

THE Concordia Messenger



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

February 2026

The Gesimas

Rev. Samuel Scheltens

This year, before Lent begins, we will be observing three Sundays, which you may not have heard of before, unless you’ve attended a Lutheran church on the One-Year Lectionary series. These are Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima. The -gesima ending only means “within” or “about”, and each has a prefix indicating the numbers seventy, sixty, and fifty. So Septuagesima means, “within seventy,” referring to the fact that occurs roughly seventy days before Easter.

Each of these Sundays prepares us for Lent in some way, focusing our minds on the fasts and disciplines which are going to undertake during Lent. BUT – it is not Lent yet! We observe a few liturgical changes in the morning service, namely we drop the Alleluia and the greater Gloria (“Glory be to God on high...”); but we’ve not begun our fasts yet. We are only looking ahead, with Epiphany in the rearview mirror.

Many pastors connect the three Sundays of Gesimatide to the three *Solas* of the Reformation; *Sola Gratia*, *Sola Scriptura*, *Sola Fide* (Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone). Each of these Sundays’ historic Gospel readings remind us of one of these ideas. Septuagesima brings before us the Parable of the Vineyard Workers, reminding us that God’s grace alone is what brings us into His vineyard, and the heavenly reward which we receive through faith is entirely by His grace and goodness. Sexagesima brings before us the Parable of the Sower. The sower sows seed far and wide, which Jesus shows us to represent His Word. As we prepare for Lent, we are reminded of the centrality of God’s Word, and there is nothing we can do without it. Finally, Quinquagesima brings before us the blind man on the road to Jericho, in Luke 18. Jesus commends this man for his faith, for which He heals him. This blind man is a picture of our state in this world, as well as an example to us of childlike faith. This blind man, though physically blind, is spiritually eagle-eyed.

He knows Jesus to be the only one who can help him. We are often blind and on the side of the road, begging for help from anyone who passes by. But, it is only Jesus Christ who can restore our sight and lead us to everlasting life.

But why seventy? Why are we seeming to make Lent *longer*? Well, as stated above, this isn’t Lent. It is its own season, called Gesimatide. This season comes between the joys of Epiphanytide and the sorrows and repentance of Lent. Rather, this remembrance of seventy days before Easter reminds us of the seventy-year exile of the Israelites in Babylon.

So as we look forward to Lent, and ultimately to the great Easter celebrations, we sing also this hymn, #417 in *Lutheran Service Book*:

*1 Alleluia, song of gladness,
Voice of joy that cannot die;
Alleluia is the anthem
Ever raised by choirs on high;
In the house of God abiding
Thus they sing eternally.*

*2 Alleluia, thou resoundest,
True Jerusalem and free;
Alleluia, joyful mother,
All thy children sing with thee,
But by Babylon's sad waters
Mourning exiles now are we.*

*3 Alleluia cannot always
Be our song while here below;
Alleluia, our transgressions
Make us for a while for-go;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin must flow.*

*4 Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee,
Grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter
With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee for ever singing
Alleluia joyfully.*

Director of Christian Education

Valentine's Day often consumes the month of February. I feel like so many people focus on Valentine's Day and forget about Ash Wednesday which is February 18th this year. I can understand why having a nice dinner and date with someone special is way more exciting than being reminded you're a sinner and getting dust put on your forehead.

Ash Wednesday kicks off a season of penitence, being sorry and regretful of sins we've committed. Ash Wednesday reminds me of Genesis 2:7 when God creates Adam out of dust and also of Genesis 3:19 when man receives discipline for his sin. To dust we are and to dust we will return. That would be a depressing end of the story; but for the believer there is more.

Romans 6:4 reminds us, "We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." We, as God's children, receive new life through Christ Jesus. During the season of Lent, we reflect on the sin and our need for a Savior. That's true any day; but it is a big focus in Lent. When we recognize our need for a Savior, we can begin to understand the magnitude of what Christ did for us.

Thanks be to God He loves and cares for us enough to send Jesus to die on the cross and rise again to take away our sins.

~Sarah Shadday

Sunday School/Bible Class

Sunday School 10:45am

Young Children are learning about the Wedding at Cana (Feb 1), Sermon on the Mount (Feb 8), Jesus Calms a Storm (Feb 15), and Jairus's Daughter (Feb 22).

Older Children are learning about Resilient Minds.

Youth are attending the adult Bible Study.

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

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

Preschool

The Preschool staff would like to thank the congregation for the gifts they generously gave in December to the staff.

Preschool registration opens to all 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

MARVELOUS MULTI-GENERATIONAL MISSION MORNING!

Thank you to the 13 women and girls who helped us create, continue, and complete mission projects.

The Shadday girls completed our Forged by Fire (RSO) Crosses for Benny by wrapping the fb501c3.com cross necklaces (made during the Concordia Ladies Retreat in October) around their business cards and inserting them in packets for distribution.

Two quilts were tied. Seventeen fidget mats were completed by participants ages from pre-school to octogenarians.

If you know of someone who would appreciate a fidget mat, please let Genny Hartley know. These are lap-sized mats with items to keep restless hands busy. They are helpful for some people with autism, dementia, and anxiety.

Thank you to Ruth for her Thrivent Action Team grant for supplies. Thank you to Genny for leading us in this mission opportunity.

BEFORE YOU ARE A FOSTER CHILD...

Sunday afternoon, February 1, at 3 p.m., Tara from Isaiah 117 House (Scripture Isaiah 1:17) will speak to us about the children they serve. In crisis, these children have been removed from their homes but not yet placed into foster care.

We are collecting new socks of any size as an ingathering. You may place donated socks in the bins in the Noah Room.

After Tara speaks, we will have a very short business meeting for updates and our Ash Wednesday supper.

Fellowship Congregational 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: February 20, and March 27.

LWML Mission Grants at Work

2025-2027 Mission Grant #6
(Omaha Convention)

Light of Jesus Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers

- A Place of Refuge Ministries of South WI, Inc., Wisconsin - \$75,000

A Place of Refuge (APOR) is a sanctity of life ministry that positively impacts the lives of unwed, homeless pregnant women and their preborn children. Both mom and baby are equally worthy of Jesus' love, as He commands their safety and protection, which motivates APOR to offer valuable services. Women can reside at the Refuge House for their entire pregnancy and up to a year following the birth of the child. APOR teaches life and parenting skills. The women attend worship at a local LCMS congregation every Sunday. The current staff is teaching the Catechism to the moms. The Holy Spirit has brought many moms and babies to the baptismal font. This grant will fund the purchase of a new van for transportation to church, Bible studies, doctors' appointments, and grocery shopping, as well as a set of five parental skill books to be gifted to each new mom.

Feb 2026 Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <div>1</div> <div>8am - Preschool Registration Open</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div> <div>6pm - Women's Bible Sty</div> | <div>2</div> <div>6:30pm - Properties</div> <div>6:30pm - Worship Service</div> <div>7pm - Elders</div> | | | | | <div>6</div> <div>10am - O.A.</div> |
| <div>8</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div> <div>6pm - Women's Bible Sty</div> | <div>9</div> <div>6:30pm - Worship Service</div> <div>7pm - Church Council</div> | <div>10</div> <div>7pm - Women's Bible Study</div> | | <div>11</div> <div>6am - Men's Bible Study</div> | <div>12</div> | <div>13</div> <div>9am - Quilling</div> <div>10am - O.A.</div> |
| <div>15</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div> <div>6pm - Women's Bible Sty</div> | <div>16</div> <div>6:30pm - Worship Service</div> | | <div>17</div> <div>6:30am - Ash Wednesday -</div> | | <div>19</div> <div>5:30pm - Congregation Game Night</div> | <div>20</div> <div>10am - O.A.</div> |
| <div>22</div> <div>9:30am - Worship</div> <div>10:45am - Sunday School</div> <div>6pm - Women's Bible Sty</div> | <div>23</div> <div>6:30pm - Worship Service</div> | <div>24</div> <div>7pm - Women's Tuesday Bible</div> | | <div>25</div> <div>6am - Men's Bible Study</div> | <div>26</div> | <div>27</div> <div>8am - Right to Life - Euchre</div> <div>10am - O.A.</div> <div>1pm - Party-host Jessica Coffey &</div> |

Treasurers Report

December 2025

| <u>Income Descriptions</u> | <u>Dec 2024</u> <u>5 Sundays</u> | <u>Dec 2025</u> <u>4 Sundays</u> | <u>Total to Date</u> |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Unified Budget | \$57,549.69 | \$ 34,268.59 | \$ 335,248.78 |
| Memorials (Non-Designated) | \$ 100.00 | \$ - | \$ 227.00 |
| Memorials (Designated) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 100.00 |
| Designated Gifts | \$ 5,331.20 | \$ 1,959.00 | \$ 115,664.36 |
| Reimbursements & Refunds | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| Rents & Wedding Fees | \$ 120.00 | \$ 120.00 | \$ 730.00 |
| Miscellaneous* | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 121,933.02 |
| Total Income | \$57,649.69 | \$ 34,268.59 | \$ 573,903.16 |
| Average per week Unified Budget | \$11,529.94 | \$ 8,567.15 | \$ 8,596.12 |
| 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>Dec-25</u> | <u>Total to Date</u> |
|---|---------------|----------------------|
| Missions - District Synod | \$ 500.00 | \$ 8,000.00 |
| Lutheran High School | \$ 750.00 | \$ 9,000.00 |
| Lutheran Hispanic Ministry | \$ 187.50 | \$ 2,250.00 |
| Total Support | \$ 1,437.50 | \$ 19,250.00 |

| <u>Board Expenses</u> | <u>Dec-25</u> | <u>Total To Date</u> | <u>Total Budget</u> |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Pastoral Care | \$ 9,789.07 | \$ 86,844.69 | \$ 125,400.00 |
| Christian Education | \$ 6,225.11 | \$ 84,989.08 | \$ 81,800.00 |
| Congregational Worship | \$ 410.88 | \$ 9,271.06 | \$ 7,200.00 |
| Missions & Outreach | \$ 1,437.50 | \$ 25,150.17 | \$ 21,500.00 |
| Office | \$ 1,644.51 | \$ 26,022.57 | \$ 32,500.00 |
| Properties | \$10,078.92 | \$ 94,573.24 | \$ 81,500.00 |
| Unified Budget Total | \$29,585.99 | \$ 326,850.81 | \$ 349,900.00 |

| <u>Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward</u> <u>Accounts</u> | <u>Balance</u> <u>12-31-2025</u> |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073 | \$ 4,715.51 |
| Board of Youth - Trip - 5446*** | \$ 11,712.83 |
| Building Fund - 2978** | \$ 3,031.47 |
| Capital Improvements - 9545 | \$ 14,020.73 |
| Church Sign | \$ 988.63 |
| Church Landscaping | \$ 894.55 |
| Heine Family Project | \$ 1,757.02 |
| Total Capital Improvements - \$17,660.93 | \$ 17,660.93 |
| Concordia Cares - 6370 | \$ 3,559.21 |
| Inheritance Fund - 7423 | \$ 103,708.30 |
| Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434 | \$ 151.04 |
| Total in LCEF Steward Accounts | \$ 144,539.29 |
| Interest Earned | \$ 297.39 |
| Total In Church Checking Account | \$ 200,446.50 |
| Total in Preschool Account | \$ 19,644.68 |
| 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 |
| Payments made to kitchen remodel - Dec | \$ 1,505.57 |
| Total paid to kitchen remodel | \$ 169,127.25 |

| <u>Weekly Attendance and Offerings</u> | | |
|--|-------------|------------------|
| <u>Week of</u> | <u>2026</u> | <u>Offerings</u> |
| January 4, 2026 | 103 | \$5,361.00 |
| January 11, 2026 | 85 | \$2,560.02 |
| January 18, 2026 | 103 | \$6,440.00 |
| January 25, 2026 | Snow storm | \$1,125.00 |

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

Military Servicemen & women.

- Erica Stephenson, Army, National Guard
- LT Chloe (Owen) Munoz, 12137 Red Barn Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32226
- Ivan Munoz, (LT)
- 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

Sola Gratia

Grace Alone

Sola Fide

Faith Alone

Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone

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

2/1 "Rotten Tomatoes"
2/8 "Type C"
2/15 "Up and Down the Mountain"
2/22 "As Through Fire"

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

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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 | <i>Dir. Christian Education</i> |
| Erica Stephenson | <i>Deaconess</i> |
| Sarah Shadday | <i>Preschool Director</i> |
| Brad Wheeler | <i>Admin. Assistant</i> |

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

HUMOR CORNER

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

*If the number 666 is
considered evil, then
technically, 25.8069758 is the
root of all evil.*

$\sqrt[3]{666}$

= 25.8069758

I would like to thank the congregation
for the generous gifts given to me in
December. Brad Wheeler

| BIRTHDAYS: | | WEDDINGS | Years | Date |
|---------------------------|------|---------------------|-------|------|
| Sullivan, Rachel | 2/2 | Rick & Linda Snyder | 54 | 2/5 |
| Bierman, Daniel | 2/3 | Mike & Kris Bierman | 36 | 2/24 |
| Bontrager Jr., John | 2/3 | | | |
| Conrad, Diane | 2/4 | | | |
| Dombroski, Lynn | 2/5 | | | |
| Reinke, Jeff | 2/9 | | | |
| Williams, Rachel (Wilson) | 2/9 | | | |
| Sullivan, Diana | 2/10 | | | |
| Hassel, Deb | 2/10 | | | |
| Ford, Heidi | 2/11 | | | |
| Lawler, Mark | 2/16 | | | |
| Barrick Steve | 2/16 | | | |
| Bruhn, Sharon | 2/21 | | | |
| Hartley, Genny | 2/22 | | | |
| Wagener, Hank | 2/23 | | | |
| Owen, Dean | 2/27 | | | |
| Snyder, Kevin | 2/27 | | | |
| Hoeltke, Herb | 2/28 | | | |

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**Concordia Lutheran Church
& Preschool**

305 N Howard Road, Greenwood, IN 46142

