

Third Sunday in Lent



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*

March 8, 2026

Introduction

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

We prepare for worship in quiet prayer and meditation.

Prelude *Liturgical Prelude #1 - George Oldroyd* *John Anderson, Organist*

Welcome

All stand as able.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel if you are able.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God.

Gathering Hymn

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW 777

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.

The Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



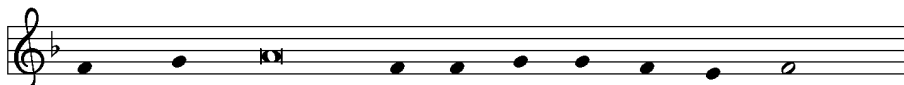
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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.

The Word

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the Lord among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

¹From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 95



Tone



Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. (Ps. 95:1)

¹Come, let us sing ¹ to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of ¹ our salvation.

²**Let us come before God's presence ¹ with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the ¹ Lord with psalms.**

³For you, Lord, ¹ are a great God, and a great ruler a- ¹bove all gods.

⁴**In your hand are the caverns ¹ of the earth; the heights of the hills are ¹ also yours.**

⁵The sea is yours, ¹ for you made it, and your hands have molded ¹ the dry land.

⁶**Come, let us worship ¹ and bow down, let us kneel before the ¹ Lord our maker. R**

⁷For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep ¹ of God's hand. Oh, that today you would ¹ hear God's voice!

⁸**"Harden ¹ not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah ¹ in the desert.**

⁹There your ancestors ¹ tested me, they put me to the test, though they had ¹ seen my works.

¹⁰**Forty years I loathed that gener- ¹ ation, saying,**

'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not ¹ know my ways.'

¹¹Indeed I swore ¹ in my anger, 'They shall never come ¹ to my rest.' " R

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand as able.

The Hymn at the Gospel

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

ELW 811

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

The Holy Gospel according to John.....

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem."²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city.

She said to the people, ²⁹“Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³²But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.

Sermon

Pastor Ann Lovejoy Johnson

All stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

For All the Faithful Women (Verses 1, 8, Last)

ELW 419

Apostles’ Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

Exchange of Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are seated.



Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.
The Table is prepared.*

Offertory Hymn

Now We Join in Celebration

ELW 462

All stand as able.

Offertory Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation.

You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty.

Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the
pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,
we may come to the full - ness of your grace.
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'r 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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Father, all powerful and ever living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise. You never cease to call us to a new and more abundant life.

God of love and mercy, you are always ready to forgive; we are sinners, and you invite us to trust in your mercy. Time and time again we broke your covenant, but you did not abandon us. Instead, through your Son, Jesus our Lord, you bound yourself even more closely to the human family by a bond that can never be broken.

Now is the time for your people to turn back to you and to be renewed in Christ your Son, a time of grace and reconciliation. You invite us to serve all of humanity by opening our hearts to the fullness of your Holy Spirit.

God of Covenant, from the beginning of time you have always done what is good for us so that we may be holy as you are holy.

When we were lost and could not find the way to you, you loved us more than ever; Jesus, your Son, innocent and without sin, gave himself into our hands and was nailed to a cross. Yet before he stretched out his arms between heaven and earth in the everlasting sign of your covenant, he desired to celebrate the Paschal feast in the company of his disciples.

And so we remember that 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.

At the end of the meal, knowing that he was to reconcile all things in himself by the blood of his cross, 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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:



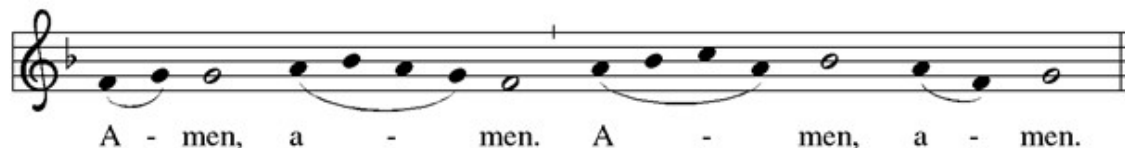
Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Lord our God, your Son has entrusted to us this pledge of his love. We celebrate the memory of his death and resurrection and wait for that day when he will come again to gather all of creation unto himself.

Covenant God, send anew the reconciling power of your Spirit upon these gifts and upon your church. Through that same spirit, accept us and fill us through our sharing in this meal. May all that divides us be taken away that your Church throughout the world may be a sign of unity and an instrument of your peace.

You have gathered us here around the table of your Son with the whole community of saints. In that world of the new covenant where the fullness of your peace will be revealed, gather people of every race, language and way of life to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus Christ the Lord.

Through him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours almighty Father, both now and forever.



The Lord's Prayer

We pray as Jesus taught us:

Musical notation for "The Lord's Prayer" consisting of seven staves. Each staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and rhythmic, with lyrics written below each staff.

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.


Invitation

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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. A - men.

Communion Anthem

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Thomas Tallis

+++ The Distribution of the Holy Communion +++

All stand as able.

Table Blessing

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

Prayer After Communion

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Sending Hymn

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

ELW 658

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God!

All are seated for the Postlude.

Postlude *Toccata in A Minor - Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck* *John Anderson, Organist*

Please refrain from applause during Lent.

††† To God Be the Glory †††

Serving in Worship Today:

Presiding: **Pastor Ann Lovejoy Johnson**
Assisting Minister(s): **Mark Winzler; Jeanine Barber**
Usher(s): **John Jaworski**
Organist: **John Anderson**

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

- **SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 | COUNCIL MEETING | BRANDT LOUNGE | 11:30 A.M.**
- **SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026 | SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | KAISER HALL | 11:30 A.M.**
- **SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 | PALM/PASSION SUNDAY | LITURGY BEGINS IN THE GARDEN**
- **THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 | MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP AT CONCORDIA | 7 P.M.**
- **FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026 | PRE-EASTER CLEANING | 10 AM TO 3 PM**
- **FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026 | GOOD FRIDAY AT EMANUEL | 7:00 P.M.**
- **SATURDAY, APRIL 4 | EASTER VIGIL AT CONCORDIA | 7:00 P.M.**
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 5 | EASTER BREAKFAST – KAISER HALL | 8:30 A.M.**
- **SUNDAY, APRIL 5 | EASTER DAY HOLY EUCHARIST | 10:00 A.M.**



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!

Attention:

We are urgently seeking  four (4)  missing hearing-assist devices that appear to have taken an unsanctioned sabbatical.

If one has found its way into your bag, pocket, or coat, please contact **Ruth Sprong Heyden** right away.

Help us return these little pilgrims to the fold!

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 March 9 - 15

Monday:	Psalm 81 Genesis 24:1-27 2 John 1-13
Tuesday:	Psalm 81 Genesis 29:1-14 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
Wednesday:	Psalm 81 Jeremiah 2:4-13 John 7:14-31, 37-39
Thursday:	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:10-21 Ephesians 4:25-32
Friday:	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:22-31 Ephesians 5:1-9
Saturday:	Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:32-34 John 1:1-9
Sunday:	1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41



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Season of Lent

“The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday and lasts forty (40) days (excluding Sundays which are always feast days celebrating the resurrection). Lent- the word originally meant ‘spring’ - is to be understood as a time to reflect on Baptism and its basis in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent is, therefore, a time for rebirth and a renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter. In the Gospels one finds a constant conjunction of cross and discipleship. The traditional color of Lent is purple, to suggest somberness and solemnity. Veils are draped over crosses throughout these days.” (*Manual on the Liturgy*- pages 24-25).

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus’ sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church’s fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. (*from Common Worship, Lent, Church of England*)

Wednesdays in Lent

Holden Evening Prayer

March 11, 18, 25

7:00 p.m. In-Person at Concordia

Thursdays in Lent

Holden Evening Prayer

March 12, 19, 26

7:00 p.m. In-Person at Emanuel in the Community Room

Special Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 15 - 11:30 a.m. - Kaiser Hall

Agenda

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Determination of 501 (c)(3) groups/organizations for our Legacy Giving

(Pastor Maria Hammons, Associate to the Bishop)

Adjournment

***** YOU MUST BE A QUALIFIED VOTING MEMBER TO VOTE *****

Those in attendance at the meeting on February 22 were given the “Legacy Giving” brochure (along with a letter of introduction) in preparation for this meeting. (This information was sent by “snail mail” to those who were not able to be present.)

A reminder that when we speak of “Legacy Giving”, we are **NOT** referring to our Legacy Fund, but rather “Legacy Giving” refers to our collective mission assets remaining (sale of building, other funds etc.), after expenses.

Pastor Maria will lead us through a legacy workshop process and will explain everything in detail. Before the meeting, you are asked to think about the names of 501 (c)(3) groups, organizations, and entities which you would like the congregation to consider gifting. These organizations should in some way connect to Concordia’s current or past ministries, or to the broader church. At the end of this meeting, we will have identified and voted on which 501(c)(3) organizations will receive financial gifts from Concordia. **NOTE:** The amounts will NOT be determined at this meeting, just the organizations/ groups/entities. The amounts come later.

The following IRS Legacy Directives are included in the Synod’s Legacy Giving brochure that was handed out on Sunday (or that you should soon receive in the mail).

“The congregation will approve legacy directives which will direct the disbursement of the mission assets of the congregation in a fashion that will honor the legacy of the Saints who have gone before, prosper the Church, and advance the Kingdom of God.

Determining how to direct the church property can be an enormous project. The Internal Revenue Service has strict guidelines for the disposing of non-profit assets. According to the IRS: Assets of an organization must be permanently dedicated to an exempt purpose. This means that should an organization dissolve, its assets must be distributed for an exempt purpose described in this chapter or to the federal government or to a state or local government for a public purpose. If the assets could be distributed to members for private individuals or for any other purpose, the organizational test is not met. IRS section 501(c)(3), Chapter 3.”

In other words, once something is given to a church, it belongs solely to the church. If a church closes, where the items go is to be determined by the remaining members. No individual can come back and say, “I bought that for the church, so I want it back.” Another important aspect of the non-profit tax code is also found in Section 501(c)(3) in the ‘Dissolution’ clause. If a church decides to close its doors, the congregation is required to dispose of the remaining assets by transferring them to other charities with like charitable purposes.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Eligible Thrivent members include those with benefit membership who have \$750 or more in annual premiums of qualifying life and health insurance products OR have \$20,000 or more in contract value of qualifying life insurance and annuity products. Qualifying members are able to direct some of Thrivent's charitable outreach funds each year. It can be done one of two ways described below **no later than March 31, 2026:**

BY PHONE

- Call Thrivent at 800-847-4836.
- When prompted, say "Thrivent Choice", then press 1
- Speak to a representative who will help you direct Choice Dollars.
- Call between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. (Central Standard Time); Monday-Friday.

ONLINE

- Visit Thrivent.com
- Log in by entering your user ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for Account Access".)
- From the "Shortcuts" on the home page, select the "Direct Choice Dollars". In the search box, type "Concordia Lutheran Church, Manchester, CT" OR
- Follow the prompts to select your charity and finish at "Direct".

Concordia needs revenue in support of its mission during these last six months. It will make a meaningful difference. At this time, you can designate your remaining balance all at once!



Prayers of the Community



For prayer requests, please contact the parish office or use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
Names will remain on the prayer list for one month *unless you request otherwise.*

<u>Date Requested</u>	<u>Praying For (Person/Family)</u>	<u>Prayers For</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
2/25/2026	Family of Tim DeVanney, Sr.	Comfort as they grieve the passing of Tim DeVanney, Sr.	David Beauregard
2/3/2026	James Kennedy <i>(Mark's friend)</i>	Comfort & prayers following cancer surgery	Mark Winzler
1/28/2026	Miles Turner <i>(Carol's Brother-in-Law)</i>	Healing & strength	The Stonemans
1/19/2026	Family of Gail Hamblett <i>(Lanie's cousin)</i>	Comfort as they grieve Gail's passing	Lanie Turner
1/7/2026	Linda Lange	Comfort & Healing	Mark Winzler
12/17/2025	Joanne Murphy	Comfort & Healing	Mark Winzler
12/15/2025	Ed Adams	Comfort & Healing	Gail Adams
10/12/2025	Kimberly Morrill	Comfort & Healing from cancer	Elaine Briggmann
9/7/2026	Michael Jaworski	Comfor & Healing from cancer surgery	Sharon & John Jaworski
8/17/2025	Dan Burnett	Comfort & Healing	Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio
6/18/2025	Laura McKay	Comfort, strength & 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

The Reverend Maria Hammons | Associate to the Bishop Congregational Council Contact Pastor

Mrs. Margie Gallagher | Parish Administrator

✉ 40 Pitkin Street | Manchester | Connecticut | 06040

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



FME

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANUEL
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2025 - 2026

Saturday, March 14, at 7 pm

Experience an elegant, intelligent performance. This versatile soloist has captivated audiences worldwide. He studied at Juilliard, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Yale's School of Music.



Suliman Tekalli

violinist

FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS WELCOMED

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

60 Church Street, Manchester, CT

860 - 643-1193

FriendsofMusicatEmanuel@gmail.com

www.FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel.org

Concordia's Annual *Easter Breakfast Returns!* Sunday | April 5, 2026 | 8:30 A.M



**You are cordially invited to join us for
breakfast, delightful treats, and
engaging conversation.**

We eagerly anticipate celebrating Easter Morning with
you and your family.

A free-will offering will be collected.

Contribution:

- I can bring: _____ Coffeecake or muffins

Assistance:

- I can help with:
 - _____ Set Up
 - _____ Serving
 - _____ Clean Up

Name(s): _____

Number of People Attending: _____

Phone Number *and/or* Email:



Please submit this form to the church office by Sunday, March 29, 2026.

Flowers for Easter



Each Easter we invite members and friends of Concordia to purchase Easter flowers for our worship space. Please consider making a gift of flowers to Concordia this Easter. We are also happy to report that **Atrium Brass Quintet** will provide special music for our service; gifts may be made to offset that expense as well. Financial gifts to support our ministries are also welcome.

Each plant cost \$12.00.

Gifts for musicians and ministries are given at the givers discretion.

Please attach payment with this form and return to the church office by Sunday, March 29th.

Thank you!



I/We give _____ Easter Flower(s) to Concordia

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 Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone Number and/or E-mail: _____



Please return this form in its entirety to the church office by Sunday, March 29, 2026.