

THE Concordia Messenger



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

May 2026

Excerpt from a Sermon on the Ascension by St. Augustine

III. *Belief in the Ascension and its Commemoration over all the earth.*

On this day therefore, that is, the fortieth after His Resurrection, the Lord ascended into heaven. We have not seen, but we believe. They who beheld Him proclaimed what they saw, and they have filled the whole earth: *There are no speeches nor languages where their voices are not heard. Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth: and their words unto the ends of the world* (Ps. xviii. 4, 5). And so they have reached even unto us, and awakened us from sleep. And lo! this death is celebrated throughout the world.

IV. *The Prophecy of Christ's Ascension.*

Remember the psalm. To whom was it said: Be thou exalted, O God? To whom was it said? Was Be thou exalted said to the Father, Who never was made lowly? Be Thou exalted: Thou Who wast enclosed in the womb of a mother. Thou Who wast formed in Her whom Thou made. Thou Who hast lain in a manger. Thou Who as a true Child in the flesh drank milk from the breast. Thou who while borne in Thy Mother's arms sustained the world. Thou whom the venerable Simeon beheld a child, and extolled as Mighty. Thou Whom the Widow Anna saw at the breast, and knew Omnipotent. Thou Who hast hungered because of us, suffered thirst for us, grown weary on the way (but did the Bread of Life hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Way grow weary?). Thou Who hast borne all these things for us. Thou Who hast slept, yet unsleeping watches over Israel. And lastly, Thou Who wast seized, bound, scourged, crowned with thorns, hung upon the Tree, pierced with a lance, died, and was buried. Be Thou exalted, O God!

V. Be Thou exalted, he cries, *exalted above the heavens*: for thou art God. Take Thou Thy seat in heaven Who hung from the Cross. As Judge to come Thou art awaited Who awaited and received judgement. Who could believe this without His help Who raised the needy from the earth, and uplifted the poor from the dunghill? He has raised up His own needy flesh, and placed it with the Princes of His people (Ps. cxii. 7), with whom He shall judge the living and the dead. He has placed this needy flesh with those to whom He said: *You shall sit on twelve seats, judging the twelve tribes of Israel* (Mt. xix. 28).

VI. *The Church The Glory of Christ.*

Be Thou therefore exalted above the heavens, O God! This has come to pass. It is now fulfilled. Yet we also say of that which was proclaimed of the future: Be thou exalted above the heavens, O God! We have not seen it, but we believe. For lo! Before our eyes is now fulfilled that which follows: *Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: and thy glory above all the earth*. He cannot believe the first who does not see this. For what does, *And thy glory above all the earth* mean but Thy Church which is spread over all the earth, Thy Spouse spread over all the earth, Thy Bride over all the earth? Thy Beloved, Thy Dove, Thy Consort! She is Thy glory. And the Apostle teaches us this. *The man indeed, he says, ought not to cover his head; because he is the image and glory of God. But the woman is the glory of man* (I Cor. xi. 7). If the woman is the glory of man, then the Church is the glory of Christ, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost lives and reigns world without end. Amen.

Director of Christian Education

Every month is busy, right? In May there are graduations, confirmations, Mother's Day, Memorial Weekend, and Race Day. I have to admit, I am not a race day fan. I'm impressed the fans deal with traffic, parking, sitting on uncomfortable bleachers all day in the sun or rain. They sit through the race with like 300,000 of your closest "friends." Then everyone watches the race go 500 laps which seems to take forever. It's also loud.

To be clear, I do NOT hate the Indy 500. I was spoiled when I was younger because my grandpa's company sponsored a car. Even then, I remember looking out and being impressed that the fans were willing to suffer through how loud the cars were. I also find it impressive how much work the teams and drivers do together and how hard they work.

Hebrews 12 reminds us that we are surrounded by witness, we should throw out everything that easily entangles and run with endurance the race set before us. These verses remind us of the endurance and perseverance needed for our faith. Our lifelong faith is not a short distance sprint, it is a marathon filled with many sins and distractions in our life. In Philippians, Paul reminds us to strain toward the goal that Christ has called us too. Ultimately, God cares about the salvation of all people.

The believers in the Old Testament trusted God and trusted God would keep His promises. God does keep His promises. God told Simeon, Simeon would not see death until Simeon had seen the Lord's Christ. When Simeon met baby Jesus he recognized who this child was and Simeon blessed God saying the Words that we sing after Holy Communion. Simeon saw the promised Savior. Those in the Old Testament trusted God would keep His word and send the Savior. We trust those eye witnesses who tell us about our Savior.

These individuals in the Bible ran the race of faith and encourage us now to do the same. They trusted God based on His Word. We can trust God based on what the disciples and others have seen and reported to us in the Bible. Through Jesus we have the way into heaven, forgiveness, life and salvation. We also have an example and model for our faith.

The best part, when we cross that finish line and enter into eternal life, there will be more than 300,000 of our closest friends there. There will be people from all times and places there also praising the Lord and the victory He won for all of us.

~Sarah Shadday

Sunday School/Bible Class

Sunday School 10:45am

Young Children are learning about Jesus appears to Thomas (May 3), Jesus appears in Galilee (May 10), Jesus ascends (May 17), Pentecost (May 24), Stephen (May 31)

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 May 12, May 26, and June 9 at church.

Preschool

We've had a busy April celebrating Easter in Preschool. Our PreK class had fun visiting the Greenwood airport. Sitting in the pilot seat of the small airplane was one of the best parts. The kids have been growing so much spiritually and academically this year. They all graduate at the end of May! We have many friends going to Kindergarten. We pray for God's blessings on their families as they continue on with their schooling. We also would love to see many of our friends come back to VBS June 15-19, 9 am - 11:30 am. It's always a nice little Preschool reunion every year.

Our PreK class is full; but we do have some room in our 3's class. Help us get the word out before our next registration increase! 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

Preschool Playdates will occur on selected Thursday mornings at Westside Park from 9am-11:30am in June and July. June dates are June 4, 11, and 25.

Early Literacy Seminar

Wednesday, May 13th 4pm-5:30pm in Fellowship Hall. Anne Guthrie and Cheryl Clemens will present on early literacy, dyslexia, and the state of reading competency in Indiana. Both women have been trained in the Orton Gillingham Approach of teaching reading and have children effected (along with 20% of the population). Cheryl has been instrumental in getting legislation for the Science of Reading passed in Indiana, serves on the Scottish Rite Dyslexia Center in Indianapolis, and is a founding member of the Decoding Dyslexia group.

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. If you are over 18 and have not had a background check, we need to schedule a time to do the paperwork. VBS volunteer training days and times are: Sunday, May 31st at 8:30am-9:15am and noon-12:45pm and Sunday, June 7th at 8:30am-9:15am and noon-12:45pm. A donation list is up in the church lobby.

To register for FREE VBS go to our church website: <https://www.concordia-lcms.com/> and follow the information there.



Congregational Fellowship Events

Game Night is May 8th 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 June 5th, July 24th, and August 28th.

LWML Mission Grants at Work

2025-2027 Mission Grant #14
(Omaha Convention)

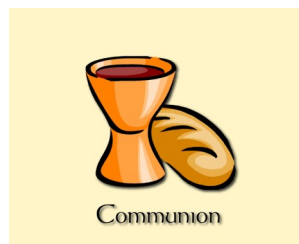
Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel

- **The Apple of His Eye Mission Society, Asia** -
\$100,000

Six million unsaved Jewish people live in Israel, and they need to hear the saving words of the Gospel. The Apple of His Eye Mission Society is part of a consortium that plants Lutheran Churches in Israel, in partnership with the LCMS World Mission and others.

A new Lutheran church will be planted in Tel Aviv under the leadership of Israeli Jewish believer, Sahar Sadlovsky. He is completing his theological studies through Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and has been serving with Jews for Jesus in Tel Aviv for the past five years. He is well prepared to build this ministry. To strengthen this new Lutheran church, short-term mission teams of laypeople and clergy will go to Tel Aviv to assist in reaching people with the Gospel.

This grant will provide funds to develop training materials for volunteers and support their travel to spread the Gospel in Israel.



*So Jesus said to them,
"Truly, truly, I say to you,
unless you eat the flesh of
the Son of Man and drink
His blood, you have no life
in yourselves."*

John 6:53

May 2026 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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 10am - O.A.	2
3 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	4 Pastor Schellens - Pastor's Conference out of town 6:30pm - Properties 7pm - Elders	5	6	7 5:30pm - Girl Scout Leadership	8 5:30pm - Congregation Game Night	9 9am - Quilting 10am - O.A.
10 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	11 6:30pm - Worship Service	12 7pm - Women's Bible Study	13 4pm - Early Literacy Seminar	14 6:30pm - Ascension Divine Service	15	16 10am - O.A.
17 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	18 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Church Council	19	20	21	22	23 10am - O.A.
24 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	25 6:30pm - Worship Service	26 7pm - Women's Tuesday Bible	27	28	29	30 9am - Church Work Day 10am - O.A.
31 8:30am - VBS Training (early) 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 12pm - VBS Training (midday) 6pm - Women's Bible Sty	1 6:30pm - Properties 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Elders	2	3	4 9am - Westside Park - playdate	5 5:30pm - Congregation Game Night	6 10am - O.A.

Treasurers Report

March 2026

<u>Income Descriptions</u>	<u>Mar 2025</u> <u>5 Sundays</u>	<u>Mar 2026</u> <u>5 Sundays</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Unified Budget	\$ 26,375.50	\$ 36,365.99	\$ 70,831.06
Memorials (Non-Designated)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Memorials (Designated)	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Gifts	\$ 4,269.00	\$ 767.00	\$ 1,557.38
Reimbursements & Refunds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00
Rents & Wedding Fees	\$ -	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00
Miscellaneous*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 26,375.50	\$ 36,365.99	\$ 72,658.44
Average per week Unified Budget	\$ 6,593.88	\$ 9,091.50	\$ 5,448.54
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>Mar-26</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Missions - District Synod	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Lutheran High School	\$ 750.00	\$ 2,250.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry	\$ 187.50	\$ 562.50
Total Support	\$ 1,437.50	\$ 4,312.50

<u>Board Expenses</u>	<u>Mar-26</u>	<u>To Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pastoral Care	\$ 15,557.90	\$ 34,310.36	\$ 119,200.00
Christian Education	\$ 8,588.51	\$ 28,089.30	\$ 83,600.00
Congregational Worship	\$ 557.03	\$ 2,550.72	\$ 4,300.00
Missions & Outreach	\$ 1,437.50	\$ 5,112.50	\$ 21,500.00
Office	\$ 1,793.44	\$ 5,501.94	\$ 32,450.00
Properties	\$ 3,892.62	\$ 17,162.35	\$ 90,700.00
Unified Budget Total	\$ 31,827.00	\$ 92,727.17	\$ 351,750.00

<u>Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward</u> <u>Accounts</u>	<u>46112</u>
Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073	4,727.14
Board of Youth - Trip - 5446***	11,756.20
Building Fund - 2978**	3,038.95
Capital Improvements - 9545	14,072.62
Church Sign	992.31
Church Landscaping	897.88
Heine Family Project	1,763.52
Total Capital Improvements - \$17,726.33	17,726.33
Concordia Cares - 6370	3,567.99
Inheritance Fund - 7423	104,348.90
Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434	151.42
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	145,316.93
Interest Earned	290.90

<u>Weekly Attendance and Offerings</u>		
<u>Week of</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
April 5, 2026	168	\$6,126.00
April 12, 2026	104	\$6,492.50
April 19, 2026	84	\$16,790.00
April 26, 2026	97	\$5,585.00

Total In Church Checking Account	\$ 186,444.56
Total in Preschool Account (payroll owed to church included in balance. Will be transferred.)	\$ 28,130.71
Designated Offerings (included in church	\$ 36,723.23

INTERCESSION and PRAYER
(Matthew 8:17)

Concordia Members

Surgery/Testing/

Recovery:

- Dick Economou 3/31/26
- 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

- Mariann Denton 4/26/26
- Susan Ellis 4/8/2026
- 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

Investment Committee

The Church Council has identified that Concordia has funds in accounts earning low or no interest. To be good stewards of these resources, the Church Council has established an Investment Committee to invest a portion of these funds with the goal of earning a higher return for the church. The committee consists of Mike Emkes and Mike Finger. Investments will be through Lutheran Church Extension Fund and various other financial institutions that offer FDIC insurance. Reports to the congregation will be made at each Congregation Assembly meeting. If you have questions see Mike Emkes or Mike Finger.

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

5/3 "Planning Is Everything"
5/10 "The King Who Reigns"
5/17 "Don't Despise Small Beginnings"
5/24 "Misery Loves Company"
5/31 "TBD"

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

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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:

White, Jan	5/2
Martin, Lynda	5/3
Marot, Andrew	5/3
Bierman, Lia	5/7
Santiago, Carlos	5/7
Scheltens, Isabel	5/9
Lanning, April	5/13
McNally, Andrew	5/14
Ranbarger, Sue	5/15
Reinke, Drew	5/16
Spray, Mary	5/16
Carroll, Kathy	5/19
Shadday, Rachel	5/21
Finger, Mike	5/26
Shadday, Esther	5/26
Bertsch, Steve	5/27
Olmos, Ashley	5/28
Foster, Dana	5/29
Bulthuis, Rick	5/30

WEDDINGS

	Years	Date
Tony & Regina Moyers	7	5/5
Chris & Shawn Bauer	32	5/7
Carlos & Kat SanTiago Salazar	12	5/14
John & Shanda Bontrager Jr	31	5/20
Mike & Cindy Emkes	46	5/30
Carlos & Adriana Carlos	23	5/30

*"Delight yourself in
the Lord and He will
give you the desires
of your heart."*

Psalm 37:4

HUMOR CORNER

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

If it hadn't been for the invention of the Venetian blind, it would have been curtains for all of us.

Why do crabs never volunteer?
Because they're shell-fish.

Why do melons have weddings?
They cantaloupe.

Watch what you say around egg whites. They can't take a yoke.

The Greatest Mother's Day Gift:

"Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish."

Eph 5:25-27

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**Concordia Lutheran Church
& Preschool**