

# THE Concordia Messenger



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

January 2021



## From your Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A blessed new year to you all, and Merry Christmas too! December 25th is only the first day of Christmas, and the twelve days continue until January 5th. Then, January 6th is our celebration of the Epiphany, that is, the revealing of our savior. This revelation is demonstrated with magi from the East visiting him, as well as other revelatory moments like Jesus' Baptism and Transfiguration.

Much has been made about our excitement for the end of 2020, but reality is telling us that 2021 won't look much different, at least at first. Thankfully we are seeing vaccinations distributed in our country, and we pray that in the coming months the spread of the virus will be contained and manageable.

This hope is in sight, yet we're facing more positive cases now than ever. It's as if we have been running a race this past year.

First we hoped it would be a short sprint, but the length and distance has increased more than most of us could imagine. Our pace inevitably had to slow down. Almost a year later now, the end is seemingly in sight. We've come a long way in this marathon of a race. We're limping along now,



knowing that the virus is as rampant as ever, even as close to the finish as it may seem.

I prayed that once we opened our doors again late last Spring that it would be a gradual return to the usual. Clearly it hasn't been. I know that many who had previously returned to worship are considering staying home again. Others have been at home this entire time. I will echo what we have said before: Use your Christian conscience. Read God's word, pray, and consider what is the right thing to do. It is not right to come to church out of fear or guilt. If you need help discerning, don't hesitate to contact me.

For those who desire and are able, we will continue to find a way to meet and receive God's gifts. Practical problems have practical solutions, even in a pandemic. We will continue to adapt and find a way, for those who are able, to gather as safely as possible.

It's been a long race, and even with a new year, we still have a ways to go. We'll keep limping along, helping each other on the way.

This time has been a reminder of the spiritual state of this world we live in. It is a broken and sinful world, not just because it is full of wrongdoing, but because it is a world which can ultimately only offer us death.

St. Paul uses the imagery of running a race towards eternal life in several of his letters. Our race towards safety and normalcy from this virus can be a picture of the safety and perfection we are headed towards in eternal life. Just as we are crawling towards a vaccination, no doubt we can barely crawl on our own towards heaven. We can't hardly limp towards it on our own, if anything we start sprinting in

the opposite direction in our sin!

Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, the Helper and Comforter, to sustain us through this lifelong race. Receive the Spirit as often as you can, whether it be on Sundays in the Divine Service if you are able, or by listening to and watching our service at home, but also with your own households in meditation of God's word and prayer.

Christ is living, and he will surely sustain his church too. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, not in chasing after personal goals and accomplishments, but when Jesus strengthens us to endure the struggles of this life.

We have quite the distance still to limp, both in regards to this virus, but also towards eternity with our Lord. All it seems we can do is limp along, but we have a Savior who will see us through to the end. He entered this broken world to dwell in it with us, and he too faced hardship and death, to ensure that we could have life with him.

Thanks be to God that he sent his Son to us, as we still are celebrating in this Christmas season.

In Christ,  
Pastor Gaschler

## Director Christian Education

Dear Concordia,

About a year ago, friends talked about how 2019 was so bad and that 2020 would be better. Well, I haven't heard many praise 2020 for how wonderful it was. In fact, most people would think it's so bad, they stocked up on toilet paper that year.

2020 wasn't the best year of my life. I'm writing this after a two-week quarantine. I'd like to emphasize, sometimes 2020 was frustrating and stressful. However, my



daughter was born in 2020 and that's what I choose to remember about 2020 along with the good memories. Memories like my oldest learning to walk and being more independent. Memories of my babies giggling at each other or trying to get the other's attention. My baby's baptism. My best friend having her child and attending the baptism.

There are many reasons to look down on 2020, claim it was the worst, ignore it, move on, and hope for another year. We can make resolutions and tell ourselves 2021 will be better. But will it be? I don't know the answer, but there are things I do know.

This world is broken and sinful. I don't know if it's getting more broken and sinful every day or I just see more of what is already there. It's fruitless to put hope in a year. We can hope a new year is better, but unless anything is actually done to fix the problems from 2020, personality flaws, or whatever, they will be carried into the next year. The new year doesn't fix anything, it just gives us a "fresh start" mentality. Jesus is still here.

God promises to be in His Word and Sacraments and work through them. He is truly present there. He's truly present at Concordia as we celebrate the Lord's Supper. He's present when we gather for worship. He's present when we read our Bibles in our homes because we're stuck in quarantine (again). He has the power to help us. He is the one who redeemed

us from our sinful life and this sinful world. Jesus Christ, true God and man, was born into this world, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose again. This restored the relationship between God and man. We have hope. We will live forever with Jesus one day.

It's ok to be sad and disappointed this year didn't go the way most wanted it to. It's

ok to be upset at the lost celebrations and separation from friends and family. It's ok to be angry at the situation. It's also ok to share those things with God. It may not feel like He hears prayers. Trust me, I've said many asking for a restful sleep so I often feel like the Persistent Widow (Luke 18:1-8). He does hear our prayers. Philippians reminds us we can pray about anything all the time and 1 John reminds us God hears our prayers.

Make requests known before God. Don't trust idols that have no control. Remember, all years have bad moments, but they also have good moments too. Also, remember all the daily bread and blessings God has given us to sustain this daily body and life. God loves this broken world and broken people. That's why He sent Jesus to redeem it. One year, He's the one who changed the world and gave all people hope, a new start, and constant forgiveness.

Sarah Shadday,

Director of Christian Education



## Thank you !

Yes, thank you for all of the time, energy and thoughtfulness that has been shown with the gifts that were given for the giving tree where 2 families were supported with gifts for Christmas. The gifts were delivered to the school on 12/15/20 where they were then gotten to the families by the school staff. Gift certificates were also collected for use by the church staff to give out to those who come in for assistance.

Thank you for all of the good desserts that were brought in to share for our Thanksgiving and Anniversary celebration. It brought us together even when we are unable to gather in one building, we gathered in spirit with Thanksgiving. Don't forget the drivers who took those desserts to our families who were unable to come to church in person.

Thank you to the Sunday school students for making Christmas decorations to be included in baskets for our prayer warriors. Hopefully it brightened up their day as it did the students when putting them together.

Thank you to the Sunday school staff and Sarah for arranging a zoom Jesus birthday celebration, Sunday Dec 20. They put together and delivered bags of goodies and prizes for the children when they played Bingo.

Thank your from the staff for all of your generous gifts that were presented to us on Christmas. Continued blessings.

Following are some pictures to share concerning the previously mentioned activities. Hope you enjoy.







Baskets all made up with ornaments made for home bound by the Sunday school.



Activity bags for Jesus' Birthday celebration.

Your Welcome,  
God Bless Everyone

### LWR updates:

## They have love in their home, but not clean water

Lilian Mutheu grew up one of the largest slums in Nairobi, Kenya. The streets are littered with trash and waste, and communicable diseases like COVID-19 spread quickly due to cramped conditions and a lack of clean water and sanitation. Lilian works hard with the hope of giving her four-year-old son everything she didn't have in life — opportunity, unconditional love, a safe place to call home. She has even become a mentor to other young girls, offering advice and support to help them make healthy choices. But, despite her efforts and hard work, Lilian and Nevil still live in the slum. And though they have love, they do not have clean water at home. Safe water is the most expensive item families in Mukuru have to buy, and many are forced to choose between essentials: food, water, soap, rent, medical care. It's a choice no mother should have to make. With the gift of clean water families can save money, cook and drink safely, wash their hands and avoid getting sick and even dying from waterborne illnesses. To learn more visit [lwr.org](http://lwr.org).

2019-2021 Mission Grant #17 (voted at the 2019 Mobile convention)

## Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere — KFUE Radio — \$60,000

Since 1924, KFUE has been reaching people far and wide with the message of Jesus Christ by using the latest technology. In the last century, technology has advanced at an unprecedented rate and continues to develop with each new year. Incorporating the latest forms of communication methods into KFUE's ministry, they can more effectively reach the younger generation and the generations to come with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Wherever stationed, our Nation's military can listen. Aging family and friends confined to their

homes can still be gathered to the Word through an iPad or similar device. Prison Ministry also utilizes KFUD as an effective way of sharing the Gospel. This grant will assist the station in sharing the Gospel and staying current in the digital age.

We can think of KFUD as having a unique mission. Messages are not only broadcast via various technologies and not only to those who are incarcerated, live in nursing homes, serve in the military, or are home-bound but also to worldwide mission fields.

Based in St. Louis, KFUD continues to proclaim the Gospel in new formats by utilizing ever-changing technology. The founders grew to realize that they could reach people not only through live broadcasts but also by sending out recorded programs to other stations. Using various types of media: LP records, reel-to-reel tapes, cassette tapes, CDs, and via satellite, many people heard the Gospel. Most recently, they utilize the World Wide Web, live-stream, and podcasts. The station is visible on Facebook, and they use Twitter and text messaging to communicate.

KFUD strives to stay connected with listeners of all ages in locations around the globe by using the latest cutting-edge platforms available. Currently, they use Smart radios, such as Alexa, where listeners can ask KFUD questions about broadcasts. They also use the "OPAL" platform, allowing them to have high-quality connections between hosts and guests in remote locations. Broadcast Bionics permits KFUD hosts to engage with listeners in live programming.

Funds for this mission grant will make it possible for KFUD to continue purchasing and using the newest technology to make the Gospel message available to everyone, including children and young adults living in the digital generation.



Using the latest technology, KFUD can video stream LIVE on Facebook reaching multiple generations, especially the Digital Generation, with Bible studies, chapel services, and informative interviews about organizations that are striving to spread the Gospel.



In 1924, when radio was still a relatively new and experimental form of communication, the founders of KFUD knew there needed to be a signal over which the Gospel could be broadcast.

Large Grant #1 (LWML Indiana Virtual Convention 2020)

### **Concordia Theological Seminary Food Co-op, Fort Wayne – \$10,000**

Individuals from around this country and the world come to Concordia Theological Seminary to prepare to serve God's people here in the United States as well as in mission work around the world.

When students decide to leave their jobs and come to the seminary with their families, they no longer have the financial flow of funds that they had before but continue to have financial needs. Spouses in many student families do find employment in Fort Wayne, but most are marginalized because the employers know that they will only be here a short time, throwing families into difficult financial positions. The seminary seeks to reduce this financial burden by providing students access to a Food Co-op, which currently supplies between 80% and 90% of a families food and household needs each month at no cost to the student, relying upon donations from individuals, congregations, and organizations.

# January



2021

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:

- Mary Spray 12/20/20 St Francis

#### Recovering:

- Mike & Diane Smith 12/18/20 home
- Donna Cummings 12/10/20 home
- Rose Mihu 11/25/20 home
- Cathy McClure 11/3/20
- Konny Hanneman 7/13/20 home

### Friends of Concordia

- Chuck Buth 11/17/20
- Darlene Loquest 11/9/20
- Alexis McKeand 11/8/20
- Dorothy Rodman 10/1/20
- Judy Heine 8/17/20
- Minnie Hicks 7/15/20
- 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
- Steve Parrish 10/18/19
- Mina Van Arsdale 8/7/19
- Missy Golden 6/18//19
- Brandon Frederking 5/2/19
- Steve Stephenson 4/28/19
- Thomas Taylor 1/20/19
- Marcella Dickmeyer 6/19/18
- Anne Kaiser 6/15/18
- Erika Hannaman - 1/28/15

### Battling Cancer / MS

- Billie May 11/24/20
- Brandi Soggs 1/9/20
- 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
- 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)., Zach Goins, 791 Fordham Rd., Grovetown, GA 30813(Navy Reserve)



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

- *Genny Hartley and family* at the death of her grandfather **Richard Nielson**, 11/29/20, age 89, of

North Judson IN (3121 Golfview Dr., Greenwood IN 46143)

# Treasurer's Report

Nov 2020

Income Description	Nov 2019 4 Sundays	Nov 2020 5 Sundays	Total To date (48) Sun
Unified Budget	23,302.40	20,446.84	260,477.65
Memorials (Non-designated)	140.00		1,490.00
Memorials (Designated)			132.00
Designated Gifts *	443.02	1,421.89	15,451.83
Reimbursements & Refunds **	354.11	60.00	3,649.20
Rents & Wedding Fees	75.00	255.00	1,005.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>24,314.53</b>	<b>22,183.73</b>	<b>282,205.68</b>
<i>Average per/week Unified Budget</i>	<i>\$ 5,023.99</i>	<i>\$ 4,089.37</i>	<i>\$ 5,426.62</i>
<i>Amount needed per/week for Unified Budget</i>	<i>\$ 6,720.00</i>	<i>\$ 6,630.00</i>	

Expenses Boards	Nov 2019	Nov 2020	Total To date
Pastoral Care	6,869.45	7,365.99	76,345.84
Congregational Worship	613.40	1,148.74	10,384.55
Missions and Outreach	764.89	700.00	7,749.97
Christian Education	6,02.81	6,068.59	65,652.91
Stewardship	151.16	152.94	687.77
Operations	7,528.03	7,754.61	98,069.58
Small Group Ministries		14.95	151.44
Christian Living			516.32
<b>Unified Budget Total</b>	<b>22,29.74</b>	<b>23,205.82</b>	259,558.38
<b>Non-boards</b>			
Non budget payments			
Reimbursement Expenses **	4,374.57	135.21	14,384.14
<b>Total Non-Budget Payments</b>	<b>4,374.57</b>	135.21	14,384.14
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>26,404.31</b>	<b>23,341.03</b>	<b>273,942.52</b>

\* Building Fund \$ 421, Concordia Cares \$ 315, Flowers \$ 375, Fort Wayne Christmas Market \$ 20, Internet Access \$ 57.68, Landscaping \$ 100, LWCC \$ 10, Pennies from Heaven (Pack Away Hunger) \$ 8.11, Southside Times \$ 20, We Raise Foundation \$ 10, Youth Group \$ 85.10.

\*\* Reimbursements & Refunds— Purchase of Books \$60.

\*\* Reimbursement Expenses: Concordia Publishing House book order, \$135.21.

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	Nov 2019	Nov 2020	Total to date
Missions— District Synod	500.00	500.00	5,500.00
Lutheran High School	750.00	750.00	8,250.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry Indy*	187.50	187.50	2,062.50
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>1,437.50</b>	<b>1,437.50</b>	<b>15,812.50</b>

### Our Spiritual Response in Worship, Bible Study and Giving to our Lord

	SS	HS	ADULT
<b>11/29</b>	6	4	28
<b>12/6</b>	6	2	13
<b>12/13</b>	5	3	13
<b>12/20</b>	4	4	20

### Church checking account balance Nov 2020

Beginning	34,922.09
Deposits	22,183.73
Payments	23,341.03
Ending balance	33,764.79

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	LCEF Balance Nov 30, 2020
Anniversaries & Birthday	4,908.08
Board of Youth— (Trip)	7,487.36
Building Fund	6,169.67
Capital Improvements - \$1,227.05 Church sign - 684.31	1,911.36
Concordia Cares	4,143.43
Pre-School Landscaping & Gardening	2,363.82
<b>Total in LCEF Steward Accounts</b>	<b>26,983.72</b>
<b>Interest earned</b>	<b>5.72</b>

Worship	2019	2020	Tithes
<b>11/26 T</b>	36	27	185.00
<b>11/29 s</b>	91	87	5,730.84
<b>12/2</b>	45		25.00
<b>12/6 s</b>	97	49	9,737.64
<b>12/9</b>	46		155.00
<b>12/13 s</b>	85	50	6,650.00
<b>12/16</b>	56		30.00
<b>12/20 s</b>	103	72	6,571.00
<b>12/24</b>	180	tba	30.00
<b>12/25</b>	55	tba	220.00
<b>12/27 s</b>	78	tba	tba



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

**1/3      Too Much**  
**1/10    The Backstory Behind a Bible "Contradiction"**  
**1/17    Lost in wonder, Love, and Praise!**  
**1/24    tbd**  
**1/31    tbd**

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

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

## Christian Living

### January Wedding Anniversaries

Jake & Erin Gates (3) 1/12, Connie & Richard Howrey (11) 1/22,  
Mike & Adele Tinsley (39) 1/23, Jim & Doris Roemer (63) 1/25.

### January Birthdays:

Guinn, Tracy	1/4	Bass, Chandler	1/15
Bruhn, Bob	1/4	Reed, Shawn	1/16
Tinsley, Mike	1/6	Ackerman, Deborah	1/24
Gaschler, Paul Rev.	1/7	Whitrock, Cliff	1/24
Krall, Norma	1/9	Moyers, Tony	1/25
Turner, Laura	1/11	Neumann, Miriam	1/25
Bass, Emma	1/12	Moyers, Regina	1/27
Kearns, Heidi	1/13	Ragsdale, Tommy	1/30
Fox, Jeanne	1/14		

**Update for Concordia's Prayer Chain and Women of the congregation** Join today by sending an email to [WomenOfConcordia+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:WomenOfConcordia+subscribe@groups.io).

The same is true for any member to join the **prayer chain**. Join by sending a message to [ConcordiaPrays+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:ConcordiaPrays+subscribe@groups.io)

If you have not received any notices as of the issue of this newsletter please go to the above addresses to stay in touch.

## 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](mailto: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*

**President**

Dick Brooks

**President-Elect**

Dean Owen

**Vice President**

Mike Finger

**Vice President / Asst. Treasure**

Don Boesenberg

**Recording Secretary**

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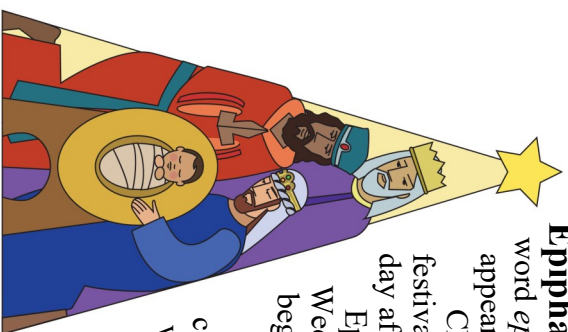
# THE Concordia Messenger

January 2021



**Concordia Lutheran Church  
& Preschool**

305 N Howard Road, Greenwood, IN 46142



**Epiphany**, from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, means an appearance of manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on the 12th day after Christmas.

Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, who worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of

Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light and Savior of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle, star crown, gifts and a globe. Epiphany has become a time for reaching out and "showing" Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions.

