



The Concordia Chimes

JUNE 2026



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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.

The following sermon was preached by Pastor Rebecca Bourret on
May 3, 2026, the 5th Sunday of Easter.

In the Name of Jesus, Crucified and Risen:

Growing up in the parsonage here on Pitkin St., summertime might find me barefoot, perched atop one of the two giant stones that anchored the house on the corner of Boulder Rd. Occasionally I might find a returnable bottle left there; more often my bare feet would find a chunk of broken glass.

Nevertheless, there is a certain satisfaction in finding such a place—a more or less horizontal surface to stop and lunch while hiking a mountain—a suitably flat member of a jetty protruding into the sea to stop and dangle one's toes or drop a fishing line.

Stones—boulders—rocks: by any name they are symbols of strength, dependability—even, perhaps, permanence. Little wonder companies like Prudential and Chevy incorporate them into their marketing to project these qualities.

Not surprisingly, stones also figure prominently in both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Jacob marks the place of his nighttime encounter with Yahweh with a stone pillow (Gen. 28:10-22); a rock cleft in the wilderness spews water for the Israelites to quench their thirst (Ex. 17); Moses is hidden in the rock and experiences God's presence (Ex. 33); the Israelites take 12 stones from the Jordan River to commemorate their passage into the Promised Land (Joshua 4); and the psalmists declare that God is our rock—our salvation, our fortress and strength time and again (Psalms 18, 46, 62, 91).

Jesus speaks of the wise ones who build their houses on the rock (Mt. 7:24-27); in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), when the disciples are agog at the massive granite stones comprising Herod's temple project, Jesus counters their marveling: "You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." (Mt. 24:2) And it is so: what's left of that extravagant complex is the western retaining wall, often called the "Wailing Wall," a place of pilgrimage and prayer, but no part of any sanctuary for the faithful to gather in worship.

Just a week ago this congregation voted to sell Concordia's sacred space—this house of worship—to the Town of Manchester, to become the site of a new senior center. This well-cared-for space has been, for 65 years, the meeting place for Bible study and Sunday school, for Abendmusik and Vespers, for assembling gifts for MACC and Highland Park families, for baptisms and confirmations, weddings and funerals, and most importantly, for Christ's people here to gather and encounter the Lord Jesus, who comes to us in the Word proclaimed, in his Body broken and Blood poured, and in one another, the "little Christs" who assemble each Sunday. You know this place: its smells, the stories told in its leaded glass windows, the spots that stain the flooring, the sounds of the doors opening and closing.

That will soon change. And the people who have been Concordia Lutheran Church, the living stones who are Christ's church in this place, will soon be—the metaphor seems apt—dis-assembled. Already most of the stones memorializing former members and pastors have been removed from the garden, paraments and vestments gifted to pastors and congregations, Chrismons and memorabilia taken home as remembrances. And I know how much and how deeply all of that de-construction hurts.

But last week my husband Jeff and I were in Italy. Years ago we had visited Rome, where, as in many ancient cities, the archaeological evidence of earlier civilizations is abundant: the Colosseum, of course, the Forum, Palatine Hill, the Via Appia. This time we visited cities farther north, including Bologna. Like Rome, it was first inhabited around 3000 years ago. But the evidence of that ancient civilization is much sparser. What happened to the ruins of Bologna? As the Roman Empire declined, beginning in the early 5th century CE., Bologna was repeatedly sacked by Germanic peoples. In efforts to protect the city, building materials from earlier edifices were re-purposed to hastily build protective walls. What had once doubtless been impressive buildings were dismantled and reassembled—re-purposed—ancient up-cycling, so to speak. In today's reading from 1 Peter, the apostle also speaks of stones, calling Jesus the "living stone" and "head of the corner," and addressing the Christian community as "living stones" being built into a "spiritual house."

Like us, in this unsettled and unsettling moment, the apostles' first audience knew

upheaval—displacement. And like us, those hearers were not going to be comforted by vapid optimism—denial of the gravity of the situation—but were hungry for real hope.

And so the apostle reminds them—and us: Boulders. Stones. Brick and mortar: they have the look or permanence, but it is Jesus himself who alone is eternal, Jesus in whom we are kept, held surely and tenderly. It is not this nor the grand St. Peter's in Rome or the colossal San Petronio Basilica in Bologna where God lives, but in you and me, in our living, breathing bodies. Christ is our foundation, our cornerstone, our head—indeed!—the one rejected, condemned, crucified—who for our sake was taken down, disassembled, entombed.

And at his death and burial, the religious authorities call for his tomb to be sealed with a stone, believing it will keep it secure against any interference. But the life-giving, life-restoring love of God prevails.

With apologies to George Gershwin—I'm taking liberty with his lyrics—
"In time the Rockies may crumble,
Gibraltar may tumble,
There're only made of clay,
But [the love of God in Christ] love is here to stay."

The loss of this building is real. It is significant. It is painful. But it is not ultimate. Christ the crucified One lives. He whose death and resurrection remove any trace of shame from his beloved. Who lives amid and among the households of faith who are built on that sure and precious foundation. Lives in the vital, grace-bearing assemblies, where, I pray, you will find your spiritual homes in the months to come.

If the great edifices of the Roman Empire could be disassembled and re-used, repurposed by successive generations to provide necessary protection from invaders, then surely the living stones –you beloved saints—of Concordia Lutheran Church will be—not disassembled, but dispersed—commissioned—sent—to be built once again into Christian communities that bear the image of Jesus in their life together.

The image of Jesus is always both crucified and living, alive in love and service, and bearing the wounds of Good Friday. And I dare to suggest that the wounds you now experience will shape your ministries, a testimony to the love of God that sustains us not only when we are thriving, but also and especially when we are grieved, when we are bear burdens too heavy to carry alone. The marks you will carry, like Christ’s own scarred hands and feet and sides, will make

You are God’s people, holy and precious. And neither the sale of this building nor the closure of this congregation can change that.

You have received God’s mercy. You will receive it again. Amen.

Life abounds. Alleluia. Amen.

you vessels of healing for the sake of the world.

“[For] you are you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,

but now you are God’s people;

once you had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy.”

We grieve, honestly and deeply; but amid our grief let there be genuine gratitude for the way this house of worship, this hub for ministry, has served Concordia Lutheran Church and enabled this congregation to serve Manchester, the wider community, and the world at large; and even for the way it will continue to serve, repurposed, re-commissioned.



Holy Closure Report

On Tuesday, May 5, 2026 the Town of Manchester Board of Directors passed a motion (8-1) to approve the Purchase and Sales Agreement for 40 Pitkin Street. A deposit of \$50,000 was wired the following day to Concordia's attorney. Members of Concordia passed a similar motion at a Special Meeting on April 26.

Mark Winzler was asked to give a speech before this vote took place at the Board of Directors' Meeting. The following is the speech he gave:

"I am Mark Winzler of 186 Greenwood Drive, a lifelong resident of Manchester and lifelong member of Concordia Lutheran Church where I serve as the President of the Congregation Council.

When our congregation members sadly voted a year ago to begin the closure process, as a retired Superintendent of Schools, my mind turned to how best to "get the word out" that our property would be available (in addition to hiring a realtor).

On that list was to contact the Town Manager to see not only if the Town might be interested, but also whether he knew of other non-profits in the Manchester community who might be. I had no idea when I wrote that the Town would be looking for a new home for its Senior Center.

On Sunday, April 26, 2026, 95+% of members present at our special congregational meeting voted to approve the Purchase and Sales Agreement which you will be considering this evening.

As the Congregation Council and I have prided ourselves on open, direct and timely communication throughout our closure process, I was not surprised, that basically there were no questions. The bottom line is that while this was truly a very sad and painful vote, there was great excitement that Concordia's legacy of being community-focused would carry on.

To provide a few examples of our community involvement over the decades:

- *Back in the turbulent late 1960s, Concordia, in collaboration with the Town, hosted a public affairs series of presentations and discussions where the racial, social and drug problems in the Town of Manchester were openly discussed. Large numbers of townspeople turned out.*
- *Before the Instructors of the Handicapped had their own pool at Manchester High School, the IOH group held all of its planning meetings at Concordia.*
- *The auxiliary of Manchester Memorial Hospital held many of its meetings and events at Concordia.*

- *Concordia was one of the founding churches of the Manchester Area Conference of Churches. Before there was a permanent place for a shelter for those in need, Concordia's hall was one of the places where the shelter was situated.*
- *Back in the mid 1970's Concordia led the way in the Town in the settlement of Vietnamese refugees from the Hmong tribe. After we settled the family, soon after, other congregations and groups in Manchester sponsored relatives of this family, and Manchester became a hub for Hmong refugees at that time.*
- *A year after the 9/11 tragedy, Concordia hosted the 2002 remembrance for the Town.*
- *As of late, Concordia is the "home" for some staff professional development programs from the Manchester Public Schools. They were just there today in our hall and garden room.*
- *Concordia has had a strong relationship with Highland Park School, providing not only food and gifts at the holidays, but throughout the year. Just in the last few years, we started a "Pop Up Shop" for Highland Park families in need where they could come to shop free of charge for clothing, household items and other accessories.*
- *We also hosted the Town's Three Kings Festivals for a couple of years recently.*

The Lutheran Church, the proceeds from the sale of the property do not revert to the Synod (our word for diocese) automatically. They go where Concordia members designate them. The Bishop does not dictate. It is also important to note that we, the remaining members, do not profit whatsoever from this sale.

As a 501(c)(3) organization (non-profit), after all expenses are paid and obligations met, all of the proceeds from the sale of the property and any remaining funds will be gifted to other 501(c)(3)s (non-profits).....in Manchester, regionally and nationally.

It is our honor and privilege to provide assistance to other non-profits so that they may flourish and grow. So, assuming your positive vote this evening, know that the proceeds from the sale, will support non-profits.

In closing, I would like to share that the Town of Manchester was not the only offer that we received. We had more than a few. I want to underscore that members of Concordia Lutheran Church chose the Town of Manchester.

After 132 years in the Town of Manchester, Concordia members chose the Town to continue our community-minded legacy to serve this Manchester community for generations to come through the establishment of a new Senior Center at 40 Pitkin Street."

**Concordia Lutheran Church, Manchester Connecticut
Legacy Gift List as Amended and Approved by the Congregation
May 17, 2026**

The following list of churches and nonprofit organizations was brainstormed and then voted and approved (unanimously) by more than 30 of Concordia's parishioners who participated in the Legacy Workshop on Sunday, March 15. As a result, all will receive a financial gift from Concordia as part of your legacy upon closing. (*Note: organizations must be 501C3*)

After much faithful conversation, the following list includes the financial gift amounts recommended to the congregation by the Congregation Council.

Large Gifts

- MACC \$200k
- Center for Leadership & Justice (GHIAA) \$200k
- Camp Calumet \$200k

Medium Gifts

- MARC \$80k
- Manchester School System designated to the following (one check)
 - Manchester Schools music programs \$15k
 - Highland Park School Family Resource Center \$50k
 - Manchester Schools Family Resource Center \$15k
- New England School of Lay Ministry \$80k
- Mission Development Fund (designated for the following ministries)
 - Continuing Action Network, Manchester NH \$10k
 - La Iglesia Evangélica Luterana, Providence RI \$10k
 - Ministerio Nueva Creación, Greater Hartford, CT \$60k
- Emanuel Manchester \$80k
- Trinity Vernon \$80k
- Lutheran World Relief \$80k
- Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service (Global Refuge) \$80k
- ELCA World Hunger \$80k

Small Gifts

• Covenant to Care	\$40k
• Cornerstone Ministry (Vernon)	\$20k
• Meal packaging Ministry	\$20k
• Building Healthy Families (fka TOPS – Time out for Parents)	\$20k
• Habitat (Connecticut)	\$40k
• Creative Living Community	\$40k
• New Horizon Baptist Church – Urban Alliance	\$40k
• Scouts CT Rivers Council (local)	\$40k
• Girl Scouts of America (local)	\$40k
• St. Mark Glastonbury	\$20k
• Emanuel Hartford	\$5k
• St. John’s Episcopal (Vernon)	\$10k
• St. Peter’s Episcopal (Hebron)	\$5k
• St. James & St. Bridget RC Manchester (both under St. Teresa of Calcutta)	\$5k
• New England Synod Seminarian Fund (Includes \$20k from Concordia Seminarian Scholarship Fund)	\$60k
• Mosaic: intellectual, developmental, mental & behavioral health needs	\$40k
• Ascentria Care Alliance designated for following ministries	
○ Luther Ridge at Middletown – 50%	\$20k
○ Good News Garage – 50%	\$20k
• Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan & the Holy Land	\$40k
• Lutheran Church of Guyana	\$5k
• ELCA Good Gifts (focus on animals)	\$40k
• ELCA Fund for Leaders	\$20k
• UNICEF USA (serves worldwide)	\$40k
• New England Synod – Benevolence (PLUS RESIDUAL FUNDS)	\$40k

Total: \$1,990,000

Sunday, June 7
Celebration of Ministry Eucharist
3:45 p.m. Organ Prelude/4:00 p.m. Worship
Reception Following

As of this writing, we have about 200 people attending with 25 of them singing in the Choir. You are encouraged to arrive here early for parking purposes.

There will be no 10:00 A.M. Worship on this day.

Sunday, June 28
Leave-taking Liturgy
10:00 a.m.
Luncheon at A Villa Louisa at 12 Noon

The Leave-Taking liturgy is for present Concordia members only.....as is the luncheon. You must sign-up in advance for the luncheon in order to attend as we need to give the restaurant a count beforehand.

You can sign up until Sunday, June 14 – either by signing the list on the podium in the Narthex, or by calling/emailing the church office.

Commemorative Booklet

Sandy Baranowski and Susan Bourret lovingly put together a commemorative booklet with highlights of Concordia over 132 years. This booklet also contains reflections from each of Concordia's former pastors. Our sincere thanks and gratitude to Sandy and Susan for the countless hours that they devoted in putting this "keepsake" together for us. Thanks also to Rebekka Almond and Zach Baranowski who also assisted in this project. This booklet will be available at the June 7 Celebration of Ministry Eucharist (one per family).

Letter of Transfer/Good Standing

Concordia members have received a communication which included a form regarding transfer of membership/letter of good standing.

The form must be submitted to the church office **no later than June 28** so that your new church will receive official notification from Concordia of your intent to transfer your membership to that church. Once your new church has been notified, you will be contacted as well to confirm this.

If you have not yet made a decision, please indicate that you would instead like a "letter of good standing" which will be given to you personally. You can then provide this letter to your new church after you have made a decision.



Highlights of the April 2026 Treasurer's Report

Summary

In April, after all of our financial obligations were paid, our checking account balance fell below \$10,000. Early this year I "borrowed" \$10,000 from the Memorial & Tributes savings account to make payroll and pay bills that were due. Without the \$10,000 we would have a zero balance in our operating checking account. We are fortunate that we received \$2,625.00 in Thrivent Choice dollars since January from those that designated their dollars go to Concordia.

Special funds realized gains in the month of April. There were no deposits or withdrawals from the Memorial & Tributes savings account, Worship & Memorial Garden and Holy Closure funds.

Looking Forward

Based on our 6-month budget, we will need \$21,509.00 in revenue to meet our financial obligations for the months of May and June. This does NOT include expenses for events, music, flowers, etc., associated with our June 7th service or any other Holy Closure events.

As part of the Holy Closure process, an analysis was done to create an estimate of our expenses until the actual closing/sale of the building to the Town of Manchester. The estimated closing date is mid-August. We will be responsible for expenses for all of July, part of August and for the payment of expenses incurred in August but billed in September. We have estimated that the expenses for this time period will be approximately \$32,000.00.

Thanks to all for honoring your financial commitment to Concordia during this time.

Report Details

The below information represents the envelope and stretch giving for the month of April 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
April	\$10,666.73	\$12,999.99	82%	\$67,155.69	\$51,999.96	129%

Additional April Revenue

Open Offering:	\$475.00
Festival Offering:	\$826.00
Church Service:	\$390.00
Christian Indian Building Use:	\$100.00
Utilities Assistance:	\$202.00
<u>Miscellaneous Income Non-Budgeted:</u>	<u>\$209.00 (Easter breakfast)</u>
Total:	\$2,202.00

TOTAL APRIL OPERATING REVENUES: \$12,868.73



Highlights of the April 2026 Treasurer's Report

TOTAL APRIL NON-OPERATING REVENUES:

World Hunger Gifts: \$11.00

TOTAL APRIL REVENUE: \$12,879.73

Expenses

1. Utilities:

Vendor	APRIL 2026	APRIL 2025
CNG	\$1,564.58	\$1,498.75
Eversource/Earthlight	\$569.80 (\$0.00/\$569.80)	\$675.40 (\$0.00/\$675.40)
Cox	\$480.26	\$468.99
TOTAL	\$2,614.64	\$2,643.14

Additional April Expenses:

Benevolence: \$3,500.00 (GHIAA: Budgeted and funded through our Legacy for Ministry account)

Staff Salaries: \$5,744.77

Fringe Benefits: \$161.62

Program Expenses: \$2,508.85 (Easter musicians/flowers)

Program Support Expenses: \$628.76

Facility Maintenance: \$1,111.88

Insurance: \$3,981.25

Miscellaneous – Non-Budget: \$172.91 (Food for congregational meeting)

TOTAL: \$17,810.04

TOTAL APRIL EXPENSES: \$20,424.68

Bank Account as of 4/30/2026 (ACS)

Beginning Balance: \$24,504.87

Total Revenue: \$14,106.46 (Includes pass-through revenue from CNS Taxes)

Total Expenditures: \$21,756.55 (Includes Tax expenditures)

Current Balance: \$16,854.78

Monthly Cash Flow: -\$7,650.09 (Revenue less Expenditures)



Highlights of the April 2026 Treasurer's Report

Special Funds (as of April 30, 2026)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (March 2026)	Current Market Value	Current Month Gain/Loss (includes withdrawals)	YTD Gain/Loss (includes withdrawals)
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$34,235.34	\$36,011.24	\$1,775.90	\$1,119.62
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$68,317.49	\$68,502.24	\$184.75	-\$1,342.93
Legacy for Ministry	\$1,084,720.24	\$1,087,653.64	\$2,933.40	-\$48,183.45
Total Fidelity	\$1,153,037.73	\$1,156,155.88	\$3,118.15	-\$49,526.38

Memorial & Tributes Savings Account (as of April 30, 2026)

Previous Month's Balance (March 2026)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$13,000.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,000.63

Worship & Memorial Garden Funds (as of April 30, 2026)

(Note: Held in Memorial & Tributes Savings Account; not reflected in the above M&T table)

Previous Month's Balance (March 2026)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$10,969.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,969.35

Holy Closure Fund (as of April 30, 2026) (Note: Held in the Memorial & Tributes Savings Account; not reflected in the above M&T table)

Previous Month's Balance (March 2026)	Month Deposits	Month Withdrawals	Comments	Current Balance
\$97,412.95	\$0.00	\$0.00	Deposits: \$0.00 Withdrawals: \$0.00	\$97,412.95

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

Thank you. Carol Stoneman, Treasurer

**Approved Minutes of an Additional
Concordia Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting
Sunday, April 12, 2026, in person**

Present:

Mark Winzler – President

David Smith – Vice President

Carol Stoneman - Treasurer

Susan Bourret – Secretary

Rebekka Almond

Sandra Baranowski

Ruth Sprong-Heyden

Nancy Lynn Knauff

Bobby McKinney

Randy Olson

Tina Ruggerio

Pastor Maria Hammons

Excused:

Ruthie Lynch

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 11:34AM

Devotions: David Smith

The agenda was approved as written. Motion to go to executive session for a real estate update. Agreement to leave executive session.

Holy Closure Items

- Communications being worked on and sent soon:
 1. Letters out to MACC Area Churches and Non-Profits re: April 18 Open House
 2. Letter Out for April 26 Special Congregational Meeting
 3. Transfer of Membership/Letters of Good Standing
- Recognition of: Rebecca Bourret, Ann Lovejoy Johnson, John Anderson, Linda Hilliard
- April 18- Open House for Area Churches and non-profits, currently 9 groups coming
- May 16- Tag Sale for the Community
- June 7- 4:00 p.m. Celebration of Ministry
 1. Liturgy being finalized
 2. Reception/Caterer (Emanuel will send people to be in kitchen) contacting caterer this month and next
 3. Commemorative Booklet: Reflections received from Prs. Martha Klein Larsen, John Marschhausen, and Kim Eric Williams (due date: April 20) Work beginning, photos being collected.
 4. Communication/Invitation- Former Pastors Coming: Douglas Barclay, Rebecca Bourret/Jeffrey Kinney, Rolf/Lois Hedberg, Martha Klein Larsen, John/Dottie Marschhausen, JoAnn Post/James Nieman.
 5. Videographer
 6. Photographer
- June 28 Final Banquet- A Villa Louisa 12 Noon-3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes as written: Council meetings: March 8, 2026, March 18, 2026 and April 7, 2026 and Special Congregational Meeting, March 15, 2026.

Information from Pastor Maria Hammons

Review of Legacy List will be done under new business

President's Report

Included in Holy Closure area

Treasurer's Report

Income is above budget due to a few total 6-month pledges received. Benevolence has been distributed to Synod, MACC and GHIAA. Legacy money has been transferred to a money market account to stabilize amount in Special Funds since there are losses for the month and year to date.

Old Business

All included in Holy Closure section

New Business

April 26 Special Congregational meeting will have a regular coffee hour

Motion passed: *To approve wine for the June 7th reception.*

Agreed by consensus, to allocate funds needed to repair the flat roof. There is a leak causing damage in the sacristy and a few other issues have been identified and will be repaired at the same time. An estimate of \$1,500 for this work was received. The funding will come from the maintenance account.

Review of Legacy List: Council will be recommending dollar amounts to the congregation for the non-profits identified at the March 15th congregational meeting. The list was reviewed and a first pass indicating a small, medium or large gift to each organization as a first step in the process; taking the congregation's priorities identified into account. Carol will be estimating the expenses through August to help identify an approximate total for the distribution.

Adjournment

Adjournment: 1:37 PM

Approved MINUTES OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, April 26, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Mark Winzler at 11:31 a.m.

Pastor Maria Hammons opened the meeting with prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and vote on a motion to approve the sale of the building to the Town of Manchester.

A letter containing the motion was mailed to members prior to the meeting. An agenda and background sheet were distributed.

Mark wrote an article for the May Chimes containing highlights of this meeting which include background reviewed at the meeting.

The following motion was moved, seconded and passed by more than the 2/3 required.

Motion:

To approve the purchase and sale agreement and sale of the land and buildings of the congregation to the Town of Manchester, Connecticut, for the sales price of \$1.5 million and upon those terms and conditions contained in a purchase and sale agreement dated April 16, 2026 and, further, that the Council is authorized to approve such changes to the agreement or extensions as may be required and do such things as may be required to effect the purposes of this vote; and that the officers of the congregation, or any one of them, be and hereby are authorized to sign all documents and do all things required to effect the purposes of this vote.

Forty-two people attended the meeting.

An article containing meeting details can be found in the May 2026 edition of the Chimes.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

List of Voting Member Meeting Attendees

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Gail Adams | 11.Susan Bourret | 21.John Jaworski | 31.Randy Olson |
| 2. Rebekka Almond | 12.Elaine Briggmann | 22.Sharon Jaworski | 32.Donald Slater |
| 3. Joel Baranowski | 13.James Britton | 23.Nancy Lynn Knauff | 33.Marion Slater |
| 4. Sandra Baranowski | 14.Carol Burnett | 24.Ruthie Lynch | 34.David Smith |
| 5. Zach Baranowski | 15.Jane Casserly | 25.Jan McGarity | 35.Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio |
| 6. Jeanine Barber | 16.John Corl | 26.Bobby McKinney | 36.Ruth Sprong Heyden |
| 7. David Beauregard | 17.Kay Corl | 27.Joanne Murphy | 37.Carol Stoneman |
| 8. Jan Bellino | 18.C. Paul Goodrich | 28.Edna Nekiunas | 38.Phil Stoneman |
| 9. Patricia Bourret | 19.John Haid | 29.Kathy Noyes | 39.Lanie Turner |
| 10. Steven Bourret | 20.Bryan Jaworski | 30.Pam Olson | 40.Candace Wilson |
| | | | 41.Mark Wilson |
| | | | 42.Mark Winzler |

Also in Attendance : Pastor Maria Hammons

Pool Party and Barbeque

Sunday, August 30, 2026

3:00 - 7:30 p.m.



By the end of August, two months will have gone since our last worship service. We're sure we would like to see one another. Here is that opportunity!

We gather for fellowship, drinks, snacks and a cookout with Concordia friends. As it has been for many years, this will take place at Mark Winzler's home. Bring a lawn chair, if possible.

The menu includes hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, German Potato Salad, sauerkraut and baked beans supplied by Mark. Those attending are asked to sign up to provide an appetizer, salad or dessert.

I can bring:

_____ Appetizer _____ Dessert _____ Salad

Name: _____

Number of People Attending: _____

**Please return this form to the office or call 860-649-5311
or e-mail: office@concordiamanchester.org**

By Monday, July 31

A Reflection from Jim Britton:

As a very old senior of our beloved church, I am writing some of my memories of friends and events from my life and time at Concordia.

I had been a “sometimes” attendee at Center Congregational Church as a little kid in Manchester. I lived with my parents in an apartment over Harry England’s Grocery Store at Manchester Green which is still standing as a pizzeria next to the Woodbridge Farm. With a little friend my age whose parents were members of Center Church, I loved going to their church and Sunday School.

In 1944, near the end of my senior year at Manchester High School, I joined the U.S. Navy during World War II. On leave after boot camp I got reacquainted with Jacqueline Winslow who I had known from early childhood. Her foster Mom was Miss Marjorie Leidholdt, who had been my second-grade teacher at the Manchester Green School, now the Manchester Senior Center. Miss Leidholdt was a special friend of my Mom during those early years and that is how I got to know Jackie. After returning to Navy duty and Engine Room training, I wrote to Jackie and she responded. It started a long exchange of letters while I was away on an LST in the Pacific War. When the war finally ended, I was discharged from the regular Navy but stayed in as a reservist.

Long story short, I found a job as a Diesel Mechanic and courted Jackie. Two years later I proposed to her and she accepted. We were married in the tiny original Concordia Lutheran Church on Winter Street here in town. I was recalled to active duty during the Korean War. Stationed in New Jersey, I was able to drive home on alternate weekends. We lived in a tiny apartment on Spruce Street in Manchester. Near the end of that year, our first daughter, Jill, was born. We purchased our first home in Enfield, CT. It was a small ranch house in a new development. While living in Enfield we attended a nearby Congregational church. Our second daughter, Joanne, was born. Enfield schools were very overcrowded, with all classes in double sessions, starting early and finishing after dark in winter.

Jackie and I agreed we should move back to Manchester and Concordia. Our new Manchester home was on Woodland street. It had good amenities including larger rooms, a basement garage, a real fireplace and nice neighbors. It also had a deep downhill backyard and a patch of woods. The girls and neighborhood kids loved their Winter sliding hill and their imaginary “Stage Coach” on a pile of well-stacked logs.

By then I had landed a job with Stanadyne Diesel Systems in Windsor. They had started manufacture of a revolutionary rotary distributor diesel fuel injection pump. I started as a lab technician, testing diesel engines. Over the next two years, I advanced steadily and was made service manager. Life was good.

Number three daughter, Jennifer was born in Manchester.

Time passed as the girls moved through high school and colleges. I travelled to 32 countries in my job duties and was privileged to be able to take Jackie with me to the most desirable places, using up free airline miles accrued. In between travel times I remained active at Concordia. One day, Mark Winzler invited me to become a deacon and I gladly accepted. I was expertly mentored by Matt Heinrich who was then a Concordian and a veteran deacon.

On my first day as a trained, full-blown deacon I was to fully participate in the service. I stood with pastor Burton Strand at our rear-facing altar, used before we had our new, present standing one. I had thoroughly studied the lesson I was to recite, paying particular attention to all of the punctuation marks. I read it rather well, I thought. At the end of that recitation I stated: "Let us kneel in prayer."

Wrong!!

Towering over me, Pastor Strand admonished me in a strained, loud, whisper, "No! No! No!"

I got the message: kneeling was not required! All four of the service participants, including Mark Winzler, remained standing, including me. The entire congregation – bless their hearts – knelt. Not another word was said by anyone, then or afterward. My stalwart deacon teacher, however, quietly and resolutely shook his head.

In the years since that day I have had many other roles at Concordia:

Church Council; Sunday School teacher; Many committees, some of which I chaired; Choir – which I still love;

And one unique committee: one Sunday, our lady pastor at the time asked me to be a one-man committee to make certain any major event in our hall should have all the settings needed, properly positioned for that event. I agreed to do it. After she departed, I appointed myself "Chairman of the chairs".

I can think of many other dear friends and fond memories, especially of Fred and Thelma Badger who opened their home to our Bible study group Thursday evenings each month. They, and so many others are gone now.

We sold our third and nicest Manchester home and moved to a "Warehouse For Old People" in Glastonbury. Six months later, after 70 years of our marriage, I lost my dear Jackie.

I now ride to church with Jane Casserly who lives close by. My three daughters are also close and tend to my special needs: appointments, shopping and errands. I have been, and am blessed with my daughters, sons-in-laws, grand kids and great-grand kids.

I am now a very lucky 100-year-old man. I still feel I could bound up those stairs to the choir loft, two at a time, but I don't, and I won't!

Jim Britton

TEACHER'S APPRECIATION TEA

Concordia's final teacher's appreciation tea for Highland Park School was on Wednesday, May 6th.

We had over 30 personnel from Highland Park School and Bowers attend.

Thank you to all the people who worked and baked this year and in years past to make this an enjoyable event. We are very grateful to Emanuel Lutheran church who helped set up, bake, serve, and clean up. The event really turns into a two day affair with all the work involved.

However one person spends countless hours outside of those two days decorating, prepping food, and toting containers of tea serve sets back and forth not to mention washing all the used tea settings at home. Thank you Carol Burnet whose brainchild this was years ago and your dedication to accomplish it every year.



Thank You Note from Carol Burnett:

I would like thanks everyone that helped to make the tea for the teachers at Highland Park school a great success. There were tears and laughter and sad moments when we had a to say it was our last tea.

They were grateful for all we have done to help make it possible to help families when it needed.

Jason Bauer, the son of Concordia's Assistant Pastor Lou Bauer (1967-1970) recently drove up from Arlington, VA to pick up his late father's pathway stone to bring back to his house.



G r a t i t u d e

It's been a pleasure "borrowing" your space for our activities this year, and thank you again for all the church has done to support the troop!

Alex Pattacini | Scoutmaster, Boys' Program | Assistant Scoutmaster, Girls' Program | Manchester Troop 123

Community Tag Sale



Heartfelt Gratitude for Your Generosity...



Geraniums Given in Memory of

Our Parents, Ben & Angela Prasser and Frank Wilson

by Mark & Candace Wilson

Our Daughter, Kimberly Adams Fournier

by Ed & Gail Adams

Harold & Florence Slater & Romuald & Eva Roman

by Donald & Marian Slater

Russell Turner, George & Louisa Johnson,

Ray & Mary LeFrancios

by Lanie Turner

Our grandparents Everett & Evelyn Frazel

and Mike & Catherine Haberern,

The Rindflisch Family & Tanta Coach & Uncle Horwath

by Hans, Cindy, and Grace Haberern

My parents John & Loretta Haberern

by Hans Haberern

My dear friend, Linda Carr

by Joanne Murphy

Jim Noyes, Sr., Deborah Latham,

Catherine & Edward Latham

by Kathy Noyes

My brothers Sam & Walter Kotsch

and my sister Viola Stenger

by Irene Schack

Bert "Bing" Bowen

by Wendy Donagher

Loved Ones

by Joel & Sandy Baranowski

My husband Jim Casserly & daughter, Karen Miller

by Jane Casserly

Anna McCann & David Stoneman

by Dan & Carol Burnett

My Parents Katherine & Fred;

my brother, Fred; Barbara E.

Baker; Eddie & Tessie Kehl;

Burt, Beverly and Luke

Strand

by Mark Winzler

Lillian and Bob Shaw

by Bobby McKinney

Fred & Thelma Badger

by Jim Britton

Our Many Loved Ones

by Bill & Jan Salvatore

Carl & Susanna Krach

by Harold & Jolanta Krach

Geraniums Given in Honor of

Our children, grandchildren, & great grandchildren

by Ed & Gail Adams

Mark Winzler & Rebecca Bourret

by Irene K. Schack

Concordia Members, Rebekka Almond

by Wendy Donagher

My fellow Congregation Council Members: Rebekka Almond, Sandy Baranowski, Susan Bourret, Ruth Sprong Heyden, Nancy Lynn Knauff, Ruthie Lynch, Bobby McKinney, Randy Olson, Tina Ruggerio, David Smith, and Carol Stoneman; Team Leaders of Holy Closure Teams: Joel Baranowski, Carol Burnett, Ruthie Lynch and Pam Olson

by Mark Winzler

Children & Grandchildren

by Dan & Carol Burnett

Mark Winzler

by Jim Britton

Our Concordia friends

by Bill & Jan Salvatore

Donations to Support Concordia Ministries

Given in Memory of:

Russell Turner

by Lanie Turner

Loved Ones

by Joel & Sandy Baranowski

Given in Honor of:

Mark Winzler; Our Wonderful Choir;

All the people working so hard on the Holy Closure process, working hours to get everything for the open houses, etc.

by Lanie Turner

Pentecost



Concordia Nursery School



Farewell Open House
Saturday, April 25, 2026





Birthdays



June

Karen Schauster (2)
 Julie Chiffer (4)
 John Jaworski (5)
 Chelsea Wilson (10)
 Sharon Jaworski (13)
 Wendy Donagher (15)
 Jane Casserly (18)



July



Douglas Kehl (1)
 Thomas Donagher (3)
 Elaine Briggmann (9)
 Ruth Sprong Heyden (10)
 Bobby McKinney (12)
 Liana Wilson Estrella (19)
 James Britton (28)
 Marian Slater (29)

AUGUST

Patricia Bourret (1)
 Pastor Hedberg (4)
 Amanda Baranowski (8)
 Lu-Anne Rehmer (12)
 Candace Wilson (22)



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>
5/26/2026	Michael Giardina (Shirley Chu's son-in-law)	Heart Transplant - Procedure success	Ruth Sprong Heyden
5/26/2026	Family of Kimberly Morrill	Comfort & healing as they grieve her passing	Elaine Briggmann
4/19/2026	Ron & Maryann Haberern	Comfort & healing	Lisa Taylor
2/3/2026	James Kennedy (Mark's friend)	Comfort & prayers following cancer surgery	Mark Winzler
1/28/2026	Miles Turner (Carol's Brother-in-Law)	Healing & strength	The Stonemans
12/15/2025	Ed Adams	Comfort & Healing	Gail Adams
9/7/2026	Michael Jaworski	Comfort & 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



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





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

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
40 Pitkin Street
Manchester, CT 06040

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED