The Concordia Chimes

July 2026

1894 - 2026

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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.

Celebration of Ministry – Sunday, June 7, 2026
Concordia Lutheran Church
Sermon by Pastor JoAnn A. Post

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand,

'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

Then he will say to those at his left hand,
'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?'

Then he will answer them,

'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'
And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

For 21 years, this prayer shawl has held a place of prominence in my office. First at Concordia for nine years, and most recently at Ascension Lutheran Church, Northfield, IL, which I served as pastor for 12. When the prayer shawl was gifted to me, on my first Sunday here in 2005, the crafter (**Patti Herdic**) *explained*:

This prayer shawl is woven from remnants of yarn from all the prayer shawls we have created at Concordia. It weaves together all the births and baptisms, confirmations and weddings, illnesses and deaths, all the celebrations and sorrows of this congregation. Those events are part of us, as you are now part of us. Part of our shared history.

It is a grand history.

Concordia has always been an integral part of this thriving community of Manchester, founded by laborers from around the world. Though always engaged in its larger community, in its early years, Concordia was a particular refuge for German immigrants who came here to work the Cheney silk mills.

First in borrowed and rented spaces, and later in the white clapboard building at the corner of Winter and Garden Streets, at Concordia homesick, church-loving immigrants could sing and pray in their own language, eat their favorite foods, dance traditional dances, celebrate Fastnacht with great gusto—giving them much for which to repent on the ensuing Ash Wednesday. They also welcomed wave after wave of other immigrants.

Did you know that Concordia's first church was built on land donated specifically to welcome immigrants? Listen to this:

Cheney Brothers recruited skilled and unskilled talent from all over the U.S., the UK and Europe. In this way, they supported immigration and diversity in the mills and in the town, as well. The Cheney family taught English to foreigners and provided medical and dental services, schools, entertainment, and other services. The Cheney's paid for land on which to build churches to serve the diverse population in Manchester. (www.cheneyancestry.org)

Can you even imagine such a time? A time in our history when immigrants were welcomed and nourished. When immigrants were necessary and valued members of our communities. Concordia was founded on that open-armed welcome, on the gift of land, and has extended that same immigrant welcome for all of its ministry.

"Welcome" is woven into the shawl that is Concordia's legacy.

As we planned today's liturgy, we mulled the texts that would be read. Would we foreground endings or beginnings? Would we focus on grief or on hope? Would we cherry pick, or commit to the appointed texts for the Second Sunday after Pentecost—a gospel reading about a prepubescent girl and a menopausal woman? (Matthew 9.9-13, 18-26) It might have been a stretch.

It quickly became clear that a gospel reading about generosity, about care for the poor, was what we needed to read. Thus, Jesus' parable of the Sheep and the Goats, his imagining of the last judgement. You know the story.

"All nations" are brought before the throne. And "all nations" wonder about the criteria for judgement. Would the doors be flung open for them as immigrants in a new land? Or would they have to present tax returns to prove their generosity? What they have to list all the reasons they ought to be included? Would they have to explain that teenage prank involving toilet paper and shaving cream?

No one was ready for what actually happened. When it became clear, the criteria shocked them all, sheep and goats alike.

Even more surprising, the judgement didn't involve an interrogation at all. They didn't have to prove anything. Because the Ruler on the throne already knew: "I saw you . . ." And at that revelation, both sheep and goats melted to the floor. If the Ruler of the Universe had been watching, if the Ruler already knew about the toilet paper (and worse), there was no hope.

But the Ruler on the throne of heaven had only one standard by which all would be judged: "How did you treat the poor? The hungry. The imprisoned. The sick. The naked. The stranger."

First to the sheep, those on the Ruler's right hand: "I saw you caring for the least of my children. Welcome home." They were stunned. "Sure, we cared for all those people. But when did we care for you?"

And then to the goats, those on the Ruler's left hand: "I saw you not caring . . ." They were equally stunned. "Had we known . . ."

It is the way we live when no one is looking that matters to the Son of Man, who sees us all. Whether we believe our actions are ordinary altruism or Christ-inspired care, all that matters is that we acted. On behalf of the poor, the immigrant, the imprisoned. With unquestioning kindness.

By that measure, the members of this kind, generous congregation will be at the head of the flock. I cannot speak to Concordia's community care for all of its history, but for the part that I know? Every time there was a need, small or large, it was met. Every time there was a cry, it was answered. Every time a stranger knocked on the door, they were welcomed. In fact, one of your last official acts as a congregation was to disburse your assets so that the poor and hungry, the naked and imprisoned, the lost

and alone would be cared for. You have ensured that they will be seen.

You have always seen and loved those in need. At the last judgement, the Son of Man will also see and love you.

"Compassion" is woven into the shawl that is Concordia's legacy.

But soon, this welcoming and compassionate congregation will disband. Through no one's fault. All of life has a beginning and an end. Our bodies. Our relationships. Our congregations. For more than a century, through worldwide economic crises and multiple wars and cultural chaos, through internal conflict and unexpected challenges (remember the bees? and the termites?), Concordia has remained true to its calling.

Concordia has always welcomed the stranger and cared for the poor. And now that work will pass to someone else.

Who will welcome you?
Who will see and care for you?

A congregation near where I live recently completed the work in which you are engaged. After 75 years of faithful ministry, it was time to lay the work down. Of course, they were concerned about faithful and holy closure—distribution of their legacy, their facility, their ministries. But they also harbored a quiet, very personal worry. When the doors close and the last check is written, where will we go? Who will welcome us? Will anyone even see us?

I wish we could promise you a magical moment, a Dorothy-clicking-her-heels-together-three-times solution. Would that you wake up one Sunday morning soon in a new congregation and sigh, "There's no place like home." But it is not that simple.

There is no other "Concordia" in all the world. These strong walls, this beautiful space, this robust ministry, this majestic music, this building that shelters and teaches children, these faithful disciples—all of this belongs to a moment in time, never to be replicated. Nor can it be taken away.

Remember all those German-speaking immigrants who arrived in Manchester carrying only the promise of a job and a battered suitcase?

Remember all the poor and hungry, naked and imprisoned, sick and strange who were cared for by you, Jesus' most faithful sheep?

For decades it was Concordia's mission to welcome the stranger and care for those in need. And now, we trust, another community of faith will do for you what you have done for all of your common life.

Concordia's story is woven of moments and memories, burdens shouldered and tears dried, songs sung and silence treasured, children baptized and sent into the world. Like a prayer shawl woven of all that has gone before—that is your story.

But the weaver of Concordia's story is not yet done weaving.

Your habit of unquestioning welcome and selfless generosity will live on in the gifts you have given across the years and now at this ministry's end.

And, we pray that God who sees and loves all the lost and alone, will see and love you. In a new place. With new siblings. Teaching you to sing a new song.

As Concordia welcomed frightened immigrants, we pray you will also be welcomed as immigrants in search of home.

As Concordia cared for the least of God's children, we pray you will be seen and cared for until you are strong again.

Soon other hands will take up the weaving. But they will not start from scratch. The shawl that is Concordia—all its births and baptisms, confirmations and weddings, illnesses and deaths, all its celebrations and sorrows—will be further woven by other hands.

As you have always welcomed and nourished, seen and loved, so God will ensure others welcome and nourish, see and love you. The weaving continues.

Pastor Rolf Hedberg's Sermon on Sunday, June 28, 2026

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Let us pray a prayer which is for and about all of us:

Heavenly Father, you have granted me many blessings.
Now let me also accept what is hard from your hand.
You will lay on me no more than I can bear.
You make all things work together for good for your children.

Amen.
Dietrich Bonhoffer

Dear friends in Christ and people of God, the day we all hoped would never come is upon us, and I know that no matter what I say, no matter what I preach will not change the sorrow, the sadness, the grief you feel in this moment. But I also know some other things and believe some words that must hold us and carry us forward into the future.

Here are a few of those words:

First, there was the worship of three Sundays ago—the music and the liturgy were glorious. And the preaching of Pastor Post was timely. She walked you through your past in ways that only a pastor of long standing could do. Sure, she referenced what I would call the usual things—baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals—the building blocks of faith, but along with these, there were social gatherings and the all-important outreach of this church community into the greater Manchester community and beyond. Your generosity is synonymous with your name, Concordia Lutheran Church.

Now there is the present. I have already referred to it, but it needs to be acknowledged again—that is, your feelings about the closing of this place. Whether a member for many years or a few years—pick your own number—this place, this community of the faithful will always hold a special place in your hearts. As for me and Lois, as short as our time has been among you, everything about Concordia Lutheran Church, this place of community, is something we will always treasure and appreciate. I need to tell you that every time we visit another church, no matter how good the liturgy, the music, the preaching, we always say to each other, it isn't Concordia. Your worship experience has set a very high bar—a gold standard—for us, and it has been a blessing for us in retirement to experience, to be a small part of it.

Then there is the future. We have come to a crossroads where we ask the questions—what now? Where will we continue our spiritual/faith journey? Or maybe the best question of all: how do we honor or show forth the faith inculcated in us, instilled in us, and shared with us by a list of saints who have touched and blessed our lives in this place. I mean not only the people who have gone to their eternal rest but also the people whose examples of faith and words of wisdom continue to ring in our ears—Sunday school teachers, pastors, people who are regularly at worship, choir members, and church musicians. You honor these people by continuing to love the Lord with all your heart, your mind, and soul and your neighbor as yourself.

Finally, belief is not really about past, present, or future. It is about Jesus. I understand your attachment to and affection for this place, I have been through this before at St. Paul Lutheran Church in East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, which I served for 27 years, and which is no more. But the reality is this: here we have no abiding city. Whether it be this church building, or, dare I say it, we ourselves, nothing, no one lasts forever. I know that you all know that. We need to see that ultimately what is happening today neither is nor can be about us, It has to be about our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We take refuge in the fact that he is our Alpha and Omega, that he is the beginning and the ending. Before we were and after we are on this earth, there is Jesus. Indeed, before the universe was created and after it may someday cease to be, there is Jesus.

Think of those words at the beginning of John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God, all things were made through him and without him was not anything made that was made" and later, these words: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth." Parallel to these words are God's words to Job, one of the greatest questions in the Bible "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth, tell me if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements?" and then these words in the reading from Isaiah: "Thus says the Lord: Heaven is my throne and the earth my footstool, what is the house that you would build for me?" And lastly, these words from Revelation: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth." It is all a matter of perspective and faith. Our earth, not to mention this building, is a speck of dust in the grand scheme of God's design, so what does that make us? Some may say insignificant, but then all the more reason to rejoice that we are so loved by the creator of the universe that we are saved, forgiven and given the promise of eternal life. This place temporary, ourselves temporary, but still, as we profess, we are baptized into the death and the resurrection of the Word become flesh—Jesus.

Dear friends, in the end, this day is not about us or Concordia, it is all about Jesus. In the gospel passage, I chose for today we hear words of Jesus to his disciples which were part of the last supper. Jesus knows that his disciples are saddened by his imminent departure, but he also knows that he will not leave them grief stricken. In his own words: "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you," Believing that Jesus will do this is, I believe, one of the essential teachings and tenets of faith—that Jesus through the Holy Spirit is always with us in all circumstances of life and that he loves us in all the moments of our lives and that our hope ultimately is in him. We believe that, and that belief and faith hold us tightly and closely as we go forth from this place. Jesus loves us, and that we can count on.

Here again the words of the prayer by Dietrich Bonhoffer:
"You make all things work together for good for your children,"

The Final Holy Closure Report

Real Estate Closing

Since our leave-taking liturgy on June 28, we are preparing for the real estate closing which will take place no later than August 17. Contact has been made with both our Real Estate Attorney as well as the Synod Attorney. Our real estate attorney advised the officers exactly what we need to do to prepare for the closing. In general, we have to close out accounts, inform our vendors that we will cease to use them etc.

Legacy Gifts

Even after the closing there will be bills which come in. Once we have all bills paid, then the Synod Attorney will proceed with the dissolution of Concordia with the State of Connecticut. When every bill is paid, we will then distribute our legacy gifts to those we had designated a few months ago. It appears that this won't be until the fall. In preparation for this, Carol Stoneman met with a representative from KeyBank to coordinate efforts.

Remaining Contents of Building/Grounds

We are in the process of emptying out the remaining items in the building. With thanks to the leadership of Pam Olson and Ruthie Lynch, most of the contents of the building will have new homes.

The building is being sold "as is" which basically means that it is affixed to the floor or walls (i.e. pews in the sanctuary), those stay. If something can be moved, those must go (i.e. pews in Kaiser Hall). We are looking into companies which would remove the pews (and perhaps other larger items). We may also rent a dumpster. Time will tell.

Those churches and non-profits who tagged items in the building have begun to come by and pick up their items. Later in this report, there will be a list of sacred and other items and where they now will be housed.

Thanks to Joel Baranowski who removed all of the "Concordia" and "Memorial Garden" signage from the Pitkin Street property. The "Concordia" signs at either end of Pitkin Street and other places in town will be removed by the Town.

Membership in New Churches

In terms of where former Concordia members will now attend church…….

- **One (1)** will attend Bolton Congregational Church
- **Four (4)** will attend Trinity Lutheran in Vernon
- **Twenty-one (21)** will attend Emanuel Lutheran in Manchester.
- **Sixty (60)** either requested a "*Letter of Good Standing*" as they had not yet made a decision…….. or were sent this same letter as they did not respond.

Final Statements of Giving

Each person who made a contribution of record from January-June 2026 was mailed a Statement of Giving by Ruth Sprong Heyden.

You are **urged** to review it **now** to make sure it is correct, as it cannot be done after **July 25**.

Holy Closure Fund

Last September, all non-designated memorials were combined to create the Holy Closure Fund. Also adding to this fund was a KeyBank money market and a life insurance policy owned by Concordia that were both closed/cashed-in. This resulted in the Holy Closure Fund totaling **$104,266.00**.

This fund has been used to cover the cost of all expenses relating to Holy Closure including, but not limited to: the October 2025 organ concert/evening prayer, Pastor Hedberg's farewell luncheon, the June 7th Celebration of Ministry Eucharist and Reception, the June 28th luncheon at A Villa Louisa and the Concordia Lutheran Church figures handed out at the luncheon.

The remaining funds will be needed to cover our final operating expenses which we incur prior to the purchase closing of the building as well as pay for the synod attorney for the dissolution of Concordia with the State of Connecticut.

Sale of 40 Pitkin Street to the Town of Manchester

With respect to the sale of the church building and property, the due diligence period (the two-month period after the Purchase and Sales Agreement was signed) has passed.

During this period the Town of Manchester conducted physical inspections, title searches, etc. As the Town has not made us aware of any issues, the closing, tentatively scheduled for August 17th will be moving forward. Concordia accepted the town's offer of $1.5M. As noted earlier the proceeds from this sale (after payments to the realtor and the real estate attorney) will be combined with other remaining Concordia assets and will be distributed as legacy gifts to the churches and non-profit organizations designated and approved by the congregation.

Concordia Website

Even though we are closing we have purchased a license to keep our Concordia Lutheran Church website operable for another 5 years so that we and others can reference it in the future.

Zach Baranowski is presently working with us to totally update the website so that it will include items from our history etc.

Communication

Mark Winzler is going to subscribe to "Mail Chimp", the e-mail service which the church uses which sends out group e-mails. This is the means by which that Concordia members can be made aware of needs of other members and also to promote upcoming events (i.e. the Pool and Barbecue on August 30). Present Members: If you currently receive e-mails from Concordia, then there is nothing for you to do as Mark will have your e-mail. If you do not, please send Mark your e-mail (markwinz52@aol.com) so you can be included.

Margie

Margie will be working in the office Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00-2:00 p.m. through Thursday, July 30. She begins her new position at Trinity Lutheran in Vernon the following Monday, August 3.

Once Margie leaves, the church office will not be open. One or more of us will continue to be in the building doing clean-up etc. until the time of the closing.

The office e-mail, (office@concordiamanchester.org) will still be in use for about 6 months after closing. This will be monitored remotely as obviously the building will be closed.

Results of Open Houses/Tag Sale

On one Saturday in March and another in April, churches and other non-profits were invited to come to Concordia to take (or "tag" items…these could not be taken until after we closed as we needed them until then) which they wished to use in the future for their ministries/organizations. These were offered free of charge to those churches and non-profits.

Additionally on one Saturday in May, there was an Open House for the community where people could come and take (or tag) items they wished and leave a free-will offering for the items taken.

Before these took place, a group of dedicated volunteers brought out many items for display in various parts of the building, emptied out areas (including the kitchen, boiler room and garage etc.) in order for everyone to see what was available.

Below is a listing of our sacred/worship-related items which have found new homes. These are in no-particular order.

Main Crucifix (on Marble Altar)	Trinity Lutheran- New Haven
Altar Candles	Bolton Congregational Church
Candles at Pulpit	Bolton Congregational Church
Main Silver Communion Chalice	Trinity Lutheran- Vernon
Hard Carved Creche from Germany	Emanuel Lutheran- Manchester
Hummel Creche	St. Mark Lutheran- Glastonbury
Baptismal Font	Bolton Congregational Church
Blue Baptismal Bowl/Glass Bottle	Camp Calumet
Paschal Candle Stand	St. John's Episcopal- Vernon
Seasonal Hangings/Black Stand	Emanuel Lutheran- Manchester
Missal Book Stand	St. Luke's Lutheran- Gales Ferry
Processional Cross	Trinity Lutheran- Manhattan Beach, CA
Ceramic Communion Chalices	St. Luke's Lutheran-Gales Ferry Trinity Lutheran- Vernon Emanuel Lutheran- Manchester
Pastor Chasubles/Stoles	Campfield and Noelle Heinrich Bea Santiago
Green Altar/Pulpit Paraments w/ matching Chasuble and communion burse/veil	Trinity Lutheran- Manhattan Beach
White Altar Frontal/Pulpit Fall w/ matching chasuble/cope/dalmatic and communion burse/veil	Trinity Lutheran- Manhattan Beach
Silver Chalices (3)	Gloria Dei Lutheran/St. Paul Plymouth- Forestville
Offering Plates	Bolton Congregational Church
Gold Candle Lighters	St. Luke- Gales Ferry
Ceramic Bowl and Pitchers	Trinity Lutheran- Vernon
Banners	Emanuel Lutheran- Manchester Trinity Lutheran- Manhattan Beach
Sound System/Carillon System	Trinity Lutheran- Vernon
Garden Room Altar	Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal-Augusta, ME
Other Altar Paraments/Communion burses and veils	Immanuel, N. Grosvenordale CT
Hymnals	Emanuel- Manchester Immanuel- N Grov Zion- Portland Trinity- Vernon

Sacred/Worship-Related Items (*continued*) . . .

Pastor's Communion Kit	St. Mark-Glastonbury
Pulpit	Bolton Congregational
Silver Wine Flagon	Trinity- Manhattan Beach
Two-Seater Pews	South Windsor Congregational
	St. Mark's Lutheran Norwich
	Bolton Congregational
Kneeler	St. Mark's Norwich
Funeral Palls	St. Mark's Norwich
Hymn Boards	St. Mark's Norwich
Brass Resurrection Plaque	Bolton Congregational
Archive Display Cabinet	South Windsor Congregational
Choir and other Music Library	Emanuel- Hartford
	St. Mark- Glastonbury
	Trinity- Vernon
	Gloria Dei- Forestville
Shields/Plaques (on loft)	Trinity – Manhattan Beach
Lecturn (Narthex)	Unity of Greater Hartford
Lecturn (back of Sanctuary)	Bolton Congregational
Lecturn (Garden Room)	Gloria Dei- Forestville

Notes:

The **Grand Piano** was sold to a family of a student of a teacher who has held her piano recitals at Concordia for years!

Tentatively, the **Memorial Garden Altar** is being relocated to Bolton Congregational Church.

We are still looking for a home for our **Free-Standing Altar** in the chancel. This has been widely publicized across the New England through various communications. We are hoping that we are able to find a home for it. The "problem" is the size of it. Most churches do not have the spacious chancel (altar area) that we had.

Items From Other Parts of the Building

Rather than listing specifically which items in these areas went to churches/non-profits, these are grouped together:

Contents of Narthex (archive cabinet, chairs, artwork)	First Congregational-South Windsor Trinity Lutheran- Manhattan Beach
Contents of Education Wing (Nursery Furniture, Toys, Games, Puzzles, Books, Storage Units tables and chairs, closets etc.)	Highland Park School St. Luke Lutheran- Gales Ferry Manchester Early Childhood Program Our Savior Lutheran- South Windsor Manchester Schools- Head Start Our Savior's Lutheran- Newington MARC of Manchester
Contents of Brandt Lounge (chairs, round tables, servers etc.)	Emanuel Lutheran- Manchester Bolton Congregational MARC of Manchester St. Mark Lutheran- Glastonbury Our Savior's Lutheran- Newington
Contents of Garden Room (altar, lectern, chairs, electric piano)	Immanuel Lutheran/Episcopal- Augusta ME Gloria Dei Lutheran- Forestville St. Mark's Lutheran- Norwich MARC of Manchester
Contents of Office Area: Reception, Pastor/Church Offices and Conference Room (desks, file cabinets, bookcases, chairs)	MARC of Manchester Highland Park School St. Luke's Lutheran- Gales Ferry First Congregational- South Windsor Emanuel Lutheran- Manchester
Kaiser Hall/Kitchen (tables, chairs, sound system, refrigerators)	Center Congregational- Manchester Unity of Greater Hartford First Congregational of South Windsor Manchester Schools HeadStart MARC of Manchester

Highlights of the June 2026 Treasurer's Report

Summary

June envelope giving was 41% below the monthly budgeted amount. Likely, other funding exceeded the budgeted amount by 27%. Year to date giving for both envelope and other funding through June exceeded the 6-month budgeted amount by 7%.

Special funds, Scholarship and Legacy for Ministry were both closed in June. Monies from these accounts, with the exception of $6,000 for nursery school financial assistance and $10,000 for seminary scholarship for Bea Santiago, have been set aside for distribution to those organizations the congregation designated to receive legacy gifts from Concordia.

Until the closing occurs, approximately August 17th, we will continue to receive and be responsible for bills relating to occupying the building i.e., electric, gas, telephone/internet, water/sewer, insurance, etc. We have estimated these final expenses would be no greater than $37,000.

In addition to the standard monthly report, I have also included information identifying expenditures relating to Holy Closure.

This will be the last treasurer's report you will be receiving from me. It has been a pleasure serving Concordia for the past 9 years. Your continued generosity made my job relatively easy. God bless you all!

Report Details

The below information represents the envelope and stretch giving for the month of June 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
June	$8,213.45	$13,000.05	63%	$83,344.84	$78,000.00	107%

Additional June Revenue

Open Offering:	$225.00
Church Service:	$200.00
Holy Closure Funds:	$31,700.00 (Transferred from Memorial & Tributes savings account to cover June 7th expenses)
Miscellaneous Income Non-Budgeted:	$37,809.14 (Community Tag Sale donations, Thrivent/Scholarship account funds, funeral donation)
TOTAL:	**$69,934.14**

TOTAL JUNE OPERATING REVENUES: $78,147.59

Total JUNE Non-Operating Revenues:
World Hunger Gifts: $196.00

TOTAL JUNE REVENUE: **$78,343.59**

Expenses

Utilities:

Vendor	JUNE 2026	JUNE 2025
CNG	$785.91	$596.02
Eversource/Earthlight	$818.40 ($0.00/$818.40)	$712.80 ($0.00/$712.80)
Cox	$479.81	$469.35
TOTAL	**$2,084.12**	**$1,778.17**

Additional June Expenses:

Staff Salaries:	$4,608.10
Fringe Benefits:	$152.70
Program Expenses:	$370.00
Program Support Expenses:	$1,381.10
Facility Maintenance:	$7,744.17
	($5,907.16 – Air conditioning repair)
Holy Closure Expenses:	$24,882.57
Scholarship Fund Expenditures:	$37,114.14
	(Transferred to Savings account for legacy gifts)
Member Care:	$78.90
Worship & Memorial Garden:	$850.00
	(Final payment for cemetery stone)
TOTAL:	**$77,181.68**

TOTAL JUNE EXPENSES: **$79,265.80**

Bank Account as of 6/30/2026 (ACS)

Beginning Balance:	$10,489.84
Total Revenue:	$80,575.19 (Includes pass-through revenue from CNS Taxes)
Total Expenditures:	$80,425.81 (Includes Tax expenditures)
Current Balance:	**$10,425.81**
Monthly Cash Flow:	**$149.38 (Revenue less Expenditures)**

Special Funds (as of June 30, 2026)

All funds from the Thrivent Scholarship account and Fidelity account were withdrawn in the month of June and deposited in the savings account to be used for legacy gifts as directed by the congregation.

Thrivent funds:	$37,114.14
Fidelity funds:	$1,158,938.71
Total:	**$1,196,052.85**

HOLY CLOSURE EXPENSES TO DATE (JUNE 2025 – JUNE 2026)

DATE	ITEM	AMOUNT
JUNE 2025	Synod attorney retainer fee	$3,000.00
FEBRUARY 10th	Organ pictures for Organ Clearinghouse	$700.00
OCTOBER 26th	Organ concert reception	$2,565.65
DECEMBER 21st	Pastor Hedberg farewell luncheon	$2,722.00
	Deposit for A Villa Louisa	$500.00
JUNE 7th SERVICE	Musicians	$1,400.00
	Organist	$1,000.00
	Conductor	$1,600.00
	Rehearsal directing	$150.00
	Clergy - Includes service participation and travel/lodging	$3,399.84
	Flowers	$2,769.50
	Bulletin printing	$2,626.69
	Videographer	$1,400.00
	Photographer	$150.00
JUNE 7th RECEPTION	Highland Park Market	$1,846.42
	Monet's Table	$1,280.00
	Taylor Rental - tablecloth rental	$258.94
	Total Wine	$368.35
	Factory Direct Party - plates, forks, etc.	$56.91
HOLY CLOSURE RELATED GIFTS & EXPENSES	Supply Clergy gifts	$3,000.00
	Supply Musicians gifts	$2,500.00
	Other - June 7th yard work	$500.00
	Commerative Booklet printing	$1,999.00
	Gift to Members (Cat's Meow)	$1,333.85
JUNE 28TH BANQUET	A Villa Louisia- food	$2,743.75
	A Villa Louisia - bar bill	$525.00
TOTAL HOLY CLOSURE COSTS		**$40,395.90**

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

Previous Month's Balance (May 2026)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
$9,840.63	$0.00	$5,907.16	$3,933.47

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

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

Previous Month's Balance (May 2026)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
$10,969.35	$0.00	$850.00	$10,119.35

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

Previous Month's Balance (May 2026	Month Deposits	Month Withdrawals	Comments	Current Balance
$97,415.00	$0.96	$0.00	**Deposits**: $0.96 (interest) **Withdrawals**: $0.00	$97,415.96

Legacy Gift Fund (as of June 30, 2026)

Previous Month's Balance (May 2026	Deposits	Withdrawals	Comments	Current Balance
$0.00	$1,196,052.85	$16,000.00	**Withdrawals (From Thrivent Scholarship fund**: $6,000.00 (CNS financial assistance) $10,000.00 (Bea Santiago scholarship)	$1,180,052.85

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, May 13, 2026, in person

Present:

Mark Winzler – President
David Smith – Vice President (zoom)
Carol Stoneman - Treasurer
Susan Bourret – Secretary
Bobby McKinney
Tina Ruggerio
Ruthie Lynch
Ruth Sprong-Heyden
Sandra Baranowski
Rebekka Almond
Nancy Lynn Knauff
Randy Olson
Pastor Maria Hammons

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 7:15 PM

Devotions: Mark Winzler

The agenda was approved as written.

Holy Closure Items

- **Communications:**
  1. Transfer of Membership/Letters of Good Standing letter sent
  2. Communications from two Bolton Churches received
  3. May 17 Special Congregational Meeting – regular coffee hour
  4. Sign-Up For Members for June 7 Celebration of Ministry 182 signed up so far
  5. Service of Leave-taking/Sign-Up for Banquet at A Villa Louisa - bulletin finished, sign-up for luncheon beginning
- **Recognition of**:
  Rebecca Bourret, Ann Lovejoy Johnson, John Anderson, Linda Hilliard at services
- **May 16- Tag Sale for the Community** – all set for event, volunteers needed
- **June 7- 4:00 p.m. Celebration of Ministry**
  1. Liturgy (3:45 Prelude)
     Bulletin complete - Sent to Staples for printing.
  2. Reception/Caterer – food being ordered
  3. Commemorative Booklet: All pastors plus Bea and Persida submitted reflections, work being done
  4. Invitations - RSVP by May 18
     Kim Eric Williams and Jonathan Vogel unable to attend. The other 7 former pastors will be in attendance.
  5. Videographer *Advanced Lighting and Sound*
  6. Photographer- Mark Brendel
- **June 28- Leave-taking Eucharist- 10:00 a.m.** Pastors Rolf Hedberg and Maria Hammons leading **Final Banquet- A Villa Louisa 12 Noon-3:00 p.m.**

Approval of Minutes: April 12, 2026 (Council) and April 26 (Special Congregation), approved as written

Information from Pastor Maria Hammons

President's Report

Coverage during Margie's Absence: In May Zach Baranowski will be in on Fridays to assist.
Margie will be back for a bit on May 18th.

Treasurer's Report

April report was received

Old Business

(1) Motion to provide $10,000 in scholarship money to Bea Santiago –
Motion was approved unanimously.

Legacy List Designation of Gifts

Council spent most of the meeting discussing amounts for the legacy gifts to the selected non-profits chosen by the congregation. The recommendations will be distributed at the May 17th meeting.

(2) To recommend to the congregation at its May 17 Special Meeting to approve the amounts to be gifted to 501(c)(3)s (non-profits), listed on the attached document, following the closure of Concordia Lutheran Church and the sale of its property on 40 Pitkin Street, once all bills are paid and obligations are met. Motion was approved unanimously.

New Business

Concordia Legacy Board Recommendations - Approved

(3) Approve Legacy Board motion: Gifting Highland Park School (HPS) $2,400 for 80 gift cards for families in need for the school year 2026 – 2027. Since Concordia Lutheran Church will be closed, we are buying gift cards in advance and will give to HPS at the Teacher's Tea on May 6, 2026. Amount is $30.00 each. Motion was approved unanimously.

(4) Approve Legacy Board motion: Motion to gift $2,500 to ST. JAMES SCHOOL FOUNDATION – DONATION IN HONOR OF TOM TIERNEY AND THE STAFF AT THE TIERNEY FUNERAL HOME FOR THE DONATION OF SERVICES FOR THE RELOCATION OF REMAINS FROM THE WORSHIP AND MEMORIAL GARDEN TO EAST CEMETERY. Motion was approved unanimously.

(5) Approve Legacy Board motion: Motion to gift $2,500 to Manchester Historical Society as they will be archiving some Concordia history. Motion was approved unanimously.

Disbursement of Funds will go into the general fund if not used prior to closing. (Seasonal Sharing/Member Care/Outreach/Worship and Memorial Garden)

Adjournment

Adjournment: 9:42 PM

Approved MINUTES OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, May 17, 2026

Meeting called to order by President Mark Winzler at 11:39 a.m.

Pastor Maria Hammons opened the meeting with prayer.

The purpose of this meeting was to review and vote on the Council suggested legacy donation amounts to the Congregation chosen non-profit organizations and recommend any changes by motion for a vote.

A letter containing the motion was mailed to members prior to the meeting. An agenda and list of organizations and amounts was distributed. Since the total was equal to the amount available, it was explained that any increase to one organization needed an equal amount of decrease for (an)other organization(s).

A motion to increase the amount given to Calumet, reducing MACC and GHIAA amounts, giving equal amounts to the three top priorities was moved and passed with a vote of thirteen to ten.

The following motion was moved, seconded and passed by a majority.

Motion:
To approve the amounts to be gifted to 501 (c) (3)s (non-profits), listed on the attached document as amended, following the closure of Concordia Lutheran Church and the sale of its property on 40 Pitkin Street, once all bills are paid and obligations are met.

Twenty-eight people attended the meeting.
Mark closed with prayer.
Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

List of Voting Member Meeting Attendees

1. Gail Adams
2. Rebekka Almond
3. Sandra Baranowski
4. Jeanine Barber
5. David Beauregard
6. Jan Bellino
7. Susan Bourret
8. Elaine Briggmann
9. James Britton
10. Carol Burnett
11. Jane Casserly
12. Bryan Jaworski
13. Nancy Lynn Knauff
14. Ruthie Lynch
15. Jan McGarity
16. Bobby McKinney
17. Joanne Murphy
18. Pam Olson
19. Randy Olson
20. Jan Salvatore
21. Donald Slater
22. Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio
23. Ruth Sprong Heyden
24. Carol Stoneman
25. Phil Stoneman
26. Karin Tureck
27. Lanie Turner
28. Mark Winzler

Also in attendance :
Pastor Maria Hammons

Approved Minutes of an additional Concordia Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting, Monday, June 22, 2026, in person

Present:

Mark Winzler – President
David Smith – Vice President (zoom)
Susan Bourret – Secretary
Rebekka Almond
Sandra Baranowski
Ruth Sprong-Heyden
Nancy Lynn Knauff
Bobby McKinney
Randy Olson
Tina Ruggerio
Pastor Maria Hammons
Ruthie Lynch

Excused:

Carol Stoneman - Treasurer

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 7:14 PM

Devotions: Pastor Maria Hammons

The agenda was approved as modified.

Holy Closure Items

Communications:

1. 37 people have not responded to the Transfer of Membership/Letters of Good Standing
2. Liturgy for June 28th is completed
3. Lunch at A Villa Louisa on June 28 menu has been set, 62 people plan to attend
4. Pastoral care of members after June 28th will no longer be provided by Concordia
5. Items from inventory will be distributed in the next few weeks.
6. Inventory, closing preparation, and cleaning were discussed
7. How to handle mail and Email monitoring were discussed
8. Tax forms and payments will be done; giving statements will be generated and mailed
9. Contracts need to be terminated and final bills paid
10. Distribution of final assets will need a list of addresses for payments
11. Keys will need to be returned

Approval of Minutes:

May 13, 2026 (Council) and May 17 (Special Congregation), approved as written.

Treasurer's Report

May report was received

Adjournment: Adjournment: 9:18 PM

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:

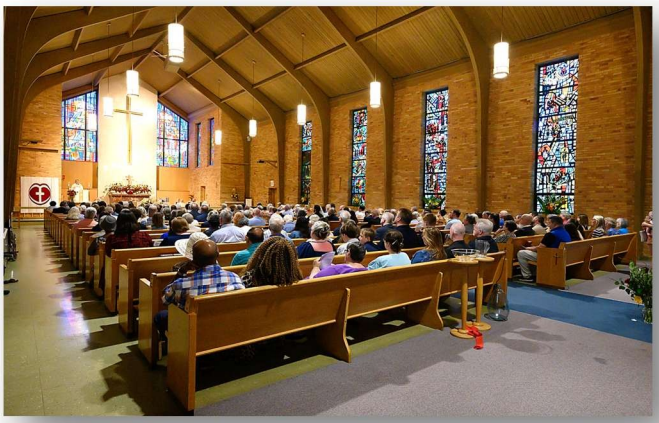
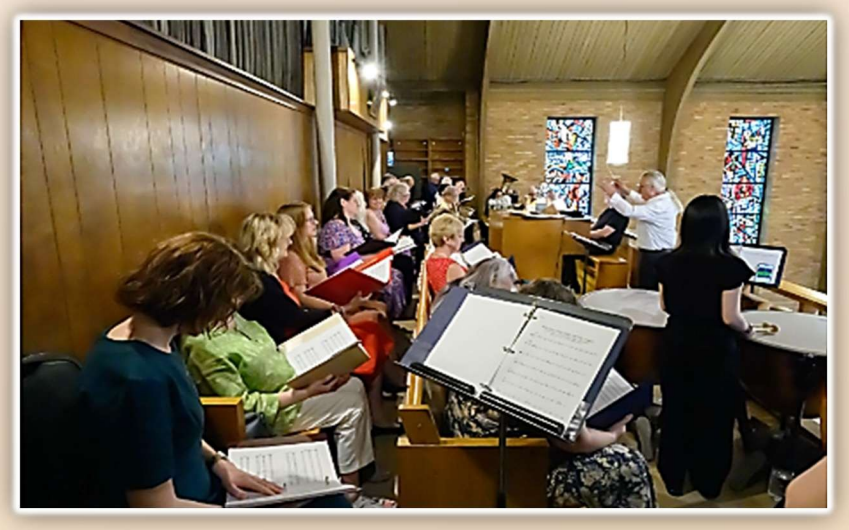
_____ Appetizer _____ Dessert _____ Salad

Name:_____

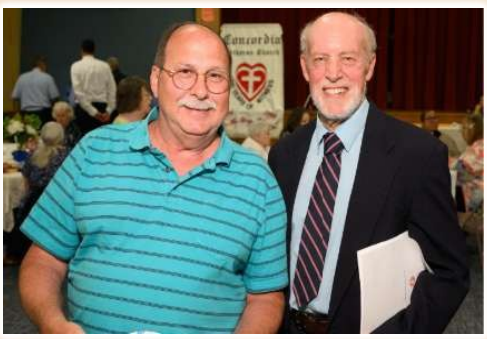
Number of People Attending:_____

Please return this form to the office or call 860-649-5311
or e-mail: office@concordiamanchester.org
By Monday, July 31

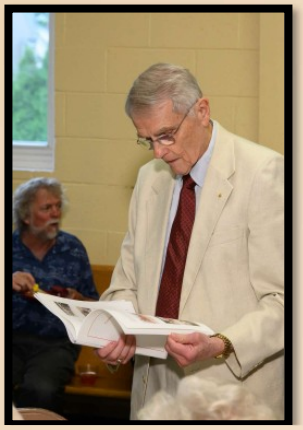
Celebration of Ministry Eucharist and Reception
June 7, 2026



Kaiser Hall – Reception & Fellowship



KEHL'S KITCHEN



Jane Casserly's 90th Birthday
June 18, 2026

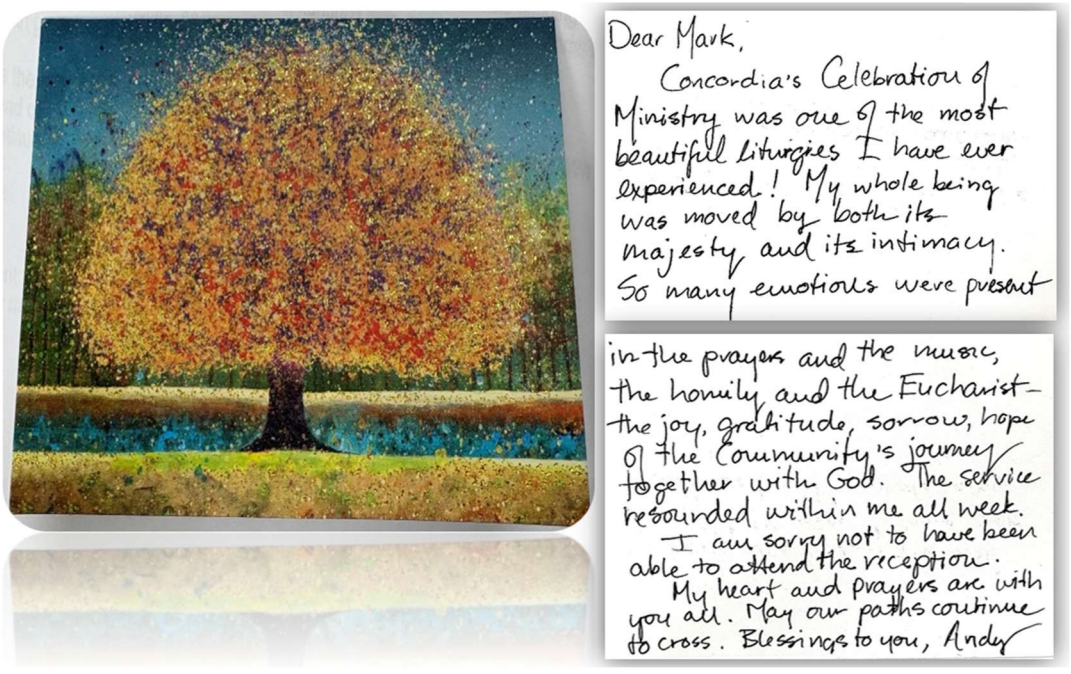
I want to thank everyone for remembering my birthday and for the wonderful cake!

I'm truly going to miss all of you. Please feel free to call me anytime if you'd like to get together or just say hello!
God bless!

~ Jane ♥

Thank You Notes

From Andy Burr, former member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church.



Dear Mark,

Concordia's Celebration of Ministry was one of the most beautiful liturgies I have ever experienced! My whole being was moved by both its majesty and its intimacy. So many emotions were present in the prayers and the music, the homily and the Eucharist – the joy, gratitude, sorrow, hope of the Community's journey together with God. The service resounded within me all week.

I am sorry not to have been able to attend the reception.

My heart and prayers are with you all. May our paths continue to cross. Blessings to you, Andy

Thank you, Concordia Lutheran Church!

Dear Concordia Family,

As I put together the last edition of *Concordia Chimes*, I find myself reflecting on the journey we've shared from June 2024 to now. Serving as your parish administrator has been an honor and a privilege—one that will stay with me long after these pages are closed.

Thank you for welcoming me into this community with such kindness and generosity. Concordia has always been a place where people care for one another in quiet, meaningful ways, and I have been blessed to witness that every day.

I am especially grateful for the compassion you showed me when my father passed away. Your prayers, gentle support, thoughtful check-ins, and the way you held space for me during that difficult time meant more than I can ever express. You embodied the very heart of Christian love.

Thank you for every conversation, every shared meal and gathering, and every challenge we faced together. Even in this season of transition and closure, your resilience, faith, and grace have spoken louder than any building or program ever could.

It has truly been a privilege to walk alongside you. Concordia will always hold a special place in my heart.

With sincere gratitude, ***Margie***

Thank You Note from John Anderson to Concordia

To the People of Concordia

To Concordia Lutheran Church Office <office@concordiamanchester.org>
Date 2026-06-22 9:19 am

Thank you for the generous and unexpected gift at the end of yesterday's (21 June) service! I certainly was not expecting a "*come on down*!" moment. These past ten years of being your primary substitute organist have been very rewarding, not only because of getting to know so many of you but also because of Concordia's extraordinary commitment to music and liturgy. Playing for hymns with people singing heartily — even when the numbers are diminished — is a distinct pleasure, and I haven't experienced any other church that welcomes and appreciates such a wide variety of organ music in the way that you have.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to provide music for you these past years and wish all of you the very best going forward.

John Anderson

Emanuel Lutheran Church
The Church that love builds

June 23, 2026

Dear partners in ministry at Concordia Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the congregation of Emanuel Lutheran Church, we extend our deepest gratitude for your extraordinary gift of $80,000 and for the trust it represents.

We know that the closing of a church is filled with grief, and we recognize and celebrate the faithful legacy you leave behind. Through generations of worship, service, stewardship, and witness, your church has shared the love of Christ in countless ways. The impact of that ministry will continue far beyond the life of any single congregation.

Your generous gift is a continuation of that ministry. You have chosen to invest in the ongoing work of proclaiming the Gospel, serving our neighbors, nurturing faith, and strengthening Christ's Church in the Manchester community. As we continue our ministry, we will remember your congregation with gratitude and give thanks for your faithful witness.

May God bless the members and families of your congregation as you enter this new chapter. We pray that you find comfort in knowing that the seeds you have planted through years of faithful service will continue to bear fruit in the life of the Church.

God's blessings,

Thomas King
Council President
On behalf of the members of Emanuel Lutheran Church

60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040 • 860-643-1193 • www.emanuelmanchester.org

Thank You Note to Concordia Lutheran Church from Pastor Ann Lovejoy Johnson

Date: July 6, 2026 at 10:27:05 PM EDT
To: Mark Winzler <markwinz52@aol.com>
Subject: Thank you Message

Dear President Mark and Concordia Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

As I write, I'm overcome knowing it's "Dear Mark and Friends" and that all titles are past now. In these two week since my last Sunday with you as presider and preacher, I sense how small my good-bye to you feels up against the tremendous good-byes you have been making over many, many months. You are brave and faithful followers of Jesus Christ, and where Christ calls is often (like now!) challenging to comprehend. I've said all these words in recent sermons and to many of you personally. God is giving you everything you need to follow Jesus Christ.

I will always be grateful for my nine years of shared ministry with you - beginning with Pastor Douglas Barclay and continuing well-beyond my time with St. Mary's. These past six months have been meaningful as you've allowed me to share your grief and journey through Holy Closure. I am honored to hold your hearts and stories. This has been a gift.

Thank you for the generous monetary gift which will support my travel with (and to) my young-adult children this summer/fall. Your kindness has at all times been a blessing to me. Although good-bye seems awkward, it is with deep appreciation that I thank you, as a community, for your love, encouragement, and friendship. I will always hold you in my heart and pray for you.

In the peace of Christ,
The Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson

Thank You Note to Concordia Lutheran Church from Pastor Rebecca Bourret

To my beloved siblings in Christ at Concordia Lutheran Church,

I was sorry not to be able to be among you on Concordia's last day as a congregation on June 28. It was a privilege for me to grow up at Concordia, where many of you were so important to my faith formation. Concordia instilled in me how love of God and love of God's people and God's creation go hand in hand, the way that liturgy that praises God on Sunday morning carries into praise of God in our daily lives. That gift will remain always a part of my life, and I thank you.

I give you thanks, too for the generous check presented to me on my last Sunday preaching and presiding at Concordia. You are a kind and thoughtful people! At the Celebration of Ministry on June 7, Pastor Post highlighted Concordia's longstanding generosity, and that history has continued in the decisions made in these last months—in the legacy gifts to ministry partners, and in the gifts to me and others who have served. It was an honor to be one of those who walked alongside you in these tender months, sharing in the final season of Concordia's ministry. Thank you for entrusting me to do so!

Know that you remain in my heart and in my prayers—always—but especially as each of you works through your grief, and determines how to carry forward your work for the sake of the Gospel. May the Holy Spirit be close with her gifts of solace and strength.

Peace.

Pr. Rebecca Bourret

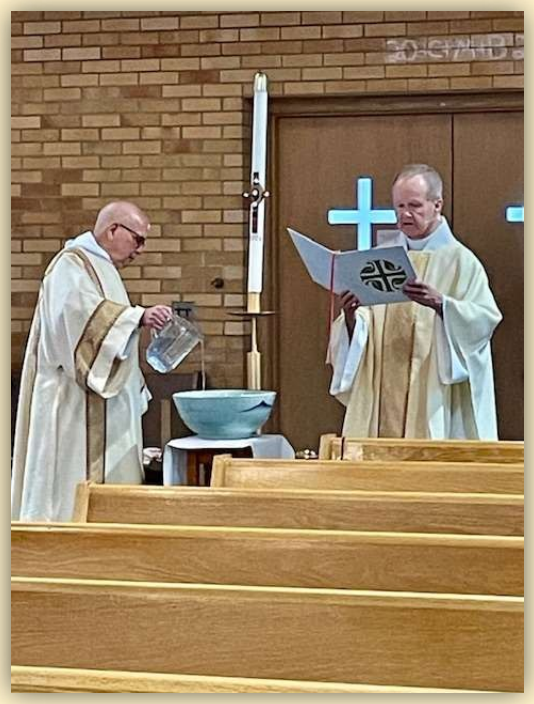
THANK YOU!!!!

We would like to send out a very heartfelt thank you to the following individuals who directed their Thrivent Choice dollars to Concordia. From January to the end of June we received **$3,247.00** from Thrivent.

Joel Baranowski	Gail Feder	Harold Krach	Karen Schauster	Karin Turek
Sandy Baranowski	Gwen Feder	Jolanta Krach	Ruth Sprong Heyden	Mark Winzler
Jane Casserly	Irma Fenner	Edward Krach	Dennis Stechholz	
Thomas Donagher	Robert Goodrich	Linda Lange	Carol Stoneman	
Andrew Eggen	Lois Hedberg	Edna Nekiunas	Philip Stoneman	
Marianne Eggen	Pr. Rolf Hedberg	Irene Schack	Stephen Strand	

With Blessings and Gratitude,
The Finance Committee

Eucharistic Liturgy of Leave-Taking
Sunday, June 28, 2026



Concordia Lutheran Church

Luncheon at A Villa Louisa

An Afternoon of Fellowship & Memories

This was highlighted in Emanuel's weekly newsletter, and we thought our community might appreciate seeing it as well.

Emanuel's New Pop-Up Shop

As some of you are aware, we have taken on a new ministry. Concordia has had a partnership with Highland Park School to provide clothing for free to families in need. We have agreed to continue this mission. To do this, we will need help from the congregation. We hope to collect donations of used children's clothing from our congregation that we can offer to families from Highland Park School.

We are interested in infant clothing and up through clothing for 9–10-year-old children.

For the older children, adult-sized tee shirts, sweats and pajama pants would be useful.

We ask that the donations are clean and in good condition.

Donations can be left in the room at Emanuel designated for the Pop-Up Shop. The room is located on the lower level of the building, all the way at the end of the Sunday School hallway, in the room on the far right, directly next to one of the children's restrooms. The door is labeled with a sign: "**Pop-Up Shop**".

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity!

If you have questions, please call Diane Gawlinski at 860-643-6532.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Upon receiving your giving statements in early July, please review them for accuracy.

Any corrections or updates should be reported to Ruth at (860)989.4945 no later than July 25.

Please be aware that statements will not be printed in December.

Concordia Memories from Over the Years

I REMEMBER……

- "Old" Concordia on Winter and Garden Streets
- Not only attending Sunday School, but also Saturday School (and the classes were packed) held in the Parish House next to the Church.
- Meeting Ray Heller in Sunday School which led to our close friendship decades later.
- Fastnacht being held in Emanuel's Luther Hall (as Concordia's was too small) and Emanuel parishioners not being with the smell of sauerkraut permeating the next day in the sanctuary for worship.
- The need for holding three worship services on Sunday mornings in order to accommodate all of the people.
- The Sunday when Tessie Kehl surprised Eddie (and all of us) by converting from Catholicism and becoming a member of Concordia (one of the few times I saw Eddie Kehl cry).
- The shortest sermon ever on an Easter Sunday morning when the entire sermon consisted of: "There is nothing else to say today but Christ is Risen, Alleluia. Amen."
- The Groundbreaking for the "new" Concordia on a Thanksgiving Day.
- The final Sunday on Winter and Garden Streets when the leaders walked out with items to be brought to Pitkin Street (my grandfather carried the chalice and paten) and the doors were closed. There were tears shed that day.
- The following Sunday, when those tears turned to smiles, the first time worship was held at "new" Concordia on Pitkin Street. The line of people to get in stretched all the way down Pitkin Street and around the circular driveway.
- How Concordia became a "singing" congregation and how our worship became more liturgical.
- The first time that a chasuble was worn by Pastor Paul Kaiser (made by a few women from Concordia) and how that made the news in the Manchester Evening Herald newspaper (it was unheard of at the time as it was at that time reserved for Roman Catholic priests!).
- The largest Fastnacht dinner when there were **410** people in attendance (people were also sitting on the stage and the hallway outside of the kitchen).
- When there were two sessions of Sunday School each Sunday, one at the time of each service (9:00 and 10:30 a.m.) each with a Principal and overseen by a Superintendent.
- As a first year confirmation student being taught by Barbara Baker and realizing even then what a special person she was and an example of what it meant to lead a Christian life.
- Attending third year confirmation class on Friday nights……which was then followed by an hour of "Sunday School" on Friday night.
- As a confirmand having to present in front of the congregation before being confirmed (my topic was Holy Communion).
- The ordination of Assistant Pastor Lou Bauer held at Concordia. (David Stacy's was the other one held at Concordia.)
- Watching Concordia becoming more Manchester Community-focused/socially active by hosting a series of symposiums for townspeople on issues such as drugs and race.
- Preparing and serving Kool-Aid and cookies for all of the Vacation Church Schools students for many years.
- Transforming part of the garage into the Youth Room (for teenagers). This was home for high schoolers for years.
- Singing in the choir at Concordia's 75th anniversary service at which then Cardinal Richard Cushing, Archbishop of Boston preached (Cardinal Cushing

had six years earlier presided at the funeral of President John Kennedy).

- As a senior in high school, who was considering entering seminary after college, being asked to co-teach 3rd Year Confirmation Class with Pastor Joe Bourret.
- On the Day of Pentecost when this group was being confirmed, serving as Concordia's very first deacon (worship assistant) with Pastor Bourret.
- In later years, serving as 3rd year Confirmation teacher for Rebecca Bourret and Eric Heinrich, both of whom, as we know, became ELCA pastors.
- The burning of the mortgage (years early). Dedicated members saved and contributed much of their treasures toward for the purchase of the building and then paying off the mortgage.
- Coming home from college to deacon on Pastor Burt Strand's first Sunday (Palm Sunday).
- The many "movie reviews" that Pastor Strand incorporated into his sermons.
- The installation of the new faceted glass windows.
- Concordia being one of the founding churches of the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) which cemented its outreach to the community.
- The establishment of Seasonal Sharing and Concordia's immediate positive response to provide for those in need.
- The beginning of offering the Eucharist at all services each week.
- Pastor David and Doreen Rinas' wedding held at Concordia.
- Many Fastnacht skits (written by Barbara Baker) featuring Eddie Kehl and whoever was pastor at the time. (My favorite title "How the Wurst was won".)
- The beginning of recognizing a "Concordian of the Year" on the Sunday in June nearest to the Presentation of the Augsburg Confession. Name Day was born!
- The first time our free-standing altar (crafted by Barbara Reifschneider) was used on Reformation Sunday.
- Banners and altar frontals crafted by Barbara Baker and others.
- Termites eating up three beams of the sanctuary and later the infestation of about 250,000 honey bees causing honey dripping into the organ pipes.
- The Way of the Cross, designed by Pastor Kim Eric Williams, which drew about 500 people the first year on Good Friday walking from one church to another (ten stations) to relive Jesus' Via Dolorosa.
- The beginning and long standing relationship with St. Mary's Episcopal Church sharing worship on festivals and later programs and study.
- The 100th anniversary celebration in 1993-1994 when each month for a year there was a different activity including the return of all former pastors to preach. (For October 1993, we had the first part of our worship in our former building on Winter and Garden Streets and then walked across town to Pitkin Street for the remainder of the liturgy.)
- Art Hube creating Concordia's first logo.
- Two live nativities: one during our anniversary year outside in back and the other in the sanctuary (with live animals).
- The Legacy Fund was established (thanks to a bequest) and using the interest to support many a project outside of Concordia which would benefit others.
- Our Nursery School being "the place to be" for the children of this town. Rarely was there need for any advertising.
- Our facility being used by many a community group and also by the New England Synod for ordinations, meetings, and the CT Celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (2017).
- The first building project which created the Garden Room, added an elevator, enlarged Brandt Lounge, enlarged the office area and reconfigured some of the education wing.
- Under the leadership of Pastor JoAnn Post programs and conversations with representative of the Jewish and Muslim communities.
- Pastor Douglas Barclay encouraging us and leading us through one final upgrade of the building (roofs, boilers, air conditioning, hall carpeting etc.).

- Being one of the founding churches of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance.
- The hard conversations at Council with Pastor Barclay (and then with the congregation) sounding the "warning bell" that given our finances we could not sustain ourselves financially.
- Moving sermons by all former Pastors…. but especially by Burt Strand, JoAnn Post, Douglas Barclay, Rolf Hedberg and Rebecca Bourret.
- The resilience of Concordia members following a number of instances over the years which were upsetting and unnerving especially as we slowly worked through the transition and then Holy Closure Process.
- Some people I consider the "giants" of Concordia (laypersons) who provided exceptional steadfast exemplary leadership and served as role models for all of us especially in the earlier years of Concordia: Barbara Baker, Marlene Blake, Lena Schubert, Elsie Werner, Fred Badger, Eddie Kehl, Ernie Scott, Helen Wittkofske, Al Lange, Sr. among many others.
- Trying to be an effective leader working with the Council and Transition/Holy Closure Teams during the almost 5-year long period of time as we considered our options, voted to enter the Holy Closure Process and then followed it through until the end. A truly tough time!
- Our super talented and dedicated organists/choir directors: David Almond, Allan Conway, Richard Hicks, John Anderson and Linda Hilliard.
- And give thanks for every Pastor who have led us during my life.
- The leadership of Pastors Sara Anderson and Maria Hammons during the Holy Closure Process and the support and presence of Pastor Rolf Hedberg, Rebecca Bourret and Ann Lovejoy Johnson until the very end.
- The joy felt when the decision was made to sell the property to the Town Of Manchester so that it can become the Town's new Senior Citizen Center. Concordia's legacy of service to the community will live on!!
- The feeling of extreme grief (which still is very present for me) as Concordia's sanctuary and sacred items were decommissioned on June 28, the lights shut off in the chancel and we walking out with tears streaming down my face as we walked out the front door. For me, it felt (and still feels) like losing another member of my family.

I close by giving thanks for all that which being a member has provided me in my life starting as a child. I have learned so much from so many…. both pastors and laypersons. The support of this Concordia Community of faith throughout my life especially at the times of the deaths of my father, mother and brother is indescribable.

It has been my honor and privilege at many times over the years for Concordia members to elect me to serve on the Council and the Council to put their faith in me by electing me as President. For the greatest majority of times, it was a joy, but there have been hard, trying times over the years as well especially during the time of Holy Closure. Know that I always tried to do my best and give it my all. But this was never about me, it was all about serving God in God's Church on 40 Pitkin Street using the talents that God bestowed on me to serve God.

In closing, I want to share that the loss of the 40 Pitkin Street building and property has little impact on me. Like all of you, I did not want to leave the building, but for me Concordia has been always much more than brick and mortar. It is a community of faith. I mourn the loss of the regularity of being together with this community of faith. Outside of my family, Concordia members have been my "family of the heart" and will always be. This "family of the heart" will always be with me and, for me, that is the greatest gift that God has given me and which I will always treasure along with the memories that this community of faith provided me. THANKS BE TO GOD!

Always in the service of God and God's Church,

Mark L. Winzler

Birthdays

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)
Amanda Baranowski (8)
Lu-Anne Rehmer (12)
Candace Wilson (22)

SEPTEMBER

Kathy Parsons (Noyes)(1)
Lanie Turner (5)
Erich Stoneman (11)
Tina Sollinger-Ruggerio (17)
Edna Nekiunas (23)
Michael Rehmer (23)
Carol Burnett (24)
Donald Slater (25)
Joyce Davis (25)
Ed Chiffer (30)