



Concordia's WHY/Purpose Statement

**To be a welcoming and inviting community
empowered by the Word of God;
So that we may work for social justice and
exhibit compassion for all**



Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

The Rev. Dr. Rolf Hedberg
Transitional Pastor
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Margie Gallagher
Parish Administrator
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Office Hours:

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*Closed on **all** Federal Holidays*

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

As I begin to write this article for the Chimes, I am keenly aware that there is a lot going on in the month of November in terms of the church and our “national calendar”.

First, the church: All Saints Sunday, November 3, Stewardship Sunday, November 17, and a congregational meeting after worship— November 24.

Then there is our “national calendar” with November 5th, the day for the election of our President (*please vote!*)—even though it is possible to vote earlier. And of course there is our Day of Thanksgiving, November 28th.

Now, I realize that I cannot comment on all of these events and observances and this for several reasons. In some instances these will be observed at worship; in other instances we don't know as of yet the extent of the meetings and in other instances, we don't know the results, and for better not to comment at all. So, I'm going to take the “easy route” and probably prudent route and go with Thanksgiving.



In June 28, 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant signed into law the *Holiday Act* that made Thanksgiving a yearly appointed Federal Holiday in Washington D.C. On January 6, 1885, an act by Congress made Thanksgiving and other Federal holidays a paid holiday for all federal workers throughout the United States. But there is more. To become really official national holiday in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of “Thanksgiving and



Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.” Lincoln, in same proclamation asked the American people to “*fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation.*”

Now if I hear this correctly, Thanksgiving is a national holiday, was in large part born out of crisis and huge national divisions. I need to tell you that I have never looked upon this holiday in that light. For me, it was always about family getting together, and it in large part still is. But with all the political turmoil and upset maybe we need to reconsider what Lincoln had to say about “*healing the wounds of the*



nation”. Maybe we need to look at what we hold in common and not be so quick to judge or to lift up those things that divide. Furthermore, we must consider the hand of God in all of this stuff. We can't expect that God will wave the Almighty hand and just fix everything. However, I believe that we need to see ourselves as being responsible for the difficulties we find ourselves in at home and abroad and at best pray that God will show us a better way forward. Perhaps it is time for us to look at ourselves and to pray that we as individuals and as a nation apply ourselves to a holy wisdom in which we are on God's side and not insist that God is on our side.



A blessed Thanksgiving to you all!
Pastor Rolf L. (Lincoln!) Hedberg

Transition

There is no Transition Update included in this month's Chimes. However, there will be a Transition Communication containing a good deal of information which will be coming out within the next week.

In the meantime, **reserve Sundays November 24 and December 15** for congregational meetings focused on transition. The 24th is a chance for us to talk etc. and the 15th is with Pastor Maria Hammons.

Steeple and Boiler Projects

Two special congregational meetings were held earlier this year to address steeple and boiler issues. \$45,000 was approved to be taken out of the Legacy Fund for the steeple and \$14,900 for the boiler repairs.

As noted in the charts below, the initial \$45,000 covered both projects AND there was \$16,000+ of that \$45,000 we did **not** need to use.

AMOUNT APPROVED BY THE CONGREGATION FOR STEEPLE REPAIR - \$45,000 (Recd in June from Legacy Fund)				
VENDOR	WORK DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DATE PAID	\$45,000.00
SUNBELT	Lift rental for steeple investigation	\$730.73	3/13/2024	\$44,269.27
Ernest Peterson	Steeple investigation	\$4,782.34	4/8/2024	\$39,486.93
Millstream Construction	Platform build for steeple waterproofing	\$2,000.00	7/19/2024	\$37,486.93
Ernest Peterson	Steeple waterproofing	\$6,302.46	8/23/2024	\$31,184.47
TOTAL STEEPLE WORK		\$13,815.53		

AMOUNT APPROVED BY THE CONGREGATION FOR BOILER VALVE REPLACEMENT - August 4th Special Congregational Meeting: Motion to enter into a contract with Nutmeg Mechanical Services of Manchester in the amount of \$14,900 to replace the three Honeywell Control Valves including asbestos abatement. The funding (if needed), to be taken from the Legacy Fund.				
VENDOR	WORK DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DATE PAID	Balance from \$45,000 (\$31,184.47)
Nutmeg Mechanical Service	Asbestos Abatement	\$6,500.00	9/17/2024	\$24,684.47
Nutmeg Mechanical Service	Boiler Valve Replacement	\$8,400.00	9/24/2024	\$16,284.47
TOTAL BOILER WORK		\$14,900.00		

TOTAL RECEIVED FROM LEGACY FUND	\$45,000.00
Total amount paid for Steeple Repair	\$13,815.53
Total amount paid for Boiler Valve Replacement	\$14,900.00
Balance of Legacy Funds on hand	\$16,284.47



Highlights of the September 2024 Treasurer's Report

Summary

September giving was 21% below the monthly budgeted amount with year-to-date (YTD) giving 8% above the annual budget. Although the monthly giving against monthly budgeted for 6 out of 9 months has been below 100%, due to receiving full year pledges in lump sums either annually or semi-annually, the average monthly giving to date is 6% over the monthly budgeted amount.

An amount totaling \$24,899.19 was transferred from the Memorial & Tributes savings account to cover the cost of the steeple repair (\$23,933.19) and \$966 for the new hearing devices. In June the congregation approved an amount of \$45,000 to be taken from the Legacy & Memorial endowment fund to cover the steeple repair work. When this money was received it was placed in Concordia's savings account. Our annual benevolence to Concordia Nursery School for tuition assistance (\$5,300) was distributed in September.

Report Details

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.

Month	Actual Recd. (Envelope & Other Funding (Stretch)	Monthly Budget	Percent Received Against s Budget	Received Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Percent Received Against Year- to-Date Budget
September	\$10,908.26	\$13,750.00	79%	\$133,788.57	\$123,750.00	108%

Additional September Revenue

Open Offering:	\$31.00
Christian Indian Church Offering:	\$100.00
Non-Operating Income:	\$5,300.00 (CNS scholarship assistance)
Memorial Funds:	\$24,899.19 (Steeple expenses: \$23,933.19/Hearing devices: \$966)
World Hunger:	\$18.00
MACC Gifts:	\$50.00
Total:	\$30,330.19

TOTAL SEPTMBER REVENUES: \$41,238.45

Expenses

1. Utilities:

Vendor	SEPTEMBER 2024	SEPTEMBER 2023
CNG	\$325.13	\$638.10 (Sept & Oct)
Eversource/Earthlight	\$775.50 (\$0.00/\$775.50)	\$778.80 (\$0.00/\$778.80)
Cox	\$430.31	\$433.03
TOTAL	\$1,530.94	\$1,849.93



Highlights of the September 2024 Treasurer's Report

Additional September Expenses:

Synod:	\$1,558.33
Concordia Nursery School:	\$5,300.00 (CNS Scholarship Assistance)
Staff Salaries:	\$5,330.80
Fringe Benefits:	\$378.38
Program Expenses:	\$121.50
Program Support Expenses:	\$1,248.50
Facility Maintenance:	\$18,753.34
TOTAL:	\$32,690.85

TOTAL SEPTEMBER EXPENSES: \$34,221.79

Bank Account as of 9/30/2024 (ACS)

Beginning Balance:	\$2,3434.50
Total Revenue:	\$43,954.36 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)
Total Expenditures:	\$37,761.30 (Includes MNC & Tax expenditures)
Current Balance:	\$29,627.56
Monthly Cash Flow:	\$6,193.06 (Revenue less Expenditures)

Special Funds (as of September 30th)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (August 2024)	Current Market Value	Current Month Gain/Losses & Withdrawals	YTD Gain/Losses & Withdrawals
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$49,141.60	\$49,968.02	\$826.42	\$3,400.35
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$66,279.47	\$67,496.40	\$1,216.93	\$6,714.73
Legacy & Memorial	\$940,548.24	\$957,817.28	\$17,269.04	\$91,766.60
Total Fidelity	\$1,006,827.71	\$1,025,313.68	\$18,485.97*	\$98,481.33

*Note: Includes \$8,800 withdrawn in April for MACC and GHIAA benevolence from Legacy. \$2,000 withdrawn from Scholarship in June. \$46,000 withdrawn from Legacy in June. \$5,300 withdrawn in August (CNS).

Memorial & Tributes Savings Account (as of September 30th)

Previous Month's Balance (August 2024)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$79,866.35	\$27,884.47	\$24,899.19	\$82,851.63

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Thank you. Carol Stoneman, Treasurer

Approved Minutes *from the Secretary*



Approved Minutes of the Concordia Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting

Sunday, September 22, 2024, in person

Present:

Mark Winzler – President
Jan McGarity – Vice President
Carol Stoneman - Treasurer
Susan Bourret – Secretary
Pastor Hedberg
Tina Ruggerio
Ruth Sprong-Heyden
Bobby McKinney
Nancy Lynn Knauff

Excused: Ruthie Lynch

Call to Order – Jan McGarity @ 11:29 AM

Devotions – Pastor Hedberg

Special Order (Transition): Council discussed the meeting with St. Peters and the September 15th meeting with Pastors Sara and Maria including input via email from Ruthie. Pastor Maria will meet with us again on December 15 to give us time to talk with St Peters again and review Merger and Holy Closure details. It was agreed we should meet with the congregation prior to the meeting with Maria.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of the June 9th meeting and also the August 19th meeting to request a building appraisal. Also affirmed the email vote on July 16th to provide funding for Nursery School.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hedberg's summer schedule was one service each month in July and August. He also attended the picnic/pool party and presided at Lois Feder's graveside service.

President's Report

Update on communication with 2 churches expressing an interest in our building
Appraisal draft was received, final will be provided soon
Discussion about preparation for December 15th transition meeting with Pastor Hammons

Treasurer's Report

August treasurer's report was presented and received. Internal audit has begun.

Old Business

Carol Sutcliffe generous bequest has been received and will be used based on her wishes.

New Business

Members of the GHIAA team attended the delegates assembly on September 17th. Attendance at the GHIAA Power Summit on November 21st is the next need for congregation support. A Chimes article will be included in next month's edition.

Property

The Steeple work has been completed
The boiler room work is done
The office wing air conditioning continues to be a problem.

Motion Submitted and Passed by Council

- 1. On July 16th: Motion to financially assist Concordia Nursery School by providing \$4,000 as follows: \$2,000 from the Scholarship Fund and \$2,000 from an undesignated gift from a non-member.**
- 2. On August 19th: Motion to enlist R.F. Hagearty & Assoc, Inc. to do an appraisal of the building and grounds of Concordia for an amount not to exceed \$3,000 to be funded from the Foundation Fund in Memorials and Tributes.**

Adjournment: Adjourned at 1:03PM.

Information:

1. October 6 – Executive Committee
2. October 13th – Council Meeting
3. November 21st – GHIAA Power Summit
4. December 15 – Congregation Meeting with Pastor Maria Hammons

Approved, and passed: Agenda, Minutes of June Council Meeting, 2 motions passed.

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Bourret



Lord, whose Love in Humble Service Lyrics

*Called by worship to your service,
Forth in your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged,
Love in living deeds to show,
Hope and health, good will and comfort,
Council aide, and peace we give,
That your servants, Lord, in freedom
May your mercy know and live.*

Summer break is over! On Thursday Oct.17th, we had our first meeting of the fall season. During the summer, we have tried to stay connected with some of our members with phone calls and occasional visits, but we are back and getting reorganized.

Decorated pumpkins and apple cider was to delivered with a smile and a hug to the following folks:

Edna Nekiunas
Irene Schack
Petey Goodrich

Linda Lange
Andy Vincens
Joanne Murphy

If you or someone you know could use some company or help with doctor visits, groceries, or prepared food, please let one of us know!

Jan Bellino, Jan Salvatore, Ruth Sprong-Heyden, Jane Casserly, Carol Burnett



The following sermon is based on Mark 10:46-52. It was delivered by Lucy Tavares in Spanish and by me in English to Ministerio Nueva Creación on Sunday, October 27th. I hope you enjoy it!

Sermon title: Can You See?

By: David Smith

You can see something by visually spotting it. You can see something by comprehending it. "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

These are the words Bartimaeus, a blind man, and a beggar, began shouting once he learned the procession included Jesus of Nazareth. I wonder, how he heard of Jesus, how did he know? Was he listening to murmuring in the crowds or did he have a spiritual sense Jesus was nearby? I have learned that some people with impairments develop much more sensitive and enhanced feelings and perceptions than others. Could this be the case with Bartimaeus.

"Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Even though he was rebuked by others in the crowd, and told to be quiet, you have to admire Bartimaeus' persistence. When so, he shouted all the more. He knew Jesus was in close proximity and that Jesus had the power to heal him. And so it is for us. But do we realize this? Do we have the same persistence as Bartimaeus, or would we have been silent, or unsure as he walked nearby?

In some ways we are all blind. We are blind when we lack faith, or when our faith gets fainter or is shut-off in reaction to events or situations. We are blind when we're overconfident in ourselves, forgetting that it is God that created all and enables everything good to happen. We are blind when we ignore those who need attention. Such as our neighbors that need assistance. How many do you think that were doing the shushing for Bartimaeus was because he was a beggar. It's no different than those who ignore the homeless in their town.

Jesus heard Bartimaeus' cries and asked for him. He will do likewise for us when we cry out to him for help when we need it. He will answer our prayers, he will send others to

assist you, he will send you to help others without perhaps you even realizing what's going on. But it requires faith. To keep the flame of faith burning in you always, to keep it stoked, so you have it when you need it to be like Bartimaeus to shout out what you need with confidence it will happen for you.

"Rabbi, I want to see."

Simple, clear, to the point. Bartimaeus had faith Jesus would heal him as asked without any hesitation or doubt. To which Jesus replies, "Go, your faith has healed you."

We need to be just as clear in our supplications to Jesus. What do we need? What can he do for you? Maybe you have work to do on

yourself first, and it will come to you just as you're saying it? Maybe you have work to do and don't even realize it. You may be impatient for it, or it may come in an unsuspecting way, not as neatly giftwrapped in a box, or tied up in a bow as you'd like. But it will happen for you one way or another if you ask it. And that's the key because this is where faith comes in. You need that to even think to ask, and you need to be aware enough to realize you need help in the first place. Many people stubbornly go about thinking without ever calling on their faith to show them the way.

I admire Bartimaeus because he could feel the Lord's presence and knew how he could help him and was bold enough to persistently ask. He gained sight through faith. We may not be blind but need to see like him too.





³²Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. – Acts 4:32-33

Our Common Life

When we hear the word “stewardship” in church, we often brace ourselves for fundraising. But really stewardship is about how we hold all the things in our common life together – our common life as a congregation, as a community, as member of the human community, as a part of the global ecosystem. Stewardship – understanding all our gifts as ultimately belonging to God and thinking about how we share those in ways that benefit everyone – is a powerful antidote to the individualism and consumerism that pervades our culture.

The earliest church understood this in powerful ways. The description of the Jesus movement in the years immediately following Jesus’ resurrection (see Acts 4:32-37) highlighted that they held all things in common. For some communities this meant selling personal property and sharing those proceeds for the benefit of all. In part, perhaps, they were following Jesus’ command to some of the wealthy people he encountered to go sell what they have and give to the poor. Certainly some members without means were able to live more abundantly as a result. These models were difficult to sustain – after all there is evidence that early in the life of the church there were all the same divisions and inequities that we still face today. Yet the model of that early church is a powerful reminder that our faith in God makes a powerful claim on the way we share life together with those around us.

This is easily lost in an age of great division and distrust. We are encouraged to buy whatever we want (even if we can’t afford it). We are harmed daily by the many “isms” that diminish the richness of our diverse communities. Our earth is in peril as a result of our failure to steward its resources with care. We exist in a time of an ultra-polarized political climate. For those using this resource in the fall of 2024, individuals and congregations may especially be feeling the tension surrounding the national presidential election. We need all the reminders we can get of the ways God calls us across division to think about the shared life we have together and what that means for the way we live our own lives and share our gifts. What one person does or doesn’t do, what one person shares or withholds has an impact on others.

Mark Your Calendars!

This year’s Stewardship Sunday will be November 17, 2024. Pastor Rolf will be communicating more on this, and you’ll be hearing from the committee in the next few weeks. We are so grateful for the faithful giving of our members to take care of the church we love and support each other and our ministries.

As stewards, we give generously to take care of what God has entrusted to us. Our common life revolves around church as our spiritual home in which as Christians we’re commissioned to further the ministry in and around this community of faith. In our baptism we were made children of God and members of the body of Christ, the church. God’s message of hope and reconciliation strengthens us in our faith and calls us to be servants of Christ and stewards of what God has entrusted to us.

A Story About Love and Hope

This is not a story that takes place at Christmas, but it is about the true inspirations of Christmas; that is, love, hope, and giving at any time of year.

I have been a nurse's aide for 39 years. As you might guess, I have met many different people, and have many stories to tell. I would like to share my favorite one with you.

One morning, my assignment was to help a man whose wife had dementia. They were a couple who had been married for 67 years, and both were well into their 90's. I don't recall their names, so I will refer to the husband as Jim, and his wife, as Ann.

As Ann's memory faded, Jim cared for her as best he could until now. Ann no longer recognized him, and would no longer let him give her personal care. She wasn't "that kind of girl".

When I arrived, Jim greeted me at the door. He was a slight framed man, neatly dressed in a white button-down shirt, now yellowed with age, and a fancy vest that must have been apart of a favorite suite.

I followed him through the kitchen where a large array of medicine bottles nearly covered the small kitchen table. In the living room sat Ann, clothed in a very worn-out night gown. I talked with her for a while and tried to convince her to let me help her bath and change her clothes. Even though I was a female, I was still very much a stranger to her. It almost seemed hopeless, then suddenly, Ann agreed to let me help her.

As I was helping her shower, Jim quickly collected her clothes for the day. He picked out a tattered blouse, a pair of pants with a very stretched out elastic waist, and panties that were also stretched out and with a few [\(toc\)](#)

small holes. They were the best things he could find. Shopping had become very difficult for them.

When Ann was finally dressed, I looked up and saw Jim's face. He was absolutely beaming! You see now, as he happily told me, they could now walk down to the nearby donut shop and their 2:00 donuts. With a big smile he said, "Ann likes the plain crullers, but I like the chocolate covered donuts!"

I was never sent to that couple again, so I don't know what the future held for them. I am sure that their jaunts to the donut shop eventually ended, and their life together continued to change, but that day for that moment in time, life was good, and they were happy. There was joy.

My part in their life was small, but I have spent the rest of my life feeling grateful that I was able to make life just a little bit better for that couple, if only for a while. I will never forget that day. The gift of giving was a gift to myself. You may never know when a person or experience will change your life. *Look for it.*

This isn't about a couple nearing the end of their journey. It is about love and hope. About living each day to the fullest. Love begets hope. Hope gives the strength to surmount life's hills and valleys. It is the stepping stone that will hold you above the rough waters of your life's journey.

This Christmas, give love, inspire hope. Be a Christmas present to someone. Maybe you can be "*the chocolate donut*" in their life, and may someone do the same for you.



Jan Bellamy



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



On All Saints Sunday, November 3 we remember Concordia members as well as relatives, friends and colleagues of Concordia members who have completed their earthly pilgrimage since last year's All Saints Sunday.

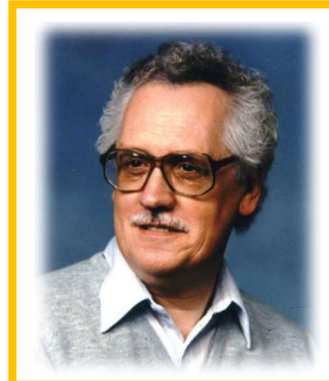
(Those listed have been identified by Concordia and Ministerio Nueva Creación members.)



Thomas Donagher, Sr.



Lois Feder



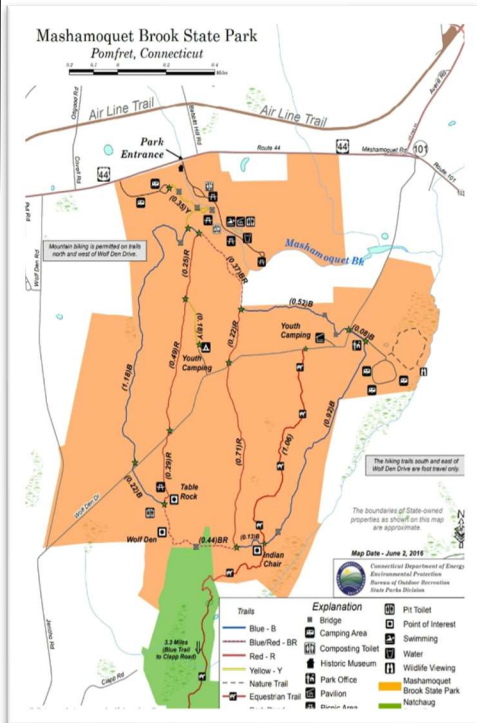
Frank Wilson



Janet White

John Bianchi		John Hitchcock	Rudolph Phillips
Lana Brown		Roy Igershem	Hayden Pratt
James Bruce		Beverly Kinney	Linda Purdy
Eddie Butcher		Michael Kleinschmidt	Michael Rizocki
Ted Chitwood		Lynelle Ann Knauff	Margaret Sabino
Dolores Clark		Pastor Paul Krampitz	Paul Sabino
Mayland Clark		Carlos Luciano	Don Stark
Maria Coulombe		Shirley McElroy	Viola Stenger
Ed DiGiovanni		Dick Miczek	Roy Stratton
Donald Donaughy		Alice Morin	Charlotte Sturgeon
George Estel		Stella Murphy	Conrad Theroux
Kathy Floyd		Ronald Nason	Bill Watson
Craig Hedberg		Monica Packer	Shirley Weeks
Joseph Hetro		Rhonda Parenti	Mrs. Demetra Zariphes
			Dr. Constantine Zariphes, II

Scouts



What a fun-filled weekend of camping! Scouts camped, whittled, cooked over the fire, hiked, played football, flashlight tag, and kick the can, tried to start their own fire, practiced first aid, explored the woods, had fun with friends, and even celebrated a birthday!

Thank you to the leaders and parents who work hard to put together this amazing program for our children!



Fun and Learning at Concordia Nursery School



The Concordia Nursery School child had a special visit from the Manchester Fire Department and Sparky, the fire dog on October 11, 2024 for fire safety week!

The children learned about fire safety and about firefighters. The most exciting part was getting to use the fire hose!



**Permissions have been given for the children photographed.*



POP-UP SHOP NEWS

As this is being written, we are looking forward to the Pop-Up on October 26th. Eleven families from Highland Park School are signed up and 4 families from Bowers are filling in empty shopping time slots.

Thank you **Carol Burnett** for getting permission to work with Bowers from the Principal @ Bowers and Great River Church who is the church partner for Bowers. Krista, Family Resource Coordinator, at Bowers came and toured the Pop-Up and was thrilled to be able to bring the school nurse extra clothing/underwear for children that need a change of clothes while at school. Krista and Jill, FRC @ Highland Park School, are presently working together to sign up families to attend the shop on October 26th.

Warmer clothing and blankets seem to be the theme of this October shop. Thank you **Jeannie Barber** for donating fleece blankets. We appreciate everyone who shows up Tuesday mornings to sort clothing and housewares. Summer has been stored away and we are transitioning into fall/winter. The store's two classrooms are filled with donations from everyone. We don't know who donates *BUT* you continue to be a

blessing to this ministry! You are sharing God's love through your donations of helping people in our community.

Thank you to **Rebekka Almond** who supplied the muscle in delivering the two dressers and two tables to the family in crisis. The Mom and her two children are enjoying setting up their apartment and thankfully it was an easy move. We supplied another Mom, who is sleeping in her car, with a sleeping bag, blanket, hats, socks, gloves & hand warmers.

Bless you **Joanne Murphy**! Even though homebound you keep supplying us with necessary items and this month she gave us 3 wonderful keyboards. Imagine the joy of receiving a free keyboard!

Thanks to MNC who works along aside us sharing this ministry! Whether it is brainstorming ideas or trying to find special need items, it is comforting to know we just have to put out the word! Hungry children

can't concentrate so thank you to those who donated snacks over this past month.

Bob's Furniture store was visited as we heard they give out free furniture!

The store manager requested a written proposal. We will be working on this soon.



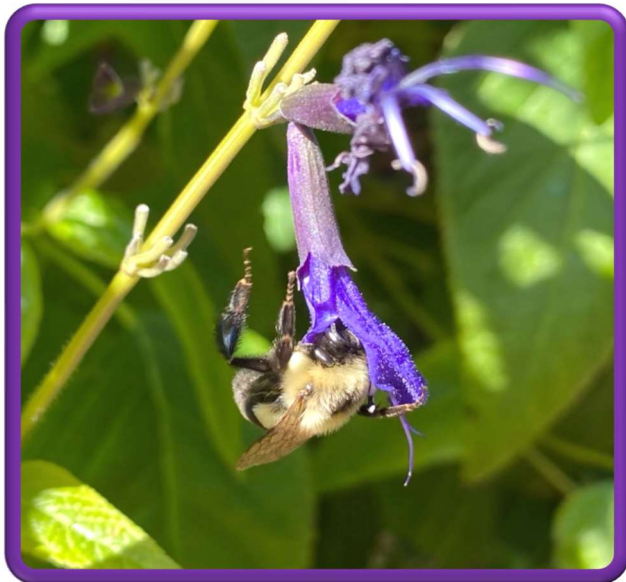
WORSHIP & MEMORIAL GARDEN



We are looking forward to All Saint's Day on November 3rd. The sprinkler system was shut off in early October. The pathway to the garden near the Garden Room has been cleared of all 2' x 2' bluestone, decorative stones & plastic border. It is raked and awaiting dirt and sod. This is scheduled for spring.

Leaves are being blown, and some end of the year trimming & mowing are getting done.

Thank you to everyone who continue to work independently to upkeep this worship space.





HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS SUPPORT



It's that time of year again when Concordia's tradition of helping make the holidays a special time for families facing financial challenges through MACC's Joy of Community Sharing program and our partnership with Highland Park School.

Last year MACC revamped their program by requesting that all adopted families be provided with gift cards for both food and presents. For the food gift cards, MACC is suggesting that a \$17.50 per person monetary figure be used to determine a total family monetary need. Concordia has adopted 8 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas this year. Once we receive the size of each of the families we will make an announcement during our church service.

Highland Park School (HPS) has identified they will have up to 42 families who will need assistance for the holidays. \$25 gift cards per family to Stop & Shop or Shop Rite are being requested for Thanksgiving. For Christmas, \$25 gift cards to Target or Walmart have been requested. Questions regarding HPS should be directed to Ruth Sprong Heyden.

How can you help?

- Sign-up to donate a gift card either for HPS or the MACC families;
- Adopt a MACC family for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas; or
- Use the Seasonal Sharing envelope in your giving envelope box to make a monetary donation.

What will you be required to do if you adopt a MACC family? You will be provided with the family's contact information to reach out to them to find out the grocery store they would like their gift card to and arrange for a delivery date, no later than Friday, November 22nd to allow adequate time for families to utilize the gift cards to purchase their Thanksgiving foods. For Christmas, both food & gift cards (minimum of \$25 per family member) should be delivered no later than Friday, December 13, 2023, to allow families adequate time to shop for gifts and food.

If you would like to adopt a family, please contact Carol Stoneman.

Thank you!!!

Concordia's Outreach Team



I have always had an interest in worship/liturgy and the Church. It was my plan, actually, not to enter the field of education, it was my plan to become a pastor. During my college years my father's health was in a slow decline. During my senior year, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease and it was becoming harder for my mother to care for him alone and so I came back to Manchester and became a teacher instead of attending seminary.

After my dad's death some 5 years later, I thought about going to seminary, but by then had roots in the educational field, finished my master's degree and was working on another post graduate degree. Still my interest in the wider Church was still there. I had attended Synod Assembly on behalf of Concordia a few times and had wanted to serve on the Board of Trustees at Upsala College and so allowed my name to be nominated. It was brought to Synod Assembly, but I "lost" (2 different times) and did not get to serve.

Because of my love for liturgy and the Church (I had taken several religion courses at Upsala), it was suggested that I try to get an appointment to the Synod Worship Team. To my utter shock, I received a communication one day from the Chair of the New England Synod Worship Team inviting me to become a member. This was in the late 1980's. I was thrilled. One of the first things I did was to help coordinate the Synod Assembly Worship which was held in Hartford. It was, outside of Concordia, the first major undertaking for me. It went well....very well, in fact. A couple of years later, the Chair of the Committee (a pastor) was stepping down and recommended that I become the Chair of the Synod Worship Team.

During the time as Chair of the Synod Worship Team, it was suggested that I run for a seat on the Synod Council. I wasn't sure about that and since I was not elected twice to be on the Upsala Board of Trustees, I figured there was not a chance. Well, I was wrong. I began serving on the Synod Council in September of 1994. During the winter of 1996, the then Vice President announced she was not running for another term.

In those days, two people had to be nominated to run for this position. Members of the Council asked me to run. I had barely been on Council for 1 ½ years and there were others on far longer. I ended up agreeing. They nominated another person (not on Council) to serve as the other nominee. In the time leading up to Assembly, it was discovered that the Synod Treasurer had embezzled over \$750,000. When it came to Assembly, because of this, the person running against me never even came to Synod Assembly, the then Bishop (Robert Isaksen) and the Synod Council were not looked upon favorably. I won the election by 12 votes.

I served in the role of Synod Vice President for 20 years from 1996-2016. The Synod Vice President must be a layperson (the Bishop is the President) and is the “second in command” of the Synod and serves as the Chair of the Synod Council and served on the Executive Committee of the Synod. During that time I figure that I attended minimally 200 meetings and served under and with three Bishops (Isaksen, Payne and Hazelwood).


It was my intent not to run in 2012 when Bishop Payne was retiring, but was encouraged not to step aside yet as I had an institutional memory which would benefit the new Bishop. I remember meeting with Bishop Hazelwood in the summer after his election and telling him that “this is my last term”. During my years as Synod Vice President, I attended the ELCA Churchwide Assembly a number of times and experienced the ELCA in action. I was fortunate to twice serve as the Assisting Minister (we use the word “deacon” at Concordia) at an ELCA Eucharist.

As my time was coming to an end, Pr. Lisa Hazelwood (the Bishop’s wife) ran into me at some Synod function and said to me, “Jim is going to find you something to do with Synod once your term has ended.” I smiled and laughed as I did not take her seriously.

A few weeks later (2016), the Bishop approached me and said he wanted to bring me on his staff to work on mobility (reviewing the resumes/paperwork) of pastors from outside the Synod who wishes to become pastors here (background in educational administration). A few months later, he asked me to take over Candidacy (working with seminarians and seminaries (educational field)). I was given the title of Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy and Mobility. A few years into that, I then took over as liaison to churches and pastors in two CT conferences (Eastern CT Rivers and Greater New Haven). The other Associates to the Bishop and I were a “team” in every sense of the word. I have never, in my life, been with a stronger team and will miss being with them!

On November 15, 2024, after approximately 35 years of serving the Synod in these various capacities, my formal association with the New England Synod will end.

I deeply and sincerely love the New England Synod (which is all of the churches and members together)! Serving God through the Synod has brought me great joy and fulfillment. It has been a sincere and true pleasure and honor to do so. Serving the Synod has enriched my life in ways that I cannot articulate on paper. It will be tough to “say goodbye” to something I loved and to which I have devoted almost half of my life.

The “good news” is that I can still continue to serve God and the Church at Concordia, something I have also always loved. Please know that Concordia will continue to have my full and undivided attention and that Concordia is where my heart is! 

With gratitude to have had this opportunity to serve God and the New England Synod!

Mark Winzler



Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA)

Issues UPDATE - Fall 2024

HOW GHIAA SELECTS CAMPAIGNS:

GHIAA selects issues based on the results of house meetings with members to discuss issues and concerns. Those issues are summarized, evaluated for commonality and the most urgent and workable are chosen for research. Research teams investigate the issues and develop a better understanding of what can be done to develop action campaigns.

2024 ISSUES:

Housing Affordability: There is a need for thousands of units of affordable housing in CT. The team is also working on support for legislation to expand Good Cause Eviction Protection in CT.

State Fiscal Policy: CT has a surplus that can't be access for life saving services due to Caps established by the legislature.

Combating Religious & Racial Hate: GHIAA has an ongoing commitment to anti-oppression values. Action will be identified for the new year.

MIRA Polluted Land Remediation: Remediation of the land surrounding the trash-to-energy plant is moving forward but the work is not done. Proposals for use of the land conflict with the original agreement.

NEXT STEPS: GHIAA will contact public officials asking for support for this work. The Power Summit will take the opportunity to show we support this work and get commitment from our legislators to support us.

Questions? Ask David Smith, Nancy Lynn Knauff, Carol Stoneman or Susan Bourret.

Here is a link to a video of last year's power summit:

<https://vimeo.com/836571703>

PLEASE Join us at the POWER SUMMIT on November 21,2024.



Scan Me!

B I R T H D A Y S



NOVEMBER

Kay Corl (3)
 Anna Link (4)
 Kayden Parson (8)
 Nancy Lynn Knauff (12)
 Linda Lange (18)
 Pam Olson (19)
 Edwin Adams (26)



DECEMBER

Jan Salvatore (1)
 Randy Olson (11)
 Paul Goodrich (14)
 James Adams (15)
 Robin Jackson (27)
 Joel Baranowski (28)



JANUARY

Philip Stoneman (6)
 Eric Slater (8)
 Dana Donagher (9)
 John Corl (11)
 Bob Feder (13)
 Kathy Smith (25)



Memorial Donations Received



In Memory of Lynelle Ann Knauff

Gail Feder



Concordia Lutheran Church Calendar



Date of Event	Event	Location	Time
Sunday, November 3, 2024	All Saints Sunday	Concordia Lutheran Church	10:00 a.m.
Sunday, November 10, 2024	Congregational Council Meeting	Concordia Lutheran Church	After Worship
Sunday, November 17, 2024	Stewardship Sunday	Concordia Lutheran Church	TBA
Sunday, November 24, 2024	Congregation Meeting	Kaiser Hall	After Worship
Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, & 18	Holden Evening Prayer	Via Zoom - see flyer!	7:00-7:30 pm
All throughout School Year	Healthy Snacks for Highland Park Elementary School	Concordia Lutheran Church	All Day

Concordia, Emanuel and Ministerio Nueva Creación



Midweek Advent Worship

Holden Evening Prayer



Wednesdays

December 4, 11, and 18

7:00-7:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

The Zoom Link and Dial-In Information will be disseminated after Thanksgiving.

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 are pleased to share this Midweek Advent Worship with members of Emanuel Lutheran and Ministerio Nueva Creación. (**Note: Bible Study will follow at 7:30.**)

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.

Community Upcoming Events



Scan me to Lookup Voting Locations!

Musical Play at Cheney Hall Nov 8th – Nov 24th

Next date: Friday, November 08, 2024 | 07:30 PM to 09:00 PM

SOMETHING ROTTEN

Nov 8th – Nov 24th

Fri & Sat @ 7:30 pm

Sun @ 2:00 pm

Welcome to the Renaissance!

Brothers Nick and Nigel Bottom are desperate to write a hit play but are stuck in the shadow of the rock-star playwright, "The Bard." When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theater involves singing, dancing, and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first MUSICAL! Amidst the scandalous excitement of opening night, the Bottom Brothers realize that reaching the top means being true to thine own self – and all that jazz.

For tickets visit cheneyhall.org or call 860-647-9824.



Date of Event	Event	Place	Time
Tuesday, November 5, 2024	Presidential Election	10 Polling locations, pls scan the QR code in the flyer	6 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Nov. 9th, 10th, 16th, & 17th	16th Annual Emergency of Hunger Food Drive	Local Food Pantry	Scan QR Code!
November 8th - 24th	Musical Play	Cheney Hall	See flyer
Thursday, November 14, 2024	Blood Drive	N. United Methodist Church 300 Parker St.	12:30 pm - 6:30 p.m.

Change Clocks & Batteries Nov. 3

The Manchester Fire Department reminds you on Sunday November 3rd to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and test them monthly. Please replace your smoke alarms every 10 years and carbon monoxide alarms every 7 years. This year the NFPA data shows that the majority of the U.S. home fire deaths continue to occur in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Our goal is to reinforce the critical importance of smoke alarms and what's needed to install, test, and maintain them properly. "Fire is everyone's fight!" The Fire Marshal's Office is offering to income eligible residents of Manchester, smoke/carbon monoxide alarms at no cost; visit the website for more information



Blood Drive Manchester

Next date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 | 12:30 PM to 06:30 PM



For more info and to schedule your appointment, call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit us online to find drives in nearby towns on Red Cross website.

Location:

North United Methodist Church, 300 Parker Street, Manchester



16th Annual Emergency of Hunger Food Drive

Support Your Local Food Pantry!
November 9th, 10th, 16th, & 17th, 2024



Ambulance Service of Manchester and other local fire and police will be collecting food and gift card donations during this food drive to support MACC Charities, HVCC, and South Windsor Food and Fuel Bank, sustaining these food pantries/banks for the winter months. All donations will go to fighting food insecurity in our local community.



16th ANNUAL EMERGENCY OF HUNGER FOOD DRIVE PANTRY NEEDS LIST

Help a neighbor in need this holiday season by purchasing an item from the list below to fight food insecurity in your community. All items will be given to the Community Emergency Food Pantry – MACC Charities.

- Whole Chickens
- Pumpkin & Apple Pie
- Instant Potatoes / Stuffing
- Fried Onions
- Gravy and Cranberry Sauce
- Hot Chocolate
- Coffee (Regular, Decaf or Instant)
- Canned Veggies
- Toiletries and Hygiene Products
- Peanut Butter / Jelly
- Baking Mix (Cake & Brownie)
- Cooking Oil / Butter
- Rice / Rice Mixes
- Beans
- Ketchup / Mayonnaise
- Fresh Fruit and Veggies
- Sugar / Flour
- Pasta / Pasta Sauce
- Ramen Noodles
- Chili / Beef Stew / Canned Pasta



Prayers of the Community



Contact parish office for Prayer requests. Names will be held in prayer for one month, *unless otherwise requested*.

Date Requested	Praying for (person/family)	Prayers for	Requested by:
10/29/2024	Jeanne and Al Williams	As they grieve the passing of Jeanne's mother, Lana Brown	Wendy Donagher
10/27/2024	The family of Dick Miczek	As they grieve the passing of Dick Miczek	Lanie Turner
10/7/2024	Mark & Candace Wilson and Family	As they grieve the passing of Frank, Mark's Father.	Candace Wilson
10/2/2024	Robert Feder	Resilience, comfort, and healing amidst profound health challenge since March 2023.	Gail Feder
9/29/2024	Dan Burnett	Strength, comfort, and healing during this significant health challenge.	Carol Burnett

For Concordia's ongoing transition process.

The Intentions of this Community:

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

Concordia Lutheran Church

Reverend **Rolf Hedberg**, *Transitional Pastor*

Mrs. **Margie Gallagher**, *Parish Administrator*

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