



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.



Dear Friends in Christ,

If this were a “normal” December greeting for the Chimes it would contain the usual words for the seasons of Advent and Christmas – you know preparing for the arrival of the Christ Child and the celebrations that follow and what this means for an evermore uncertain, hurtful, and violent world.

But this December is anything but “normal” for me and this congregation, and this is so on many levels. On one level, all know that this is the last Advent/Christmas season for you, the congregation of Concordia. Indeed, there will be a last Epiphany, Lent and Easter. This is hard to write and difficult for you to hear and acknowledge. This is our reality and it is true. But on another level, what is also true and real is that there are no “lasts” for Jesus, only beginnings and only the promises of hope, forgiveness, and resurrection. For you, dear congregation there can and will always be a new Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. This and the rest of this liturgical cycle will always continue in the Church whose head and cornerstone is Jesus.

And so we as we continue the work of being a faithful church community, worshipping, singing, praying and reaching out to and supporting the needy in the Manchester community. But this takes an incredible amount of work and a number of helping hands. With that in mind, I quote you some lines penned by Reinhold Niebuhr in his diary, “Leaves From the Notebook of a Tamed Cynic”. *“Difficult as the pulpit job is, it is easier than the work in the organizations of congregations. It is easier to speak sagely from the pulpit than to act wisely in the detailed tasks of the parish.”* These words were written in 1915 when Niebuhr was in his first parish, age 23 fresh out of seminary (I remember those days at Bethany Lutheran Church, Orange County, MA).

But some 53 years later Niebuhr’s words still ring true. The work of the members of any congregation is far more difficult and demanding than the task of a pastor. This is especially so when a congregation is facing the task of holy closure. Additional committees, coordinating persons and timelines. Some of these things are longer duration than other things. With this being said there is one person who has gone above and beyond not just recently but over the years and I think you all know who it is, Mark Winzler. The symbol of the church is a ship, and Mark has kept this ship, Concordia afloat for a number of years and for that we thank him for the gift he has been and continues to be. I hope that this doesn’t get me into trouble by naming just one person but I hope that you also feel this in your heart of hearts.

So with all of this I thank you for the privilege you have accorded me to be your Pastor. It has been a very enjoyable time for me and Lois. Your friendships have meant more to us than words can express and again I can’t thank you enough. There is more to say. But enough.

Thanks for everything and I wish for you all a Blessed Christmas and New Year!



Pastor Rolf Hedberg

Holy Closure Update

Memorial Garden

About 40 plus people (relatives of those whose cremains were being transferred and Concordia Members) gathered for the Friday, November 14 liturgy which began in the Memorial Garden and ended at East Cemetery. A reception was held afterwards in Brandt Lounge.

Thanks to.....

- Memorial Garden Closure Team for all of their hard work (*going back more than a year when the plots were purchased*)
- Tom Tierney and members of the Tierney Funeral Home Staff who assisted with the planning. It should be noted that Tierney's donated their services for which we are grateful.
- Corinne Zanetti for serving as trumpeter.
- Ruth Sprong Heyden and Susan Bourret who led throughout this months—long process and devoted countless hours to make sure that every detail was covered and that all was done with great care for the family members of those whose relatives had been interred (in the midst of both of them being family members as well)

Real Estate

Keith Kumnick, our realtor, put together a listing brochure which has been posted in a number of places including LoopNet and Crexi websites. Copies of this listing were available for the members to pick up at church on Sunday or contact Margie for a copy.

Mr. Kumnick reached out to the leaders of the two churches as well as to the Town, all of whom had previously expressed interest.

Mr. Kumnick has already shown the building a few times to churches who may be interested. (Two different groups from the Town already have toured the building.)

The Town has engaged an Architect who is studying the building and a program that the Town has in mind.

A couple of people noted cracking in the foundation in the back of the building. Upon recommendation of Joel Baranowski, Council contracted with an engineer to evaluate. This is **not** a crumbling foundation.

Archives

The team has looked through the archives display cabinet and separated articles that will go to the Lutheran Archives Center (LAC) from what will be available to the congregation. Scrapbooks have been taken home by team members to separate articles to be sent to the LAC. Soon things, like scrapbooks, will be on display during coffee hour for people to take home. (Pastor Maria has given her okay.)

Property (Inventory)

- The Narthex, Sanctuary, Maintenance Room, Boiler Room, Outside Scout Storage, Brandt Lounge, Pastor's Office and Conference Room have been inventoried with documentation.
- The Choir Loft, Sacristy and Chancel Area have been inventoried with documentation in progress.
- The following areas are in the inventory being completed: Kaiser Hall, Under Stage, Kitchen, Garage, Garden Room, Office and Entry Way, Nursery School, Behind Stage, Non- Nursery School Classrooms.
- All is scheduled to be inventories and documented by early January.
- A "Fair" for Lutheran and other churches is tentatively scheduled for April.
- A Tag Sale for the Community tentatively scheduled for May.

Upcoming

December 21	Farewell Luncheon for Pastor and Lois Hedberg
Christmas Eve	Holy Eucharist at 8:00 p.m. (Prelude begins at 7:45 p.m.) After Worship- Christmas Eve Social at Mark Winzler's
January 18	Quercus String Quartet Concert at 4:00 p.m.
January 25	Semi-Annual Meeting (Finance) 11:30 a.m.
February 15	Fastnacht

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

Pastoral Coverage for Concordia

The following coverage will be in place **effective December 25, 2025**:

Sundays and Lent/Holy Week Worship

Either Pastor Rebecca Bourret or Pastor 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.

If you or a loved one is in need of pastoral care, please call Margie (Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.).

If outside of these times, please contact Mark Winzler at 860-643-1913 (home) or 860-690-8651 (cell).

Council and Congregational Meetings

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

Note: There will be no pastoral presence on site except for Sunday mornings. Please call either Margie or Mark with any needs or questions.





Highlights of the October 2025 Treasurer's Report

Summary

Envelope and other funding giving was 30% below the monthly budgeted amount. Year-to-date giving through October is 7% over the budgeted amount. The Legacy for Ministry realized a 19% gain the month of October with a year-to-date gain of 16%. Scholarship Fund reflects a loss of \$13,542.62 for the month of October and year-to-date of \$15,063.41 however these figures include the \$6,000 withdrawal in May for CNS financial support and \$12,000 withdrawal for the Heinrich and Santiago seminary scholarships.

Report Details

The below information represents the envelope and stretch giving for the month of October 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
October	\$9,413.23	\$13,416.67	70%	\$143,645.17	\$134,166.70	107%

Additional October Revenue

Open Offering:	\$52.00
Church Service:	\$100.00
General Building Use:	\$700.00 (Funeral & Piano Recital)
Christian Indian Building Use:	\$100.00
Non-Operating Income:	\$5,300.00 (CNS Scholarship Assistance from Legacy per approved budget)
Utilities Assistance:	\$170.00
Snow Removal Assistance:	\$170.00
Total:	\$6,592.00

TOTAL OCTOBER OPERATING REVENUES: \$16,005.23

October Non-Operating Revenue

World Hunger Gifts:	\$90.00
Total:	\$90.00

Expenses

1. Utilities:

Vendor	OCTOBER 2025	OCTOBER 2024
CNG	\$350.86	\$330.49
Eversource/Earthlight	\$835.08 (\$62.88/\$772.20)	\$746.14 (\$39.94/\$706.20)
Cox	\$468.91	\$435.42
TOTAL	\$1,654.85	\$1,512.05



Highlights of the October 2025 Treasurer's Report

Additional October Expenses:

Synod:	\$3,116.66 (Sept. & Oct.)
Staff Salaries:	\$6,387.60
Fringe Benefits:	\$428.24
Program Expenses:	\$659.85
Program Support Expenses:	\$793.22
Facility Maintenance:	\$2,683.88
Insurance:	\$4,019.25
Miscellaneous Non-Budget:	\$3,043.34(\$2,620.00-Organ concert; \$798.35-Oktoberfest; \$24.99-birthday cake)
TOTAL:	\$21,132.04

TOTAL OCTOBER EXPENSES: \$22,786.89

Bank Account as of 10/31/2025 (ACS)

Beginning Balance:	\$23,650.03
Total Revenue:	\$27,651.37 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)
<u>Total Expenditures:</u>	<u>\$25,495.33</u> (Includes MNC & Tax expenditures)
Current Balance:	\$25,806.07
Monthly Cash Flow:	\$2,156.04 (Revenue less Expenditures)

Special Funds (as of October 31, 2025)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (Aug. 2025)	Current Market Value	Current Month Gain/Loss (includes withdrawals)	YTD Gain/Loss (includes withdrawals)
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$47,1998.15	\$34,455.53	-\$13,542.62	-\$15,063.41
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$73,935.98	\$69,406.41	\$1,312.43	\$1,323.42
Legacy for Ministry	\$1,101,516.75	\$1,128,701.75	\$21,343.00	\$162,560.39
Total Fidelity	\$1,175,452.73	\$1,198,108.16	\$22,655.43	\$163,883.81

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. **October withdrawals:** \$12,000 from Scholarship (Seminary scholarships for Heinrich and Luciano; financial assistance to CNS)



Highlights of the October 2025 Treasurer's Report

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

Previous Month's Balance (Sept. 2025)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$29,030.09	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$29,130.09

Holy Closure Fund (as of October 31, 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)

Sept. 30, 2025 Balance	Deposits	Withdrawals	Comments	Current Balance
\$104,265.06	\$.89	\$0.00	Deposits: Interest	\$104,265.95

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, October 12, 2025, in person**

Present:

Mark Winzler – <i>President</i>	Rebekka Almond	Nancy Lynn Knauff
David Smith – <i>Vice President</i>	Sandra Baranowski	Bobby McKinney
Carol Stoneman – <i>Treasurer</i>	Pastor Hedberg	Randy Olson
Susan Bourret – <i>Secretary</i>	Ruth Sprong-Heyden	Tina Ruggerio

Excused:

Ruthie Lynch

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 11:30 AM

Devotions: Mark Winzler

Approval of Agenda The agenda was approved as written.

Holy Closure Items:

Additional team members attending: John Corl and Jan McGarity

Real Estate: Real Estate team representative: Joel Baranowski

Joel walked through the Real Estate team’s work explaining why they are making Keith Kumnick their agent recommendation for the sale. Joel answered all our questions about the sale and current interest. He led a discussion about recommendations to perform a title search and engage an engineering firm to investigate and recommend solutions for a structural issue with the building.

Three motions related to the sale of 40 Pitkin Street were voted on and passed by council:

Motion #1: Move to retain the services of Keith Kumnick of Colliers International real estate as broker for the real estate of Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT.

Motion #2: Move to engage the services of Attorney William Galske III to perform a title search on Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT.

Motion #3: Move to retain Michael R. Plickys, P.E. of MACCHI Engineering to make a site visit to 40 Pitkin and exam the foundation crack and prepare a report with repair guidance procedures.

Other Holy Closure items:

- Mark has secured pastoral coverage for December 25, 2025 through June 25, 2026.
- October Organ concert advertising is in progress and refreshments are being arranged.
- Memorial Garden closing work continues. Niches and time capsules have been opened. Ruth is in contact with the engraver. It was agreed by common consent that additional expenses for Memorial Garden closure will be paid from the Holy Closure fund.
- A January event with string quartet is being planned.
- June 7th celebration liturgy planning is progressing.
- A list of former members to contact for the June 7th service is being developed.
- The search for a restaurant for the June banquet continues.

Approval of Minutes The minutes from the September 18th 2025 council meeting were approved as written.

Pastor's Report

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

President's Report

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

Treasurer's Report

The September 2025 treasurer's report was presented and received. We continue to meet our obligations.

Old 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.

New Business

Stewardship Sunday will be November 9th. David Smith and Nancy Lynn Knauff will each give a temple talk in the next few weeks.

Seasonal Sharing: MACC will be distributing gift cards from MACC, so we will be asked to provide the gift card to MACC instead of delivering them ourselves. We will be asking for congregation support of 10 MACC families this year. We will continue to support families from Highland Park School for Thanksgiving and Christmas again this year.

The following motions were moved, seconded and passed.

Motion #1: Move to retain the services of Keith Kunnick of Colliers International real estate as broker for the real estate of Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT.

Motion #2: Move to engage the services of Attorney William Galske III to perform a title search on Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT.

Motion #3: Move to retain Michael R. Plickys, P.E. of MACCHI Engineering to make a site visit to 40 Pitkin and exam the foundation crack and prepare a report with repair guidance procedures.

Adjournment: 1:10 PM

GHIAA Update

Issue Teams

Teams continue to meet 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.

Special Legislative Session

The special legislative session took place on November 12-13. Lawmakers passed House Bill 8002, which requires towns to create housing growth plans, eases parking requirements, and expands fair rent commissions. This is a compromise version of the housing bill that was vetoed by the governor earlier in the year. GHIAA supported both iterations of this bill, even though neither addressed eviction protections or any of the specific issues we had been advocating for.

Although it was not explicitly presented in these terms, we and our coalition partners did succeed in getting immigrant protections on the agenda! Both the House and the Senate also passed House Bill 8004, which, among many other wide-ranging things, limits the ability of law enforcement officers to arrest or detain individuals on courthouse grounds, expanding the protected area to include court parking lots, garages, and nearby walkways. The wearing of masks or other face coverings by law enforcement officers on courthouse grounds is also largely prohibited under this bill. Additionally, the sharing of non-public personal information (such as work and school addresses or dates and times of hearings) by public agencies and employees is, with some exceptions, banned. These protections, along with crucial enforcement mechanisms also included in this bill, restore the key pieces that were dropped in the watered-down version of the Trust Act expansion that was passed earlier this year.



Midweek Advent Worship
Holden Evening Prayer



Wednesdays

December 3, 10 and 17

7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Via Zoom and in-person in Bourret Garden Room

Holden Evening Prayer was originally written during the winter of 1986 while the composer, Marty Haugen, was at Holden Village in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington State. With the exception of the lessons and a couple of prayers, the majority of the liturgy is sung. The liturgy lasts about one-half hour.

While it may be used at any time during the church year, it is especially appropriate during Advent because of the Magnificat included in the liturgy.

Note: *Bible Study will follow at 7:30.*

MailChimps with Zoom Links to go out on *Mondays*: December 1, 8, 15.



MACC CHRISTMAS SUPPORT

First of all, **THANK YOU** for your gift card donations and your monetary gifts to assist in the purchasing of gift cards for our MACC families for Thanksgiving.

FOR CHRISTMAS:

We adopted **10** MACC families ranging from 3 to 5 family members totaling **39 individuals**. We are requesting **30** food gift cards (we already have 9) for **\$25** to **Stop & Shop, ShopRite, Walmart, or Aldi's** and **39** gift cards, in the amount of **\$35** for each family member, to **Target, Walmart, or Kohl's**. Gift cards should be delivered to Concordia no later than **Thursday, December 4th**, to allow families adequate time to shop for gifts and food.

Also, if you would like to volunteer your time at the MACC emergency pantry during their extended shopping hours or assist in packing food baskets during their pantry sessions, PLEASE CONTACT: Patti Thurlow, Operations Manager, at 860-647-8003 ex. 112 or at PThurlow@macc-ct.org.

Seasonal Sharing Giving

To make a monetary donation, please use the Seasonal Sharing envelope in you giving envelope box or you can donate via check and write Seasonal Sharing in the For/Note section in the lower left-hand side of your check.

Again, thank you for your continued support of this ministry. God Bless!!!

Concordia's Outreach Team

GIVING TUESDAY
December 2nd, 2025

★ This Giving Tuesday, You Can Make a Difference! ★

At MACC Charities, we believe that a stronger community starts with each of us supporting one another. Today, we invite you to join our mission of building partnerships to break cycles of poverty in our community.

- ♥ Your Giving = Community Impact
Every dollar donated helps us:
- 🍴 Serve warm meals through the MACC Community Kitchen
- 🛒 Stock our Community Emergency Food Pantry for families facing food insecurity
- 👕 Provide clothing, coats, and essentials through our Community Threads Thrift Shoppe
- 🏠 Support individuals on the path to stability through Community Outreach & Emergency Services

When you give to MACC, you're not just donating – you're giving compassion, dignity, and a hand up to someone right here in our community.

🙌 This Giving Tuesday, please support MACC Charities. Together, we can make sure no neighbor is left behind.

📅 Donate today and help us continue the work that makes our community stronger.

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>



Wreath Making Day at Concordia



Come celebrate the season with creativity and community at our **Wreath Making Day!**

Join us on **Saturday, December 13, 1 P.M.** in **Kaiser Hall.**

Bring your own wreath or materials—or just your holiday spirit—and enjoy a festive afternoon of crafting, fellowship, and seasonal cheer.

If you have any questions, please contact Carol Burnett.



Please join us for a **Farewell Luncheon** honoring
Pastor Rolf and Lois Hedberg on
Sunday, December 21, following worship.

This special gathering will be **catered**, so
[we kindly ask that you let us know you are coming.](#)

Please **sign up in the Narthex**, contact **Margie** at **860.649.5311** or
email her at office@concordiamanchester.org
by **December 1st** to be added to the list.

We look forward to celebrating with you!



We Need Help!!!!!!

**We need assistance with the luncheon for Pastor and Lois on
December 21.**

This includes, but is not limited to:

**PLANNING | SETTING UP | PREPARING THE DAY
OF TO ENSURE ALL IS READY | CLEANING UP**

Please **contact Margie** in the office or **Mark ASAP.**

Note: The same will be true for the String Quartet Concert on
Sunday, January 18!



Christmas Eve Social Gathering



All are invited to a **Social Gathering** on **Christmas Eve** following the 8:00 p.m. Eucharist (beginning approximately 9:30 p.m.) at the home of Mark Winzler.

Come and celebrate Christmas together! There will be goodies to eat as well as “*cups of Christmas Cheer*” to raise!

If you plan to attend, kindly email (markwinz52@aol.com) or call Mark (860.643.1913) or call Margie at Church Office (860.649.5311) **no later than Sunday, December 21.**

We have lots to celebrate and be thankful for as we come to the close of 2025.



Please come and enjoy the company! All are welcome!



SAVE THE DATE!

Quercus String Quartet Concert

(Rebekka Almond is a member)



Sunday, January 18, 2025

4:00 p.m.

Concordia Lutheran Church

Reception to Follow in Kaiser Hall

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)

We are full of gratitude for the generosity of this congregation! We have experienced a good response in estimates of giving for the upcoming year, thanks in large measure to your faith and generosity.

Thank you to everyone who brought their pledges with them to our Stewardship Sunday service on November 9th and to those who dropped off their pledges since. Your generosity enables us to continue the ministries of Concordia Lutheran Church in the coming year. Worshiping at Concordia is so important in our lives and keeps us Rooted in God's Grace.

If you haven't gotten around to sending it in or dropping it off, there's still time! We rely on the pledges received to put together our budget for next year and hope we'll be able to add yours too.

This is a generous congregation and it's always a marvel to see how everyone responds in support of the church we love.

Even as we traverse the Holy Closure process, we are resolved to keeping the church going strong with our financial support in the coming year.

God's Blessings,

David Smith, for the Stewardship Committee



Decommissioning of the Memorial Garden

Sunday, November 16, 2025

On Friday, November 14, the cremains of our beloved dead were transferred from the Memorial Garden to East Cemetery. During worship on November 16, there was a procession of members to the Memorial Garden to decommission it as a resting place for Concordia members.

The transfer of cremains and decommissioning are two very real signs of our Holy Closure process journey. The following rite was used at the decommissioning:

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you **C:**
And also with you.

Dear friends, we gather today as members of Concordia Lutheran Church in this beloved Memorial Garden that has served as a place of memorial, remembrance, comfort and peace.

We give thanks for those whose dream it was to construct this garden, for those who designed it and those who brought those dreams and design to reality. We give thanks for members of the Memorial Garden Board and other members who maintained and cared for this holy space over the decades.

We honor the work, dedication and duty that the beauty of these grounds represent. We honor those whose ashes were either interred or scattered in this place and which have now been transferred to other places of rest.

We honor members, relatives and friends who came here over the years to remember, to walk the Pathway of Saints, to sit among the beauty of creation, and to entrust their loved ones into God's embrace and safekeeping.

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews reminds us that here we have no lasting city and that we eagerly await that city that is to come. As we gather this day, this remembrance should give us cause for hope, even as we grieve the changing realities of our life together as God's people. We will ask God's Spirit to accompany us as we honor this holy ground.

Let us pray:

O God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come:

We give you thanks for all your faithful people who have followed the light of your word throughout the centuries into our time and place. We give you thanks for each of those who have been remembered in this place. Strengthen us to follow Christ through this world until we are too are carried into the harvest of eternal life, where suffering and death will be no more. Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Even as we mark the end of our time in this garden, we remember that our God of new life leads us forward. We are participants in God's mission - a mission that continues beyond this day and beyond this garden.

When we dedicated this Memorial Garden, we asked for God's blessing on this place. Today we return this to God. We give thanks for the ways this garden has nurtured us and others through the years.

With thanks to God for the work accomplished in this garden, I declare this Memorial Garden to be vacated for the purposes of Concordia Lutheran Church, in the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Congregation:

As we take the next steps in our Holy Closure journey as a faith community and move forward in history and hope - increase our faith and make our service an example to all people. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore. In the promise and hope of the resurrection we now go forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.



November 14 and 16 Pictures.....



What the plots look like filled in and with the markers.



The monument arrived after the transfer - it is now in place.



All Saints' Sunday



November 2, 2025



Member Care ♥



A prayer blanket was delivered by Jan and Paul to a very happy and appreciative Joanne Murphy at Salmon Brook Rehabilitation Facility. She was feeling chilly, and put it on right away. Feeling thankful and loved, she is on her way to recovery.



Our member care team delivered Thanksgiving Pumpkin bread greetings to Petey and her family, Edna, Irene, Joanne, and Linda.

We pray:

Thank you God,
For each new morning,
With it's light,
For rest and shelter,
For health and food,
For love of friends and family too,
For everything thy goodness sends.
Amen.

Concordia Nursery School

Food Drive for MACC

During the month of November, the nursery school collected non-perishable food items for the MACC emergency food pantry. The children enjoyed picking items out with their families and took time this season to practice thankfulness and gratitude. MACC and other area pantries are anticipating a greater need this holiday season due to rising food costs and the uncertainty of SNAP benefits. We are blessed to have been able to assist our neighbors in need.



Cub Scout Pack 47 | Scout Troop 123

Thank you to the Scouts and Parents of Cub Scout Pack 47 and Scout Troop 123 for all their hard work raking, clearing, and blowing the leaves to the curb at Concordia Lutheran Church this morning (*Saturday, November 15, 2025*).

It was quite an effort and I appreciated all the help we received today.

Everyone pitched in and did a great job!

The attached photo shows an entourage of cub scouts dragging a tarp full of leaves up to the curb on Parker Street with all their might.

They brought camaraderie and teamwork to the effort, and most importantly, energy! to help make lighter work of a hard job. I also detected real leadership from the older scouts encouraging the others to join in and get moving forward. These are all hallmarks of being in the Scouts.

A special thanks to the parents for all their hard work this morning and time taken to ensure we finished the job in a timely manner.

Thank you all so much!

God's Blessings,

David Smith

Charter Organization Rep,
Cub Scout Pack 47 and Scout Troop 123
Concordia Lutheran Church





Hello my friends at Concordia,

First and foremost, I wish you peace in this Advent season. Thank you once again for walking with me on this seminary journey. It has been both difficult and deeply rewarding—opening my eyes to new ideas and stirring questions in my heart. Balancing the responsibilities of study, life, and ministry is no easy task, and yes, there are days when I'm running on four hours of sleep! If I forget your name in the hallway, know it's exhaustion, not forgetfulness.

Seminary has been an enlightening experience—from learning Greek to analyzing Ingmar Bergman's *The Seventh Seal* and reflecting on Christianity's Gothic era. Recently, I began my Ministerial Field Work at Emanuel, where I'm learning the rhythms of Lutheran worship, meeting new people, and looking forward to engaging more with children's ministry in the months ahead.

It is a season of much work, much reading, sleepless nights, and deep thinking—but I wouldn't trade it for anything.

As Julian of Norwich reminds us:

"Be a gardener. Dig a ditch. Toil and sweat. And turn the earth upside down. And seek the deepness... Continue this labor... and carry it to God as your true worship."

Be Blessed, Have Peace, and with Love,

Bea



A Trip with the Pastor

A children's story by N.L. Knauff | *Originally written for the Concordia Chimes in 2013*

She was so excited. After weeks of waiting little Nancy was finally going to the Big E. Her church, Concordia Lutheran, was sponsoring a trip up to the annual regional fair in Springfield, MA and the little girl and her mom were both going.

Her friends at school had told Nancy about an area of the Big E with bright lights, games and even rides! The games were different than the board games at home—you could win prizes at these games— prizes like giant teddy bears. She was hoping to be able to see them—maybe even winning one! She couldn't wait.

Hours later, she was bored. The day had started out fun—her mom, Mom's friends and the little girl had visited some big buildings which had represented each of the states in New England. Inside Nancy had tried samples of cheese and maple candies, salt water taffy and lots of different things her mom usually never allowed her to have. That made Nancy very happy! Then her mom and the others had visited what they called the 'craft booths'. Mom really liked this part, but it wasn't very interesting to Nancy. Still, she was little and wasn't old enough to go off on her own yet. So Nancy had no choice but to follow Mom and her friends. She kept looking for the bright lights her school friends had told her about, but she couldn't find them, even when it started getting darker out.

When the sun finally went down, the grownups sat down with their purchases at a nearby bench and said they were tired. Some of them said they 'were done'. Nancy couldn't understand why the ladies would say that—they hadn't found the bright lights place yet. Clearly the Big E was bigger than she had dreamed- no way had they seen it all!

The girl looked around, getting frustrated. That's when she saw them—the lights she had been looking for! They were so bright! There was even a big arch lit up with many of those lights. Many people, including other kids, were walking underneath the lit arch coming and going. She ran back to her mother.

"Mommy, can we go there?" she asked, pointing toward the arch, practically jumping up and down.

"Don't point, Nancy. Where?"

"Over there. The bright lights!"

Mom sighed. "I'm tired; we've been walking around all day. Maybe later." Nancy was disappointed. When Mom usually said 'later', it usually meant they wouldn't. She kept looking back at the lights then back at the ladies. They were all talking and comparing the things they had bought. It was completely boring. Nancy was getting nervous- what if she went back to school and everyone found out she hadn't gone through that arch?

"I'll take her," someone said in a deep voice.

The other grownups were agreeing. Nancy looked up at the man talking to the ladies and kept looking up. Pr. Strand was very big and tall compared to the little girl. She was a little nervous because she didn't know him well. She usually got a little jumpy when he gave a sermon on Sundays when he would get loud from the pulpit and even sometimes pound a fist on it. Her father had once told her it was his job to teach everyone about God, and he only did that because he cared about people. He was very a very important person at Concordia, even if he made Nancy nervous around him.

Mom said she could go, so Pr. Strand offered his hand to Nancy. He had offered to take her somewhere, which had to be more fun than staying here. And her parents trusted him. Making up her mind, she swallowed her nerves, and then bravely took his hand.

She had to almost run to keep up with him. His legs were so much bigger than hers; she had to take three steps for every one of his. The girl did her best to keep up with him, especially when she saw where they were going- toward the very lights she wanted to go to!

As they walked under the arch, Nancy tried to look everywhere at once. There were booths everywhere with people playing different kinds of what were called carnival games. People were laughing, cheering on friends as they played. Others walked by the pastor and child, some carrying various sizes of stuffed animals and other neat prizes. Someone even walked by with a plastic bag with a real, live goldfish! There were wonderful smells in the air, full of things Nancy had never tasted. It looked like a wonderful place.

Pastor Strand took Nancy to one booth. He and Nancy looked around. Hanging on the

canopy of the booth, she saw huge teddy bears. Those stuffed toys were bigger than she was! She would love one, but didn't know how to get one- would she have to buy it? She had no money. Then she looked on the shelf in front of her and Pastor. There was a circle in front of them with three coins. Pastor gave the person running the booth some money then started playing with the coins.

She hadn't spoken to him before due to her nerves, but her curiosity got the better of her.

"What are you doing?" she asked him.

"Trying to completely cover the circle with the coins," he told her.

"It looks hard." The coins were smaller than the circle. Any way Pastor tried to cover it a little portion of the circle showed through. The man running the booth kept taking more money so Pastor could try again. Pastor kept trying, and Nancy understood he was trying to win one of the big bears.

He couldn't do it, no matter how many tries he paid for. After a while, they left the booth and kept walking. The little girl looked back with longing at the big bears that were so hard to win. Her and Pastor stopped at another booth. This game looked more fun- you had to push a basketball hard enough down a metal track and over a hill. If you pushed too hard the ball would come back and you lost. If you didn't push hard enough the ball wouldn't go over the hill and you lost. Another man from Nancy's church was there playing the game so Nancy started to cheer for him.

After a few tries, the young man managed to push the ball just hard enough to get the ball over the hill on the track and keep it there. A bell went off and a light started flashing from the end of the track. The man running the booth yelled "Winner!" and everyone cheered, including Nancy. She actually started jumping up and down in her excitement, especially when the booth man handed her friend a prize- a neon-yellow dog in a

cowboy outfit.

The dog was almost as tall as she was! It wasn't as big as the bears from the coin booth, but it certainly was a big stuffed animal bigger than any of the ones she had at home. It had big droopy ears and a long nose. The color was as bright as the sun in Nancy's opinion. Its outfit was silly and reminded her of the cartoons she watched on TV. She liked the dog and was glad her friend had won it, even if she was a bit jealous.

All of a sudden the younger man was giving her the dog! She just stared at the gift- this was really hers? Realizing it really was hers to have she grasped the stuffed animal in her arms and gave it a big squeeze. Then remembering her manners, she said "Thank you," to her friend.

Later on the bus, tired out from the big day at the fair, she sat by herself on a bus seat, hugging her new toy and trying to come up with a name for him. She had her eyes closed, remembering the events of her trip. It had been so much fun; well, except for shopping with the ladies.

She then heard her mom talking softly to Pastor Strand.

"Thanks so much for taking her to the Midway."

"No problem," he replied. "I just wish I could have won her one of those bears." Nancy thought about that on the ride home, the gentle movement of the bus lulling her to sleep clutching her new stuffed dog. The big pastor had tried to win her a prize. She didn't know why he had spent so much money on that hard game, but she was grateful to him for it. She came to the conclusion that Pastor Strand wasn't as scary as she first thought. She decided that she liked the big man, even if he made her nervous during sermons.

The End

Note: I remember wanting to go down to the Midway and Pr. Strand trying to win one of those bears for me at the Big E when I was little. I remember being a bit intimidated by his size. I know it was someone else who won me a prize that night (*John Haid, maybe?*), but I'll never forget Pastor trying so hard. Others have told me it was a sight to see the big Pastor taking me down to the Midway. The rest I took literary license with- sorry about that, I was too young to remember more.

Sincere Thanks to.....

Rebekka Almond

This past Sunday (November 16), John Anderson reached out around 8:00 a.m. to say that there was a major problem with his car and he could not drive down from MA to play.

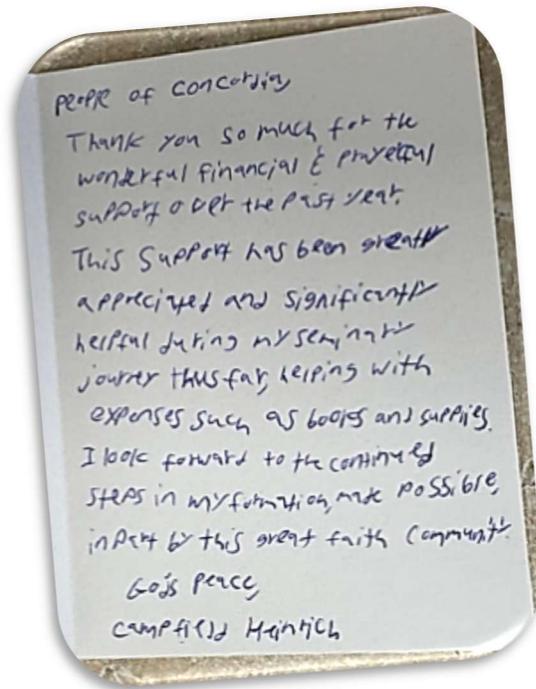
Rebekka Almond was contacted and she "jumped into action" and played (and rehearsed/directed the choir) without missing a beat!

What many do not know is that Rebekka has been picking out the music for and rehearsing with choir members during the week as well in preparation for Sunday mornings.

A simple "thank you" does not seem enough, but we are so grateful to you, Rebekka, for all of this!

Thank You Card from Campfield Heinrich:

Just to refresh your memory: Campfield was given \$2000 from the Scholarship Fund for his studies at the United Lutheran Seminary.



♣ D ♣ E ♣ C ♣ E ♣ M ♣ B ♣ E ♣ R ♣

* J * A * N * U * A * R * Y *

♥ F ♥ E ♥ B ♥ R ♥ U ♥ A ♥ R ♥ Y ♥

 **BIRTHDAYS** 

December

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

January

Rebekka Almond (2)
Philip Stoneman (6)
Eric Slater (8)
Bryan Jaworski (8)
Dana Donagher (9)
John Corl (11)
Kathy Smith (25)

February

Jan McGarity (9)
Ryan Adams (13)
Robert Copeland Jr. (17)
Ann Kehl (24)



Concordia is looking to purchase 35 gift cards from *Walmart*, *Kohl's* or *Target* for **Highland Park School** so families can purchase gifts for their children.

The amount of the card should be \$35.

Cards need to be turned in by Sunday, December 14th.

Note: this is an increase from the past years of \$25.



MACC EMERGENCY BAGS OF FOOD

As announced at the November 2nd church service, MACC is asking local congregations to join them in **EMERGENCY BAGS OF FOOD** to assist individuals who are not registered clients of MACC but impacted by the unavailable SNAP benefits due to the government shutdown.

The items MACC is requesting for the bags include:

- Peanut Butter & jelly
- Canned Tuna & mayonnaise
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Mac and cheese
- Crackers
- Nutri-Grain or Granola bars
- Boxed cereal



You can fill your own bag(s) with the items and drop them off at Concordia and we will deliver them to MACC or you can bring items you have purchased and place them in the baskets in the back of the sanctuary.

Thanking you in advance for your generosity and response to this request. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Carol Stoneman.

Peace and thanksgiving,
The Outreach Team

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
11/9/2025	Nancy Lynn Knauff	Healing	Nancy Lynn Knauff
11/3/2025	Lois Johnson (Mother of Ann Lovejoy Johnson)	Comfort and strength while in Hospice Care	Lanie Turner
10/12/2025	Kimberly Morrill	Cancer diagnosis	Elaine Briggmann
9/29/2025	Joanne Murphy	Comfort and Healing	Mark Winzler
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

Poinsettias

for

Christmas



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): _____