

# THE Concordia Messenger



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

Mar 2023



**Quilting** - We have started a new year to prepare for the next LWR shipment so we need to get busy. If you can sew together tops at home it will help us get a good start. If you would like to come to the church and sew we have two machines and bags of kits to put together. Don't sew?, then come and tie knots in the quilts we have ready, see you **March 11 at 9am** weather permitting.



Large Grant #6 (LWML Indiana District Convention 2022)

## **Voice of Care, Respite and Companion Care Training – \$10,000**

Since 606,800 of Indiana's 6.6 million people have provided care for an adult or child for an extended time during the last twelve months, the need for caregiver respite is critical. LCMS churches in Indiana can step in the gap and provide needed short-term respite care while modeling and sharing the love of Christ but must rely on external sources to obtain training and resources to accomplish this. *Voice of Care*, established in 2003 as a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, is dedicated to equipping the church to nurture people with disabilities and their caregivers. VOC will provide Christ-centered instruction, resources, and coaching to help participants share Jesus' love with family caregivers in desperate need of respite.

2021-2023 LWML Mission Grant #19 (Lexington Convention)

## **Sharing Jesus' Love in India – Lutheran Braille Workers – \$100,000**

Lutheran Braille Workers requested a reallocation of funds for Mission Grant #19 in August

2022. Three main issues prohibit outreach in India currently: the Covid-19 virus's long-term impact, Indian government regulations, and global supply chain issues. However, God has provided a new opportunity for Lutheran Braille Workers in Central and South America, with orders for Spanish Braille Bible from United Bible Societies. The first order of 500 Bibles for Argentina is 22,000 volumes of God's Word. Today Lutheran Braille Workers is the last ministry in the world mass-producing Spanish Braille Bibles.

The LWML Board of Directors met in October 2022 and approved the change from India to Central and South America. (The LWML by-laws provide for an amended grant or reallocation of funds when there is a change after selection at a convention.)

Ladies, mark your calendars for the **Spring Social** for the congregation's women on April 30, 2 p.m. *Soul Purpose*, a group of six women, will provide entertainment of music from the 50s and 60s. A free-will offering will help cover the expenses. More details next month.

**Lenten Project:** Please check the LWCC bulletin board for information about our project to assemble 10 Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Leave your donation in the cubbies to the right of the office door (the Noah Room).

**2023 LWML National Convention** is this June. 5 ladies from Concordia will be attending. On our bulletin board you will see a long strip of paper called GIFTS FROM THE HEART. Please take one and consider getting some of the items on the list and returning them to the Noah room where we will sort and then take them with us to convention. You will recognize Phil's friends, MOST Ministries and Orphan Grain Train plus a new one, Refuge for Women. Please bring them in before June 9, 2023 - thanks.

# Retreat Invitation

Who: LWML members and Ladies IN.  
What: Spring Retreat "Springing Forth New"  
When: April 14 and 15, 2023  
Where: Brown County Inn, Nashville, IN  
How: Our Speakers are the Rev. Lewis King and his wife Joy King.  
Why: To enliven and encourage our faith

Please join us! You may register online using this link:

[Springing Forth New LWML Spring Retreat](#)

If you want to make a reservation at the Brown County Inn, you may register online at [Brown County Inn Website](#) or call 1-800-772-5249 and use the Promo code 0533 to receive the special room LWML Indiana District rate for our retreat.

## Director Christian Education

Dear Members:

Everyone has bittersweet moments in their life. One of mine is the last time I sang *Who Put His Trust In God Most Just* with Concordia Chicago's Wind Symphony. It is a Bach chorale. This is and has been the encore song of the CUC's Wind Symphony for years. It's something that has tied generations of musicians together. If they've been in Wind Symphony with Doc Fisher, they've sung this song.

The lyrics and music are nothing earth shattering, but now they're nostalgic for me. I think of them especially in Lent because of the penitent music. The song can be found on Youtube. The lyrics we always sang were:

Who puts his trust; In God most just;  
Hath built his house securely; He who relies;  
On Jesus Christ; Shall reach his heaven most surely;  
Then fixed on Thee; My Trust shall be;  
For Thy truth cannot alter; While mine Thou art;  
Not death's worst smart; Can make my courage falter.

It's comforting to remember God's Words and love for us never changes. It's comforting to know Jesus loved us so much. His courage didn't falter before OUR punishment, during OUR punishment, or after OUR punishment. Jesus willingly suffered in OUR place because of HIS great love for us.



When we trust in our unchanging God, we trust in God's faithfulness, God's love, God's mercy, and God's Word. Not in something broken or fleeting. In this season of penitence, and

every season, may we, "lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

Sarah Shadday, DCE



From  
your  
Pastor

Dear Saints,

### Private Confession & Absolution: An Antidote for Guilt and Apathy

I had a unique experience as a pastor the other day. A member stopped by and asked about a time for Individual Confession & Absolution. A member asking for Private Confession!?

I can count on one hand how many times that has happened. Then, a few days later, another member called and asked about the same thing! The timing of the two was not at all related. But it prompts me to speak more on this matter.

### “But isn’t that a Catholic thing?”

Private Confession is associated with the Catholic Church. You tell a priest your sins, and he gives you *penance*, that is, works to prove you have a contrite heart, typically in the form of saying extra prayers. To non-Catholics, this private confession seems legalistic and ungentle.

Talk to a devout Catholic, and they may have a much more positive view of why they go to confession. I won’t presume to speak for Catholics: I’ll teach what we believe and practice as Lutherans.

Simply put, Private Confession is a neglected gift and tool for many Christians today.

The first question that usually comes up is, “Why do I *need* this? Don’t I already have forgiveness from Jesus?”. Yes. But I would encourage us to sidestep this frame of questioning. This is not about obligation. Again, Private Confession is a *gift*, a tool for us in our repentance.

Asking if something is a *need* is asking for legalism. Should we ask if we *need* Baptism, Communion, to come to church, to have a pastor, to gather with other Christians? Should we ask how often we *need* to pray?

When it comes to *need*, Jesus told Martha that Mary had chosen the one thing that is *necessary*: sitting at Jesus’ feet (Luke 10:42).

When God blesses us, whether it’s through Baptism, Communion, or the general gathering of the saints, we value these things because it is where we have an opportunity to metaphorically sit at Jesus’ feet and receive from him. This is the case too with Confession and Absolution.

### John 20: The Office of the Keys

We do a general Confession & Absolution at the beginning of our Divine Service. This is as valid and effective as any private confession to those who come as we say: “...with a true heart, beseeching (requesting) Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness”. We do this in accordance with Jesus words in John 20, when he appeared to the apostles after his resurrection:

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace

be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

A major part of the role of called pastors is publically exercising this key given by Jesus. The Key is really Christ himself, his death has unlocked the penalty of sins for those who repent. He gives this key to his church to share; to announce to the repentant that they are truly free, but warning the unrepentant that their sins are still “locked”.

This forgiveness is granted in our general confession. We can always share it with each other on a personal level. But there is another option available.

### Vocal Repentance and Vocal Absolution

Again, part of the pastor’s role is to be an undershepherd of Jesus’ flock. We have the opportunity to go confess our sins before our pastor. Vocalizing this confession, rather than simply saying it in our head as we often do when we pray, and knowing that someone else is hearing it has a powerful effect on the body and soul. You might think of how helpful it can be to have a close friend to confide in.

When we confess to a pastor, he is acting as one who is called to listen as with God’s ears, and to pronounce direct and intimate words of absolution. What a blessing to receive vocal & tangible absolution, especially for those specific sins which we couldn’t possibly imagine saying out loud to anyone else! And the pastor guards the words he heard confessed, that they would never be repeated, as if they were heard by God alone.

You might be reminded of the account of Nathan confronting David about his sins with Bathsheba & Uriah. God worked through is prophet to personally confront David, and it lead to a beautiful repentance, as we know well in the words of Psalm 51.

God loves a contrite and returning heart. In contrast, Satan loves not just when we sin, but when we try to hide it! First he tempts us to sin, then he tempts us to believe it's best just to bury those sins deep down.

They never go away, and they will lead to a spiritual festering. Satan can then lay on us guilt and shame, and make us wonder if God could possibly still love us. At these times, we may pray to God about it, oftentimes just in our head, or maybe out loud. Either way, it's easy to get distracted, to be overcome with that guilt or shame, and we may leave our prayers unsure of what God thinks of us.

That's why he sent his Word in the scriptures, as well as shepherds with authority to teach it when we doubt. What you may feel or think during times of guilt is subjective and wavering. But God's Word is not. And when you fail to read or believe the words on the page, God sends a personal shepherd, a pastor, to preach these words more intimately for you. The pastor is to help reason with you through your sins, acknowledging their severity, but then proclaiming how much more precious is the Blood of the Lamb to pay for any and all of these sins.

After confessing to your pastor, he won't assign penance. But he will talk with you about what can be done moving forward. It may mean apologizing to others, and working to make things right. Works do follow our repentant faith; they are inevitably moved by it.

### Confessing our Apathy

Private Confession is a wonderful gift for those "really bad sins". But it can also lift us out of a spiritual rut from those not-quite-so-bad sins, but the ones that keep adding up and we just don't seem to be doing any better. Private Confession can aid us here too.

Christians are especially prone to fall into a spiritual apathy. It goes like this: We know we're sinners, we know Jesus loves us and forgives us, and we know that despite all of this we'll continue to fall into sin no matter how much we try. So why try so hard?

When we focus on this logic, we're lulled into apathy, thinking we can basically do whatever we want, as long as it's not TOO bad, and we're going to be forgiven anyway. After all, who can recount all of their sins anyway? Why bother doing it much at all?

This is not the Holy Spirit at work in us, but our sinful flesh.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor, called this cheap grace:

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance...absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

If we are struggling with a sort of stale and apathetic spirit, then Private Confession is a good antidote! Go and make your lips utter your sins, especially your apathy, and own the feelings of remorse and guilt that should accompany! But then hear clearly the absolution: "In the stead and by the *command* of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

And then believe these words, and pray that the Holy Spirit would break your cold and stoney heart, that by faith you would be moved to live better.

Do we *need* Private Confession & Absolution? It's just not the right question. But we have so much to gain by it. Another opportunity to receive from our Lord. Consider it, pray about it, and if you feel so moved, reach out to your pastor about receiving this blessing.

In Christ,  
Pastor Paul Gaschler



We pray the peace of Christ and the hope of the resurrection to: **Diana Sullivan and family** at the passing of her brother **Donald Buuck** on 2/19/23. (655 Covered Bridge Rd, Greenwood IN 46142)

## INTERCESSION and PRAYER,

### Concordia Members

Recently Hospitalized:

- Cindy Boesenberg

Surgery:

- Diane Beam-Garland

Testing / Recovery:

- Cindy Emkes
- Liam & Lucas Moreth
- Becky Horn
- Tommy Ragsdale

### Friends of Concordia

- Nancy Hogan 2/1/23 (Jessie Moreth's grandmother)
- Family members and Konny Hanneman; Sandy Risner 11/13/22, Hazel, Levi, Joshua & Savannah Bragdon 11/13/22, Marianne & Charles Huckleberry 12/21/21 Sylvia, Steve & Nicole Perrish 12/21/21
- Terry & Diana Deamron 9/10/22
- Beverly Stephens 8/20/22
- Anthony Joel Rubio 8/18/22
- Terry Haskett 5/15/22
- Jayleigh Meyers 5/11/22
- Missy Golden 4/20/22
- Austin & Travis Golden 4/20/22
- Sophia Rubio 2/6/22
- Judy Heine 11/22/21
- Pat Brooks 9/23/21
- Tami Economou 8/17/21
- Bill Gascoigne 8/16/21
- Rev. Jacob Sutton 8/3/21
- Rose Swenson 7/27/21
- Anne Perkinson 7/1/21
- Peter Economou 1/27/21
- Susan Soggs 1/7/21
- Rev. Howard Fabricius 1/2/21
- Minna 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
- Anne Kaiser 6/15/18

### Battling Cancer / MS

- Rev. Samuel Ruiz 2/20/23
- Marcia Covert 11/13/22
- Kelsey Merena 10/25/22
- Amanda Gurvitz 9/4/2022
- David Buuck 9/27/21
- Janine Orr 8/16/21
- Brandi Soggs 1/9/20
- Angela Martin 9/8/17

### Our Homebound Members

(Our Senior Prayer Warriors)

Please remember and pray for our Concordia homebound members.

- Bob & Sharon Bruhn, 628 Brook Dr., Greenwood IN 46143
- Kathy Carroll, 6530 Capricorn Dr., Apt 2702, Indianapolis IN 46237
- Konny Hannemann, 6818 Cadwell Circle, Indianapolis IN 46237
- Duane Krall, Demaree Crossing Assisted Living & Memory Care, #12, 1255 Demaree Rd., Greenwood, IN 46143

Non-member shut-ins being visited & communed:

- Gail Reinke 8517 Ridge Hill Dr., Indianapolis IN 46217

### Please pray for our Military Servicemen & women.

**Erica Stephenson**, Army, National Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class **Jordan Boling**, 302 Windemere Dr., Kingsland, GA 31548 Ensign **Chloe (Owen) Munoz**, 5757 Staples St., Apt 2318, Corpus Christi, TX 78413 **Zach Goins**, 761 Fordham Rd., Grovetown, GA 30813 (Navy Reserve) **Jadon Ranbarger** (LCPL J Ranbarger) Marine Barracks 8th & I Streets SE, Washington, DC 20003 (USMC)



### Congratulations:

May the Lord bless mother and children and preserve the infants for the blessed rebirth of Holy Baptism.

- Zack & Alexis, birth of son Payton James on 2/14/23.

Free Senior Movie at the  
Artcraft Theater  
March 16 @ 1:30 pm

**The Quiet Man** starring John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara, and Barry Fitzgerald.

Tickets will ONLY be distributed at the Artcraft Theatre beginning when the doors open at 12:30 pm March 16.

This is open and free to anyone 55 or older courtesy of Swartz Family Community Mortuary. Free small popcorn and beverage courtesy of Astral at Franklin.

# Treasurer's Report

January 2023

Income Description	Jan 2022 5 Sundays	Jan 2023 5 Sundays	Total To date (5) Sun
Unified Budget	20,462.00	23,333.00	23,333.00
Memorials (Non-designated)	130.00		
Memorials (Designated)			
Designated Gifts *	922.49	789.75	778.75
Reimbursements & Refunds **	271.44	298.95	298.95
Rents & Wedding Fees	75.00	3.00	3.00
Miscellaneous ***	26,860.93	10.00	10.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>24,424.70</b>	<b>24,424.70</b>
Average per/week Unified Budget	\$ 4,092.40	\$ 4,666.60	\$ 4,666.60
Amount needed per/week for Unified Budget	\$ 6,476.00	\$ 6,446.42	

\* Building Fund \$ 150, Concordia Cares \$ 102, Fellowship 15 \$ 27.49, Hope-Full Living \$ 55.50, Initial Envelopes \$87, Internet Access \$ 68.17, Landscaping \$ 75, LWCC \$ 10, LWML Mites \$20, Pennies from Heaven (Tuzla) \$ 38.09, Poinsettias \$10, Sacristy Renovation \$100, Southside Times \$ 12.50, Tuesday PM Bible study book \$ 4, We Raise Foundation \$ 10, Youth Group \$ 10.

\*\* Reimbursements & Refunds  
Preschool Federal and State taxes \$ 298.95.

\*\*\* Miscellaneous: Purchase of books \$10.

Expenses Boards	Jan 2022	Jan 2023	Total To date
Pastoral Care	9,435.57	6,041.19	6,041.19
Congregational Worship	933.07	739.67	739.67
Missions and Outreach	700.00	687.50	687.50
Christian Education	6,268.41	6,048.75	6,048.75
Stewardship	100.49	114.23	114.23
Operations	10,997.89	9,191.14	9,191.14
Small Group Ministries		41.36	41.36
Christian Living		570.00	570.00
<b>Unified Budget Total</b>	<b>28,435.43</b>	<b>23,433.84</b>	<b>23,433.84</b>
<b>Non-boards</b>			
Non budget payments *			
Reimbursement Expenses **	371.44	3,113.95	3,113.95
<b>Total Non-Budget Payments</b>	<b>371.44</b>	<b>3,113.95</b>	<b>3,113.95</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>28,806.87</b>	<b>26,547.79</b>	<b>26,547.79</b>

\* Non budget Payments:

\*\*Reimbursement expenses: Folding Machine Purchase \$ 2,815, Preschool Fed. taxes \$ 229.50, Preschool Indiana taxes \$ 69.45.

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	Jan 2022	Jan 2023	Total to date
Missions— District Synod	500.00	500.00	500.00
Lutheran High School	750.00	750.00	750.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry Indy*	187.50	187.50	187.50
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>1,437.50</b>	<b>1,437.50</b>	<b>1,437.50</b>

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	LCEF Balance Jan 31, 2023
Anniversaries & Birthday	4,391.32
Board of Youth— (Trip)	7,056.74
Building Fund	17,696.63
Capital Improvements - \$ 7,252.55 Church sign - \$ 949.75 Church Landscaping - \$ 859.18 Heine Family Project - \$ 1,689.54	10,751.02
Concordia Cares	3,356.11
Inheritance Fund	211,258.08
Pre-School Landscaping & Gardening	1,640.91
<b>Total in LCEF Steward Accounts</b>	<b>256,150.81</b>
<b>Interest earned</b>	<b>135.80</b>

Our Spiritual Response in Worship, Bible Study and Giving to our Lord				
	SS	HS	ADULT	
1/29	10	6	31	
2/5	7	5	31	
2/12	5	4	23	
2/19	10	5	24	
2/26				

Worship	2022	2023	Tithes
1/29	83	100	6,969.00
2/5	84	100	3,946.00
2/12	88	103	2,897.00
2/19	84	88	5,661.00
2/22 aw			
2/26			

Church checking account balance Jan 2023	
Beginning	61,402.65
Deposits	4,137.00
Payments	26,547.79
Ending balance	38,991.86

Note: \$ 23,692.70 January deposits made February 1, 2023 bringing balance to 62,684.56.

## 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

**3/5 An Arresting Encounter**  
**3/12 Thirsting for Life**  
**3/19 Bad Karma vs. Good Creator**  
**3/26 Is God Missing in Action**

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

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

## Christian Living

**March Wedding Anniversaries:** David & Erica Stephenson (29) 3/17 Mike & Anne Finger (45) 3/25

**March Birthdays:**

Crouch, Lucas	3/6		
Foster, Fred	3/7	Fonseth, Marta	3/20
Hartley, Samuel	3/11	Ronczka, Scott	3/21
Bertsch, John	3/13	Shadday, Hannah	3/21
Guthrie, Larry	3/14	Hayes, Jim	3/22
Thompson, Courtney	3/14	Marot, Sarah	3/22
	3/15	Infante, Phillis	3/22
Frey, Isaac	3/15	Brooks, Thomas	3/24
Everson, Ruth	3/16	Owen, Ben	3/24
Guinn, April	3/16	Boling, Jordan	3/29
Guthrie, Anne	3/17	Judd, Helen	3/31
Liechty, Jason	3/17		
Wilson, Dave	3/17		
Shadday, Sarah	3/19		

### *The Concordia Messenger*

*Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
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 Greenwood, IN 46142-3836

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**E-mail:** office@concordia-lcms.com  
**Website:** http://www.concordia-lcms.com



**Sunday Worship Services**  
 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes**  
 10:30 a.m.

**Monday Worship Service**  
 6:30 p.m.



**Pastor**  
*Rev. Paul R. G. Gaschler*

**Staff**  
**Sarah Shadday**—*Director Christian Education*  
**Erica Stephenson** - *Deaconess*  
**Sarah Shadday**,—*Preschool Director*  
**Becky Lanning**—*Office Manager*

Office hours Mon. - Thur. 9am-3pm

**President**

Dick Brooks

**President-Elect**

Dean Owen

**Vice President**

Mike Finger

**Vice President / Asst. Treasure**

Don Boesenberg

**Recording Secretary**

Diana Sullivan

**Treasurer**

John Bertsch

**Board for Christian Education**

Linda Snyder

**Board for Missions & Outreach**

Diane Conrad

**Board for Operations**

Andrew McNally

**Board for Pastoral Care**

Mike Emkes

**Board for Stewardship**

Diana Sullivan

**Financial Secretary**

Rose Mihu



### Lenten Midweek Services

- March 1, Lent Midweek Service 2, 6:30 p  
Lent Midweek suppers - all at 5:30 p
- March 8, Lent Midweek Service 3, 6:30 p  
March 15, Lent Midweek Service 4, 6:30 p
- March 22, Lent Midweek Service 5, 6:30 p
- March 29, Lent Midweek Service 6, 6:30 p

### Holy Week

- April 2, Palm Sunday
- April 6, Maundy Thursday, Worship with Holy Communion, 6:30 p
- April 7, Good Friday Tenebrae, 6:30 p
- April 8, Easter Sunday 7 am & 10 am  
Easter Breakfast 8:15 am



# THE Concordia Messenger

66th Edition

March 2023



305 N Howard Road, Greenwood, IN 46142

**Concordia Lutheran Church  
& Preschool**