

THE Concordia Messenger



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

July 2026

Why Did We Keep Individual Absolution?

Rev. Samuel Scheltens

One of the great treasures of the Church, retained by the Lutherans in the Reformation, was the practice of Private or Individual Confession and Absolution. One of my favorite Reformation theologians, Martin Chemnitz, explains why the Lutherans kept the practice:

“Yet is some kind of confession to be retained in the church?”

Holy Scriptures speak of threefold confession:

The first is that which is made to God, namely when the whole church, and everyone in it, confesses his sins individually to God with a humble and contrite heart and asks forgiveness (Ps 32:5; 1 Jn 1:9; Ps 106:6; Dn 9:4-7; Ez 9:6, 15; 10:1-3, 10-12).

The second is that which is made in brotherly reconciliation with one’s neighbor, namely when he who has injured or offended his neighbor acknowledges and confesses his sin and asks forgiveness of the sin and reconciliation (Mt 5:23-25, 18:15; Lk 17:4; Ja 5:16).

Third, Scripture also testifies that, in the early church, before they that were to be baptized were admitted to Baptism they made a confession publicly or privately; one can gather from this that they were moved by serious repentance and sought Baptism in true faith (Mt 3:5-6; Lk 3:12; Acts 2:37-38; 8:36-38; 19:18). Thus David confessed his sins before absolution (2 Sm 12:13). So also the woman who was a sinner (Lk 7:38, 48). And Zacchaeus (Lk 19:8-9).

And hence there was introduced and received into practice both public and private exploration in the ancient church. And our churches also retain that kind of confession. For none are received to the Lord’s Supper, unless they first, by general confession, attest their repentance and faith to the pastor of the church, who on that occasion also enters into private discussion with individuals. And this very thing, moreover, is observed in our churches for this purpose and for these reasons:

I. That from this kind of confession and private discussion pastors might note whether the hearers rightly hold and sufficiently understand the necessary parts of doctrine, and if they perceive that they still lack something in this matter, that they might thus have occasion to inform them more earnestly and better from the Word of God.

II. That in this way they might explore whether they that desire to be admitted to the Lord’s Supper are moved by true repentance and at the same time teach them more precisely what sin is and what its reward is; likewise what things are required for true repentance and how they are to be rightly engaged in.

III. That in this way they might inquire and learn who believes what, and how, how serious and with and through whom they seek remission of sins; where there is opportunity at the same time, to instruct and teach the unlearned more precisely what the nature and character of faith is, and likewise to remind them to learn to examine themselves whether they be in the faith (2 Co 13:5).

IV. That by that private exploration they might be able to determine what kind of intent to improve they have individually and on that occasion diligently impress on them for what reasons new obedience is necessary and in what it consists.

V. That by that service they might, with salutary counsel and comfort from the Word of God, help pious consciences that are either pressed by temptation or troubled by some scruple; and that can be done best in that kind of private conversation. Finally, the rite of private confession is retained and used in our churches chiefly for the sake of absolution, namely so that it might be rightly and salutarily sought, received, and used in earnest repentance and true faith.

Since these individual benefits ... are of greatest importance and lack neither divine Word nor command, it is therefore clear and plain that this rite, namely as it is observed in our churches, rests on their foundations and that they are firm and drawn from Scripture. If these are rightly explained to the pious, they will of their own accord and by themselves present themselves for that confession, and there will be no need of any constraint. For that very benefit in itself will invite and attract them.”

Martin Chemnitz, *Enchiridion*
(trans. Luther Poellot, published by CPH, 1981)

Director of Christian Education

In case anyone hasn't heard, I did decline the call to Palmyra, Missouri. The people, church, and town were all lovely; but my husband and I felt we had ways we still needed to serve in the Indianapolis area.

My husband and I bought a state park pass earlier this year. We won't make it to all the state parks, but we marathoned about six state parks across two Saturdays with two different detours on the way. The first was the Wilbur Wright Museum and Birthplace. It's a really well done museum and worth the side trip. The second side trip we visited Slawson Cemetery by Bennington, Indiana. Since we were in the area, my husband wanted to visit the grave of one of his ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War. We thought it would be fitting with America's 250th Anniversary just around the corner.

It's amazing to think what those soldiers overcame by the grace of God to defend and form our country. The same Lord who sustained those soldiers is the same one who sustains His Church today. God provided and cared for His people then just like He provides and cares for His people now. He will continue to love and provide for His people in the future. He does this for all nations of all times. We can still thank God He helped form the United States and that we are blessed to worship the Trinity here.

We can also be thankful for the safe homes and churches where we can proclaim the Gospel. We can be thankful we have the opportunity to share our God given faith with our children in safety. We also have the blessing and responsibility to pray for the members who serve in our military and also our leaders. We pray that they continue to fight for the freedom of our nation. Thank God for their service and pray that God grants them wisdom and guides their actions. We can thank God that He works in the civil realm as well.

~Sarah Shadday

Sunday School/Bible Class

Sunday School 10:45am

Young Children are learning about Paul preaching in Athens, Paul's ministry and hardships, Paul and Timothy, and the return of Jesus.

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 Ephesians.

Women Tuesday Night Bible Study is 7pm-8:30pm is doing older LWML Quarterly Bible Study series. Those Bible studies will take place: July 14, July 28, and August 11. Starting in August, Pastor will be teaching the Women's Bible Study.

New Members Class and studies the catechism. One class meets Tuesdays from 10am-11am and another meets Thursdays 7pm-8pm. All are welcome to join these classes. If you would like to become a member of Concordia but these class times do not work for you, please, contact Pastor Scheltens.

Preschool

Our big news this past month wasn't good. On June 11th, there were bad storms that went through central Indiana. There was wind damage to many houses in our neighborhood. There was also wind damage to our Preschool building. Thank God, it didn't damage our church. Part of the Preschool roof was pulled off which caused water to go into the attic space and caused some damage on the ceiling and on some flooring. Some of our siding was pulled away from the building. Two out of three of our playground structures were blown onto their sides. Our playground tree was ripped apart and some of the branches broke part of our north fence. Our patio table was thrown into the bushes and one of our downspouts was ripped off the house. We also lost our sandbox lid. If anyone finds it we would love to have it returned.

The good news, Andrew McNally, the Committee of Church Properties, and Souders Roofing and Construction have been working with insurance. They are working hard to get us ready for our August start date. Please, pray for them and our staff that we can be ready for the start of our school year in the middle of August.

Preschool Playdates will occur on selected Thursday mornings at Westside Park from 9am-11:30am. July dates are 9, 16, and 23.

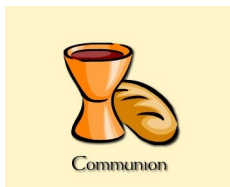
VBS

Vacation Bible School was in June. Thank you to everyone who served VBS by prayers, donations, volunteering, setting up, cleaning up, and more. We were able to serve over 45 children throughout the week. We collected at least 109 cans for The Refuge Food Pantry. We also collected over \$225 for Concordia Lutheran Church and Preschool in Palma Arriba in the Dominican Republic. During our Tropical Trek we learned about baby Moses, Ruth and Naomi, Zaccheaus, Jesus rising from the dead, and Saul/Paul on the road to Damascus. We learned how Jesus came to seek and to save.



Congregational Fellowship Events

Game Night is July 24th 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 night will be on August 28th.



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

LWML Mission Grants at Work

**2025-2027 Mission Grant #12
(Omaha Convention)**

**Gospel Outreach through the
Digital Mission Field**

**— Lutheran Hour Ministries, U.S. —
\$100,000**

Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) sees the urgency of sharing the Gospel and growing the Kingdom of God by engaging people in the digital space. They have developed numerous digital resources that allow staff and volunteers to engage in conversations with individuals and provide biblically based answers to their lives.

LHM's digital outreach platform, Thred, focuses on fostering open and honest conversations about life, faith, and Jesus among young adults. Gospel Adventures is a program designed for grade school and middle school youth that allows them to meet kids from other parts of the world and see God's work in action. High school students are being reached with a new resource, Spiritual Conversations: Sharing Life, Faith, and Jesus with Friends, to become effective witnesses for Jesus.

This grant will cover the cost of expanding mass media/proclamation activities and audience engagement, including social media, website, Bible courses, and training.

The Tradition Continues

As we turn the calendar to July, it's a reminder that a new school year is just around the corner. Once again, we'll be collecting supplies for Lutheran World Relief school kits—a tradition we're proud to continue. Be on the lookout for special sales and check the bulletin board for more details. Please select a tag or two and place your donations in the bins outside the church office.



July 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 10am - New Member Catechesis	1 	2 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	3 	4 10am - O.A.
5 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	6 6:30pm - Properties 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Elders	7 10am - New Member Catechesis	8 	9 9am - Westside Park - playdate 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	10 	11 9am - Quilling 10am - O.A.
12 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 3pm - LWML-LWCC meeting 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	13 6:30pm - Worship Service	14 10am - New Member Catechesis 7pm - Women's Bible Study	15 	16 9am - Westside Park - playdate 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	17 	18 10am - O.A.
19 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	20 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Church Council	21 10am - New Member Catechesis	22 	23 9am - Westside Park - playdate 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	24 5:30pm - Congregation Game Night	25 10am - O.A.
26 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	27 6:30pm - Worship Service	28 10am - New Member Catechesis 7pm - Women's Tuesday Bible Study	29 	30 8am - Anniversary Pastor Schellen's 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	31 	1 10am - O.A.

Treasurers Report

May 2026

<u>Income Descriptions</u>	<u>May 2025</u> <u>4 Sundays</u>	<u>May 2026</u> <u>5 Sundays</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Unified Budget	\$ 37,896.50	\$ 17,317.00	\$ 123,392.87
Memorials (Non-Designated)	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Memorials (Designated)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Gifts	\$ 10,228.50	\$ 580.73	\$ 2,661.11
Reimbursements & Refunds	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 175.00
Rents & Wedding Fees	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ 270.00
Miscellaneous*	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 37,896.50	\$ 17,417.00	\$ 126,598.98
Average per week Unified Budget	\$ 9,474.13	\$ 3,463.40	\$ 7,258.40
Amount needed per week for Unified Budget	\$ 6,728.85	\$ 6,764.00	\$ 6,728.85

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	May-26	Total to Date
Missions - District Synod	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Lutheran High School	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,750.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Total Support	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 9,250.00

Board Expenses	May-26	Total To Date	Total Budget
Pastoral Care	\$ 8,320.91	\$ 52,701.54	\$ 119,200.00
Christian Education	\$ 8,361.40	\$ 44,888.34	\$ 83,600.00
Congregational Worship	\$ 694.38	\$ 3,404.23	\$ 4,300.00
Missions & Outreach	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 10,237.50	\$ 21,500.00
Office	\$ 1,257.67	\$ 8,295.02	\$ 32,450.00
Properties	\$ 5,571.12	\$ 73,463.78	\$ 90,700.00
Unified Budget Total	\$ 25,455.48	\$ 192,990.41	\$ 351,750.00

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	05/30/2026
Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073	\$ 4,735.05
Board of Youth - Trip - 5446***	\$ 11,785.69
Building Fund - 2978**	\$ 3,044.03
Capital Improvements - 9545	\$ 14,107.86
Church Sign	\$ 994.82
Church Landscaping	\$ 900.16
Heine Family Project	\$ 1,767.95
Total Capital Improvements - \$17,770.79	\$ 17,770.79
Concordia Cares - 6370	\$ 3,573.95
Inheritance Fund - 7423	\$ 104,785.34
Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434	\$ 151.67
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	\$ 145,846.52
Interest Earned	\$ 269.39

Weekly Attendance and Offerings		
Week of	2026	Offerings
June 7, 2026	110	\$4,995.00
June 14, 2026	96	\$4,053.40
June 21, 2026	152	\$4,570.00
June 28, 2026	102	\$4,100.00

Total In Church Checking Account	\$ 136,759.33
Total in Preschool Account (payroll needs reimbursed to the church)	\$ 32,915.95
Designated Offerings (included in church checking acct balance)	\$ 37,741.96

INTERCESSION and PRAYER
(Matthew 8:17)

Concordia Members

Surgery/Testing/

Recovery:

- Phillis Infante 5/14/26
- Doris Roemer 3/10/26
- Philip Caruana 12/3/25
- Craig Smith 9/30/25
- Jim Lanning 9/29/25
- Lynda Martin 6/16/25
- Tommy Ragsdale 12/11/22

Friends of Concordia

- Cyrena Gilman 5/5/26
- 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
- Pat Barnes, 2339 S 135, Rm 308, Greenwood, IN 46143
- Peter Economou, 1680 Vidalia Ct, 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 (PO Box 6552, Quantico, VA 22134)
- Airman 1st Class, Alexander J. Economou, Air Natl Guard, Ft. Wayne, IN

Ladies

Ladies, we have a meeting on Sunday, July 12, 3 p.m. All are welcome. You won't be "roped" into doing anything. We will look at upcoming activities and get the news from convention. There is talk of an informal tea party featuring Edie's teapot collection on August 16.

Our next Mission Morning is Saturday, July 11. Join as you are able, 9a to 11a.

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

7/5 "Bloom Where You're Planted"
7/12 "Knight, Death, and the Devil"
7/19 "From Groans to Glory"
7/26 "Worth the Wait"

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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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:

Shafer, Lori	7/1
Flamme, Faith	7/4
Warren, David	7/5
Emmons, Ginny	7/12
Sanchez, Carlos	7/17
Hoeltke, Barb	7/18
Inman, Glen	7/18
Horn, Joshua	7/22
Carlisle, Annabelle	7/23
Owen, Tammy	7/24
Emkes, Cindy	7/27
Howrey, Connie	7/27
Ford, Mike	7/28
Marot, Zackary	7/30
Krause, Diane	7/30

WEDDINGS:

	Years	Date
Fred & Marcia Foster	37	7/9
Ray & Ruth Everson	64	7/14
Glen & Linda Inman	44	7/17
Marcus & Gaby Crouch	17	7/18
Jeff & Stacy Reinke	29	7/19



"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

2 Corinthians 3:18

HUMOR CORNER

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

I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes. She gave me a hug.

What do you call a cow with no legs? Ground beef.

What do you call a man with no nose and no body? Nobody nose.

I got hit in the head with a can of soda. Luckily, it was a soft drink.

God's Amazing Grace

"But **by His doing** you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, so that, just as it is written, 'LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.' "

1 Corinthians 1:30,31

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**Concordia Lutheran Church
& Preschool**