

# THE Concordia Messenger



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

March 2026

## The Annunciation of Our Lord

Rev. Samuel Scheltens

The date March 25 is largely left insignificant to many of us, especially when it falls during Lent, as it does this year. This year it falls on a Wednesday, which is the day we gather for our Lenten midweek services. So this year, it might be a little more noticeable for many of us at Concordia.

But March 25 holds a greater significance than you may realize. On this day, the Church remembers the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Mother of our Lord, the virgin Mary. St. Luke tells us the announcement of the angel:

*“Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:30-33)*

Mary gladly hears the words of the angel, though she does not know how this will happen. The angel then announces to her, that the Holy Spirit will come upon her, such that the child in her womb will be called ‘the Son of God.’

So we remember this date not just as excuse to hear Luke 1, but in fact to gather as a church and marvel at the mystery of God become flesh, not just at Christmas time, but again in the midst of Lententide. Even as we prepare for the remembrance of the death and resurrection of our Lord, we circle back to the mystery of the Incarnation itself, and what a gift the Lord has given us in Jesus. We remember this date, March 25, as nine months before Christmas, as a celebration of the Word entering Mary’s ear, and giving fruit to her womb.

This March, consider the great mystery of the Incarnation of our Lord, God in the flesh, who walked among us and pitched His tent among us (as John writes in chapter 1). Consider how His Incarnation is not only to save us from our sins, but that God would have communion with us, and become one with us, even as the Son is one with His Father. He comes to us and feeds us with His own precious Body and Blood, the very price for our redemption. So we partake of the Sacrifice, as priests. The priests would eat the meat sacrificed on the Altar, and now in Christ, who is our High Priest, has given us His own Flesh and Blood as true meat and true drink, to feed our souls.

Christ's blessings,  
Pastor Scheltens

## Director of Christian Education

My husband and I enjoy going to Beef and Boards. Recently, we saw Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. I didn't guess the ending at all. All of the clues were there and given to me, I just couldn't figure out how it was going to end.

The Bible is very clear on who Jesus is. We can look at the Old Testament and see how narratives and prophecies point to Jesus, His death, and resurrection. We can look at Jesus's own words and see where He plainly tells the disciples that, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." (Luke 9)

In Matthew 26, we see Jesus tell His disciples one of the disciples will betray Him. Jesus gives them all the information. He's even given them the ending! In Matthew 12, Jesus told the disciples, "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."

Lent and Easter are no big mystery for the Christian. Jesus foretold his death and resurrection. He was clear about what was going to happen and what the ending. He's done that also with the last day. He's told us that those who believe in Jesus as their Savior will join Him in paradise. Others will be cast out. He's shown this with His parables (stories about heaven) of the sheep and goats, fish in the net, and more. Jesus proved we can trust Him. We can trust in His forgiveness, His Words, and His promise of heaven. None of this is a mystery. It's a mercy given to all of us. Let us continue to repent this Lenten season (and all seasons) and trust in the forgiveness promised by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have been given everything to be made wise unto salvation. The Bible is clear about who Jesus, our Savior, is and that we are indeed sinful and in need of a Savior. There is no mystery in that.

~Sarah Shadday

## Sunday School/Bible Class

### Sunday School 10:45am

**Young Children** are learning about Zaccheus (1st), Jesus Heals a Deaf Man (8th), Jesus Feeds 5000 (15th), Jesus is the Good Shepherd (22nd), and Palm Sunday (29th).

**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** is 7pm-8:30pm on March 10 and they will finish their study of the liturgy with Pastor Scheltens. They will continue to meet March 24, April 14 and 28, May 12 and 26, and June 9. They will learn about perseverance in loving the "prodigal".

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## Preschool

The Preschool had fun celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week at the end of January. Some of the highlights were special readers, donuts, and making Valentine baskets for our homebound members.

Preschool registration is open to all. As of the time of writing, we have 7 PreK spots and 6 3's spots left. 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**

\$115 if registered by May 20th

\$125 for any day AFTER May 20th



### Isaiah 117 House

We recently enjoyed meeting Lindy- Ruth and Tara from *Isaiah 117 House* and learning of their mission to serve children after they are removed from their homes until they are placed in foster care. This house was rescued from a drug situation, remodeled, and given to the *Isaiah 117 House* ministry. Charitable groups adopted rooms to furnish. While not large, it is a beautiful, engaging place for traumatized children to spend a few days with their DHS caseworker until their foster care placement. This is immensely better than an office waiting room. They have served nearly one thousand children in the two and a half years they have been open in Marion County.

Whatever is needed (the novel a HS English class is reading, size 15 shoes, a snorkel for water play) *Isaiah 117 House* volunteers procure for the children during their short stay. Most children stay two or three days. Sibling groups may end up staying longer while a suitable foster home is found.

Before leaving for foster care, each child is given a duffle bag and allowed to select several days' worth of brand-new undergarments, new clothing, a couple new toys, and other items from the Giving Room.

If you are a bargain shopper with a mission heart and extra dollars, look for new pajamas, coats & jackets, clothing, stuffed animals, bras & sports bras, make up, Bibles and journals, craft or science kits, shoes, underwear, socks, and more, anything toddlers-to-teens would enjoy. Be sure to leave tags on items.

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School is June 15-19th 9am-11:30 am this year. Save the date! Let Sarah Shadday know if you're interested in volunteering. Look for more information starting Easter Sunday.

### Congregational Fellowship Events

Lenten meals on March 4, 11th, 18th, and 25th starting at 5:15pm. They are free to attend. Members are welcome to bring desserts if they would like to bring something. Lenten services begin at 6:30pm.

Game Night is March 27th from 5:30-8:30pm. 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 April 17th and May 8th.

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### LWML Mission Grants at Work

2025-2027 Mission Grant #8  
(Omaha Convention)

#### Building a Place of Care

- Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota -

**\$60,000**

Since 1952, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch has touched the lives of more than 43,000 at-risk children and their families. They bring Christ-centered hope and healing to children who have experienced severe psychiatric, emotional, behavioral, and/or developmental challenges due to abuse, neglect, violence, and other heartbreaking traumas. The Ranch plans to build the Zurcher Cottage, a psychiatric residential treatment facility, to replace the current cottages. Within the Zurcher Cottage, they plan to create the Reflection Room, a safe and calming environment that will support the children's emotional, spiritual, and psychological well-being. Not only will this room benefit the children, but it will also directly support the staff during stressful work shifts and allow them to be more effective caregivers to the children in their care. This grant will help fund the construction and furnishing of the Reflection Room on the Ranch's Minot campus.

# Mar 2026 Calendar

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue                               | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| 1<br>9:30am - Worship<br>10:45am - Sunday School<br>3pm - Ladies Afternoon Out -                   | 2<br>6:30pm - Properties<br>6:30pm - Worship Service<br>7pm - Elders | 3                                 | 4<br>5:15pm - Fellowship Meal<br>6:30pm - Lent II Worship Service   | 5  | 6  | 7<br>Ladies retreat-Christ Noblesville<br>10am - O.A. |
| 8<br>9:30am - Worship<br>10:45am - Sunday School<br>6pm - Women's Bible Sty                        | 9<br>6:30pm - Worship Service  | 10<br>7pm - Women's Bible Study   | 11<br>5:15pm - Fellowship Meal<br>6:30pm - Lent III Worship Service | 12   | 13<br>9:30am - Tour Isaiah 117 House                     | 14<br>9am - Quilling-Mission Morning<br>10am - O.A.   |
| 15<br>9:30am - Worship<br>10:45am - Sunday School<br>6pm - Women's Bible Sty                       | 16<br>6:30pm - Worship Service<br>7pm - Church Council               | 17                                | 18<br>5:15pm - Fellowship Meal<br>6:30pm - Lent IV Worship Service  | 19<br>7pm - Choir Practice                                     | 20   | 21<br>10am - O.A.                                     |
| 22<br>9:30am - Worship<br>10:45am - Sunday School<br>6pm - Women's Bible Sty                       | 23<br>6:30pm - Worship Service                                       | 24<br>7pm - Women's Tuesday Bible | 25<br>5:15pm - Fellowship Meal<br>6:30pm - Lent V Worship Service   | 26<br>7pm - Choir Practice                                     | 27<br>5:30pm - Congregation Game Night                   | 28<br>8am - Church Work Day<br>10am - O.A.            |
| 29<br><b>PALM SUNDAY</b><br>9:30am - Worship<br>10:45am - Sunday School<br>6pm - Women's Bible Sty | 30<br>6:30pm - Worship Service                                       | 31                                | 1   | 2<br><b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b><br>6:30pm - Maundy Thursday Divine | 3<br><b>GOOD FRIDAY</b><br>6:30pm - Good Friday Tenebrae | 4<br>10am - O.A.                                      |

# Treasurers Report

**January 2025**

| <b>Income Descriptions</b>                | <b>Jan 2025</b>    | <b>Jan 2026</b>     | <b>Total to Date</b> |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
|   | <b>4 Sundays</b>   | <b>4 Sundays</b>    |                      |
| Unified Budget                            | \$19,580.00        | \$ 15,736.02        | \$ 15,736.02         |
| Memorials (Non-Designated)                | \$ -               | \$ -                | \$ -                 |
| Memorials (Designated)                    | \$ -               | \$ -                | \$ -                 |
| Designated Gifts                          | \$ 1,809.50        | \$ 406.50           | \$ 406.50            |
| Reimbursements & Refunds                  | \$ -               | \$ 150.00           | \$ 150.00            |
| Rents & Wedding Fees                      | \$ -               | \$ -                | \$ -                 |
| Miscellaneous*                            | \$ -               | \$ -                | \$ -                 |
| <b>Total Income</b>                       | <b>\$21,389.50</b> | <b>\$ 15,736.02</b> | <b>\$ 16,292.52</b>  |
| Average per week Unified Budget           | \$ 4,895.00        | \$ 3,934.01         | \$ 403.49            |
| Amount needed per week for Unified Budget | \$ 6,739.00        | \$ 6,764.00         | \$ 6,728.85          |

| <b>Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses</b> | <b>Jan-26</b>      | <b>Total to Date</b> |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| Missions - District Synod                             | \$ 500.00          | \$ 500.00            |
| Lutheran High School                                  | \$ 750.00          | \$ 750.00            |
| Lutheran Hispanic Ministry                            | \$ 187.50          | \$ 187.50            |
| <b>Total Support</b>                                  | <b>\$ 1,437.50</b> | <b>\$ 1,437.50</b>   |

| <b>Board Expenses</b>       | <b>Jan-26</b>      | <b>Total To Date</b> | <b>Total Budget</b>  |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Pastoral Care               | \$ 9,810.58        | \$ 9,810.58          | \$ 119,200.00        |
| Christian Education         | \$12,034.06        | \$ 12,034.06         | \$ 83,600.00         |
| Congregational Worship      | \$ 1,926.19        | \$ 1,926.19          | \$ 4,300.00          |
| Missions & Outreach         | \$ 2,237.50        | \$ 2,237.50          | \$ 21,500.00         |
| Office                      | \$ 2,402.19        | \$ 2,402.19          | \$ 32,450.00         |
| Properties                  | \$ 7,979.18        | \$ 7,979.18          | \$ 90,700.00         |
| <b>Unified Budget Total</b> | <b>\$36,389.70</b> | <b>\$ 36,389.70</b>  | <b>\$ 351,750.00</b> |

| <b>Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts</b> | <b>46053</b>      |
|--|-------------------|
| Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073                        | 4,719.51          |
| Board of Youth - Trip - 5446***                        | 11,727.75         |
| Building Fund - 2978**                                 | 3,034.04          |
| Capital Improvements - 9545                            | 14,038.61         |
| Church Sign  | 989.89            |
| Church Landscaping                                     | 895.68            |
| Heine Family Project                                   | 1,759.25          |
| Total Capital Improvements - \$17,683.43               | 17,683.43         |
| Concordia Cares - 6370                                 | 3,562.23          |
| Inheritance Fund - 7423                                | 103,928.50        |
| Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434               | 151.17            |
| <b>Total in LCEF Steward Accounts</b>                  | <b>144,806.63</b> |
| <b>Interest Earned</b>                                 | <b>289.84</b>     |

| <b>Weekly Attendance and Offerings</b> |             |                  |
|--|-------------|------------------|
| <b>Week of</b>                         | <b>2026</b> | <b>Offerings</b> |
| February 1, 2026                       | 80          | \$5,335.00       |
| February 8, 2026                       | 82          | \$3,715.00       |
| February 15, 2026                      | 172         | \$4,180.00       |
| February 22, 2026                      | 133         | \$3,635.00       |

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Total In Church Checking Account</b> | <b>\$ 151,821.79</b> |
| <b>Total in Preschool Account</b>       | <b>\$ 20,376.45</b>  |

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

**Concordia Members**

**Surgery/Testing/**

**Recovery:**

- Ray Everson 2/5/26
- 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
- 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**

- Rick Wildrick 2/3/26
- 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

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**LADIES' AFTERNOON OUT** – Join us at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 1 at 3 p.m. for a meal and fellowship at McAlister's on SR 135 near Fry Rd.

**MISSION MORNING:** Saturday morning, March 14, we will meet to prepare *My Cup Overflows* gifts based on Psalm 23. (Check out lwml.org and search for the title, *My Cup Overflows*.) Quilts will also be tied. Drop in anytime from 9 to 11:30. You may also bring your own project and fellowship with us.

**PENNIES FROM HEAVEN:** Due to the situation in Tuzla, our Pennies from Heaven will go to *Isaiah 117 House* which serves children during the traumatic time between home removal and foster placement.

## 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

**3/1** "The Fifth Act"  
**3/8** "What Was the Price on That?"  
**3/15** "No Command from the Lord"  
**3/22** "Meeting You Where You Are"

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

**Worship Anew**—Sundays  
WRTV (TV 6) 7:00 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](mailto:office@concordia-lcms.com)  
**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](mailto: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

### HUMOR CORNER

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

*Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.*

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*A horse walks into a bar and the bartender says, "Why the long face?"*  
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*What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet?  
Supplies!*

#### BIRTHDAYS:

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Crouch, Lucas      | 3/6  |
| Foster, Fred       | 3/7  |
| Hartley, Samuel    | 3/11 |
| Bertsch, John      | 3/13 |
| Guthrie, Larry     | 3/14 |
| Thompson, Courtney | 3/15 |
| Everson, Ruth      | 3/16 |
| Guinn, April       | 3/16 |
| Guthrie, Anne      | 3/17 |
| Liechty, Jason     | 3/17 |
| Wilson, Dave       | 3/17 |
| Shadday, Sarah     | 3/19 |
| Ronczka, Scott     | 3/21 |
| Shadday, Hannah    | 3/21 |
| Hayes, Jim         | 3/22 |
| Marot, Sarah       | 3/22 |
| Infante, Phillis   | 3/22 |
| Brooks, Thomas     | 3/24 |
| Owen, Ben          | 3/24 |
| Maurice, Jonathan  | 3/26 |
| Boling, Jordan     | 3/29 |
| Judd, Helen        | 3/31 |

#### WEDDINGS:

|                          | Years | Date |
|--------------------------|-------|------|
| David & Erica Stephenson | 32    | 3/17 |
| Mike & Anne Finger       | 48    | 3/25 |

**Join us for the 2026 Martin + Katie Conference at University Lutheran Church in Champaign, IL on Saturday, March 28, 2026.** At this free conference, grow as Christian men and women, meet new friends, get to know each other, and have fun. The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Boyle and his wife, Nicole, will be our presenters. Rev. Dr. Boyle will teach about cultivating the pious Christian life as men and women. The conference is open to ages 18–30. Married or single are welcome. Registration is required, as capacity is limited. Please register no later than Friday, March 20th. Info and registration are available at <http://martinpluskatie.org>.

*Plus:* Bonus activities are planned for Friday night, March 27, and Saturday night, March 28! All are invited to stay for Sunday Bible Class, Divine Service, and lunch on Palm Sunday, March 29.



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