

The Concordia Chimes

June 2025



The Reverend Dr. Rolf Hedberg
Transitional Pastor

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



Sunday Service | 10:00 A.M.

Concordia's WHY/Purpose Statement

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

When you receive this issue of The Concordia Chimes, it will be June (or at least close to it). But as I write this, it is still May—precisely May 12—so I am not in June yet. I am sitting in the office at Concordia, looking out the window at a clear, cloudless blue sky. Checking the weather app on my phone, I see that it's a comfortable 67°, with a projected high around 72°. But the low at my house in Wilbraham this morning was 36°.

Now, I know you aren't reading this article for a weather report, but please keep the above in mind. The very first thing I do when I get up in the morning is check the weather app—for temperature, rain, snow, or sunshine. Why? Habit, to a large extent. But it also guides me in choosing what to wear—sweater, jacket, long-sleeve shirt, short-sleeve shirt, etc. I have begun to switch over to short-sleeve shirts, but this morning, it was so cool in Wilbraham that a flannel shirt was in order.

Two thoughts come to mind regarding clothing choices. First, I am lucky, blessed, and fortunate to have options, when so many people do not. I suspect that many of you reading this letter are blessed in the same way. The only day that I have no

choice in what to wear is Sunday morning, when I have just two options—a black or a gray clerical shirt, or sometimes a light blue one for summer. But there is something even more important than what we wear, and it comes to us under the aegis of baptism. In some traditions (and it can be part of our Lutheran tradition as well), a baby wears a white baptismal garment, which symbolizes putting on Christ in baptism. And that is where we end.

Regardless of the weather—and despite what we need or choose to wear on a given day—we must remember that, in and through baptism, we are clothed in, with, and by Christ every moment of our lives. And this does not depend on the weather!

In Christ,

Pastor Rolf Hedberg



Transition Update from Mark Winzler



40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, Connecticut 06040

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telephone: 860-649-5311

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Since the vote was taken on April 27, 2025 to explore Holy Closure, I have communicated with those who are or were affiliated in some way with Concordia: former pastors and those groups/churches/organizations who use our building space. Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria has informed Bishop Piphio and other members of the Bishop's staff.

Last evening (Monday, May 5) Pastor Maria met with members of the Council and Transition Team. The purpose of the meeting was for Pastor Maria to review and answer questions about a) the two-page *Holy Closure Process* document and b) the *Covenant for Congregations in the Holy Closure Process* document and c) to begin making some plans as a result. (These were sent out to all members previously, hence you should have copies of them.)

The following is a brief synopsis of the things that we discussed. The purpose is to provide some general information and dates to put on your calendars. More specific and detailed information will be forthcoming as we move forward in the process.

Please put the following dates in your calendars:

2025 Dates

Semi-Annual Meeting - Sunday, June 22, 2025

This is our regular June semi-annual meeting for program where we will review the reports.

At this meeting, Pastor Maria will be present as one of the first things that we must do is for the congregation to vote to put the building on the market and set preferences (sell to another church? Sell to a non-profit? Sell to Developer). These are preferences but will be open to all offers and all will be considered.

Memorial Garden Worship - Sunday, September 7, 2025

With thanks to Memorial Garden Board, some advance work has been done over the past couple of years to prepare in case Concordia would merge or close. Two plots were purchased at East Cemetery for remains to be transferred. The families of those who had relatives interred in the Garden (or those who had planned to be interred) were contacted asking whether they would wish the remains to be brought there or returned to them. On this Sunday (the date is tentative), we will move to the Garden for the end of the worship service to begin the process of the remains to be moved.

2026 Dates

Celebration of Ministry Worship Service and Reception - Sunday, June 7, 2026

This worship service is meant to be just that: a celebration of the ministry of Concordia over the years. This is the service we invite back our former pastors, former Ministers of Music, former members, other churches, town officials etc. The worship will be "Easter-like" and where we "pull out all the stops".

This service will be held in the afternoon (no morning worship this day) so that others can join us. There will be a festive reception in Kaiser Hall after the worship service.

Service of Leave-taking - Sunday, June 28, 2026

This will be our last service in our sanctuary. As part of that service, the church will be decommissioned as our worship space. This is a time just for present members. Most likely following this service we will go to a nearby restaurant/banquet facility for a final meal together.

Other Items of Note

Covenant

Motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the *Covenant for Congregations in the Holy Closure Process* with the New England Synod.

Teams

One of the things we need to do is to form teams: **Real Estate Team, Property Team, Archives Team, and Finance Team**. Please think about where your interests might lie and where you might like to serve (Refer to the two-page document sent earlier for descriptions of the work of each team.) We will be reaching out to ask your preference in the near future.

Social Events

There has been some interest expressed in having a series of social opportunities for members of Concordia to be together between now and the closing. If you are interested in being part of a planning group, please contact Margie in the Church Office to let her know. (Please note that this group will be the “worker bees” and not planning things for other people to do.)

Pastor Hedberg

This September will mark four years since Pastor Hedberg began as our transition pastor. Normally transition pastors serve for 1-2 years only. Therefore, he has gone “above and beyond” what is the norm.

Pastor Hedberg informed us last evening that, as he has in the past year, he will be away for the months of July and August (except for one Sunday) and while he will come back in September, he will only continue to serve Concordia up to and including Christmas (2025). **He will not return after Christmas.**

He emphasized to us that it has absolutely nothing to do with us as both Lois and he love being at Concordia and love all of us. It is to do with the fact that he is getting (and feeling) older and the commute from Wilbraham, MA is beginning to wear on him. Couple that with the desire to spend more time at their place in northwest MA as well as time with their grandchildren.

Pastor Maria (who will attend Council Meetings beginning in January, 2026 through the closing) and I will come up with a plan for Sunday worship coverage as well as pastoral care for the time after Pastor Hedberg leaves us. We will celebrate his ministry before he leaves!

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to any member of the Council (C) or Transition Team (T): **Sandy Baranowski (T), Jeanine Barber (T), Susan Bourret (C and T), John Corl (T), Pastor Hedberg (C and T) Ruth Sprong Heyden (C), Nancy Lynn Knauff (C), Ruthie Lynch (C), Jan McGarity (C), Bobby McKinney (C), Tina Ruggerio (C), David Smith (T), Carol Stoneman (C and T), Mark Winzler (C and T).**

Peace,
Mark Winzler

Covenant for Congregations in the Holy Closure Process – Signed May 5, 2025

The Congregation Council unanimously passed signing this Covenant at their meeting with Pastor Maria on Monday, May 5. This Covenant was previously shared with all members of the congregation in a couple mailings.

Covenant for Congregations in the Holy Closure Process

After prayerful consideration and engagement with our congregation, we have contacted the New England Synod and requested the resources and assistance to begin the prayerful and deliberative process of concluding our ministry and making plans for our legacy.

As we enter this process, we understand and agree.

- The fees and services of Brad Cook, New England Synod Attorney and Partner at Sheehan Phinney Law Firm, will be paid directly from the assets of this congregation. We understand that Attorney Cook is offering his services at a discounted rate to New England Synod congregations. We will sign a letter of agreement, which will be provided by Attorney Cook, and retain his services as a part of this Holy Closure Process.
- We will set aside ~~\$5,000~~ ^{\$6,000} for the Region Seven Archives in Philadelphia to secure this congregation's records and sacred documents as a part of our legacy unless we choose to contact our local historical society and plan with them. If costs are incurred with the local historical society, we understand it is our responsibility.
- We will set aside at least 10% of the legacy assets for the Congregational Care Fund, which supports the work of assisting other congregations of the New England Synod as they enter Holy Closure. *acknowledges*
- In addition, we will prayerfully consider gifting a percentage of our legacy assets to the New England Synod Mission Development Fund, which starts new congregations in our Synod.
- We will make use of the New England Synod's Legacy Planning document as a guide for the planning and distribution of our assets, in conjunction with the Legacy Workshop led by Pastor Maria Hammons – Associate to the Bishop for Missional Discernment and Legacy. As part of our legacy giving process, we will abide by both the Internal Revenue Service guidance, as well as understanding that our assets are a legacy of a Word and Sacrament centered ministry of the Lutheran Church founded to serve the mission of Jesus.

Signed Church Council President

Mark L. Winger

Approved by the Congregation Council on (date)

5/5/2025

Signed by Rev. Maria Hammons

Pastor Maria Hammons

Date

5/5/2025

Teams for Holy Closure

There is a lot of work to be done as we move through the Holy Closure process. There will be four teams who will have different focuses in order to ensure that all of the work will be done. By no means, are these descriptions below all-inclusive, but give you an idea of that the focus of each group. **Work will begin in earnest in September!**

Real Estate Team

- Identify potential (commercial) realtors and negotiate commission rate
 - Get ***fair market value (not just assessment)*** of building/property
 - Realtor made aware of congregation's preferences but open to all offers
- consider neighborhood concerns
- zoning issues? abutter challenges?
- Ongoing Communication with Congregation Council/Transition Team
- Connect realtor/local attorney with Synod Attorney Brad Cook and Madeline Hutchings

Property Team

*Note: This team does **not** focus on real estate, rather with all that is contained inside the building: - sacred, secular, trash ... "clean sweep"*

- Inventory List: giving away; buyer interest; synod website
- Fair market value decisions

Archives Team

This team is the main contact with the National Lutheran Church Archives located in Philadelphia where Concordia records will be archived.

- Financial Records; Church records, Historical records
- Local Historical Society

Finance Team

- Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Finance Committee

You can indicate your interest in serving by either.....

- a) Calling Margie in the Office and let her know your preference **OR**
- b) Signing up at the Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 22

From Mark Winzler:

One of the things I have been doing is to write to various groups etc. who use our building and make them aware that we will close at the end of June 2026.

I thought I would share with you the responses from those in leadership from the **Manchester Public Schools (MPS):**

Superintendent of Schools Matt Geary:

I am sorry to hear about the closure and appreciate Concordia's ongoing support (and yours) of MPS.

Thank you for your willingness to always support MPS families, students and staff. The closing of a church is a difficult decision, I'm confident that through your stewardship Concordia will transition into its final phase with thoughtful planning, integrity and hope.

~Deputy Superintendent Amy Radikas

"Thank you for your service to MPS, in all capacities! You are a great community partner and have shown it in a multitude of ways. Concordia will truly be missed. It is so much more than a building, it is a safe haven, a neighborhood bridge, a welcoming congregation."

~Chief of Family Partnership and Student Engagement- Latasha Turnquest

Highland Park Family Resource Coordinator- Jill Morey:

"I'm sad to hear this news. Concordia has been an absolute blessing to, not only the families at Highland Park School, but the staff as well. The outpouring of love and support that we have received from your congregation is incredible. / Thank you doesn't seem like enough for Concordia's commitment to our school community through initiative's like the Pop Up Shop, Teacher's Tea, and helping our families by offering holiday support, snacks, gift cards, bus passes, hotels, clothing...etc..etc..I could go on and on! But, I am most grateful for the relationships I've formed with some truly special people. Everyone I have met at Concordia has been welcoming and eager to serve, spreading light and laughter with every interaction. I look forward to what this next year brings and wish you all the best as you close this chapter and move on to the next. With appreciation!"



Highlights of the April 2025 Treasurer's Report

Summary

April envelope & other funding was 19% below the monthly budgeted amount. Other funding (\$675) included \$595 from Thrivent Choice designations. Church service, \$1,728, included gifts toward flowers and musicians for Easter. Our year-to-date giving continues to be over the YTD budgeted amount due. Special funds experienced losses for the third month in a row.

Report Details

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

Additional April Operating Revenue

Open Offering: \$82.00
Initial Offering: \$10.00

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
April	\$10,916.27	\$13,416.67	81%	\$62,975.74	\$53,666.68	117%

Festival Offering: \$890.00
Church Service: \$1,728.00
Christian Indian Building Use: \$100.00
Non-Operating Income: \$8,800.00 (From Legacy per approved budget)
Miscellaneous Gifts: \$100.00
Miscellaneous Income Non-Budgeted: \$140.00 (Easter Breakfast)
Total: \$11,850.00

TOTAL APRIL OPERATING REVENUES: \$22,766.27

April Non-Operating Revenue

World Hunger Gifts: \$100.00
Total: \$100.00

Expenses

1. Utilities:

Vendor	APRIL 2025	APRIL 2024
CNG	\$1,498.76	\$1,401.13
Eversource/Earthlight	\$675.40 (\$0.00/\$675.40)	\$656.70 (\$0.00/\$656.70)
Cox	\$468.99	\$434.02
TOTAL	\$2,643.15	\$2,491.85



Highlights of the April 2025 Treasurer's Report

Additional April Expenses:

Synod Benevolence:	\$3,116.67 (March & April)
Staff Salaries:	\$8,212.60
Fringe Benefits:	\$541.93
Program Expenses:	\$3,588.20
Program Support Expenses:	\$886.10
Facility Maintenance:	\$3,046.52 (\$1,632.00 – Organ repair)
Miscellaneous Non-Budgeted:	\$139.51
TOTAL:	\$19,531.53

TOTAL APRIL EXPENSES: \$22,174.68

Bank Account as of 4/30/2025 (ACS)

Beginning Balance:	\$23,249.28
Total Revenue:	\$25,760.11 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)
Total Expenditures:	\$29,272.36 (Includes MNC & Tax expenditures)
Current Balance:	\$19,737.03
Monthly Cash Flow:	-\$3,512.25 (Revenue less Expenditures)

Special Funds (as of April 30, 2025)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (March 2025)	Current Market Value	Current Month Gain/Loss	YTD Gain/Loss
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$49,518.94	\$48,984.30	-\$534.64	-\$534.64
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$66,199.69	\$62,752.79	-\$3,446.90	-\$3,446.90
Legacy for Ministry	\$939,416.07	\$934,906.79	-\$4,509.28	-\$31,234.57
Total Fidelity	\$1,005,615.76	\$997,659.58	-\$49,804.98	-\$28,608.59

April withdrawals: \$5,300 from Community Cares for GHIAA and \$5,300 from Legacy for Ministry for MACC benevolence

Memorial & Tributes Savings Account (as of April 30, 2025)

Previous Month's Balance (March 2025)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$88,189.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$88,189.34

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

Monday, April 14, 2025, on Zoom

Present:

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

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 6:34 PM

Devotions – Bobby McKinney

Transition Update with Council and the transition team. The agenda for the official congregational meeting on April 27th was discussed. Mark is working with Pastor Maria on preparing for the meeting. The agenda will be mailed to members early this week.

Approval of Agenda as written.

Approval of Minutes of the March 9th, 2025 meeting as corrected.

Affirmation of Email vote on the motion to fund the pipe organ repair. The motion was moved, seconded and passed by email. **Move to take up to \$3,000 out of the Memorial Fund for organ repairs.**

Pastor's Report

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

President's Report

Transition work continues, the current focus is the April 27th vote. Mark has contacted the churches interested in purchasing our building to update them on our transition status. It was noted that we should consider alignment with our values when we consider who will purchase our building.

Treasurer's Report

The March 2025 treasurer's report was distributed, reviewed and received. We continue to meet our obligations, our investments show a loss year to date for the first time this year, due to this month's losses.

Old Business

The nominating committee continues to work to find people to fill openings on committees and boards.

New Business

A motion was made and passed to forward to the congregation on April 27th to following:

Resolved: Concordia's Congregation Council recommends to the congregation of Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester CT, to vote to explore the Holy Closure process, which will include discussion about Concordia's legacy, the sale of the church building and property, and final dissolution of Concordia.

Our existing secure door policy was reviewed in connection to research done by property. It was decided that we keep the existing policy in place and install a few white boards to make access phone numbers easier to display and modify.

A DRAFT ICE policy was reviewed and accepted to be implemented as modified. Updates will be made and the policy distributed. Motion: **To implement the ICE policy as modified.**

An additional donation of approximately \$2,700 was received from the Carol Sutcliffe estate. A motion was passed to distribute 10% of the funds for outreach to Highland Park School.

Motion: **To purchase gift cards totaling \$270 (10% of the \$2,700 of Carol Sutcliffe Bequest) to provide to Highland Park School to assist families in need.**

Property

The organ repair is partially completed.

Four Motions were Affirmed or Submitted and Passed by Council this meeting

1. ***Move to take up to \$3,000 out of the Memorial Fund for organ repairs.***
2. ***Resolved: Concordia's Congregation Council recommends to the congregation of Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester CT, to vote to explore the Holy Closure process, which will include discussion about Concordia's legacy, the sale of the church building and property, and final dissolution of Concordia.***
3. ***To implement the ICE policy as modified.***
4. ***To purchase gift cards totaling \$270 (10% of the \$2,700 of Carol Sutcliffe Bequest) to provide to Highland Park School to assist families in need.***

Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Information:

- Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at Emanuel 7:00 p.m. (April 17-18)
- Easter Vigil at Concordia 7:00 p.m. April 19
- April 27- Special Congregational Meeting with Pastor Maria Hammons
- May 5 - Executive Committee
- May 12- Council Meeting
- August 10 - Barbecue and Pool Party

Approved, and passed: Agenda as written, minutes of March 2025 Council meeting as corrected, and four motions passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Bourret

Prayer Written by Deacon Karen Fedorchak, formerly of St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Dear Lord,

Please be with Concordia Lutheran Church as they move ahead through their Holy Closure Process. Help them to be ever thankful for all that has been given to keep their faith journeys spirit-led.

Keep the members minds focused on how their journey with you Lord may be continued after they leave Concordia Church.

Continued prayers from those of us formerly from St. Mary's and now at St. John's Church are with you.

Prayers, peace, and love, *The Rev. Retired Deacon Karen Fedorchak*



Memorial weekend greetings to:

Petey Goodrich, Edna Nekiunas, Irene Schack, Joanne Murphy, David Stoneman.
American the beautiful ! Land of the free because of the brave.

God bless every veteran and every civilian who work to make this country great.

US 🇺🇸 ❤️ *Member Care*



The following is an excerpt from a sermon I wrote based on Luke 4:1-13. I hope you enjoy it.

*Sermon title: **Get Out of Here Devil!***

By: David Smith

It seems to me that some people spend their entire lives in the wilderness being tempted by the devil. Those who are strong in faith can resist it and keep their vision on matters of the spirit and doing what they feel God wants them to do. There is an ominous verse at the end of today's gospel where the devil stops tempting Jesus and will wait for an opportune time. The devil is likewise always looking for an opportune time in our lives and we must guard against that. Attending church regularly is a good way to ward off the devil's temptations because it keeps us grounded, and on track, and hearing the gospel message to retain the spirit in our lives to remain in a positive direction.

My week always goes better when I attend church as compared to the weeks when I cannot attend. Going to church doesn't mean all your problems will be solved, but it does mean you can gain the spirit that we all share, so we're at least able to address the choices ahead more rationally with strength to stay on the Lord's path and not the devil's. The devil is waiting to tempt you, to find you when you're tired or weakened in spirit, to suggest the absolute worst things to do, and to get you to justify it, even if it means hurting others that may be relying on you.

I can attest to the temptations and urges that are there. It's not only the devil trying to get you to do more and more, and do things to obtain more and more, not caring about anyone or anything else, but also your body giving the urges as well. It is only through the spirit you will be strong enough to fight back and overcome it. It is not easy. We all dig our own ditches. Some you can hop out of with a quick correction and others will require a significant amount of work, and sacrifice,

to get back on solid ground. That's the important work we all must do when we succumb to temptations—rather than avoiding the wrong path in the first place.

Few people can claim they have the perfect life. There are always some struggles in everyone's life. There are also things that happen that can upset an otherwise great life and provide serious challenges. For example, I have a friend that suffered a brain aneurism that plunged him into over two years of recovery and therapy and completely derailed his life and his family's for an extended period. Things happen. There is a lot of randomness out there, so staying grounded in the spirit, and coming to church to worship Jesus as part of a congregation where we pray for each other, pray for Jesus to be in our lives and watch over us, and help each other when we need it, goes a long way to bolster us in times the devil would otherwise have an opportunity.

Keep strong in the spirit of the Lord to always be in the position to rebuke the devil when he finds an opportunity. When in dispute, pray to the Lord, and reach out to anyone in church for help. We're here to support each other and to help others. It can be easier said than done, but it's always better to be able to say, get out of here devil! You are powerless over me. I'm with Jesus! This is my church.

Amen.



Honoring Nancy Lynn Knauff's Dedication to Service

Nancy Lynn Knauff's commitment to community service has earned her a well-deserved recognition. In 2024, she devoted over 250 hours to volunteer efforts, including her work with Concordia and performances with the West Hartford Women's Chorale.

In acknowledgment of her dedication, Nancy received the **President's Volunteer Service Award for 2024**, accompanied by an official decree and lapel pin. Her passion for service continues to inspire others, reminding us of the profound impact that giving back can have on our communities.

Congratulations, **Nancy**, on this wonderful achievement!



🎵 Art Meets Music in a Profound Tribute 🎨



Former member Garrett Gabbey stands with his commissioned art cover piece for the premiere of *An American Requiem* by Edward Tyler, performed by CONCORRA on May 4th. His original work serves as a visual companion to the powerful musical composition, blending the Latin Requiem Mass with poetry and English text.

Edward Tyler—a longtime music and drama educator at Manchester High School and choir director to Nancy Lynn Knauff—crafted this hauntingly beautiful piece as both a tribute to the victims of mass shootings and a poignant condemnation of the systemic failures that enable such tragedies.

Nancy Lynn Knauff is incredibly proud of Ed and Garrett—Ed for his moving and masterful composition, and Garrett for his stunning artwork that adds another layer of meaning to an unforgettable performance.

Pop Up Shop

*"Whoever welcomes one of
these little children in my
name welcomes me."
—Mark 9:37*

**WE WELCOME
YOU TO
CONCORDIA**

Kindness is a
renewable resource



Standing From Left to Right: Carol Stoneman, Jan McGarity, Rebekka Almond, Pam Olson, Bobby McKinney, Ruth Sprong Heyden. Sitting From Left to Right: Carol Burnett and Nancy Lynn Knauff



Worship & Memorial Garden



Mowing Schedule Spring-Summer-Fall 2025



2025 CLC MOWING SCHEDULE

B I G LAWN

Week	Name
April 27 - May 3	David Beauregard
May 4 - May 10	David Beauregard
May 11 - May 17	Don Slater
May 18 - May 24	Randy Olson
May 25 - May 31	Zach Baranowski
June 1 - June 7	Phil Stoneman
June 8 - June 14	David Beauregard
June 15 - June 21	Don Slater
June 22 - June 28	Randy Olson
June 29 - July 5	Phil Stoneman
July 6 - July 12	Don Slater
July 13 - July 19	David Beauregard
July 20 - July 26	Zach Baranowski
July 27 - August 2	Randy Olson
August 3 - August 9	Phil Stoneman
August 10 - August 16	Don Slater
August 17 - August 23	David Beauregard
August 24 - August 30	Zach Baranowski
August 31 - September 6	Randy Olson
September 7 - September 13	Phil Stoneman
September 14 - September 20	Don Slater
September 21 - September 27	David Beauregard
September 28 - October 4	Zach Baranowski
October 5 - October 11	Randy Olson
October 12 - October 18	Phil Stoneman

2025 CLC MEMORIAL GARDEN MOWING SCHEDULE

Week	Name
April 27 - May 3	David Beauregard
May 4 - May 10	David Beauregard
May 11 - May 17	Phil Stoneman
May 18 - May 24	Paul Goodrich
May 25 - May 31	Rebekka Almond
June 1 - June 7	Susan Bourret
June 8 - June 14	David Beauregard
June 15 - June 21	Phil Stoneman
June 22 - June 28	Paul Goodrich
June 29 - July 5	Rebekka Almond
July 6 - July 12	Phil Stoneman
July 13 - July 19	David Beauregard
July 20 - July 26	Paul Goodrich
July 27 - August 2	Rebekka Almond
August 3 - August 9	Phil Stoneman
August 10 - August 16	Ruth Sprong
August 17 - August 23	David Beauregard
August 24 - August 30	Paul Goodrich
August 31 - September 6	Rebekka Almond
September 7 - September 13	Susan Bourret
September 14 - September 20	Phil Stoneman
September 21 - September 27	David Beauregard
September 28 - October 4	Paul Goodrich
October 5 - October 11	Rebekka Almond
October 12 - October 18	

Memorial Donations Received

*In loving memory of
Robert Feder*

By Gail Feder



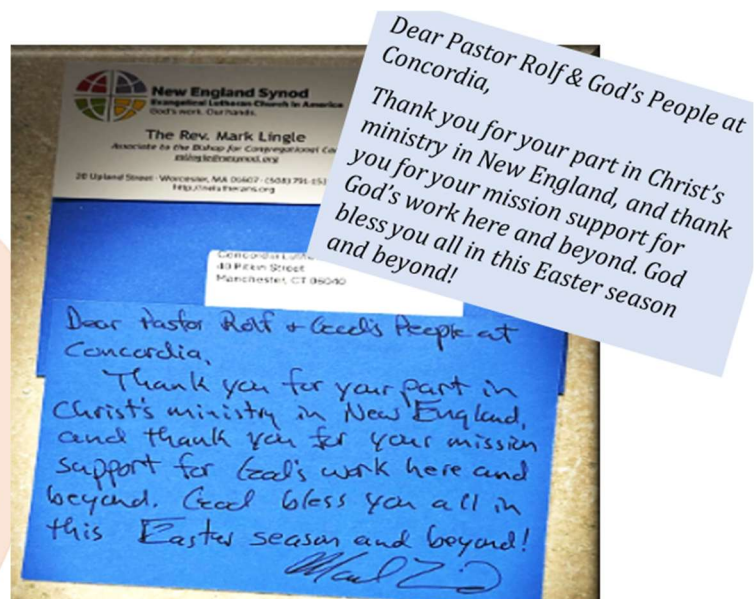
We are working on getting quotes for the Monument in East Cemetery.

We will review the quotes & present a motion to the congregation at the semiannual meeting.

Thank You Notes.....



Concordia Lutheran,
The members of the Tuesday
5:30 AA Meeting would like to
thank you for allowing the
Group to use the Garden Room
to hold the meetings.
We will be forever Grateful!
Sincerely, The Group
Please accept the Donation
with Love.



Dear Pastor Rolf & God's People at
Concordia,
Thank you for your part in Christ's
ministry in New England, and thank
you for your mission support for
God's work here and beyond. God
bless you all in this Easter season
and beyond!

Dear Pastor Rolf & God's People at
Concordia,
Thank you for your part in
Christ's ministry in New England,
and thank you for your mission
support for God's work here and
beyond. God bless you all in
this Easter season and beyond!



Teacher's Tea

Wednesday, May 7, 2025



Concordia Lutheran Church thanked the teachers in their neighborhood at Highland Park School Wednesday afternoon with a Hawaiian themed tea and dessert party.

Source: OneManchester | Sunday, May 8, 2025



Dear Concordia church
Community,
Thank you so much for
the beautiful and relaxing
Tea on May 7th. We rarely
have time to gather and
enjoy eachother's company.
And- you made that happen.
Thank you for partnering
with us! Sincerely, The HPS Staff



June | July | August

BIRTHDAYS

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)



JULY

Douglas Kehl (1)
 Thomas Donagher (3)
 Elaine Briggmann (9)
 Ruth Sprong Heyden (10)
 Bobby McKinney (12)
 Liana Wilson Estrella (19)
 James Britton (28)
 Marian Slater (29)



AUGUST

Patricia Bourret (1)
 Pastor Hedberg (4)
 Amanda Baranowski (8)
 Lu-Anne Rehmer (12)
 Candace Wilson (22)



HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY

*Image by freepik

GHIAA 2025 INITIATIVES UPDATE

We are at a critical point in our campaigns. The legislative session ends on June 4, and we continue our push toward the finish line!

Immigrant Rights & Protections

- The Faith-Based Immigrant Solidarity Network is gathering a list of people who would be willing to offer housing this summer for international students in CT who are wary of going home for fear that they will not be allowed to return to this country. If you are interested in potentially being matched with a student, please complete the form by scanning this QR Code:



- 40+ GHIAA leaders showed up for the May Day Celebration of Power, Love, and Resistance in Bushnell Park.
- On May 15 we had an Interfaith Advocacy Day at the Capitol in support of the expanded Trust Act. There was a press conference at 10:30 am, and then we connected with legislators to seek support for expanded protections against ICE overreach in our state.

Fiscal Policy

- The next step in our campaign to reform the “fiscal guardrails” and create a moral budget that truly invests in our communities is to bring our voices to Gov. Lamont’s attention. We are urging people to **contact the governor** by phone and email with this message: *“Please declare a fiscal emergency, lift the guardrails, and build a budget that responds to the human needs that already exist in our state and addresses the potential losses due to federal cuts.”*
- We are working on details for upcoming public actions.

Just Cause Eviction Protections

- We continue to add co-sponsors in support of the Just Cause eviction protections bill, which helps to build momentum and pressure to bring the bill to a vote and pass it. If your legislator has not yet co-sponsored (you can look for their name at the bottom of the **bill website**), you are encouraged to contact them and ask for their support. The bill has been vetted in caucus, has 57 co-sponsors, and is ready for a vote, but we need House leadership to bring it to the floor.
- On May 8 GHIAA joined allies from the CT Tenants Union for a press conference supporting Just Cause during Seniors Day at the Capitol.

Hartford North End Public Safety Summit

- GHIAA leaders and neighbors in Hartford’s North End have been engaging deeply for many months in community visioning for public safety. The 2025 North Hartford Public Safety Summit: “From Vision to Action” was held on May 13, building on that community visioning to shape leadership, strengthen trust, and advance equity in policing.

Combating Racial and Religious Hate

- Session 3 of the “Broadening Understanding, Deepening Solidarity” training series was held on May 6. We focused on stereotypes, tropes, and microaggressions. The **Micropedia of Microaggressions** is an excellent resource for learning more.

Please feel free to reach out to *Carol Stoneman, Susan Bourret, Nancy Lynn Knauff, David Smith, or Rebekka Almond* if you would like more information or to find out how to get more involved.

Pool Party and Barbecue

Sunday, August 10, 2025

3:00 – 7:00 P.M.



Want to sit by a pool on a hot summer day and enjoy fellowship, drinks, snacks and a cookout with friends from Concordia and Ministerio Nueva Creación?

If so, please come to this year's BBQ!

As it has been for many years, this will take place at Mark Winzler's home.

Bring a lawn chair, *if possible*.

The **menu** includes (*supplied by Mark*):

Hot Dogs | Hamburgers | Rolls | German Potato Salad | Baked Beans

Those attending are asked to sign up to provide an *appetizer, salad or dessert*.

(*See below.*)

Sign Up Form

I/We **can** bring:

Appetizer: _____

Dessert: _____

Salad: _____

Name(s): _____

Attending: _____

Please return this form to the office or call: 860.649.5311

or e-mail: office@concordiamanchester.org

By Monday, August 5th



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
5/19/2025	Family of Judy Petrosky	Comfort and healing as her family grieves her passing	Lanie Turner
5/12/2025	Family of Joe Erardi, former Manchester School teacher & Superintendent of schools in 4 towns	Peace and comfort as they grieve the passing of Joe Erardi	Lanie Turner
5/19/2025	Family of Robert Feder	Comfort & Healing amidst grieving the loss of Robert Feder	Mark Winzler
5/5/2025	Stacy	Complete healing and restoration of body.	Marian E. Slater
5/4/2025	Joanne Murphy	Healing and recovery after hospitalization	Mark Winzler
4/27/2025	Grandson	Enzo Battista	Deb Battista
4/27/2025	Pam & Micah Bowen	Strength & Comfort for Loss of Mother/Grandmother	Tina Ruggerio
3/23/2025	Jan Salvatore	Undergoing treatment for a medical condition.	Mark Winzler
3/11/2025	David	Comfort and strength	Family of David
10/27/2024	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 Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC)
- † The work of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA)
- † For our Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop
- † For Licensed Lay Minister Beatrice Luciano and Ministerio Nueva Creacion
- † For our Friends at Emanuel Lutheran and former members of St. Mary's now merged with St. John's Episcopal Church (Vernon)

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

860.649.5311



office@concordiamanchester.org



<https://www.concordiamanchester.org>

Reverend Rolf Hedberg | Transition Pastor
Mrs. Margie Gallagher | Parish Administrator

Church Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday | 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
~Closed on Fridays, and all Federal Holidays~