

The Concordia Chimes

Summer Edition 2017

Summer Dates to Remember

Summer Worship

On Sunday, June 18th we begin our summer worship schedule. There will be a 30-35-minute communion service at 8:30 in the Nave (Main Church). Bible study will continue throughout the summer from 9:15-9:45. The main Eucharist will be at 10 a.m. in the Garden Room (with Air Conditioning). A casual coffee hour will follow.

Celebration of the Reformation at Emanuel

On Sunday June 25th at 9:30 a.m. there will be a joint worship at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Manchester, for the Reformation Anniversary. There will no worship at Concordia that day. A Joint service is being planned for October 22 as well.

Wednesday Evening Joint Summer Worship

(first in a series of three)

June 21st at 7:00 PM

at Faith Lutheran Church in East Hartford

We'll worship with our friends from Emanuel and Faith Lutheran churches at Faith. June 21 is the first scheduled evening of the summer. Pastor Barclay, will discuss the German influence on the Reformation.

The next two Wednesday evenings scheduled are 7/26 & 8/23.

The Rev. Douglas Barclay

Pastor

pastor@concordiamanchester.org

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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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The deadline for submitting articles or items for The Chimes is the 20th of each month. The next edition of the Chimes will be published at the end of August.



From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Concordians,

I can only hope that you find blessings and rest in these summer days and weeks ahead. Enjoy your gardens and flowers, your boats and RVs and your trips to Maine, Europe, North Carolina, or wherever your spirits may lead you.



For our part, here at Concordia, we will also take a summer breather even as we continue to prepare for a Fall Capital Campaign- “For this Holy House.” It is an amazing testament to the strength and vitality of this small but mighty congregation that you have unanimously voted to engage in nearly \$400,000 of Capital Improvements in the coming year.

Already, we're off and running! The steeple has been prepared and sealed and painted. The roof proposals still are being researched, the kitchen hood is coming as well as many small visual and the larger heating/air conditioning aspects of the campaign.

Of course, as you see work begin on the projects, and before we kick off our Fall Capital Campaign in earnest, please consider using the Capital Improvement Envelopes in your offering boxes to contribute to the work in these summer months. As we all know, the funding for these projects will come from one source: members of Concordia. Thank you for being willing to support and sustain your congregation's mission and ministry and the building and grounds which make us a strong center of faith in our neighborhood.

For my part, it is been a busy few months since Easter and I have taken some short professional development opportunities. First, with the ongoing refugee crisis, Hartford Seminary hosted an incredible group of Islamic and other religious and social scholars and Non-profit leaders to discuss the multi-faceted dimensions of the world's largest refugee crisis since World War II. As you know, Lutherans have been at the forefront of resettlement and aid programs as we consider it essential to the call of the gospel to welcome the stranger in our midst. One particular highlight of the conference was a film, *After Spring*, which profiled 3 displaced Syrian families who have been living in a fenced refugee camp for over 3 years. It showed the pain of leaving homeland for the sake of protecting their families.

The second opportunity was a conference at Yale Divinity School focused on the experience of Violence and how the church respond in times of crisis to the world around us. In particular, we spoke about how important it is for the community to hear the voice of the church speak out against the violence that plagues our culture and communities.

I will be taking some time for vacation this summer as well...still to be determined.

If you can't make service at Concordia during the summer, I encourage you to attend another church wherever you may be. I especially encourage you to go to a different denomination or expression of Christianity. Please bring back those experiences: they can only help to broaden our understandings and experience of the many ways in which Christianity is practiced throughout our communities. If you can't make Sunday worship, there are also a number of opportunities to worship mid-week. For our part, we will have 2 services at Concordia one short spoken service at 8:30 in the main church, and then a 10 a.m. service in our beautiful and air-conditioned garden room.

We already anticipate a busy fall filled with celebrations of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, a Capital Campaign, and busy renovations happening all around us! Enjoy. Rest. Be Refreshed.

See you in worship!

Pr. Douglas Barclay

Treasurer Comments on the May Financial Report

In a bit of a turn around, May revenue has outperformed expectations. The majority of the budget is made up of two components: the Envelope offering and the Stretch offering. If you remember, the Stretch offering is the deficit that was approved at the January semi-annual meeting. Those two items make up approximately 95% of all revenue brought in by Concordia. If these two perform well, then Concordia has a good year. If these two don't, well you get the idea. It is important that between the two, that the percentages add up to around 95%. Right now, year to date, that number is 99%. The so-called minor accounts are also performing around 100%. All told, revenue stands at 100%. For the first time this year, the revenue percent equals the expenditure percent.

For those who don't know, I have decided not to continue as treasurer. The council has appointed Carol Stoneman as your new treasurer. Your money will be in good hands with Carol looking after the finances of Concordia. Assisting Carol will be Susan Bourret who also assisted me. She provides an important continuity as we transition to Carol's stewardship. Please keep them both in your prayers.

Envelope offering for May is 128% (YTD 108%) of budget and the Stretch is 3% (9% YTD) for a combined YTD of 99%. Thank you to everyone who contributed. You also contributed \$126.00 to World Hunger, \$190.00 to Lutheran World Relief, and \$50.00 for the MS camp.

If you have questions about the May statement, please ask or email at treasurer@concordiamanchester.org.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen Perkins, Treasurer

Concordian of the Year

The recognition of Concordian of the Year was instituted in order to recognize a person or persons who exhibited extraordinary dedication to Concordia over the course of a year or over the course of many years.

The first person recognized, along with the institution of Name Day, was thirty years ago in 1987. The other day I took a long look at the plaque containing the names of those so honored with this distinction over the years and thought about their contributions to Concordia..... and thought of this passage from Romans 12:

⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.



And then I thought about this year's Concordian of the Year and realized immediately that this person has many of these gifts:

- Faithful to God, to Concordia and to all of us
- A deep devotion to ministering and serving others
- Giving generously of time, talents and treasures
- Leading but “on the scene” and “behind the scenes” with diligence
- Cares and shows great compassion toward others

- And all of this in a cheerful manner.

This is true whether it deals with

- a fellowship activity
- outreach to the community or far beyond the community
- working in the area of finance
- organizing events for Concordia and beyond
- serving on a multitude of committees
- providing support to our partnerships with other churches

This person is deeply devoted:

- Regular church attendance not only on Sundays but at “all things Concordia”
- singing God's praises in the choir,

- organizing Seasonal Sharing, the Day of Service for the Greater Hartford Conference
- cooking and baking
- leading a number of committees over the years as well as the Congregation Council and the congregation for a number of years during our times of recent pastoral transition
- And now, most recently looking at ways to help Concordia move forward



I do not believe that what I have said adequately describes all that this person has done for and has been to Concordia. This only scratches the surface.

On behalf of the Congregation Council, it is truly a sincere honor and deep privilege on this 123rd anniversary of Concordia to name Carol Stoneman as the Concordian of the Year.

A Note from the (New) Treasurer

First off, I want to express my gratitude to the members of Concordia for your continuous financial support. The fulfillment of every pledge is vitally important to Concordia and its mission. Over 80% of the church costs goes to run the church. This is a fixed number for every month and it is imperative that we keep up with our pledges and offerings at all times during the year, especially during the summer months.

On another note, I ask for your patience and prayers during the transition process from Stephen Perkins to me as treasurer. It is an honor to serve you and the church in this capacity.

Carol Stoneman

Congratulations!

Liana Wilson, daughter of Mark and Candace Wilson, graduated cum laude from Hofstra University, with a B. A. Degree in Psychology. She will pursue a Master's Degree in Psychotherapy at UConn School of Social Work in the fall.

Notes from the Field

Synod Assembly 2017: Get off your Donkey!

Taken from the story of the Good Samaritan, the theme of this year's New England Synod Assembly was "Get Off Your Donkey." How often do you get to say that to others? □ Like the Good Samaritan, the meaning behind this is simply to call us to action as Christians to love our neighbors and not walk on the other side of the street or ignore our neighbors in need. Indeed, who are our neighbors? We need to find out in order to answer this question.

The Synod Assembly was held on June 9th through June 10th at the MassMutual Center in Springfield Massachusetts. For Tina, this was her first time attending the Assembly; and for David, it was his first time since the 1990s. It was a wonderful experience to meet Lutherans from all over New England and to share in the enthusiasm and knowledge of the many Ministries that we learned about. In particular, we attended the 4G Generous Generations Giving Generously stewardship and evangelism program as well as the Way to Lead workshop, which is a program to train leaders for successful outreach and great programs to serve Neighbors in their Community of Faith.



We were thrilled to vote for Douglas as Clergy Member-at-large of the New England Synod Council! It took two ballots, but he prevailed. Please join us in congratulating him on this achievement in maintaining a seat for Concordia on the council.

Other matters that were voted on were the compensation guidelines and a resolution declaring the New England Synod Assembly a Sanctuary Synod. Both passed.

Thanks to her diligence, Tina picked up brochures from all the various ELCA ministries represented, and we will compile a packet and make available to everyone. So, more to come.

We would both like to thank you for electing us as your representatives for this year's Assembly. It was a wonderful experience to encounter so many people of the faith and learn about all the amazing things that go on in His name.

Be prepared to hear more on Forward Leadership, 4G, and Way to Lead as we collectively get off our Donkeys and lead the way forward into our community of faith.

Tina Ruggerio and David Smith

Concordian of the Year Thank You

I wanted to thank the Congregation Council for designating me as Concordian of the Year on Name Day. I am truly humbled by this honor especially knowing those who have received this distinction before me. As I mentioned on that day, my parents were and continue to be examples of individuals who truly give of themselves, to God, to church and to community. One short bible verse pretty much sums it up for how I believe my parents and now I live by; *Peter 4:10; Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

God bless,
Carol Stoneman

Multiple Sclerosis Camp Donations

A big "THANK YOU" to everyone that donated summer camp supplies for the MS Camp Hemlocks camp survival bags. Your generosity will undoubtedly enrich the experience for 20 MS campers during their week at Camp Hemlocks.

-Outreach Committee

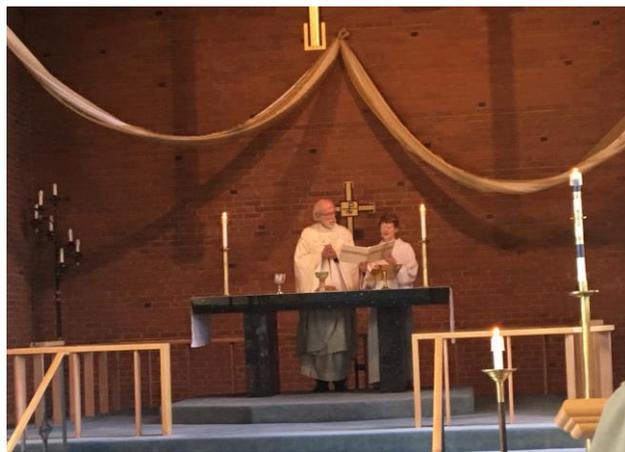


May/June Photos

Pr. Sara Anderson, Bishop's Associate leads worship and presents on Concordia's CAT (Congregational Assessment Tool)



Pr. Barclay attends ELCA worship conference in New Haven. Former Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Mark Hanson, presides at the Eucharist at Bethesda Lutheran.



Ernie Noske's Confirmation Photo



**Concordia hosts the Greater Hartford Clergy Organizing Committee
With Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders.**



Senior Luncheon Cottage Meeting for "This Holy House"



Concordia Host Fr. Henry Smolisky's of St. John the Baptist Polish National Catholic Church's 50th Anniversary of Ordination



Pr. Barclay attends his colleague Rabbi Michael Boino's Rabbinic Ordination at Park Avenue Synagogue in Manhattan.



Luther Movie Night with Emanuel Lutheran at Parkade Cinemas



Farewell for Susan Morris who moved to Texas!



Pentecost Geraniums!



June Semi-Annual Meeting with Thanks to Stephen Perkins for his years as Concordia's Treasurer



The Steeple repair and repaint kicks off our Capital Projects Campaign



Fellowship Luncheon at Georgina's



Cub Scout Spring Clean up at Concordia



Welcome to Baptism Service for Avery Neururer who will be Baptized at a Later Date



Prayers of the Community

Prayer requests may be made to the parish office. The names will be held in prayer for one month, unless otherwise requested. (*Member of Concordia) (*Request by Member of Concordia*) (*New Intention*)

Those who are sick or in any need,

*The Homebound	Lynn	*Ella Hube	Bing Bowen
*Art Hube	*Ron Schack	Rita	Laura McKay Donna
Jennifer	Twylar	Mark Hanson	Ann
Geraldine	Sis	Cathreen Salesses	Sandie
Kristin Ortolani	Chris Erwin	Artie	Sharon Jaworski
Tammy	Irene Donagher	Desmond	Millis Scott
Shirley M.	John Henry	Diane Sanso - Kenney	
Becky	Szczerkowski	Wayne	

Those who have died and those who mourn.

*For the family and friends of **Doris Hattin** who passed away last week*

The Intentions of this Community:

- Concordia Nursery School Students and their families.
- The work of MACC
- For our Cub Scout Pack

- For Pra. Mendez and Ministerio Nueva Creacion
- For Pr. Simpson and the people of New Horizons.
- For Families in Crisis.

Remembering the Homebound

Lynn Knauff

Jane Nekiunas

Lois Warrender

To send a greeting to any of our birthdays or our homebound members, please contact the church office for mailing and/or telephone information.

Happy June & July Birthday!



Ann Copeland	6/2	Jane Casserly	6/18	Ruth Sprong	7/10
Karen Schuster	6/2	Andy Vincens	6/19	Julia Shrider	7/16
Chelsea Wilson	6/10	George Beauregard	6/26	Liana Wilson	7/19
Julie Chiffer	6/11	Doug Keh	7/1	Jane Nekiunas	7/27
Sharon Jaworski	6/13	Thomas Donagher	7/3	Irma Vincens	7/27
Wendy Donagher	6/15	Bert Bowen	7/4	Jim Britton	7/28
Edward Clough	6/16	Elaine Briggmann	7/9	Marian Slater	7/29

Concordia's Calendar:

EVERY SUNDAY

Communion Service – 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study – 9:15 a.m.

Worship 10 a.m.

Counters 10 a.m.

New Horizon Church 12:30 p.m.

New Creation Ministry 1:00 p.m.

EVERY MONDAY

Families in Crisis – 10 a.m.

AA - 5:30 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Clergy Text Study - 11 a.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Champion Youth Cheer – 5:00 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

AA - 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Highlights

Sunday June 25

Celebration of the Reformation

at Emanuel Lutheran, Manchester 9:30 a.m.

(No worship 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

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED