

Baptism of Our Lord



Concordia Lutheran Church



40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, Connecticut, 06040

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.

January 11, 2026

Prelude: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* - David N Johnson

John Anderson, Organist

Welcome

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Shall we Gather at the River

ELW 423

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



Gloria



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

All are seated.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

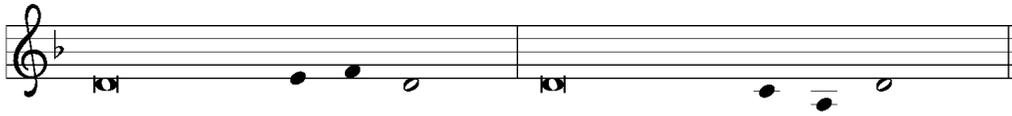


Psalm

Psalm 29



Tone



The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

¹ Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.

² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God's name; worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders; the Lord is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice; the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor. R**

⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees; the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice | of the Lord bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R**

⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are | crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

¹¹ O Lord, give strength | to your people; give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace. R

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

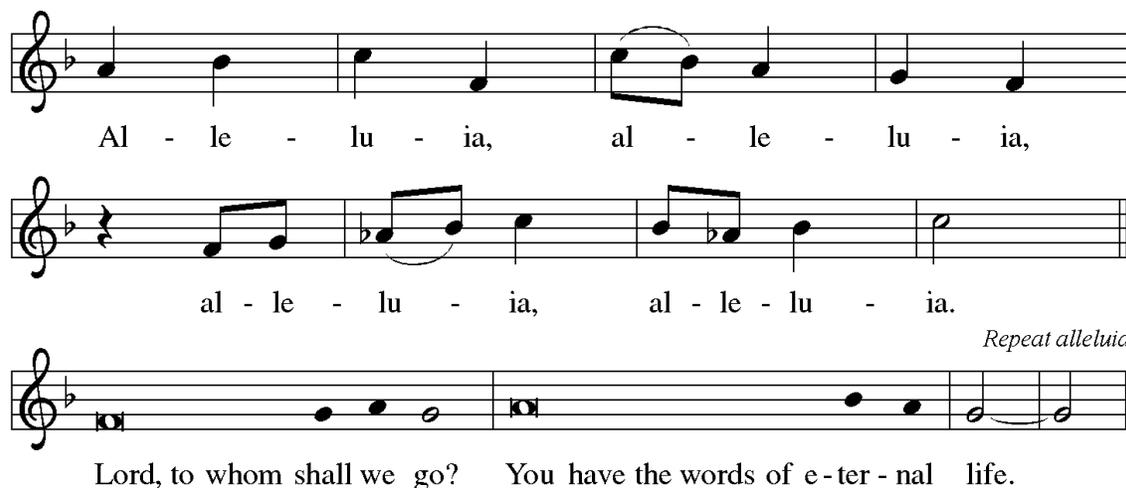
³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him: that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.

Sermon

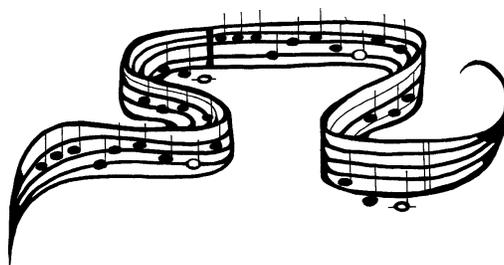
Pastor Ann Lovejoy Johnson

All stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

Baptized and Set Free

ELW 453



Renewal of Baptismal Promises

On this festival day, when we remember the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, Let us renew the promises made at our own baptism, asking that God renew us, and help us to grow into these promises, day by day.

And so, I ask of you,

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, creator of heaven and earth.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.



Prayers of Intercession

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill especially those in our prayer list. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray that you will bless, keep and guide our Concordia Members as we move forward with the Holy Closure process. We ask for your continuing presence among us, reminding all that you are with us and will not fail us. Give us strength and courage as we move forward in your name.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

All are seated.



Meal

Offertory Hymn

Now the Silence

ELW 460

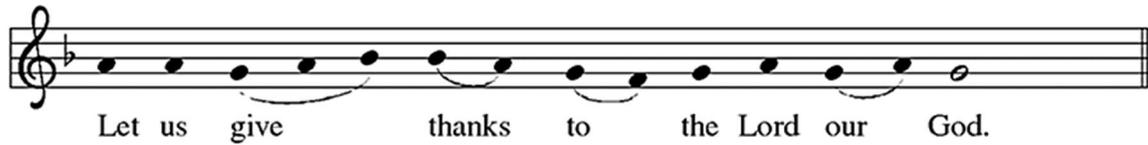
All stand as able.

Offertory Prayer

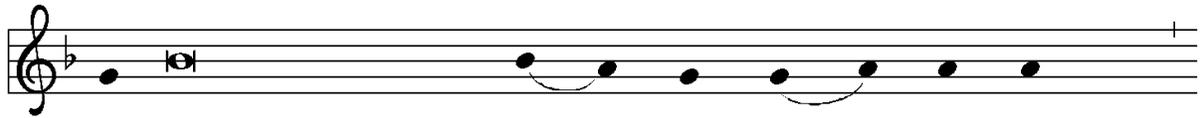
God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

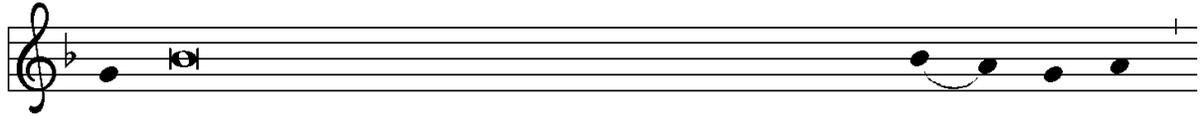
Dialogue



Proper Preface



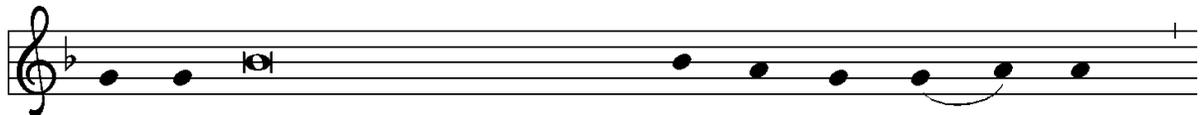
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



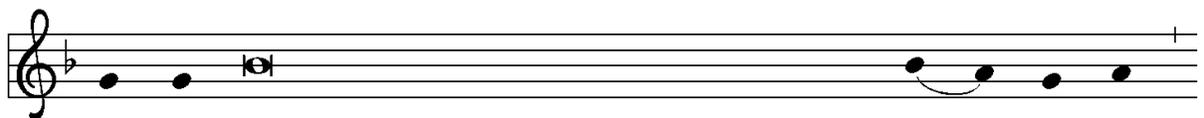
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



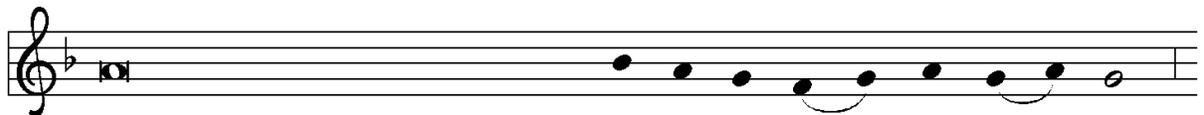
al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



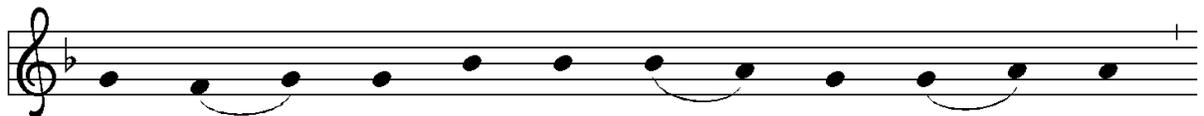
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all na - tions;



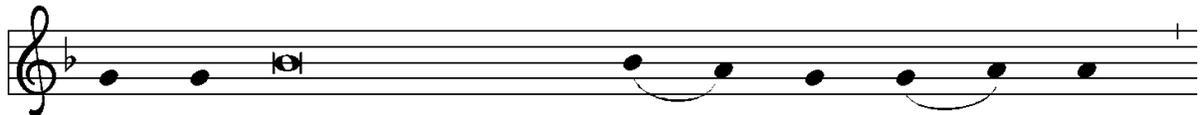
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your be - lov - ed Son,



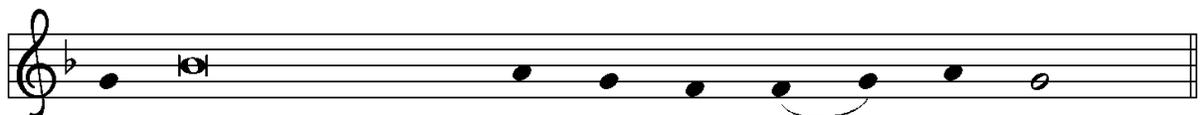
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he re - vealed your glo - ry.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

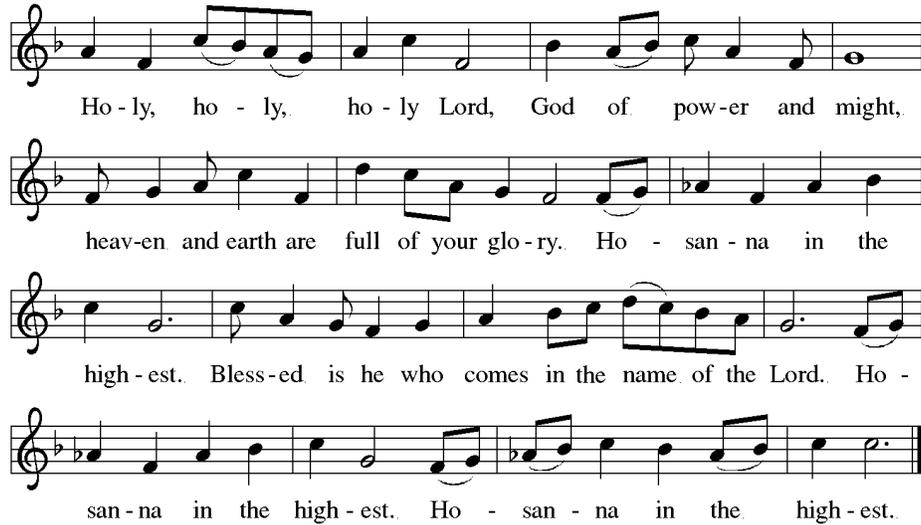


with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

Lord's Prayer

With hearts set on God's kingdom and hands open to serve our neighbor, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever, Amen.

Invitation

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

All are seated.

The Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Anthem

The Only Son from Heaven

J.S. Bach

The Communion

All stand as able.



Blessing After Communion

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Prayer After Communion

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart.

Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING

Sending Hymn

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

ELW 551

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Grand Choeur - Theodore Salome

John Anderson, Organist

+++To God Be the Glory+++

Serving in Worship Today:

Presiding Minister: Pastor Ann Lovejoy Johnson

Assistant Minister(s): Mark Winzler; Candace Wilson

Usher(s): Tom Taylor

Organist: John Anderson

Today's **Altar Flowers** are given
in *loving* memory of **Clara Sibrinsz**

by **Karen Schauster & Peter Follet**



BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please see the flyers in the next following pages for messages, reminders, and upcoming events!

*****CONCORDIA CALENDAR*****

- SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 2026 | QUERCUS STRING QUARTET CONCERT | 4 P.M.
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026 | SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING | 11:30 A.M.
- SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026 | FASTNACHT | 11:30 A.M.

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.

Daily Readings for January 12 – 18

Monday:	Psalm 89:5-37 Genesis 35:1-15 Acts 10:44-48
Tuesday:	Psalm 89:5-37 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 8:4-13
Wednesday:	Psalm 89:5-37 Isaiah 51:1-16 Matthew 12:15-21
Thursday:	Psalm 40:1-11 Isaiah 22:15-25 Galatians 1:6-12
Friday:	Psalm 40:1-11 Genesis 27:30-38 Acts 1:1-5
Saturday:	Psalm 40:1-11 1 Kings 19:19-21 Luke 5:1-11
Sunday:	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42

NOTES: The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. Selected liturgical texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License.

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
1/7/2026	Linda Lange	Comfort and healing	Mark Winzler
12/29/2025	Martha Pederson (Recuperating from a stroke)	Comfort and healing	Lanie Turner
12/17/2025	Joanne Murphy	Comfort and Healing	Mark Winzler
12/15/2025	Ed Adams	Comfort & Healing	Gail Adams
12/11/2025	Family of Elmo Zaccardelli	Strength as they grieve Elmo's passing	Lanie Turner
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
9/7/2025	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

Mrs. Margie Gallagher | Parish Administrator

✉ 40 Pitkin Street | Manchester | Connecticut | 06040

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

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 (MON-THU, 9 AM TO 2 PM). IF OUTSIDE OF THESE TIMES, CONTACT MARK WINZLER AT 860.643.1913 (HOME) OR 860.690.8651 (CELL).

NOTE:

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

Concordia Lutheran Church invites you to..



A Journey through American Music



**featuring Antonín Dvořák's 'American' String Quartet and other music
inspired by and written in the United States**

Performed by the



Quercus String Quartet

Rebekka Almond and Monika Kinstler, *Violin*

Colleen Chen, *Viola*

Claire Esterman, *Cello*

(Members of the Manchester Symphony Orchestra)



Sunday, January 18 at 4 PM

RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW AFTER CONCERT IN KAISER HALL



Concordia Lutheran Church 40 Pitkin St., Manchester, CT



Free admission — all are welcome! Join us for an afternoon of music inspired by the landscapes, spirit, and stories of America.



Christmas Tree Disposal 2025

Curbside yard waste collection, including Christmas trees, ends on Friday, Jan. 16. Trees must have all decorations removed. Residents can also bring their trees to the Transfer Station, a Recycling Permit is required.

Tax Bills Due

The Town of Manchester mailed Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills for the October 2024 Grand List on December 17, 2025. The second installment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2024 and the Supplemental Motor Vehicle List are **due and payable on January 1, 2026. Failure to pay any tax due January 1, 2026, on or before February 2, 2026, will cause the tax to become delinquent and subject to interest at the rate of 1.5% per month** (minimum \$2.00), back to the original due date of January 1, 2026.

Manchester Women's Club

Our mission is simple: To improve the Manchester community through service, friendship and support. We believe all women can embrace who they are, can define their future and can change the world!

We meet the 3rd Monday of each month.
Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday, January 19th @ 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Center Congregational Church
11 Center Street, Manchester, CT

We will be collecting non-perishable food items for MCC Student Cougar Pantry, empty prescription bottles (labels removed) and empty individual water bottles for MACC to repurpose.

Membership is open to any woman age 18+.





Fastnacht Dinner

With Traditional German Fare

Save the Date!

Sunday February 15, 2026
Concordia Lutheran Church

Social hour 11:15-12:30

Cheese/crackers
Beer and wine

Dinner 12:30

Roast Pork, German Potato Salad,
Red Cabbage, Green Beans and Mushrooms,
Salad, Applesauce

Please Join Us!

Suggested Donation \$15.00 per person



Name: _____

Total Number Attending _____ I can bring a dessert _____

Please submit this reservation form by February 8, 2026