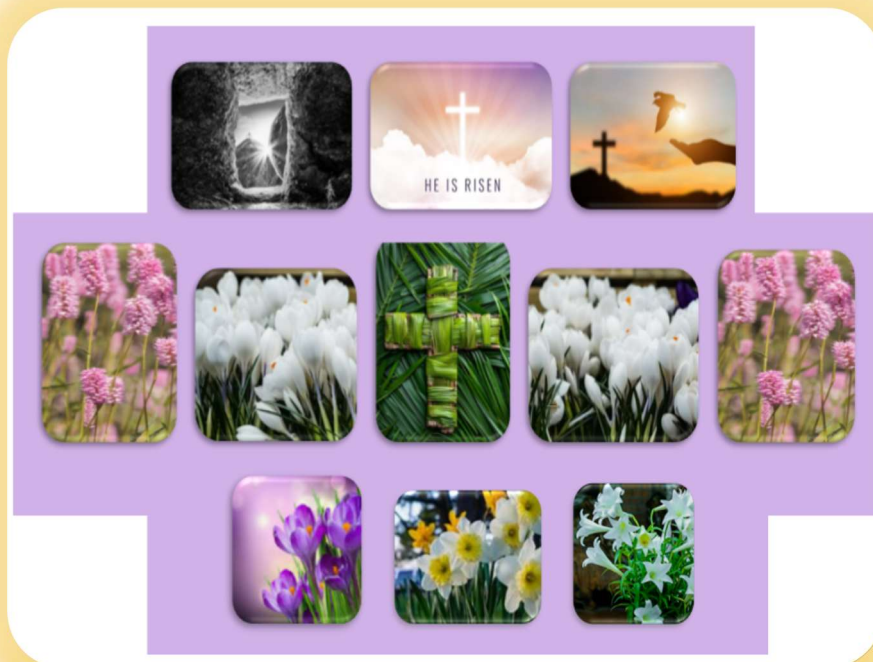


The *Concordia Chimes*

April 2025



Sunday Service | 10:00 A.M.



Concordia Lutheran Church

40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

****closed on all Federal Holidays****

office@concordiamanchester.org

www.concordiamanchester.org

Phone: (860) 649-5311

Fax: (860) 432-9972

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

The Reverend Dr. Rolf Hedberg

Transitional Pastor

☎ (860) 649-5311

Margie Gallagher

Parish Administrator

✉ office@concordiamanchester.org

☎ (860) 649-5311

Ashley Salerno

Concordia Nursery School Director

✉ concordianurseryschool@gmail.com

☎ (860) 649-9349

Richard Hicks

Minister of Music Emeritus

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.

The timing of this “Chimes” article is rather interesting. We are right in the middle of Lent as of this writing, making our way towards the “Great Three Days” in the Christian liturgical calendar—namely Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter. Furthermore, we are rapidly approaching Easter.



So here are some things that we should consider in this holy season of the Christian faith:

First, Lent, which means "spring," is a period of spiritual discipline and introspection. What are the realities of our lives? What makes us tick? What gives meaning and hope to our lives? What gives us direction? I could offer some suggestions, but these questions are best left open-ended for each of us. Remember, Lent means "spring," and just as spring rains yield life from the dormant cold of winter, perhaps we can also use Lent to bring forth new life as we consider these questions. As baptized people of God, we too receive new life in the waters of baptism.

Second, Lent is the passage to Easter. One of the things I hear a lot about these days, especially regarding worship, is that it should be upbeat, exciting, moving, or reflective of personal preferences like the worship space or friendliness. While these preferences are valid, during Lent and the “Three Great Days,” there is something that transcends our feelings and our culture’s focus on constant positivity. Before the “upbeat of Easter,” there is the reality of the cross of Jesus. The stark truth is this: “suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.” Full stop. Even though we know the rest of the story, it is vital to pause here. We know that this isn’t entertaining or easy to process, and we know that Jesus’ path to glory led to the cross. It is serious and cannot be “happy-clappy” all the time.

To that end, consider this hymn: “In the Cross of Christ I Glory,” which begins, “In the cross of Christ I glory, tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.” When all is said and done—not only in our own lives but also in the history of the world—it is the cross that stands strong and without equal. It is the cross, that symbol of execution and defeat, which is transformed into a symbol of life and victory—all through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. His life was work, his death was seemingly tragic, and his resurrection was glorious.

And through it all, he was faithful to God’s designs for Him and for all humanity. But that will become the story of Easter.

In Christ,
Pastor Rolf Hedberg



Palm/Passion Sunday

April 13 - 10:00 a.m.

Liturgy begins in Memorial Garden

Concordia | Emanuel | Ministerio Nueva Creación

Maundy Thursday

April 17

Emanuel 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

April 18

Emanuel 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil

April 19

Concordia 7:00 p.m.

Easter Day - Resurrection of our Lord

April 20

9:45 a.m. Organ/Brass Quintet Prelude

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist



40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, Connecticut 06040

email: office@concordiamanchester.org

telephone: 860-649-5311

A Congregation of the New England Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Siblings in Christ,

On Sunday, March 23 approximately thirty members met with Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria Hammons for members to share their experiences of and questions about area ELCA Lutheran Churches (St. Mark-Glastonbury, Emanuel-Manchester and Trinity-Vernon).

When completed, each member was asked to participate in a straw poll to see if consensus could be achieved in order to begin conversations regarding a possible merger. Each member could select one, two or three of the churches or none at all. Results of that poll: **Emanuel-16, St. Mark-14, Trinity-8 and None- 5.**

As was shared with us previously: In a merger the congregation has to guarantee at least half of its membership will attend a particular church and also bring with them at least half of its assets. Two members of Concordia would be granted seats on the Congregation Council for the first year.

A second poll was then taken. Each member could write down a) the name of either Emanuel or St. Mark (Trinity, having the lowest interest was eliminated), b) no preference (either church was acceptable) or c) neither. The results of the second poll were **Emanuel-8, St. Mark-7, Either Acceptable-5 and Neither- 7**

What the second poll therefore underscored was there was **not** a consensus among members as interest in the two remaining churches was split down the middle by those attending (with the exception of those who indicated "neither").

When asked how many of those who chose Emanuel would be willing to go to St. Mark – **6 out of 8 said they would not attend St. Mark**. When those who chose St. Mark were asked if they would be willing to go to Emanuel – **5 out of 7 said they would not attend Emanuel**. This further confirmed that the congregation could not arrive at consensus.

As there had been some continued interest on the part of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in South Windsor in a possible partnership (though we had taken that "off the table"), suggestion was made to visit their worship and to meet with them to gather more information. Once again, when asked whether or not there was interest in pursuing this, there was a "split down the middle".

As a result of this, Pastor Maria stated given the results of the polls showing no consensus, the option of "Holy Closure" should be prayerfully considered by the congregation.

The main differences are that a) there is no required amount of money that must be brought to a church and b) members would not automatically have membership on the Congregational Council. Members decide where they want to go for their new church home. In light of the consideration of Holy Closure, there will be a.....

Special Congregational Meeting
Constitutionally-Called/Formal
Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 11:30 a.m., in Kaiser Hall

We will consider and vote on a motion to enter into the Holy Closure Process. A simple majority vote is needed to pass. You must be present in-person in order to vote. Absentee ballots are not allowable.

As it has been some time since we have talked about Holy Closure, the following documents were sent to you via U.S. Mail for your review:

- **Sample Holy Closure Process**
- **The Synod Council Holy Closure Covenant**

These give you an overview of the “work ahead”. Should we decide to pursue this, more and complete information will be forthcoming.

On behalf of the Congregation Council and Transition Team, we want to thank you for your involvement in this process which had its roots 4 years ago. We also want to acknowledge that you, like us, are feeling a range of emotions and those are understandable.

A reminder that in order to vote at this meeting on April 27, you must have made a record of contribution (at some point in 2024 or at any point during 2025) and communed during that same period of time.

Your attendance at this very important meeting is encouraged!

Peace,

Mark Winzler

Review of Letter/Documents:
HOLY CLOSURE
Sunday, April 6
11:30 a.m.
Kaiser Hall

We are offering a time on **Sunday, April 6** for members to meet (on our own) to talk and to gather any questions about the Holy Closure Process which will be shared with Pastor Maria Hammons. Please bring the letter and Holy Closure documents (mailed to you) with you for reference.

This gathering will be of help as we prepare to consider entering the Holy Closure process at a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, April 27 with Pastor Maria.

Concordia Lutheran Church Safety and Security Protocol

Safety procedures are vital to the overall operation of ministry. Much like the framework of our faith, which centers on the Word of God, procedures serve to provide clear direction and to improve our effectiveness. Without them, we open ourselves up to greater liability and to operate less efficiently and safely.

In light of this, effective March 1, 2020

- All church doors will be secured (locked) at 10:00 a.m. The main sanctuary door will be secured (locked) 15 minutes after the start of the service or event.
- In the case of worship in the sanctuary, an usher will be at the front door (narthex) to assist anyone arriving after this time.
- In the case of an event, an event manager will be at the main door leading to the event to provide this assistance.

It is the responsibility of the individual(s) responsible for the use of the facility.....

- To inform attendees that doors will be secured (locked) 15 minutes after the start of the event.
- To provide all attendees a cell phone number to contact in the event access is required after the building is secured.

If you have questions, please contact one of the following:

The Event Manager

Mark Winzler (Landline-860 643-1913 Cell-860-690-8651)

Carol Stoneman (Landline-860 649-7215 Cell- 860-559-2208)

Note: This Safety and Security Protocol was enacted by the Congregation Council. Admittedly, since returning from the pandemic, this has not always been followed uniformly, but we are doing so again effective a few weeks ago and wanted you to be aware.



Highlights of the February 2025 Treasurer's Report

Summary

Envelope and other funding was 58% of the monthly budget. This was due to church being canceled on February 2nd due to snow and the 16th and 23rd to visit other churches. Our year to date is 50% over the year-to-date budget due to full and have year pledges being paid in January. The "other funding" amount includes \$1,469 from Thrivent Choice designations to Concordia.

Report Details

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

Additional February Operating Revenue

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
February	\$7,751.27	\$13,416.67	58%	\$40,257.78	\$26,833.34	150%

Open Offering:	\$30.00
Church Service:	\$30.00
Christian Indian Building Use:	\$100.00
Miscellaneous Gifts:	\$10.00
Miscellaneous Income:	\$28.00
Utilities Assistance:	\$210.00
Snow Removal Assistance:	\$170.00
Miscellaneous Income Non-Budgeted:	\$196.00 (Fastnacht)
Total:	\$774.00

TOTAL FEBRUARY OPERATING REVENUES: \$8,525.27

February Non-Operating Revenue

World Hunger Gifts:	\$51.00
Total:	\$51.00

Expenses

1. Utilities:

Vendor	FEBRUARY 2025	FEBRUARY 2024
CNG	\$3,254.08 (Includes Feb & March)	\$2,692.53 (Includes Feb & March)
Eversource/Earthlight	\$350.90 (\$0.00/\$350.90)	\$279.28 (\$77.98/\$201.30)
Cox	\$468.99	\$868.17 (Includes Feb & March)
Sewer & Water	\$132.86	\$112.88
TOTAL	\$4,206.83	\$3,952.86



Highlights of the February 2025 Treasurer's Report

Additional February Expenses:

Staff Salaries:	\$5,274.00
Fringe Benefits:	\$318.88
Program Expenses:	\$300.00
Program Support Expenses:	\$1,654.47
Facility Maintenance:	\$7,627.42 (\$5,895.00 – snow removal)

Miscellaneous – Non-Budgeted: \$78.76 (Fastnacht expenses)

TOTAL: \$15,253.53

TOTAL FEBRUARY EXPENSES: \$19,430.36

Bank Account as of 2/28/2025 (ACS)

Beginning Balance:	\$41,955.36
Total Revenue:	\$9,533.60 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)
Total Expenditures:	\$21,701.81 (Includes MNC & Tax expenditures)
Current Balance:	\$29,787.15
Monthly Cash Flow:	-\$12,168.21 (Revenue less Expenditures)

Special Funds (as of February 28, 2025)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (Jan. 2025)	Current Market Value	Current Month Gain/Loss	YTD Gain/Loss
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$49,518.94			
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$70,211.24	\$69,478.35	-\$732.89	\$1,395.36
Legacy for Ministry	\$996,342.66	\$985,942.39	-\$10,400.27	\$19,801.03
Total Fidelity	\$1,066,553.90	\$1,055,420.74	-\$11,133.16	\$21,196.39

Memorial & Tributes Savings Account (as of February 28, 2025)

Previous Month's Balance (Jan. 2025)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$85,886.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85,886.72

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

Sunday, January 12, 2025, in person

Present:

Mark Winzler – President
Jan McGarity – Vice President
Carol Stoneman - Treasurer
Susan Bourret – Secretary
Pastor Hedberg
Tina Ruggerio
Ruthie Lynch
Nancy Lynn Knauff

Excused:

Ruth Sprong-Heyden
Bobby McKinney

Visitor:

Rebekka Almond

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 11:28 AM

Devotions – Ruthie Lynch

Special Order The transition team and council continue discussion of Concordia's future.

We talked with Ashley Salerno Concordia's Nursery School director, about the future of the Nursery School program. The parents of children attending the session need to know soon if they need to find an alternative for the 2025-2026 year as most program applications are due in February. They will need significant financial support for the 2025-2026 session if they continue for one more year.

The January 19th meeting with Pastor Maria Hammons was discussed. A letter was distributed on this Sunday (1/12) outlining items being covered: our financial situation, the status of the 3 local Lutheran churches, questions and answers, next steps.

Approval of Agenda as written.

Approval of Minutes of the December 8th meeting as written.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hedberg continues to support us during our transition with Sunday Services, office hours, hospital visits, conversations and contacts with parishioners.

President's Report

Transition work continues with transition team discussion and communication with the congregation.

Treasurer's Report

The December treasurer's report was distributed, reviewed and received.

Old Business

The Financial status and 2025 Pledge update, also included in the letter to the congregation was reviewed.

The 2025 recommended budget was reviewed and a motion was passed to present it to the congregation at the February 9th congregational meeting.

Seasonal Sharing update: Thirty-nine gift cards were giving to Highland Park School families, and eight MACC families were adopted and supported this Thanksgiving and Christmas.

A motion was passed to send letters to Concordia members who do not currently meet eligibility requirements for voting so that people will have time to either commune or make a contribution of record prior to any official vote on our future.

New Business

February executive and council meeting dates will change.

Two Motions were Submitted / Passed by Council this meeting

- 1. A motion to present the 2025 recommended budget to the congregation at the February 9, 2025 semi-annual congregational meeting.*
- 2. Motion to send letters to those Concordia members who have not made a record of contribution and / or have not communed since January 1, 2024, informing them they cannot vote in any constitutionally called meeting of the congregation, effective immediately.*

Adjournment: Adjourned at 1:24 P.M.

Information:

- January 19 – Congregation Meeting with Maria Hammons
- February 4 – Executive Committee
- February 2 – Scout Sunday
- February 9 – Semi-Annual Meeting
- February 10 – Council Meeting, zoom at 7:00pm
- March 5 – Ash Wednesday
- March 9 - Congregation Meeting with Maria Hammons

Approved, and passed: Agenda as written, minutes of December Council meeting, and two motions passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Bourret

MEMBER CARE



Thank You Note to *Concordia Lutheran Church* from *Jan Salvatore*:

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Thank you

Date: 2025-03-20 10:03 am

From: Janice Salvatore <bkf13@aol.com>

To: Concordia Lutheran Church Office <Office@concordiamanchester.org>

Dear friends

Thank you, thank you, thank you for all the prayers, love, and support for me during this difficult and trying time. I am overwhelmed by your kindness- cards, emails, calls, and, of course, my beautiful prayer shawl which keeps me warm and comfy through my treatments. I feel so loved and blessed to have all of you in my life and I thank God every day. God's blessings to each and every one of you.

Peace and love,
Jan Salvatore

Thank you note to Concordia Lutheran Church from Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:



The card features a collage of three images at the top: a group of diverse people standing together, a person in a red and white patterned garment with arms raised, and a person sitting outdoors in a natural setting. The text is centered and reads:

**MISSION SUPPORT
2024**

THANK YOU

To the members of
Concordia Lutheran Church
Manchester, Connecticut
from the
New England Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
In grateful appreciation for giving
\$18,700.00
for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and
churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.


Synod Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America


Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The following is an excerpt from a sermon based on Luke 13:1-9 that I wrote for the Ministerio Nueva Creación worship service on Sunday, March 23rd. I hope you enjoy it.

Sermon title: Repentance and Second Chances

By: David Smith

Today's gospel message is about repentance and second chances. We need both. Repent is not a word you hear much in everyday conversations, and often it's meaning is watered down to simply saying "I'm sorry." But it goes much farther than that. The repentance that Jesus is talking about is not only being sorry or contrite towards one's own wrongdoing and sins but also doing the important work of reorientating yourself to a new way of thinking and living your life in order to abandon what's wrong and to eschew further wrongdoing: to adhere to what's good and not go astray.

We are all human. We all make mistakes, but I'm not talking about simple mistakes, like turning left when you should have turned right while driving, or buying a half-gallon of milk at the store when you should have gotten a whole gallon. Or, heaven forbid, coming back with vanilla ice cream when everyone at home is expecting chocolate! You may end up saying sorry for each of those things, but repentance is about bona fide wrongdoing and sins. The kinds of things that bring trouble all their own in terms of penalties, lost opportunities, lack of trust, betrayals, loss of faith, loss of integrity, you name it. The kinds of things you'd not want to confess to others. These are the things where repentance is necessary.

No one is expected to lead the perfect life. This doesn't permit flagrant sinning, nor does it protect us from getting caught up in things we later regret, but God sees us with his eyes, with his heart, and his compassion, and will often meet us more than half-way and help us redeem ourselves. He sometimes puts others in our path that help show the way leading to confession, contrition, and then working on recompense. Saying sorry can be a big part of that but you must take it to heart to not repeat past mistakes and do what you can to make things right. It can be hard.

We are lucky to have a loving, caring, and forgiving God. A God that gives second and sometimes three or more chances. A God that sees our hesitancy, our frailties, our strengths, and our talents. He knows our deepest secrets and biggest fears. It is through prayer we can rise above and overcome the things that hold us back. Through baptism we are marked with the cross of Christ forever. Through the waters of baptism we are given a chance at rebirth each and every day. Like the gardener sparing the fig tree for one more year and providing nourishment, we have that opportunity every single day. To not be chucked aside for lack of growth. The growth needed in our faith, spirit, character, and how we live our lives is what's needed to blossom like a fig tree bearing fruit. This is what Jesus means in the parable and what God's waiting to see too.

It is through God's grace we are able to redeem ourselves even in the worst of circumstances. It is through God's divine interventions that there are others that can save us. It is through the love of Jesus that we always have a friend and are never completely alone. It is through church we gain a family and where we learn about the word of God, the commandments, and wisdom from those who made mistakes and found God's love, forgiveness, and redemption. It may take an entire lifetime or only a few moments for the spirit to catch you. Your repentance and second chances are here!

Amen.



Concordia Nursery School



The month of March is all about literacy! We have enjoyed reading many stories from classic children's authors like Lois Ehlert, Ezra Jack Keats, Jan Thomas and Mo Willems. We have been busy creating art inspired by the illustrations in these stories.

Our dramatic play area has transformed into a construction site with a variety of blocks, a planning area and tools to use. The children have been working cooperatively to build cars and airplanes!




Our PK 4 learners have been exploring STEM concepts and keeping with the construction theme, worked together to build bridges.



CONCORDIA POP-UP SHOP

We are in desperate need of children's Spring clothing. Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness!

Worship & Memorial Garden

Save the Date! 
Saturday, May 3rd



Garden Mulch Day



Join the *Boy Scouts* and *Garden Board* at
9:00 am in the garden to spread mulch.

Please bring:

W h e e l b a r r o w s
M u l c h F o r k s
R a k e s

APRIL

Carol Bowen (7)
Janis Barber (8)
Julie Cosmini (8)
Susan Bourret (15)
Tommy Donagher (20)
Jeanine Barber (28)
Sean Stoneman (28)
Mark Winzler (29)

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MAY

Heather Adams (2)
Kathy Noyes (3)
Zachary Baranowski (4)
David Smith (14)
Karin Turek (16)
EJ Chiffer (17)
David Beauregard (18)
Mark Wilson (18)
Donald Briggmann (20)

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JUNE

Karen Schauster (2)
Julie Chiffer (4)
John Jaworski (5)
Chelsea Wilson (10)
Sharon Jaworski (13)
Wendy Donagher (15)
Jane Casserly (18)
Lois Hedberg (24)



**Social Gathering
After Easter Vigil
Saturday, April 19**

All are invited to a *Social Gathering* **following the 7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil.**
The Social will begin at approximately 9:00 p.m. at the home of Mark Winzler.

Come and celebrate Easter together!
There will be food and beverages!

Please come to share in this opportunity to be in fellowship with one another.



A l l A r e W e l c o m e !

Memorial Donations Received



In Memory of Edward Clough
Elizabeth Grala

Pre-Easter Cleaning



Once again this year, in preparation for Easter Sunday, we are asking for your help in cleaning the **sanctuary, narthex and chancel (altar area)** on:

Friday, April 18
10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.

Come anytime during that time period!

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Cleaning pews (in sanctuary/chancel/choir loft)
- Cleaning choir loft
- Cleaning window sills
- Cleaning all wooden areas in chancel: pulpit/altar/kneelers/paneling
- Cleaning flower stands/tables
- Washing white marble behind the high altar
- Washing high altar/altar rail/side shelf
- Polishing communion vessels
- Polishing the brass candlesticks/torches by pulpit/ paschal candle stand

Please join us!

GHIAA 2025 INITIATIVES UPDATE

Immigrant Rights & Protections

- In light of the current national landscape and the increase in deportations and ICE activity, GHIAA has identified two areas for action to make Connecticut a safer state for immigrants: supporting a strengthened Trust Act (which limits the use of state resources and information-sharing in collaborating with ICE's agenda) and advocating for institutions with which we are in relationship to establish plans for how they would handle interactions with ICE.
- On March 3, 30+ GHIAA leaders joined a public action to launch the Trust Act Now campaign.
- A public hearing on proposed modifications to the Trust Act was held on March 19. We comfortably exceeded our goal of having 50 GHIAA leaders submit testimony in support of this bill!
- An ICE preparedness training will be held on April 10.

Fiscal Policy Reform

- GHIAA is continuing to engage with allies and legislators to seek a path forward to create a state budget that truly invests in community needs.
- There are a number of upcoming educational sessions and community forums on this topic, including a conversation with House Speaker Matt Ritter and members of the Hartford Legislative Delegation on Tuesday, April 8, from 6:00-7:30 pm, at Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford. **OUR CONCORDIA CONGREGATION HAS BEEN ASKED TO COMMIT TO HAVING FOUR MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING. PLEASE DO JOIN US IF YOU ARE ABLE.**

Municipal Housing Action Teams (HAT)

- HAT leaders are active in several local municipalities, and more teams are forming as leaders step forward.
- West Hartford HAT leaders recently showed up for a local Planning & Zoning meeting to push for an increased percentage of affordable units in a new proposed development.
- GHIAA staff participated in two panel discussions in which they shared about our HAT strategy.

Just Cause Eviction Protections

- House Bill 6889, which would expand Just Cause eviction protection to tenants of all ages and disability statuses, was passed by the Housing Committee!
- 56 GHIAA leaders submitted written testimony and 5 testified orally in support of the bill, helping achieve a solid majority (346 in favor, 263 against).
- The next step is a vote in the full House of Representatives, followed by the Senate, and then the Governor.

Combating Racial & Religious Hate

- A practice session was held for those who have completed GHIAA racial justice training in past years. Future sessions will be offered quarterly through the year, with an introductory training planned for the fall.
- The first session of our “Broadening Understanding, Deepening Solidarity” (BUDS) spring series brought together 45 leaders from across our GHIAA community to learn about the impacts of trauma and to hear from a panel of GHIAA leaders about their personal experiences with racial and religious hate.

Neighborhood Organizing & Public Safety

- GHIAA leaders joined over 100 Hartford residents at a North End Public Safety Coalition visioning session to offer community input in the selection of Hartford’s next police chief.

GHIAA leaders from many districts are currently working to schedule constituent meetings with their respective legislators to seek support for the causes listed above. If you are interested in participating in any GHIAA events or would like more information, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Rebekka Almond (rebekkakate@yahoo.com).



Bea and Rebekka with GHIAA Lead Organizer, Jocelyn,
at the Trust Act Now campaign launch



Cub Scouts Pack 47

There was a lot of laughter in the halls during the last night's den meetings! A few examples of the activities include:

- Bears doing "critter care" which involves vacuuming up after Lions sometimes.
- Tigers playing games for "tiger-iffic"
- Webelos working on some modular designs



The Gather Network: Connecting Young Adults

A new ministry for young adults in their 20s and 30s has launched in Connecticut! The Gather Network, part of the ELCA Young Adult Ministry, offers a safe and welcoming space for young adults to connect through fellowship, worship, and deep discussions about faith and life. Guided by Pastors Kurt Saenger Heyl, Ryan Heckman, and Joanna Hertzog Betkoski, it aims to foster meaningful relationships and community.

The Connecticut chapter kicked off its journey with an exciting first event at **Hops on the Hill in South Glastonbury** on **February 22nd**. This gathering was a lively celebration of community and connection, laying the foundation for future events to bring young adults together in impactful ways.

Join the next event on **Saturday, April 5th**, from **6-8 pm**, at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 371 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield**. Enjoy dinner from Doro Marketplace and games in a supportive, inclusive atmosphere.

For more information, email GatherConnecticut@gmail.com. All are welcome!



Troop 123 Bottle and Can Drive

 Saturday, March 29, 2025

 9 AM to 3 PM

 Concordia Lutheran Church (Front)
40 Pitkin St., Manchester, CT 06040

Support Troop 123 by bringing your empty bottles and cans! Your contributions help fund our community projects and activities.



**Attention Ladies! You still
have time to register -
scan below!**



Among Women Entre Mujeres

Theme
"Your mind is like a
GARDEN
How do you tend to it?"

HELLO
Spring

Saturday, March 29
1:00 pm at Malika's

1302 Windsor Station Drive
Windsor, CT 06095

(Entrance to building is at
69 Mechanic Street)

(860) 656-4124

Taco Potluck

F l o w e r s f o r E a s t e r

*Each Easter we invite members and friends of Concordia to purchase Easter flowers for our worship space. Please consider making a gift of flowers to Concordia this Easter. We are also happy to report that **Atrium Brass Quintet** will provide special music for our service; gifts may be made to offset that expense as well. Financial gifts to support our ministries are also welcome.*



Each plant cost \$12.00. Gifts for musicians and ministries are given at the givers discretion.
Please attach payment with this form and return to the church office by Sunday, April 13th.

Thank you!

I/We give _____ *Easter Flower(s)* to Concordia

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 Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone Number and/or E-mail: _____



Please return this form in its entirety to the church office by *Sunday, April 13, 2025*.



**Concordia's
Annual Easter Breakfast Returns!
Sunday | April 20, 2025 | 8:30 A.M**

**You are cordially invited to join us for
breakfast, delightful treats, and engaging conversation.**

We eagerly anticipate celebrating Easter Morning with you and your family.
A free-will offering will be collected.



Contribution:

- I can bring: _____ Coffeecake or muffins

Assistance:

- I can help with:
 - _____ Set Up
 - _____ Serving Breakfast
 - _____ Clean Up

Name(s): _____

Number Attending: _____

Phone Number and/or Email: _____

Please submit this form to the church office by **Wednesday, April 16, 2025.**