

# THE Concordia Messenger



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

December 2023

## Sunday, December 17th, 2023

we will host 2 celebrations during the Sunday School hour at Concordia in Fellowship Hall. The first will be our Church Christmas Party, the second will be Becky's retirement celebration. We would love the whole congregation to celebrate with us after church on **Sunday, December 17th**, even if you can only be there for 10 minutes.

As many know, Becky will be retiring at the end of the month. She has faithfully served God's people at Concordia for twenty-two years. As a true servant of God and His people, she doesn't want a large fanfare or celebration. However, we know she is someone worth celebrating and that is what we are going to do. We'll have special food and a recognition for Becky and her years of service along with our normal Christmas Party programming.

If you would like to help with this celebration, there are a few things you can do:

- Write a special note or card to Becky and put it in our collection box starting December 3rd. We will give her the cards during her celebration on **December 17th**.
- Help set up and/or clean up for our celebrations, contact Gail Brooks to help with this.
- Contact Ruth Everson for the Sign Up Genius link if you can make a quick bread (pumpkin bread, zucchini bread, banana bread, etc.) or would like to bring fruit.

The biggest thing you can do is come and celebrate Becky's years of service and the Christmas season with us.

**Advent dinners** On December 6th and 13th we'll have dinners before the Advent services from 5pm-6:15pm. Look for a sign up in the lobby to see how you can help. On December 20th, there will be no meal, but a cookie reception will follow the service in Fellowship Hall.



**Quilting** - See you in the new year, **Jan 13, 2024**, if the weather permits. Hope your Christmas Season is peaceful and blessed. What can you do? - you can sew together tops at home, 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.



**Sunday, Dec. 3**, at 2:30, the ladies of Concordia will gather to observe the beginning of Advent with a fellowship event. Soul Purpose will entertain us. Check the LWCC bulletin board if you are interested in helping to bake a dessert or decorate a table. Sign up for our ladies' Advent Tea on Sunday, Dec. 3, see the LWCC bulletin board.

Let us put the Focus on the One Who is CHRISTmas. Hear the harmonies of Soul Purpose.

2023-2025 LWML Mission Grant #3 (Milwaukee Convention)

**Serving God's Children with Special Needs — Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI — \$100,000**

## Director Christian Education

Despite our differences, challenges, and life experiences, we are all children of God. The mission of Journeys Lutheran School is to serve God's children ages eight to 21 with special needs such as attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, autism, anxiety, trauma, emotional behavior disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. For 60 years, the school in the Milwaukee area has prepared students to maximize their spiritual, academic, physical, emotional, and social potential to become successful Christian members of society. Students can earn a high school diploma and participate in meaningful cultural, historical, and spiritual events. Enrollment in the high school program is growing. This grant will help purchase two vans to transport high school students enrolled in the School-to-Work Internship Program and students taking elective classes at nearby Martin Luther High School.



Concordia  
Lutheran  
Preschool

“Our Preschool staff would like to thank Concordia for supporting our Preschool celebrations the past few months. We were so thankful to have around 10 Concordia volunteers come to help with our Preschool trick or treating. We would also like to thank the members who were able to help cook, serve, and clean up at our 3’s Thanksgiving Celebration and PreK Thanksgiving Feast. Another way our congregation can show support for our Preschool students is by attending Concordia’s third Advent service on December 20th at 6:30pm. Last year was the first time Concordia combined the Preschool Christmas Program and the Advent service. We had positive feedback, so we decided to combine them again this year.

Our Preschoolers will help tell the narrative of Christmas using costumes, Bible readings, and songs. The parents also benefit from having a combined service, because they get to hear more about the season of Advent than in our previous programs. The whole congregation is invited to join us at 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 20th for our Preschool Christmas Service. A cookie reception will follow the service in Fellowship Hall.



*Graduation is a BIG day for Journeys Lutheran students, just like kids at other schools. They are excited that one journey is ending and another is just beginning.*

*Praising God! Do you know Him? Our students do.*



*“What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild; The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!” “Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore; Lead past the angel’s flaming sword-Come, open heaven’s door.” What Hope!*

An Eden Prophesied vs 1 and 4 (Lutheran Service Book #342)

I always think of my uncle around Christmas. My uncle is a smart man. After attending a Christmas Eve service with him and my aunt, I remember him saying he learned what a manger was. I was shocked. I knew something this smart man didn't!

I forget, not everyone knows what “church words” mean. Eden. Prophet. Prophesied. Messiah. Advent. Narthex. Justification. Sanctification. Trinity. Sin. Sacrament. Begotten. Emmanuel. Sabbath. Sabbath. Covenant. Pharisee. Sadducee. Zealot. Samaritan. Bethlehem. Sacristy. Purificator. Pentecost. Epiphany. Salvation. Righteousness. Tabernacle. Good Works. Second Adam. Gospel.

Of course there are more and there are still words and concepts I come across that I don’t know what they mean. We should never be embarrassed to ask what something means, especially if it is related to faith. Church needs to be a safe place for all to ask questions and grow in their God given faith. We also should all be able to explain our faith simply.

God created and made a perfect world. We can see what God desired for his world and people in the first two chapters of Genesis, the first book of the Bible. God gave his people the opportunity to listen to Him and follow His one rule, don’t eat from a certain tree in the Garden of Eden. The Garden of Eden was a beautiful place where he put mankind to live and work. Adam and Eve were the first people God created. They decided not to listen to God and ate from the tree they were told not to eat from. Disobeying God is called sin. Because Adam and Eve didn’t listen to God, there would be a few punishments. One being, Adam and Eve were not allowed back into the Garden of Eden, this perfect place God made special for them. God put an angel (messenger) with a flaming sword to guard the entrance so Adam and Eve *could not return*. Another punishment for sin is *death*. However, God also promised one who would restore, make right, the relationship between God and His creation and people.

This is Jesus, the Savior, the one who would make everything right again. This is who we celebrate at Christmas. This is the one who will bring us back into a full relationship with God and bring us to live with him in heaven, the place where God dwells. This will be a place of no more pain, suffering, or tears. No more separation from God.

The Advent season is a time of waiting. We remember the time before Jesus was born that the people waited for the Savior.

Adam and Eve and all the people in the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible, waited for the Savior. Through the Bible, we learn about Jesus, the one from Adam’s, Jesse’s (King David’s father), and King David’s lineage would come to save us. How the one born in Bethlehem, the city where David was from, would come save us. How Jesus is the one to fulfill all the prophecies about the Savior. God told the people waiting for the Savior to wait for the one that would be related to certain people, would be born from a virgin, would be born in Bethlehem, would heal those who couldn’t walk and were blind, and more. The Bible shows us Jesus is the fulfillment of all those prophecies. Jesus is the one we are waiting for because He did all the things God told us the Savior, the one to restore the relationship between God and His creation, would do. Jesus would do this by his death on the cross and his resurrection (God bringing him back from the dead). Now, all believers can rally or come together at the cross, knowing Jesus as our Savior.

We are waiting for Jesus, the Messiah (anointed one, chosen one) to come back for us. He is in heaven preparing a place for us. He will lead us into heaven’s door. He will take us past those who would stop us from entering the special place God made for us.

In Advent, we celebrate the anticipation of our Savior. During the Christmas season, we celebrate God, Jesus, coming in the flesh. In Epiphany, we celebrate Jesus revealing himself as God through His Word and works. May we all take time during the Advent and Christmas seasons to learn more about our Savior, explain God’s Word to others plainly, and celebrate God and his works and promises.

Sarah Shadday  
Director Christian Education



Thank you to everyone who was able to give to the Giving tree families, both the thanksgiving baskets and the gifts. It was greatly appreciated. Continued blessing to you and yours this Christmas Season.



## INTERCESSION and PRAYER,

### Concordia Members

Recently Hospitalized:

- Rev. Leonard Neumann

Surgery:

Testing / Recovery:

- Diane Smith
- Anne Finger
- Edie Masters
- David Stephenson
- Peter Eonomou
- Tommy Ragsdale

### Friends of Concordia

- Rowan Meyers 11/12/23
- Alexandria Carrier 9/1/23
- Brad Rice 8/9/23
- Charlie Henrickson 6/30/23
- Connie Henderson 5/14/23
- Rick Wildrick 3/30/23
- Judy Milles 2/22/23
- 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
- Rose Swenson 7/27/21
- Anne Perkinson 7/1/21
- 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

### Battling Cancer / MS

- Jamie Horn 7/20/23
- Kelsey Merena 10/25/22
- David Buuck 9/27/21
- Janine Orr 8/16/21
- Brandi Soggs 1/9/20

### 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
- Konny Hannemann, 6818 Cadwell Circle, Indianapolis IN 46237

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

**LTJG Chloe (Owen) Munoz**, 501 B Corsair Dr., Milton, FL 32570

Ivan Munoz, USS Gravelly, Mediterranean Sea)

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

**Jadon Ranbarger** (LCPL Jadon Ranbarger, c/o 6565-A Kekahuna Pl., Kailua, HI 96734)

## Jesus' Eschatological Discourse Bible



class and sermons on Matthew 24-25. At the start of November, we began a Bible class on Jesus' Eschatological Discourse on the end times in Mat-

thew 24-25. We will continue this class at the end of November and into December on Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

Jesus concludes his discourse in Matthew 25 with these three sections:

The Parable of the Ten Virgins (25:1-13)

The Parable of the Talents (25:14-30)

The Sheep and the Goats (25:31-46)

These then will be the texts for three sermons: Sunday, Nov. 26, Wednesday, Dec. 6, and Wednesday, Dec. 13, respectively.

# Treasurer's Report

October 2023

Income Description	Oct 2022 4 Sundays	Oct 2023 5 Sundays	Total To date (44) Sun
Unified Budget	23,070.00	23,339.55	256,041.94
Memorials (Non-designated)			50.00
Memorials (Designated)			20.00
Designated Gifts *	742.38	1,633.15	14,289.39
Reimbursements & Refunds **	488.30	533.64	3,632.67
Rents & Wedding Fees		120.00	718.00
Miscellaneous ***			147,328.21
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>24,300.68</b>	<b>25,626.34</b>	<b>422,080.21</b>
Average per/week Unified Budget	\$ 4,614.00	\$ 4,667.91	\$ 5,819.14
Amount needed per/week for Unified Budget	\$ 6,476.00	\$ 6,570.00	

Expenses Boards	Oct 2022	Oct 2023	Total To date
Pastoral Care	8,256.27	1,341.92	71,063.88
Congregational Worship	618.36	661.15	7,557.51
Missions and Outreach	687.50	687.50	10,031.00
Christian Education	7,177.84	6,973.69	68,241.63
Stewardship			516.27
Operations	9,455.52	8,912.17	94,879.73
Small Group Ministries		72.89	537.93
Christian Living	128.98	66.54	1,402.48
<b>Unified Budget Total</b>	<b>26,324.47</b>	<b>18,715.86</b>	<b>254,230.43</b>
<b>Non-boards</b>			
Non budget payments *			
Reimbursement Expenses **	643.91	2,011.10	162,015.19
<b>Total Non-Budget Payments</b>	<b>643.91</b>	<b>2,011.10</b>	<b>162,015.19</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>26,966.38</b>	<b>20,726.96</b>	<b>416,245.62</b>

\* Beef & Board's tickets "Joseph" \$150, Building Fund \$180, Christian Ed \$100, Concordia Cares \$701, Flowers \$100, Fellowship 15 \$9.50, Hope-full Living \$55.50, Indian's Baseball Tickets \$265, LWCC \$10, LWML Quarterly \$7, Pennies from Heaven (Tuzla) \$35.15, We Raise Foundation \$10, Youth Group \$10  
 \*\* Reimbursements & Refunds: Pre-school Indiana & Federal taxes \$533.64.  
 \*\*\* Miscellaneous: .

\* Non budget Payments:  
 \*\*Reimbursement expenses: Bathroom remodeling (chair for women's restroom ) \$162.46, Concordia Cares \$650, Indians baseball tickets \$265, Preschool taxes Fed \$407.74, State \$125.90, Youth retreat \$400.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	LCEF Balance Oct 31, 2023
Anniversaries & Birthday	4,585.23
Board of Youth— (Trip)	7,089.80
Building Fund	18,656.29
Capital Improvements - \$ 9,541.76 Church sign - \$ 954.16 Church Landscaping - \$ 863.17 Heine Family Project - \$ 1,697.41	13,056.50
Concordia Cares	3,371.84
Inheritance Fund	123,428.68
Pre-School Landscaping & Gardening	146.87
<b>Total in LCEF Steward Accounts</b>	<b>170,335.21</b>
<b>Interest earned</b>	<b>93.28</b>

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Total to date
Missions— District Synod	500.00	500.00	5,000.00
Lutheran High School	750.00	750.00	7,500.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry Indy*	187.50	187.50	1,875.00
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>1,437.50</b>	<b>1,437.50</b>	<b>14,375.00</b>

Worship	2022	2023	Tithes
10/29	94	86	4,640.00
11/5	72	110	5,596.00
11/12	97	89	5,106.39
Congregational meeting	43	50	
11/19	89	95	5,461.00
11/22 T		tbd	2,120.00
11/26		tbd	

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

	SS	HS	ADULT
10/29			
11/5	10	5	36
11/12			
11/19			

## Church checking account balance Oct 2023

Beginning	65,742.86
Deposits	25,626.34
Payments	20,726.96
Ending balance	70,642.24

## 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

**12/3**      **Before They Call**  
**12/10**     **A-T Walker**  
**12/17**     **Life After Landing**  
**12/24**     **tbd**  
**12/31**     **tbd**

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:** 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**  
*vacant*

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

Office hours Mon. - Thur. 9am - noon

### December Wedding Anniversaries:

Jill & Don Scifres (42) 12/5  
 Dan & Diana Sullivan (49) 12/14  
 Doug & Heidi Kearns (39) 12/15  
 Shawn & Gabriele Reed (8) 12/19  
 Marvin & Linda Barkes (60) 12/28  
 Michael & Sarah Marot (29) 12/30

### December Birthdays:

Brooks, Gail	12/4	Bontrager, Shanda	12/16
Reed, Gabi	12/6	Krause, Sabrina	12/18
Thetford, Emily	12/6	Sullivan, Joe	12/18
Cummings, Donna	12/9	Forster, Chris	12/19
Dombroski, Don	12/10	Tinsley, Adele	12/24
Roncza, Laura	12/14	Ragsdale, Kris	12/27
Pardieck, Mike	12/15	Brooks, Chris	12/30
		Heine, Dawn	12/31

### Church Council

**President**  
 Bruce Markel

**Vice-President**  
 Chris Brooks

Mike Emkes, Elder

Mike Finger, Elder

Mike Ford

Emily McNally

Julia Yeater

**Recording Secretary**  
 Edie Masters

**Treasurer**  
 Tammy Owen

**Financial Secretary**  
 Carol Monroe

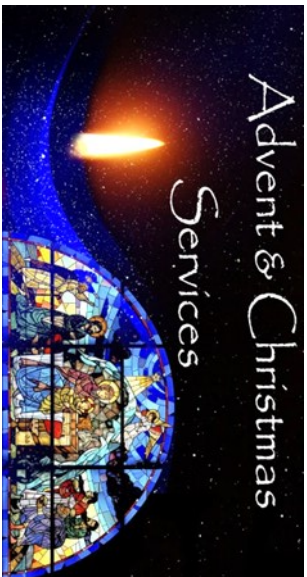


We pray the peace of Christ and the hope of the resurrection to:

- **Norma Krall** and family at the passing of her husband **Duane Krall**, age 89, of Greenwood on 11/20/23 (1597 Lacebark Dr., Unit B, Greenwood IN 46143)

# THE *Concordia Messenger*

December 2023



## Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday, December 3, 9:30 a.m.  
First Sunday in Advent

Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 p.m.  
Midweek Advent Service

Sunday, December 10, 9:30 a.m.  
Second Sunday in Advent

Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m.  
Midweek Advent Service

Sunday, December 17, 9:30 a.m.  
Third Sunday in Advent

Wednesday, December 20, 6:30 p.m.  
Midweek Advent Service with Preschool

Sunday, December 24, 9:30 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 24, 11:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Divine Service

Monday, December 25, 9:30 a.m.  
Christmas Day Festival Divine Service

Sunday, December 31, 9:30 a.m.  
First Sunday after Christmas



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