

The Concordia Chimes

N o v e m b e r 2 0 2 5



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.

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

The Reverend Dr. Rolf Hedberg

Transitional Pastor

☎ (860) 649-5311

Margie Gallagher

Parish Administrator

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Concordia Nursery School Director

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Richard Hicks

Minister of Music Emeritus

Concordia's WHY | Purpose Statement

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

As I write this article for *The Chimes*, it occurs to me that there are three important events for the Concordia community happening this month. On 11/9, we observe Stewardship Sunday. On 11/14, urns will be moved from our memorial garden, and on 11/16, we will decommission the memorial garden. And last, on 11/27, we celebrate the National Day of Thanksgiving. So, I have chosen to make some brief comments on each of these things, beginning with...

Thanksgiving. In the secular world, it is about gatherings of families and friends, the sharing of stories, eating the obligatory turkey, and perhaps watching a football game. And then, if a person or family is religious, God makes a way into our celebrations and observances. We acknowledge that all blessings—great and small—are gifts from God, and it is God to whom we give thanks and praise. This one is the easy part.

Now we get into the nitty-gritty with the next two items. **Second** is the moving of the memorial garden to East Cemetery. This is an emotional moment for a number of you. When you laid your loved ones to rest in that garden, you rightfully expected that their “place” would last a long, long time—not just a few years. But that will not be the case. We are reminded again that here we have no abiding city. Yet we also take heart in the words of John 14:2ff: *“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.”* The one thing we count on in faith is that our place is with Jesus, and our commonwealth is in heaven. This day is emotional and sad for many of you, but it is also a time when the hope and faith we have in Jesus will carry us through. For our Jesus, we are very thankful.

Finally, there is this day of **Stewardship**. In one way, we are in an unusual moment. The church is asking for your financial support to see it through June 2026. But it isn’t just financial support. A good number of you are working on committees for Holy Closure, and this requires a good amount of time. Some of you might be asking this question: “Why give financial support to a church that is going to close?” It is a fair question, even as the answer I am proposing is also fair in its perspective. Only, I would rephrase the question this way: “What has Concordia meant to you over your lifetime in this church?” Baptisms, confirmations, first communions, youth groups, weddings, choirs, funerals, social ministries—and I am sure that for many of you, I have left things out! This church community has been such a blessing in your lives, and now, at this time and in this moment, our church needs you.

So, in this season of **Thanksgiving**, we still have much to be thankful for. And in that spirit, a **blessed Thanksgiving** to you all!

Pastor Rolf Hedberg



Holy Closure Update

Meetings with Teams

Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria Hammons met with members of Teams (Archives, Finance, Property (Inventory) and Real Estate on Sunday, October 19 to hear an update on their progress, respond to questions they had and talk about next steps.

Memorial Garden

Transfer of Urns/Remains from Memorial Garden to East Cemetery

Friday, November 14- 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Hedberg will lead a brief liturgy on Friday, November 14 at 11:00 a.m. beginning in the Memorial Garden to remember those whose remains will then be transferred by Tierney Funeral Home to East Cemetery.

Once we regather at East Cemetery, the liturgy will continue. Trumpeter Corinne Zanetti will accompany the hymns which will be sung. All Concordia members are invited to attend.

Decommissioning of the Memorial Garden

Sunday, November 16

On Sunday, November 16 at the end of the 10:00 a.m. worship, the Memorial Garden will be decommissioned.

Real Estate

Realtor

The Real Estate Team put together a list of realtors and interviewed three, all of whom have had experience in selling church properties. They came to consensus on one realtor and made a recommendation to the Congregation Council. The Council reviewed the qualifications of the realtor and the "Exclusive Right to Sell" Agreement.

Council then voted unanimously to authorize President Mark Winzler (on behalf of the Council) to sign the Agreement with **Keith Kumnick of Colliers**. Mr. Kumnick has been involved in the sale of more than twenty (20) in CT, among them St. Mary's Episcopal in Manchester. (Mr. Kumnick was a former member of St. Mary's and a member of their Vestry.)

Listing Price

The initial listing price will be **\$1,595,000**. (The building was appraised in 2024 for \$1,500,000 by Hagearty Associates.)

Mr. Kumnick used that appraised number as the base and added to it. He was very transparent in saying that the market, in the end, will dictate what we actually get for the building, so the \$1,595,000 is where we start.....but may not end there. He will obviously keep us in the loop as time goes on.

For Sale Sign

Mr. Kumnick will **NOT** put up a "For Sale" sign on the property. He does not think it is necessary. He will use other electronic and other means to advertise. He said that if something changes down the line and he feels it is a benefit to put up a "For a Sale" sign, he will reach out and ask permission to do so.

He shared with us that in a few instances when "For Sale" signs were put up on church properties.....vandalism of the church followed. Obviously we do not want that.

Real Estate Attorney

The Real Estate Team also put together a listing of possible Real Estate Attorneys. Upon recommendation of the Real Estate Team, the Congregation Council voted unanimously to authorize President Mark Winzler to sign the to retain the services of **Attorney William Galske** and sign the Engagement Letter.

Attorney Galske was recommended for consideration by Pastor Maria Hammons (and endorsed by our Synod Attorney Brad Cook) as he was served as Real Estate Attorney for the closing of Grace Lutheran in Plainville (CT), Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran-Simsbury (CT) and is presently working in this capacity at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Thomaston (CT).

Note: The reason for the need of a separate attorney for Real Estate as we need a CT-based Real Estate Attorney to work "hand in hand" with Synod Attorney Brad Cook as Attorney Cook is located in New Hampshire and has no jurisdiction for real estate in CT.

Activities

String Quintet Concert

There is a new activity to add to the list. Rebekka Almond is a member of a string quintet. They will have a concert on **Sunday, January 18 at 4:00 p.m.** with a reception to follow. Please mark this date down on your calendars.

Lunch for Pastor and Lois Hedberg

A reminder that we will have a catered lunch for Pastor Rolf and Lois Hedberg on **Sunday, December 21 after worship**. As time gets closer, we will be looking for a "head count" for this.

Pastoral Coverage

The following coverage will be in place beginning December 25, 2025
(when Pastor Hedberg leaves):

Sunday and Lent/Holy Week Worship

Pastors Rebecca Bourret and Ann Lovejoy Johnson will lead worship the greatest majority of the time. Pastors Sara Anderson and Gloria Connery will lead worship when neither is available.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Ann Lovejoy Johnson will be the primary contact to provide pastoral care for those in need. Pastor Rebecca Bourret will do so if Pastor Ann is not available.

Council and Congregational Meetings

Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria Hammons will attend all meetings of the Congregation Council and Congregational Meetings.

Celebration of Ministry Worship-Sunday, June 7- 4:00 p.m.

At this worship we will celebrate 132 years of Ministry of Concordia Lutheran Church at a festive Eucharist.

We are in the process of putting together a list of former pastors, members, etc. to whom we will be sending invitations to attend. There will be a brass quintet and timpani which will accompany the liturgy. Former choir members will be invited back to sing.

The following have been invited to have leadership roles in this liturgy and have agreed to serve in these capacities:

- **Pastor Douglas D. Barclay** (2015-2020) will preside.
- **Pastor JoAnn A. Post** (2005-2014) will preach.
- **Minister of Music Emeritus Richard J. Hicks** (2005-2019) will direct the choir.

Reminders

- **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.

On behalf of the Holy Closure Team,

Mark Winzler



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telephone: 860-649-5311

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

October 6, 2025

The Rev. Nathan Piphon, Bishop | Ms. Cassandra Wilson, Vice President | Mr. Jeffrey Swanberg, Treasurer
New England Synod, ELCA
20 Upland Street
Worcester, MA 01607

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Sadly, after one hundred thirty two (132) years of ministry in Manchester, Connecticut, Concordia Lutheran Church will close on June 28, 2026. Up through the 1980s, Concordia was one of the top ten churches in the New England Synod in terms of membership. The church's written history shows eight hundred fifty-eight (858) members in 1974 with more than half of that communing members. We now have about ninety (90) members on the roll with about fifty-five (55) communing.

Concordia, because of the leadership of its pastors and council members, has always been committed to the work of the New England Synod and has made Mission Support a priority. (There actually is a congregation council motion from the 1980s which stated that Synod gets paid first!) Though our membership....and therefore our income.... have been in decline over the past couple of decades, Concordia has not decreased its Mission Support during this time period despite deficit budgets.

I am writing today because I know from my past synod experience that it won't be too far down the road when the Synod Council will be looking to "refine" the 2026 budget and build the 2027 budget. Therefore, I want to make you aware of a forthcoming decrease and subsequent loss of Mission Support due to our Concordia's closure in June 2026.

While the congregation won't meet until January, 2026, and nothing is official until then, given our history and practice, Concordia will only be budgeting half of our 2025 Mission Support amount (\$18,700) for 2026. Therefore, **from January through June 2026**, Concordia will be submitting a total of **nine thousand three hundred fifty (\$9,350)** in Mission Support.

While this letter truly hurts me to write on a number of fronts, on behalf of the Congregation Council, I want to be proactive so that it allows you to plan accordingly.

We are thankful and so deeply appreciative of Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria Hammons who has been walking with us on this Holy Closure journey since September 2024. She has been a "rock" for the congregation and is trusted and respected by all!

With Peace and Hope for that which is to come,

Mark L. Winzler
President

Cc: Pastor Maria Hammons
Congregation Council Members



10/9/25

Dear Mark,

A note to acknowledge your letter dated October 6th regarding Mission Support for 2026. In such a difficult time as this, as you work towards winding down the ministry of Concordia, I give thanks for the congregation's consistent witness and support of the New England Synod and that Pastor Hammons has been a trusted and respected "rock" for the congregation.

May our resurrection faith sustain you in this season of endings - that the Holy Spirit is working new life and resurrection in ways we cannot yet see or appreciate in the living Christ.

Yours in Christ and appreciation,

A Reconciling in Christ Synod



Highlights of the September 2025 Treasurer's Report

Summary

For September the envelope and other funding was 13% over the monthly budgeted amount. As indicated in the August report, the envelope giving for the last two Sunday's of August were deposited in September creating this increase. Year-to-date giving remains steady at 11% over the budgeted amount. Special funds realized gains in September. Legacy for Ministry and the Community Cares funds have year-to-date gains totaling \$141,228.38. The Scholarship fund had year-to- losses of \$1,520.79.

In September, the Holy Closure Fund was created as part of Concordia's Memorial & Tributes (M&T) savings account. The Fund consists of the liquidation a KeyBank money market account, undesignated memorials which were held in the M&T account and the proceeds from the surrender of a life insurance policy held by Concordia. The funds will be used to cover expenses for Holy Closure activities. The remaining M&T account consists of designated monies; Seasonal Sharing, Outreach, Capital Replacement and Member Care. Please see the below charts for detailed information.

Report Details

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
September	\$15,180.28	\$13,416.67	113%	\$134,231.94	\$120,750.03	111%

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

Additional September Revenue

Open Offering:	\$224.00
Church Service:	\$400.00
Christian Indian Building Use:	\$100.00
Non-Operating Income:	\$5,300.00 (CNS Scholarship Assistance from Legacy for Ministry)
Miscellaneous Gifts:	\$500.00
Miscellaneous Income Non-Budgeted:	\$780.00
Total:	\$7,304.00
TOTAL SEPTEMBER OPERATING REVENUES:	\$22,484.28

September Non-Operating Revenue

World Hunger Gifts:	\$120.00
ELCA Miscellaneous:	\$100.00
Total:	\$220.00



Highlights of the September 2025 Treasurer's Report

Expenses

1. Utilities:

Vendor	SEPTEMBER 2025	SEPTEMBER 2024
CNG	\$350.25	\$325.13
Eversource/Earthlight	\$919.60 (\$0.00/\$919.60)	\$775.50 (\$0.00/\$775.50)
Cox	\$468.63	\$436.84
TOTAL	\$1,738.48	\$1,537.47

Additional September Expenses:

Concordia Nursery School (Scholarship Assist):	\$5,300.00
Staff Salaries:	\$5,608.60
Fringe Benefits:	\$393.24
Program Expenses:	\$260.00
Program Support Expenses:	\$1,041.77
Facility Maintenance:	\$6,013.05
TOTAL:	\$18,616.66

TOTAL SEPTEMBER EXPENSES: \$20,355.14

Bank Account as of 9/30/2025 (ACS)

Beginning Balance:	\$19,354.54
Total Revenue:	\$21,882.58 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)
Total Expenditures:	\$17,587.09 (Includes MNC & Tax expenditures)

Current Balance: \$23,650.03

Monthly Cash Flow: \$4,295.49 (Revenue less Expenditures)

Special Funds (as of September 30, 2025)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (Aug. 2025)	Current Market Value	Current Month Gain/Loss	YTD Gain/Loss
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$46,965.10	\$47,1998.15	\$1,033.05	-\$1,520.79
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$72,032.87	\$73,935.98	\$1,903.11	\$5,852.99
Legacy for Ministry	\$1,073,163.79	\$1,101,516.75	\$28,352.96	\$135,375.39
Total Fidelity	\$1,145,196.66	\$1,175,452.73	\$30,256.07	\$141,228.38

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. **September withdrawals:** \$5,300 from Legacy for Ministry for CNS Scholarship Assistance.



Highlights of the September 2025 Treasurer's Report

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

Previous Month's Balance (Aug. 2025)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$79,695.16	\$500.89	\$30,017.54*	\$29,030.09

*\$37,715.49 non-designated memorials moved to Holy Closure Fund. \$10,987.45 reconciliation of Memorial & Tributes accounting sheet and actual savings account balance.

Holy Closure Fund (as of September 30, 2025) (Note: Although the Holy Closure Funds are held in the Memorial & Tributes Savings Account, they are not reflected in the above M&T table)

August 31, 2025 Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Comments	Current Balance
\$14,527.86	\$100,724.65	\$10,987.45	Deposits: Includes all non-designated memorials (\$37,715.49) and surrender of life insurance policy (\$63,009.16) Withdrawals: Includes reconciliation of the M&T accounting sheet and the actual KeyBank balance.	\$104,265.06

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

Thank you. Carol Stoneman, Treasurer

Approved Minutes of the Concordia Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting

Monday, September 18, 2025, in person

Present:

Mark Winzler – *President*

David Smith – *Vice President*

Carol Stoneman - *Treasurer*

Susan Bourret – *Secretary*

Bobby McKinney

Nancy Lynn Knauff

Randy Olson

Rebekka Almond

Ruth Sprong-Heyden

Ruthie Lynch

Sandra Baranowski

Tina Ruggerio

Excused:

Pastor Hedberg

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 6:39 PM

Devotions: Susan Bourret

Holy Closure Items:

Review of September 14 meeting with Pastor Hammons and upcoming activities.

October Organ concert advertising and refreshments were discussed.

Sandra gave a summary of her research on restaurants for the dinner in June.

MISAC was mentioned with a possible affordable housing contact person.

Approval of Agenda The agenda was agreed upon by common consent.

Approval of Minutes The minutes from the June 8th and August 18th council meetings were approved as written and the Email vote on scholarship money distribution was affirmed.

Pastor's Report

None at this time

President's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

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

Old Business

ICE Policy – the approved copy of the ICE policy appeared in the Chimes.

Ten percent (\$500) of the Edward Clough bequest was given to MACC.

Memorial Garden bank account signatures were updated.

New Business

The Scouts Leaf clean-up is scheduled for November 15th.

The Manchester leaf pick-up schedule needs to be referenced when it comes out.

The following motion was moved, seconded and passed.

Motion: To authorize serving beer and wine at Oktoberfest on September 28, 2025.

Adjournment: 8:14 PM

Stewardship Temple Talk

By: David Smith

Delivered: Sunday, October 19, 2025

It was 1993 when I gave my very first Stewardship Temple Talk, and I was terrified. Public speaking wasn't my thing, and even in my career at that time, I rarely gave presentations, and when I did, it was to small groups of people and wasn't the type of thing to get terribly nervous about. Certainly not getting in front of the whole church and asking everyone for their money.

Back in 1993, Barbara Baker, Fred Badger, Charles Haid, Ed Kehl, and Warren Schimmel were on the Stewardship Committee with me. Remember them? They are with us now in spirit I know. At the time, I argued that I didn't want to do the Temple Talk, and I tried to get out of it, but they had done it many times before, and they kind of shamed me into it. They were looking for someone new. Fast forward about fifteen years, and likewise, I did the same with Nancy Lynn, who will be giving hers next week. She didn't want to do one either but became very good at it.

Naturally, over time, I got used to it and didn't mind it so much, and interestingly, it helped me in my career because it showed me I really could do it, and in time I was giving presentations in front of very large groups of people without any worry at all. This one is a bit sad, seeing as it will be our last Stewardship campaign, and for me it's going full circle. I started with the Stewardship Committee in 1993, and I am here for the last one. In my first Temple Talk, as now, I remember recalling that I was a bad Steward, and gave very little to the church because I wanted to keep it all for myself. It's true, I was bad, I used to break a five dollar bill at the convenience store, so as to only place a dollar or two in the collection plate. In time, I learned the more I gave, the more I had to give, and it helped me sort through my pathetic finances at the time, so I was always able to give to the church first and foremost.

Then I became much more responsible with my money, and things got a lot better for me. And so this year, with that example, I ask you all, one last time as we approach Holy Closure in June 2026, we will be asking every member to pledge their commitment to Concordia. I'm asking that we finish strong, continue our pledges for six months next year and ensure the church is open and alive right until the very last minute of the very last day of worship here.

In the coming weeks, you'll receive my usual love letter in the mail with an estimate of giving card in preparation for our Stewardship Sunday on November 9th. I'd like you to fill it out and bring it with you to the worship service where we'll celebrate the generosity of this congregation. This has always been a giving congregation as evidenced by the beautiful church and all our ministries.

I can't guarantee you I won't be on a Stewardship Committee of some sort wherever I decide to go after Concordia, but none will be so dear to me as the time I've spent here. I've always been a member of this church and want to see our final months together to be good---and not bickering over finances--but rather celebrating the long history of Concordia and what an honor it's been to worship here. It's an honor for us to be here and worship Jesus.

So, Stewardship Sunday, November 9th, one last time so we can finish up strong.

God's Blessing to you all.



"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*

Stewardship Temple Talk

By: Nancy Lynn Knauff

Delivered: Sunday, October 26, 2025

I have so many things I want to say I don't know where to start.....

When I started doing these talks – okay, I got roped into them by Dave Smith (THANKS, BUDDY). I was scared to death. The first speech I had made years earlier for a Calumet initiative left me shaky and nauseous. It was not something I wanted to do again. But through the years, then attending Toastmasters and other trainings, I'm at the point where I'm not shaking like a leaf and can muddle through.

Still, I'm nervous again. For the last time, I'm standing up here asking you to prayerfully consider pledging your support for Concordia. But this isn't just a stewardship campaign. It's the last campaign that will take place here in this place we call our religious home. This is a tough one, so bear with me as I go through this.

On Sunday, November 9th, we will bring in our pledge cards you will- or have- received in the mail and pledge your support for Concordia until the end of June 2026. It's still a vital necessity- we still have to make payroll, bills and keep the lights on. The Boy and Cub Scouts, MNC and the Indian church will still need to use the building as well. So please fill out those cards and bring them in on the 9th.

You may be thinking- why, though? Why bother?

Besides the fact that we want to have electricity when Mark Winzler comes in early on Sunday morning to turn up the heat in the next few months so the church is toasty warm by 10 a. m. *cross fingers* (THANK YOU) we still pledge support for Concordia because this will be our last time to **MAKE MEMORIES**. Memories, we're thinking a lot about them right now. Now is the time to share with each other our best- and maybe not so best- memories of our life here at Concordia. Whether it's receiving your first communion, reciting the creeds under Mrs. Witkowski's tutelage, watching Eddie Kehl dance around in a tutu at Fastnacht tossing Twinkies to the kids, or painting MACC's pantry or working the Pop-Up Shoppe, all our collective memories are a kind of stewardship, too.

I'm also on the Archive committee and we'll be slowly going through a LOT of pictures and memorabilia over the next few months, some of which we will share and go through together. But that's another speech.

These wonderful memories are one of the legacies left to us by our shared community here at Pitkin Street. So, over the next few months, please consider sharing with each other your memories of Concordia; whether they make us laugh, cry, or think. If you can jot down a few thoughts, send them to the Church office. If you need a scribe, ask for help. I used to be a college newspaper reporter and wrote fan fiction- I'm pretty good with a pen. One of our last projects will be to help each other remember our church and the life we created here.

But we can't do that without supporting the church and getting those pledge cards in on the 9th. This last run to share our memories and stake out our final legacy- we can't do any of that without this support of our last Stewardship campaign.

Thank you. Peace.

POP UP SHOP



Pop Up Shop

Winter clothes needed for our
DECEMBER 6 Pop Up Store!

If you have gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarfs, fleeces, or boots tucked away, please consider donating them to our Pop Up Shop - every item helps! Come by during office hours to drop them off, or bring them with you on any Sunday service prior to December 6th!

We are grateful for your kindness and we thank you!

- We could also use Christmas Decorations and Gift Wrapping Paper and Boxes - for your convenience, we've set up a shopping list from Amazon - scan the QR Code below, or go to this link:



<https://a.co/8RTS65J>



Worship Garden & Memorial



A Service of Transfer of Remains to East Cemetery

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

<p>JAMES R. CASSERLY 10/6/1920 ~ 4/28/2014</p> <p>JANE D. CASSERLY 6/18/1956</p> <p>ROBERT C. HERDIC 8/16/1950</p> <p>PATRICIA B. HERDIC 10/4/1951</p> <p>EDWARD KEHL 4/3/1917 ~ 11/16/2004</p> <p>THERESA KEHL 12/3/1918 ~ 11/23/2022</p>	<p>SAL S. PITRUZZELLO 10/23/1955 ~ 6/11/2002</p> <p>JULIE L. PITRUZZELLO 4/23/1945</p> <p>MICHAEL P. REHMER 9/23/1938</p> <p>LU-ANNE L. REHMER 8/12/1940</p> <p>ERNEST J. SCOTT 10/1/1924 ~ 2/2/2019</p> <p>MILDRED T. SCOTT 2/15/1924 ~ 4/18/2019</p>	<p>DAVID P. SMITH 5/4/1964</p> <p>KATHLEEN A. SMITH 1/23/1964</p> <p>GENE E. SPRONG 10/22/1955 ~ 10/7/2011</p> <p>RUTH E. SPRONG 7/10/1951</p> <p>JONATHAN STECHHOLZ 3/29/1950 ~ 10/17/2022</p> <p>NANCY LYNN KNAUFF 11/12/1973</p>
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ASHES SCATTERED IN THE WORSHIP & MEMORIAL GARDEN:
ARTHUR & ELLA HUBE, WINTHROP & MARY KNOX, ALBERT & ELIZABETH ORTOLANI, & DAVID STACY



Friday, November 14, 2025 | 11: 00 A.M.

Reflections | Memories | Stories

We asked people to share Concordia reflections/memories/stories in the Chimes.

A Glimpse into Concordia's Early Days

By: Lanie Turner

This photo was taken in May of 1970 or 1971 and captures one of the very first Nursery School classes at Concordia Lutheran Church, led by beloved teacher Julia Schrider.

My son, Dave Dickson, was just three years old at the time—he's the one in the blue shirt with his hand near his mouth (*classic toddler moment!*). After David, his younger brother Bob also attended Concordia's Nursery School. Believe it or not, this is the only photo we have of the Nursery School. Back then, film and cameras were a bit of a luxury—so every snapshot was precious!



Member Care

Hello everyone 🤗

Although we are always here to help, we sort of cool our heels a little bit in the summer, but we are back in full swing.

We have begun by delivering decorated pumpkins and individual apple ciders to:

Petey, Irene, Edna, Joanne, and Lanie.

Please let us know if you or someone you know needs some food, cheering up, or transportation.



At your service:

Jan B. (860-977-1433) | Jan S. | Jane | Ruth | Carol B. | Rebekka

All Saints' Sunday



On All Saints Sunday, November 2nd - we remember Concordia members as well as relatives, friends and colleagues of Concordia members who have completed their earthly pilgrimage since last year's All Saints Sunday.

Amber Tracy
Barbara Backus
Bob Bell
Chad Flemming
Chad Hedric
Dave Kauffman
David Stoneman
Dotty Selman
Edward Clough
Elaine Sibrinsz Zullo
Forence Fay
Gerald Wasmundt
Joseph Magnano
June Michaud



Kenneth Wall
Linda Gardiner
Mary Oberdorf
Maurice Shea
"Aunt" Peg Hopkins
Ralph Sullivan
Richard Bula
Robert Feder
Robert Nielsen
Robin Marie Trahan
Sally Nyvall McKeen
Sandy Donathy
Shirley Wochomurka
Steven Sperry



NOVEMBER | DECEMBER | JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS



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)

January

Philip Stoneman (6)
Eric Slater (8)
Bryan Jaworski (8)
Dana Donagher (9)
John Corl (11)
Kathy Smith (25)





It's that time of year again when Concordia's tradition of helping make the holidays a special time for families facing financial challenges through MACC's Joy of Community Sharing program.

MACC has made some notable changes in this year's program to accommodate changing situations faced by not only MACC, but by its donors as well. The first change is that they will only be adopting out families that are current fully vetted and registered MACC Pantry and Outreach clients. With the large increase in requests of certification for the MACC pantry services, as well as their continued increase in outreach services, MACC anticipates the number of families and individuals will be higher than previous years and they want to ensure they can assist those who truly need assistance and want to focus on families that they serve. MACC does not want to create a strain on donors that are looking to make a difference to families in true need of assistance, which they verify by their intake process. MACC recognizes that they receive amazing amounts of donations from all their donors and that the donations are directly from our pockets, and with good intentions to help make the holiday season a happy one for families struggling in today's economy. This change will allow MACC to focus on those they have vetted as in need of assistance and reduce the pressure on their donors to meet increases in assistance that may not be truly needed.

Concordia has adopted 10 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will be providing gift cards which will be given directly to MACC to distribute to the families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. The families will pick up their gift cards at the MACC campus. This alleviates the need to deliver the gift cards to the families as well as ensures that all families are receiving the same assistance.

Thanksgiving

With the increased costs of basic food staples and holiday traditional foods, MACC is requesting gift cards to grocery stores (Stop & Shop, ShopRite, Walmart, etc.) be based on \$25 for each person in the family. We are requesting a total of 39 - \$25 gift cards.

Food gift cards for **Thanksgiving** must be delivered to **Concordia** no later than **Thursday, November 6th** so they can be delivered to MACC no later than Friday, November 7, 2025, to allow adequate time for MACC to prepare for the families to receive their gift cards on Saturday November 15th.

Christmas

For Christmas, we will be providing both food gift cards (minimum of \$25 per family member) as well as gift cards (**minimum of \$35 for each person in the family**).

For Christmas and other cultural celebrations, we ask that both food (**minimum of \$25 per family member**) & gift cards (**minimum of \$35 for each person in the family, including the adults of the household**) be delivered to Concordia Friday, December 5, 2025, for distribution to the families on Saturday December 13th.

How can you help?

- Sign-up to donate a gift card(s) to one of the aforementioned grocery stores on the sheet provided in the Narthex;
- Adopt a MACC family either on your own or with someone for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas; or
- Use the Seasonal Sharing envelope in you giving envelope box to make a monetary donation.

Please contact **Carol Stoneman** if you have any questions.

Thank you!!!

Concordia's Outreach Team



How to get Aldi's Thanksgiving meal deal

Aldi shoppers can get their Thanksgiving meal items in person at their local store or by ordering online for curbside pickup. The items are purchased individually but marked for the deal on the store shelf, Aldi said in a release.

The deal is also available when ordering through Instacart, Uber Eats or DoorDash.

Summer Food Drive that benefited MACC – initiated by Nancy Lynn Knauff at her former jobsite – Team Michaud.



Organ Concert within Evening Prayer

Eighty plus people including from nearby churches were in attendance at the Reformation Day Evening Prayer/Organ Concert. It was a powerful and wonderful way to celebrate!

Sincere thanks to.....

John Anderson who masterfully played not only seven separate pieces (prelude, postlude and five others), but also did organ settings of each of the hymns that we sang! John was at Concordia practicing the three Saturdays before. It was spectacular!

Linda Hilliard and members of the Concordia Choir who sang a beautiful piece acapella and also lead the prayer intercessions. Linda was not only practicing with the choir for two rehearsals before Sunday, but also had a couple of people at her house to practice as well. That is dedication!

To say that it was moving, inspirational, and powerful is an understatement. As stated in opening remarks, for over six decades, Concordia members have had an appreciation for and has valued great music and liturgy. This has been one of the hallmarks of our church and continues to be. Visitors remarked! (While we did not collect an offering, some people insisted on contributing upon leaving.)

Thanks also to.....

Carol and Phil Stoneman and Pam and Randy Olson for setting up the hall for the reception following.

Susan Bourret for leading the “kitchen crew” with assistance from **Lois Hedberg, Carol Stoneman, Jeanine Barber, and Rebekka Almond.**
Jan Salvatore and Phil Stoneman for ushering.

Even during this time as we proceed in the Holy Closure process, we continue to praise God through music and liturgy!



Photo Gallery from the Organ Concert within Evening Prayer

October 26, 2025





GHIAA Update

House Meetings

Issue teams have been meeting to identify, research, and plan our approach to the four areas we have committed to focusing on in the coming year: Housing Affordability, Fiscal Policy Reform, MIRA Environmental Justice, and Immigrant Rights & Protections. As part of this planning process, GHIAA has been holding a series of issue-specific house meetings. These are 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. One more house meeting remains, on the topic of affordable housing, to be held on November 4 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Hartford. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Rebekka Almond or Nancy Lynn Knauff.

Special Legislative Session

We have been working towards the Special Legislative Session expected to take place in mid-November. Our most urgent push has been for the strengthening of immigrant rights and protections to be included on the agenda. GHIAA has been organizing and participating in vigils, marches, and press conferences over the last few months to try to keep this issue in the forefront of the conversation. We are also, once again, pressing for fiscal policy reform and supporting legislation aimed at improving access to affordable housing.



Concordia Nursery School

A Visit from the Manchester Fire Department

On Friday, October 17, the Manchester Fire Department visited the nursery school! This special program is geared toward young children to teach about fire safety in a child-friendly way. It is also intended to show children that firefighters are helpers. The firefighters came to our classroom, read a story, showed off their special gear and taught us about stop, drop and roll. We all then got a chance to meet “Sparky” the fire dog, and to spray the fire hose! It was a fabulous day!



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
10/12/2025	Kimberly Morrill	Cancer diagnosis	Elaine Briggmann
10/6/2025	The family of Dotty Sellman	As they grieve for Dotty's passing	Lanie Turner
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
9/7/2025	Michael Jaworski	Comfort and healing from Cancer surgery	Sharon & John Jaworski
8/17/2025	Dan Burnett	Comfort and healing	Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio
6/18/2025	Laura McKay	Comfort, strength and healing	Sandy Baranowski

The Intentions of this Community:

- † Concordia Nursery School Students and their families
- † The work of Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC)
- † The work of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA)
- † For our Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop
- † For Licensed Lay Minister Beatrice Luciano and Ministerio Nueva Creacion
- † For our Friends at Emanuel Lutheran and former members of St. Mary's now merged with St. John's Episcopal Church (Vernon)



Concordia Lutheran Church

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



Each **Christmas** we invite members and friends of Concordia to purchase *poinsettias* for our worship space.

Kindly consider making a gift of flowers to Concordia this Christmas.

We are also delighted to report that a **Brass Quintet** will provide special music **Christmas Eve**; gifts may be made to offset that expense as well.

Financial gifts to support our ministries are also welcome.

Each *poinsettia* plant costs **\$15**.

Gifts for musicians and ministries are given at the *giver's discretion*.

Please attach payment with this form, and return to the church office by Sunday, December 21st.

I/We give _____ *poinsettia(s)* to Concordia this Christmas Eve:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

I/We give \$_____ to Concordia for *musicians*:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

I/We give \$_____ to support *Concordia's ministries* in honor/in memory:

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Name (s): _____

Phone Number or E-mail: _____

Thank you.

Farewell Luncheon

for
Pastor Rolf
and
Lois Hedberg

When?

Sunday, December 21st after Worship!



Mark Your Calendars!



*Don't forget to set your clock
back an hour before you go to
sleep this Saturday night!*



FALL
BACK