

THE Concordia Messenger



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

April 2026

Easter Homily

by John Chrysostom (AD 347-407)

Is there anyone who is a devout lover of God?
Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!
Is there anyone who is a grateful servant?
Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!

Are there any weary with fasting?
Let them now receive their wages!
If any have toiled from the first hour,
let them receive their due reward;
If any have come after the third hour,
let him with gratitude join in the Feast!
And he that arrived after the sixth hour,
let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss.
And if any delayed until the ninth hour,
let him not hesitate; but let him come too.
And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour,
let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.

For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.
He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour,
as well as to him that toiled from the first.
To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows.
He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor.
The deed He honors and the intention He commends.

Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!
First and last alike receive your reward;
rich and poor, rejoice together!
Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!

You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,
rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!
Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.
Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith.
Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!

Let no one grieve at his poverty,
for the universal kingdom has been revealed.
Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again;
for forgiveness has risen from the grave.
Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Savior
has set us free.
He has destroyed it by enduring it.

He destroyed Hades when He descended into it.
He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.
Isaiah foretold this when he said,
"You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below."

Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with.
It was in an uproar because it is mocked.
It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed.
It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated.
It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive.
Hell took a body, and discovered God.
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.
O death, where is thy sting?
O Hades, where is thy victory?

Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated!
Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!
Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;
for Christ having risen from the dead, is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever.
Amen!

Director of Christian Education

I've been reading a lot about loving prodigals to prepare for women's Bible Study. Some of the commentaries I read on Luke 15 focus on the loving father and not the prodigal son. They focus on the father being the main character of the parable and not the son.

In some of the more practical books I've been reading for this study, they also focus on love and forgiveness. Often prodigals and their families hurt each other in some way or another. Often it's decisions made or things said (or not said). Rarely is it completely one sided and rarely is there a specific point in time that is the complete turning point in one's life toward prodigalhood. As much as some want to blame and point to one specific time, it's usually a culmination of decisions that brings everyone to the point of being a prodigal or parent of a prodigal.

One major theme the books talk about is forgiveness. Needing to forgive the prodigal; but also let them face brokenness and consequences for their actions. Also, prodigals need to forgive their parents. One of the books I read by Phil Waldrep interviews 30 prodigals (spiritual and from other poor decision making). One of the stories talks about how a rift continued to grow between a father and son. The father believed if there was something truly wrong, the son would say something. Finally, the father took the first step. When he found out why the son was angry; the father didn't defend himself (even though there was an important reason why it happened), he asked for forgiveness. The son forgave him and their relationship began to mend.

We choose to sin a lot either intentionally or by habit. How often do we drive a rift between our Savior and ourselves. Thankfully, God has already bridged the rift. However, we still need to recognize our sin and return to our loving Father as well. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Christ already took the first step. Christ took our punishment for us. In our sin and brokenness, we recognize our need for a Savior. When we finally realize how unclean we are and how far we're separated from God; we truly recognize our need for forgiveness and a Savior. Sometimes we believe God could never love or forgive us; but NOTHING in all creation can separate us from our loving Father.

Thank God Jesus washes us clean through His death and resurrection. Thank God He loved us enough to help us return home. Our loving Father loves us more than we will ever realize.

~Sarah Shadday

Sunday School/Bible Class

Sunday School 10:45am

Young Children are learning about Jesus is Crucified (12th), Jesus Rises (19th), Road to Emmaus (26th). Please note, there is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday (5th) and there will be an Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt between the two services.

Older Children are learning about Resilient Minds.

Youth are attending the adult Bible Study.

Adults are meeting in the Fellowship Hall and are learning about Galatians.

Women Tuesday Night Bible Study is 7pm-8:30pm is learning about Loving the Prodigal. A Prodigal can be someone who no longer believes in Jesus as their Savior or because of their choices is distanced from family members and friends. If you are interested in the book for this study, please contact Sarah Shadday at Sarah.Shadday@concordia-lcms.com or 314-330-3782. They meet April 14 and 28, May 12 and 26, and June 9 at church.

Preschool

The Preschoolers had a fun time visiting Mrs. Guthrie at the Greenwood Library on their field trip. They also enjoyed time with their families over Spring Break. We'll celebrate Easter the day we get back from Spring Break.

Preschool registration is filling up fast. As of writing this, we have 1 PreK spot open and 4 3's spots open. 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

Congregational Fellowship Events

Easter Breakfast is at 8:30am on Easter Sunday. Please sign up in the lobby so we know how much food to plan. There is also a sign up to bring breakfast casseroles for that morning.

Egg Hunt for kids is at 9:15am on Easter Sunday. We will begin in the glass area behind the sanctuary; if the weather is good, we will move outside for our egg hunt. Please, meet at 9:15am in the area behind the sanctuary if you plan to attend the egg hunt.

Easter Caroling will take place after Bible Class on April 19th. We provide a light lunch (sandwiches and chips) and then visit our church's homebound members. Please, contact Sarah Shadday (Sarah.Shadday@concordia-lcms.com or 314-330-3782) if you have dietary restrictions. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the restrooms.

Game Night is April 17th 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 May 8th.

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. The donation list is out if you are interested in purchasing items for VBS.



LWML Mission Grants at Work

2025-2027 Mission Grant #9
(Omaha Convention)

Introducing Muslims to the Savior

- Lutheran Heritage Foundation Global -

\$100,000

Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) supports the mission of the church — bringing Christ to the lost so that, through the Holy Spirit and the Word, they may believe in Christ their Savior. For over 30 years, LHF has extended the ministry of God's Word by translating and publishing Lutheran books that explain the Bible. They have translated and published more than 1,500 titles in over 150 languages, which have been distributed at no cost to churches, pastors, individuals, and missionaries. About a quarter of the world's population — over 1.9 billion — identify as Muslim. They are living in spiritual darkness and starving for the love of Jesus Christ. This grant will fund the publication of over 20,000 Lutheran books, including the *Small Catechism*, *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, and devotions translated into Arabic, Farsi, Bahasa Indonesian, and Kazakh, to be distributed in the United States and worldwide.

Apr 2026 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 PALM SUNDAY 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	30 6:30pm - Worship Service		1	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30pm - Maundy Thursday Divine	3 GOOD FRIDAY 6:30pm - Good Friday Tenebrae	4 10am - O.A.
5 EASTER 7am - Easter Worship Service 8:30am - Easter Breakfast 9:15am - Easter Egg Hunt 10am - Easter Worship Service 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	6 6:30pm - Properties 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Elders		8	9	10	11 9am - Quilting 10am - O.A. 3pm - Girl Scout Thinking Day
12 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 2pm - Craig & Diane Smith - 50th 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	13 6:30pm - Worship Service	14 7pm - Women's Bible Study	15	16	17 5:30pm - Congregation Game Night	18 10am - O.A.
19 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 12pm - Easter Caroling 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	20 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Church Council		22	23	24	25 10am - O.A.
26 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	27 6:30pm - Worship Service	28 7pm - Women's Tuesday Bible	29	30	1	2 10am - O.A.

Treasurers Report

February 2026

<u>Income Descriptions</u>	<u>Feb 2025</u> <u>4 Sundays</u>	<u>Feb 2026</u> <u>4 Sundays</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Unified Budget	\$ 26,375.50	\$ 18,729.05	\$ 34,465.07
Memorials (Non-Designated)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Memorials (Designated)	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Gifts	\$ 4,269.00	\$ 383.88	\$ 790.38
Reimbursements & Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Rents & Wedding Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 26,375.50	\$ 19,112.93	\$ 35,405.45
Average per week Unified Budget	\$ 6,593.88	\$ 4,682.26	\$ 883.72
Amount needed per week for Unified Budget	\$ 6,728.85	\$ 6,764.00	\$ 6,728.85

<u>Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Feb-26</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Missions - District Synod	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00
Lutheran High School	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,500.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry	\$ 187.50	\$ 375.00
Total Support	\$ 1,437.50	\$ 2,875.00

<u>Board Expenses</u>	<u>Feb-26</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pastoral Care	\$ 8,941.88	\$ 18,752.46	\$ 119,200.00
Christian Education	\$ 7,466.73	\$ 19,500.79	\$ 83,600.00
Congregational Worship	\$ 67.50	\$ 1,993.69	\$ 4,300.00
Missions & Outreach	\$ 1,437.50	\$ 3,675.00	\$ 21,500.00
Office	\$ 1,306.31	\$ 3,708.50	\$ 32,450.00
Properties	\$ 5,290.55	\$ 13,269.73	\$ 90,700.00
Unified Budget Total	\$ 24,510.47	\$ 60,900.17	\$ 351,750.00

<u>Lutheran Church Extension Fund Stew-</u>	<u>46053</u>
Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073	4,723.13
Board of Youth - Trip - 5446***	11,741.24
Building Fund - 2978**	3,036.37
Capital Improvements - 9545	14,054.75
Church Sign	991.04
Church Landscaping	896.72
Heine Family Project	1,761.27
Total Capital Improvements - \$17,703.78	17,703.78
Concordia Cares - 6370	3,564.96
Inheritance Fund - 7423	104,127.81
Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434	151.29
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	145,048.58
Interest Earned	262.30

<u>Weekly Attendance and Offerings</u>		
<u>Week of</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
March 1, 2026	143	\$7,285.00
March 8, 2026	150	\$2,125.00
March 15, 2026	146	\$6,313.50
March 22, 2026	146	\$17,767.37
March 29, 2026	108 + tbd	\$4,635.00

Total In Church Checking Account	\$176,846.53
Total in Preschool Account	\$ 22,305.14
Designated Offering	\$ 36,238.23

INTERCESSION and PRAYER
(Matthew 8:17)

Concordia Members

Surgery/Testing/

Recovery:

- Doris Roemer 3/10/26
- 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

- Kurt Roemer 3/10/26
- 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
- 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

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

Kairos Prison Ministry

"...I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:36

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. (Kairos) is a lay-led, interdenominational Christian ministry in which men and women volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to prisoners and their families.

The Kairos programs take the participants on a journey that demonstrates the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Kairos Prison Ministry is Christian in nature, although no religious affiliation is necessary to be a participant.

The programs involve a structured model that includes the weekend experience, followed by guests or participants gathering regularly for accountability, support, and prayer.

If any men or women of Concordia Lutheran Church congregation might be interested in being involved with this ministry, please contact Brad Wheeler, or visit kairos.org, or kairosfindiana.org

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

4/5 "You Don't Know What You Have Till It's Gone"
4/12 "Early Adopters"
4/19 "Not in Vain"
4/26 "Second Chances and First Impressions"

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
305 N Howard Road
Greenwood, IN 46142-3836

Telephone: 317.881.4477
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
10:45 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

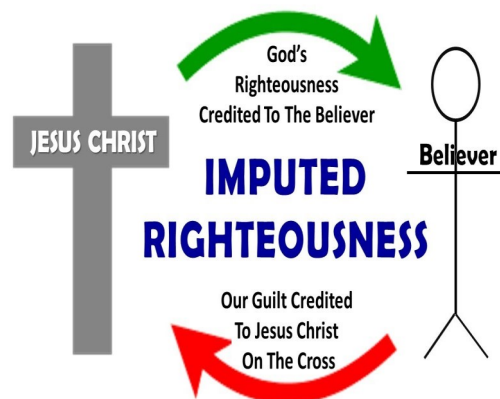
BIRTHDAYS:

Lanning, Jim	4/1
Masters, Edie	4/3
Smith, Craig	4/3
Bierman, Joel	4/4
Foster, Marcia	4/4
Economou, Dick	4/5
Brooks, Gary	4/6
Santiago Salazar (Lanning), Kat	4/8
Chaudhary, Philip	4/9
Bierman, Kris	4/12
Economou, Betty	4/13
Stephenson, Erica	4/15
Markel, Pennie	4/15
Krinhop, Betsy	4/22
Denton, Jacqueline	4/23
Snyder, Linda	4/24
Jensen, Darlene	4/25
Emkes, Mike	4/30

WEDDINGS:

Craig & Diane Smith	50	4/10
Kaushal & Alex Chaudhary	15	4/16
Jim & Kay Hayes	33	4/17
Chris & Rose Mihu	38	4/25
Zack & Alexis Marot	4	4/29
John & Hannah Akers	4	4/30

Years Date



HUMOR CORNER

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

I went to the aquarium this weekend, but I didn't stay long. There's something fishy about that place.

What do you call a sheep who can sing and dance? Lady Ba Ba.

I gave my handyman a to-do list, but he only did jobs 1, 3, and 5. Turns out he only does odd jobs.

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April 2026



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

