

The Concordia Chimes

December 2017

Dates to Remember

December 5th - Installation of Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson at St. Mary's 7:00 p.m.

Dec 10th- Solidarity Advent Potluck

December 18th - Crocks, Cookies, and Carols – Noon in Brandt Lounge

December 24th

Eucharist for the 4th Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. St Mary's Episcopal

10:00 a.m. Concordia Lutheran

Christmas Eve Services

Concordia Lutheran - 8:00 p.m.

Emanuel Lutheran – 11:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

St Mary's Episcopal - 4:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

St Mary's – 10:00 a.m.

**New Year's Eve Service –
Sunday, December 31st**

Joint Service of
Lessons and Carols with
Holy Communion,
10:00 a.m. @ Emanuel
Lutheran



The Rev. Douglas Barclay

Pastor

pastor@concordiamanchester.org

Office:860.649.5311 Cell:410.225.3360

Kate Bozzo

Parish Administrator

office@concordiamanchester.org

Office:860.649.5311

Laura Hart

Concordia Nursery School Director

Office: 860.649.9349

concordianurseryschool@gmail.com

www.concordianurseryschool.org

The Rev. Joseph E. Bourret

Pastor *Emeritus*

Home: 860.633.6138

Richard Hicks

Minister of Music Emeritus

Bible Study on Sundays 9:00 am

Worship on Sundays at 10:00 am

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 9:00 am –2:00 pm

Concordia Lutheran Church

40 Pitkin Street

Manchester, CT 06040

office@concordiamanchester.org

www.concordiamanchester.org

Phone: 860.649.5311

Fax: 860.432.9972

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 October.

From the Pastor's Desk

December 4, 2017

Dear Concordians,

We are always a bit “off” from the world around us. In keeping Advent, we struggle to maintain an ancient pattern of prayer and preparation that leads up to the celebration of Christmas. The character of Advent doesn't simply prepare us to celebrate the birth of Jesus but to consider and earnestly yearn for the coming of the day of justice and peace that is promised throughout the scriptures.



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We are not alone in this yearning. We join with saints from many times and places as we, once more, enter into these weeks of watching and waiting. We join with Elizabeth and Zechariah, Mary and Joseph, the prophets, especially Isaiah, the great prophet of Advent. We gather with St. Nicholas of Myra and John of Damascus and Ambrose, the great hymn writer. We wait in the dark night of the soul with John of the Cross and we sit around Katharina von Bora Luther's table of expectation as Christmas draws nigh. Those of us advanced in age and often in wisdom overhear Simeon and Anna's cries of fulfillment at the sight of the Christ Child.

The blue of the vestments and altar paraments speak to us of a field of sky bedecked with stars. The advent wreath is gradually illumined to bring increasing light as night falls earlier through diminished light. At Concordia, a beautiful angel hovers in the chancel with trumpet in hand and they cry out in German, “Wachet auf.” This ancient cry reminds us of scriptures encouragement to stay awake and if we have fallen asleep to wake up.

In this edition of the Chimes, take the time to consider how you will “wake up” in this Adventide. It might be through the use of our Advent Devotional, available in Brandt Lounge. It may be by attending one of the Wednesday night evening services that will be offered. It may be in helping John Corl and others on Saturday, December 16th with cutting and setting up the Concordia Christmas Tree. It may be by responding more generously than ever to our Seasonal Sharing campaign or by deciding to increase your weekly giving by 1, 3,5 or even 10% as we prepare to fully fund our ministries at Concordia for the coming year.

However, you allow the angel's herald cry to wake you up, be of good faith and good cheer this seasons. Enter into this time of preparation with an open heart and mind. Don't simply “go through the motions.” Be mindful as you decorate and clean and such. Don't shy away from taking time in silence and contemplation.

As an Advent meditation, I leave you with these words of the hymn by Susan Cherwien, “As the Night Awaits the Dawn.”

As the night awaits the dawn,
so we await your light.
O Star of promise, scatter night,
loving bright, loving bright,
till shades of fear are gone.

As the blue expectant hour
before the silv'ring skies,
we long to see your day arise,
whole and wise, whole and wise,
unto your holy dawn.

As the moon reflects the sun
until the night's decrease,
may we your healing light release,
living peace, living peace,
unto your holy dawn.

Shine your future on this place,
enlighten ev'ry guest,
that through us stream your holiness,
bright and blest, bright and blest;
come dawn, O Sun of grace.

The Wardens, Vestry and Parishioners of
ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
41 Park Street, Manchester, CT 06040
Request your prayers and presence
for the Celebration of New Ministry
and Institution of
THE REVEREND ANN LOVEJOY JOHNSON
as Rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church
ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017
being the Eve of the Feast of Nicholas of Myra
at seven o'clock in the evening
The Right Reverend Laura Ahrens, Presiding
Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut
The Reverend Douglas Barclay, Preaching
Pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church
Handicapped entrance on Church Street
Clergy: Cassock, surplice, white stole
Reception to follow
"God cooks; we share the feast"

NOVEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT

Now that we are approaching the end of the year, I wanted to provide you with a status of Concordia's finances through November.

Some factors going into 2017:

- At the January 2017 Semi-Annual meeting we:
 - passed a budget which included a \$20,610.17 deficit; and
 - approved the MACC and Concordia Nursery School mission support, a total of \$10,600, would be provided through Legacy

Where we are now:

- Through November, we are at 98% of our projected enveloped giving, however only at 14% (\$2,725) of "stretch" giving.
- We have "borrowed" \$4,500 from the Memorial & Tributes savings account for bill payment, payroll and mission support commitment. ***We are required to pay this money back to this account.***
- Legacy and Council approved \$9,300 be withdrawn from Legacy to fulfill our remaining 2017 Synod mission support (\$6,200) and an advance payment of \$3,100 for January and February 2018.
- We have experienced reduced expenses in the area of utilities (gas, electricity) as well as payroll for our Minister of Music position with our current staff support arrangement. However, expenses for Maintenance & Repairs are almost \$2,000 above the budgeted amount for this year.
- Families in Crisis was unable to secure a grant to continue their work after September reducing the amount of projected income from building use.

What we can do to get us through the end of the year:

- Continue to honor the financial commitment you made to Concordia during the 2017 Stewardship campaign. Your pledge is used to develop our budget and we are dependent on receiving those monies for the mission and operation of Concordia. To put this in perspective, even though we all know this, if you did not receive the money you expect each month from your income sources, how would you be able to pay your financial commitments?
- Please prayerfully consider adding a little extra, if you are able, to you December envelopes as well as including your December 31st giving in your December 10th, 17th or 24th envelope.

Thank you to everyone for your continued financial support of Concordia. If you have any questions, please feel free to see me or contact me.

Carol Stoneman, Treasurer
(860) 649-7216

Advent Solidarity Potluck
Sunday, December 10, 2017
11:30 ish
Kaiser Hall

We will be joining with New Horizons and Nueva Creación on Sunday, December 10, for a potluck meal of solidarity with Pr. Simpson and her community of New Horizons. As you have heard, after phone calls were received that threatened violence against the New Horizon's Thanksgiving Dinner, we have been proactive in taking steps to work towards the security and safety of all of our partner ministries at Concordia. Most of all, we are saddened that the calls have created an understandable sense of anxiety and fear throughout our community, especially with the community of New Horizons.

In light of this, we will gather together for an Advent Solidarity Potluck. Please bring a hot or cold dish to share in Kaiser Hall and we will eat together and then prayer together that we may all worship without fear. Before their worship service, we will once again enter the sanctuary and pray together the prayers after the desecration of a church, the traditional ritual after a church has been materially or spiritually desecrated and the church community has been marred by threats and fear of violence.

It is important that, Concordians in particular, make time to come to this luncheon. New Horizons is more than a church community that simply uses our space. They are, most of all, brothers and sisters with us in the one body of Christ, and they have been a part of Concordia's life for decades. Right now, they need our presence and our support.

**Advent Vespers shared jointly with
Emanuel, St Mary's and Concordia**



Wednesday December 6th Emanuel Lutheran Church
6:30 – Soup and Bread
7:30 –Vespers
Wednesday December 13th Concordia Lutheran Church
6:30 – Soup and Bread
7:30 –Vespers
Wednesday December 20th - (Location to be determined)
6:30 – Soup and Bread
7:30 – Vespers



UPDATED INFORMATION

Dear Members and Friends of Concordia Lutheran Church,

As you know, from mid-September through mid-October Concordia had its Capital Campaign to address a number of building and grounds related projects. Pledges were received, and the building and grounds blessed on October 15.

The purpose of this communication is to let you know of the pledges/other revenue to date for the Capital Campaign, “For This Holy House” as follows:

<u>PLEDGES/OTHER REVENUE</u>	<u>Amount</u>
42 Member Pledges	\$308,480
11 Non-Member Pledges/Gifts	\$ 6,775
Balance- For This Holy House Checking Account (formerly Kitchen Fund)	\$ 5,429
Prior Designated Memorials	\$ 6,250
<u>Total as December 4, 2017</u>	<u>\$326,934</u>
Amount of Loan from ELCA Mission Investment Fund	\$375,000

Those who drive or walk by can see new roofs on Kaiser Hall and the Nave as well as a newly repaired and repainted steeple. Work has begun during this past week on the installation of lights to illumine our walkways and parking areas. These are visible signs to the Manchester Community that we are caring for that which has been placed by God into our hands.

After 56 years of use the range/stove in Kehl’s Kitchen has been replaced and a new range hood has been ordered. It is expected that this will be in place in time for Christmas. Brighter lights have been placed in the sanctuary and the choir loft.

The Congregation Council voted at its last meeting to engage the services of a consultant well versed in Heating and Air Conditioning to advise us on the proper route to take. Thanks to Dan Burnett we have received information about a few possibilities but need the expertise of a consultant, so we can make the appropriate decision. This project will take place in the spring.

On behalf of the Congregation Council and the "For This Holy House" Steering Committee, sincere thanks and gratitude for the pledges received to date! We are well on our way! Again "mighty" Concordia has come through!

While the formal campaign is completed, pledges are still being received. If you have not as yet pledged and wish to do so, these are welcome at any time!

In God's Service,



Mark L. Winzler

Christmas Open House - All members and friends of Concordia are invited to an Open House on Christmas Eve following the 8:00 p.m. Eucharist (beginning approximately 9:30 p.m.) at the home of Mark Winzler.

Come and stay for as long (or as "short") as you would like. There will be goodies to eat as well as "cups of Christmas cheer" available.

We have lots to celebrate and be thankful for during 2017! Please come and enjoy the company of your fellow Concordians! **All are welcome!**





Senior Luncheon

Announcing

The event you've been waiting for!!

Our second annual

Crocks, Cookies, and Carols

Monday, December 18, 2017

At noon in Brandt Lounge

The Menu

Comforting chili

Savory sausage and tortellini soup

Yummy corn bread

Delicious Christmas cookies

Please bring your singing voices!

Kindly call the church office at 860-649-5311 by Sunday, the 10th, to reserve your place at the table.

See you there!!



CONCORDIA SEASONAL SHARING

Now that we have Thanksgiving behind us, it's time to start on Christmas. We will be providing food and gifts for 8 families provided to us by MACC, a Christmas dinner and gift cards to Dinda House, gift cards to April Time Residential Home and gifts for families at Highland Park Elementary School.

Starting Sunday, December 3rd, the Concordia Giving Tree will be in the narthex with tags you can take to purchase a gift. Please place your name next the person whose tag you have taken on the sheet provided. **Maximum amount for the gifts is \$25.** Adults will receive gift cards. We have provided interests and sizes for the children on the tags. Highland Park Elementary School has made a specific request for gift cards to a shoe store (there are a couple at the mall) as well as hats and gloves. There are tags for the gift cards on the Giving Tree and a box/basket by the tree has been provided to donate hats and gloves. Sign-ups for food donations (or you can adopt a family) will be in Brandt Lounge on Sundays or in the Church office during the week. As usual, you can also give a monetary donation to Concordia's seasonal sharing efforts. ***FOOD AND WRAPPED GIFTS MUST BE AT CONCORDIA NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14TH.***

Thanking you all in advance for your thoughtfulness and generosity towards feeding and caring for the greater community.

Outreach Committee



Poinsettias for Christmas

Each Christmas we invite members and friends of Concordia to purchase poinsettias for our worship space. Please consider making a gift of flowers to Concordia this Christmas. We are also delighted to report that a brass quartet will provide special music Christmas Eve; gifts may be made to offset that expense as well. Financial gifts to support our ministries are also welcome.

Each poinsettia plant costs \$15. Gifts for musicians and ministries are given at the giver's discretion. Please attach payment with this form, and return to the church office by Sunday, December 17. Thank you.

I/We give _____ *poinsettia(s)* to Concordia this Christmas Eve in memory/in honor of:

I/We give \$_____ to Concordia for *musicians* in honor/in memory of:

I/We give \$_____ to *support Concordia's ministries* in honor/in memory:

Name _____

Phone Number or E-mail _____

Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Day service

Poinsettias that remain will adorn our worship space through the Christmas season.





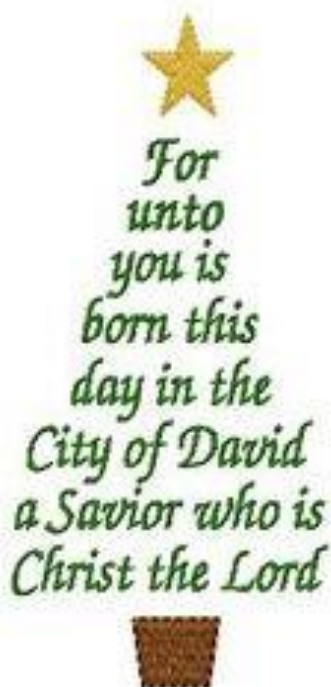
Concordia Nursery School News

We have been very busy this autumn. Pastor Barclay visited both classes to talk about God and how God is with us always, even if we can't see Him. Our four-year-old class hosted our annual Family Feast which was a delicious and wonderful time for all. As we prepare to enter the Advent season, the children will be hearing various retellings of the Christmas story. All of us at Concordia wish you a warm, peaceful and blessed holiday season!





Christmas Services



December 24th

Eucharist for the 4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 a.m. Concordia Lutheran

9:00 a.m. St Mary's Episcopal

Christmas Eve Services

Concordia Lutheran - 8:00 p.m.

Emanuel Lutheran – 11:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

St Mary's Episcopal - 4:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

St Mary's – 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Services - December 31st

Joint Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m., Emanuel Lutheran

**Manchester
Interfaith
Thanksgiving**



Turkey Drop Off for Families at Highland Park School



Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist at St. Mary's



Confirmation





**Baptism of
Hayden Sophia Duhaime**



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)

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Those who are sick or in any need,

*The Homebound	Twylar	Cathreen Salesses	Sandie	Nancy
*Art Hube	Sis	Artie	*Millie Scott	*Jane Nekiunas
Kristin Ortolani	Irene Donagher	Desmond	Alice	Walter Hanson
Tammy	John Henry	*Bing Bowen	*Jim Noyes	*Ernie Scott
Shirley M.	Szczerkowski	*Laura McKay	Judy Guido	Richard Erickson
Lynn	*Ella Hube	Donna	John Scofield.	Lou Khee Zhee
*Ron Schack	Rita	Ann	*Carol Bowen	Andrew Nolette

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 Creación -
- For Pr. Simpson and the people of New Horizons.
- For Families in Crisis.

Concordia's Calendar:

EVERY SUNDAY

- Bible Study 9
- Worship 10
- New Horizon Church 12:30
- Nueva Creación Ministry 1

EVERY MONDAY

AA - 5:30

EVERY TUESDAY

Clergy Text Study - 11

EVERY THURSDAY

Champion Youth Cheer – 5
Choir – 7

EVERY FRIDAY

AA - 7:30 p.m.

December 5th - Installation of Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson at St. Mary's 7:00 p.m.

Dec 6th- Soup and Bread and Vespers, St Mary's – 6:30 p.m.

December 8th - Nueva Creación Woman's Ministry Christmas Gathering – 6:00 p.m.

December 9th Lois Warrender Funeral – 11:00 a.m.
Estonian School Christmas Party- 12:00 p.m.

December 10 – Advent Solidarity Potluck – 11:30 a.m.
Executive Committee – 11:45 a.m.

December 11 – Finance Committee – 5:00 p.m.

December 12 – Congregation Council – 7:00 p.m.

December 13th – Soup and Bread and Vespers Concordia 6:30 p.m.

December 15th – Piano Recital – 7:00 p.m.

December 16th - Piano Recital – 3:00 p.m.

December 18th – Crocks and Carols Senior Lunch – 12:00 p.m.

December 20th - Soup and Bread and Vespers, location TBD – 6:30 p.m.

December 23 – Set up Christmas Tree

December 24th – **Eucharist for the 4th Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. St Mary's Episcopal
10:00 a.m. Concordia Lutheran

Christmas Eve Services

Concordia Lutheran - 8:00 p.m.
Emanuel Lutheran – 11:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m.

St Mary's - 4:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

December 25th Christmas Day
St Mary's – 10:00 a.m.

December 25-January 1 – **Office Close**

December 31st

Joint Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion, 10:00 a.m., Emanuel Lutheran



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
40 Pitkin Street
Manchester, CT 06040

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED