

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT  
2025**



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## In Memoriam Obituary for Robert G. Feder

1957 - 2025

Robert "Bob" G. Feder, 68, of Manchester, entered into eternal rest on Saturday, May 17, 2025, after courageously battling a long illness. Husband of Yvonne (Zych) Feder and son of the late William and Lois (Kluck) Feder, Bob was born on January 13, 1957, in Stamford, CT, and grew up in Manchester, CT.

As a veteran of the Vietnam War era, Bob graduated from the Marine Corps Institute and served in the United States Marine Corps from 1974 to 1978 reaching the rank of Corporal. After his time in the military, he returned to Manchester and married the love of his life, Yvonne, with whom he spent 46 years. Bob worked for 36 years in the United States Postal Service-the majority of those years were spent at the Silver Lane Branch in East Hartford. Bob, along with his wife, loved music and often attended blues and rock concerts together. A musician himself, Bob enjoyed playing blues on his harmonica and the guitar for his family and friends. He was also an avid Chess and Backgammon player and was a member of the UCONN Chess Club, New Britain Chess Club, and Connecticut Backgammon Club meetups at Birdhouse Coffee. He was a sports enthusiast and could often be found watching the Boston Bruins, Boston Red Sox, New England Patriots, and Tour de France cycling race. His faith was of the utmost importance to him and he was an active member of Concordia Lutheran Church in Manchester. Bob was a kind and compassionate man who loved his family, especially his four grandchildren and Dalmatian, Zack.

To cherish his memory, Bob is survived by his loving wife, Yvonne; his son, Luke Feder and his wife, Jamie, of Wantagh, NY, and his daughter, Stefanie DeLuca and her husband, Tim, of West Hartford, CT; his grandchildren, Miranda Feder, Matthew Feder, Vincent DeLuca, and Grace DeLuca; his siblings, Gail Feder, Roger Feder, Gwen Feder, and Charles Feder and his wife Nora; his mother-in-law, Marta Zych; his sister-in-law, Barbara Zych Nisyrios; and many loved nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Besides his parents, Bob was predeceased by his father-in-law Stefan Zych, brother Richard Feder, and sister-in-law Evelyn Feder.

Relatives and friends are invited to the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St. in Manchester on Tuesday, May 27, for calling hours from 10am to 12pm. A funeral home service will take place at 12pm, with a procession to follow to East Cemetery for a military burial.

Memorial contributions can be made in Bob's name to the following charity which was close to his heart, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)). The family would also like to thank the doctors and nurses at Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center at Hartford Hospital for all of their hard work and dedication to their patients. For online condolences, please visit [www.tierneyfuneralhome.com](http://www.tierneyfuneralhome.com).



## **In Memoriam**

### **Obituary for Edward E. Clough**

Edward "Eddie" Clough, 81, of Vernon, CT, passed away on Saturday, February 22, 2025 in the comfort of his home which he loved so very much. Eddie was born to the late Ann and Alfred Clough on June 16, 1943. Eddie lived with his parents in Manchester for a number of years where he ended up graduating from Manchester High School. Shortly thereafter, Eddie and his family relocated to Vernon where he lived for the remainder of his life.

Eddie was known to be a very simple man who focused his life on those that mattered most to him. Eddie possessed a deep love for spending time with all of his family members who he maintained as the central core of his life.

Eddie furthered his education by taking various courses at Manchester Community College and loved the process of studying so much. Eddie was an avid reader of sports, finance, nutrition, and religion. Eddie shared a love of watching sports, such as basketball, and baseball with his family.

One of Eddie's finer loves in life was caring for the animals that he had over the years which included two cocker spaniels named Brandy, and Teddy, a cat named Tammy, and a yellow canary named Bing. In addition to household pets, Eddie also enjoyed very

much taking care of wildlife that visited him frequently in his yard.

Eddie is pre-deceased by his mother Ann, father Alfred, aunt Dorothy Gill of Manchester, and his brother-in-law Edward Wojcik of South Windsor. Eddie leaves behind his sister Althea Wojcik of Vernon, niece Heather DeMonte of Coventry, nephew Scott Wojcik and his wife Karen of Ellington, cousins Richard Clough of Glastonbury, and Chuck Gill of Willington. Eddie also leaves behind great nieces and nephews Nicholas Demonte and his girlfriend Jenna of Somers, and Hannah, Jacob, and Abigayle Wojcik of Ellington.

In Eddie's final days, he was surrounded by the love and support of family, and he received remarkable care, kindness, love, and dedication from the hospice aides from Always Best Homecare of Manchester, and hospice nurses through Hartford Healthcare.

In lieu of flowers, Eddie would simply ask that everyone hold close those that they hold dear, and spend special moments with those in your lives that you love so much. Services will be held privately by the request of the family. To leave on-line condolences, please visit [www.holmeswatkins.com](http://www.holmeswatkins.com).

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Edward E. Clough please visit our [Sympathy Store](#).



## **In Memoriam**

### **Obituary for Lois Dorothy Feder**

**December 31, 1930 - July 31, 2024**

Lois Dorothy (Kluck) Feder, 93, passed peacefully into eternal rest with her family by her side on July 31, 2024. Born on December 31, 1930 to the late John and Julia Kluck, Lois was a life-long resident of Manchester. She graduated from Manchester High School in 1948 and was trained as a nurse at Greenwich Hospital, where she met the love of her life, Bill (William) Feder.

After marrying in 1950, Lois and Bill returned to Manchester with their young family. There, Lois balanced raising six children and working in various positions in the medical field. She was an active member of Concordia Lutheran Church, where she was baptized, confirmed and married. Lois and Bill enjoyed square dancing and are past-presidents of the East Hartford Square Dance Club. Summers were spent at Indianfield Campground in Salem, CT, where they were surrounded by good friends and family. Lois often could be found sitting on her porch with a good book, or cheering loudly for UCONN Basketball or the Boston Red Sox.

For decades, Lois hosted Sunday dinner for the entire family, who all will remember fondly her lasagna and chocolate cake. Lois had a keen mind for the history of Manchester, and loved to reminisce about her days as a child and time spent with her father. She was a veritable encyclopedia of family history (not just her own) and could always recall who was married to whom, when they graduated high school, and who their children were.

After the passing of her husband in 2004, Lois became active at the Manchester Senior Center, enjoying day trips, aerobics, mahjong and the companionship of many.

Lois is predeceased by her siblings Erwin Kluck and Gertrude (Kluck) Stoneman. She is also predeceased by her husband Bill Feder, her son Richard Feder, and her daughter-in-law, Evelyn Feder (wife of Roger).

Lois is survived by a large and loving family, including daughters Gail Feder and Gwen Feder, and sons Roger Feder, Charles Feder and his wife Nora, Robert Feder and his wife Yvonne, and her sister-in-law Gail Schonning Feder of Wilmington, NC. She will be missed by her nine grandchildren, Robert Campanelli, Lynda Feder-Craney, Douglas and Jason Slater, Luke Feder and Stefanie (Feder) DeLuca, Eleisha (Pantaleo) LeMay and Daniel Pantaleo, and Travis Feder, and her thirteen great grandchildren, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will take place on Friday, August 9, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM at the Manchester Funeral Home, 142 East Center Street, Manchester, CT. A funeral service will commence at 11:30 AM at the funeral home, followed by burial at East Cemetery, Manchester, CT.

To leave on-line condolences, please visit [www.ManchesterFH.com](http://www.ManchesterFH.com).

## Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting

June 22, 2025

### Call to Order

### Devotions

### Approval of Agenda

### Approval of Minutes- February 2025 Semi-Annual Meeting April 27, 2025 Special Meeting

### Holy Closure Information Update- Pastor Maria Hammons

### Resolution of Intent to Sell Real Property (2/3 vote)

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.

### East Cemetery Markers and Monument

To pay up to \$17,000 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.

### Reports

- Pastor
- President
- Nursery School Director
- Treasurer Update on Budget
- GHIAA
- Outreach
- Pop-Up Shop
- Worship and Memorial Garden
- Member Care
- Property

### Elections (See Nominating Committee Report)

- Congregation Council
- Legacy for Ministry
- Memorial Garden Board

### Information

- The January 2026 Semi-annual meeting will tentatively be held on January 25, 2026.
- The Congregation Council will meet after this meeting to elect officers.

### Adjournment

# **Unapproved Minutes of the Concordia Lutheran Church Annual Finance Report 2024 held February 23, 2025**

**Call to Order** – Mark Winzler @ 12:31 PM

**Devotions** – Pastor Hedberg

**Approval of Agenda** – Agenda was approved as written

**Approval of the Minutes of the June 23, 2024 Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting** – The minutes were approved as amended to correctly list the David Smith completed two term retirement under Memorial Garden instead of under Legacy.

## **Reports**

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor indicated that his report was essentially the same as last year with updated dates and totals

**Council President's Report** – Mark Winzler added emphasis to the following sections of his written report:

- Communication about the transition process is a priority and most of the issues have been communicated multiple times.
- Statistics on current membership and participation were highlighted.
- Mark pointed out that he has heard misunderstandings about our moving forward and reviewed the constitutional requirements for voting.
- There were no further questions.

**2024 Year End Treasurer's Report** – David was present to answer any questions about the 2024 yearly finances. Carol's write-up highlighted that that our financial stability is due in large part to the fact that we do not have a full-time pastor. We are blessed that Pastor Hedberg has stayed with us during this time of transition.

**Legacy for Ministry Report** – Legacy funds showed a balance of \$1,034,224.35 for 2024. Disbursement dollars calculated as available for 2024 equaled \$41,358.51. The congregation approved \$46,000 in special meetings for steeple repair (\$45,000) and a \$1,000 gift to New Horizon Church. \$14,100 in benevolence was distributed to MACC, Concordia Nursery School and GHIAA.

### **Worship and Memorial Garden Report**

No additional items to report.

**Concordia Nursery School Finance Report** – There was a question about the \$5,300 tuition assistance payment distribution. It has not been made yet this year.

**Report from the Stewardship Committee** – David thanked everyone for their support. No one had questions.

**Audit Team Report** – This is the first audit in several years. The team will meet with the financial people involved and go over their findings.

**Reception of all of the Reports – There was a motion to receive all of the reports, the motion was seconded and the vote passed.**

**Motion to Approval of 2025 Proposed Ministry Budget –** David Smith was available to answer any questions. He identified expense changes, and some increases for staff. Other increases reflect adjustments for higher historic expenses.

**The motion was moved, seconded, and passed to adopt the Proposed 2025 Budget.**

### **Concordia Nursery School Status Report**

Nursery School Directory Ashley Salerno attended a meeting with Council and the Transition team to discuss the status of the school going forward. Ashley then wrote up the three-page report included in the booklet clearly summarizing the discussion and funding needed to complete this year plus two options for the 2025-2026 term. After extensive discussion, the following motions were presented, moved, seconded and unanimously passed:

**Motion 1:** To provide the Concordia Nursery School with up to \$6,000 from the Scholarship Fund to cover remaining expenses for the present school year ending June 30, 2025.

**Motion 2:** To provide the Concordia Nursery School with up to \$30,000 from the Scholarship Fund to cover needed expenses for the 2025-2026 school year ending June 30, 2026 with the stipulation that at least twelve children must be enrolled.

### **Election of Synod Assembly May 30-31, 2025 Voting Members**

**Motion (3 parts) was moved seconded and passed:**

- a) To appoint David Smith as a Voting Member to the 2025 NE Synod Assembly
- b) To authorize the Congregation Council to appoint another voting member
- c) To appoint Zachary Baranowski as either the second Voting Member (if no one else wishes to attend) or as a third Voting Member (Young Adult under the age of 30) if he is able to attend.

### **Appointment of Nominating Committee**

**Motion was moved, seconded and passed: To authorize the Congregation Council, on behalf of the congregation, to appoint a nominating committee for the June 2025 elections.**

**Action Summary:** The meeting agenda and June minutes were approved; reports were received. Motions were passed to approve the 2025 budget, and to provide financial support for Concordia Nursey School for this year and next. Motions authorizing the Congregation Council to appoint another voting member to the Synod Assembly and a nominating committee on behalf of the congregation were also passed.

**Adjournment –** a motion to adjourn was seconded and passed at 2:05 PM

### **Why 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.

## Mission Statement

As Lutheran Christians, Concordia understands God is calling us to be:  
A Christian community with responsibility to support each other, our neighborhood and the larger community.

A gathered Assembly marked by the practices of prayer, study, reflection and worship,  
Selfless Disciples who communicate and practice the faith through acts of faithful stewardship, service and forgiveness.

*Respectfully submitted, Susan Bourret*

## List of Meeting Attendees

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. David Smith        | 11. Kay Corl         |
| 2. Susan Bourret      | 12. C. Paul Goodrich |
| 3. Sandra Baranowski  | 13. Janet McGarity   |
| 4. Lanie Turner       | 14. John Haid        |
| 5. Ruth Sprong-Heyden | 15. Rolf Hedberg     |
| 6. Jim Britton        | 16. David Beauregard |
| 7. Carol Burnett      | 17. Jane Casserly    |
| 8. Donald Slater      | 18. Rebekka Almond   |
| 9. Mark Winzler       | 19. Elaine Briggmann |
| 10. John Corl         |                      |



## **MINUTES OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – SUNDAY, April 27, 2025**

Meeting called to order by President Mark Winzler at 11:40 a.m.

The Meeting purpose letter, Agenda and the Holy Closure process document were mailed to members prior to the Meeting.

Pastor Hedberg opened the meeting with prayer.

Mark reminded participants of the ELCA rules for voting in official congregational meetings.

Pastor Maria Hammons reviewed the prior meeting discussions and results, outlining how we arrived at the difficult decision to call for a vote on Holy Closure.

Mark pointed out the 2 benchmarks that we are close to reaching, financial and attendance and gave details to attendees.

Some questions were asked and answered about timing, steps and distribution of the money. Steps outlined in the closure document will be completed in the next year as Concordia Nursery School will be in session until June 1, 2026.

A vote was called.

### **Motion for Consideration**

***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.***

*(Note: Voting by Paper Ballots- Simple Majority Needed to Pass)*

The motion passed: vote counts were: 34-yes, 10-no, 2-abstained.

Time was taken for individual prayer after the vote.

Questions were answered about next steps and all attending were encourage to help with the work for the next year.

Forty-six people attended the meeting.

A letter will be sent to the members summarizing what transpired during the week.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

## A Pastoral Letter for the June 2025 Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation



**Dear Friends in Christ,**

Before I wrote this letter, I looked at the one I wrote for the June 2024 semi-annual meeting and quickly realized that this letter is considerably different in both content and tone for two reasons. First, there is the congregation, and second, there are some things I want to say about myself.

**First, the congregation.** Much has happened this past year, and undoubtedly the most significant development is the vote on April 27th to explore Holy Closure.

This meeting was led by Pastor Maria Hammons, and she did so in a way that was pastorally sensitive while also being very realistic. Now, I don't have the numbers in front of me regarding the vote, but if I recall correctly, it passed by a two-thirds majority.

What I do remember are two key things. First, the amount of work required to accomplish the Holy Closure is considerable, and it will require the prayers and involvement of many—not just a few—within the congregation. Some tasks will be of shorter duration, while others will be more hands-on and require long-term commitment and responsibility. Each of you will need to determine where you can best contribute.

Secondly, there are no winners or losers in this conversation or in this vote. No one is happy, and everyone—no matter how they voted—is sad. The memories this place holds for each of you are palpable, and every single one is beautiful in its own way. Baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals, yes—but perhaps even more importantly, the countless personal moments that are dear to your hearts. So that is my word to and for you, the congregation.

**Second, about me.** Most of you know that I have submitted my resignation as transitional pastor here at Concordia. Most of you also know that this is my second time serving in this capacity, though this time it will be considerably longer—over four years.

To that end, all of my years at Concordia have been an absolute pleasure. The worship, the music, the social events—and you might not believe this one, but it is very true—the writing and preaching of sermons ten years beyond my “official” retirement has been a real gift. When I retired ten years ago, I thought that sermons and all they entailed would be the thing I missed the least. How wrong I was!

Finally, what Lois and I will miss most is the many friends we have come to know and love. You have been truly wonderful. I cannot put it any other way.

It is always risky to name names, but among you, one person truly stands out. I think you will all agree when I say that Mark Winzler is “Mr. Concordia”—not only because of the many hats he wears around here but also because of his heart, his love for this congregation, and the depth of his faith. Mark has made my time at Concordia both fulfilling and, I must add, much easier.

So now the time is right for me to say goodbye. Yes, I will be here until the end of December, with my final worship service on December 24. Age, travel, and family are all part of this decision, as well as recognizing that I no longer have the energy to see this exploration of Holy Closure through.

So I will bid you a fond farewell, at that time.

**With much love and faith in Jesus the Christ,** *Pastor Rolf Hedberg*

## Congregation President's Report

The focus of the second of our two semi-annual meetings each year is on program. Here are some highlights from the past year (in no particular order). Some of these will appear in greater detail in other reports.



### Overview

#### Manchester Schools/Highland Park

The partnership with Highland Park School has grown. In addition to supplying items outside of Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Family Resource Director makes us aware of other needs to which we can respond and we did so on a few occasions this year.

#### Pop-Up Shop

Out of this a "Pop-Up Shop" was born, a place where identified Highland Park parents can come to stop (free of charge) for a multitude of items including clothing. Thanks to the dedicated members who have worked to make this store an outreach to the community: Rebekka Almond, Carol Burnett, Jan McGarity, Bobby McKinney, Ruth Sprong-Heyden, Pam Olson, Bea Santiago, Carol Stoneman, Nancy Lynn Knauff, and Lanie Turner.

#### Lenten/Holy Week Worship

Once again this year we collaborated with Emanuel Lutheran Church and Ministerio Nueva Creacion to plan and hold worship together for Ash Wednesday, Midweek Lenten, and Holy Week.

#### Social

Both the annual August Pool/Barbecue gathering at Mark's house and the Fastnacht Dinner before Lent began were well attended. Concordia members and guests enjoy being together!

#### Building and Grounds

By vote of the congregation, funds were allocated to fix the steeple area so that water would no longer come in and negatively impact the organ. Funds were also allocated to address issues with the boiler. With the steeple water issue fixed, organ repairs have been completed allowing full use of the organ.

### Membership Roll

There are **ninety-three (93) names** on our membership roll.

#### Voting Members

As indicated in the constitution, having one's name on the membership roll, does not grant a person the right to vote. The constitution states that a person must.....

a) Attend church/commune within the year

**AND**

b) Make a contribution of record within the year.

This is very important. As we will be embarking on a number of meetings with votes, it is imperative that if you wish to vote, that you must be in compliance with the two stipulations above.

**Also of note:** You must be present to vote! There is no provision in our constitution for absentee voting.

## Transition

Members were kept abreast of everything related to transition through a number of communications (verbal and written) and documents distributed over the course of the year. As has been the case throughout the transition, complete transparency and open communication remains the hallmarks of the transition process.

Therefore, the following is not meant to be exhaustive in terms of details, but rather provides a synopsis of that which we did during the last program year.

After investigating a number of partners last spring and summer, conversations began with St. Peter's Episcopal Church in South Windsor. The Council and Transition Team met with their Vestry members and Rector in September to get to know one another. As this is something that St. Peter's had not considered before, it took time for them to learn about partnerships, discuss internally. (Note: As time passed, Concordia members decided that this was not an area which they wished to pursue.)

The Council and Transition Team met at least monthly, sometimes by ourselves and other times with Pastor Maria in order to gather information, ask questions and plan for congregational meetings. The Council and Transition Team made no binding decisions....these were planning meetings. All decisions about Concordia's future have been and will continue to be in the hands of voting members.

At the September 2024 meeting, the congregation was given detailed information about pledges (the actual amounts minus names), Sunday church attendance and other items related to our benchmarks. This perhaps was a "turning point" meeting when many came to grips with the fact that we cannot continue as we are and that selling the building was a must no matter what road we pursue as our finances were not sustainable.

The focus then shifted to merger. A meeting was held with Pastor Maria during which she shared about mergers. Three churches were identified: Emanuel-Manchester, Trinity-Vernon and St. Mark-Glastonbury. Shortly after the New Year began opportunities were offered for Concordia members to visit those churches to experience their worship and to "get a feel" of the members and the church vitality.

Once completed, Pastor Maria met with us so members could share what they experienced and how they felt as a result of the visits in terms of interest.

Another meeting with Pastor Maria was held some weeks later at which time there was a consensus vote taken about our three possible churches with whom we might want to explore merger. The first "straw pool" indicated most interest in Emanuel and St. Mark. A second vote was taken and there was basically "down the middle". Following some other questions by Pastor Maria, she shared that there was no consensus and therefore the only real option left was to explore Holy Closure. While this was something we knew was always a possibility, there was always hope that we would either partner or merge, but now this was in front of us.

On April 28, Pastor Maria returned for a specially-called congregational meeting.

Pastor Maria explained that the vote to be taken is to "explore" meaning starting the work which leads to closing (takes majority to pass). There will be other congregation meetings in the future (which require a 2/3 vote to pass), for example, one of which will authorize the building to be put on the real estate market.

The vote was then taken (by paper ballot) on the following motion:

***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.***

Results of the Voting:  
YES- 34 NO- 10 ABSTAIN- 2  
The motion passed.

There were a range of emotions felt by people following that vote and time was taken to process and pray. As the congregation, at the February 23, 2025 semi-annual meeting, made a commitment for the Nursery School to be in operation for one more school year (September 2025- May 2026), **the closing of Concordia will not take place until June 30, 2026.** The following dates have been set related to Holy Closure:

### **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 late **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.

The next step for us to have people volunteer to serve on Teams: Real Estate, Property (outside of real estate), Archives and Finance. Information was in the June Chimes. Pastor Maria will review those teams again with us at the June 22, 2025 semi-annual meeting.

## **Transition Pastor**

**Pastor Hedberg** has been with us since September of 2021. He announced that he will be away for the months of July and August (except for one Sunday) and then will return in September. He also shared that he will complete his time serving as our Transition Pastor on Christmas Eve. He will not return after that. We will be coordinating coverage for the months of January-June 2026 with Pastor Maria and inform you once plans have been put into place.

In addition to leading Sunday worship, Advent Midweek, Christmas Eve, Lenten Midweek, and Holy Week worship, Pastor Hedberg has been in the office one day a week plus attending Congregation Council Meetings, Executive Committee Meetings, Finance Committee Meetings, Legacy Board Meetings, as well as meeting with/contacting members in need of pastoral care.

During these meetings he has, many times, brought thoughts and ideas “to the table” with his pastoral lens which have helped to guide us. We are in his debt and are deeply appreciative of his willingness to continue to be with us through December 2025. He continues to exhibit his care and concern for us which is deeply appreciated while providing us with “food for thought” at the same time.

**Please know that our thanks to you are sincere and heartfelt!**

## **Parish Administrator**

We have been blessed for the past four years to have **Margie Gallagher** serve as our “Temporary” Parish Administrator since July 1, 2024. Everything has been running smoothly and efficiently. Margie has been a quick learner, is creative and has expressed how much she enjoys serving in this role. It shows and we are deeply appreciative!

Some thanks.....

- **John Anderson and Linda Hilliard (and most recently Rebekka Almond)** who have served us faithfully and well as our supply organists/choir director. Our rich worship and music life continues on!
- Thanks to **Susan Bourret, Ruth Sprong-Heyden and Carol Stoneman** who week after week have worked behind the scenes on all matters relating to finance.
- Thanks to property team of **Joel Baranowski, David Beauregard, John Corl and Phil Stoneman** for their leadership in the care of our building and grounds. Special recognition and thanks to Joel for his faithful, untiring care for the building and for his expertise in addressing issues. Thanks also to Phil Stoneman for being the “go to” person many a time!
- Thanks to my fellow members of the Congregation Council (C) and Transition Team (T) for the countless hours we have spent together over the last year on all aspects of the transition: **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).
- Thanks to **all members of Concordia** for being diligent and supportive financially. Thanks also for your patience and understanding during this extended transition process.
- Thanks to **GOD** for being among us and guiding us over these past years as we discerned our future. We give God thanks for all that we have, all that we are and all that we do as Concordia Lutheran Church!

Mark L. Winzler, *President*

Our 2024-2025 school year began with major changes at Concordia Nursery School. After eleven years of dedication to our program, Laura Hart left her role as director to care for her aging parents. I stepped in as the new director officially on July 1. This came with new challenges and a reputation to fulfill but Laura did everything possible to ensure that I was ready and that the transition was seamless for our families.

Concordia Nursery School remains the only church-based, part-time nursery school of its kind in Manchester following the closing of Center Nursery School in June 2023, and the closure of Chestnut Hill Preschool in June 2024. However, due to many families seeking full-time care or free to lower cost alternatives we continued to struggle to secure full enrollment. We can enroll a maximum of eighteen children and while we began the summer with sixteen, two families withdrew prior to the school year starting. One family was being relocated out of state for work and the other had been accepted into a charter school in town. We were unable to fill those vacancies and remained with a total of fourteen children enrolled for the 2024-2025 school year. Six were enrolled as PK3 students and eight were enrolled as PK4 students. With these factors, we entered the year with a significant budget deficit. The church has generously given us additional funds to meet our expenses and we are so very thankful for this.

With Laura's departure and me stepping into the role as director and primary head teacher; Sarah Tierinni transitioned to a secondary head teacher role, sharing responsibilities for classroom observations and assessments and classroom management, whereas I focused my teaching responsibility on planning and curriculum goals, in addition to assessments and observations. I am so grateful for Sarah, who brings new insight, creative ideas, teaching strategies, and has been an amazing support for me as I navigated my new role. Laura has been sorely missed by the children and families but we are so happy she remains in a more "behind the scenes" role as our bookkeeper. As an added bonus, in August 2024, we were thrilled to welcome her grown child, Eva Hart as our assistant teacher! Eva has been a classroom substitute for the last four years and attended Concordia as a child. Eva has grown tremendously this year as a teacher. He connects beautifully with the children, is eager to learn, intuitive, and brings a very needed calming energy to the classroom. I am so proud of him and look forward to his continued growth next school year!

One big question for this year was whether or not we would be able to open for one final school year in 2025-2026 despite experiencing significant financial deficits and decreasing enrollment. After meeting with the church council and presenting the information, the council unanimously voted to graciously support the nursery school, offering up to \$30,000 in financial support. This did come with a few stipulations. One was that we must enroll a minimum of twelve children for both financial and educational reasons. The other was that we offer fundraising opportunities to help mitigate operational costs. I am beyond ecstatic to report that we have full enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year, with eighteen children enrolled. In addition, our first fundraiser exceeded our expectations and earned over \$900. We are so thankful that the parish has elected to once again financially support the school for the coming year, although bittersweet, as we recognize that that the upcoming year will be the last for CNS.

We are deeply thankful for the ongoing support we receive from Margie in the office, Council president Mark Winzler, treasurers Carol Stoneman and Susan Bourret, Nursery School Board members Sandra Baranowski and Julie Chiffer, as well as Church Council members and other parishioners. Many thanks to all, especially the building and grounds members who take such good care of our beautiful facility inside and out!

We realize that there are changes ahead for not only the nursery school, but the church as well. It is my hope that we will accept these changes with an open mind and faithful heart. CNS is a special place and we will continue to make a difference in the lives of all those we meet and share the message of what Concordia taught us to make the world a better place for all.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
*Ashley Salerno, Director*

## Treasurer Update on Budget

### 2025 DETAILED YTD REVENUE & EXPENSES AGAINST 2025 BUDGET

The below information represents the income and expenditures through April 2025 against the 2025 Budget. The percentage of the total budget for four (4) months into the year should be at 33% of the total budget.

Budget Income	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	% of Total
		YTD	Budget
1-111000 - Envelope Offering	\$ 159,000.00	\$ 60,250.00	38%
1-111010 - Other Funding (Stretch)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,726.00	136%
1-114000 - Non-Operating Income (Legacy funds)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 8,800.00	59%
1-112010 - Open Offering	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 311.00	31%
1-112020 - Initial Offering	\$ 200.00	\$ 130.00	65%
1-112030 - Festival offering	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,712.00	43%
1-113010 - General Use of Building	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 750.00	38%
1-113040 - Christian Indian Building Use	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 400.00	33%
1-113050 - AA Use of Building	\$ 200.00	\$ -	0%
1-115000 - Utilities Assistance	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 582.00	49%
1-116000 - Snow Removal Assistance	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 410.00	34%
1-214040 - Church Service	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	60%
1-214030 - Miscellaneous Gifts	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 110.00	7%
1-215000 - Miscellaneous Income Non Budgeted	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,056.00	70%
<b>Total Budgeted Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 195,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 80,237.00</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Non-Operating Income</b>			
1-211034 - Memorial Legacy Funds		\$ -	0%
1-212010 - World Hunger Gifts		\$ 314.00	0%
1-212011 - ELCA Miscellaneous (Disaster Relief)		\$ 200.00	0%
1-212020 - Lutheran World Relief		\$ -	0%
1-213020 - MACC Pantry		\$ -	0%
<b>Total Non-Operating Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 514.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total Revenues (Budgeted &amp; Non-Operating)</b>	<b>\$ 195,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 80,751.00</b>	<b>41%</b>

#### Budget Expenses

##### Benevolence

2-111010 - Synod - Mission Support	\$ 18,700.00	\$ 6,233.34	33%
2-111030 - Manchester Area Conf. of Churches	\$ 5,300.00	\$ -	0%
2-111040 - Concordia Nursery School	\$ 5,300.00	\$ -	0%
2-111050 - GHIAA	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	100%
<b>Total Benevolence</b>	<b>\$ 32,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,733.34</b>	<b>30%</b>

**Staff Salaries**

2-112030 - Parish Administrator's Salary	\$ 23,251.20	\$ 7,750.40	33%
2-112060 - Supply Pastor	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 639.20	16%
2-112070 - Supply Organist	\$ 16,650.00	\$ 5,100.00	31%
2-112090 - Transitional Pastor	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 13,475.00	42%
<b>Total Staff Salaries</b>	<b>\$ 75,901.20</b>	<b>\$ 26,964.60</b>	<b>36%</b>

**Fringe Benefits**

2-113020 - FICA & Medicare (Parish Admin/Lay EE	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 588.57	29%
2-1113090 - Mileage Reimbursement	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,155.00	39%
<b>Total Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,743.57</b>	<b>35%</b>

**Program Expenses**

2-114030 - Church Service	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,105.58	79%
2-114060 - Stewardship	\$ 350.00		0%
2-114110 - Member Care	\$ -		0%
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,105.58</b>	<b>75%</b>

**Program Support Expenses**

2-115010 - Office Expense & Printing	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,432.48	34%
2-115030 - Pastor's Continuing Education	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0%
2-115050 - Synod Meetings	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 450.00	28%
2-115060 - Publicity	\$ 300.00	\$ -	0%
2-115070 - Treasurer's Supplies - Budgeted	\$ 800.00	\$ 234.43	29%
2-115080 - Finance Expenses (Shepherd's Staff)	\$ 575.00	\$ 600.00	104%
<b>Total Program Support Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 14,275.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,716.91</b>	<b>33%</b>

**Facility Maintenance**

2-116010 - Organ & Piano Maintenance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,787.00	119%
2-116020 - Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,257.39	23%
2-116021 - Elevator Maintenance	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 831.84	24%
2-116022 - Capital Replacement	\$ -	\$ 1,177.00	0%
2-116030 - Cleaning Service	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	33%
2-116040 - Snow Removal	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 8,319.50	55%
2-116050 - Trash Hauling	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 909.64	34%
<b>Total Facility Maintenance</b>	<b>\$ 44,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,282.37</b>	<b>43%</b>

New garbage disposal & refrigerator

**Utilities**

2-117010 - Gas	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,895.37	59%
2-117020 - Electricity	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 2,061.23	22%
2-117030 - Telephone	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 1,877.40	35%
2-117040 - Sewer & Water	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 132.86	13%
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$ 25,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,966.86</b>	<b>39%</b>

**Insurance**

2-118011 - Liability Insurance	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 6,106.75	47%
2-118012 - Excess Liability Insurance	\$ 500.00	\$ 250.00	50%
2-118013 - Workmans Compensation Insurance	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 282.50	28%
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 14,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,639.25</b>	<b>46%</b>

**Total Budget Expenses** \$ 219,826.20 \$ 84,152.48 38%

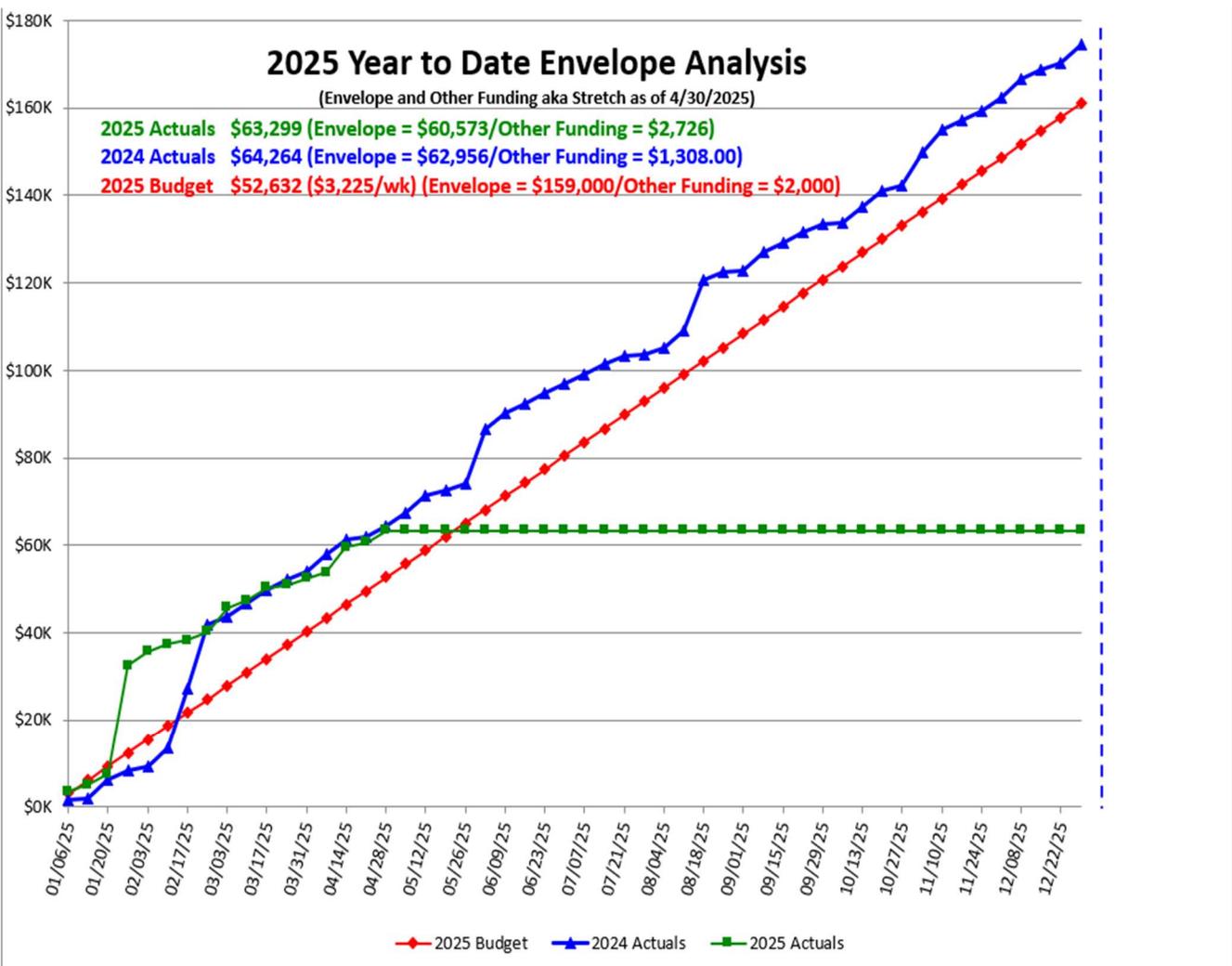
**Other Budget Expenditures**

2-214032 - Miscellaneous - Non Budget	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,501.59	150%
<b>Total Budgeted Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 220,826.20</b>	<b>\$ 85,654.07</b>	<b>39%</b>

**Expenses Not Budgeted**

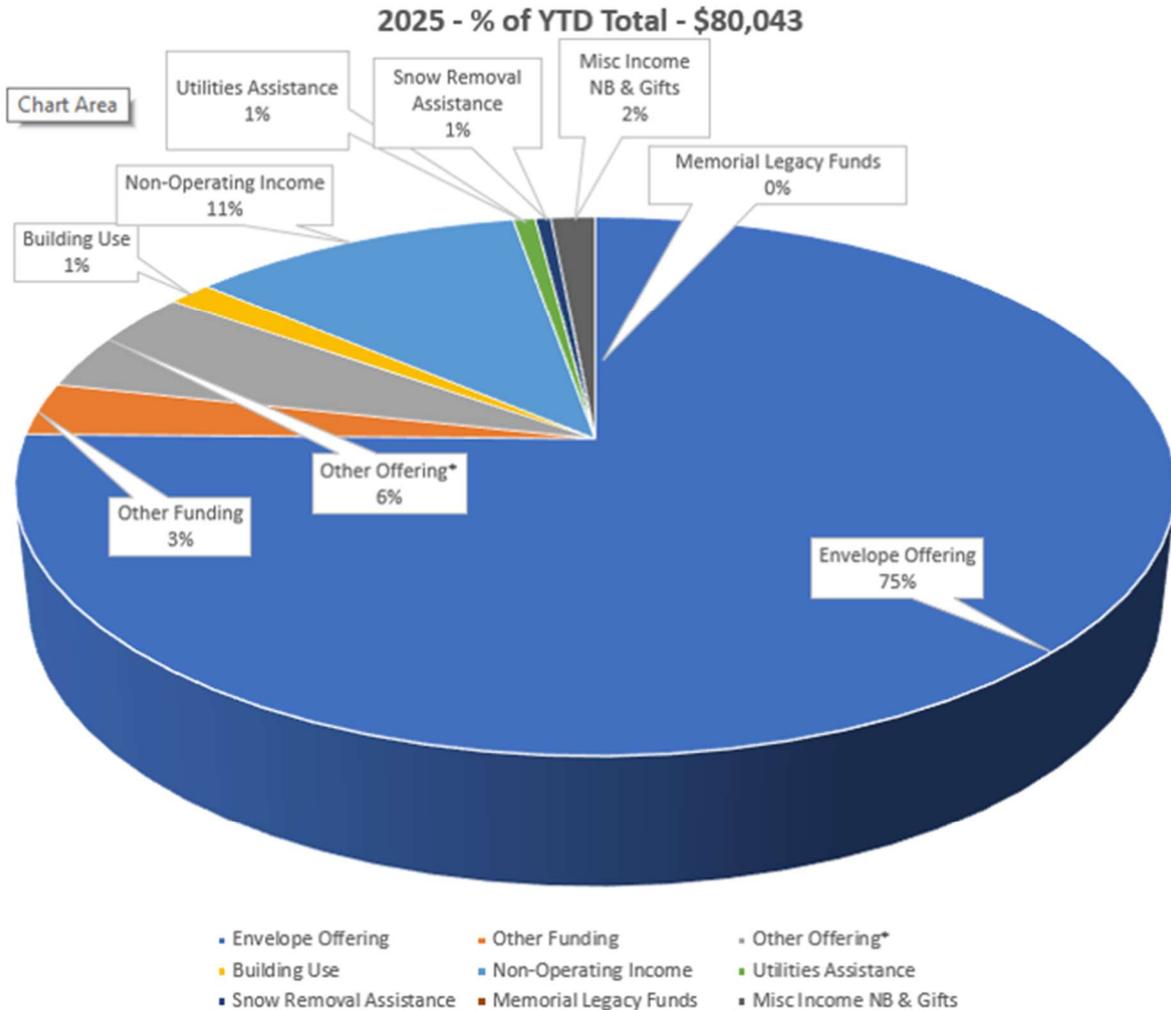
2-211015 - Christian Community	\$ -		0%
2-211017 - Memorial & Tributes	\$ -	\$ (50.00)	0%
2-211021 - Seasonal Sharing Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,108.00	0%
2-211026 - Member Care	\$ -		0%
2-211060 - Worship & Memorial Garden	\$ -	\$ (90.00)	0%
<b>Total Non Budget Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 968.00</b>	<b>0%</b>

**Total Expenses** \$ 220,826.20 \$ 86,622.07 39%



## 2025 YTD REVENUES AGAINST 2025 BUDGET

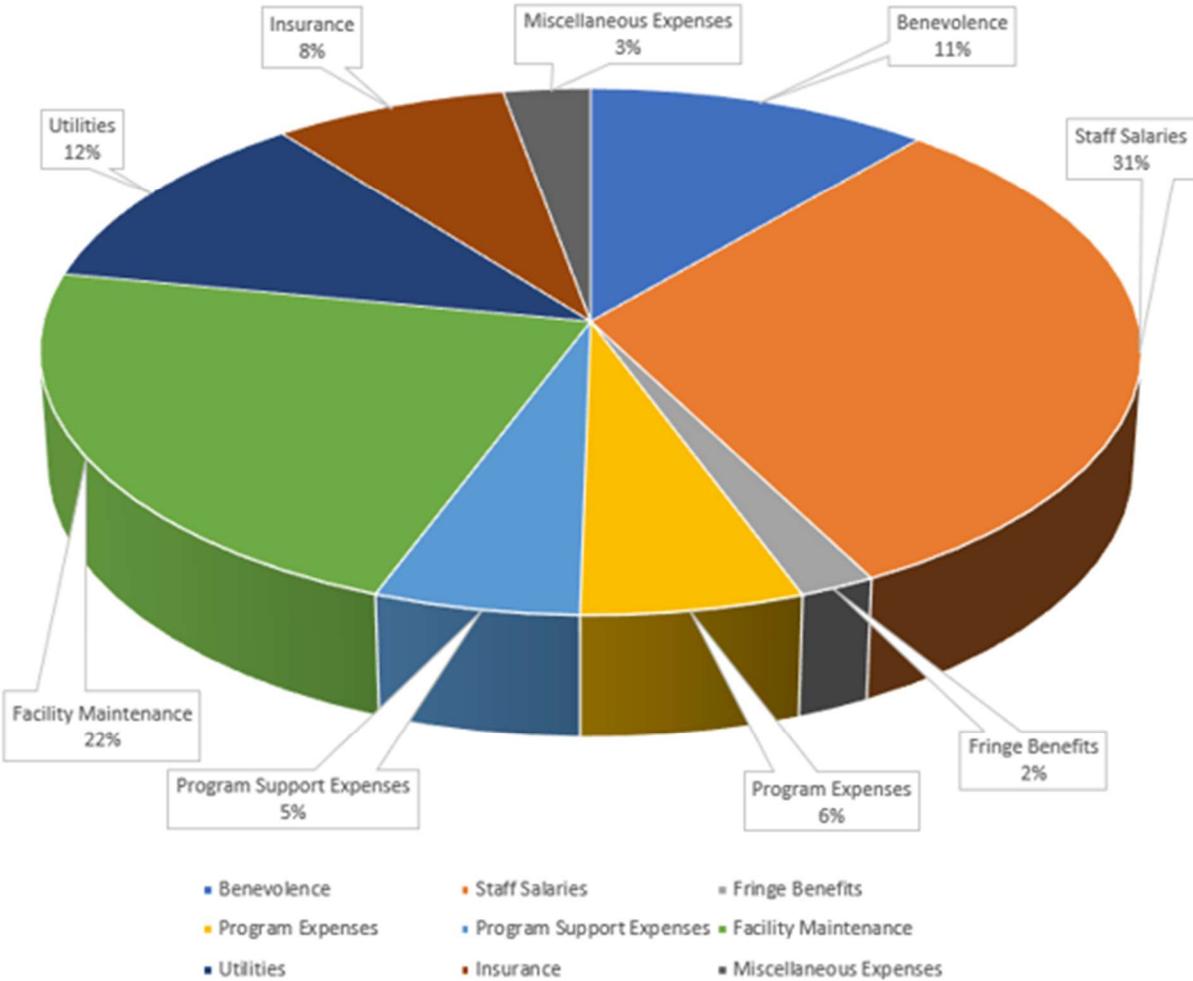
Sum of ABS Row Labels	2025 YTD Actual	2025 Budget	% of Total Budget
Envelope Offering	60,250.00	159,000.00	38%
Other Funding	2,532.00	2,000.00	127%
Other Offering*	5,153.00	10,200.00	51%
Building Use	1,150.00	3,400.00	34%
Non-Operating Income	8,800.00	15,000.00	59%
Utilities Assistance	582.00	1,200.00	49%
Snow Removal Assistance	410.00	1,200.00	34%
Memorial Legacy Funds	-	-	0%
Misc Income NB & Gifts	1,166.00	3,000.00	39%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>80,043.00</b>	<b>195,000.00</b>	<b>41%</b>
* Includes Open, Initial, Festival and Church Service			



## 2025 YTD EXPENSES AGAINST 2025 BUDGET

Sum of ABS Row Labels	2025 YTD		% of Total Budget
	Actual	2025 Budget	
Benevolence	9,733.00	32,800.00	30%
Staff Salaries	26,965.00	75,901.00	36%
Fringe Benefits	1,744.00	5,000.00	35%
Program Expenses	5,106.00	6,850.00	75%
Program Support Expenses	4,717.00	14,275.00	33%
Facility Maintenance	19,282.00	44,700.00	43%
Utilities	9,967.00	25,800.00	39%
Insurance	6,639.00	14,500.00	46%
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,470.00	1,000.00	247%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>86,623.00</b>	<b>220,826.00</b>	<b>39%</b>

2025 - % of YTD Total \$86,623



## Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) Annual Report – June 2025

Concordia and Ministerio Nueva Creación (MNC) continue to support Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) financially and by participating in the work being done.

GHIAA work continues to advance legislation and actions to improve life for Connecticut citizens.

### FOCUS 2024-2025:

Research teams worked through the summer to move from large-scale problem areas identified in house meetings to specific, actionable issue campaigns. Here are the three areas where GHIAA leaders are working:

- **Identity-Based Hate (Antisemitism, Islamophobia, Racism)** – One of the themes that arose from the stories shared in the house meetings is the rising mental, emotional, and spiritual effects of Islamophobia, antisemitism, and other forms of identity-based hate. GHIAA has a working group to develop plans for learning, leadership development, and engagement around antisemitism and Islamophobia, as well as racism.
- **State Fiscal Policy** – Another theme that arose from the stories shared in our house meetings is the profoundly inadequate resources available in this state to meet people’s basic human needs. While we could convene campaigns around education, child care, disability services, health care, mental health, violence prevention, housing, elder care, and more, we believe that until we address the root cause of flawed fiscal policy at the state level, we will continue to find our issues pitted against one another in the budget process. GHIAA convened a research team to dig into the fiscal guardrails and the underfunded PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) program, both of which are currently preventing available resources from being used to provide necessary services for CT residents.
- **Housing Affordability** – We have identified housing affordability as the third area in which GHIAA will launch a campaign. In the house meetings, we heard numerous stories of people across the spectrums of age, family configuration, education, race, religion, and geography who cannot afford a stable, safe place to live. Based on our power analysis after our last round of housing-related campaigns, we believe it will not be effective for GHIAA to bring back the specific legislative efforts we undertook previously. Rather, we will explore other creative avenues to address the lack of access and affordability of housing in our state.

### EVENTS:

We participated in a **GHIAA Delegates Assembly** on **June 20, 2024** at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry in Hartford. Recent House Meeting campaign analysis was shared and three key themes emerged from the stories that were shared.

We participated in an **Internal Delegates Assembly: Issues Update and Action Prep** on Tuesday, **September 17**. Updates from our ongoing work to develop campaigns around housing affordability, fiscal policy, and racial and religious hate were shared.

Several members of Concordia and MNC participated in the **Major Public Assembly: 2025 Campaign Launch** on Thursday, **November 21, 6:30-8:30 pm** at Weaver High School, 415 Granby St., Hartford. Updates on campaigns were given.

- **Housing Update**- Municipal action teams are addressing affordable housing issues, and eviction protection without just cause legislation is supported. A Housing Action Team (HAT) was formed and is working on these issues.
- **State Fiscal Policy Update** – Guardrails were explained and changes are being advocated.

- **Combating Religious and Racial Hate Update** - opportunities for learning, leadership development, and relationship building, are being developed.

**Delegates Assembly, Thursday, February 27, 7:00-8:30 pm.** Important and timely updates on GHIAA's actions in response to the current realities were shared.

**A Conversation on CT's Fiscal Roadblocks with House Speaker Matt Ritter, joined by members of the Hartford Legislative Delegation** was held on Tuesday, **April 8**, at Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland St., Hartford. This was a GHIAA and CT For All event to compel policy change on CT's path to passing a budget that invests in community needs.

**March for Justice, Dignity, and Equity** on **May 1**, 10am-2pm, in partnership with Make the Road Connecticut, CT for All movement and SEIU 32BJ, in Hartford to celebrate International Workers' Day and honor the power of workers, immigrants, and communities fighting for justice.

### **OTHER:**

Calls to Action supporting these initiatives were held on January 14 and 23, February 18, March 19 and 28 and May 15. These actions included giving testimony, both in-person and written.

Based on the increase in deportation action, immigration rights became an issue for GHIAA this year. Training was developed and on March 3<sup>rd</sup> an immigration rights rally was held.

Clean Slate legislation that was passed in 2021, has yet to be implemented. This September, funding for the effort has finally been allocated to implement this legislation.

### **Training Held and/or Available in the Future:**

Our first Racial Justice Practice Session & Integration Space was held on Wednesday, February 19, from 6:30-9:00 pm, via Zoom. Future sessions will be held on Mon., June 16; Tue., Sep. 9; and Tue., Nov. 18.

On Monday, February 10, from 7:00-8:00 pm, a Testimony Workshop was held via zoom. March 3<sup>rd</sup> trust act testimony training was held.

Immigrant Rights & Protections training was held via zoom on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Useful information and resources were shared.

GHIAA continues to offer workshops and training for all members of participating congregations including:

**Core Team Training** is available each year to learn skills and practices of community organizing.

**Racial Justice training** is an impactful opportunity for learning and growth. This training is facilitated for our congregations each year. The curriculum is specifically designed by GHIAA, and includes both foundational concepts and real-life applications.

Concordia and Ministerio Nueva Creación (MNC)'s GHIAA teams have participated in GHIAA since it began. Social Justice is part of our mission as the body of Christ.

We ask for congregational support of this work. As items are identified and bills go before the legislature, please write your legislators in support of these bills. If you don't know who your legislator is, we can provide you with that information. Please feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions about the work GHIAA does or want to know how you can participate.

*Respectfully,*

Your GHIAA Team:

*Nancy Lynn Knauff, David Smith, Carol Stoneman, Rebekka Almond and Susan Bourret*



## **OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORT - JUNE 2024 - MAY 2025**

### **SEASONAL SHARING – THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS**

**Highland Park School:** For both Thanksgiving and Christmas, Concordia provided 39 gift cards to families at Highland Park School. At Thanksgiving we provided Shop Rite and Stop & Shop cards to assist families in purchasing food and at Christmas we provided gift cards to Walmart and Target. Hats and mittens were collected by Concordia Nursery School which were given to HPS.

In December, a special need came to our attention by Jill Morey, the HPS Family Resource Coordinator regarding a family who has been separated due to unavailable housing. To allow them to spend Christmas and a few days following together, the HPS staff donation \$500 to secure an Airbnb for them, however they were \$300 short. Jill reached out to Concordia to see if we could help. In an emergency vote by Council, the \$300 was approved unanimously to be taken out of the Outreach fund in the Memorial & Tributes savings account. Knowing this family could spend the Christmas season together is extremely heartwarming.

**MACC:** Five of the eight MACC families were “adopted” by Concordians for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Gift cards to grocery stores were provided at Thanksgiving and Christmas based on the number of family members. Gift cards were also provided for 35 individuals for Christmas gifts. A heartfelt thank you to everyone that “adopted” families and gave monetary gifts for this year’s MACC Joy of Community Sharing.

Throughout the year, Concordia supports MACC with donations for food, personal products, paper products, etc., Thank you to Don Slater who delivers these items to MACC on behalf of Concordia.

### **HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL SUPPORT**

In April we provided Highland Park School with \$270 in Walmart gift cards to assist with addressing with immediate needs of HPS families (clothing, food, home supplies). This gift was funded from additional monies received from Carol Sutcliffe’s estate.

A huge “THANK YOU” to those who continue to donate healthy snacks for the students at HPS.

### **Highland Park School Teacher Appreciation Tea - May 7th**

Thirty teachers and administrators attended the third Teachers’ Appreciation Tea at Concordia on Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. This was an opportunity to show our gratitude and thanks to the teachers and administrators for all they do in teaching the children of Manchester. Ruth Sprong-Heyden and Carol Burnett thanked the teaches for their donations to the Pop-Up Shop and Jill Morey for continuing to coordinate the families attending. A raffle was held with summer themed giveaways. We will continue to support and assist to meet the needs of the students, parents, and teachers of HPS.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Carol Stoneman on behalf of Outreach*

## POP-UP 2024-2025

It all began a year ago on April 13, 2024. The Pop-Up Shop was started to help families in need designated by the Family Resource Coordinator at Highland Park School. We worried whether or not the 15 families would come to our free clothing, housewares, toys, and books shop. They came and we started to realize that there really was a need for something like the Pop-Up Shop in our community.

By our second shop in June, we needed more space than just the one classroom and jointly trying to use the scout classrooms. With the help of Ashley, Nursery School Director, we cleaned out a nursery school storage room and expanded into that space.

The **end of summer/back** to school shop in August featured over **70 backpacks** we collected. Our application to Thrivent was approved for **Action Team money** which was spent on warm blankets, and clothing that was requested by families for our October shop. Council also approved **\$500 for emergency** type situations and a **\$500 gift card** from *Bob's Furniture Store* was donated. The **October** shop was also the first time **Bowers School** families joined the **Highland Park School** families. Now we are able to meet the needs of **two elementary schools** in town.

The **December** shop featured a **Christmas Shop** in Brandt Lounge with boxed free gifts and grab bag gifts as well as decorations, wrapping paper, and a hat & mitten tree.

**February** featured our **Winter shop** with a sock, undies and tights tree. Before we knew it, **April** was here again—**Happy 1st Anniversary, Pop-Up Shop!**

This second April shop was the first time we put into practice the **ICE policy**. Every person had to be **registered and check in outside the building**. We used another door for exiting the building to control the flow of traffic. Everyone was very cooperative and everything went smoothly.

Our **gratitude** to everyone who donated! **Thank you** to the *following people* who either work the shop and/or who are working every week in the shop:

*Bea Santiago      Nancy Lynn Knauff      Rebekka Almond*  
*Pam Olson      Jan McGarity      Carol Stoneman*  
*Lanie Turner      Bobby McKinney*

**Respectively Submitted:** Carol Burnett & Ruth Sprong Heyden Co-Chairs

## REPORT OF WORSHIP & MEMORIAL GARDEN 2024 - 2025

*"You will be like a well watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."*

---Isaiah 58:11

At our June 2024 meeting, we welcomed new members: *Sandy Baranowski, Jeannie Barber* and *Rebekka Almond* as a volunteer.

There were no internments this year. We have started thinking about returning people's urns back to loved ones. Since we don't know the condition of urns we are shopping around for containers in which to place the urns. We received the deed to the East Cemetary plot and it is in file in the office.

The garden has been in a maintain mode waiting to see which direction the church would decide. Since our April congregational meeting, we have a tentative schedule date of September 7<sup>th</sup>, where at the end of the regular service, we will process to the garden and have a ceremony declaring the garden officially closed. The monument for the East Cemetary plot and six flush ground markers is in the final draft stages. Once reviewed and approved by Garden Board a deposit of \$5,000.00 will be made so it can be ordered. We are pushing for delivery in late summer.

The old sprinkler system sprung several leaks this year. We keep patching it as it is less costly than replacing the system. A pressure release valve was installed to help an area of brittle pipe that has sprung leaks the the past 3 years.

The pathway bluestone around the garden room has been removed and is awaiting grass planting. We had another mulch day this May. Three scout families, garden board members and spouses, plus future garden board members all showed up to help! Fifteen people in all and we moved 14 cubic yards of mulch in less than 2 hours.

### **THANK YOU EVERYONE!**

I would like to thank outgoing Board members, Susan Bourret, Paul Goodrich and Jan Salvatore for their dedicated service to the Garden Board. I could always count on them to regularly be in the garden taking care of what needed to be done without being asked.

Thank you David Beauregard for keeping the mowing schedule and taking the responsibility of lawn care. Thank you Gail Adams for keeping our financial records.

Respectively submitted,

Ruth Sprong Heyden, Chair

*Board Members:* David Smith, David Beauregard, Jan Salvatore, Jeanne Barber, Sandy Baranowski, Susan Bourret, Paul Goodrich, Phil Stoneman and Ruth Sprong Heyden.

## Member Care

Member care was busy last fall. In October we delivered mini pumpkins and single serving jugs of apple cider.



For Thanksgiving, our little care packages included small pumpkin breads and brightly wrapped chocolate turkeys.

As always, Christmas was celebrated with tins filled with cookies, and we shared our talents with a couple of people by singing Christmas carols (*unfortunately, we can only sing to a few because we also talk a lot*).

Our Valentine deliveries included cream filled chocolate cupcakes and Valentine cards.

Included in our visits were Edna Nekiunas, Linda Lange, Joanne Murphy, Irene Schack, Petey Goodrich and David Stoneman.

March and April were quiet months due to my knee surgery, so were unable to have our usual meetings. However, we still supported people with food, cards, phone calls, and rides to church.

Prayer blankets were given to Dan Burnett, Jan Salvador, and David Stoneman. Each time we did this, the entire congregation would come to the front of the church, surround the blanket and pray, a clear sign of how much we all care about each other.

As my knee continues to get stronger, I hope to get our group “back on the road again”.

Our care team includes Jan Salvador, Carol Burnette, Ruth Sprong- Heyden, Jane Casserly, myself. Also, I am excited to say, that Rebekka Almond has asked to join our team! **Thank you, Rebekka!**

As always, we ask God to help us in our mission to help and care for those of us that cannot come to Sunday services, or anyone who needs support, so that they feel comforted, knowing that they belong to a loving church family.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janet Bellino*



## CLC PROPERTY TEAM REPORT FOR JUNE 2024 TO JUNE 2025

The major projects over the past year were the fixing of the steeple leaks and the complete tuning of the organ. There were some other revisions to the steeple that would further insure that water would not leak onto the organ pipes and the choir loft but in that many inspections by Phil Stoneman and some by Joel Baranowski there was no water leaking into the organ chamber or the choir loft it was decided to go ahead with the tuning and that has been completed.

Joel Baranowski and Mark Winzler are presently involved in removing Otis as the supplier of Concordia's elevator service and replacing them with Independent Elevators.

\*Attached is a Chimes Article from the Fall of 2024 in which the Property Tasks completed in the summer and fall of 2024 are outlined.

\*Also attached is a List of Property Tasks Addressed in 2024

### FALL 2024 CHIMES ARTICLE -

UPDATE OF THE MAJOR PROPERTY ISSUES ADRESSED DURING THE SUMMER and FALL OF 2024

The Steeple Leak | The Boiler Room Heating Valve Replacement | The Office Wing A/C

The steeple leak and the boiler room heating valve replacement both required Joel Baranowski spending many hours working with contractors to insure they understood the task, chasing the contractors for bids, scheduling the work, and following up to ensure that the work addressed the problem. Because of the cost of the steeple leak repair and the cost of the boiler room heating valve replacement each were more than Concordia's current funds available, money for each project was required from "Legacy". There were two congregational votes, one for each project, to authorize taking money from "Legacy".

#### The Steeple Leak

The repair to prevent water from the steeple damaging the organ and flowing into the choir loft required that at first a platform be built from which the work on the steeple could be performed, followed by the work to redirect the water so that it flowed outside. The work platform was constructed by Millstream Construction for \$1,350. The actual work to redirect the water that collects at the base of the spire outside was performed by Peterson Roofing at a cost of \$6,302.46. We are working on addressing the two other areas of water infiltration into the steeple – water that blows in through the belfry lovers and water that seeps in through the brick into the belfry. Work continues.

#### The Boiler Room Heating Valve Replacement

During this past winter the west side of the Nursery School has had heat that the thermostat was unable to control and Kaiser Hall has had no heat regardless of the thermostatic setting. The cause of the problems was that the valve controlling hot water heating of the west side of the Nursery School was stuck open and the one controlling hot water heating for Kaiser Hall was stuck closed. The valves were old and could not be repaired. It was decided that the two valves involved should be replaced and additionally another valve of the same age replaced at the same time. Because asbestos had been used to insulate the pipes and the valves, the first task was to remove the asbestos. The valves were then removed and replaced with newer Belimo control valves. The total cost of the asbestos removal, valve replacement, and reinsulating the pipes and valves, performed by Nutmeg Mechanical Services and Zero Hazard LLC their subcontractor, cost \$14,900. This cost was in line with that authorized by the congregation.

### The Office Wing A/C

The office wing has been too warm off and on much of the summer. This was due to A/C problems. Joel and Phil Stoneman have made many calls to both All Seasons Mechanical and Nutmeg Mechanical and have come to church to meet with and assist workers from those firms. Refrigerant has been added and leaks have been found requiring pipe repairs. The coil in the fan box above the ceiling in the Treasurer/Finance Office will need to be replaced. All Seasons is looking into a replacement part. In addition, damper actuators serving the office zones need to be replaced, however neither firm has been able to acquire the parts because they are out of production. At times lack of A/C had to be resolved by the installation of window mounted A/C units. Ultimately the office wing A/C may have to be reconfigured with the installation of new A/C units.

We can thank the Memorial Garden Board, (Ruth Sprong-Heyden, Jeanine Barber, Sandy Baranowski, David Beauregard, Susan Bourret, Paul Goodrich, Jan Salvatore, David Smith, and Phil Stoneman) and the Mowing and Landscaping Crew (David Beauregard, Zac Baranowski, Randy Olson, Don Slater, and Phil Stoneman) for our beautiful and well-kept landscaping of the church grounds.

The Yearly Fire Marshall Inspection was completed in August with Ashley Salerno (the director of the Nursery School), Margie Gallagher, and Phil Stoneman participating. Prior to the inspection Joel submitted his latest yearly 90 Minute Emergency Lighting Report. There did not seem to be any issues raised by the Fire Marshall.

*Other tasks that have been completed are:*

- The pressure control valve on the boiler room hot water heater was replaced by Tommy Diana Plumbing. Tommy Diana Plumbing also replaced the threaded nipple in the toilet flush valve in the bathroom next to Brandt Lounge.
- The doors and frames for the Boiler Room and the Youth Room were replaced by Joel.
- On September 25th, Frank's Ornamental Iron repaired broken wrought iron railings leading up to the office and sanctuary.

*In their spare time, it is hard to believe they have any, Joel and Phil did the following:*

- Joel stained the trash container fence, repainted the no park zone in front of the church, adjusted doors that rubbed against the frame in the office suite and repainted the step at the entry to the church.
- Phil repaired and painted the columns at the church entry way.

Submitted by the Property Team

September 2024

## List of Property Tasks Addressed in 2024

### 2024 Summary

During 2024, several continuing **maintenance projects and repairs** were undertaken at Concordia with most being completed. They included:

- Boiler Room pipe insulation asbestos abatement (ahead of control valve replacement)
- Replacement of malfunctioning, old hot water heating system control valves.
- Repair of the office wing split system evaporation coil.
- Restoration of cooling in the office suite
- Study and conclusions on the source of the water intrusion leaks in the steeple.
- Installation of a rainwater drain system at the base of the spire in the steeple.
- Replacement of the altar halogen spotlights with high efficiency, high output LED spotlights
- Repair of the leak and replacement of the flush piping at the office HC toilet.
- Auguring of the blocked rain leader on the south side of the sanctuary entrance canopy roof leader and snaking of the north drain as well.
- Wood epoxy repairs, priming & painting the lower 1/3 of the front entrance columns.
- Staining of the dumpster enclosure
- Replacement of the basement doors to the boiler room and scout storage areas
- Repair to the frozen hose bib piping NE corner
- Repair of the broken exterior wrought iron handrail at the sanctuary office entrances.
- Replacement of the malfunctioning office suite electronic lock
- Replacement of malfunctioning fluorescent light fixtures in the office conference room and at the top of the stairs to Kaiser Hall with donated LED light fixtures.
- Repainted curb in front of the sanctuary (yellow) to delineate fire lane
- Lock replacement at the Nursery school office due to malfunction
- Unclogged water fountain drain at Kaiser Hall
- Replaced the Pavers outside the church entrance
- Fixed the lock on the “Pop Up Store” door
- Painted over the stains on the Brandt Lounge ceiling
- Repaired the church entrance doors
- Reinstalled the Steeple Floodlights
- Refurbished the Lawn Mower
- Lighting upgrades to high output LED paddle fixtures in the boiler room and garage lawnmower storage space.

In addition, **inspections, testing and regular maintenance activities** were completed including:

- Lawn mowing and grounds maintenance (Property Team + volunteer mowers)
- Weeding (volunteers)
- Annual 90-minute emergency lighting test (January 2024) (Property Team)
- Monthly emergency lighting tests (Property Team)
- Elevator operation inspection & recertification. (Otis Elevator)
- Boiler inspection (hot water heaters - 3 total) (Travelers Insurance)
- Kitchen Hood inspections (**All State Fire**)
- Cooling system start-up, filter changes & cleaning (spring) (All Seasons Mechanical)
- Boiler start-up (fall) (All Seasons Mechanical)
- Nursery School DPH & Fire Marshal Inspections (Nursery School)
- Fire extinguisher inspection and retagging (**extinguisher guy**)
- Light bulb replacements & minor plumbing repairs (Property Team)

## **Nominating Committee Report June 2025 Semi-Annual Meeting**

Sincere thanks to the following people who have agreed to serve for the 2025-2026. While the following say "3-Year Term", it is understood that, in reality the terms of these people (as well as those others continuing) that terms will end upon Holy Closure.

### **Congregation Council (All Seats are Filled)**

Rebekka Almond	First 3-Year Term
Sandy Baranowski	First 3-Year Term
Susan Bourret	Second 3-Year Term
Randy Olson	First 3-Year Term
David Smith	First 3- Year Term
Carol Stoneman	First 3- Year Term

### **Council Members Continuing Service:**

Pastor Hedberg (ex officio), Nancy Lynn Knauff, Ruthie Lynch, Bobby McKinney, Tina Ruggiero, Ruth Sprong Heyden, Mark Winzler

### **Completed Service- Jan McGarity**

### **Legacy for Ministry Board (All Seats are Filled)**

Tina Ruggiero	Second 3-Year Term
Donald Slater	Second 3-Year Term

### **Board Members Continuing Service**

Petey Goodrich, Pastor Hedberg (ex officio) David Smith, Carol Stoneman (ex officio),

### **Worship and Memorial Garden Board (One Seat Open)**

Rebekka Almond	First 3-Year Term
Pam Olson	First 3-Year Term
Lisa Taylor	First 3-Year Term

### **Board Members Continuing Service**

Sandy Baranowski, Jeanine Barber, David Beaugard, David Smith, Phil Stoneman

### **Completed Service- Susan Bourret, Paul Goodrich, Jan Salvatore, Ruth Sprong Heyden**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Rebekka Almond, Nancy Lynn Knauff, Jan McGarity, Bobby McKinney*

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