

THE Concordia Messenger



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

January 2024



Concordia
Lutheran
Preschool

January 21st-27th is National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW). This is the first year we will celebrate it at Concordia. What is NLSW? Well, let's let some experts answer that question:

“National Lutheran Schools Week is a time for connections. Students and classes connect in creative activities. Teachers and administrators intentionally connect with families. Schools and congregations connect in celebrating ministry partnerships. The Lutheran school connects with the local and broader community. School alumni connect with the blessings of the past and support for the future.

The most important connection is with Christ. National Lutheran Schools Week celebrates that Christ is the focus of the Lutheran school not only for a special week, but every day in every activity. This week's textual focus (John 15:1-5) declares that He is “the vine” and only by connecting to Him is there life and fruit.

Connections with Christ are always Trinitarian. The Father sends His only Son as the sacrifice for our sins. The Holy Spirit, promised by the Son, connects us to Him and blesses us with the fruits of faith. The connection between the three persons of the Trinity is emphasized during National Lutheran Schools Week. In the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, students, staff and partners celebrate the connection to the church and the commission to grow the kingdom. The Trinitarian emphasis invites a remembrance of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, where God first connects Himself to us in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit....

The “Connected” theme encourages Lutheran schools to strengthen connections. Jesus promises, “Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for

apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). Blessings on a fruitful National Lutheran Schools Week.” (2024 National Lutheran Schools Week- Resource Manual page 5)

We're planning to take some small steps to start celebrating NLSW this year. This includes having a special recognition of our Preschool teacher and assistants in church on January 21st.

We also need helpers for some special events during Preschool. On the 22nd and 23rd, we would like congregation members to share donuts with the parents and kids at drop off. This would take place in the Preschool garage. We also need some special readers for later in the week. Our Preschool kids will also make a special snack for our congregation members to have at Fellowship 15 on January 28th. Please, help us connect with our Preschool!

As always, please, continue to pray for our staff: Lori, Linda, and Paula as they share God's Word with the children at our Preschool. Also pray for all the Lutheran Preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, High Schools, colleges, and seminaries as they continue to share God's Word and help raise up Christian leaders in every generation.

Preschool Staff
and Sarah Shadday, DCE

Director Christian Education

My family listens to BBN (Bible Broadcast Network) in the car. About a month ago, one of their programs was talking about Ezra. The speaker mentioned how Ezra has trouble, “finding volunteers to handle the sacred.” I immediately thought, “We do too!”

There are two different returns to Jerusalem in the book of Ezra. The first return is covered in chapters 1-6 and the second in chapters 7-10 which takes place about 50 years later. In the first return to Jerusalem, 341 Levites (the Temple priests and helpers) return. This seems like a great number, but also consider 42,360 responded to Cyrus's invitation to return to Judah. It'll be best to let the commentaries explain, "After the lay people have been listed, various classes of temple workers are listed. According to 1 Chronicles 24 David had divided the priesthood into twenty-four orders. It appears that representatives of only four priestly orders returned with Zerubbabel. The Levites were also rather poorly represented. This poor representation and the special call for temple workers which Ezra issues in Ezra 8:15-17 suggest that the priests and Levites were especially reluctant to leave their new homes in Babylon." (Berg 18 People's Bible Commentary)



In Ezra 8:15-20, in the second return, Ezra discovers there are no Levites among the people. This would be distressing because in order to reform the temple services, he needs Levites. He sends delegations to recruit Levites and God blesses this endeavor. The Lutheran Study Bible says, "The Lord helps Ezra discover the Levites and temple servants whose roles at the temple were going unfulfilled." (LSB 733 Ezra 8:15-20).

In the first Wednesday Advent service, Pastor Henrickson preached on the Parable of the Talents. We all have talents, treasures, or time we can use to serve God and His people here at Concordia. The Church Council, Pastor, or myself don't always know when or where people would like to serve; we do, however, usually have a few things we can think of that need to be done. As Pastor encouraged, take the initiative to say you'd like to help, and we can surely find ways where you could help serve. In reading the commentaries for this article, I came across two beautiful prayers both for those serving in many roles and some serving in a few. Feel free to pray them now. "As then, the Lord gives each of us a role of service in our congregation. The services of God's house require our faithful support in

word and deed. When you are discouraged or overwhelmed by the needs of your congregation, entrust your cares to the Lord of heaven, who oversees all things for your benefit. He will bless you through the service of Word and Sacrament offered in His name. Dearest Father, grant me joy and contentment in my calling. Help me to see the greater purpose and need of my congregation. Amen." (Lutheran Study Bible 724 Note on Chapter 2)

"Today, each believer has a valuable role of service to fulfill in his or her church, whether leading or attending to other duties. Do not despise anyone's office of service, for any unfulfilled office disrupts the work of all. Along with your office, the Lord will grant you His Spirit and gifts, which will build you up. Lord, Your Son, Jesus, humbled Himself to serve us. Teach me my role in my congregation and equip me for every good work of my calling. Amen." (Lutheran Study Bible 733 Ezra 8:15-20).

We always need those willing to serve as altar guild, greeting on Sunday morning, choir members, Sunday School teachers, back up office help, people who can fix things, landscapers, and so much more. One prayer I have for Concordia is that God continues to send us who we need to fulfill the roles He has for His Church.

Sarah Shadday, DCE



Because of everyone's generously we were able to give The Refuge 1,786 food items. Thankyou and continue to be good stewards and love your neighbor even though you may not know them or see them face-to-

The month of January 2024 we will be collecting MITES for the last quarter of 2023. Please remember to bring them to church with you on Sundays and place in the big MITE box.





Your Vacancy Pastor

Since Pastor Gaschler took a call in mid-July, I have been filling in most Sundays as “pulpit supply guy.”

Now, starting in January, I will be your vacancy pastor. This means that, in addition to preaching and teaching, I will be making hospital visits, shut-in visits, etc. If you need to get in touch with me, here is my contact info:

henricksonc@yahoo.com (note spelling)
314-779-8108 (phone/text; note area code)

As your vacancy pastor, I want to be able to connect names with faces. Even if I have seen you around since July, I may be unsure of your name. If you have a name badge, I would appreciate it if you would wear it. And feel free to tell me your name until I've got it.

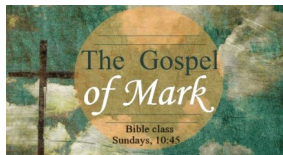
I will be your vacancy pastor, but I should add, health permitting. As most of you know, I have had some serious health issues in 2023. Where that will go in 2024, I do not know. But as long as I am physically able, I will be delighted to be your vacancy pastor!

Pastor Henrickson

New Bible class, starting in January

The Gospel according to St. Mark is the featured gospel in our current church year.

Pastor Henrickson will be starting a Bible class on Mark in January, Sundays at 10:45.



Islam Study Starting Tuesday evening, January 9, we will be hosting a 6-session class on Islam led by someone with experience living in the Muslim world. Topics will include Islam's history, beliefs, and practices. We will spend a lot of time thinking about how we as individuals and as a global Church can lovingly interact with Muslims and Islam, all to the glory of God. Class sessions will be from 7pm-8:30pm Jan. 9th and 23rd, Feb. 13th and 27th, Mar. 12th, and April 9th.



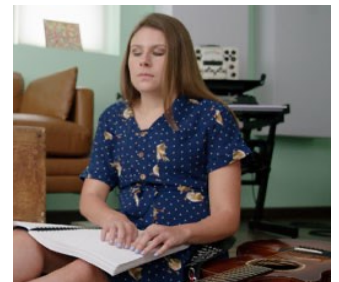
Quilting - See you in the new year, **January 13, 2024**, if the weather permits. Hope your Christmas Season is peaceful and blessed. What can you do? - you can sew together tops at home, if you would like to come to the church and sew we have two machines and bags of kits to put together. Don't sew?, then come and tie knots in the quilts we have ready.

2023–2025 LWML Mission Grant #4 (Milwaukee Convention)

Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment — Lutheran Braille Workers — \$100,000

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has the opportunity to reach individuals with visual impairment who live in spiritual darkness with the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ. Millions of people around the world are blind or visually impaired. They seek to strengthen their Christian faith while coping with isolation and dealing with physical, mental, and spiritual struggles. They often find it challenging to access Scripture-based reading materials.

This grant will provide LBW the opportunity to produce and add to their library 50 to 100 Scripture-based topical materials in Braille and specialized large print to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of visually impaired people. Because LBW works with every Christian denomination, these materials would be available for outreach and evangelism at no cost to those who are blind or visually impaired, regardless of faith or belief.



Church Worker and professional musician Brooke Perence reading a devotional in Braille alongside her guitar. Having been Blind since birth, growing up in the church, and having earned her Master's Degree in church music, Brooke knows firsthand the challenges in finding rich, theologically sound, and Scripturally-based Christian resources in Braille and Large Print. Brooke's face reflects her experience of feeling God's love directly in her heart by reading the Scriptures with her fingertips!

INTERCESSION and PRAYER,

Concordia Members

Recently Hospitalized:

Surgery:

Testing / Recovery:

- Jan White
- Heidi Whitrock
- Bruce Markel
- Rev. Leonard Neumann
- Diane Smith
- Edie Masters
- David Stephenson
- Peter Eonomou
- Tommy Ragsdale

Friends of Concordia

- Rev. Raji 11/25/23
- 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
- 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
- Terry Haskett 5/15/22
- Missy, Austin & Travis Golden 4/20/22
- 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
- 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, 822 Timbervale Trail, Highlands Ranch, CO, 80129 (Navy Reserve)

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

Dear Reader

As some of you know I am retiring as Office Manager or will have by the time you get this issue of The Messenger, so this will be my last publication.

I will not be leaving the congregation, just the front office. You will still see me around at times. It doesn't seem like 22 years have past, but I know it has been long enough that a granddaughter was born, baptized, married and had her child baptized here. How time flies.

Thank you doesn't seem adequate enough to describe all of the help, prayers and just plain good friendship I have come to know as both Office Manager and fellow servant in Christ. With your help and support I was able to accomplish much more than I thought I could. Your gifts and cards were a pleasant surprise, you out did yourselves again with your generosity - THANK YOU, all of you.

Please welcome and be of service to Jill Upton who has come aboard to take over as Office Manager. Be patient and as helpful as you have been with me. I had time to grow and continue to grow in the position and I am sure that Jill will do justice by the congregation. The office hours will remain 9-12 Monday -Thursday so you can still call when you need to.

Continued Blessings to all of you, Becky Lanning, your fellow servant.

Treasurer's Report

November 2023

Income Description	Nov 2022 4 Sundays	Nov 2023 4 Sundays	Total To date (48) Sun
Unified Budget	27,696.71	22,370.39	278,412.33
Memorials (Non-designated)	20.00	225.00	275.00
Memorials (Designated)			20.00
Designated Gifts *	1,302.53	1,026.84	15,316.23
Reimbursements & Refunds **	340.82	485.27	4,117.94
Rents & Wedding Fees	170.00		718.00
Miscellaneous ***	759.23		147,328.21
TOTAL INCOME	30,289.29	24,107.50	446,187.71
<i>Average per/week Unified Budget</i>	<i>\$ 6,924.18</i>	<i>\$ 5,592.60</i>	<i>\$ 5,800.26</i>
<i>Amount needed per/week for Unified Budget</i>	<i>\$ 6,476.00</i>	<i>\$ 6,570.00</i>	

Expenses Boards	Nov 2022	Nov 2023	Total To date
Pastoral Care	7,879.81	1,380.00	72,443.88
Congregational Worship	713.93	642.04	8,199.55
Missions and Outreach	687.50	687.50	10,718.50
Christian Education	6,841.80	6,812.67	75,054.30
Stewardship	178.73	291.31	807.58
Operations	9,507.55	7,168.13	102,047.86
Small Group Ministries			537.93
Christian Living	147.24	858.02	2,260.50
Unified Budget Total	25,956.56	17,839.67	272,070.10
Non-boards			
Non budget payments *			
Reimbursement Expenses **	340.82	898.27	162,913.46
Total Non-Budget Payments	340.82	898.27	162,913.46
Total payments	26,297.38	18,737.94	434,983.56

* Beef & Board's tickets "Joseph" \$ 300, Building Fund \$ 140, Concordia Seminary Food & Clothing Co-op Fort Wayne (\$ 303 from Anniversary Dinner & \$ 110 donated cash), Fellowship 15 \$ 13, Hope-full Living \$, LWCC \$ 10, Pennies from Heaven (Tuzla) \$ 46, We Raise Foundation \$ 10, Youth Group \$ 94.84
 ** Reimbursements & Refunds: Pre-school Indiana & Federal taxes \$ 485.27.
 *** Miscellaneous: .

* Non budget Payments:
 **Reimbursement expenses: Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne Food Co-op \$413, Preschool taxes Fed \$ 371.04, State \$ 114.23.

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	Nov 2022	Nov 2023	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
Total Support	1,437.50	1,437.50	15,812.50

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	LCEF Balance Nov 30, 2023
Anniversaries & Birthday	4,587.59
Board of Youth— (Trip)	7,093.44
Building Fund	18,665.87
Capital Improvements - \$ 10,296.89 Church sign - \$ 954.64 Church Landscaping - \$ 863.60 Heine Family Project - \$ 1,698.26	13,813.39
Concordia Cares	3,373.57
Inheritance Fund	123,492.09
Pre-School Landscaping & Gardening	146.95
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	171,172.90
Interest earned	87.69

Worship	2022	2023	Tithes
11/22 Tks	32	23	185.00
11/26 s	93	91	2,877.00
12/3 s	94	87	7,250.55
12/6	41	36	180.00
12/10 s	100	99	3,075.00
12/13	106	38	110.00
12/17 s	104	87	7,875.80
12/20		148	460.00
12/24 s	104	78	19,977.45
12/24 ce	107	143	500.00
12/25 cd	34	39	800.00
12/31 s		tba	tba

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

	SS	HS	ADULT
11/26	10	5	21
12/3	11	5	23
12/10	14	5	27
12/24			
12/31			

Church checking account balance Nov 2023

Beginning	70,642.24
Deposits	24,107.50
Payments	18,737.94
Ending balance	76,011.80

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

- 1/7** **As We Forgive**
- 1/14** **How Could She Ever Forgive Him**
- 1/21** **The Battleground of Forgiveness**
- 1/28** **Forgiveness Is A Gift from Far Away**

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

January Wedding Anniversaries:

Jake & Erin Gates (6) 1/12 Bruce & Pennie Markel (6) 1/12
 Connie & Richard Howrey (14) 1/22 Mike & Adele Tinsley
 (42) 1/23 Jim & Doris Roemer (66) 1/25

January Birthdays:

Guinn, Tracy	1/4	Ackerman, Deborah	1/24
Bruhn, Bob	1/4	Whitrock, Cliff	1/24
Tinsley, Mike	1/6	Economou, Peter	1/24
Dempsey, Matt	1/8	Moyers, Tony	1/25
Krall, Norma	1/9	Neumann, Miriam	1/25
Bass, Emma	1/12	Moyers, Regina	1/27
Kearns, Heidi	1/13	Moreth, Wrigley	1/29
Bass, Chandler	1/15	Ragsdale, Tommy	1/30
Reed, Shawn	1/16		
Thetford, Lori	1/16		
Thetford, Jared	1/22		

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

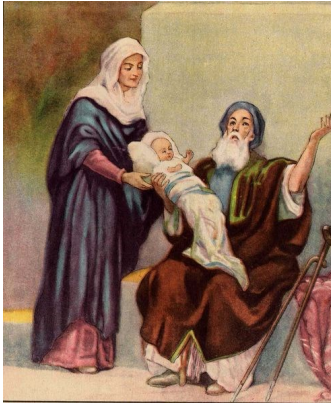
Treasurer
 Tammy Owen

Financial Secretary
 Carol Monroe



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

- **Dick Brooks** on the passing of their friend **Janie Orr** on 12/19/23. (637 Brookview Dr., Greenwood IN 46142)



**The Naming of
Jesus**
Dec 31, 2023
Luke 2: 22

May we receive the pa-
tience and faithfulness of
Simeon,



Not Just Another Story
Jan 6, 2024
Matthew 2

trust and wisdom of the shep-
herds and the wise men,



**Baptism of Our
Lord**
Jan 7, 2024
Matthew 3: 13

and come to New life and
Salvation in the fulfill-
ment of God's promise.

**THE
Concordia Messenger**

67th Edition

January 2024



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