our committee. Members who have limited available time can contribute to one or some of our activities.

We will miss our dear friend and committee member, Ruth Johnston, who died this April.

Committee Members:

Jackie Britton, Carol Burnett, Jane Casserly, Jan Salvatore, Ruth Sprong, Helen Wittkofske

Chairperson: Irma Vincens

Report of the Fellowship Committee

Mission Statement:

It is our goal to offer opportunities to further fellowship among us, to create warmth and love for each other, to strengthen our friendships through the sharing of ourselves and to have as many active participants in our church life as possible.

Your Fellowship Committee strives to offer activities that not only meet our Mission Statement but also the mission statement of Concordia. To that end, the following events occurred this past year:

Activities that have occurred since June 2016

June 19 th , 2016	Name Day
August 21 st , 2016	Concordia Pool and Barbeque Party at Mark Winzler's
October 15 th , 2016	Oktoberfest German Dinner
November 5 th , 2016	Craft Fair
December 17 th , 2016	Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas
February 19 th , 2017	Pre-Lenten Brunch at Mill on the River
April 23 rd , 2017	Sunday Dinner Out at Georgina's Restaurant

Upcoming events planned

June 11 th , 2017	Name Day
August 20 th , 2017	Concordia Pool and Barbeque Party at Mark Winzler's
September 17 th , 2017	Sunday Dinner Out at Charkoon Gourmet Chinese Restaurant With a side trip to Apple Farm in South Glastonbury
October	Oktoberfest German Dinner (date to be announced)
December 16 th , 2017	Decorate Church for Christmas

Coffee Hour

The Fellowship Committee plans the schedule for the coffee hours during the year. On the last Sunday of each month there is a Church Wide Pot Luck coffee hour. Here the Fellowship committee prepares the coffee, brings the juice and cream and sets-up and cleans up. All parishioners are invited to bring goodies to share with us all.

We so enjoy planning events that will make you happy and cause such great fellowship among us. If there is anything you would like to suggest to us to plan, please let us know. We always like to find new and exciting things to do.

The Fellowship Committee continues to commit itself to asking people if they would like to get involved in the planning and execution of any of our events. This would be like an adhoc committee – single event – instead of having to join the committee and commit to meetings once a month. So, if you see something on our schedule that interests you please see one of the committee members to volunteer your time and talents on the one activity. We always welcome extra help and new ideas!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Briggmann, Ella Hube, Petey Goodrich, Susan Morris

Report of the Nominating Committee

The nominating committee submits the following congregation members for election to serve on the Congregation Council, Legacy for Ministry and Worship & Memorial Garden Board for terms beginning June 2017.

Congregation Council: *(Membership consists of the pastor(s) and not more than 12 nor fewer than 6 members of the congregation including elected/appointed officers).*

Kay Corl – Second 3-year term

The following council members will continue to serve their elected terms: Susan Bourret, Dan Burnett, Elaine Briggmann, Petey Goodrich, Linda Lange, Jan Salvatore, Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio, Al Williams and Mark Winzler.

The committee would like to thank David Smith for his service and dedication for his six (6) years on council and as council vice president.

Legacy for Ministry: *(Membership consists of seven (7) voting members; one (1) of whom is elected by the Congregation Council; four (4) elected from the congregation at the June semi-annual meeting; the pastor and treasurer)*

David Smith - First 3 yr. term

Wendy Donagher - 1 yr. term *(Completing Marion Slater's term)*

David Stoneman – 1 yr. term *(Completing Don Slater's term)*

The following Legacy for Ministry members will continue to serve their elected terms: Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio (elected by Council) and Carol Stoneman.

The committee would like to thank Fred Winzler for his service and dedication over the past six (6) years and Marion and Don Slater for their service on Legacy for Ministry this past year.

Worship & Memorial Garden Board: *(Membership consists of nine (9) members elected by the congregation)*

Mark Brendel – Second 3-year term

The following Worship & Memorial Garden Board members will continue to serve their elected terms: Ed and Gail Adams, David Beauregard, Carol Burnett, Jane Casserly, Jan McGarity, Karen Schauster, Ruth Sprong.

Respectfully submitted,

2017 Nominating Committee: Steve Graefe, David Smith, Carol Stoneman (chair), Al Williams and Fred Winzler; Pastor Douglas Barclay – advisor

CONCORDIA YEAR IN REVIEW



Fred Winzler is named Concordian of the Year.



Carol Stoneman and Al Williams at the Mass Mutual Center for Synod Assembly.

Concordia's June Semi Annual Meeting



Summer Worship Space



Summer Evening Worship Series





Happy 1 Year Ordination Anniversary
To Pastor Barclay!



Congregational
Pool Party



September Synod Ordinations
at Concordia



**God's Work Our Hands
Day of Service**



Concordia and Emanuel Councils Meet to Plan the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Celebrations.



Nursery School Open House



Oktoberfest!





**Time to start building
the Community
Garden....**



Concordia's Annual Craft Fair



All Saints East Cemetery Procession



**Interfaith Thanksgiving at
Community Baptist**

Advent at Concordia



Member Care Prepares for Christmas Deliveries



Advent Latino Dinner with Ministerio Nueva Creación



Advent Crock and Carols and Selfies with the Pastor



Christmas at Concordia





Concordia Nursery School Christmas Program



Three Kings Celebration with Ministerio Nueva Creación



Great Hartford East Prayer Service for Christian Unity



Ash Wednesday Dinner and Worship at Concordia with Faith Lutheran, Emanuel Lutheran, Ministerio Nueva Creacion, and St. Mary's Episcopal Churches



Ash Wednesday Joint Service at Concordia



Pastor Sara Anderson, Associate to the Bishop, addresses the council after our recent CAT Survey.



Lenten Sundays at Concordia followed by Soup and Bread and Education Hour.



Joint Lenten Wednesdays at Emanuel with Vespers



Concordia Nursery School's Auction



Maundy Thursday Worship at St. Mary's





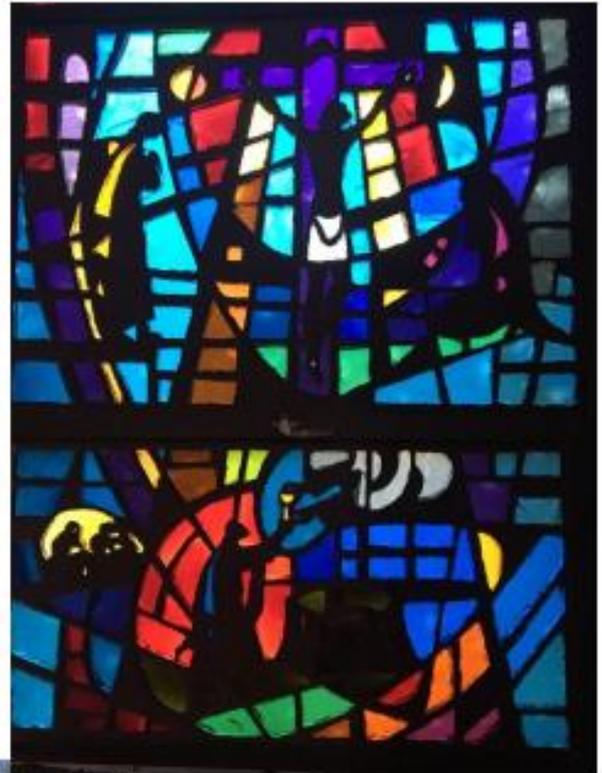
Good Friday Procession throughout Manchester. Concordia hosted the station at The Vietnam Veterans Memorial



Good Friday Station at Emanuel Lutheran Church

St. James Church





Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday with Fabio and Patricia Cante with Kristopher.

The Great Vigil of Easter at Emanuel Lutheran Church







Easter Sunday Breakfast at Concordia





Easter Sunday at Concordia





As Lutheran Christians, Concordia understands that God is calling us to be:

- A Christian community with responsibility to support each other, our neighborhood, and the larger community
- A Gathered Assembly marked by the practices of prayer, study, reflection and worship
- Selfless Disciples who communicate and practice the faith through acts of faithful stewardship, service and forgiveness

The Rev. Douglas Barclay, Pastor

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The Rev. Joseph E. Bourret

Pastor *Emeritus*

Home: 860.633.6138

Richard Hicks

Minister of Music Emeritus

Bible Study on Sundays 8:45 am

Worship on Sundays at 10:00 am

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 am –2:00 pm

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