



The Concordia Chimes

July 2025



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 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

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Richard Hicks

Minister of Music Emeritus

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

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Fax: (860) 432-9972

Sunday Service | 10:00 A.M.

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

It has become my tradition for my summer *Chimes* article to feature a picture of a fish—usually one I’ve recently caught. However, since I haven’t had much time for fishing lately, I decided to reach into the archives (*which sounds fancy but really isn’t!*) and showcase something a little different from the usual trout (*last year’s*) and the many large largemouth bass.

So here it is—a decent-sized pickerel, about 20 inches long, caught at Stockbridge in Western Massachusetts.



Pickerel caught September 2, 2022 at 7:01 P.M.

While this is all in good fun, I want to remind you, just as I remind myself whenever and wherever I go fishing, that the disciples were fishermen. And so, I am in good company. Wishing you all peace and a happy, healthy summer!

Pastor Rolf Hedberg
Fisherman

Transition/Holy Closure Report **Mark Winzler**

Semi- Annual Meeting

On June 22, members unanimously passed the following two motions:

a) Resolution of Intent to Sell Real Property

To direct our Concordia Lutheran Congregation Council to list the real estate of the congregation with a commercial real estate agent, to be selected by the Congregation Council, and to sell the property at a price and to a buyer to be determined by the Congregation Council and approved by vote of the congregation.

b) East Cemetery Markers and Monument

To pay up to \$17,000 from the Memorial Garden Treasury, memorial funds and other funds, if necessary to *Dailey-Connerton Memorials* for markers and a monument for the plot at East Cemetery where the remains of those presently interred in Concordia's Memorial Garden will be transferred.

The decommissioning of the Memorial Garden, previously advertised to take place at the end of our September 7 Worship will NOT be held on that date.

A new date will be set once the monument at East Cemetery is in place. This will allow to us to decommission the Memorial Garden and move the remains to East Cemetery at the same time.

Teams

- A list of those who volunteered to serve on one of the Holy Closure Teams follows. (You can still sign up!)
- Those on the Property Team will meet with Pastor Maria (on Zoom) on Monday, June 30 for a more detailed time to discuss the work of the team.
- Those on the Real Estate will do the same on Tuesday, July 1.
- Carol Burnett will lead the Archive Team.
- Ruthie Lynch and Pam Olson will lead the Property Team.
- Joel Baranowski the Real Estate Team.

Other items:

- I sent a letter to the Manchester Town Manager informing him that Concordia would be closing and asked, within the letter, whether the "town" might be interested in the building/grounds. We want to make sure that we are covering all of our bases in terms of "getting the word out". We can sell to another church or another non-profit or a developer or the town. A copy of that letter is included in this edition of the Chimes.
- You will see in an article in this newsletter about a Lutheran Church which just closed in New Hampshire. What they ended up doing was not even on their "radar screen" initially. God is good!
- Leaders of the Vestry from St. Peter's Episcopal in Hebron came by to tour the church and the grounds (they are NOT interested). They shared that they had a lot of land which is now going to be used for affordable housing. Another idea for us to consider.
- All former pastors have been informed about our ***Celebration of Ministry worship on Sunday afternoon June 7, 2026***. As of this time each of them has responded and have indicated that the date has been put on their respective calendars and that they plan to be present.
- As was previously shared, Pastor Hedberg will be finishing his time as Transition Pastor with us at Christmas. ***Pastor Maria has asked him to return to preside at our very last worship on Sunday, June 28, 2026. He has agreed to do so.*** Pastor Maria will be involved in worship leadership on that date as well.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL
2025 - 2026

President - Mark Winzler
Vice President - David Smith
Secretary - Susan Bourret
Treasurer - Carol Stoneman
Rebekka Almond
Sandy Baranowski
Nancy Lynn Knauff
Ruthie Lynch
Bobby McKinney
Randy Olson
Tina Ruggerio
Ruth Sprong Heyden

HOLY CLOSURE TEAMS

Archive Team

Leader- Carol Burnett
Sharon Jaworski
Nancy Lynn Knauff
Mark Winzler (ex-officio)

Property Team

(Contents of Building- not Real Estate)

Leaders- Ruthie Lynch and Pam Olson

Gail Adams
Rebekka Almond
Jeanine Barber
Joel Baranowski
Zach Baranowski
Carol Burnett
John Corl
Jan McGarity
Don Slater
Phil Stoneman
Mark Winzler (ex officio)

Finance Team

Susan Bourret
Tina Ruggerio
David Smith
Ruth Sprong Heyden
Carol Stoneman
Mark Winzler (ex officio)

Real Estate Team

Leader- Joel Baranowski

Sandy Baranowski
Zach Baranowski
David Beauregard
Carol Stoneman
Mark Winzler (ex-officio)

Note:

**If you have not signed up yet and wish to do so,
please contact Margie in the Church office.**

All are welcome!



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

June 12, 2025

Steve Stephanou
Town Manager | Town of Manchester
41 Center Street | Manchester | CT | 06045

Dear Mr. Stephanou,

Kevin Zingler suggested that I contact you and gave me your contact information.

I am writing, on behalf of the Congregation Council, to inform you that sadly a year from now, at the end of June 2026, Concordia Lutheran Church will close its doors. At that time we will have been in existence in Manchester 132 years, since 1894. Not unlike many mainline denominations we have experienced a severe decline in membership (858 in 1974.....93 in 2025).

At the congregation's semi-annual meeting in a little over a week (June 22), the congregation will vote to put our building and grounds "on the market". At this juncture in time, we have not secured a real estate agent nor made any hard and fast decisions about to whom we will sell. We have a couple of churches who have expressed interest in the building, but we are open to other possibilities including sale to a developer or to other non-profits. (As a non-profit, in accordance with law, Concordia's assets upon dissolution will be distributed to non-profits.)

I am not sure if you have seen this article, but it was recently shared with us by the spouse of a former pastor:

<https://www.philanthropy.com/commons/churches-close-community-revitalization>

Having read it, I am reaching out to you to see if the Town of Manchester might be interested in Concordia's building and grounds. We have a large piece of land, a lot of parking, a sanctuary which seats 320 and a fellowship which seats 250 (tables and chairs), a lounge which seats about 40, and a smaller garden room plus an education wing. The building is completely air-conditioned, fully ADA accessible (with an elevator), new roofs, new boilers etc. We are mortgage-free.

One thought is that knowing that there are towns must have a certain amount of affordable housing, this property might help in that regard.

Concordia has always been very community-minded. It was one of the Charter members of the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC), used to house the shelter in our hall (back in the day) before there was a shelter in Manchester and the list goes on. We are also a charter member of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA).

At present, Manchester Schools fairly regularly use our hall for overflow professional development for staff. We also have a close relationship with Highland Park School and work with their Family Recourse Coordinator to provide whatever we can for children and families in need.

If you, or someone from your staff, would like to walk the building and grounds to get an "up close and personal" look, I would be most willing to take you on a tour.

I fully realize that the Town, in the end, may not have any interest. Nonetheless I wanted to make sure you are aware of our closing upfront. You may know of other non-profits or programs which might be interested. If so, please share this information with them.

If you have any questions or further information, please do not hesitate to reach out. I can be reached at any of the following:

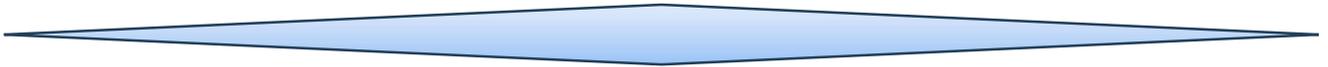
Home- 860-643-1913 Cell- 860-690-8651 E-mail- markwinz52@aol.com

Sincerely,



Mark L. Winzler
Council President

P.S. On another note Gary Anderson's (*from your staff*) wife Sara and I used to serve together for 8 years as Associates to the (now retired) Bishop of the New England Synod, ELCA.



Part of our Covenant was to engage the services of Attorney Brad Cook to walk with us through all the legal aspects of Holy Closure. Attorney Cook (*with whom I have worked with almost 30 years at the Synod level*) has done this work with all congregations in the New England Synod in the Holy Closure process.

Sadly, his own church, Gethsemane Lutheran in Manchester, New Hampshire just closed in May and so he knows this process from both sides.

Peace,
Mark

SHEEHAN PHINNEY

Bradford E. Cook, Esq.
Direct Dial: 603-627-8110
bcook@sheehan.com

Reply to: Manchester Office
1000 Elm Street, PO Box 3701
Manchester, NH 03105-3701

May 20, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION ONLY

Mark Winzler, Council President
Concordia Lutheran Church
40 Pitkin St.
Manchester, Ct. 06040

Re: Engagement to Provide Legal Services – Concordia Lutheran Church

I have been contacted by Rev. Maria Hammons of the New England Synod regarding your issues concerning closure of the congregation, and this firm's assistance to you in the process. At her request, I am sending this letter with terms of engagement, should you decide to retain us to help. As background, we have assisted scores of ELCA congregations in New England in the past in similar circumstances and would be pleased to help your congregation.

It is customary for us to provide clients with a summary of our billing and payment policy on the commencement of an engagement. I have enclosed a copy herewith for your review.

Let me provide you with several particulars not set forth in the general statement. Unless modified in writing by mutual agreement, these terms will be an integral part of our agreement with you. Therefore, we ask that you review this statement carefully and contact us promptly if you have any questions. We suggest that you retain this statement in your files.

The staffing on this matter will consist of me, my legal assistant, my Associate Madeline Hutchings who regularly works on these matters, and any necessary support staff. If other assistance is required, we'll try to let you know as early as possible.

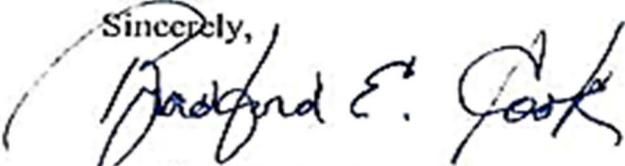
My hourly rate is \$550.00, however my reduced hourly rate for this matter will initially be \$400/hr. and thereafter, if rates increase, at 75% of the firm's published rate. My associate, Madeline Hutchings' hourly rate is \$335.00. Other office personnel, both legal and staff, may be involved in collateral roles from time-to-time. The rate for paralegal support is \$210 to \$290. If the assistance of other attorneys is necessary, their time will be billed at between \$275.00 and \$675.00 per hour, depending on the level of experience required, but will be capped at the same rate as mine, if higher than that. However, I expect that Madeline, and I shall be able and available to handle this matter with only the limited assistance of support staff. In the event there

Mark Winzler, Council President
May 20, 2025
Page 3

Please review, and if acceptable sign and return a copy of this letter to me, along with the retainer. We look forward to working with you on these matters.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Bradford E. Cook

Enclosure

cc: Rev. Maria Hammons (via email)

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS

We have read this letter and the attached policy statement and hereby agree to hire Sheehan, Phinney Bass & Green Professional Association to advise our church in the matters described above.

Concordia Lutheran Church

Date: June 5, 2025

By: 
Mark Winzler, Council President
Duly Authorized



The following was written by Atty. Brad Cook, who serves as the synod's legal counsel and guides congregations through the sale of their buildings after holy closure or merger. He also happens to be a member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, the subject of the story. This appeared in the New Hampshire Business Register, June 9, 2025:

Brad says, "I have been a member for 40 years or so and served as Vice President of the Congregation during this process. As Synod Attorney, I regularly work with Rev. Maria Hammons on congregation closures, mergers or other combinations, and did so for my own church in this instance."

AN EASTER STORY

In 1882, the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company conveyed a parcel of its land at 65 Sagamore Street in Manchester to a Lutheran congregation of Swedish immigrants so they could build a church, then called Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Gethsemane Society. The workers labored by day in the mills, and at night and on weekends built the church with their own hands.

Services were conducted in Swedish from the inception of the church until about 1950, when the church, now called Gethsemane Evangelical Lutheran Church, started conducting them in English. Many of the younger people had left the church to go elsewhere to work or to worship in English. The church was associated with many different denominations of Lutherans; they merged as national origins became less important. By the 1990's, Gethsemane was part of the New England Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

By the 2020's, membership at Gethsemane had aged, and decreased, as was common in many "main line" Protestant denominations, and after a long period of study, discernment and attempts to associate with other congregations, the membership voted to close the church. This was a painful and emotional decision, done with the guidance of the ELCA. A final celebration service was scheduled for May 4, and a final service for May 18, two Sundays in the Christian season of Easter.



While this sad series of events was going on, another set of conversations were being held by the interim minister at Gethsemane, Don Larsen, and the Priest in Charge at Grace Episcopal Church down Pine Street about a mile towards the center of town. Rev. Edward Cardoza, at Grace, had a vision for downtown ministry in Manchester. As he and Pastor Larsen discussed the possibilities, they then involved the leadership of their congregations, and then the Bishops of the respective denominations at the New England Synod and the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire. (It is relevant to note that the ELCA and Episcopal Church are in what is known as "full communion" meaning they share clergy and other relationships, so joint efforts are not uncommon.)

Part of the closure process for Gethsemane was putting its land and building up for sale, and determining what entity or entities would get the funds left after paying the mortgage and obligations of the congregation. Under the guidance of their pastor, the people of Gethsemane decided to contribute the funds to the new downtown ministry, now called the "Episcopal-Lutheran Collaborative," so the ministry of Gethsemane and the ELCA could continue in Manchester in a new way after the church closed.

The celebration service on May 4 brought back many former members from far and wide and was truly celebratory. The final service on May 18, long feared to be one of tears and regret instead was, while sad and poignant, one which celebrated the end of the congregation, but also looked ahead to something new coming afterwards. Happening during Easter season, many allusions to Christ's burial and resurrection, which Christians celebrate during this season, were made, when death had to precede the new life.

In a magical stroke of wisdom, the two clergymen proposed one more Sunday event, which was held on May 25, a week after the closure. Former members of Gethsemane gathered at the church, held a brief service, went in and gathered up the sacred items from the altar, and led by a member holding a cross, walked down Chestnut Street towards downtown. At the same time, members of Grace Episcopal started up Chestnut Street from Lowell Street, led by Bishop A. Robert Hirschfeld, the Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire. The groups met half-way, then proceeded back to Grace Episcopal Church where there was an outside service, and then all proceeded into the church to worship together.

The church was full, and enthusiasm evident. The Assistant to the Lutheran bishop gave the sermon, and the Gethsemane members felt welcomed. At a reception after the service, people got to know each other or renew acquaintances made in different contexts.

The stage is now set for the development of the Collaborative, which has great potential for ministry in Manchester, to the unhoused, immigrants, and scores of people moving to town and occupying the many new apartments which have been built in new and renewed buildings. Death again created the opportunity of new life, and what could have caused despair, became a source of hope and looking to the future.

(And, to complete the circle, the prospective purchaser of the Gethsemane property is a congregation of immigrants which speaks a foreign language, is working hard together, and the leaders of which worry about keeping their children, now speaking English, participating in a church which conducts its services largely in the native tongue! The original Swedes would be proud.)

A real Easter story, and a demonstration of extraordinary leadership by several remarkable leaders.

At our Semi-Annual Meeting on June 18, there was some information shared about possibilities for our building which included sale to another church, to a developer or non-profits.

This article below (shared from Jeff Kinney via Pr. Rebecca Bourret) shows that Concordia is not alone whatsoever in entering into the Holy Closure process and that, in fact, many church buildings across the country are being used in different ways. This article helps us to open our eyes to a wide range of possibilities. Please be sure to read it through!

Peace, Mark.

THE COMMONS

15,000 Churches Will Close This Year. Each Could Be a Home for Civic Revival

In Appalachia, a church donated its building to 30 community organizations — one example of how faith-based organizations are transforming their spaces to meet the needs of their communities.

By Ryan Eller and Hollie Russon Gilman

MAY 28, 2025

Churches have long served as gathering places where people connect, share, and solve problems together. However, with a [decline in traditional church attendance](#), thousands of churches across the United States are closing their doors. These empty churches are leaving a profound void in communities in a time when America faces a crisis of connection.

The [National Council of Churches estimates that 100,000 churches will close in the coming years](#). The former president of [LifeWay Christian Resources predicts that 15,000 churches will shutter in 2025 alone](#). It begs the question: What will happen to all these empty church buildings that were once such an integral part of life for so many Americans?

Top Lines

- With tens of thousands of churches set to close, communities are losing vital gathering spaces at a time when social isolation is on the rise.
- In Appalachia and beyond, churches are being repurposed into food hubs, polling stations, and community centers — new infrastructure for civic life.
- These transformations offer powerful lessons for funders: Support must be grounded in local leadership, shared decision-making, and a vision that serves the broader community.

Inside rural America, regions often overlooked by philanthropy and historically underserved, we are seeing a rise in faith-based organizations responding creatively and opting to transform their spaces to meet the needs of their communities. They are quietly modeling a new civic future — one rooted in local collaboration, shared spaces, and reimagined purpose.

These often-unseen efforts hold powerful lessons for philanthropy to tap into the energy, creativity, and wisdom of people in local communities if they want to find innovative solutions to pressing social challenges. Here are three key lessons emerging from this movement:

Churches can, and should, be civic third places. In a deeply polarized nation, we need more “third places” — gathering spots outside the home and workplace where people connect, converse, and contribute to civic life. Much has been [written](#) about the country’s loneliness epidemic and how people feel atomized from one another. Places of worship, especially in rural communities, are uniquely positioned to meet this need.

Central Appalachia shows us what’s possible. From churches hosting food security programs to serving as polling sites or cultural centers, these spaces are being reclaimed as public goods. One church, for example, moved its worship services to an abandoned car dealership and donated its former downtown campus to over 30 community organizations. Another initiative installed solar panels on churches, schools, and grocery stores — projects that spark conversation about sustainability, opportunity, and stewardship.

Repurposed churches aren’t just holding community events; they’re becoming civic infrastructure for democracy.

Civic engagement requires local vision and shared decision-making. Transforming a place of worship into a community hub doesn’t begin with a complex proposal — it begins with listening. Faith leaders in Appalachia emphasize the importance of centering the voices of congregants and community members in decisions about church property. Before selling land or converting space, they ask a deeper question back to the community: *What is our mission in this place, and who is it for?*

Organizations like [Invest Appalachia](#) offer a model for how multisector collaboration can support this process. By blending capital and bringing together public, private, and philanthropic partners, they help ensure that community vision drives the transformation, not just financial necessity.

This kind of decision-making takes time. It requires spiritual leadership grounded in humility and partnerships rooted in place-based knowledge. But when done well, it results in spaces that reflect and serve the entire community, not just the congregation.

Civic life thrives where people feel connected. [Recent research from the Appalachian Funders Network](#) found that the 270 counties with the best economic and health outcomes share one thing in common: high levels of civic engagement. When people feel connected, they participate. And when they participate, communities thrive.

In a state like West Virginia, where nearly 80 percent of residents identify as Christian yet 25 percent never attend religious services, churches face both a challenge and an opportunity. They must grapple with declining membership while still holding cultural and spatial influence in their communities. This tension creates room for innovation.

In Mississippi, through the work of [SIPP Culture](#), a former grocery store became a farm, food club, and commercial kitchen. In Louisville, Ky., a dwindling congregation's church became a credit union, coffee shop, and health clinic. In North Carolina, Baptist churches are offering their buildings to refugee communities. These stories show that when churches open their doors not just on Sunday mornings, they can become catalysts for housing, health, entrepreneurship, and democracy itself.

The path forward. The Appalachian Funders Network recently held its annual convening in Bristol, Tenn., and the energy in the room was palpable: People are ready to build a new civic future. The network is a close partner of the [Trust for Civic Life](#), a new donor collaborative focused on supporting non-political, nonpartisan civic life across rural America — including many of the organizations highlighted above.

[Explore](#) ideas, conversations, and solutions for a fractured country.

A recent [survey](#) of more than 500 rural community members by the trust shows that while Americans may be polarized on the national level, trust remains much stronger at the local level. Especially when bringing people together in a way that is not rooted in national politics, there is an opportunity to tap into local community creativity and energy.

The question now is how our civic institutions, including faith institutions, can adapt to this movement and leverage disruption and change to create new models of engagement. If we embrace the idea that church spaces can also be civic spaces, we may yet reweave our country's social fabric.

Source: <https://www.philanthropy.com/commons/churches-close-community-revitalization>

Scan to access the article:





Highlights of the May 2025 Treasurer's Report

Summary.

May envelope & other funding was 26% below the monthly budgeted amount. Year-to-date giving is 9% over the YTB budgeted amount. \$6,000 was drawn from the Scholarship Fund for the approved nursery school assistance. Both Community Cares and Legacy for Ministry realized gains in the month of May.

Report Details

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

Additional May Operating Revenue

Open Offering:	\$115.00
Festival Offering:	\$760.00
Church Service:	\$280.00

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
May	\$9,918.23	\$13,416.67	74%	\$72,893.97	\$67,083.35	109%

Christian Indian Building Use:	\$100.00
AA Use of Building:	\$100.00
Utilities Assistance:	\$40.00
Miscellaneous Income Non-Budgeted:	\$186.00
Memorial Funds:	\$6,000.00 (From Scholarship for CNS Assist)
Total:	\$7,581.00

TOTAL MAY OPERATING REVENUES: \$17,499.23

May Non-Operating Revenue

World Hunger Gifts:	\$130.00
Total:	\$130.00

Expenses

1. Utilities:

Vendor	MAY 2025	MAY 2024
CNG	\$1,019.79	\$1,161.52
Eversource/Earthlight	\$741.40 (\$0.00/\$741.40)	\$690.80 (\$0.00/\$690.80)
Cox	\$469.22	\$433.05
Sewer & Water	\$143.77	\$133.08
TOTAL	\$2,374.18	\$2,418.45



Highlights of the May 2025 Treasurer's Report

Additional May Expenses:

MACC – Annual Grant:	\$5,300.00
Staff Salaries:	\$6,137.60
Fringe Benefits:	\$428.24
Program Expenses:	\$468.30
Program Support Expenses:	\$1,260.49
Facility Maintenance:	\$1,743.50
Miscellaneous Non-Budgeted:	\$84.00
Memorial & Tributes:	\$6,000.00 (CNS assistance)
Member Care:	\$17.02
Worship & Memorial Garden:	-\$70.00
TOTAL:	\$21,369.15

TOTAL MAY EXPENSES: \$23,743.33

Bank Account as of 5/31/2025 (ACS)

Beginning Balance:	\$18,328.56
Total Revenue:	\$21,809.90 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)
Total Expenditures:	\$26,258.07 (Includes MNC & Tax expenditures)
Current Balance:	\$13,880.39
Monthly Cash Flow:	-\$4,448.17 (Revenue less Expenditures)

Special Funds (as of May 31, 2025)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (April 2025)	Current Market Value	Current Month Gain/Loss	YTD Gain/Loss
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$48,984.30	\$44,278.47	-\$4,705.83	-\$5,240.47
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$62,752.79	\$66,297.15	\$3,446.90	-\$1,785.84
Legacy for Ministry	\$934,906.79	\$987,711.61	\$52,804.82	\$21,570.25
Total Fidelity	\$997,659.58	\$1,054,008.76	\$56,349.18	\$19,784.41

May withdrawals: \$6,000 from Scholarship Fund for CNS assistance

April withdrawals: \$3,500 from Community Cares for GHIAA and \$5,300 from Legacy for Ministry for MACC benevolence

Memorial & Tributes Savings Account (as of May 31, 2025)

Previous Month's Balance (April 2025)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$74,616.11	\$11,050.00	\$0.00	\$85,666.11

Deposits include \$6,000 from Scholarship fund (CNS assistance) & \$5,000 from the estate of Edward Clough

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, May 5, 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
- Ruth Sprong-Heyden
- Bobby McKinney

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 7:09 PM

Devotions – Ruth Sprong Heyden

Transition Update with Council and the transition team.

Pastor shared his plans for providing transition coverage in the future. A letter will be sent to the congregation with details.

Pastor Maria Hammons reviewed the Holy Closure Process with Council and transition members. She answered questions and shared her experiences with us.

People were asked to think about the teams that will be working for the next year and how they can support this work. Dates were set for the final two worship services, June 7th and 28th.

There was a motion to approve the signing of the Covenant for Congregations in the Holy Closure Process for the New England Synod as amended. The covenant was signed and Pr. Hammons took a copy; another will be filed at Concordia.

Approval of Agenda as written.

Approval of Minutes of the April 14th, 2025 meeting as written.

Pastor’s Report

Pastor Hedberg continues to support us during our transition with Sunday Services, office hours, meetings and conversations and contacts with parishioners. He will be away for July and August except for Sunday, August 10th.

President’s Report

Mark has secured coverage for Sundays for the summer. When available, the Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson will be providing coverage as needed during the week for hospitalizations and visits.

Treasurer's Report

The April 2025 treasurer's report will be distributed to council when completed. We continue to meet our obligations; our investments show a loss year to date.

Old Business

ICE Policy – the approved copy of the ICE policy will be sent to building users and will also appear in next month's Chimes.

A motion was moved, seconded and approved to present the nominating committee recommendations for Council, Memorial Garden Board and Legacy Board to the congregation at the June 2025 meeting.

New Business

The Finance Committee recommended that the Key Investment Money Market be closed. A motion to authorize closer of the account was moved, seconded and approved. The account contains approximately \$14,000; it was suggested the money be used for transition costs.

A date of June 22nd was chosen for the June Congregational Meeting. Reports are due by May 26th.

Concordian of the Year candidates were discussed. Will decide at the June meeting.

Property

The addition organ repair will be completed soon.

Three Motions were Submitted and Passed by Council this meeting

- 1. Move to approve the signing of the Covenant for Congregations in the Holy Closure Process for the New England Synod as amended.***
- 2. Move to present the nominating committee recommendations for Council, Memorial Garden Board and Legacy Board to the congregation at the June 2025 meeting.***
- 3. Move to authorize the closure of the Key Investment Money Market account.***

Adjournment: Adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Information:

- June 1 – Executive Committee
- June 8 – Council
- June 15 – Name Day
- June 22 – Semi-Annual Meeting
- August 10 – Pool Party

Approved, and passed: Agenda as written, minutes of April 2025 Council meeting, and three motions passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Bourret

WORSHIP & MEMORIAL GARDEN

At the June 22 semi-annual meeting, the congregation voted to pay up to \$17,000 to Dailey-Connerton Memorials for a monument and markers at East Cemetery where the remains of those presently interred in Concordia's Memorial Garden will be transferred. We doing the final proofread and then we will order the monument. A huge **THANK YOU** to **Rebekka Almond** and **Jan Salvatore** for being our proofreaders.



June 29th we are looking forward to Tom Tierney addressing the committee regarding closing ideas. We are making a list of questions for the Synod lawyer as well as East Cemetery.

The September 7th closing ceremony has been **cancelled** as we are awaiting the monument being placed in East Cemetery. We will have a date later this summer and invitations will be sent out.

Weeds don't take summer vacation. **See anyone** on the **Garden Board** if interested in helping keeping the Garden looking nice.



Board: David Smith, David Beauregard, Jeanine Barber, Rebekka Almond, Pam Olson, Lisa Taylor, Phil Stoneman, and Sandy Baranowski

Closing: All of the above people plus Susan Bourret, Paul Goodrich and Ruth Sprong Heyden

Ruth E. Sprong Heyden, *on behalf of W & M Garden Closing Committee*



POP-UP SHOP NEWS

June was a busy month. Jill, Family Resource Coordinator, from High Park School had an urgent request for an air conditioner. Don and Marion Slater donated a slightly used brand new looking one. The next request from Jill was a cot with bedding as people were sleeping on the floor. After a discussion, we decided this was a good opportunity to use the Bob's Furniture Store gift card that was donated. Jill was able to purchase a trundle bed and have it delivered.

Kristy, FRC, from Bowers school requested suitcases/duffle bags for a homeless Mom whose stay at a motel was ending. The Mom and two children would be living in their car. Again Concordia responded with 9 suitcases and several duffle bags. Krista came and selected two suitcases for the Mom and would let her know we had more if needed (*Mom came by on June 14th & picked up another suitcase & clothing*).



June 14th we had a Pop-Up Shop and twenty-one families signed up. Since we had extra suitcases, we set up a classroom entitled “Summer Fun”. Featuring suitcases to go on vacation, bathing suits, coolers, a bicycle, and outdoor picnic accessories. Thanks to Joanne Murphy who supplied new sweatshirts to cover those bathing suits. We also had our usual clothing and housewares rooms. The Slaters and Sandy & Joel B. donated furniture which was all spoken for by the end of the day. In the Nursery School lobby, we set up our book cart and upon exiting bags were filled with books to read over the summer.

On June 16th, Bobby McKinney, Pam Olson, Carol Burnett and myself attended the Manchester Public School’s celebration of their Community Partners. Latasha Easterling-Turnquest, Chief of Family Partnership & Student Engagement for Manchester Public Schools gave us a tour of the Welcome Center.

Thank you to everyone who donates and works to make this a success!

Ruth E. Sprong Heyden, on behalf of the **P o p - U p Committee**



Thank you, Blessings, and Prayers from Pastor Withel Simpson, and her husband Owen Simpson, of New Horizon Baptist Church.

Below is a transcript of the *voice mail* they left me recently.

David Smith

“Hi David, this is Pastor Simpson and Mr. Simpson from New Horizon Baptist. Remember we were the folk who were worshiping with Concordia there over the years. I hope you can recall.

I’m sorry to hear about Concordia’s situation, and to know that they’ll be closing down. Oh dear, it’s heartbreaking. Concordia has been such a blessing to all of us. Such a blessing, such a blessing. But we just have to pray and ask God to bless them and guide them with wisdom, knowledge and understanding, and show that exactly what he requires of them. So, we’re keeping you in our prayers, I keep you and others too, because the Hispanic group also worshipped there.

If you’d like to talk further about this, you can give me a call at 860-726-9281 and we just have to pray. God bless you. Goodbye.”



DAY OF PENTECOST | JUNE 8, 2025





DAY OF PENTECOST | JUNE 8, 2025



Heartfelt Gratitude *for Your Generosity...*



Geraniums Given in Memory of:

Geraniums Given in Honor of:

Michael & Clara Sibrinsz
By Karen Schauster

Russell Turner, George & Louisa Johnson, Ray
& Mary LeFrancios
By Lanie Turner

Our daughter, Kimberly Fournier
By Ed & Gail Adams

Edward R. Nekiunas & Jane Nekiunas
By Edna Nekiunas

Florence & Harold Slater, Eva Roman &
Romuald Roman
By Don & Marian Slater

My grandparents; Pastor Paul Kaiser; James
Casserly; Karen Kaiser Miller; Mark Andrew
Albert; Earl S. Morse; Jackie Britton; Frances
Smith; Mildred Rogers, and Marcel Albert
By Deborah Kaiser Morse

My parents, Katherine and Fred; my brother,
Fred; Barbara E. Baker; Eddie and Tessie
Kehl; Burt, Beverly, and Luke Strand
By Mark Winzler

Ella and Art Hube
By Petey and Paul Goodrich

Jackie Britton
By Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio

Ronald O. Schack, Xander Schack, and Viola
Stenger
By Irene K. Schack

Our Loved Ones
By Jan and Bill Salvatore

Fred Winzler
By Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio

William & Lois Feder, Richard Feder, and
Robert Feder; John & Julia Kluck
By Gail Feder

Our children, grandchildren, and great
grandchildren
By Ed & Gail Adams

Mark Winzler
By Pastor Rolf & Lois Hedberg

My fellow Congregation Council (C)
and 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 Sollinger-
Ruggerio (C), David Smith (T), Carol
Stoneman (C and T)
By Mark Winzler

Carol and Dan Burnett; Mark Winzler
By Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio

My Grandma, Irene Schack, and my
parents, Sandra and Joel Baranowski
By Zachary Baranowski

My father, William Roy Denson, my
husband, Paul Gallagher, and my son,
Axel Gallagher
By Margie Gallagher

Loved Ones
By Sandra and Joel Baranowski

The Reverend and Mrs. Rolf Hedberg
By Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio



***Geraniums Given in
Memory of:***

My mother, Mila Denson; my stepmother, Fay Lois Hacker; my sister, Carol Sue Mercado; my aunt & uncle, Evelyn & Donald Denson, my nephew, Carmichael Policarpio

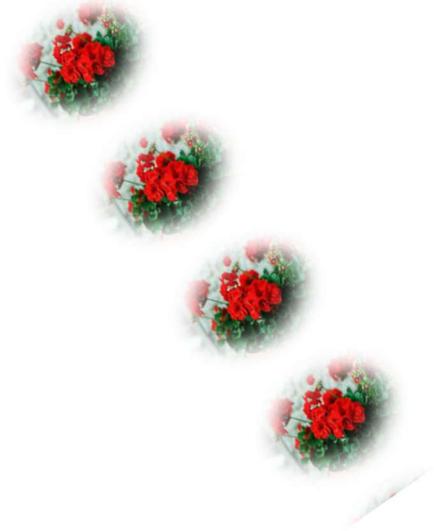
By Margie Gallagher

Loved Ones

By Sandra and Joel Baranowski

Margarete Wasilieff

By Kathi & David



Donations to Support Concordia's Ministries

In Memory of...

Gene & Betty Myers; Erling & Alice Olson

By Randy and Pam Olson

James Casserly and Karen Miller

By Jane Casserly

Loved Ones

By Sandra and Joel Baranowski

Russell Turner

By Lanie Turner

In Honor of....

Our Choir 

By Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio

Member Care

By Irene K. Schack

Concordia's Property Team

By Zachary Baranowski

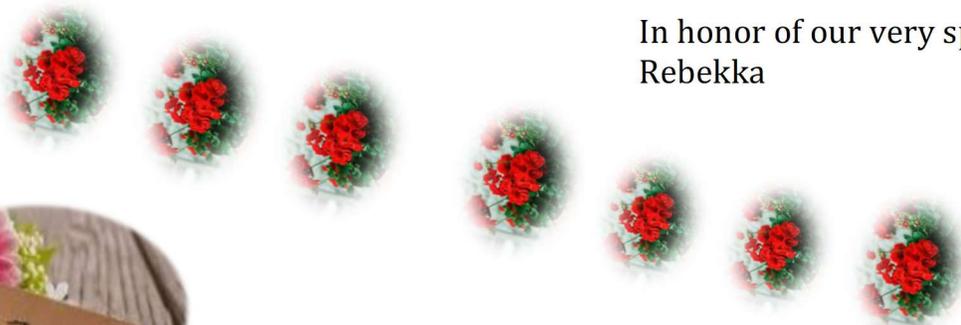
Loved Ones

By Sandra and Joel Baranowski

Mark Winzler, Kay and John Corl, Randy and Pam Olson

By Lanie Turner

In honor of our very special daughter, Rebekka



🌟 **2025 CONCORDIAN OF THE YEAR** 🌟

The Concordian of the Year announcement on Sunday, June 22nd started in normal fashion with Council President Mark Winzler providing the history and parameters of this annual recognition then continuing with several descriptions depicting the individual recipient.

- Dedicated, responsive
- works behind the scenes,
- does not wish to be recognized,
- a true leader although not part of leadership at Concordia

“On behalf of the Congregation Council, I am sincerely proud to announce the 2025 Concordian of the Year, Joel Baranowski”.

Of course, everyone gave Joel a standing ovation as he made his way to the chancel.

Joel’s response: *“Thank you, Mark. I actually have an acceptance speech. I suspect that you’re thinking “that’s odd. This was a well-kept secret”.* And, while Joel is incredibly dedicated and good-looking, he is not that bright and could not have figured it out, unless, someone clued him in.

Actually, it is more devious than that.

Carol, if I can enlist your help...”

Carol: *“As some of you know, both Joel and Sandy have expressed several times, that Joel WOULD NOT ACCEPT the Concordian of the Year recognition, SO we opted to create a smokescreen. Here are some not so subtle hints of the actual recipient.”*

Visualize 7 people standing in front of the communion railing holding 7 signs in the following order:

- N** – Needed, Noteworthy commitment
- I** – Incomparable, Insightful, Involved
- R** – Resourceful, Realistic, Responsible
- L** – Loyal, Leader, Laudable
- W** – Well-versed, Willing, Worthy
- E** – Endless dedication, Experienced, Educator
- Z** – Zealous devotion

I’m sure you are thinking, whose name is that? At this point, Carol requested everyone move to their appropriate positions, which spelled

WINZLER

I have to admit, it was the first time I have witnessed Mark being speechless. Although Mark received Concordian of the Year in 1994, which was also done secretly as the Council had voted for Marlene Blake, the Council overwhelmingly agreed that if it hadn’t been for Mark’s leadership and his endless work over the past 5 years during our transition period we would not be where we are today. His love for Concordia has always been at the forefront of his guidance.

A special thanks to Joel Baranowski for being a good sport and setting up the diversion. Mark made sure to acknowledge that Joel was very deserving of the recognition

Congratulations Mark! 2025 Concordian of the Year



June 15, 2025

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Immigrant Rights & Protections

On May 27, the state Senate passed the bill containing updates to the Trust Act, in concurrence with the House vote taken the previous week. Now it heads to the governor for approval, which he has signaled is forthcoming.

The creation of an enforcement mechanism is an important step in making the Trust Act meaningful. We celebrate the legislators who have supported strengthening rights and protections for our immigrant communities in this time of increasing federal overreach. At the same time, we are disappointed that the governor’s opposition blocked additional measures that had strong legislative support, such as barring ICE activity in state courthouses and protecting the personal information of CT residents from being handed over to immigration authorities. We believe that this is not the time for half measures and baby steps, and we continue to call on our state leaders to take bold action to truly protect our immigrant community members in CT.

GHIAA leaders have played an important role in moving this issue forward by submitting public testimony, engaging in constituent meetings with legislators, showing up for marches and press conferences, taking part in our interfaith day of action, contacting legislators directly, and more.



Just Cause Eviction Protections

Unfortunately, Just Cause again failed to pass in this year’s legislative session. The powers that be are not budged easily, and we have seen how, in spite of our organized people and passion, sometimes we still don’t have enough power to make things move.

Along with our allies and partners, we won strong legislative support for Just Cause, with 57 co-sponsors and enough additional committed yes votes that we believe the bill would have passed in the House. However, legislative leadership chose not to bring Just Cause to a vote.

We are actively evaluating our strategies during and leading up to this year’s legislative session in order to determine how and where we can be most impactful going forward.



Combating Racial and Religious Hate

The final BUDS (Broadening Understanding, Deepening Solidarity) session took place on June 10. We covered strategies for interrupting bias.

There are three additional training sessions planned for the upcoming months: Combating Antisemitism, Combating Anti-Muslim Bigotry, and Combating Racism.

GHIAA Core Leadership Training

Leadership training sessions have been taking place during May and June. In these, we’ve been exploring the fundamentals of faith-based organizing, practicing the tools of relational culture (individual meetings and house meetings), considering how we build and wield power, sharing our process of identifying issues and developing campaigns, and building our skills for action.

* * *

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.

This Thanks was sent by Mark Winzler to the Congregation Council following their designation of him as Concordian of the Year.

Dear Friends,

I am literally still "recovering" from the shock this morning of being named Concordian of the Year.

Having received it in 1994 (when, by the way, I was also surprised as I had announced that the Concordian of the Year was Marlene Blake) and knowing that we don't recognize anyone twice, it was not even a blip on my radar screen.

I love to do things for others. I love to give others presents. I love to cook and plan for others. Anything I can do for someone else gives me great joy (always has) and fulfillment. At Christmas I have always been the one who enjoys buying and giving the presents and not receiving. Hence, when someone does something for me (especially when it is unexpected like today), it is humbling to me because I do what I do because I love to do it and no recognition is needed.

All of that said, I want to thank all of you for your role in surprising me this morning. Honestly, I was so touched that, as you saw, the tears were flowing out of my eyes. My simple "thanks" does not seem enough but it is impossible to "translate" that which is written on my heart into words. Having my "oldest" friend Ray (and Penny) there was so meaningful especially now as we began at Concordia together.

I think that the best way to say this is that with no immediate family left, Concordia members (and some other non-Concordia friends) are part of my "family of the heart" which makes this all the more meaningful to me. Thank you for being part of that "family".

I will tell you that God does indeed intervene and provide especially when we are in our low times. Just yesterday afternoon I learned some very disturbing/distressing/unsettling news. I was up most of the night wrapped up in my worry/concern. I came to church this morning with a very heavy heart, feeling weighed down and left, because of your thoughtfulness and caring, with renewed energy and resolve. Thank you!

There is a lot of work to be done yet on this journey over the next year. Know that, with God's help and direction, we will make it through and leave with that same renewed energy and resolve I just spoke about. I will continue, to the best of my ability, to help lead us through.

My most sincere thanks and gratitude to all of you for your roles individually and collectively in honoring me..... I am appreciative and humbled!

Peace,

Mark





2025 New England Synod Assembly Report



This year's Synod Assembly was held at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA, on Friday May 30th – Saturday, May 31, 2025. Jeanine Barber and I were there as delegates for Concordia Lutheran Church, and Bea Santiago was there for Ministerio Nueva Creacion. The theme of the Assembly was "Christ the Living Water." The assembly is a great opportunity to meet other Lutherans throughout New England and to find out about other ministries of the ELCA. There were plenty of workshops available on such topics as Leveraging Generosity; Lutheran World Relief: How your love makes a difference around the world; a review of the Antiracism Board; Telling the Gospel through Artificial Intelligence, Wilding Christianity; What's a Synod Companion: Getting to know our Global Partnerships in the Middle East and Honduras; Strategy Towards Authentic Diversity; Advocating for Immigrants and Refugees; and Meeting the Living Christ through Watershed Stewardship.

Thanks in large part to several pre-assembly budget overview sessions, the budget passed virtually unanimously without many questions following the Treasurer's report.

For other votes, there were two Reference and Counsel memorials that proclaim the synod's position on the below matters and advocacy in the leadup to the Nationwide ELCA Assembly:

- **25-01:** For an End to the Occupation and Recognition of Palestinian Statehood in the United Nations
- **25-02:** MEMORIAL TO AUTHORIZE ELCA PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL LEGAL ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF VULNERABLE ELCA COMMUNITIES

Both Reference and Counsel memorials passed.

The Keynote Speakers were The Rev. Leila M. Ortiz, who is Bishop of the Washington, DC Synod. She gave a moving address about her upbringing, how church has impacted her life and led to her calling to become a pastor, and how changes in the community are opportunities for outreach to churches to welcome those in their neighborhoods in the direct vicinity and in strengthening congregations and the churches at large in an additive way by joining new cultures to the mix.

Jeanine and I were lucky that another of the speakers was sitting at our table: The Rev. Dr. Lisa E. Dayhill. She gave the workshop on Wilding Christianity and gave a fascinating talk about finding living water and watersheds in the vicinity and using them to perform baptisms in ponds, lakes, and rivers. She tied this in with clean water environmental initiatives where some churches are beginning to work to clean up nearby water sources and engage in their communities for such actions. The "wilding" in her presentation is about holding church outdoors and tying in God's creation with the church services directly by being in nature and improving the environment through such efforts to clean it up where necessary. It was a great address that was certainly thought provoking. Jeanine and I were fortunate to get a bit more time to speak with Dr. Dayhill upon her return to our table after her remarks to the assembly.

Ms. Judith Roberts, a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Hartford, is Senior Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) for the ELCA. She is also the staff convener for the Strategy Towards Authentic Diversity Advisory Committee. She gave an important address to discuss the challenges facing traditional Lutheran Churches and changes in demographics in society requiring churches to be more open to other cultures in the communicate who are new to area. She cited examples of successful collaborations that turned around congregations and successful mergers of churches with different cultural backgrounds that are now thriving.

Bishop Nathan Piphon presided over the assembly and gave his report on Saturday morning. He gave the usual statistics on the number congregations in the Synod and on the trends. He shared several stories about how younger people are finding church and proceeding on their faith journeys, particularly in doing outreach ministries for those in need, he also talked about meeting people where they are to see what they need and how the church can help, and he spoke with enthusiasm for ministry and what we can accomplish through Christ the Living Water.

Lastly on Saturday, was the graduation ceremony for the School of Lay Ministry in which Bea Santiago is the dean and Dave is the board chair. They were on stage to congratulate the graduates and hand them their certificates. The Bishop and Bea lead the presentation, and Dave gave a brief speech about SLM encouraging more to participate in the program.

It was great to be with other Lutherans at the assembly and learning about so many things. It's an honor to represent Concordia at the assembly.

David Smith

What is the highest recognition that Scouting offers? That's right—the Eagle Scout Award.

Please join me in congratulating **Cian Mulligan** for earning the rank of **Eagle Scout!**



His board of review was earlier this evening, and he was approved unanimously.

His Eagle Court of Honor will be held this fall, on a date to be determined. We will let you know the details as soon as arrangements have been made. All past Eagles of Troops 123, 47, 6, and 8 are encouraged to attend!

Ed Bouchie | Scoutmaster, Boys' Program | Assistant Scoutmaster, Girls' Program |
Manchester Troop 123 | 860-882-8870



JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



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)



SEPTEMBER

- Kathy Parsons (Noyes)(1)
- Lanie Turner (5)
- David Stoneman (7)
- Erich Stoneman (11)
- Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio (17)
- Edna Nekiunas (23)
- Michael Rehmer (23)
- Carol Burnett (24)
- Donald Slater (25)
- Joyce Davis (25)
- Ed Chiffer (30)



Thank You Note from MACC Charities to Concordia Lutheran Church:



Building partnerships to break cycles of poverty in our community

P.O. Box 3804 – Manchester, CT 06045-3804 ~ www.macc-ct.org

June 06, 2025

Dear Concordia Lutheran Church Members,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$5,300.00 to MACC Charities from your annual support to our mission. Your thoughtful kindness blesses our work to help those in desperate need of compassion in their lives. Thank you for being a great partner to fight food insecurity in our neighborhoods.

We do our best to project costs and gather our resources in front of any expected challenge, to be prepared and ready to respond to emergencies within our community. With your partnership we are ready to tackle any obstacle that non-profits face today!

Many Blessings,



Shannon Baldassario – CEO

sbaldassario@macc-ct.org

(860.647.0440)

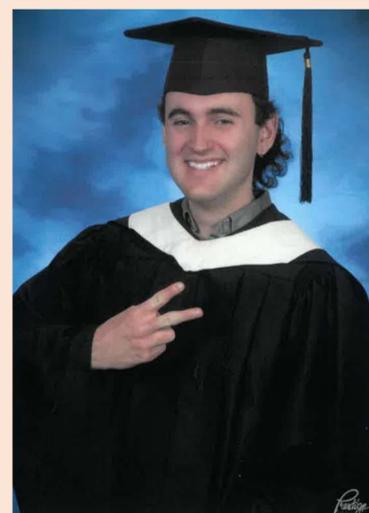


"No goods or services were given in exchange for this financial gift."

Congratulations to **Dr. Maria Hedberg**, daughter of Pastor and Lois. Maria received her **Doctoral Degree** recently from the University of Massachusetts. She is now a "**Doctor of Nursing Practice**" (DNP). She serves as a Family Practice Practitioner at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston!



We joyfully congratulate Zachary Baranowski on his outstanding accomplishments! He graduated from Clark University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, earning dual majors in Global Environmental Studies and Spanish. This Fall, he will continue his academic journey at Clark, pursuing a Master of Science in Environmental Science and Policy. Zachary's commitment to service and scholarship was recognized through his induction into Phi Beta Kappa and an award from the Geography Department. His global perspective has been shaped by study-abroad experiences in Berlin and Ecuador, and most recently, he spent four weeks in Mexico contributing to a Clean Water project. We are incredibly proud of Zachary and all he has achieved—may his passion and purpose continue to inspire others!



Pastoral Care for July and August

**With the exception of one Sunday in August,
Pastor Hedberg will be away for most of July and August.**

If there is any need for pastoral care (*hospital, severe illness etc.*) during the months of July and August, you are asked to:

- a) Contact Margie (*Parish Administrator*) in the Church Office at (860)649-5311 during office hours (*Monday through Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.*)
If it is not an emergency, you can leave a message on the answering machine outside of office hours.
- b) After office hours as well as on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, please contact Mark Winzler at (860) 643-1913 (*home*) or (860) 690-8651 (*cell*).

Margie or Mark will then reach out to secure pastoral care coverage.

At this time, **Reverend Ann Lovejoy Johnson** will be providing that support.



Sunday, September 28

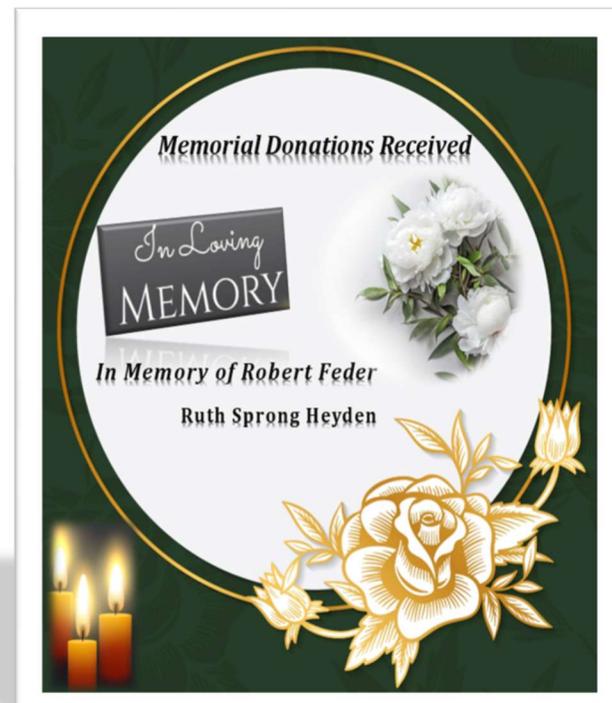
11:30 a.m.

Concordia's OKTOBERFEST Returns!

**German Sausages, German Potato Salad,
Sauerkraut, and more.**

Further Information will be Forthcoming!

Further Information will be Forthcoming!





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
6/18/2025	Laura McKay	Comfort, strength and healing (major surgery)	Sandry Baranowski
6/11/2025	John Corl and his family	Strength and Healing	Mark Winzler, Lanie Turner
6/10/25	David Turek	Healing	Susan Bourret
5/29/2025	Family of Ralph Sullivan	Ralph Sullivan's daughter, Laura Hart (former Concordia Nursery School director), and their family as they grieve his passing.	Lanie Turner
5/5/2025	Stacy	Complete healing and restoration of body.	Marian E. Slater
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~

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? **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):

Hotdogs | Hamburgers | Rolls | German Potato Salad | Baked Beans

Those attending are requested 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 email: office@concordiamanchester.org*

By: MONDAY, AUGUST 5TH