

THE Concordia Messenger



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

July 2025

Jesus Receives Sinners

“This man receives sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:2). The Pharisees’ statement of judgment against Jesus is in fact a proclamation of Gospel truth. For our God is one who delights in mercy, who casts all our sins into the depths of the sea through the cross (Micah 7:18–20). “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15). Those who refuse to be counted as sinners also refuse Jesus who came only for sinners. Those like the older son (Luke 15:11–32), who think they are righteous of themselves, will not join in the heavenly celebration over the sinner who repents and so remain outside of the Father’s house. Let us therefore be on guard against self-righteously trusting in our own merits. “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you” (1 Peter 5:6). Rejoice that Jesus receives sinners like us and that He still sits at table with us in the Holy Supper, bestowing His forgiveness and life.

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**Pastor Sam and Isabel Scheltens
and son Henry**

PRAYER FOR OUR NEW PASTOR

Lord Jesus, You are our great High Priest, who intercedes with the Father on our behalf. During Your earthly ministry You called men to be Your apostles, and still today You call men to be pastors in Your Church—to proclaim the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins, to baptize, to nourish Your people with Your holy Supper, and to minister in countless ways to Your flock.

Thank you for our new pastor, Sam Scheltens, and grant him fidelity to Your Word, wisdom by Your Spirit, and strength from above, that he may carry out his calling faithfully. Make him a fearless confessor of Your truth. Keep him from error in his teaching and from scandal in his life. Give him courage to admonish those who stray, compassion to bind up the brokenhearted, and discernment to apply Law and Gospel to all appropriately. May he protect Your flock from ravaging wolves and shepherd Your lambs into green pastures.

Move the members of our congregation to have proper respect for our pastor, to obey him, and to gladly accept the Word preached to us. Keep our pastor and our parishioners faithful until death, that together we may receive the crown of life; in Your name, O Jesus, the only Savior of the world. Amen.

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at the call service for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Concordia learned that her next pastor will be Henry Scheltens.

Since Pastor-Elect Scheltens’ father’s name is also Henry, Pastor-Elect Scheltens goes by Sam. Once he is ordained and installed at Concordia, he will prefer to be called Pastor Scheltens.

Pastor-Elect Scheltens is from Normal, Illinois. He did his undergrad at Concordia, Chicago and vicarage at Messiah Lutheran Church in Danville, California.

Sam is married to Isabel and they have a one-and-a-half-year-old son also named Henry. Isabel is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was homeschooled and they have a strong desire to homeschool their children. Isabel is expecting their second child in November.

Pastor-Elect Scheltens is still planning his ordination and installation. As of this writing, he is planning to be ordained and installed at Concordia on July 26. That is subject to change.

We pray for Pastor-Elect Scheltens and his family as he completes his seminary studies, plans his ordination and installation, and prepares to move to the Greenwood area.

Director of Christian Education

We got our “new to us” van a few years ago. It has a few quirks that aren’t worth fixing. One of the more recent issues is that the radio stopped working. It’s annoying, but not a big deal. It does make me notice things I hadn’t before—like more of my kid’s conversations. I’ve also noticed I’m not very comfortable with silence.

Of course, I can still hear the sounds of the road and the hum of the engine. But when I’m driving alone, I find myself craving background noise to listen to, learn from, or just something. It’s hard to simply sit quietly and drive.

There have been blessings in this forced silence. I’ve found more time for prayer and reflection. There’s less stress, too, since there is no news or bad theology. In the quiet, I often think of how Jesus would retreat to pray. I’m reminded of my best friend’s favorite Bible verse, Psalm 46:10:

“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

This beautiful psalm speaks of God as our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. It reminds us why we don’t need to fear—no matter what happens—because the Lord Almighty is with us. He performs mighty works. That is the God who is with us.

When we hear the words “Be still,” they serve as a rebuke to all that stands in rebellion against God. Sin is rebellion. A world that turns away from Him lives in rebellion. But just as Jesus once rebuked the storm that terrified His disciples, He still holds the authority to calm the chaos—now, here, at any time. He is the Lord Almighty, and He is with us.

At the same time, “Be still” is also a word of comfort. It’s an assurance of peace to those who trust in Him. God is in control. He helps us face our greatest fears because He is greater than them. He has already defeated our greatest enemies: sin, death, and the devil. Jesus is our hope. Jesus is our rest. Jesus is our peace.

When God called out to Elijah, it wasn’t through the storm, the earthquake, or the fire—but through a still, small voice. Sometimes, we just need to take the opportunity to be still, to be silent, and to hear God’s voice in His Word.

~Sarah Shadday

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday School 10:45am

Young Children are learning about Lydia’s baptism, the Philippian Jailer, Paul’s Shipwreck, and Jesus Will Return.

Older Children are learning about the Psalms and doing fun activities with them.

Youth are reading through Confirmation materials.

Adults are having Bible Studies led by Pastor Fangmeyer in the Fellowship Hall.

Women’s Sunday Night Bible Study are continuing Donna Snow’s book *Unshakeable* and meet at Concordia Sunday nights from 6pm-7pm.

Women’s Tuesday Night Bible Study are studying women in the Bible and meet from 7pm-8:30pm on the following days: July 8 and 22, and August 12 and 26.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 13 immediately following the Worship Service, to vote on the proposed West Wing Renovation.

Preschool

We loved seeing so many of our Preschool friends return for Vacation Bible School! It fun seeing the kids reunited with their old friends. We have 2 spots available in our 3’s class for 2025-2026 and 4 spots in our PreK class for 2025-2026. All new families must tour before enrolling. Tours may be set up by contacting Sarah Shadday via text/calls 314-330-3782 or emailing Sarah.Shadday@concordia-lcms.com Registration fee is \$125.

PreK child should be 4 and potty trained by August 1st, 2025

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-noon
\$175/month for 10 months

3’s child should be 3 and potty trained by August 1st, 2025

Tuesday, Friday 9am-11:30am
\$125/month for 10 months

Congregational Fellowship Opportunities

Join us at our Game Nights at Concordia. This is a great time to talk, eat, play games together, and invite friends or family. A light dinner will be served around 6 pm at each game night. Everyone is welcome to bring any extra snacks, drinks, or games they would like. Our upcoming game nights will be on these Fridays from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm:

July 11 pizza and salad
August 8 GFS BBQ and salad

Playdates will be hosted at Westside Park by the playground most Thursdays July from 9am-11am. We will meet at the playground. We invite any of our church members, Preschool families, or others to attend. Thursday playdates are July 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.

LWML Mission Grants at Work

2024 Indiana LWML District Convention
Large Grant Recipient #7

Marius Sergiu Trifa Bringing the Gospel to Romania – \$7,000

This grant provides means to assist Sergiu with continuing his education and building his theological library, and to facilitate his translations into Romanian.

2023-2025 Mission Grant #27 (Milwaukee Convention)

Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry Hope Lutheran, South Sioux City, NE — \$50,000

Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry, located at Hope Lutheran Church in South Sioux City, Nebraska, is building relationships with Hispanics in the Tri-State border region of Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. Pastor Henry Witte, the vacancy pastor, collaborates with and trains local congregations to meet the needs of their Hispanic neighbors and share the Good News of Jesus with them. Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry is supported by local churches and at least two districts in their outreach to the Hispanic community.

This grant will provide additional support for Siouxland Lutheran Hispanic Ministry outreach. The funding will support the following: English as a Second Language classes, citizenship classes, community outreach events, Spanish Bibles, catechisms, hymnals, and other educational resources, as well as retreats, conventions, and special holiday meals.



From left to right, meet Jacqueline from Guatemala, Valia from Cuba, and Yessenia from Mexico. After two years of catechesis, they were confirmed in September of 2021. They are the newest members of Hope Lutheran.



The ESL (English as a Second Language) classes at Hope Lutheran have been a wonderful way to meet new Hispanic families in the community. In this photo, you see Shemilin from Guatemala, with her two children

We're Gathering School Supplies for Lutheran World Relief

Each school kit contains four notebooks, a ruler, blunt scissors, one pencil sharpener, five unsharpened #2 pencils, five black or blue ballpoint pens, one box of 16 or 24 crayons, and one 2-1/2" eraser. Please consider helping when back-to-school sales begin in July. Often notebooks are priced at 30 cents each with corresponding sale prices for the other items.

Stop by the LWCC bulletin board and pick a tag for the items you plan to buy for this project. Leave the school supplies in the designated bins in the Noah Room. Can we fill 20 backpacks by Sept. 1?

Vacation Bible School

Was VBS successful? Yes! The only problem is, people measure success on different metrics. It's easiest to jump straight to the numbers. By that, yes, VBS was successful. We had more kids register to VBS this year than the last 10 years. Our number of kids registered was up about 20% from our attendance from the last few years. That didn't translate into every one of those kids coming though. We had about 5-10% more children attend VBS this year than the past few years.

More importantly, the kids were excited to hear about God from our wonderful volunteers. I know my kids have been singing their VBS (and each other's) songs the past few weeks. I received messages from parents saying, "The kids had a blast this week!! Thanks to you and all the volunteers!" One of my most edifying moments is that my kids are finally learning who more of the adults at our church are. They talk about who their VBS teachers were and what they did. They also are starting to recognize who they are at church. I love that the children get to see other Christians sharing their faith with others. It was also impressive that the children were able to collect over 150 "favorite foods" for The Refuge food pantry in Greenwood. They were also able to collect \$330 for the Jacobson and Steele families. These are two families from Australia that are learning to be pastors here in the United States. With our Epic Australia Adventure theme, we thought it would be appropriate to try and help these families with school expenses. The kids blew our \$200 goal out of the water!

We had a great week learning how Jesus calls us, leads us, teaches us, saves us, and sends us to tell others about His love. Thank you to everyone who helped at VBS by donating items, praying for the program, or who served as a volunteer during the week. We could not have had this fun ministry without your help.

July 2025 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>29</div> <div>LWML Convention</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9am - Playdate Westside Park</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>10am - O.A.</div>
<div>6</div> <div>Third Sunday after Trinity</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div>	<div>7</div> <div>6:30pm - Properties</div> <div>7pm - Elders</div>	<div>8</div> <div>7pm - Women's Tuesday Bible</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>9am - Playdate Westside Park</div>	<div>11</div> <div>5:30pm - Congregational Game</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9am - Quilting</div> <div>10am - O.A.</div>
<div>13</div> <div>Fourth Sunday after Trinity</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Special Congregational</div> <div>3pm - LWML Ladie's afternoon out</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9am - Playdate Westside Park</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10am - O.A.</div>
<div>20</div> <div>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div>	<div>21</div> <div>7pm - Church Council</div>	<div>22</div> <div>7pm - Women's Tuesday Bible</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>9am - Playdate Westside Park</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Pastor Schellens Ordination &</div> <div>10am - O.A.</div> <div>10:30am - Pastor Schellen</div>
<div>27</div> <div>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>9am - Playdate Westside Park</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10am - O.A.</div>

Treasurers Report

May 2024

Income Descriptions	May 2024 4 Sundays	Apr 2025 4 Sundays	Total to Date
Unified Budget	28,414.25	37,896.50	147,294.35
Memorials (Non-Designated)	940.00	-	175.00
Memorials (Designated)	150.00	-	100.00
Designated Gifts	1,196.01	10,228.50	19,495.52
Reimbursements & Refunds	-	-	-
Rents & Wedding Fees	100.00	-	195.00
Miscellaneous	-	-	1,152.80
Total Income	30,800.26	37,896.50	168,412.67
Average per week Unified Budget	7,103.56	9,474.13	4,357.47
Amount needed per week for Unified Budget	6,728.85	6,728.85	6,728.85

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	May-25 Total to Date	
Missions - District Synod	500.00	2,500.00
Lutheran High School	750.00	3,750.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry	187.50	937.50
Total Support	1,437.50	7,187.50

Board Expenses	May 2025	Total To Date	Total Budget
Pastoral Care	6,505.31	30,282.95	125,400.00
Christian Education	5,979.01	36,608.60	81,800.00
Congregational Worship	4,152.36	5,022.28	7,200.00
Missions & Outreach	1,457.17	9,432.17	21,500.00
Office	1,717.09	12,393.27	32,500.00
Properties	5,975.83	36,887.92	81,500.00
Unified Budget Total	25,786.77	130,627.19	349,900.00

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	Balance 05-31-2025
Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073	4,677.19
Board of Youth - Trip - 5446	12,277.61
Building Fund - 2978**	98,787.30
Capital Improvements - 9545**	13,870.62
Church Sign	976.50
Church Landscaping	883.54
Heine Family Project	1,735.54
Total Capital Improvements - \$17,436.58	17,466.20
Concordia Cares - 6370	3,530.29
Inheritance Fund - 7423	126,743.76
Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434	149.82
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	246,165.97
Interest Earned	592.50

Total In Church Checking Account	\$ 188,873.90
Total in Preschool Account	\$ 14,845.41

Our Spiritual Response in Worship, Bible Study and Giving to our Lord			
	Children SS	Youth SS	ADULT SS
June 1, 2025	10	0	25
June 8, 2025	0	0	0
June 15, 2025	8	0	24
June 22, 2025	10	5	21

Worship	2024	2025	Tithes
June 1, 2025	86	83	\$4,540.00
June 8, 2025	90	93	\$5,057.00
June 15, 2025	93	96	\$3,960.00
June 22, 2025	89	82	\$1,471.50

INTERCESSION and PRAYER **(Matthew 8:17)**

Concordia Members

Surgery/Testing/

Recovery:

- Lynda Martin 6/16/25
- Pat Barnes 6/5/25
- Fred Foster 3/30/25
- Betty Economou 1/12/25
- Jim Roemer 2/12/23
- Tommy Ragsdale 12/11/22
- Peter Economou 4/22/19



Friends of Concordia

- Mike Smith 6/17/25
- Barb Norris 4/16/25
- Falon Wildrick 3/31/25
- Pam Perry 3/31/25
- Pastor Raji 2/2/25
- Rev. John Sebastian 1/30/25
- Kathleen Sebastian 1/30/25
- Beverly Tewell 1/30/25
- Rick Zoellner 12/30/24
- Tyshae Smith 8/28/24
- Josephine Shafer 8/13/24
- Leeroy & Vernon Good 6/10/24
- Ralph McGraw 1/2/24
- Connie Henderson 5/14/23
- Rick Wildrick 3/30/23
- Terry & Diana Deamron 9/10/22
- Beverly Stephens 8/20/22
- Ed Stephens 2/18/24
- Terry Haskett 5/15/22
- Missy, Austin & Travis Golden 4/20/22
- Judy Heine 11/22/21
- Pat Brooks 9/23/21
- Rose Swenson 7/27/21
- 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 Clark 12/16/18

Battling Cancer / MS

- Kelsey Merena 10/25/22
- David Buuck 9/27/21

Homebound Concordia Members

- Sharon Bruhn, 690 South State Ball Brothers
123, Franklin IN 46131

Military Servicemen & women.

- Erica Stephenson, Army, National Guard
- LTJG Chloe (Owen) Munoz, 12137 Red
Barn Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32226
- Ivan Munoz, (LTJG)
- Zach Goins, 822 Timbervale Trail, High-
lands Ranch, CO, 80129 (Navy Reserve)
- CPL Jadon Ranbarger (2166 Marmande
St., Kailua, HI 96734)
- PVT Macy Ranbarger (Camp Pendleton)

West Wing Renovation

We are working on another fundraiser to acquire additional funds to use on the Fellowship/Kitchen complex. Information on participating in the bazaars at Calvary Lutheran church and at Lutheran High School's Fall Christmas sale is being collected. We will have a table at the Sugar Plum Craft Fair at Lutheran High School on Oct. 25. We will have a table at Calvary Lutheran's Holiday Craft Fair on Nov. 8. Until then we would ask that if you have a talent for making things (sewing, woodworking, baked items, and home canned goods) it would be nice to know that you are willing and able to help us. It will also give you time to work on the projects through the summer. Of course the baking would have to wait until the week of the sale but you can still plan on what you would like to do in the mean time.

Please contact Adele Tinsley, Heidi Ford, Diane Conrad, or Becky Lanning to let us know what you can do to help. Several item have been made at this point but we would like to add to the selection.

Our Church Directory is Online!

You can now view our church directory online or through the FREE mobile app.

To access the directory online, go to **members.InstantChurchDirectory.com** and enter your email address as listed in the directory. Click "**Send Secure Sign-In Link**". Then check your email and click on the "**Log in to Instant Church Directory**" button found in your email.

A free mobile app is also available in the **Apple App Store** and the **Google Play Store**. Just search for "**Instant Church Directory**" to download.

Important: Your email address **must be listed in the directory before you can log in.**

Lutheran Hour Ministries Radio Schedule

The Lutheran Hour—Sundays
WIRE (91.1 FM) 6:00 AM
WBRI (1500 AM) 6:30 AM
WCBK (102.3 FM) 7:00 AM
WBNL (1540 AM) 1:00 PM

7/6 "A Little Light, Reading"
7/13 "Fearless and Endless Growing"
7/20 "God's Plan = Jesus"
7/27 "Getting the Talk Started"

Lutheran Hour is now broadcast on American Forces Network (AFN). To find other airings near you, check the broadcast guide at lhm.org/guide.

Worship Anew—Sundays
WRTV (TV 6) 7:00 AM

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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.



Pastor Vacant

Staff

Sarah Shadday—*Director Christian Education*

Erica Stephenson - *Deaconess*

Sarah Shadday—*Preschool Director*
Brad Wheeler- *Admin. Assistant*

Office hours Mon. - Fri. 8am - noon

Birthdays:

Shafer, Lori	7/1
Flamme, Faith	7/4
Warren, David	7/5
Seale, Aaron	7/11
Emmons, Ginny	7/12
Sanchez, Carlos	7/17
Hoeltke, Barb	7/18
Inman, Glen	7/18
Sullivan, David	7/20
Horn, Joshua	7/22
Carlisle, Annabelle	7/23
Owen, Tammy	7/24
Emkes, Cindy	7/27
Howrey, Connie	7/27
Ford, Mike	7/28
Pedersen, Bonnie	7/29
Marot, Zackary	7/30
Krause, Diane	7/30

Wedding Anniversaries:

		Years	Date
Fred & Marcia Foster	36	7/9	
Ray & Ruth Everson	63	7/14	
Glen & Linda Inman	43	7/17	
Marcus & Gaby Crouch	16	7/18	
Jeff & Stacy Reinke	28	7/19	



Church Council

President
Bruce Markel

Vice-President
Chris Brooks

Mike Emkes, Elder

Mike Finger, Elder

Mike Ford

Susan Henrickson

Julia Yeater

Recording Secretary
Susan Ranbarger

Treasurer
Tammy Owen

Financial Secretary
Carol Monroe

HUMOR CORNER

Proverbs 17:22 "A merry heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

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

