

THE Concordia Messenger



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

September 2021



from Tuzla for your gifts of \$215 collected from the Pennies from

Heaven and separate giving. They were sent Aug 2 and a return thank you was forwarded by Heidi Ford that is posted on the bulletin board located in the Noah room for you to read.

Director Christian Education

Greetings.

I was listening to a podcast the other day that really got me thinking about "stewardship." A steward is someone who takes care of a person, group of people, or things. In the podcast it talked about what it meant to be a steward of new things. So often we want something new, but we forget that we need to take care of those new things or we need to be a good steward of those new things.



For example, if the item is a new lawn mower I need to think about if I really want to take care of it. Do I want to keep it clean, make sure it has enough gas and is charged, fix it when it's broken, and whatever else care for that item would entail? If I want to care for it, I should purchase the item. If I don't want to care for it I can let someone else be the steward of the item and not purchase it.

It has caused me to think about things in my house a little differently. We

had garden fountain in our front yard that was there when we moved. We weren't going to figure out how it worked or really try to run it. Someone else offered to be the steward of that fountain and we gladly let him have it. I've also been looking for places to rehome some of the items we don't want to be stewards of anymore. It's also reframed my mind to think, "If we were to be better stewards of what God has given us, what would that look like?"

It may mean being more intentional about what I teach my kids and how I behave in front of them. The first time I heard the loud and stern, "No!" come from my oldest's mouth, I realized that was me speaking. How many times has she heard me say it when I caught her doing something she wasn't supposed to, and now it's being used to try and stop her sister from doing something she doesn't want her to do. It also makes me wonder what I am teaching my children and what I'm not teaching them. There are some heartening moments when I hear my oldest sing a hymn stanza with me or hum the Words of Institution with pastor.

Being a good steward means I take care of what God has given me and that includes my own body. I could think of it as, "I can't eat all the cookies I want because they're bad for me." I could also think of it as, "God has given me my body and I can care for it by eating only one cookie a day." I can think about how exhausting it is to exercise or take time to read my Bible or pray. I could also think of it as God has given me the ability to push my body to new limits. He's also given me the ability to rest and spend time learning about Him.

Mission and Outreach

I know the parables with stewards are usually our "go to" ones when we think about stewardship. Instead, I like to look to Joseph as a good steward of what God gave him. Of course, God gave Joseph dreams (Genesis 37) and Joseph may not have been the most tactful steward in sharing those gifts with his brothers. We do learn, however, that even in slavery Joseph was a good steward (Genesis 39:6) of his master's house. Joseph used his God given talents to excel at his current vocation.

Even in prison, Joseph was given charge of other prisoners. God gave Joseph the opportunity to be a good steward at yet another vocation. Joseph used those God given talents and vocation to excel (Genesis 39:21-40:4). Of course, in Genesis 41:41 we learn that Joseph is put in charge of all of Egypt. Talk about being a steward! That was a lot of people, animals, and things to care for. Yet, God continued to be with Joseph in that vocation. God even gave Joseph his family back and Joseph was a steward of God's grace, forgiveness, and mercy. Joseph provided for his family and their families. He even gave them a new place to live. God worked through Joseph in amazing ways.

Most of us won't become stewards of entire nations, but we can remember that like Joseph, we are stewards of what God has given us. God has given us our faith, which He helps sustain through His Word and Sacrament. He has given us this body and life that we are to care for with the best of our abilities. He has given us our families (parents, spouses, children, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and even a church family) to care for. He has given us a way to sustain our lives through careers, retirement, social security, or other means. He has given us our place of residence and our things to care for.

God blesses us in so many ways and never withholds the most precious gift of His Son Jesus who died to take away our sins. This is the most precious gift and message he makes us stewards of. We should gladly be stewards and freely give this limitless gift.

Sarah Shadday, Director Christian Education

We're looking for 8 volunteers on Saturday, September 25, to help with a water stop for the Indy Women's Half Marathon. For additional information contact either Diane Conrad (760-881-6187) or Ruth Everson (317-530-5761). This event is sponsored by the Board of Missions and Outreach to support the mission work in Tuzla, Bosnia



Quilting - Sept. 11 (9 am - noon). We are still meeting in the Fellowship Hall trying to get through all of the quilt tops that we have sown in the past year. We can keep social distancing and still get quilts put together. Please consider. September 25 the truck from Lutheran World Relief will be here to pick up all of the kits and quilts that will arrive during the week.



Grant #1 (LWML Lexington Convention 2021)

Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch — \$81,680 —

Helping at-risk Children Succeed in the Name of Christ Since 1952, the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has touched the lives of more than 34,000 at-risk youth and their families. As a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), the Ranch brings Christ-centered hope and healing to children from across the nation who have experienced severe psychiatric, emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental challenges due to abuse, neglect, violence, and more. At the Minot, Bismarck, and Fargo, North Dakota, campuses, the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch combines the best-in-class psychiatric care with best-in-class Christ-centered spiritual care unlike any other organization in the nation. Children ages 10–18 and their families find new futures as they seek healing, hope, and new beginnings at the Ranch. With their Christ-centered Lutheran heritage and mercy-focused

care, the Ranch becomes a place of stability, hope, and comfort for those they serve. During their time at the Ranch, the children learn to see the world differently, feel the love of God through those who care for them, and begin to look to the future with hope. The discovery of the Savior's mercy is often the most vital component of a child's healing.

Nearly all of the Ranch's female residents have been traumatized in some way, and in almost all cases the perpetrator was male. In addition, most of the young men who have been subjected to violence or abuse have experienced it at the hands of a male figure. This simple reality creates immediate trust issues that can be difficult for a child to bridge, especially when dealing with a male chaplain. In 2018, while recognizing the need to minister directly to the hearts of victimized young girls and boys, the Ranch called an LCMS deaconess, Kelly Bristow, to complement the work of the Spiritual Life Staff. Her work quickly began to bridge many of the gaps that often hinder a child's healing. This incredible relationship of trust became a turning point in children's lives. When the children complete their treatment and move on from the Ranch, they leave knowing God loves them and that His love will never change. Many of the children have written Deaconess Kelly, thanking her for everything she had done in the healing process. Many have found a church home where their faith remains rock solid.

The specialized ministry of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch impacts more than 1,400 children and families each year, from all corners of the United States. The deaconess ministry is part of the Ranch's overall Spiritual Life Program, and it impacts more than 300 residential children annually. Two-thirds of the children receive services at the Minot campus. With this grant, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch will be able to fund one full year of deaconess ministry in Minot, North Dakota.

Large Grant #9 (LWML Indiana Virtual Convention 2020)
Concordia Educational Association, Inc., Fort Wayne — \$10,000
Concordia Lutheran High School has been providing tuition-based Christ-centered

quality education in Fort Wayne, Indiana since 1935 but tuition and fees can be beyond some families' financial resources. The Concordia Educational Association, Inc. d/b/a/ Concordia Lutheran High School Board is aware of this need and voted approval, but is unable to finance the cost. This grant of \$10,000, approved at the 2020 Virtual Convention, for the Concordia Educational Association, Inc. d/b/a/ Concordia Lutheran High School will assist with tuition costs for unchurched families who qualify.

Women's Fall Retreat, October 8-9

Ladies, join other women of the congregation for a retreat held at Camp Lakeview. Save the date for a 24-hour retreat with other sisters-in-Christ. We're looking forward to returning to the Lodge at the camp after missing last year. Miriam Neumann is writing a Bible study based on hymns. Will we be doing a lot of singing? Come and find out.

The registration fee of \$25 includes overnight lodging and three meals. We're supporting *The Emergency Diaper Dispensary* this fall. Even if you aren't able to attend, would you consider donating a package of diapers? We will collect them at church and not transport them to the camp. A Thrivent Action Team Grant is helping defray some of the expenses of the retreat.



Preschool Scoop

The preschool staff would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the individuals who participated in the work day to spruce up the inside and outside of the school. Much effort was put into the trimming, weeding, power washing, window cleaning, mulching, and more. We greatly appreciate each one of you, and now our building is ready to welcome children on August 24th. A few spots remain, so we again ask your help in spreading the word about our preschool to your friends and neighbors.

Jill Scifres, Director of Preschool



Board for Christian Living

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
1 Thessalonians 5:11

Fellowship 15 Returns: Please join us for a quick fellowship time before Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday. Coffee and prepackaged food items will be available. If you wish to sign up to help, or donate prepackaged or individually wrapped items contact Jessica C. or Cynthia B. Thank you.

Walking Fellowship: Put on those walking shoes and join us for some fellowship and exercise at Freedom Park in Greenwood on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. Help meet your step goal, and enjoy positive Christian conversations in the beautiful park. We hope to see you!

Coffee and Crafts: Grab your morning coffee and bring your current craft project to Concordia Fellowship Hall on every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month for some Saturday crafting and fellowship. Come anytime between 9am and noon to make progress on your own projects, and encourage others toward their crafting goals.



From
your
Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Becoming Carpenters

Imagine that I asked you to be in charge of building Concordia a new youth house. While we have some handy individuals in our congregation, most of us would have no clue what we were doing. What would you need to accomplish this task?

I've got it. Since I've asked you to be in charge, I'm going to give you a Lowe's Credit Card with no limit on it. You can walk into Lowe's and take anything you need. The whole store is at your disposal!



That's all you should need then, right?

Of course not! You can have all the tools, materials, and vehicles in the world. It doesn't mean you will have a clue how to construct a building. Even if you buy some instruction manuals, unless you have an exceptional engineer-type mind, you're going to fail at teaching yourself.

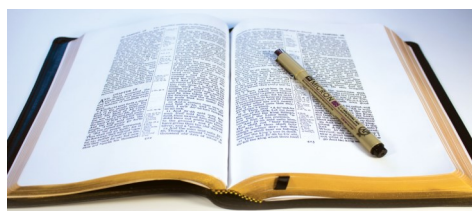
A trade like carpentry or construction is important, and it's not easily dabbled in. Ideally you spend years working under someone else, learning the finer points of the job. You don't need every tool from Lowe's, at least not at first, until you master the basic and fundamental skills.

Let this be an illustration for our Christian faith. As Christians, we do not desire just to acquire as much information as possible from the Bible, just as a carpenter doesn't just desire every single item in a Lowe's. A carpenter's goal is to build houses. Likewise, we desire to build a living faith that trusts in God, and actively lives in love and service to others in all aspects of our life.

The Scriptures are like a Lowe's store. The Bible is not a single book, but a huge Library full of Books, of different sorts of genres: poetry, history, dreams and supernatural revelations. Some parts are easier to make sense of, like Psalm 23, and other parts difficult, like the Book of Revelation. Just as a Lowe's store is endlessly full of useful and necessary items, so also the Bible is all God breathed and profitable for us (1 Timothy 3:16). And just as we could never possibly ever make good use out of every single item in Lowe's,

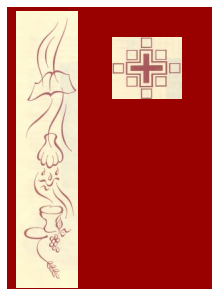
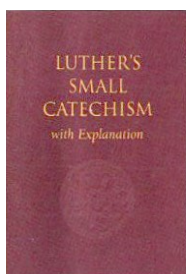
we similarly can never exhaust all the wisdom the Scriptures give us, nor can we fully master them.

You wouldn't hand a novice an unlimited Lowe's credit card and expect them to be able to build a house. Likewise, simply handing someone a Bible and expecting them to become a faithful Christian is not how God intended his church to operate. Let me be clear, the Holy Spirit is at work in the scriptures, and is capable of enlightening anyone who reads God's word. But consider the book of Acts, where Phillip encounters the Ethiopian who is reading from Isaiah, but does not understand it. "How can I, unless someone guides me?" he said to Phillip.



Our Scriptures are inspired by God, but more specifically they are *apostolic*, handed down by God to the apostles that Jesus called to continue his church. God builds his Church on earth by using his Church. The early Christians didn't have access to bibles like we do now, but the Church went out and taught, not just sharing information, but guiding people in how to live. We should continue to do the same today. There is good in reading God's Word on our own time, but we should always be reunited and taught by the Church, lest we go off on our own path.

To keep our people, especially those newest in the faith, from getting overwhelmed by the sheer volume of our Bibles as if they were wandering a department store, I've resolved to emphasize the basics. For our tradition, the Catechism has always been a central tool to



teach the basics. Our hymns and liturgy also strengthen us with regular use, as they easily are memorized and become familiar, giving us words to pray and ponder upon.

With our children then, I desire to emphasize using the

Catechism and our hymnals to teach them. Not to elevate these man made books over Scripture, but to give our young ones a foundation for a lifetime of faithful living.

The Pharisees were known for their great knowledge of the Scriptures, but we might compare them to a Lowe's salesman who knows the whole inventory, but doesn't have a clue how to use any item. That is not what God desires.

Let us resolve then to be like carpenters instead, equipping and building ourselves up to live faithful lives as Jesus intends to. First, let's learn the basics. As we grow, we each have a lifetime to plumb the depths of all the scriptures, never possibly being able to properly explore it all. While we explore and mature, we should never forget the simple basics of the faith, and let us all desire to enter God's Kingdom with the simple faith of a child (Matthew 18:3).



In Christ,
Pastor Gaschler

Answers

Answers to prayers come in various ways, sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days. and some take years to fully unfold the harvest of love and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers come in various forms, sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms. some blossom early and some blossom late, but each one will flower - have faith and wait!

Helen Inwood
"His Mysterious Ways"



2021 SEPTEMBER

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:

Surgery:

Recovering:

- April Lanning
- Phillis Infante
- Della Kilgore
- Nancy Waltz

Testing:

- Larry Guthrie 8/18/21
- Jim Lanning 7/10/21
- Jim Roemer 4/20/21

Friends of Concordia

- Tami Economou 8/17/21
- Bill Gascoigne 8/16/21
- Rev. Jacob Sutton 8/3/21
- Rose Swenson 7/27/21
- Jim Spray 7/12/21
- Anne Perkinson 7/1/21
- Brynn Dunlap 4/20/21
- Renae Barrett 3/19/21
- Peter Economou 1/27/21
- Travis Golden 1/10/21
- Susan Soggs 1/7/21
- Rev. Howard Fabricius 1/2/21
- Alexis McKeand 11/8/20
- Judy Heine 8/17/20
- 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
- Brandon Frederking 5/2/19
- Steve Stephenson 4/28/19
- Thomas Taylor 1/20/19
- Thomas Clark 12/16/18
- Marcella Dickmeyer 6/19/18
- Anne Kaiser 6/15/18
- Erika Hannaman - 1/28/15

Battling Cancer / MS

- Janine Orr 8/16/21
- Stephanie Frye 7/2/21
- Sloane Bullman 5/13/21
- Brandi Soggs 1/9/20
- Angela Martin 9/8/17
- Philip Davis 12/12/16

Our Homebound Members
(Our Senior Prayer Warriors)

Please remember and pray for our Concordia homebound members.

- Kathy Carroll, 515 Tropic Ct., Apt. 1504, Indianapolis IN 46237
- 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 183 S Smock Dr. #110, Greenwood, IN 46143
- Cathy McClure, 3933 Creekwood Dr., Greenwood, IN 46142

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

Ensign **Chloe Owen**, 650 Americana Drive Unit T2, Annapolis MD 21403

Zach Goins, 761 Fordham Rd., Grovetown, GA 30813 (Navy Reserve)

Congratulations:



To **Andrew and Emily McNally** at the birth of a baby girl, **Mary Ann McNally**, born at Indianapolis IN on August 9, 2021. May the Lord bless mother and child

and preserve the infant for the blessed re-birth of Holy Baptism.



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

- **Diane Smith and family** at the passing of her sister-in-law **Denise Crane** age 68 on

8/8/21 of Plainfield IN. (1346 Garden Terrace Ave., Greenwood IN)

Treasurer's Report

July 2021

Income Description	July 2020 4 Sundays	July 2021 4 Sundays	Total To date (30) Sun
Unified Budget	18,422.00	21,872.00	180,828.35
Memorials (Non-designated)			5,288.00
Memorials (Designated)			
Designated Gifts *	733.94	1,329.07	8,715.01
Reimbursements & Refunds **	2,539.64		185.78
Rents & Wedding Fees	120.00		195.00
TOTAL INCOME		23,201.07	195,212.14
Average per/week Unified Budget	\$ 4,605.50	\$ 5,468.00	\$ 6,027.61
Amount needed per/week for Unified Budget	\$ 6,630.00	\$ 6,630.00	

* Altar Flowers \$ 50, Building Fund \$ 240, Christian Education \$ 120, Concordia Cares \$ 80, Fellowship 15 \$ 3, Internet Access \$ 57.68, Landscaping \$ 100, LWCC \$ 10, LWCC Mites \$20, Pennies from Heaven (Tuzla) \$ 33.39, Southside Times \$ 5, We Raise Foundation \$ 10, Youth Group \$ 10, Youth Group Fund Raiser, cake pops \$590.

** Reimbursements & Refunds: Pre-school state & federal \$

Expenses Boards	July 2020	July 2021	Total To date
Pastoral Care	6,758.16	7,392.82	51,780.52
Congregational Worship	612.99	620.64	7,374.01
Missions and Outreach	697.50	697.50	4,887.50
Christian Education	5,898.31	6,418.23	41,525.32
Stewardship	91.49	90.41	428.80
Operations	7,351.59	10,413.34	68,796.42
Small Group Ministries			
Christian Living			334.89
Unified Budget Total	21,410.04	25,632.94	175,127.46
Non-boards			
Non budget payments			12.97
Reimbursement Expenses **	91.01	2,037.11	4,387.16
Total Non-Budget Payments	91.01	2,037.11	4,400.13
Total payments	21,501.05	27,670.05	179,527.59

Non budget payments: .

** Reimbursement Expenses: Bethesda \$ 60, Pennies from Heaven - Tuzla \$188.33, Preschool Federal taxes \$68.84, Preschool Indiana Taxes \$19.94, Tree Trimming \$1,600, Tuzla Mission \$30, We Raise \$ 70.

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	June 2020	June 2021	Total to date
Missions— District Synod	500.00	500.00	3,500.00
Lutheran High School	750.00	750.00	5,250.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry Indy*	187.50	187.50	1,312.50
Total Support	1,437.50	1,437.50	10,062.50

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

	SS	HS	ADULT
8/1/21	3	2	24
8/8/21	6	5	25
8/15/21	4	6	23
8/22/21	5	4	20
8/29/21			

Church checking account balance July 2021

Beginning	65,513.50
Deposits	23,201.07
Payments	27,670.05
Ending balance	61,044.52

Worship	2020	2021	Tithes
8/1/21	67	87	5,645.00
8/8/21	88	100	3,472.00
8/15/21	90	81	3,429.00
8/22/21	76	81	2,995.00
8/29/21			

Sunday attendance includes Monday pm worship.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	LCEF Balance June 30, 2021
Anniversaries & Birthday	4,913.66
Board of Youth— (Trip)	7,495.89
Building Fund	9,903.29
Capital Improvements - \$ 2,728.81 Church sign - \$ 945.82 Church Landscaping - \$ 975.93 Heine Family Project - \$ 5,004.76	9,655.32
Concordia Cares	5,605.08
Pre-School Landscaping & Gardening	2,366.50
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	39,939.74
Interest earned	4.06

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

9/5 Living, Mighty, Active Faith
9/12 Who is my Neighbor?
9/19 Scrapped Gifts
9/26 Seeking the Welfare of the Neighborhood

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

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

Christian Living

September Wedding Anniversaries

Steve & Janet Bertsch (57) 9/1
Gene & Nancy Waltz (47) 9/1/73
Dieter & Demetria Tepner (54) 9/3
Kenneth & Darlene Jensen (55) 9/4
Vince & Wendy DeFabis (34) 9/5
Don & Lynn Dombroski (45) 9/13
Jim & Becky Lanning (47) 9/14
Jennifer & Adam Musgrove (5) 9/17
David & Suellen Dehnke (29) 9/19
Mark & Marilyn Lawler (35) 9/27

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September Birthdays:

Distler, Albi	9/2	Herbst, Abigail	9/18
Barnes, Pat	9/2	Reinke, Stacy	9/18
Crouch, Gaby	9/4	Johnson, Georgieanne	9/18
Yeater, Jayme	9/4	Boesenberg, Don	9/21
Hartley, Bryan	9/6	Distler, Allen	9/21
Herbst, Bob	9/9	Chaudhary, Alex	9/21
McClure, Cathy	9/11	Roemer, Jim	9/22
Waltz II, Gene	9/11	Slemons, Sherry	9/25
Mihu, Kaitlin	9/13	Beam-Garland Dianne	9/29
Stephenson, Gini	9/14		
Coffey, Jessica	9/16		

The Concordia Messenger

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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*

President

Dick Brooks

President-Elect

Dean Owen

Vice President

Mike Finger

Vice President / Asst. Treasure

Don Boesenberg

Recording Secretary

Lynn Dombroski

Treasurer

John Bertsch

Board for Christian Education

Linda Snyder

Board for Christian Living

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

Adele Tinsley

Board for Stewardship

Diana Sullivan

Financial Secretary

Rose Mihu

THE Concordia Messenger

September 2021



**Concordia Lutheran Church
& Preschool**

305 N Howard Road, Greenwood, IN 46142

