

THE Concordia Messenger



“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

October 2020



From
your
Pastor

Dear Saints of Concordia,

Pray the Psalms Every Day

Home devotions and prayers are hard. Part of the struggle is having a reliable routine. Only the individual can control this. We naturally form routines in our life, some good and productive, others may be bad and unproductive. If we don't plan our routines, more often they are unproductive. It's worth the effort to set aside even just 10 minutes every day for prayer and devotions. Be intentional about making it a routine, whether it's first thing in the morning, before or after a meal, or at the end of the day.

But routine is only part of the problem. The other main issue is what to pray and what to read. Few people find it easy to simply pick up their Bible and start reading. It can be incredibly daunting. It's hard to understand all of the context and history. It might be even more difficult for parents wanting to lead your children through it. It's not that God's Word is unclear of itself, but we are the ones who are unclear on it's history, context, and language. That's why we have pastors to help teach and guide our people at church. But your pastor can't be there every time you do a home devotion.

There are good devotional resources out there. Portals of Prayer is common, and

writers like Max Lucado are quite popular. But I have a far better and simpler resource to suggest: *The Psalms*. The Psalms are a unique book in that they are entirely made up of prayers. Though all of the Bible is God's Inspired Word, and it all points to Jesus in some way or another, it doesn't mean that every chapter and verse makes for good devotional and prayer material. There are many parts of the Old Testament that can be difficult and detailed to trudge through.

Not so with the Psalms. Every single word in the Psalms is prayerful and devotional. They may still at times be a challenge to understand fully, but even at those times, trust that they are God's Words for us as his Church to pray with. Jesus especially mentioned the Psalms in Luke's Gospel as being about and pointing towards him (Luke 22:44). If these prayers and words are about Jesus, then they are also about us who are in Christ Jesus.

Make reading them a routine. The easiest way is to start at the beginning. Try reading one Psalm a day. Keep a bookmark where you left off. Some are shorter, so it may make sense to read two. Others are very long, so you may need to break it up over several days. If you are interested, you can try looking up different Psalm reading plans online.

The more you read the Psalms, the more the language will become familiar, and you'll notice connections within the Psalms and with other parts of scripture. Ask how the words might point you to Jesus, and if they point to Jesus, how do they then apply to you as someone who Jesus died to save? Sometimes it may be difficult to do, and that's

fine. At least you will be familiar with the words, and maybe when you come across it again it will be easier to make sense of. It might be worth sending your Pastor an email with questions or checking a resource like the Lutheran Study Bible.

Whether all of the words make sense or not, don't just study the words, *pray* them. They are God's word given to us to pray. Parents, teach your children to regard the words as a prayer to God, even if they (or even you as an adult!) don't fully understand them. This is how we all learn.

All Christians could do with more prayer and reading of the scriptures. But even a little bit goes a long way. If prayer and devotions are difficult for you, and if you desire to do better, set aside 10 minutes, and open up to the richness of the Psalms. It will take some intentional effort, but the prayers God gives us there will greatly strengthen your faith. You will find a full range of human emotion: happiness and joy, fear and crying to God for help, satisfaction in God's salvation, and even a "righteous anger" towards wickedness and evil in this world. The Holy Spirit *will* be at work within as you and your family read them.

In Christ,
Pastor Gaschler

Director Christian Education

Dear Concordia,

Driving into church today, I saw the first hints of fall going up the Howard hill, some leaves are changing colors. It made me think about the past year and all the things we didn't do like have a first birthday party for my oldest or introduce people to the youngest. There were no Fourth of July fireworks or Freedom Festival to visit. I missed my best friend's installation and my mom's installation. There was no church picnic. My family still doesn't know what to do about holidays like

Reformation Day/Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's.

Some days are hard. We're still limiting contact with people. There have been days where one of us is sick or not feeling well and it is hard on the other person. We felt like it would be wrong to ask for help. Honestly, sometimes only after a few hours of not being able to really eat, drink, or use the restroom is hard. Let alone having someone crying or screaming and doing three diaper changes within 15 minutes. Couple that with a sleep talking infant who stays up late and wakes up or sleep talks at least twice a night. I have friends that had to isolate for 14 days and it was HARD on the spouse and young kids. It's only by God's grace they made it through that period.

It's so easy to, "look at what the virus has taken away" and lament what we're missing in church. Eventually, I think it's an unhealthy perspective. Instead, I try to focus on the positive. We've been watching church from home and we've had the opportunity to explain to the toddler what is going on in the service. We've also been able to stay in the service and turn up the volume, pause, or rewind so it doesn't matter how loud someone is or how many diaper changes are needed. There is also no judgement (real or perceived) as my toddler runs around like a crazy and points to different things on the screen. It's also nice not wondering if I'll hear comments about hearing my child from the nursery or during the service. (Maybe by the time this article is read, we'll have been in church more.)



None of this "relief" replaces being in church. The hardest part is missing God's grace, forgiveness of sins, and real presence in Communion. That's something we can explain to our children, but they can't experience Communion at home. We can explain to them that Communion is a special time where Jesus is there. We don't understand how it happens, but we know Jesus says, "This is my body" and "This is my blood."

God is the creator and sustainer of all things. One way He helps us grow in our faith and reassures us of His real presence in our life is through Communion. He is in, with, and under the bread and the wine. We can trust our infinite God is not limited by our finite brains. We trust this Sacrament brings forgiveness of sins and eternal life. It's a time to come together as believers and say we share the same beliefs about Christ (and the Trinity), we're sorry for what we've done, and we're reaffirming our faith.

Our *My Church Words Book* lists Communion under "special times". It is a special time we can watch from home, but can't recreate. Part of Communion is being "communal," it's not supposed to be done alone. We come together as the Body of Christ and together receive the body and blood of Christ. My family can rejoice that those at Concordia (and churches around the world) are participating in the Sacrament and will continue to do so until everyone returns.

Sarah Shadday,

Director of Christian Education



October Wedding Anniversaries

Allen & Albi Distler (66), Dave & Lorna Warren (41), Kevin & Becky Horn (44), Dean & Tammy Owen (22), Larry & Deb Brooks (7), Chris & Beth Forster (17), Mike & Jeri Pardieck (46), Philip & Sharon Caruana (48), Dave & Vicki Wilson (43), Steve & Shannon Barrick (16), Jim & Julia Yeater (28), Andrew & Emily McNally (4), Michael & Lauren Claxton (7).

October Birthdays: Abigail Brooks, Kaylee Brooks, Luke Guinn, Janet Larson, Carol Monroe, Caroline Turner, Linda Barkses, Kati Gaschler, Julia Yeater, Rose Mihu, Ray Everson, Aria Santiago Salazar, Elsie Claxton, Anne Finger, Margaret Tinsley, Michael Marot, Khalia Mihu, Caroline Marot, Adriana Olmos.



2019-2021 Mission Grant # 14 (voted at the 2019 Mobile convention)

Hope And Healing Hub Of Downtown Lincoln — University Lutheran Chapel — \$50,000

God has used the ministries of the University Lutheran Chapel (ULC), Lincoln, Nebraska, to reach students with the Good News of Jesus Christ. The connection between ULC, international students, and young adults in the downtown community is an important one which will provide those in need with Christian counseling services in a comfortable, easily accessible space. Research shows young adults are especially susceptible to depression leading to suicide making it the second most common cause of death among college students. ULC sits on the very edge of the University of Nebraska campus in the heart of Lincoln. It is the hope of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Nebraska District to use this building and its location as a hub of hope and healing for the students and young adults in the downtown community. It is their prayer that the students and

community members who use this Hope and Healing Hub might be drawn into a relationship with Jesus, leading to faithful participation in the Word and Sacrament ministry offered there. This grant will make the building more inviting with planned renovations while offering Christian counseling services through Grace Point Institute for Relational Health.



In the past ten years, the Holy spirit has worked in the hearts of 43 international and seven American students to bring them to waters of Holy Baptism through the efforts of the Chapel staff and students.

Small Grant #3 (LWML Indiana Virtual Convention 2020)

Rebecca's Garden of Hope — Tutoring and Mentoring Program — \$5,000

This program, sponsored by Our Savior Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, helps to improve students' education outcomes, enhance social skills, establish lasting relationships and share the love of Christ for at-risk children in grades K-5 in the Marion County and Indianapolis area on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.



The University Lutheran Chapel provides the space for gatherings such as fellowship meals, holiday celebrations and cultural events.



The staff and volunteers of the University Lutheran Chapel offer free moving services to students, often international students, which provides a wonderful way to meet and connect with them.



Thank you again to your group for donating their time to serve the participants of the 2020 Indy Women's half Marathon! On a beautiful day in downtown Indianapolis, we had over 2,000 ladies come together and complete the half marathon or 5K making it the largest women's only event in Indiana. The half marathon now ranks as one of the 10 largest women's-only half marathons in the US! From Todd Oliver, Race Director Indy Women's Half Marathon.

We received \$450 for both of the marathons worked that will be designated for the Pack-Away Hunger Pledge drive for this year.


Mission and Outreach

Thanks to Diane Conrad, Edie Masters, Ruth & Ray Everson, Wayne & Carol Monroe for manning the water stops for the 5k held in Danville on 12 Sept. As you can see they had to get an early start to get there with the chickens. The money earned will be going towards the Pledge for Pack-away-hunger.



On Saturday, Sept 19, our team spent another morning serving up drinks for the Indianapolis Women's 5K (it was not as early as last weekend was, just a bit cooler, making it better for the runners). Thanks to Lynn & Don Dombroski, Ray & Ruth Everson, Diane Conrad and Edie Masters. Funds raised will go toward our Pack-away hunger pledge.





PUZZLE

A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.

WORD BANK: sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water _____
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant _____
3. To plant _____
4. Sharp part of a plant _____
5. What is harvested. _____
6. To dry up and shrivel _____
7. Person who plants _____
8. The earth a plant grows in. _____

"But the _____ falling on good _____ refers to
2 8

someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a _____, yielding a
5

hundred, sixty or thirty times what was _____ n."
3

MATTHEW 13:23, NIV

ANSWER KEY: root, seed, soil, sower, soil, wither, thorn, crop, farmer, soil, seed, soil

Run the good race of life in what ever part that God has given you, always keeping HIM front and center so that you will never lose sight of the rewards of heaven that our Father has in store for us. Be always faithful, trusting in Him.



2020



Sunday Worship—9:00 AM
 Sunday School & Bible Classes—10:10 AM
 Worship service - 11:00 a.m.
 Monday Worship Service 6:30 p.m.
 Holy Communion at every service

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																				
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INTERCESSION and PRAYER,

Concordia Members

Recently Hospitalized:

- Pat Barnes 9/24/20
- Donna Cummings 9/17/20

Recovering:

- Konny Hanneman 7/13/20

Testing:

Friends of Concordia

- Minnie Hicks 7/15/20
- Kareen Nielsen 7/2/20
- Hud Ozbun 7/1/20
- Judy Heine 6/10/20
- Peter Economou 5/19/20
- Charles Huckleberry 2/27/20
- Rick Zempski 1/20/20
- Curt Roemer 12/15/19
- Mina Van Arsdale 8/7/19
- Missy Golden 6/18/19
- Brandon Frederking 5/2/19
- Steve Stephenson 4/28/19
- Peter Economou 4/22/19
- Thomas Taylor 1/20/19
- Thomas Clark 12/16/18
- Marcella Dickmeyer 6/19/18
- Anne Kaiser 6/15/18
- Steve Parrish 10/18/19
- Erika Hannaman - 1/28/15

Battling Cancer / MS

- Jerry Deleon 1/14/20
- Brandi Soggs 1/9/20
- Pastor Larry Isbell 10/24/19
- Matt McCollum 5/4/18
- Jane Halsey 3/19/18
- Angela Martin 9/8/17
- Julie Breymer 7/10/19
- Sara Kovich 8/20/18
- Philip Davis 12/12/16

Our Homebound Members

(Our Senior Prayer Warriors)

Please remember and pray for our Concordia homebound members.

- Laurie Ayres, 2837 sleeping Ridge Way, Indianapolis IN 46217
- Mary Babbs 589 N. Meridian St., Greenwood, IN 46143
- Kathy Carroll, 874 Sleepy Hollow Place, Greenwood, IN 46142
- Rev. David Dehnke 5/15/19 1676 Bryn Mawr Ct, New Albany, IN 47150
- Eileen Ely 8/7/19 714 S. Eickhoff Rd. #604, Evansville, IN 47712
- Duane Krall, Demaree Crossing Assisted Living & Memory Care, #12, 1255 Demaree Rd., Greenwood, IN 46143
- Carmen Latondress 12/7/18 110 South Dogwood, 183 S Smock Dr., Greenwood, IN 46143
- Barb Poulos, 1070 West Jefferson St, Franklin, IN 46131

Non-member shut-ins being visited & communed:

- Gail Reinke 5267 E. Rosegate Lane, Indianapolis, IN 46237
- Laura McClain 183 Smock Dr. #109, Greenwood, IN 46143

Please pray for our Military Servicemen & women.

Erica Stephenson, Army, National Guard (now home); Petty Officer 3rd Class Jordan Boling, Navy-USS West Virginia; MIDN Chloe Owen, P. O. Box 14247, Annapolis, MD 21412 (United States Naval Academy).



We pray the peace of Christ and the hope of the resurrection to

- **Dick Economou and family** at the death of Dick's nephew,

Warren Kovich, age 60, of Munster IN on Sept 7 (1680 Vidalia Ct., Greenwood IN 46143)

Treasurer's Report

Aug 2020

Income Description	Aug 2019 4 Sundays	Aug 2020 5 Sundays	Total To date (35) Sun
Unified Budget	17,184.80	23,003.65	194,739.81
Memorials (Non-designated)			1,490.00
Memorials (Designated)			132.00
Designated Gifts *	2,195.31	1,419.75	12,593.70
Reimbursements & Refunds **			3,589.20
Rents & Wedding Fees	75.00	240.00	700.00
TOTAL INCOME	20,120.11	24,663.40	213,244.71
<i>Average per/week Unified Budget</i>	<i>\$ 4,296.20</i>	<i>\$ 4,600.73</i>	<i>\$ 5,563.99</i>
<i>Amount needed per/week for Unified Budget</i>	<i>\$ 6,720.00</i>	<i>\$ 6,630.00</i>	

Expenses Boards	Aug 2019	Aug 2020	Total To date
Pastoral Care	11,068.46	6,800.33	55,156.51
Congregational Worship	756.09	1,035.99	7,521.96
Missions and Outreach	687.50	700.00	5,654.97
Christian Education	6,121.75	5,916.31	47,640.94
Stewardship			443.34
Operations	13,573.51	9,434.81	72,516.30
Small Group Ministries			68.07
Christian Living	149.12	239.40	516.32
Unified Budget Total	32,356.43	24,126.84	189,518.41
Non-boards			
Non budget payments			
Reimbursement Expenses **	2,941.44	51.00	14,248.93
Total Non-Budget Payments	2,941.44	51.00	14,248.93
Total payments	35,297.27	24,177.84	203,767.34

* Building Fund \$ 235, Concordia Cares \$ 25, Flowers \$ 200, Internet Access \$ 57.68, Landscaping \$ 125, LWCC \$ 10, LWML Mites \$ 20, LWCC Mailing school kits \$10, Pennies from Heaven (Pack Away Hunger) \$ 1.89, Pack a-way Hunger \$ 622.50, Southside Times \$ 5, We Raise Foundation \$ 10, Youth Group \$ 97.68.

** Reimbursements & Refunds— .

** Reimbursement Expenses: The Salvation Army-Samaritan services \$51.

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	Aug 2019	Aug 2020	Total to date
Missions— District Synod	500.00	500.00	4,000.00
Lutheran High School	750.00	750.00	6,000.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry Indy*	187.50	187.50	1,500.00
Total Support	1,437.50	1,437.50	11,500.00

Church checking account balance Aug 2020	
Beginning	34,493.44
Deposits	24,663.40
Payments	24,177.84
Ending balance	34,979.00

Worship	2019	2020	Tithes
8/30	106	74	9,592.00
9/6	106	73	3,670.00
9/13	98	85	3,940.00
9/20	94	83	12,725.00
9/27	98	75	3,201.00

Our Spiritual Response in Worship, Bible Study and Giving to our Lord			
	SS	HS	ADULT
8/30	6		21
9/6	6		33
9/13	5		27
9/20	4		26
9/27	3		22

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	LCEF Balance Aug 31, 2020
Anniversaries & Birthday	4,904.52
Board of Youth— (Trip)	7,481.94
Building Fund	6,165.21
Capital Improvements - \$1,226.16 Church sign - 683.82	1,909.98
Concordia Cares	4,140.43
Pre-School Landscaping & Gardening	2,362.11
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	26,964.19
Interest earned	8.57

Articles for the Messenger are due by the 15th of the month and will be edited for content and space limitations. Artwork is used by permission through a subscription to *Newsletter Newsletter*, Communication Resources, Box 2625, N. Canton, OH 44720. If sending submissions to the newsletter via email, please be sure to include *NEWSLETTER* in the subject line.

Lutheran Hour Ministries Radio Schedule

The Lutheran Hour—Sundays
WIRE (91.1 FM) 7:30 AM
WCBK (102.3 FM) 7:00 AM
WMCB (1540 AM) 8:00 AM
WLW (700 AM) 7:00 AM

10/4 **Victory In Defeat**
10/11 **Unscaled Heights of Empathy**
10/18 **What I'm Looking For**
10/25 **No Boasting, Just Belonging**

Lutheran Hour is now broadcast on American Forces
Network (AFN).

Worship Anew—Sundays
WHMB (TV 40) 10:00 AM

The Concordia Messenger

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 N Howard Road
Greenwood, IN 46142-3836

Telephone: 317.881.4477

Facsimile: 317.881.4498

E-mail: concordia@concordia-lcms.com

Website: <http://www.concordia-lcms.com>



Sunday Worship Services
9 a.m. / 11 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes
10:05 a.m.

1st & 3rd, Monday Worship Service
6:30 p.m.



Pastor

Rev. Paul R. G. Gaschler

Staff

Sarah Shadday—*Director Christian Education*

Erica Stephenson - *Deaconess*

Jill Scifres, —*Preschool Director*

Becky Lanning— *Office Manager*

Carol Monroe— *Administrative Assistant*



A fixer-upper

Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes into rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what he is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping

the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is he up to?

The explanation is that he is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but he is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it himself.

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17



President
Dick Brooks

President-Elect
Dean Owen

Vice President
Mike Finger

Vice President / Asst. Treasure
Don Boesenberg

Recording Secretary
Sharon Caruana

Treasurer
John Bertsch

Board for Christian Education
Linda Snyder

Board for Christian Living
Genny Hartley / Jessica Coffey

Board for Congregational Worship
Matt Shadday

Board for Missions & Outreach
Diane Conrad

Board for Operations
Herb Hoeltke

Board for Pastoral Care
Mike Emkes

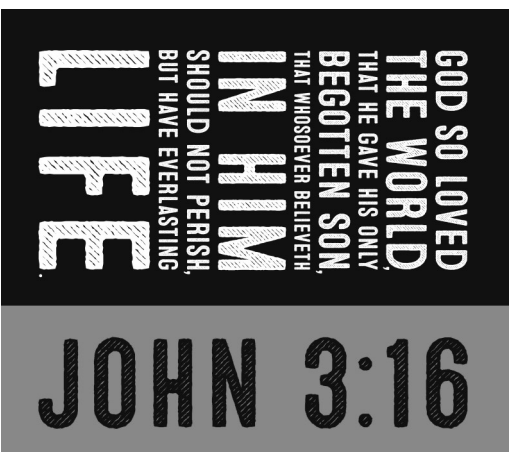
Board for Small Group Ministries
Lynda Martin

Board for Stewardship
Diana Sullivan

Financial Secretary
Rose Mihu

THE *Concordia Messenger*

October 2020



The Best Medicine

Near the end of his life, Protestant reformer Martin Luther suffered debilitating headaches. When told about a costly medicine that might offer some relief, Luther smiled and said, "My best prescription for head and heart is that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. "

That bible verse became a refrain for Luther on his deathbed. "What Spartan saying can be compared with this wonderful brevity," he said of John 3:16. "It is the Bible itself!" After repeating the words of that Gospel-in-a-nutshell verse three times in Latin, Luther exclaimed, "They are the best prescription for headaches and heartaches!"

So let us be like Luther and the many believers in Christ, (from the past through the present) always ready to proclaim in all truth the truth of God's love for his children.



305 N Howard Road, Greenwood, IN 46142
**Concordia Lutheran Church
 & Preschool**