

THE Concordia Messenger



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

November 2025

Regarding Judgment Day, or the End of the World Rev. Samuel Scheltens

As we approach the season of Advent, the Church spends the last few Sundays of Trinitytide considering the End and Judgment Day. This is worth considering, because we see and hear a lot of propaganda and teaching about what the End will be like and what to look for, but these teachers are usually not Christian or certainly not Lutheran, and take a very narrow view of what the Scriptures have to say about the End.

The End is Near, claims the corner preacher. The so-called “rapture” was supposed to take all your elect friends to heaven in September (though they all still seem to be here). The Mohammedans, or Muslims, claim they can enact the End by converting everyone to Islam. Many Christian congregations across the United States are studying the book of Revelation, looking for clues as to when the End will come, and what it will be like. Even among Christians, there is disagreement as to how the End will play out, or what’s supposed to be happening.

Most people want to jump to St. John’s Revelation, because well, the whole book seems to be about the End – why wouldn’t we want to look there? We should look there, that’s true, but we should start with the clearer passages, and use them to interpret St. John’s Revelation.

In studying the Scriptures, we can list the known events of the Last Day as follows:

1. Christ’s Second Coming
1 Corinthians 15:50, John 16:33, Hebrews 9:28
2. Resurrection of *all* the dead
1 Thess. 4:16, 1 Corinthians 15:52, John 5:29
3. Judgment
2 Corinthians 5:10, Matthew 25:32-46
4. End of the World
Matthew 24:29, 2 Peter 3:10, Luke 21:33
5. Eternal Damnation and Eternal Life, Respectively
Damnation: Daniel 12:2, Matthew 25:41, 46, Matthew 10:15, Luke 10:12, Matthew 23:13
Life: 1 Corinthians 15:41-42

Keep an eye on the Concordia blog for an expanded article on this topic.

Christ’s Second Coming

Jesus teaches us that the Day will arrive suddenly, and no one can predict it. He compares it to the days of Noah and the Flood, “*But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.*”³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matt. 24:36-39)

This comparison illuminates the nature of the so-called Rapture, which comes up in v. 40 and following: *Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left.* The man condemned is not the one ‘left behind’, rather it is the man *taken*. The ones taken in Noah’s day were the ones condemned by the waters of the Flood, but Noah and his family remained. “*Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.*” (Matt. 24:42) This ‘rapture’ is part of the Judgment, a component of the Last Day. Jesus clearly teaches us that this is all on the same day.

Resurrection of the Dead

St. Paul shows us that the triumphant, visible return of Jesus will be followed by the resurrection of the dead, *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.* (1 Thess. 4:16) St. Paul says again, “*in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.*” (1 Cor. 15:52) Jesus teaches us that this resurrection of the dead is not limited merely to the righteous, but that it is everyone, good and evil, will be raised bodily, “*Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.*” (John 5:28-29) This last passage brings us to the next event:

Judgment

Following the raising of all the dead, we “*must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*” (2 Cor. 5:10) So all, righteous and unrighteous, are called before Christ, to give an account for his deeds. Jesus gives us a glimpse of the Judgment, in the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Matthew 25. The Sheep are separated from the Goats, that is, those who believe and trust in Christ (are righteous) and the unbelievers, the unrighteous. The Sheep did love their neighbors and cared for the poor even as they trusted in Christ, whereas the Goats did not recognize Jesus. They never saw Him, and now He no longer recognizes them.

End of the World

St. Peter writes that Christ “*will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*” (1 Pet. 3:10) He connects the judgment of the deeds done on the earth with its destruction. The world, the universe is corrupted by the fall of man into sin. So it needs to be destroyed, in order that it might be made new. In contrast to the destruction by water in Noah’s day, the final End will be accomplished with fire – “*the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!*” (v. 12) But St. Peter gives us the assurance of the new creation: “*But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*” (v. 13) Jesus confirms, “*Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*” (Matt. 24:29) The heavenly bodies are destroyed, in the converse of Creation in Genesis. (cf. also Lk 21:33)

Eternal Life & Eternal Damnation (Respectively)

The Prophet Daniel describes the resurrection, “*And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*” (Dan. 12:2)

Thanks to Rev. Joseph Greenmyer and his blog ‘*In Summa*’, whose post ‘Israel and the End of the World’ helped me structure and form this article.

I recommend giving it a read. It can be found here: <https://revjosephgreenmyer.substack.com/p/israel-and-the-end-of-the-world>

Director of Christian Education

November, known for important days like Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and *Wicked For Good* coming to theaters. I'm a fan of the musical (NOT the books) and despite the intimidating run time, I enjoyed the first movie. After the final trailer for the movie dropped, I started playing the music around the house and got lyrics stuck in my head. I've been reading about the first (and second) movie because I want to know more.

In Tuesday Women's Bible Study we've been using the Lutheran Hour Ministries Bible Study *Patient Urgency*. One of the points of the first session is: the stories someone is immersed in are the ones that person shares. The challenge is to read through the book of Mark between each of the studies to become more immersed in what it says and so the group can have deeper discussion about the book.

So often, we read the Bible as fragmented parts, not like a whole narrative. It is true though. The more we read the Bible in general, the more we retain from it. The more we're likely to recall during conversations about the Bible and about our lives in general.

I think of that excitement people have when they discover someone is just as into a topic as someone else. I've heard people go on about history, books, gardening, and other topics. That excitement and joy shouldn't be limited to something in creation. We can never truly fully understand or know God on this side of creation. That doesn't mean we should give up trying. He's given us the Bible, His Word, to study so we can get to know Him. We can learn more about Jesus each and every day and we can share that joy and excitement with others as we continue to learn more. What a joy that we live in a society that we learn to read and the Bible is so readily available to us. It is a blessing that is easy to take for granted.

Thank God that we live at a time when we have the account of what He's done since creation, what He's done through His Son, and what He continues to do. What Jesus did for us is way better than a movie or musical. It cost way more than any Black Friday deal and it's something we have the opportunity to thank Him for all the time. Thanks be to God that He has freed us from sin so that we might be free. Become immersed in God's Word, read it or listen to it. Listen to hymns online. Attend Bible Studies or pick up a new book from Concordia Publishing House. Seek God first and see what happens.

~Sarah Shadday

Sunday School/Bible Class

Sunday School 10:45am

Young Children are learning about David and Elijah.

Older Children are learning about Resilient Minds.

Youth are attending the adult Bible Study.

Adults are studying the Small Catechism with Pastor Scheltens.

Women's Sunday Night Bible Study 6 pm are continuing Donna Snow's book *Unshakeable*.

Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study 7 pm are studying *Patient Urgency*, a Lutheran Hour Ministries Bible Study. When that study ends, they will be on break until January.

Preschool

We would like to thank the people who have donated items to Preschool through Amazon orders or other drop offs. Unfortunately, we don't know who you are to thank you personally! If you've donated something and would like a thank you and donation slip, please email or call Sarah Shadday so we can get that to you. Sarah.Shadday@concordia-lcms.com

Our PreK class had some fun in early October with their Farmhand 101 field trip. It was a chance to get up close to animals and plants. We are also excited to celebrate a Thanksgiving meal with them and their families at the end of November.

Our 3's class continues to learn! We added a new student in early October. They will also have a little Thanksgiving celebration with their family at Preschool.

Fellowship

The church anniversary dinner is planned for November. It is dependent upon the completion of Fellowship Hall so look for more details later in November.

Christmas Cookie Exchange

This year, for our Church Christmas Party in December, we will host a cookie exchange. Anyone who would like to participate is invited to bring 1-2 batches of ONE KIND of cookie to the party. The day of the exchange, we will line the cookies up and everyone can go through and get some of each kind of cookie so people will end up with a container of multiple kinds of cookies instead of just one kind they brought to the exchange. We will also take some of the cookies and put them into the Christmas gifts for the homebound members. More information will come out later about the exchange and Christmas party, but we wanted to share the information now for those who plan out their holiday bakes!

LWML Mission Grants at Work

2025-2027 Mission Grant #4 (Omaha Convention)

The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers — LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S. — \$100,000

Set Apart to Serve is a Synod-wide initiative focused on forming and recruiting full-time pastors and church workers. Supplying the church with church workers is one of the highest priorities of the LCMS, since pastors and commissioned church workers preach and teach the Word of Christ through which the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith. The demand for more pastors, Lutheran school teachers, and commissioned church workers is urgent. Set Apart to Serve is providing resources to encourage intentional conversations with youth to pursue a vocation in church work. The Set Apart to Serve initiative is leading to increased enrollment in the church worker formation programs at the LCMS Concordia universities and the seminaries. Districts and churches are being encouraged to reach out to their youth through workshops and conferences. This grant will help cover part of the expenses for creating resources, travel, and presentations at workshops and conferences, and staffing.

Many Hands Make Light Work!

With the help of sixteen volunteers (see photo below), we moved boxes and loaded a truck for the Lutheran World Relief Ingathering on October 14-17. Deliveries arrived during the week with donations stored in the Fellowship Hall. On Friday morning, volunteers moved the boxes from the Fellowship Hall and accepted more deliveries as they waited for the truck, which arrived before noon. All 670 boxes, some handled three times during the week, were loaded on the truck by 12:30. The trucker had two pickups scheduled in Missouri before delivering its contents to the LWR Warehouse in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The 670 boxes contained quilts, blankets, and personal care, school, baby care, and fabric kits donated from twenty-five congregations and groups coming as far away as Ohio, Kentucky, Evansville, and West Lafayette.

Thank you to Marvin Barkes, John Bertsch, Cindy Boesenberg, Dick Brooks, and Gail Buth-Brooks, Don Dombroski, Ruth Everson, Mike Ford, Chris Mihi, Becky Lanning, Sue Ranbarger, Linda and Rick Snyder, Dan and Diana Sullivan, and Mike Tinsley, who made this possible.



Nov 2025 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 12pm - Church Work Day 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	27 6:30pm - Worship Service	28 7pm - Women's Bible Study	29	30 9am - Preschool Trick or Treating	31 (F) Reformation Day 9am - Preschool Trick or Treating	1 (F) All Saints' Day 10am - O.A.
2 Honey Sunday Twentieth Sunday after Trinity 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	3 6:30pm - Properties 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Elders	4	5	6	7	8 8:45am - Ladies Fall Gathering @ 9am - Quilling 10am - O.A.
9 Honey Sunday Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	10 6:30pm - Worship Service	11 7pm - Women's Bible Study	12	13 6am - Men's Bible Study	14	15 10am - O.A.
16 Twenty-second Sunday after 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 11am - Congregational Meeting 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	17 12pm - Preschool Decorate 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Church Council	18 11am - Preschool Snacks	19	20 8am - Preschool Thanksgiving	21	22 10am - O.A.
23 Giving Tree 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 11am - Concordia Anniversary 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	24 6:30pm - Worship Service	25	26	27 6am - Men's Bible Study	28	29 10am - O.A.
30 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	1 6:30pm - Properties 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Elders	2	3	4	5	6 10am - O.A.

Treasurers Report

September 2024

<u>Income Descriptions</u>	<u>Sept 2024</u> <u>4 Sundays</u>	<u>Sept 2025</u> <u>4 Sundays</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>Date</u>
Unified Budget	16,482.00	30,556.71	241,536.58
Memorials (Non-Designated)	-	52.00	227.00
Memorials (Designated)	45,029.75	-	100.00
Designated Gifts	546.61	8,584.00	93,745.99
Reimbursements & Refunds	-	-	-
Rents & Wedding Fees	195.00	75.00	490.00
Miscellaneous*	-	29,977.28	121,933.02
Total Income	62,253.36	30,608.71	458,032.59
Average per week Unified Budget	4,120.50	7,639.18	6,193.25
Amount needed per week for Unified Budget	6,728.85	6,728.85	6,728.85

<u>Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Sep-25</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Missions - District Synod	500.00	6,500.00
Lutheran High School	750.00	6,750.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry	187.50	1,687.50
Total Support	1,437.50	14,937.50

<u>Board Expenses</u>	<u>Sept 2025</u>	<u>Total To Date</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>
Pastoral Care	7,179.84	60,641.44	125,400.00
Christian Education	7,064.20	66,225.23	81,800.00
Congregational Worship	1,095.25	7,541.74	7,200.00
Missions & Outreach	1,437.50	20,837.67	21,500.00
Office	1,734.86	19,980.88	32,500.00
Properties	5,996.32	62,964.01	81,500.00
Unified Budget Total	24,507.97	238,190.97	349,900.00

<u>Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts</u>	<u>Balance 09-30-2025</u>
Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073	4,700.69
Board of Youth - Trip - 5446***	11,661.32
Building Fund - 2978**	3,021.94
Capital Improvements - 9545	13,963.45
Church Sign	983.09
Church Landscaping	889.51
Heine Family Project	1,747.21
Total Capital Improvements - \$17,583.26	17,583.26
Concordia Cares - 6370	3,548.02
Inheritance Fund - 7423	102,992.75
Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434	150.57
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	143,658.55
Interest Earned	490.46
Total In Church Checking Account	\$ 148,097.98
Total in Preschool Account	\$ 20,629.31

Payments made to kitchen remodel - August	\$ 68,046.10
Payments made to kitchen remodel - September	\$ 57,698.88
Kitchen Reno To Date	\$ 125,744.98

<u>Weekly Attendance and Offerings</u>		
<u>Week of</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
October 5, 2025	105	\$6,640.00
October 12, 2025	89	\$3,425.00
October 19, 2025	80	\$3,215.00
October 26, 2025	101	\$4,275.00

INTERCESSION and PRAYER
(Matthew 8:17)

Concordia Members

Surgery/Testing/

Recovery:

- Craig Smith 9/30/25
- Jim Lanning 9/29/25
- Betty Economou 9/22/25
- Lynda Martin 6/16/25
- Jim Roemer 2/12/23
- Tommy Ragsdale 12/11/22
- Peter Economou 4/22/19



Friends of Concordia

- Chuck Buth 9/23/25
- Barb Norris 4/16/25
- Kathleen Sebastian 1/30/25
- Beverly Tewell 1/30/25
- 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
- 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 125, Franklin IN 46131
- Ginny Emmons, 581 Cielo Vista Dr, Greenwood, IN 46143
- Phillis Infante, 1501 S Meridian St Apt 139, Indianapolis, IN 46225
- Norma Krall, Aspen Trace, Rm #515

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, Highlands Ranch, CO, 80129 (Navy Reserve)
- CPL Jadon Ranbarger (2166 Marmande St., Kailua, HI 96734)
- PVT Macy Ranbarger (NAS Pensacola)

**Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
- fundraiser -**

Honey Sundays for the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch fundraiser are on Sundays Nov. 3rd and 10th. The recommended purchase price is \$10 each. All of the proceeds are sent to the Ranch and the ranch will send each bottle directly to your home. Forms and sample will be located in the foyer on those 2 Sundays. Thank you for your support in advance LWCC.

Also check it out at: <https://dakotaranch.org/>

LWML Annual Advent Glow Event

LWML will hold their annual Advent Glow event on Sunday December 7th @ 3pm in the Fellowship Hall. This will be a special event to celebrate babies: Baby Jesus, Baby Sebastian, and the Babies of Indiana!!! We will have a devotion preparing our hearts for the much awaited Advent season, provide baby Sebastian and his brother Henry with a double stroller, and donate diapers for the TED emergency diaper ministry.

Witness, a Christian quartet will be our entertainment. There will be a sign up sheet for ladies who would like to host a table, you may donate \$5 towards the stroller (give to Becky Lanning), and bring along a pack of diapers of any size for the diaper ministry. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!**

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

11/2 "The Way Out"
11/9 "The Lead of Life"
11/16 "The Name on the Front"
11/23 "An Unlikely King"
11/30 "Rise and Shine"

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

The Concordia Messenger

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Website: <http://www.concordia-lcms.com>



Sunday Worship Services
9:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes
10:45 a.m.

Monday Worship Service
6:30 p.m.



Pastor Sam Scheltens
E-mail pastorscheltens@concordia-lcms.com

Staff:

Sarah Shadday *Dir. Christian Education*
Erica Stephenson *Deaconess*
Sarah Shadday *Preschool Director*
Brad Wheeler *Admin. Assistant*

Office hours Mon. - Fri. 8am - noon

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

BIRTHDAYS:

Brooks, Dick	11/8
Warren, Lorna	11/9
Carlisle, Annalise	11/9
Kearns, Doug	11/15
Brooks, Deb	11/15
Reinke, Caroline	11/16
Graham, Mi Sun	11/20
DeFabis, Wendy	11/23
Snyder, Rick	11/26
Austin, Mary	11/28
Horn, Kevin	11/28
Ronczka, Brett	11/28
Krause, Dawn	11/29

WEDDINGS:

	Years	Date
Matthew & Sarah Shadday	10	11/14

Upcoming Special Collections

Everyone is so generous with the gifts God has given them. We have a lot of collections these final months. Here is a list of current and upcoming new collections:

Christmas Cards until November 14th for Chloe Munoz (Owen) who is being deployed. The collection is in one of the gray cubes in the Noah Room.

Thanksgiving Basket for the Angel Tree Families. During November, we provide Thanksgiving meals for 2 families from Northeast Elementary. Collection will be in the lobby.

Angel Tree gifts in December for the same families from Northeast Elementary. Collection will be in the lobby.

Christmas cards for shut ins, we will start collecting them on November 30th and end the collecting on December 14th. Collection location is to be determined.

HUMOR CORNER

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

What do you call a
rabbit with fleas?

Bugs Bunny!

Anniversary Meal will take place on Sunday, November 23 after the Divine Service. Sign up will be in the church lobby. Church will provide the meat and the dessert. Members of Concordia are welcomed to bring a side dish to enhance the meal.

Thrivent Action Teams are still needed this year. If you are a Thrivent member, you likely have FREE Action Teams which can be \$250 to sponsor an event. Events we're looking for sponsors include: Anniversary Dinner (November), Advent Dinners (November/December), Church Christmas Party (December), Christmas Cookie Exchange (December), Preschool Christmas Gifts (December), and Preschool Program Reception (December). If you are a Thrivent member and are willing to sponsor one of these events, let Sarah Shadday sarah.shadday@concordia-lcms.com or 314-330-3782 know and she can help with the forms

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November 2025



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