

# The Concordia Chimes

December 2023



Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m.



## **Building Usage/Availability**

Sanctuary/Kaiser Hall/  
Brandt Lounge/Garden Room

Education Wing

Office Conference Room

Contact the office to request use of the building.

**The Rev. Dr. Rolf Hedberg**  
Transitional Pastor  
Office: 860.649.5311

**Jane Geason**  
Parish Administrator  
[office@concordiamanchester.org](mailto:office@concordiamanchester.org)  
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**Laura Hart**  
Concordia Nursery School Director  
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**Richard Hicks**  
*Minister of Music Emeritus*

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**Concordia Lutheran Church**  
40 Pitkin Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

Office Hours  
Tuesday-Thursday  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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*The deadline for submitting articles or items for The Chimes is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month or as communicated.*



Dear Friends in Christ,

On the first Sunday in Advent we not only begin a new church year, we also begin readings in series B which primarily focus on the Gospel of Mark. Series A, which we just completed, focused on Matthew's Gospel. The point is that we now experience a somewhat different approach to the life and words of Jesus.

With these things in mind and in keeping with the appointed readings for the four Sunday in Advent, we are brought along on a journey which leads us to Christmas. ...and each Sunday has its own emphasis.

**Advent I** points us to Christ's future advent and the demands it places on us in waiting, watchfulness, and preparing for Christ's coming.

**Advent II** deals with the question of the delay of the second coming of Jesus, especially so in the second lesson. At the same time, the Gospel sees in John the Baptist the "voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the lord, make his path straight..."

**Advent III** continues with the person of John the Baptist and his testimony of the coming of Christ, not only at Christmas, but also and especially at the end of time. In the meantime, the second lesson encourages faithful living between these two times of Christmas and Jesus as the Christ who will come in glory.

**Advent IV** sees God fulfilling the promise of the Old Testament in God's way and in God's time. Thus the annunciation and the Holy Spirit coming upon the Virgin Mary.

Finally, all this leads us to Christmas, the Word made flesh, God among us – small and vulnerable, in the person of a baby.

This is our journey in Advent and this journey yields the hope of humanity for a better future.

A Blessed Advent & Christmas to you all.

Pastor Rolf Hedberg

## Transition Update

On Sunday, November 12, Licensed Lay Minister Bea Santiago preached at our morning worship. She read the Gospel in Spanish (English was included in the bulletin). We also sang two hymns in Spanish, thanks to the leadership of Lucy Berrios Taveras who instructed us before we sang each hymn.

As we consider “radically redeveloping” and becoming a bilingual church, we felt that we needed to begin to introduce what that might “look like” in terms of worship. Including a few elements of Spanish into the worship was the first step to give Concordia members a “taste” of that.

There is a new supplement to the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (cranberry-colored hymnal in the pews) named “All Creation Sings”. This includes two new settings of the liturgy. One of them is a bilingual liturgy (which is the same as our present liturgy) which has English on one side and Spanish on the other.

It is our plan to use this liturgy on Sunday, January 21 at our 10:00 a.m. worship. We have invited Pastor Cassandra Chavez to preside at this worship. Pr. Chavez, who is bilingual, serves on the Bishop’s Staff as the Multicultural/Latine Specialist for the Synod. Further information will be forthcoming.

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### ***The Three Kings Day Event Saturday, January 6, 2024 Concordia Lutheran Church***

Concordia, in conjunction with Ministerio Nueva Creación and the Manchester Latino Affairs Council, are seeking toys for children ages 0-10 (*wrapped and identified boy or girl and age*) and gift cards for ages 11-18 (*\$20 to Walmart*). Donations need to be delivered to Concordia no later than **Saturday, December 30th**. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with set-up, working at the event and clean-up. Please let Carol Stoneman know if you are willing to volunteer.

***A box for the toys and gift cards will be in the narthex starting, Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.***



## **Highlights of October 2023 Treasurer's Report**

### **Summary**

October revenue was 20% over the monthly budgeted amount resulting in the year-to-date revenue at +1%. Maintenance and Repairs expenses through October are almost double of the 2023 budgeted amount of \$7,000. Year-to-date, all other expenses are on target or below the budgeted amounts through October. Special funds (Legacy & Scholarship) experienced losses in October but year-to-date gains due to significant gains earlier in the year.

### **Report Details**

The below information represents the envelope and stretch giving for the month of October as well as the percentage against the monthly and yearly budget amounts.

Month	Actual Recd. (Envelope & Other Funding (Stretch)	Monthly Budget	Percent Received Against Monthly Budget	Received Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Percent Received Against Year- to-Date Budget
<b>October</b>	\$16,072.89	\$13,377.97	120%	\$136,034.77	\$135,019.92	101%

### **Additional October Revenue**

Open Offering:	\$4,301.00
New Horizons:	\$250.00
Christian Indian Church Offering:	\$100.00
Utilities Assistance:	\$90.00
Snow Removal Assistance:	\$100.00
Memorial Funds:	\$2,785.00
Miscellaneous Gifts:	\$5,300.00
World Hunger Gifts:	<del>-\$120.00</del> (Payment to Synod for previous given gifts)
	<b>\$12,806.00</b>

**TOTAL OCTOBER REVENUES: \$28,878.89**

### **Expenses**

#### **1. Utilities:**

Vendor	OCTOBER 2023	OCTOBER 2022
CNG	\$0.00 (Oct. bill, \$321.30 paid in Sept.)	\$325.61
Eversource/Earthlight	\$640.20 (\$0.00/\$640.20)	\$818.05 (\$75.55/\$742.50)
Cox	\$430.04	\$433.38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,070.24</b>	<b>\$1,577.04</b>



## **Highlights of October 2023 Treasurer's Report**

### **Additional October Expenses:**

Synod Mission Support:	\$1,558.33
Staff Salaries:	\$5,930.44
Fringe Benefits:	\$420.51
Program Expenses:	\$880.00
Program Support Expenses:	\$549.91
Facility Maintenance:	\$4,760.60
Insurance:	\$3,410.25
Special Fund Expenditures:	\$1,715.00
<u>Non-Budget Expenditures:</u>	<u>\$1,570.00</u>
	<b>\$20,795.04</b>

**TOTAL OCTOBER EXPENSES: \$21,865.28**

### **Bank Account as of 10/31/2023 (ACS)**

Beginning Balance:	\$21,054.22
Total Revenue:	\$32,272.90 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)
<u>Total Expenditures:</u>	<u>\$25,082.50</u> (Includes MNC & Tax expenditures)
<b>Current Balance:</b>	<b>\$28,244.62</b>
<b>Monthly Cash Flow:</b>	<b>\$7,190.40 (Revenue less Expenditures)</b>

### **Special Funds (as of October 31st)**

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Previous Month Market Value (July)</b>	<b>Current Market Value</b>	<b>Current Month Gain/Loss (August)</b>	<b>YTD Gain/Loss</b>
<b>Scholarship</b>	\$42,775.92	\$42,089.47	<b>\$686.45</b>	\$1,298.68
<b>Community Cares</b>	\$55,219.33	\$53,895.94	<b>\$1,323.40</b>	\$102.55
<b>Legacy &amp; Memorial</b>	\$786,795.50	\$767,939.01	<b>\$18,856.48</b>	\$45,044.77

### **Memorial & Tributes Savings Account (as of October 31st)**

<b>Previous Month's Balance (September)</b>	<b>Deposit</b>	<b>Withdrawals</b>	<b>Current Month Balance</b>
\$60,479.16	\$2,760.00	\$8,085.00*	\$55,064.16

\* Distribution of designated gifts to Nursery School (transferred directly to the CNS checking account), Member Care distribution, and gift to Pastor (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you. Carol Stoneman, Treasurer

# **Approved Minutes of the Concordia Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting**

**October 8, 2023 Zoom and in person**

**Present:**

Mark Winzler – President  
David Smith – Vice President  
Susan Bourret – Secretary  
Pastor Hedberg  
Jan McGarity  
Ruth Sprong-Heyden  
Tina Ruggerio

**Excused:**

Petey Goodrich  
Carol Stoneman - Treasurer

**Call to Order** – Mark Winzler @ 11:38AM

**Devotions** – Pastor Hedberg

**Approval of Agenda** as amended

**Approval of Minutes of June 8<sup>th</sup> and July 23** Council Meetings

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor met with Bea Santiago L.L.M, (MNC), Ministerio Nueva Creación to discuss joint worship ideas for this fall. Discussion continues.

**President's Report**

Building usage requests have increased and there is a need for Event Managers. An article will be included in the Chimes next month with a description of the job requesting volunteers.

**Treasurer's Report**

The August report was reviewed. Revenue was 61% of the budgeted amount. Special funds were down at the end of August, the year to date continues to show gains.

**Old Business**

1. The Synod Safe Church Policy was received and reviewed by Petey Goodrich and David Smith and distributed to Council for review. A vote regarding adoption will be at the November meeting. Council members are reviewing the document.
2. Another \$750 was received in support of Concordia Nursery School. Laura indicated that \$5300 was needed this year. The money was transferred to the Nursery School account from memorials. Additional funding needed can be included in the 2024 budget.
3. Discussions about Concordia chartering Scout Pack 47/144 and Troop 123 will take place October 12 and 16<sup>th</sup> with the Council executive committee, Sandra Baranowski and Scouting leadership.
4. Wifi extenders are needed, hoping to hear from Al Williams regarding the best way to move forward.
5. A follow-up meeting is being held on October 10<sup>th</sup> with Jill from Highland Park and Latasha Easterling-Turnquest to find outreach opportunities.

**New Business**

1. Stewardship Sunday is November 19th. Plans are being finalized.
2. Membership roll will need review soon, discussion to be held at the next meeting.
3. A motion to allow wine at the October 22 reception celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastor Hedberg's ordination was passed.

**Property**

A written property update was reviewed. We greatly appreciate all the work the team continues to do to keep the building and grounds in good order.

### **Transition Update / Upcoming Events**

Combined worship and meeting with Highland Park School as indicated above.

### **Motion Submitted and Passed by Council**

*To approve wine at the October 22 reception celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastor Hedberg's ordination.*

### **Adjournment**

Adjourned at 12:57 PM.

### **Information**

1. Executive Committee – TBD
2. Congregation Council – November 12, 2023
3. Devotions for upcoming meetings TBD

**Approved:** Agenda, Minutes of September 7th Council Meeting, Officer Reports, 1 motion.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Susan Bourret**

### **Approved Minutes of the Concordia Lutheran Church Special Congregational Council Meeting October 23, 2023 Zoom and in person**

#### **Present:**

Mark Winzler – President  
David Smith – Vice President  
Carol Stoneman - Treasurer  
Susan Bourret – Secretary  
Jan McGarity  
Ruth Sprong-Heyden  
Tina Ruggerio  
Petey Goodrich

#### **Excused:**

Pastor Hedberg

**Call to Order** – Mark Winzler @ 6:05PM

**Devotions** – Mark

### **Agenda: Safe Church Policy and Chartering of BSA Troop 123 and Pack 47**

**Discussion:** The Safe Church policy provided by the NE Synod was reviewed and added to for our needs. The Scout Troop 123, grades 6-12 have fewer than 20 scouts. The Scout Pack 47, grades K-5 have about 40 scouts. Both groups will meet at Concordia one night a week and for special events coordinated with Concordia's Administrator. They both will also need storage space at the church.

### **Motions Submitted, discussed and Unanimously Approved by Council**

1. *To approve Concordia Lutheran Church's updated Safe Church Policy.*
2. *That Concordia Lutheran Church become the chartering organization for BSA Scout Troop 123.*
3. *That Concordia Lutheran Church become the chartering organization for BSA Scout Pack 47.*

### **Adjournment**

Adjourned at 6:39 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Susan Bourret**





**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone that "adopted" families and gave monetary gifts for this year's MACC Joy of Community Sharing. Because of your generosity we were able to provide grocery store gift cards for 36 individuals making their Thanksgiving a little nicer this year. The 10 families were extremely appreciative to receive the gift cards.

Because 6 of our 10 families were adopted by Concordians and we have received such generous monetary donations to Seasonal Sharing we will be providing gift cards for food and gifts for Christmas.

As always, Concordia continues to support MACC during the holidays and throughout the year with assisting to feed and clothe those less fortunate than us in the Manchester community.

God Bless and Thank you!!!

Carol Stoneman

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**HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL**



*Healthy snacks still needed.*

On November 12<sup>th</sup> the second & third verse of the gathering hymn read:

*God invites all the poor and hungry to the banquet of justice and good where the harvest will not be hoarded so that no one will lack for food.*

*May we build such a place among us where all people are equal in love. God has called us to work together and to share everything we have.*

**Thank you** for helping to surpass the goal of 47 food gift cards for families for Thanksgiving. More families were added the week before Thanksgiving and we were able to provide for them also. Donations for all 21 children who needed clothing were received. Do you remember the children's song about having joy in your heart? Picture a little girl bouncing like springs were attached to her sneakers into Jill's office to show off the new outfit she received. Someone not only provided clothing for this child but also JOY!



During the winter months, we will continue to collect waterproof mittens/gloves. Since someone generously handmade over 50 hats which were donated to HPS, we are asking people to donate socks especially in the smaller sizes instead of hats.



A classroom has been cleaned out to use for a storage area for the “pop-up” store. This area still needs to be organized so we ask that donations do not come in till January. More information forthcoming.

**Christmas is coming! We are looking for \$25 gift cards from Target or Walmart for 53 families.** The deadline date for gift cards is December 18<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of church.

With Gratitude,

Ruth Sprong Heyden

Jill, Family Resource Coordinator, and the Principal, Hassan Robinson of Highland Park School.



## We Are Called



*Thus says the Lord, the one who created you, O Israel, who formed you, O Jacob:  
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." -Isaiah 43:1*

We are called!

And we are full of gratitude for the generosity of this congregation! We have experienced a good response in estimates of giving for the upcoming year, thanks in large measure to your faith and generosity.

Thank you to everyone who brought their pledges with them to our Stewardship Sunday service on November 19th and to those who dropped off their pledges since. Your generosity enables us to continue the ministries of Concordia Lutheran Church and keeps open the avenues that lie ahead for us. Worshiping God is so important in our lives and it's what makes Concordia our spiritual home always and its members part of our family.

If you haven't gotten around to sending it in or dropping it off, there's still time! We rely on the pledges received to put together our budget for next year and hope we'll be able to add yours too. This is a generous congregation and it's always a marvel to see how everyone responds in support of the church we love.

We look forward to all that lies ahead, knowing that God will sustain us through it and that we have one another to lean. We look forward to encouraging one another with God's grace in 2024!

Peace to you,

David Smith, Stewardship Committee

## Stewardship Temple Talk delivered Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> by David Smith

Peace to you!

By now you should have received, or will be receiving, a little love letter from me about Stewardship Sunday next week. In this year's stewardship program, We Are Called, we have focused on the gifts each of us brings to this congregation. Two weeks ago Nancy Lynn talked about gifts she's received, and she put together the poster in which many have written notes of who and what they are thankful for at Concordia.

I'm afraid to tell the property committee they're going to have to widen all the doors and windows to fit my big head thru based on the note someone wrote about me. So kind.

Each of us has stories and memories of people, events, and ministries conducted through Concordia that helped make them see the faith of our members and how their grace is revealed in helping others, when need be, even in difficult times, and often more so just because of that.

I personally have been excited to see the gifts of love given and collected for those families in need at Highland Park school. I'm also incredibly pleased that Concordia will be sponsoring Troop 123 of the Boy & Girl Scouts and Cub Scout Pack 47, which means the building will be in use for children and adolescents of these organizations, to find Concordia as a safe place to meet and do activities to earn their merit badges and awards.

I have been encouraged to be an associate member of Ministerio Nueva Creación. Yes, it's true, I go to two church services just about every week. And I like it. I also enjoy the events we do together. I'm hopeful for our futures together and feel the spirit is moving both congregations.

I originally joined the Stewardship Committee in 1992. Little did I know at the time it would be a life sentence! It does have its rewards. We are fortunate to have a congregation of good and faithful givers. Generosity is the hallmark of this congregation. We are not as young as we once were, but we still have potential to do good works here at Concordia and in our surrounding community. The spirit is with us and is moving us.

I know many of you have heard various temple talks like this from me many times before. I want to thank Nancy Lynn for her very excellent one two weeks ago. If you've heard me speak on this subject before - the message has been remarkably consistent over the years.

I give to Concordia because this place is important to me in my life, and I honestly don't know what I'd do if it weren't here. My weeks always go better when I'm here on Sunday. I have also found the more I give, the more I've received to give. When I was young, I used to resent giving, but I learned all the good things this church does, and I'm truly thankful to the members of this church. We Are Called to be here. We Are Called to worship the Lord; We Are Called to help each other and to help those in our community that are less fortunate than ourselves. And we do that. And we do it well.

I ask that you prayerfully consider your giving for the upcoming year and consider increasing the percentage. You may find an additional 1%, 3%, or 5% is not that much more. Giving needs to be a bit of a sacrifice. I found when I increased my giving it forced me to be better with my money, to make decisions and prioritize it so I give to the church first. In doing so, I began to see all the silly ways I was wasting money. I went from being someone who couldn't explain where all the money



had gone - to someone who knew exactly where the money goes. It's a good feeling to be in command of such things.

Please bring your commitment cards with you next week for our Stewardship Sunday service. We are all looking forward to Pastor Rolf's stemwinder of a Stewardship sermon. Rest assured, if you forget to bring it, we'll have some extra here for you to fill out that morning. Or you can drop it off or mail it in if you're unable to attend next week.

I'd also like to encourage you to sign up to give electronically. I do it and enjoy the convenience of it, but I understand that's not for everyone. If you have any questions about it, feel free to talk to me and I'll explain how it works.

As Christians, We Are Called to worship Jesus and share the good news with everyone we can. Your generous giving enables us to worship Jesus, here, in our spiritual home, which we keep very well. I pray the spirit will keep moving us, and our sisters and brethren at Ministerio Nueva Creación, and having us open our doors to others in the community to share in the joy we feel when we worship here.

Thank you!

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**Enough Oil to Play the Long Game by Bea Luciano-Santiago**  
**Sermon based on The Parable of the 10 Virgins, Matthew 25:1-13**  
**Sunday November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Good morning, everyone! First, I would like to say that I'm a little nervous so bear with me. However, I'll make a deal with you. I promise to keep it quick if you promise to keep it loud. Amen! We should all be led by the holy spirit and for some of us that means shouting in praise when the spirit is speaking to us whether it be through music, word, or prayer. I often start my sermons off with prayer because prayer grounds and centers me and allows me to be present in HIS word. Please bow your head and close your eyes. Let us pray.

*Oh, gracious and loving God, I know that our life with all of its demands can be stressful and overwhelming however we come to you today with open hearts that you may awaken us to your presence in our lives. Help us to be open to the many ways in which you keep calling out to us and sustaining us. We ask you to make our hearts and life ready to be of service to you. May the words of my lips and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to you always. In Jesus name. Amen*

I can imagine that if someone who never opened the bible and opens it for the first time and lands on this text today that they might be very confused and full of many questions. I know that when I first read this years ago, I was confused as well even after I studied. It only really became clear to me during our bible study of Revelations where I was able to make sense of it. I know for sure that I wasn't the only one impacted by our Revelations bible study. Can I get an amen from our bible study group.

As I was preparing this sermon, I can't begin to tell you the number of times I prayed for clarity on how to preach on this parable. I went down a rabbit hole of google searches which included sermon writer, working preacher, living Lutheran, ELCA resources, the list goes on and on. During my week

google excursion I did learn a few things like for instance. Did you know that there are Twenty-three books in the New Testament that talk about the return of Jesus? Did you know that the Old Testament has a least 7 mentions of Christ return. And like many of them they put an emphasis on the certainty that Jesus is returning we just will never know the hour or the day. Which sucks for someone like me because I'm a control freak and I always need to know everything about everything about everything. Just ask Lucy.

The fact that I always need to know and control everything led me to ask myself one important question. What would I change if I knew the exact hour and the day Jesus was returning? Well, this was a bad idea because knowing how my brain works, I immediately began to go down another rabbit hole. If I said I had nothing to change did that mean I was prepared and ready and was one of the wise? Or If I admitted that I had so many things I would change, did it mean I was one of the foolish and completely unprepared. Would I be scrambling at the last minute to get ready? Well like Alice in Wonderland I ended up going further down that rabbit hole lost and further away from where I began in starting this sermon let alone finishing it.

So, I did what I usually do in this moment I stopped, took a breath, said my prayers, and went to bed. Next morning, which was actually yesterday, I woke up and as always, I began my day in gratitude and thanked God for the very breath of life he had granted me and the opportunity to be better than the day before. I thanked him for the breath of the holy spirit that guides, leads, and sustains me.

And there it was, my aha moment. I didn't need google or any other website to find the answer that was there all along, although I think it helped a little. I found the answer where all Christ followers find them... in the daily conversations we have with Jesus that help us build our relationship with him. That's the place we go to be prepared. That's the place we go to fill our lamps with oil. In that moment in prayer, it dawned on me that I was the lamp, and the oil was Spirit of the living God, the holy spirit that was gifted to me and lives inside of me through the purest and most abundant love we will ever experience if we choose to.

That's the key phrase here isn't it? If we choose to! See God gave us free will because God did not want slaves or puppets on a string. No, God wanted authentic, genuine relationships based on trust and love. God wants us to choose the relationship with him. He does not want an arrangement, he wants true authentic love from us the same way he continues to give us.

We could all be here every Sunday sitting in the pews doing what we believe is the right thing to do, tithe, donate, volunteer etc. But if it's not authentic and we are just doing it because we think it will get us into the banquet hall then we are no different than the foolish who dressed up, showed up on time with their lamps and waited but were not prepared. They didn't have enough oil because they chose not to. They chose not to build an authentic relationship with Christ. They chose instead to take the wedding at face value. Remember the parable of the king who invited everyone to his son's wedding, no one accepted the invitation, so the king invited all the people good and bad from the streets and they all came to the wedding.

Do you remember the man who was one of the original invitees and what happened to him? He did not have the right wedding clothes on, and he was thrown out of the banquet hall. Yes, he accepted the invitation, yes, he showed up, but he didn't change who he was enough to belong at the wedding. He chose to go to the wedding banquet in his former dusty old clothes. He is the same as the foolish who chose not to have enough oil to play the long game. The true acceptance of a life with Jesus

means that we change, transform and when we do that our lamps will be filled with enough oil, the light of the holy spirit to sustain us through the good, the bad and the ugly times of life.

All we have to do is play the long game like the wise virgins did. We have to first accept the invitation, change our old clothes into new ones, fill our lamps with enough oil through faith, prayer, service, love, and forgiveness. Patiently wait for Jesus' return without allowing the enemy to interfere by giving up, turning back, leaving early and not being prepared remembering God is always on time, it may not be our time, but He is always on time.

So, the past couple of weeks I have felt the oil of my lamp dissipating at an alarming rate.

Overwhelmed by work, life's ups and downs, and everything in between, I found myself to be a bit detached and numb. That was until yesterday, where just like that Jesus sends me a gentle reminder of who I had become by choosing him and having his presence in my life. We had our women's group fall brunch and as wonderful as everything was from beginning to end there was one key moment that renewed my spirit and that was the prayer circle. All of these wonderful diverse group of women hand in hand gathered together in prayer. It filled my lamp with oil. As true as I stand here before I say with all that I am that the holy spirit was present front and center yesterday. And it truly was something to see and experience.

It's really easy to be among the foolish, the world outside and the enemy makes it very easy for us. It's a lot harder to be among the wise. But if we believe and I mean authentically and genuinely believe in our lord and savior and allow him to make the changes necessary for our old selves to die and our new selves to be born and renewed then we too can be like the wise prepared for his return. The oil in our lamps will allow us to love God and serve authentically in the way God wants and needs us to. But we have to choose, and we have to be authentic in our choice. Because it's not going to be easy.

During my google rabbit hole adventure, I found an article about Martin Luther and a sermon about the parable of the 10 virgins he preached in Erfurt on October 21, 1522, in this article the author mentioned an English translation of this sermon was completed in 2013 by Rev. Paul A. Rydecki from Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Las Cruces, New Mexico. I read the sermon and towards the end of the sermon there was the answer to my questions. Here is a quote from that sermon by Martin Luther that I want to leave you with:

*"If God is for us (as I am certain that He is), who will do us harm? Faith is stronger than every foe. No one can extinguish our lamps. Therefore, let each one see to it that he has these two together: the oil, which is true faith and trust in Christ; and the lamps, the vessel, which is the outward service toward your neighbor. The whole Christian life consists in these two things: Believe God. Help your neighbor. The whole Gospel teaches this."*

Be your God Loving Authentic self and your lamps will be filled with enough oil to play the long game. Amen

## MEMBER CARE



Concordia's Member Care met on Tuesday, November 14th with grateful hearts and a mission to deliver Thanksgiving cheer to Andy Vincens, Petey Goodrich and family, Edna Nekiunas, Kathy Noyes and Irene Schack!



Our committee is not all fun and games. If you are in need of shopping, transportation, or support of another kind , please call: Janet Bellino 860-977-1433 🙏❤️

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### *Special Thanks to our Property Committee*

Our Property Committee continues to work hard at keeping Concordia safe and in its best condition! This applies especially to work on the Garden Room and Kaiser Hall stairwell roof and steeple leaks, some items based on the Concordia Nursery School Department of Health Inspection, repairs to the outside doors, exterior entrance stoop repairs and work on the Boiler Room heating pipe insulation. There were several items that needed tending to and, headed by John Corl and Joel Baranowski, the committee, including Phil Stoneman, David Beauregard and Zach Baranowski make sure that all issues are taken care of throughout the year. For all of their continued hard work, we are truly grateful!





## Concordia Nursery School

*Dear Concordia Family,*

*We are so incredibly thankful for the support you have shown to our program this year, both in your encouragement and financial support.*

*This school year began with great uncertainty, and knowing we are funded fully has been a great relief. Thank you so much for the faith you have in us and your support of the important work we do with our families.*

*Many thanks,*

*Laura Hart, Ashley Salerno, and Sarah Tierinni  
Concordia Nursery School*



**Manchester Firefighters visit Concordia Nursery School!**









## Among Women/Entre Mujeres

Over 30 women gathered in Kaiser Hall on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at the Among Women/Entre Mujeres Brunch for food and fellowship. There were vendors for shopping and information on women's financial health, wellness and taking care of yourself mentally and spiritually. Kim Bergstrand, Assoc. to the Bishop for Mission and Dr. Maria Cruz, founder and director of the Manchester Latin Affairs Council were in attendance at the event.









## All Saints in the Worship & Memorial Garden





## UConn Sports Museum Receives Varsity Sweater From Military Hero

The letter sweater of John Winzler '42 (CLAS) is now on display at the J. Robert Donnelly Husky Heritage Sports Museum.



*Attendees of the donation of athletic letter sweater that belonged to former UConn student-athlete John E. Winzler '42 to the Husky Heritage Sports Museum pose for a photo in the museum in the Alumni Center on Sept. 25, 2023. (Sydney Herdle/UConn Photo)*

A former standout UConn student-athlete and an American military hero is now being honored in a special way as the country celebrates Veterans Day this weekend. The letter sweater of John Winzler '42 (CLAS) was recently presented by his family to the [J. Robert Donnelly Husky Heritage Sports Museum](#), located in the Alumni House in Storrs, and is now on display.



Mark Winzler, nephew of former UConn student-athlete John E. Winzler '42, holds a plaque commemorating John's induction to the Manchester (CT) Sports Hall of Fame while standing next to his uncle's athletic letter sweater that he donated to the Husky Heritage Sports Museum in the Alumni Center on Sept. 25, 2023. (Sydney Herdle/UConn Photo)

A native of Manchester, Winzler was a three-sport athlete during his undergraduate years – playing basketball, baseball, and football. He was the basketball captain his senior year and was a two-time All-New England pick.

Following graduation, Winzler joined the Marines and became a first lieutenant with the Fifth Division, 28<sup>th</sup> Marines. That division was involved in the famous flag raising on the island of Iwo Jima. Winzler was wounded at Iwo Jima and, as his family understands it, doctors did not want him to return to battle, but he insisted on returning to his division to lead them. The doctors relented and he did return to duty days later, but was killed in action on March 3, 1945.

Winzler is remembered on the Roll of Honor in the Alumni House for UConn graduates who have died in battle and also at The National Iwo Jima Memorial in New Britain.

His nephew Mark Winzler, also of Manchester, is his last close relative and contacted the school about donating the sweater, which was enthusiastically accepted.

The sweater is in perfect condition and had been kept in a cedar chest for decades.

A ceremony was held in the museum to accept the gift and was attended by Mark Winzler and friends of his family. The Director of UConn's Veterans Affairs and Military Programs Alyssa Keller and outreach coordinator Emily Lugo were in attendance, along with Director of Men's Basketball Administration Paul Wettemann, baseball pitching coach Josh MacDonald, and baseball student-athletes Garrett Coe '24 (BUS), Luke Broadhurst, and Jake Studley, both graduate students.



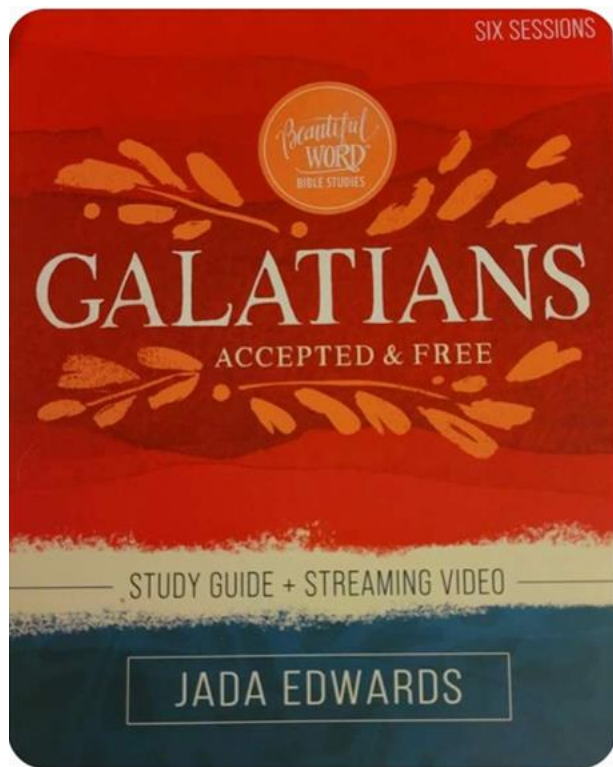
A yearbook photo shows the 1942 UConn men's basketball team, including John E. Winzler (12), whose UConn athletic letter sweater was accepted into the Husky Heritage Sports Museum in the Alumni Center on Sept. 25, 2023. (Sydney Herdle/UConn Photo)



## First Sunday of Advent at Concordia Lutheran Church



## Bible Study



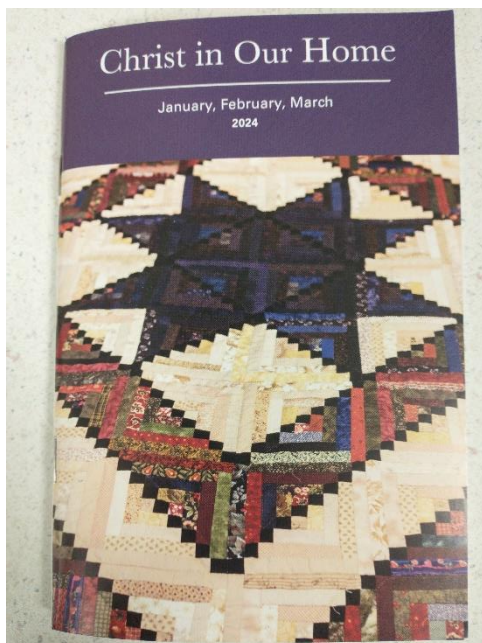
Mark your calendars. The next bible study will begin on Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

Study guide is available for purchase at \$15.00.

*Contact Pastor Bea for more information.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Christ in Our Home



The January, February, March 2024 **Christ in Our Home** booklets are here and are available in the Narthex and the parish office.



**Concordia & Ministerio Nueva Creación**  
**Midweek Advent Worship - Holden Evening Prayer**



**Wednesdays - November 29, December 6, 13, and 207:0, 2023 7p.m.**

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81424888461?pwd=czdwNERQNW94MGk3SVZocIM3emQyUT09>

**Call In:** 1- 646-876-9923

**Meeting ID:** 814 2488 8461

**Passcode:** 399548

Holden Evening Prayer was originally written during the winter of 1986 while the composer, Marty Haugen, was at Holden Village in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington State. With the exception of the lessons and a couple of prayers, the majority of the liturgy is sung. The liturgy lasts about one-half hour.

While it may be used at any time during the church year, it is especially appropriate during Advent because of the Magnificat included in the liturgy. We have used this as our Advent Midweek Worship for the past few years and continue to do so again this year. We are pleased to share this Midweek Advent Worship with members of Ministerio Nueva Creación.

Thanks to John Anderson (pianist), John Corl, Wendy Donagher, Nancy Lynn Knauff and Carol Stoneman (singers) and John Haid (sound/recording engineer) for recording the musical portions of this liturgy (in November, 2020 during the height of the pandemic) for use for our Midweek Advent Services again this year.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Collect items listed below during Advent and donate to MACC after Christmas.*



Approximately once every 7 years the Celebration of the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve fall on Sunday. We will be observing both as follows:

**Sunday, December 24**

**Advent IV - 10:00 a.m. Eucharist**

**Christmas Eve**

**7:45 p.m. Organ and Brass Prelude**

**8:00 p.m. Eucharist**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Christmas Eve Social Gathering**



All are invited to a Social Gathering on Christmas Eve following the 8:00 p.m. Eucharist (beginning approximately 9:30 p.m.) at the home of Mark Winzler. Come and celebrate Christmas together! There will be goodies to eat as well as “cups of Christmas Cheer” to raise.

**If you plan to attend.....e-mail ([markwinz52@aol.com](mailto:markwinz52@aol.com)) or call Mark (860-643-1913) OR call Jane at Church Office (860-649-5311) no later than Wednesday, December 20.**

We have lots to celebrate and be thankful for as we come to the close of 2023.

Please come and enjoy the company!



All are welcome!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sunday, December 31**

**The First Sunday after Christmas - 10:00 a.m.**

**Lessons and Carols (with Eucharist)**

**for the Season of Christmas**

## Christmas Gatherings



**CHRISTMAS GATHERINGS** *Find true JOY this CHRISTMAS!*

**The Lutheran Church of St. Mark**  
 75 Griswold St., Glastonbury  
 860 633-1188  
[www.saintmarkglastonbury.org](http://www.saintmarkglastonbury.org)

Sunday, Dec. 24th 9:00am Advent Lessons and Carols  
 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service

Sunday, Dec. 24th 11:00pm-midnight: Fellowship Event: Welcome Christmas!  
 Carols, candles, cocoa, cookies in the church; fire pit outside to ring in Christmas Day







**St. James' Episcopal Church**  
 2584 Main Street, Glastonbury  
 860 633-8333  
[www.stjamesglastonbury.org](http://www.stjamesglastonbury.org)

Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:15am Advent Lessons & Carols, Readings and music  
 Adult Choir and Guest Singers

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm Christmas Eve with Choir, Harp, Trumpet and Organ

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church**  
 915 Main Street S. Glastonbury  
 860-633-7175  
[www.stlukesglastonbury.church](http://www.stlukesglastonbury.church)

Saturday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00am – 2:00pm Christmas Fair

Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm Christmas Carol Sing

Sunday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm Christmas Pageant at Beacon Woods Stables (combined with St. James')

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

Monday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00am Christmas Day Holy Eucharist





**Emanuel Lutheran Church**  
 60 Church St., Manchester  
 860 643-1193  
[www.emanuelmanchester.org](http://www.emanuelmanchester.org)

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 11:00am Christmas Eve Eucharist with strings and brass  
 4:00pm Christmas Eve Eucharist with guitars and percussion

**Concordia Lutheran Church**  
 40 Pitkin St., Manchester  
 860 649-5311  
[www.concordiamanchester.org](http://www.concordiamanchester.org)

Sunday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00am Advent Eucharist  
 8:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist with choir and brass quintet



# Bishop Election 2024



## Bishop Election Process

December	Election process announced with details of pre-identification process
January	Synod profile released
February 1-29	Pre-identification nominations accepted
March 20	Pre-identified nominee biographies due
April 15	Pre-identified nominee biographies posted on synod website
June 6	Pre-identified nominee biographies removed from website
June 6-8	Synod Assembly with bishop election
July 15	Start date of transition overlap
July 16-20	New bishop attends ELCA Youth Gathering
August 1	Start date for new bishop
September 7	Installation at Trinity, Worcester, MA





## DECEMBER – JANUARY - FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

### DECEMBER

Jan Salvatore	December 1
Randy Olson	December 11
Paul Goodrich	December 14
James Adams	December 15
Kristin Ramondetta	December 19
Max Beauregard	December 22
Jack Beauregard	December 22
Robin Jackson	December 27
Joel Baranowski	December 28
Lois Feder	December 31

### JANUARY

Philip Stoneman	January 6
Eric Slater	January 8
Dana Donagher	January 9
John Corl	January 11
Gianna Cante	January 10
Kathy Smith	January 25

### FEBRUARY

Janet McGarity	February 9
John Ramondetta	February 9
Ryan Adams	February 13
Patricia Nauer	February 15
Robert Copeland Jr.	February 17
Sarah McKay	February 21
Ann Kehl	February 24



## Prayers of the Community



Contact parish office for Prayer requests. Names will be held in prayer for 1 month, unless otherwise requested. (\*Member of Concordia) (*Request by Member*) (*New Intention*)

### Those who are sick or in any need,

\*Katherine Noyes-Parsons, *Kaushik* (David S.), *Yolanda* (Lucy's sister), *John Hitchcock* (Joanne M.), *Aimee Goodrich* (Paul & Petey's daughter), *Elaine Arace* (Hedberg's friend who suffered serious fall), *all those across the country who have suffered loss through gun violence*, *Conrad Theroux*, (friend of Joanne M.), \*Lois Feder, *Yvonne Feder* (*Gail F.*'s sister-in-law), *Marti Barclay* (Ruth S.), \*Robert Feder, *the family of Michael Sheridan* (*Jan & Bill S.*), *Tom Donagher, Sr.* (Wendy D.), *Sandy* (friend of Dave S.), *Max* (Elaine B.), *George Thomson* (friend of Pastor H.), *Rebecca* (Elaine B.), *Mayland Clark* (Mark W.), *Sam Sirois*, *Diane Decarli* (friends of Joanne M.), *Cori Mackey*, \*Irene Schack, *Ralph Sullivan* (Laura Hart's father), \*Carol Burnett, *Lanie Turner*.

For Concordia's ongoing transition process.

### The Intentions of this Community:

- For all affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Concordia Nursery School Students and their families
- The work of MACC
- For our Cub Scout Pack
- For Licensed Lay Minister Beatrice Luciano and Ministerio Nueva Creación
- For Pr. Simpson and the people of New Horizons
- For our friends at Emanuel Lutheran and former members of St. Mary's now merged with St. John's Episcopal Church (Vernon)

Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Rev. Rolf Hedberg, Transition Pastor, Phone: 413-544-4859 (cell) 413-596-8011 (home)

Office Ph: 860-649-5311 Email: [office@concordiamanchester.org](mailto:office@concordiamanchester.org) Web: [www.concordiamanchester.org](http://www.concordiamanchester.org)

Ms. Jane Geason, Office Administrator

Church Office Hours: Tue. - Thurs., 9 AM-3 PM



## 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 17th. Thank you.

I/We give \_\_\_\_\_ *poinsettia(s)* to Concordia this Christmas Eve:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

I/We give \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Concordia for *musicians*:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number or E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Poinsettias may be taken home after the December 24th service.  
Poinsettias that remain will adorn our worship space through the  
Christmas season.*

