The Concordia Chimes

Count Your Blessings

Sunday Worship
“Zoom”
10:00 a.m.

Eucharist in the Worship and Memorial Garden
4:00 p.m.
through November 1st

Building Usage/Availability
Sanctuary and Kaiser Hall
Closed

Brandt Lounge/Garden Room
No more than ten (10) persons following CDC Guidelines

Education Wing
For use by Nursery School Only following guidelines by the Office of Early Childhood of the State of CT

Parish Administrator Office
Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Conference Room: Contact Lucy

October 2020

John J. Marschhausen
Transitional Pastor
Office: 860.649.5311

Luz (Lucy) Berrios-Taveras
Parish Administrator
office@concordiamanchester.org
Office: 860.649.5311

Laura Hart
Concordia Nursery School Director
Office: 860.649.9349
cconcordianurseryschool@gmail.com
www.concordianurseryschool.org

The Rev. Joseph E. Bourret
Pastor Emeritus
Home: 860.633.6138

Richard Hicks
Minister of Music Emeritus

Zoom Worship on Sundays at 10:00 am
Meeting ID: 823 2447 0555
Password: 0000
Call in using this number
+1 646 876 9923 US
Meeting ID: 823 2447 0555
Password: 0000

Office Hours
Monday-Thursday 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.
From the Pastor’s Desk
October 1, 2020

Dear members and friends of Concordia,

As I sit down to write this pastoral letter for the Chimes, I am two-thirds finished with our synod’s new training protocol for transition and interim pastors. Thus, I am unable at the moment to give you a new and full timetable of how Concordia will be moving forward into our transition process. The training is very well done by our synod staff. Obviously, a great deal of thought and work has been given to how best help our congregations and pastors move through a transitional time. The sessions have given me and our synod’s other transition and interim pastors some very helpful new insights, guidelines and suggestions. I do want to give the synod’s staff a chance to finish, however, and then to share things with Concordia’s Transition Team before proceeding with a plan for the upcoming few months.

As I trust many of you are aware, I am into my pastoral visitation schedule for visiting as many of the members of Concordia as possible. This “getting to know you and your place within the Concordia family” is a pastoral “given” for any pastor, so there is no reason to await the completion of the retraining program. My hope is to be able to make five/six visits a week. I started with our Council members and their families, and they have been very cooperative and willing to be flexible in their personal schedules to give me the time I need with each of them. I anticipate finishing up Council visits in early October and then start with the general membership of the congregation. If the cooperation and scheduling flexibility of the Council holds for all of you, then I see no reason I would not have a chance to meet and talk with the vast majority of the Concordia family before the Christmas holidays are upon us.

I look at my weekly schedule, trying to be realistic with my already-existing commitments and obligations, and then block out five or six times per week for visits … normally two or three visits at 1:00 PM on weekday afternoons and two or three visits at 7:00 PM on weekday evenings. I am open to meeting with you in one of three ways: at Concordia, in the Conference Room, with masks and safe-distancing … at your home, again with masks and safe-distancing, provided such a situation is possible and convenient for you (I trust you on this one) … or via a Zoom meeting, if you wish, that I am more than willing to set up with you. If I haven’t already, I will be telephoning you to make an appointment. I will also be sending you a brief outline of the things we’ll be talking about. I have said the visits last about an hour. Both I and Concordia folks enjoy a good conversation … the visits so far have lasted from an hour to a bit over two hours. This is why I leave plenty of time and do not schedule any visits back-to-back. Thanks for your help and cooperation on this!

One last thing for this letter … clearly Concordia’s transition process is going to require as much group and congregational conversation, discussion and deliberation as possible as we try to move together into your future. It is vital that we have as much openness and trust among
ourselves as possible … and the last thing any of us wants is for transitional discussion and decisions to happen within only a limited group of Concordia’s family. This is going to be very challenging during a time of pandemic health restrictions. Please put on your best, most creative “thinking caps” for this one. Share with me and with our Transition Team (the Executive Committee plus Susan Bourret) any ideas you have for how to make sure we accomplish this wide-open conversation. And if you sense in any way that we are not living up to this high expectation, I expect you to call us on it … please let us know! Once COVID is over, this challenge should disappear, but in the meantime, Concordia cannot afford to simply “sit and wait” … so we’ll do our best to move into transition with these restrictions.

Grace and peace in Jesus’ name,

Pastor John J. Marschhausen

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Sunday, November 1, 2020

We will remember in prayer those we love who have died since the November 2019 observance of All Saints Day.

If there is someone who has died since last year's All Saints Day that you would like remembered on November 1st at the Memorial Garden Eucharist, please contact the office by email: office@concordiamanchester.org or by calling 860-649-5311.
Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. – 1 Thessalonians 5:11

In the midst of challenging times, Concordia Lutheran continues to move ahead in hope and promise. We are still the church together. We have found ways to worship online and in-person outside, while adapting to social distancing requirements. We continue to recognize new meaning of togetherness in our community of faith.

And, yet, this is a challenging time. Even while maintaining support for the restrictions that are in place, many are isolated and weary, and perhaps struggling. The ongoing uncertainty and change can make it somewhat difficult to stay grounded. Our church community continues to do the work of caring for one another and encouraging one another through this time.

Paul writes to the Thessalonians: “Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

Encourage One Another is our stewardship theme this year: encouraging and building each other up. We all need the reminder, especially this year, that we are part of a community of support that also reaches out to the world. We are commissioned as Christians to share the good news of Christ, and we continue to do so.

Mark your calendars!
This year as we think about financial stewardship, we invite you and your family to join us on Sunday, November 8, 2020 following the 10:00am worship service for a special ‘virtual’ coffee hour that will be hosted on Zoom where we’ll share in fellowship while drinking coffee and eating snacks. We will discuss the importance of God in our lives and how we’ve been blessed to be members of this community of faith.

On Sunday, November 15, 2020 following the 10:00am worship service we invite you to ‘drop by’ the front of the church to drop off your pledge. You can do so on a drive-thru basis where we’ll receive your pledge and provide you with a blessing, or if you care to visit, we’ll invite you to see the newly renovated Narthex, where we’ll have apples, apple cider, and some goodies for you as well.

We will send reminders to you beforehand on all this.
Wishing you all a happy fall season.

Peace to you,
David Smith, Chair
Stewardship Committee
October 9, 2020

Mark Winzler  
Council President  
Concordia Lutheran Church  
40 Pitkin Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

Dear Mark,

This letter is meant to serve as an official notice of my resignation as Parish Administrator of Concordia Lutheran Church. My last day will be on Thursday, November 12, 2020. This decision has been a difficult one, though I honestly believe that this is what is best for myself and my family.

As you know, my husband Orlando was placed on furlough status in March due to the pandemic. At the end of June, he suffered a stroke, and he was recently informed that effective September 30, he would no longer be an employee of MGM Springfield. The losses that these events caused led me to pursue an opportunity for full-time employment. I was given an offer that I could not refuse.

I would like to thank everyone for all the support given to me and my family over the last few months. Your kindness and generosity are something my family and I will be eternally grateful for and will never forget. It is important to me to leave Concordia in a good place therefore, I will be providing you with a few candidates to consider for the Parish Administrator position. I am hopeful that you will be able to hire a skilled and competent individual to support the pastor, staff, and congregants of Concordia.

As a member of Ministerio Nueva Creación, I am thankful that I will be able to continue attending worship services at Concordia and participate in future events with the Concordia church family. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments that might make this process smoother. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to work at such a wonderful church. You and the entire congregation will always be in my prayers.

Sincerely,

Luz (Lucy) Berrios-Taveras

cc: Susan Bourret, Carol Stoneman
A Note from the Council President

This month I am writing to provide you with an update about a number of items as we live into the time of transition.

CAT Update

• 62 members (out of a possible 75) completed the CAT survey
• Associate to the Bishop, The Rev. Sara J. Anderson, will be providing the interpretation of the results of the CAT for the Congregation Council via Zoom on October 22.
• The amount of information contained in the report can be overwhelming (perhaps you remember this from the last time when Pastor Anderson shared with the congregation 4 years ago). This information will be shared with the congregation-at-large as we go through the transition process led by Pastor Marschhausen.
• THANK YOU for your dedication in completing the CAT surveys! The number of people responding was excellent! You are to be congratulated!

Sunday Outdoors Memorial Garden Eucharist

Using the Sundays beginning on September 6 (Sunday before Labor Day) as a base and including Pastor Marschhausen…..

• 12-17 people attend each week
• 1/3 to 1/2 of those attending also were present at Zoom worship the same day
• 23 different people have come at least once
• 5 of the 23 do not attend Zoom Worship regularly or at all
• Outdoor Eucharists will end on All Saints Sunday, November 1

Building Use Post November 1

• Council will be reviewing at the November 12 Council Meeting
• Will consider the responses on the CAT to those who said they would consider indoor in-person worship
• Will consider how the combination of the virus/flu season combined together impact CT
• Will consider additional guidance/information from Center from Disease Control and the State of Connecticut
• Will consider what other Manchester Churches are doing
• Zoom Worship will continue at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings
Parish Administrator
As noted in the letter from Lucy Berrios-Taveras, sadly she will be leaving Concordia on November 12 due to her need to pursue full time employment with benefits. We have begun the search for a replacement for Lucy and will keep you abreast of the road ahead. We do hope to have someone in place so that there is a seamless transition and which will afford Lucy and the new Parish Administrator to have some time for transition purposes.

Christmas Lights Outdoors
Back in 2016, the large tree in front of the church was decked with white Christmas lights for the first time. By 2019 only one section was still operable as some strands broke, some bulbs filled with water and “critters” nibbled on wires etc. As COVID continues to be among us we want, especially this year, to have a visible “presence” during the upcoming Advent/Christmas Season as people drive by, a group got together to assess what can be done as an alternative to lighting the front tree (as we knew that what took place before was bound to take place again in terms of strands not being operable etc.

The new plan is to light……

• the two bushes on either side of the front sign by the road and….
• the two apple trees on either side of the front portico instead.

Lighting up the two large bushes and the two apple trees will not only be aesthetically pleasing, but also will be a sign for all who go by that Concordia is still here!

I will again be donating the lights in memory of Barbara Baker, who always wanted the front of the church lit for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

We'll put these up around Thanksgiving so that they can be turned on for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Look for them as you drive by!

Mark Winzler
Clergy Appreciation

The following was shared during Zoom Worship on October 18 by Mechelle Olórtegui, Senior Warden of the St. Mary's Vestry and Mark Winzler, President of Concordia's Congregation Council:

Last Sunday, October 11, was designated as “Clergy Appreciation Sunday”. As Pastor Marschhausen was unable to be with us last week, we decided to move that recognition until this morning.

Besides ourselves, all of us know people, whether family, friends, acquaintances, or co-workers who have been deeply impacted by these COVID-times which continue to cause stress and uncertainty.

Parishioners in any church, yes, even in our two parishes, sometimes hold clergy to higher expectations than we hold one another. In light of that, we sometimes we forget that, as fellow children of God, clergy are not immune from the impact of these COVID times….especially as daily they serve God’s Church in new, different and unexpected ways since mid-March.

And so, today, corporately we pause to say a simple, but heartfelt “thanks” to Rector Ann Lovejoy Johnson and Pastor John Marschhausen for serving as our spiritual leaders particularly during these trying, uncertain and stressful times for all of us.

We pray:

Loving God,

Thank you for being our shield and strength. You are a God of compassion and faithfulness. During this challenging time, please protect, nourish, and sustain Rector Ann Lovejoy Johnson and Pastor John Marschhausen and other church leaders through the work of your Holy Spirit. May they find rest and encouragement in your loving care. In Jesus’ holy name.

Amen.
Love in Action by David Smith

Over the next several Chimes, I will be sharing excerpts from a sermon I did on Romans 12:9-21 for Ministerio Nueva Creación, which I delivered in the Bourret Garden Room on August 30th. In it, we will take a journey together, and it starts from Concordia:

What kind of road are you on in your life? We are all in a journey and traveling somewhere through life. For some of us, it is a long and winding road sometimes returning to previous points as it takes us longer to get the proper direction. For others it is a dirt road with lots of fallen trees in the way and other obstacles that hinder us. Still others it is a six-lane highway, and we are going places, so we’re in the fast lane, perhaps missing what’s important along the way. Some are retired and travel in the middle or slower lanes because they will get there when they get there. It is okay. Some have health issues, and maybe need the breakdown lane to recover. Some travel along roads with solid guardrails that prevent them from going over the edge and into the ditch. Others travel on mountainside roads with steep cliffs and no guardrails at all. Drive carefully!

Some of our roads are in good repair, and at night they are well lit. Others are fine during the day but at night they are not lit at all, and it’s easy to go over the center line. This can mean doing things that maybe are not quite right during the darkness but otherwise leading pretty normal lives during the day. You can read into that whatever you like. Some of our roads have potholes, so big and deep that your clutch would be all over the road if you struck it. Others are dark paths through the wilderness as we are struggling thru a crisis. Oh, and in the course of a single day, you may go from a dirt road, to a country road, to a highway and cross all six lanes before reaching your exit. Keep these thoughts in mind as we take a little journey together.

I love today’s lesson from Romans because it is a sermon in and of itself. I could simply read it again aloud and take my seat, and you would have heard a sermon. But I am not going to do that! Today, we are all in a car together and we are going to be traveling down a road.

Stay tuned for November’s Chimes and we’ll pick up the journey with Romans 12:9 “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; clinging to what is good.”
Highlights of the September 2020 Treasurer’s Report

Summary
September envelope giving was 27% below the amount budgeted continuing the monthly downward trend (August was 23% below budget). September’s expenses were 45% below budget primarily due to salaries and benefits (full-time pastor, musicians). The September expense reduction in addition to the remaining PPP money, resulted in a positive cash flow through September. As of note, regardless of the fact that New Horizons and AA are not using our facilities, they still continue to contribute toward building use. Thank you to everyone that continues to send their weekly offering to the church.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Actual Recd. (Envelope &amp; Other Funding) (Stretch)</th>
<th>Percent Received Against Monthly Budget of $14,583.34</th>
<th>Received Year to Date</th>
<th>Year to Date Budget</th>
<th>Percent Received Against Year to Date Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>$10,681.07</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>$130,326.54</td>
<td>$131,250.06</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Revenue (September)
Nursery School Offering $ 600.00
New Horizons Bldg. Use: $ 125.00
AAA Use of Building: $ 50.00
World Hunger Gifts: $ 215.00
TOTAL SEPTEMBER REVENUE: $13,004.41
Expenses
1. Utilities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>September 2020</th>
<th>September 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNG</td>
<td>$304.91</td>
<td>$335.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eversource/Earthlight</td>
<td>Eversource - $75.89</td>
<td>Eversource - $77.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Earthlight - $827.44</td>
<td>Earthlight - $896.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>$903.33</td>
<td>$974.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox</td>
<td>$217.25</td>
<td>$218.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$1,425.49</td>
<td>$1,527.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Additional September Expenses:
   Synod Mission Support: $1,558.33
   Salaries: $4,666.32
   Fringe Benefits: $393.66
   Program Support Expenses: $885.70
   Facility Maintenance: $2,393.98
   Misc. Non-Budget Expenditures: $430.00 (Holy Cow Consulting)

Total Additional Expenses: $10,327.99

TOTAL SEPTEMBER EXPENSES: $11,753.48

Bank Account as of 9/30/2020 (ACS)
Beginning Balance: $12,402.82
Total Revenue: $14,316.25
Total Expenditures: $14,158.68
Current Balance: $12,560.39
Cash Flow: $157.00 (Revenue less Expenditures)

Special Funds (as of September 30th)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>Current Month Gain/Loss</th>
<th>Market Value</th>
<th>YTD Gain/Loss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>($1,340.19)</td>
<td>$45,512.62</td>
<td>$2,534.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Cares</td>
<td>($2,069.61)</td>
<td>$65,400.78</td>
<td>$2,511.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy &amp; Memorial</td>
<td>($24,752.72)</td>
<td>$782,198.81*</td>
<td>$30,043.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes $82,203.81 in stock deposits for For this Holy House

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund (as of Sept. 30th)</th>
<th>Deposits</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorials &amp; Tributes</td>
<td>$145.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$44,464.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For this Holy House</td>
<td>$1,855.00</td>
<td>$2,289.00</td>
<td>$190,969.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please let me know if you have any questions.
Carol Stoneman, Treasurer
Now more than ever, it is important to ease some of the financial barriers that would prevent families in our community from having a joyous holiday season, which many of us take for granted.

Once again, Concordia will be adopting 10 families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas this year and will also be partnering with Highland Park School to assist with the needs of their student families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons.

This year we have many challenges since we are unable to conduct the traditional Concordia way of “seasonal sharing”, therefore we are encouraging you to adopt a family. You and your family can adopt a family, or you can “buddy-up” with someone at Concordia. Adopting a family would mean:

- Contacting your adoptive family (we will provide you with the information) to find out their food preferences for Thanksgiving.
- Arrange a time for delivery – no later than Tuesday, November 24th
- Deliver the food to the adopted family. Food will be left on porch. No entrance to the home for social distancing purposes. If you are unable to deliver, just let us know and we will make arrangements to pick-up and deliver.

If you are interested in adopting a family, please let us know by Friday, November 6th by contacting Carol Stoneman at (860)649-7216 or cconnection@cox.net.

As always, you can make a monetary donation to Seasonal Sharing using the designated envelope in your envelope box. Thank you for your support of this very important ministry of Concordia.

Seasonal Sharing Committee:
Susan Bourret, Carol Burnett, Kay Corl, Jan Salvatore, Carol Stoneman
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 *Laura McKay *Jim Noyes *Kathy Noyes
Parsons (Noyes) *Tessie Kehl Emily Michelle Rebecca
Tori Susan B Bill Audrey Lynn Knauff
Sue Farr Nick Smith Ellie June Smith

The Intentions of this Community:
-For all affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic
-For all essential workers on the front lines ready and willing to serve us all
-Concordia Nursery School Students and their families
-The work of MACC
-For our Cub Scout Pack
-For Lay Pastor Beatrice Luciano and Ministerio Nueva Creación
-For Pr. Simpson and the people of New Horizons.
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