

THE Concordia Messenger



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

January 2026

Being Pro-Life

Rev. Samuel Scheltens

In January, we often reflect on the gift of life which we have from our Creator and Lord, and also about life issues that we face in the world. We usually select the month of January to do this, because of the passing down of *Roe v. Wade* on January 22, 1973. Even after the recent overturning of this decision, putting abortion legislation in the court of the states, abortion remains a black mark on our nation’s list of her many sins.

So why are Lutherans, and many other Christians, opposed to abortion?

We oppose abortion because it is the willful murder of the innocent, expressly prohibited by the Fifth Commandment, “You shall not murder.” The Lord again and again charges the Israelites, and those in authority over them, that their duties are to protect the fatherless, the widows, and the innocent.

The reasons used to justify abortion are numerous. They usually appeal to cases of heinous crime, stringent health matters, and simply, poverty. While these are all serious matters to consider, they rarely, if ever, justify the execution of the innocent. As the result of a crime, for example, the child is not the one who committed the crime. Why are they punished for a crime which they did not commit? The perpetrator, in a just society, will be the one punished. Again, poverty is also not a reason to be killed. This line of argument is telling the poor that their lives aren’t worth living. To be sure, we could do many things to aid the poor. I think that’s important. Christ our Lord and the apostles say many things regarding the support of the poor. The Lord frequently tells the Israel-

ites to help their poor brothers. But the execution of their children is not, in fact, aiding them. What no one seems to mention is that all of these reasons make up 1% or less of all performed abortions. The rest are performed ‘electively’, that is, the mothers cite no reason for requesting an abortion. They seek one out, because they believe their lives will be easier afterward.

We confess that it is the Lord who gives, and who takes away. He kills and makes alive. It is not in our hands to take the lives of men, created in God’s image. God says to Noah, “Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image.” (Gen. 9:6) There are offices in which killing is given, such as that of the government (“for he [the magistrate] does not bear the sword in vain,” Rom. 13:4) But for the rest of us, we are not called to kill. And furthermore, no one is called to kill the innocent. Rather, it is our duty to protect them, prevent them from false punishments of the law, and, unfortunately in our day, their parents and doctors.

Often these women are burdened with the guilt of what they’ve done. This burden of guilt is really greater than whatever suffering they might endure without it. They’re also ashamed of the circumstances that led them to it. But Christ brings forgiveness even for these, if they repent. Christ brought forgiveness for St. Paul, even after his heinous crimes against the Church. But Paul repented of them, and no longer persecuted the Church. He found comfort in Christ and in His Cross.

Director of Christian Education

I have so many favorite trips to Disney, but one of my favorites was going around Christmastime. Of course, the parks are beautiful, but that year I experienced something new to me. In EPCOT, each country had their own version of Santa Claus—or a similar figure—who shared Christmas traditions from their culture. Since not every country is primarily Christian, some of these figures were very different from the Santa we're used to.

The one that stuck with me most was Mexico, where the Three Kings appeared. In Mexico, Christmas isn't traditionally the main gift-giving day. Instead, gifts are given on January 6th, known as Three Kings Day. In the Christian calendar, we call this day Epiphany, when we celebrate the wise men visiting Jesus. And what did the wise men bring when they visited Him? Gifts. Honestly, it might make more sense to give gifts on January 6th—but to each their own.

Of course, the greatest gift of all was given in that small town of Bethlehem. God was made manifest. He became human—not in power or splendor, but in humility and lowliness. Jesus lived the perfect life we could not live and then willingly died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven. No gift could ever compare to what Christ has done for us. It isn't a toy forgotten after a week or something that breaks after a few years. It is an act with eternal significance.

Hopefully, everyone enjoyed their Christmas with a focus on Christ our Savior. And hopefully, we continue to rejoice daily in the gift of salvation He offers to us. We also pray that God continues to reveal Himself to the world, so that all who walk in darkness may see the light of life.

~Sarah Shadday

Sunday School/Bible Class

Sunday School 10:45am

Young Children are learning about the Magi (January 4), Jesus calls disciples (January 18), and the Transfiguration (January 25).

Older Children are learning about Resilient Minds.

Youth are attending the adult Bible Study.

Adults are meeting in our newly renovated Fellowship Hall and are learning the Small Catechism.

Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study will meet on the following dates: January 13 and 27, February 10 and 24, and March 10. They will study the liturgy with Pastor Scheltens on those dates.

Preschool

Thank you to everyone who came to our Preschool Program on December 17th. It was nice seeing so many family, friends, and church members there. The kids enjoyed sharing the true account of Jesus's birth.

If anyone is looking for a Preschool, Concordia is doing EARLY Registration for congregation members and returning 2025-2026 families. We have registration materials available and Concordia members and returning families may begin registering on Monday, January 19th. For all others registration begins February 1st, 2026. Here is information that can be shared with others:

PreK child should be 4 and potty trained by August 1st, 2026

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

3's child should be 3 and potty trained by August 1st, 2026

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

Registration Fee

\$90 if registered by March 1st
\$115 if registered by May 20th
\$125 for any day AFTER May 20th

Looking Ahead

On the **morning of Saturday, January 10**, we will make a few sensory or fidget mats to give away. These are great for people who need to keep fingers busy, whether they are individuals with ADHD, anxiety, autism, or memory issues. We need items that can be manipulated (large buttons, large beads, simple buckles), different textures of fabric (small pieces of corduroy, fleece, sequin fabric), "filling" for between layers of fabric, applique patches, and items that can be attached to the mat. To get an idea of what we need, check out "Fidget Blankets" on Pinterest, Etsy, and Amazon.

For those not excited about the fidget mats, we will have quilts to "tie" (tie knots to hold quilt layers together). Light refreshments will be served.

January Fellowship Events

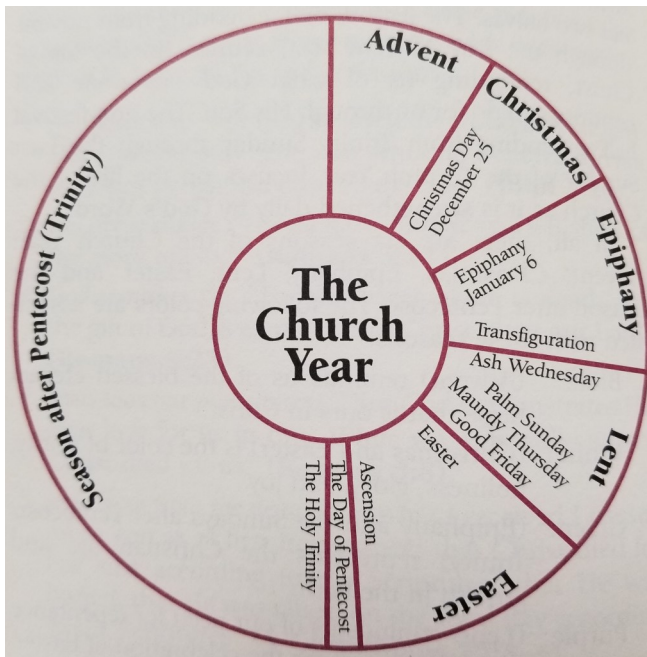
Join us at our Game Nights at Concordia. This is a great time to talk, eat, play games together, and invite friends or family. A light dinner will be served around 6pm at each game night. Everyone is welcome to bring any extra snacks, drinks, or games they would like. Our upcoming game nights will be on these Fridays from 5:30pm-8:30pm: January 30, February 20, and March 27.

LWML Mission Grants at Work

2025-2027 Mission Grant #6 (Omaha Convention)

Christ-Centered Hope for Cancer Patients - Phil's Friends, U.S. - \$100,000

The core of Phil's Friends' mission is based on Matthew 25:36: *"I was sick and you visited me."* In the past 18 years, Phil's Friends has sent nearly 60,000 care packages and more than one million Cards of Hope. This ministry supports anyone with cancer regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or income level. It costs \$100 for one year to support a cancer patient. This total includes the care package, 12 Cards of Hope, and postage. The care packages are hand-decorated, and their contents are customized to the recipient's age and gender. They are filled with simple, practical comfort items for cancer patients to use during treatment. Phil's Friends is 100% donor-supported. This grant will purchase supplies for care packages and Cards of Hope, and will cover shipping and postage, supporting 1,000 cancer patients for 1 year.



Jan 2026 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	29 6:30pm - Worship Service	30	31 6:30pm - New Year's Eve Divine	1	2	3 10am - O.A.
4 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	5 6:30pm - Properties 7pm - Elders	6 6:30pm - Epiphany of Our Lord-	7	8 6am - Men's Bible Study	9 5pm - Girl Scout Cookie Rally	10 9am - Mission Activities 9am - Quilting 10am - O.A.
11 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	12 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Church Council	13 7pm - Women's Bible Study	14	15	16	17 10am - O.A.
18 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	19 6:30pm - Worship Service	20	21	22 6am - Men's Bible Study	23	24 10am - O.A.
25 8am - National Lutheran Schools Week 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	26 6:30pm - Worship Service	27 7pm - Women's Bible Study	28	29	30	31 10am - O.A.

Treasurers Report

November 2025

Income Descriptions	Nov 2024 4 Sundays	Nov 2025 4 Sundays	Total to Date
Unified Budget	\$ 27,183.18	\$ 42,008.61	\$ 300,980.19
Memorials (Non-Designated)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 227.00
Memorials (Designated)	\$ 2,835.00	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Designated Gifts	\$ 2,512.61	\$ 1,701.06	\$ 113,705.36
Reimbursements & Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Rents & Wedding Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 610.00
Miscellaneous*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 121,933.02
Total Income	\$ 18,844.25	\$ 42,008.61	\$ 537,555.57
Average per week Unified Budget	\$ 4,258.00	\$ 10,502.15	\$ 7,717.44
Amount needed per week for Unified Budget	\$ 6,728.85	\$ 6,728.85	\$ 6,728.85

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	Nov-25	Total to Date
Missions - District Synod	\$ 500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Lutheran High School	\$ 750.00	\$ 8,250.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry	\$ 187.50	\$ 2,062.50
Total Support	\$ 1,437.50	\$ 17,812.50

Board Expenses	Nov-25	Total To Date	Total Budget
Pastoral Care	\$ 9,789.07	\$ 78,231.72	\$ 125,400.00
Christian Education	\$ 6,225.11	\$ 78,602.22	\$ 81,800.00
Congregational Worship	\$ 410.88	\$ 8,889.86	\$ 7,200.00
Missions & Outreach	\$ 1,437.50	\$ 23,712.67	\$ 21,500.00
Office	\$ 1,644.51	\$ 24,476.51	\$ 32,500.00
Properties	\$ 10,078.92	\$ 75,900.60	\$ 81,500.00
Unified Budget Total	\$ 29,585.99	\$ 289,813.58	\$ 349,900.00

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	Balance 11-30-2025
Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073	\$ 4,710.51
Board of Youth - Trip - 5446***	\$ 11,695.45
Building Fund - 2978**	\$ 3,028.26
Capital Improvements - 9545	\$ 13,999.96
Church Sign	\$ 987.15
Church Landscaping	\$ 893.20
Heine Family Project	\$ 1,754.41
Total Capital Improvements - \$17,634.72	\$ 17,634.72
Concordia Cares - 6370	\$ 3,555.44
Inheritance Fund - 7423	\$ 103,466.64
Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434	\$ 150.88
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	\$ 144,241.90
Interest Earned	\$ 482.87
Total In Church Checking Account	\$ 164,124.50
Total in Preschool Account	\$ 19,763.92

Weekly Offerings	
Week of	Offerings
December 7, 2025	\$6,667.78
December 14, 2025	\$5,297.36
December 21, 2025	\$9,271.45
December 28, 2025	\$10,929.00

Payments made to kitchen remodel - Aug	\$ 68,046.10
Payments made to kitchen remodel - Sept	\$ 57,698.88
Payments made to kitchen remodel - Oct	\$ 30,973.28
Payments made to kitchen remodel - Nov	\$ 10,903.42
Total paid to kitchen remodel	\$ 167,621.68

INTERCESSION and PRAYER
(Matthew 8:17)

Concordia Members

Surgery/Testing/

Recovery:

- Philip Caruana 12/3/25
- 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



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
- Pat Barnes, 2339 S 135, Rm 308, Greenwood, IN 46143
- Peter Economou, 1680 Vidalia Ct, Greenwood, IN 46143

- Mary Spray, 1708 N Franklin Rd, Greenwood, IN 46143
- James Lanning, 1134 Barcelona Dr, Greenwood, IN 46143
- Donna Cummings, 7525 N 875 W, Indianapolis, IN 46259

Military Servicemen & women.

- Erica Stephenson, Army, National Guard
- LT Chloe (Owen) Munoz, 12137 Red Barn Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32226
- Ivan Munoz, (LT)
- Zach Goins, 822 Timbervale Trail, Highlands Ranch, CO, 80129 (Navy Reserve)
- CPL Jadon Ranbarger (2166 Marmande St., Kailua, HI 96734)
- PFC Macy Ranbarger (MCAS New River, NC)
- Airman 1st Class, Alexander J. Economou, Air Natl Guard, Ft. Wayne, IN

Giving Updates

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to our Thanksgiving baskets, Giving Tree, Gift Cards for the Seminary Christmas, and The Refuge. We know we have many giving opportunities at the end of the year. With your kindness and generosity the past few months, we were able to share God's love with others by:

Providing a Thanksgiving dinner to two families in the Northeast Elementary School in our Greenwood Community.

Provide Christmas gifts for the children and parents to two families in Northeast Elementary School.

Provide over \$1,335 in gift cards to give to future pastors and their families.

Provide over 1,450 items for The Refuge Food Pantry in Greenwood.

Thank you for being kind stewards of the gifts God gives you and sharing those with others in need.

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

1/4 "Knowing and Being Known in a New Year"
1/11 "Solidarity"
1/18 "Outstanding Universal Value"
1/25 "Cross Words - Words of Power"

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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Greenwood, IN 46142-3836

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Facsimile: 317.881.4498
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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:

Guinn, Tracy	1/4
Tinsley, Mike	1/6
Krall, Norma	1/9
Kearns, Heidi	1/13
Reed, Shawn	1/16
Thetford, Lori	1/16
Thetford, Jared	1/22
Whitrock, Cliff	1/24
Economou, Peter	1/24
Moyers, Tony	1/25
Neumann, Miriam	1/25
Moyers, Regina	1/27
Ragsdale, Tommy	1/30

WEDDINGS:

Jake & Erin Gates	8	1/12
Bruce & Pennie Markel	8	1/12
Connie & Richard Howrey	16	1/22
Mike & Adele Tinsley	44	1/23
Jim & Doris Roemer	68	1/25

Years Date

GIVING TREE



HUMOR CORNER

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

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other.

Knock, knock. Who's there? Noah. Noah who? Noah good joke about January?

January is so cool; it gives everyone a chance to freeze their assets!

What do you call a snowman in January? A puddle waiting to happen!

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January 2026



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

