



The Concordia Chimes

October 2025



The Reverend Dr. Rolf Hedberg
Transitional Pastor

☎ (860) 649-5311

Margie Gallagher
Parish Administrator

✉ office@concordiamanchester.org

☎ (860) 649-5311

Ashley Salerno
Concordia Nursery School Director

✉ concordianurseryschool@gmail.com

☎ (860) 649-9349

Richard Hicks
Minister of Music Emeritus



Concordia Lutheran Church

40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

SUNDAY SERVICE | 10:00 A.M.

office@concordiamanchester.org

www.concordiamanchester.org

Phone: (860) 649-5311

Fax: (860) 432-9972

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

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.*

I have recently returned from a wonderful summer vacation—filled with family, friends, and more recent acquaintances. Some of these gatherings were overnight stays, while others were lunches or dinners. Obviously, the extended stays included more activities: golf, mini-golf, fishing, concerts at Tanglewood, and of course, ice cream. But the one thing these gatherings had in common was the sharing of memories. Some were quite humorous, others serious; some were happy and others were quite sad. However, as we shared, we entered into the lives of each other. In some instances, we found that we had similar experiences, and in other circumstances, we found ourselves as having the same experiences to the extent that we were part of that experience. If you have read this far, I promise you that this is going somewhere.

And so I continue with this. On Sunday, September 14, there was a meeting after worship with Pastor Maria Hammons, the Synodical Representative walking with us through the Holy Closure process. From my vantage point—as an observer rather than a participant—this was one of the best meetings I have attended at Concordia, and on several levels.

The opening prayer, composed by Carol Stoneman, and the closing prayer by Mark Winzler were beautiful—there is no other way to describe them. They served as bookends to a wonderful meeting, a meeting I would prefer to call a “gathering of the faithful.” The descriptions of team leader responsibilities, the engaging questions from those in attendance—all reflected the care and attention being given to the matters at hand. It was all wonderful. I know this is not an easy time for anyone, but the way you are listening to and responding to one another is more than commendable—it is Holy.

As difficult as this time is for Concordia, the Holy Spirit of the living God in your midst makes all the hard work of the closure process possible. Your shared memories and experiences in this place cannot be taken away. They support you, they envelop you, and they will give you strength in the future. This church has blessed you in the past, and the blessings will continue. Why? Because the Holy One of Israel and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is with us forever.

This really is a Holy Closure.

Pastor Rolf



Holy Closure Update

Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria Hammons met with members of Concordia on Sunday, September 14 to review the steps in the Holy Closure Process from September through June 2026.

Mark reviewed "*Keeping the HOLY in Holy Closure*" which appeared in the September Chimes:

- **Establishment of a Holy Closure Fund** (for non-budgeted expenses)
- **Prayers-** We are looking for people to write prayer petitions for Sunday morning worship and to be included in the Chimes. Holy Closure Team members will write prayers for meetings. Interested? Contact Margie or Mark.
- **Reflections/Stories/Memories-** We are looking for people to share these. We would like to include at least one each month in the Chimes, although they may be other means by which we can share as well as we move forward. Interested? Contact Margie or Mark.
- **Activities-** (please see the last page of this report).

Leaders of the Holy Closure teams each shared with those present about progress made in their areas as follows:

- **Archive- Carol Burnett:** Carol has been in conversation with Pastor Maria during which the work of this team was discussed. Carol is now in the process of looking at the various tasks and will divide up the work to be disseminated among the team members.
- **Finance- Carol Stoneman:** The life insurance policy owned by Concordia on Mark Winzler was cashed in providing \$63,000 toward the establishment of a Holy Closure Fund. She also shared that memorial funds not used were also transferred into the Holy Closure Fund. At present, we have about \$106,000 in this fund. Susan Bourret, Ruth Sprong Heyden and Carol went through years of former financial records and had those no longer needed shredded leaving only those which legally must be kept.
- **Memorial Garden Closing-Ruth Sprong Heyden:** The monument for East Cemetery is on track to be completed and at East Cemetery by November 1. There will be a brief liturgy on Friday, November 14 at 11:00 a.m. before the urns are transferred to East Cemetery. Once at East Cemetery, the liturgy will continue. Invitations to family members of those interred in the Garden have been sent out. All Concordia members are invited to attend. A few families have decided to take the urns. On Sunday, November 16 at the end of worship, the Memorial Garden will be decommissioned.
- **Property- Pam Olson and Ruthie Lynch:** Team members signed up to inventory various areas of the building. This includes all areas: sanctuary, office wing, education wing (including Nursery School), garage, boiler room, Kaiser Hall and kitchen etc. Each team member has been provided a spread sheet on which to document the contents of the building. Those will then be collected and a master list will be created. Obviously, more to come in terms of what to be done with the contents.

Holy Closure Update *continuation*

- **Real Estate- Joel Baranowski**: The team has met a number of times and put together a list of realtors and real estate attorneys and has a timeline. The team narrowed down the list of realtors to three, all of whom have had experience in selling church properties. As of the time this is being read, interviews of the three realtors will have taken place. The Real Estate Team will come to consensus on one realtor and make a recommendation to the Congregation Council. The Council has the authority (on behalf of the congregation) to enter into a contract with the realtor. Further information will be forthcoming. (The congregation will eventually vote to whom the property to be sold and the amount, but that is “down the road”.) Update since the meeting: The Town of Manchester may have interest. Nothing definite, but the door is not yet closed.

Pastor Maria informed us that she will return on **Sunday, October 19** not for a “meeting” per se but rather this will be a time devoted to the teams. She will answer any questions, walk the building with anyone so she can look at items etc.

She also gave us some preliminary information about the meeting which will take place on **Sunday, March 15, 2026** which will be devoted to our Legacy Giving. (This is not our Legacy Fund, but “Legacy” here refers to the money we will distribute after our closing). She fielded a number of questions. There will be a brochure about Legacy Giving which will be shared with members of the congregation in January which will provide some additional information. There is plenty of time to focus on this in the New Year.

On behalf of the Holy Closure Team,

Mark Winzler



ACTIVITIES / EVENTS / MEETINGS
2025 - 2026

- October 19** Teams Meeting with Pastor Maria
- October 26** Reformation Sunday Evening Prayer/Organ Concert
Reception Following
- November 9** Stewardship Sunday
- November 14** Memorial Garden Urns Moved to East Cemetery
Rite Begins in Memorial Garden (11:00 a.m.)
- November 16** Decommissioning of the Memorial Garden
End of Morning Worship
- December 21** Farewell Luncheon for Pastor and Lois Hedberg
After Worship
- December 24** Christmas Eve Social Gathering at Mark Winzler's
After 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Eucharist
- January 25** Semi-Annual Meeting-Budget
- February 15** Fastnacht
- March 15** Legacy Workshop with Pastor Maria
- To be Announced** Opening of Cornerstone of Building/ Memorial
Garden Time Capsule
- April 5** Easter Breakfast
- June 7** Concordia's "Celebration of Ministry" Eucharist
Time (in the afternoon) to be determined
Community/Former Members and Pastors Invited
Reception Following
- June 28** Final Eucharist
Off Site- Banquet Following
(For Present Concordia Members Only)

If you have ideas for other events/activities, please contact a member of the Holy Closure Team:

Rebekka Almond | Sandy Baranowski | Jeanine Barber | Susan Bourret | John Corl
Nancy Lynn Knauff | Ruthie Lynch | Jan McGarity | Bobby McKinney | Randy Olson
Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio | David Smith | Ruth Sprong Heyden | Carol Stoneman
or Mark Winzler



Highlights of the August 2025 Treasurer's Report

Summary

Envelope and other funding total for August was 35% below the monthly budgeted amount due to the last two Sundays' deposits being made in September. Year-to-date giving was 11% over the budgeted amount. During the month of August, we distributed \$12,000 to United Lutheran Seminary for scholarships for Bea Santiago and Campfield Heinrich to be applied to their expenses during their theological studies.

Special funds realized gains in August. Legacy for Ministry and the Community Cares funds have year-to-date gains totaling \$110,972.31. The scholarship fund had year-to- losses of \$2,553.84.

The Memorial & Tributes savings account reflects a deposit of \$14,578.52 which represents the proceeds from the closure of a KeyBank money market account. These funds will be utilized for future Holy Closure expenses.

Report Details

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

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
August	\$8,729.27	\$13,416.67	65%	\$119,051.66	\$107,333.36	111%

Additional August Revenue

Open Offering:	\$145.00
Church Service:	\$100.00
Christian Indian Building Use:	\$100.00
Miscellaneous Income Non-Budgeted:	\$75.00
Memorial Funds:	<u>\$12,000.00</u> (From M&T Savings for scholarships)
Total:	\$12,420.00

TOTAL AUGUST OPERATING REVENUES: \$21,149.27

August Non-Operating Revenue

World Hunger Gifts:	\$156.00
ELCA Miscellaneous:	<u>\$15.00</u>
Total:	\$171.00



Highlights of the August 2025 Treasurer's Report

Expenses

1. Utilities:

Vendor	AUGUST 2025	AUGUST 2024
CNG	\$350.25	\$331.60
Eversource/Earthlight	\$920.70 (\$0.00/\$920.70)	\$881.10 (\$0.00/\$881.10)
Cox	\$468.50	\$434.20
Sewer & Water	\$209.23	\$224.96
TOTAL	\$1,948.68	\$1,871.86

Additional August Expenses:

Synod:	\$3,116.66 (July & August)
Staff Salaries:	\$4,206.00
Fringe Benefits:	\$183.24
Program Expenses:	\$100.00
Program Support Expenses:	\$892.65
Facility Maintenance:	\$1,513.39
Scholarship Fund Expenditures:	\$12,000.00
Worship & Memorial Garden:	\$90.00
TOTAL:	\$22,101.94

TOTAL AUGUST EXPENSES: \$24,050.62

Bank Account as of 8/30/2025 (ACS)

Beginning Balance:	\$39,480.64
Total Revenue:	\$22,433.67 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)
Total Expenditures:	\$42,559.77 (Includes MNC & Tax expenditures)
Current Balance:	\$19,354.54

Monthly Cash Flow: -\$20,126.10 (Revenue less Expenditures)

Special Funds (as of August 30, 2025)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (July 2025)	Current Market Value	Current Month Gain/Loss	YTD Gain/Loss
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$46,406.79	\$46,965.10	\$558.31	-\$2,553.84
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$70,281.09	\$72,032.87	\$1,751.78	\$3,949.88
Legacy for Ministry	\$1,047,065.39	\$1,073,163.79	\$26,098.40	\$107,022.43
Total Fidelity	\$1,117,346.48	\$1,145,196.66	\$27,850.18	\$110,972.31

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



Highlights of the August 2025 Treasurer's Report

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

Previous Month's Balance (July 2025)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$79,116.64	\$14,578.52	\$14,000.00	\$79,695.16

Withdrawal of \$14,000 came out of undesignated memorials for seminary scholarships for Bea Santiago and Campfield Heinrich and CNS financial assistance. Amount will be replaced after funds are received from the Scholarship Fund (Thrivent) and Legacy for Ministry, as approved by the Congregation Council and congregation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you. Carol Stoneman, *Treasurer*

Thank You

A heartfelt "thank you" for the acts of kindness, expressions of sympathy and the beautiful cards we received with the loss of our brother, brother-in-law and uncle, David. Words cannot express how grateful we are for our Concordia family.

God's Peace,

Phil and Carol Stoneman and family



Devotions for the September 18, 2025 Meeting

Each month a member of the Congregation Council leads the opening devotions. Each month a new member prepares and leads. Below is the prayer written by Susan Bourret for the September 18 Council meeting.

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.” (Ephesians 4:2, NIV)

Dear God,

Thank You for being the source of peace and love.

Help us to live in harmony, setting aside our differences to focus on what truly matters—loving You and one another. Help us embrace our diversity and find common ground in our love for You. May our differences be a source of strength, reflecting the beauty of Your creation.

Give us hearts that are patient and humble, seeking to build bridges rather than walls. Help us focus our energy on endeavors that will bring glory to Your name. Grant us the strength to persevere when faced with obstacles and the clarity to make decisions that honor You. Silence the noise of the world so we can hear Your voice clearly and stay focused on Your will for our work for this evening.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.



Approved Minutes of the Concordia Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2025, *in person*

Present:

Mark Winzler – President
Jan McGarity – Vice President
Susan Bourret – Secretary
Pastor Hedberg
Tina Ruggerio
Ruthie Lynch
Nancy Lynn Knauff
Ruth Sprong-Heyden

Excused:

Bobby McKinney
Carol Stoneman - Treasurer

Guest:

Rebekka Almond

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 11:35 a.m.

Devotions – Mark Winzler

Transition Update with Council and the transition team.

Holy Closure funding was discussed; there are a few funds that can be allocated.

Teams are being formed for the work that will need to be done starting this fall. All council members and transition team members have volunteered and a few other members have volunteered. More participation is needed.

Attorney Brad Cook has been retained to work with us on Holy Closure. All questions regarding legal matters will be communicated to him through Mark Winzler, with Carol Stoneman as backup.

Sunday, September 14, 2025 is the kick-off for teams to begin their work.

Mark is meeting with people regarding purchase or use of the building.

Approval of Agenda as modified.

Approval of Minutes of the May 5, 2025 meeting as written.

Affirmation of email votes:

May 12th vote to not renew the Otis Elevator contract this September for another 5-year term.

Motion:

To authorize President Mark Winzler, on behalf of the Congregation Council, to terminate the contract with Otis Elevator set to expire on 9/30/2025.

May 25 vote to sign the engagement letter for Attorney Brad Cook.

Motion:

To authorize Council President Mark Winzler to sign the Engagement Letter to Provide Legal Services with Bradford Cook, Esq. of the law firm of Sheehan Phinney (Manchester, New Hampshire) to serve as Concordia's attorney for legal matters dealing with the Holy Closure Process for Concordia Lutheran Church, Manchester CT.

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 continues to focus his council activities on Holy Closure tasks and communication.

Treasurer's Report

The May 2025 treasurer's report was received. We continue to meet our obligations.

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 once outside groups have been contacted.

Concordian of the Year / name day will be on June 15th

Semi-Annual meeting is June 22nd.

New Business

Memorial Garden Board is moving forward with a headstone for East Cemetery. A motion is being presented to the congregation at the June 22nd meeting.

Two motions, recommended by executive committee were approved to change signatory authority on the Memorial Garden bank accounts.

Motion 1:

Be it resolved that the access to Concordia Lutheran Church's Worship & Memorial Garden Checking Account Number xxxxxx312, at KeyBank, be revised to add Ruth Sprong Heyden and remove Edwin Adams.

Motion 2:

Be it resolved that the access to Concordia Lutheran Church's Worship & Memorial Garden Savings Account Number xxxxxx600, at KeyBank, be revised to add Ruth Sprong Heyden and remove Edwin Adams.

Council will provide food for the June Congregational Meeting.

The next Council meeting will be with the transition team at the end of August.

Estimated were received and a motion was passed to approve funding for tree trimming and removal.

Motion 3:

Motion to allocate up to \$4,500 to remove and trim trees by a company identified on the list provided by the Property Committee to be funded by undesignated memorials.

Motion 4:

The Finance Committee moves to donate 10% of the Edward Clough bequest (\$500) to MACC, as a donation to their annual meeting on June 24, 2025.

Property

Trees need to be removed/trimmed, see new business.

Four Motions were Submitted and Passed by Council this meeting

- 1. Be it resolved that the access to Concordia Lutheran Church's Worship & Memorial Garden Checking Account Number xxxxxx312, at KeyBank, be revised to add Ruth Sprong Heyden and remove Edwin Adams.***
- 2. Be it resolved that the access to Concordia Lutheran Church's Worship & Memorial Garden Savings Account Number xxxxxx600, at KeyBank, be revised to add Ruth Sprong Heyden and remove Edwin Adams.***
- 3. Motion to allocate up to \$4,500 to remove and trim trees by a company identified on the list provided by the Property Committee to be funded by undesignated memorials.***
- 4. The Finance Committee moves to donate 10% of the Edward Clough bequest (\$500) to MACC, as a donation to their annual meeting on June 24, 2025.***

Adjournment: Adjourned at 1:03 PM.

Information:

- June 15 – Name Day
- June 22 – Semi-Annual Meeting
- August 10 – Pool Party
- September 14 – Kick-off Holy Closure teams

Approved, and passed: Agenda as written, minutes of May 2025 Council meeting, two motions email voted were affirmed and four motions passed at the meeting.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Bourret**

Affirmed Email Motion Unanimously Passed by Council on July 30, 2025

Finance Committee has forwarded this motion for consideration by the Congregation Council: Due to the impending closure of Concordia Lutheran Church, move to waive the financial/monetary restrictions and liquidation clause (see attachment*) set forth in the Scholarship Fund Guidelines and in the spirit and intent of the Scholarship Fund, award the following funds for seminary expenses to:

- *Beatrice Santiago* - **\$10,000**
- *Campfield Heinrich* - **\$2,000**
- The scholarship policy was attached to the email for reference

Approved Minutes of the Concordia Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting Monday, August 18, 2025, in person

Present:

Mark Winzler – *President*
David Smith – *Vice President*
Carol Stoneman - *Treasurer*
Susan Bourret – *Secretary*
Tina Ruggerio
Ruthie Lynch
Ruth Sprong-Heyden
Rebekka Almond
Sandra Baranowski
Randy Olson

Excused:

Bobby McKinney
Pastor Hedberg
Nancy Lynn Knauff

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 7:06 PM

Prayer: Mark Winzler

List of currently identified needs for non-budgeted expenses was shared including attorney fees, realtor fees and event costs.

The following motion recommended by the Finance Committee was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion: To surrender the life insurance contract owned by Concordia Lutheran Church on Mark Winzler to be used for expenses related to Holy Closure.

Council agreed that undesignated memorials will also be used for Holy Closure expenses.

Adjournment: 7:24 PM



GHIAA

Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

Fall 2025 Issue-Specific House Meetings

This fall, GHIAA is organizing a series of issue-specific house meetings. These will be opportunities for people across our network to come together and share stories of personal impact and what we are seeing in our communities right now around the issues we are working on together.

Each meeting date will focus on a specific topic: immigrant rights and protections, housing affordability, or the human impact of our state's inequitable fiscal policies. If you would like to share a story or join the conversation on more than one issue, you are welcome to register for multiple dates.

You are also welcome to invite a neighbor, friend, or fellow congregant to register and join you. Please extend these invitations through direct relationship rather than community bulletin boards or social media (sharing via congregational emails, newsletters, etc. is encouraged!). Everyone is welcome, especially those who have personal stories about the importance of these issues.

These critical conversations will help to shape GHIAA's next steps in each of these three areas. Please join us.

Housing Affordability

- Sunday, October 26, 3:00-4:30 pm, First Church of Christ, Simsbury
- Tuesday, November 4, 7:00-8:30 pm, Westminster Presbyterian, West Hartford

Fiscal Policy Reform

- Sunday, October 26, 2:00-3:30 pm, Emanuel Lutheran, Hartford
- Thursday, October 30, 7:00-8:30 pm, Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford

Immigrant Rights & Protections

- Sunday, October 19, 1:00-3:00 pm, UUSE, Manchester
- Monday, October 27, 7:00-8:30 pm, Church of Christ (Congregational), Newington

For registration and information, scan the QR code
or visit www.cljct.org/ghiaa/housemeetings



Garden Board Update

A heartfelt thank-you to Bryan Jaworski for his continued help with moving stones—and for everything else he does behind the scenes. Your dedication doesn't go unnoticed, Bryan! Ruth has also been working diligently to relocate loved ones to their new resting places with care and reverence. We're grateful for her thoughtful efforts.

🍯 If you're a honey lover, consider buying local—it's been blessed in more ways than one! We've had at least four large hives in the garden this year (though we suspect not all of them were official Garden Club bees 😊).

🌸 Join us for our next Garden Club gathering:

Meeting, Clean-Up & Pizza Party

📅 **October 11** 🕒 **9:00 a.m.** 📍 **Garden Area**

Please give me a call so I can get a head count: **Lisa Taylor - 860.781.0298**

WORSHIP & MEMORIAL GARDEN CLOSING UPDATE



BUSY AS BEES

We have had four (4) hives removed from the Garden this summer. This is by far a record. As the bee keeper put it, *"Why wouldn't bees want to live here, it's beautiful!"*

Well the closing committee of the Worship & Memorial Garden has been a beehive of activity.

We have a date to move urns to East Cemetery. Please mark **November 14, 2025** on your calendars. We will start at **11:00 a.m.** at Concordia and proceed to the cemetery.

YOU ARE INVITED!

If you wish to come, please call the church office and **let Margie know**. Over 27 invites to family members went out in September. If you have any questions, **please call Pam Olson**.

The monument people are working on flush grave markers and an upright monument. The cemetery has **November 14th** on their calendar. **Tom Tierney** of Tierney's Funeral Parlor has been very helpful. We started opening niches to check condition of urns. Mr. Tierney brought containers with him and transferred several people's remains into new containers. The niches are very damp and wooden urns did not fare well. He is treating everyone's remains with the love & respect they deserve. Tierney's will be transporting the urns for us to East Cemetery on November 14th. Dirt of Scattered remains will also accompany us to East Cemetery at that time.

Urn not going to East Cemetery are being returned to loved ones. So far, we have returned Thomas & Agnes Donahue, Dana Huseresu, Lillian and Hank Gankofskie. Deborah Latham is being picked up by her sister, Kathy Noyes. Lois & Ken Warrender and their son, Richard's urns will be stored at Tierney's till next spring when family members will pick them up. We are getting weekly request for pathway stones. Brian Jaworski pulled nearly 30 stones and replaced them with blank stones.

On **Sunday, November 16th** at the end of the service **the Garden will be decommissioned** as a **Memorial garden**. We will still be able to worship in the garden but no more internments will take place.

Garden Ceremony Invitation Letter



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

September 12, 2025

As Concordia moves forward in the process of Holy Closure, we invite you to join us for a ceremony to honor those whose cremated remains will be relocated from the church's Memorial Garden to their new resting place at East Cemetery.

This will be a time to give thanks for the lives of those being reinterred and for their presence in our church, and to accompany them with love and care as they are laid to rest in a place where their memory will continue to be held in gratitude and community.

Date: November 14, 2025

Time: 11 AM

Location: The ceremony will begin at Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin St., Manchester, CT, and conclude with the reinterment of ashes at East Cemetery, 220 E. Center St., Manchester, CT.

Whether your loved one is part of this transition, or you wish to support this significant moment in the life of our church family, you are most welcome.

Peace,

Worship & Memorial Garden

From **Worship & Memorial Garden**

If you would like to take home your pathway stone, you are more than welcome to do so. We recommend retrieving stones during the warmer weather for comfort and ease.

Should you wish to proceed or have any questions, please feel free to contact

Lisa Taylor, Ruth Sprong Heyden, Mark Winzler

– or simply reach out to the church office at 860.649.5311.



Fairlead Tree Service cut down the Elm tree and cleared away deadwood along the parking area and from the Maple tree.

Pop Up Shop Note:

 **Winter Clothing Needed
for
October 25th Pop-Up Shop!**



As the seasons shift, we're preparing to offer warmth and comfort to those in need. If you have gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves, or boots tucked away, please consider donating them to our Pop-Up Shop this October. Every item helps someone stay safe and warm this winter.

Next Pop Up Store Dates are:

- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

Pop Up Shop

Additional Needs:



*A bureau -low one not high style

*Any Christmas decorations for our December Store:



Christmas Lights | Wrapping Paper | Decorations | Etcetera



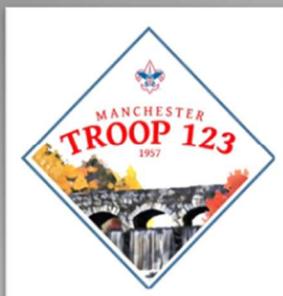
Troop 123 Latest....

Troop 123 started off the school year with a busy month. The Patrol Leaders Council (PLC) met to plan the troop's activities through the end of 2025, followed by the resumption of weekly meetings and a fun campout at Mattatuck Scout Reservation in Plymouth. Meanwhile the troop hosted a couple of information nights for prospective Scouts and their families. We also handed out miniature first aid kits at the opening of The Oak, the new skate park in Manchester. Coming up in October, Troop 123 will be hosting a bottle & can drive to help pay for the cost of their activities. The bottle & can drive will be on Saturday, October 11 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the church. **Your support is appreciated.**

It is not too late for kids to join Troop 123! Please contact our marketing director, Ed Bouchie, at Troop123isForMe@gmail.com or [860-882-8870](tel:860-882-8870) to join or for more information about our program.



Hand-crafted First Aid Kits



Troop 123 is holding a **Bottle Drive** on
Saturday, October 11th from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
in front of Concordia Lutheran Church - curb driveway:
40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT.

Stop by with your empty, recyclable cans and plastic bottles to support our Youth!

Reflections | Memories | Stories

We asked people to share Concordia reflections/memories/stories in the Chimes. Ruth Sprong Heyden found this as she was going through some items in her house. This is about her late husband Gene (who passed away in 2011). It is a beautiful article about Gene's "story".

Thursday, September 3, 1998 | The Hartford Courant | Page 3

Many Drawn To Church's Healing Services In Need Of A 'Reaffirmation' Of Faith

By Susan Plese, *Correspondent*

MANCHESTER – Gene Sprong of Manchester was in his late 30s when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. It was 1993. His children were 8 and 10. Sprong prepared for the end.

But the end did not come. Meanwhile, the members of his church, Concordia Lutheran Church prayed and sought to help his family.

By 1995, when Sprong's health was improving, he started attending a casual, contemporary Saturday evening service at Concordia. It was first organized as an alternative to Sunday worship, but then added a healing component for those with physical and spiritual problems.

"We felt there was a need—several people were in need of healing," said Marlen Blake, co-president of the congregation. The healing service includes the laying on of hands as a personal prayer for those who request it.

By the time an interim pastor had taken over after the resignation of Pastor Kim-Eric Williams, Sprong was back at work and regaining his health. The tumor had shrunk.

"It was nothing short of a miracle," said Rebecca Bourret, interim pastor from 1995 to 1997.

"I saw him as a sign of God's love," she added.

No one is suggesting that all people can be physically healed with prayer alone. Not all outcomes are positive.

"We don't know why God does not intervene" in other cases, Bourret said. But worshipers have said that pastor laying hands on the head of the person in need and personal prayer, delivered spontaneously, have a salutary effect, regardless of the outcome.

Also, the contemporary healing service provides sustenance and community in place of lonely anguish.

"It fills you with a feeling this is something special," said Sprong, now 42 and doing well. "For me, it was a reaffirmation" of faith, he said.

When Bourret came, she said the congregation told her how important the service was. Even though attendance is small—about 20 to 25 people – the members said it was an integral part of their community, and wanted it continued.

It is now held on the first Saturday of each month at 5 p.m. at Concordia Lutheran Church on Pitkin Street. There is no pressure on those who attend; the presiding minister simply invites anyone in the group who feels a need to come to the altar.

It is a choice. "People feel comfortable," Sprong said.

Blake said she has come away from the service "feeling relieved of a burden, hopeful."

When she was ill a few years ago, some members took her name to the service for prayers.

"I was very touched by that," she said. Her outcome, too, was good.

The questions remain: How can healing be measured? By return to health? By connection to a higher power? By reconciliation to death? By expression of love?

"I get back more than I give," said Bourret, now pastor of the Lutheran Church of St. Mark in Glastonbury. "It's a continuing surprise."

Altar Flowers



We would like to have flowers on the altar each Sunday beginning immediately through our final liturgy on June 28, 2026.

Normally we have two vases: one on each side of the altar, but it can be one larger arrangement (of course, you can have more than 2 as well).

You can.....

- a) bring flowers from your own garden to church (we have vases)
- b) buy flowers on our own and bring them to church (we have vases)
- c) have Margie order flowers for you from Park Hill Joyce Florists. (You can determine the amount of money you wish to spend totally or for each vase.) Concordia will be billed by Park Hill Joyce and you can reimburse Concordia. (*Flowers will be picked up for you and brought to church.*)

Flowers can be given.....

- a) in memory of a person/group of people
- b) in honor of a person/group of people
- c) to give thanks for someone/something
- d) for any other reason/no reason at all except to beautify the altar area (chancel)

If you would like to sign up for flowers for a given Sunday, please contact Margie as she is keeping a chart in the office for this purpose!

Note from David Smith

In honor of Edna Nekiunas' 99th birthday, I've decided to write up this fond memory we have in common. It took place about this time of year back in 1994. It was Stewardship time, and for the program that year, the committee had prepared materials for a presentation to be held after church up in Kaiser Hall. You'll recall back in the day, coffee hour was nearly always held in Brandt Lounge, so on the day in question, there was an announcement for everyone to get their coffee and goodies and come up to the hall for my big Stewardship presentation.

Well, let's just say, the turnout was quite low to the event. In fact, no one came at the appointed time and just as I was about to pack up and leave, in came Edna and Nik Nekiunas, to participate in the discussion. At first, they thought they were late and missed it, but I told them they were in fact the only ones who came, and we had a laugh over it. To their credit, they very politely sat down and listened to my entire presentation, and we had a good discussion afterward.

In subsequent years, Edna and I sang in the choir and every so often we'd share a chuckle over that event. I've always admired Edna's faith and presence at church and how faithful a steward she's been to Concordia.

For the Stewardship Committee, we learned a valuable lesson: always have the food and coffee close to the presentation and not in any other part of the church!

Happy 99th Birthday, Edna! I'll never forget how you and Nik came to listen to my presentation that day!

God's Blessings to you,

David Smith

Edna Nekiunas' 99th Birthday Celebration in Kaiser Hall
on Sunday, September 21, 2025



OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER
B I R T H D A Y S



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

OCTOBER

Carol Stoneman (14)
Bill Salvatore (20)
Brielle Sollinger (21)
Dan Burnett (22)
Janet Bellino (25)
Gail Feder (26)

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

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



rooted



In God's Grace

"Then the father said to him,
'You are always with me,
and all that is mine is yours.'
(Luke 15.31)



Mark Your Calendars!

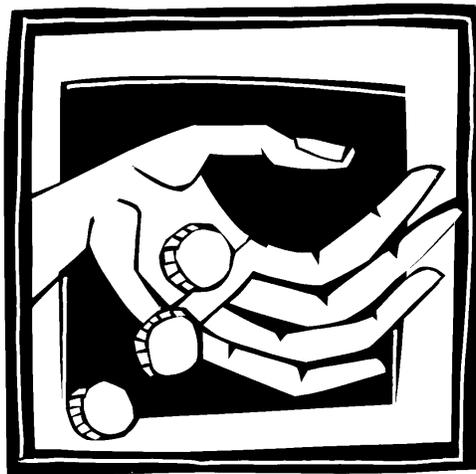


This year's Stewardship Sunday will be November 9, 2025. On this day, we will bring our pledged offering cards for 2026 to be blessed during the worship service. The Stewardship Committee will be communicating more on this in the coming weeks. We are so grateful for the faithful giving of our members to take care of the church we love and support each other and our ministries. This year's program is called Rooted in God's Grace and will serve as a reminder of how well we've given to the church over the years, and how we need to continue this as we traverse the Holy Closure process, resolved to keeping the church going strong with our financial support in the coming year.

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

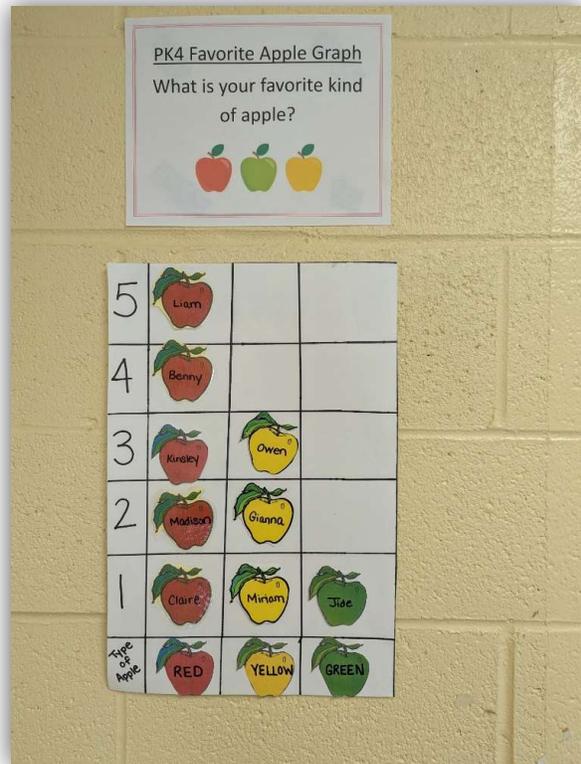
God's Blessings,

David Smith, *for the Stewardship Committee*



Concordia Nursery School Update

We have had a busy first few weeks at the nursery school! Our curriculum has been focused on learning classroom rules and routines as well as welcoming fall with a study on the life cycle of an apple. Our PK 4 children used their five senses to conduct an apple experiment and tasted 3 different kinds of apples to determine their favorite. We then graphed our data. Next month, we will learn about pumpkins, spiders, bats and other nocturnal creatures. We will also have a visit from the fire department to discuss fire safety.



Oktoberfest at Concordia!



Oktoberfest Thanks

Our first Oktoberfest in about 6 years was a success! Around 58 were in attendance from Concordia (and their friends), and Emanuel Lutheran. An event of this magnitude does not come about by itself, hence I would like to thank the following people:

- Carol and Phil Stoneman and Pam and Randy Olson for the decorations/set-up.
- Susan Bourret, David Beauregard (who also made the applesauce), Carol Stoneman and Claudia Danna who served as the “kitchen crew”.
- Phil Stoneman for overseeing the beer and wine.
- Pam Olson for checking in people/accepting monetary donations.
- Those who favored us by bringing a delicious dessert to share. They were scrumptious.
- Ed Gawlinski from Emanuel Lutheran Church who played the accordion! The music truly added to the festive atmosphere.
- The kitchen clean-up crew and those who helped in any way to clean up the hall.
- Everyone who came and enjoyed! It was a wonderful sight to see people mingling with one another with big smiles, hearty laughter and ongoing conversation.

Special thanks and recognition to **Carol Stoneman** who partnered with me in the planning/organization/implementation of all things related to Oktoberfest including, but not limited to: grocery shopping, food preparation (*especially the social hour food*), and clean-up.

Thanks again for everything! It was a great event!

Mark Winzler



Oktoberfest at Concordia!



Are you sure you're old enough to have beer?



T h e R e v . L o u i s E . B a u e r

Having read about Concordia's movement toward Holy Closure, recently Concordia received this note from **Susan Bauer**, the *widow* of **Pastor Lou Bauer**. This came along with a check for \$500.00.

Donations are Given in *loving memory* of my husband, **Lou Bauer**, who was ordained at Concordia on September 10, 1967.

by **Susan Bauer**

Some background about Pastor Bauer.....

The Rev. Louis E. Bauer, Jr. was Assistant Pastor of Concordia from 1967 to 1970. He served with The Rev. Joseph E. Bourret (1966-1972), who later became Concordia's Pastor Emeritus.

Pastor Bauer was a graduate of Valparaiso University and Yale Divinity School. As noted he was ordained at Concordia in September, 1967 which was the first (but not the last) held at Concordia. He was ordained by The Rev. Dr. Henry Horn (University Lutheran in Cambridge MA) on behalf of President (the name "Bishop" was not used back in "*those days*") Karl Olander of the New England Synod, LCA (one of the predecessor bodies of the ELCA).

The following about Pastor Bauer appeared in the booklet "100 Years in Manchester" which was a history of Concordia 1894-1994, written by former Pastor Kim Eric Williams:

"Pastor Bauer was an intellectual, a political liberal, and was very popular with the youth. During the time of Pastors Bourret and Bauer the Concordia Public Affairs Series attracted large numbers of people from the Town of Manchester, as the racial, social, and drug problems were openly discussed."

Pastor Bauer resigned after 3.5 years to become the Pastor of St. Paul's in Gloucester, MA. He returned to Concordia in 1994 to preach at one of our liturgies for our **100th** anniversary and again for the **50th** anniversary of ordination for Pastor Bourret.

Note: Pastor Bauer's son Jason will be traveling up from Arlington, VA to pick up Pastor Bauer's Memorial Garden Pathway Stone.

All Saints Sunday

November 2, 2025

Each year on All Saints Sunday we remember Concordia members as well as relatives /friends of Concordia members who have completed their earthly pilgrimage since last year's (November 3, 2024) All Saints Sunday.



If you wish to have someone remembered on All Saints Sunday, please either:

a) Write the name of the person in the book which will be in the Narthex on Sundays beginning October 5

OR

b) Call (860-649-5311) or e-mail (office@concordiamanchester.org) our Parish Administrator Margie Gallagher who will be sure that the name is included.

Please submit all names no later than Sunday, October 26.

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
9/29/2025	Lanie Turner	Comfort and Healing	Mark Winzler
9/29/2025	Joanne Murphy	Comfort and Healing	Mark Winzler
9/21/2025	Gail Feder	Comfort and healing as she journeys through Physical Therapy after an injury from a fall.	Gail Feder
9/16/2025	The family of Shirley Wochomurka (Karin Turek's mother)	Peace and comfort as they mourn for Shirley's passing	Mark Winzler
9/7/2025	Michael Jaworski	Comfort and healing from Cancer surgery	Sharon & John Jaworski
8/31/2025	Kim Serafin & Family	Healing mentally from Car Accident	Nancy Lynn Knauff
8/17/2025	Dan Burnett	Comfort and healing	Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio
8/17/2025	The Stoneman Family	Peace, healing, and comfort	Tina Sollinger - Ruggerio
6/18/2025	Laura McKay	Comfort, strength and healing	Sandy Baranowski
5/5/2025	Stacy	Complete healing and restoration of body.	Marian E. Slater



Concordia Lutheran Church

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

✉ 40 Pitkin Street | Manchester | Connecticut | 06040

☎ (860)649-5311 | ✉ office@concordiamanchester.org | 🌐 www.concordiamanchester.org

Organ Concert *within* Evening Prayer

Reformation Sunday - October 26th - 4:00 P.M.

Please arrive by 3:50 for the introduction to the music and liturgy

Concordia Lutheran Church

40 Pitkin Street , Manchester, CT

**Reformation-themed music by Bach, Messiaen, Bender, and Manz, plus
musical surprises from recent years!**

 John Anderson, *Organist*

 *The Concordia Choir* — Linda Hilliard, *Director*

 **Reception Following in Kaiser Hall**





CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
40 Pitkin Street
Manchester, CT 06040

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED