

THE *Concordia Messenger*



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

August 2026

The Beheading (Martyrdom) of St. John the Baptist

On August 29, the Church remembers the Decollation, or beheading, of St. John the Baptist. We read in Mark 6 (and Matthew 14), how John was arrested for preaching against King Herod's decadent marriage to his brother's wife, Herodias. This remarriage was a false, immoral marriage against God's Law. By doing so, Herod was committing adultery. Rather than repent when he heard John's preaching, he decided to silence him in prison.

On his birthday, Herod's niece, now step-daughter, gave a dance which “pleased Herod and those who sat with him” (Mk 6:22). This dance was visually pleasing to Herod and his friends – so much so, that Herod offers her a present, as a reward for dancing in such a way. The girl goes and asks her mother (Herodias) what she should ask for.

Rather than asking for money, or a gift of wealth, or of status, she asks for the head of God's preacher, John the Baptist. She had him killed, because she could not stand to hear God's Word condemn her sin. Rather than repent, they suppressed and silenced the Word of God.

This is why the Church remembers the Beheading of John the Baptist. We remember it, as a testament to the attitude of the world towards the Word of God. The rich and powerful do not always like to hear God's Word. It usually tells them they've done something wrong. It also reminds us that, persecution may not come from preaching about Jesus' forgiveness. It may also come from preaching about the condemnations of the Law. The Law should lead us to repent, but it often leads to anger, resentment, and even arrogance.

But how often are we guilty of the same? We hear God's Word, and it tells us that we have not lived up to God's standards. Our lives have not been holy; we have not let God's love rule our hearts and our minds. Rather than repenting, turning away from our sinful ways, we would rather stifle God's Word. We silence it, and do not want to listen to what God has to say.

So as we approach this commemoration, let us all keep God's Word front and center in our mind, and let it wash over us. Let God's Holy Spirit guide and protect us, and bring us to everlasting life with Him.

Rev. Scheltens

Director of Christian Education

My family enjoyed a lot of traveling over the month of July. We visited my husband's family in South Carolina around the 4th of July. We went over to North Carolina to see Alamance Creek Battlefield where one of my husband's ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War. We also went to Guilford Courthouse on 4th of July to visit that battlefield where the ancestor fought. We also traveled with my family later in July to visit Bolivar, TX. We saw some of our family friends while we were down there and the kids enjoyed the beach vacation.

It's always hard coming back from a trip. There's so much to unpack, things to catch up on, and it can take time to adjust getting back into a routine. One of the ones we struggled with is our devotions. We finished a devotion book right before our travels and since our vacations were so close together, we waited to start another one until we were back from our second trip.

It's fun because the kids always want to pick the devotion book, but they rarely agree on which one to start. The last one we finished was *Luther's Small Catechism for Kids* by Concordia Publishing House. This was one my husband and I chose. Other ones we've done are *The Story Bible* from CPH, *Little Visits at Bed Time* from CPH, and books by Laura Richie like *The Advent Storybook* and *The Easter Storybook*.

It can be hard to choose a devotion book. Other ones I've enjoyed are *A Year in the New Testament*, *A Year in the Old Testament*, and *A Year in the Church Fathers* which are all produced by CPH. There are other ones like *Portals of Prayer* when time is short. Pastor also shares the Learn by Heart that can be used as daily devotions.

~Sarah Shadday

Preschool

At the time of writing, we are still working with insurance and the roofing company to start fixing Preschool. We're hoping we can get in soon to set up for next year. Our Back to School Night is planned for August 11 and the first days of school are August 13 and 14.

Please, continue to pray the construction company and insurance can work together to get everything fixed. We also need prayers for our so we can be ready for the start of our school year.

Sunday School/Bible Class

Sunday School 10:45am

Young Children are learning Elijah and the prophets of Baal, Elijah to heaven, Naaman and Elisha, Jonah, and God calls Isaiah.

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.

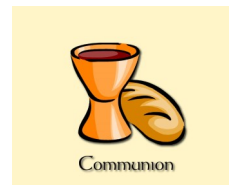
Women Tuesday Night Bible Study is 7pm-8:30pm is doing an old LWML Quarterly Bible Study called Shh, Be Still on August 11. Starting August 26, Pastor will be teaching the Women's Bible Study.

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.



Congregational Fellowship Events

Game Night is August 28th 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 Sept 18, Oct 23, and Nov 20.



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



A few ladies braved the rainy Saturday when we made polymer crosses for Phil's Friends (cancer patients) and tied quilts.

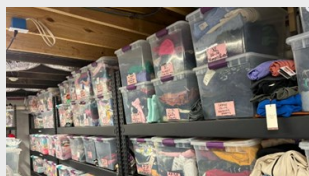
We are doing a little change-up in naming this 2nd Saturday of the month activity. **Join us for Charity, Conversation, and Crafts.** We meet

9 a.m. to 11 a.m., but you can come and go as you please. We are skipping August due to the Rummage Sale.

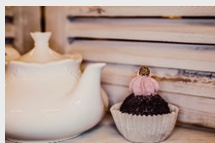
Isabel will lead us in a getting-to-know-you question, then you can do your own craft, join those tying knots in completed quilts for missions, or help with a group project.

Anyone can suggest and lead a project. Genny H. led the fidget mats & mug rugs; Diane C. led the polymer crosses. Share your ideas. Even children enjoy helping with mission work.

Isaiah 117 House (for foster kids awaiting-placement) has received 20 sets of **Girl's 3T pjs/nightgowns** from you



generous Concordia ladies. Thank you so much! If you happen to find a bargain, you can put it in the marked bin in the Noah Room (coat rack room). While we adopted this Buddy Bin for a year, Anne G. says, "If you find a bargain in any size/item, the folks at Isaiah 117 House will take it." They serve children ages infant to teens.



Girls and ladies, mark **3 p.m. Sunday afternoon, Aug. 23**, on your calendars for our informal **TEAPOT** event. We delayed this event a week due to confirmation

on the 16th. Edie M. is donating a portion of her teapot collection to a fellowship event for us. We will be informal - no hats & gloves required! Come enjoy tea, finger foods, and games with teapots and other prizes. There is a sign up on the LWCC board in the narthex.

We are having a **Rummage Sale Friday/Saturday, August 7-8**. Drop-off of donations and set up begins August 3, so feel free to donate a couple hours of labor through the week. All proceeds will go to Concordia Preschool for tornado damage (playground and other).

LWML Mission Grants at Work

2025-2027 Mission Grant #13 (Omaha Convention)

Reaching God's Children in Haiti

— Trinity HOPE, Haiti —
\$61,782

Trinity HOPE began working with Lutheran schools in Haiti in 1999. Originally feeding 42 children in one school, the ministry now feeds 65,000 children, teachers, and cooks in over 265 Christian schools across the country. Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, where more than 4.7 million people suffer from acute hunger. The children are innocent victims of gang violence, inflation, cultural insecurity, lack of jobs for parents, and the worship of Satan through the Voodoo religion.

Eleven of the 36 feeding program directors are Lutheran pastors who visit their schools twice a month to teach lessons from God's Word. Before each meal, a prayer is said, and children profess their faith in Jesus. The children receive the light, love, and warmth of knowing Jesus Christ as their Savior with each meal served.

This grant will fund 160,472 meals served to children and teachers over two years.

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 to plant Lutheran Churches in Israel in partnership with LCMS World Mission and others.

A new Lutheran church was planted in Tel Aviv under the leadership of Israeli Jewish believer, Sahar Sadlovsky. He was ordained last October, and the congregation has been holding weekly services of Word and Sacraments for the past six months. He is currently writing his STM thesis through Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and has been serving with Jews for Jesus in Tel Aviv for the past ten years. He will complete his employment with Jews for Jesus this coming June to become a full-time pastor, and is well prepared to build this ministry. To strengthen this new Lutheran church, short-term mission teams of laypeople and clergy will travel 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.

August 2026 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8am - Anniversary Pastor Schellen's 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	27 Pastor Schellen's - out of town	28 7pm - Women's Tuesday Bible Study	29	30	31	1 10am - O.A.
2 Pastor Schellen's - out of town 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	3 LYNN Homeage Sale 6:30pm - Properties 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Elders	4	5	6	7	8 10am - O.A.
9 Pastor Schellen's - out of town 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	10	11 10am - New Member Catechesis 6:30pm - Back to School Night 7pm - Women's Bible Study	12	13 9am - Prek First Day of School 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	14 9am - 3's First Day of School 10am - O.A.	15
16 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	17 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Church Council	18 10am - New Member Catechesis	19	20 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	21 6pm - Youth Catechesis Retreat 9am - Youth Catechesis Retreat 10am - O.A.	22
23 9:30am - Worship - Bible Blessing 10:45am - Sunday School 3pm - Informal Ladies Tea 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	24 6:30pm - Worship Service	25 10am - New Member Catechesis 7pm - Women's Tuesday Bible Study	26	27 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	28 5:30pm - Congregation Game Night 10am - O.A.	29
30 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	31 6:30pm - Worship Service	1 10am - New Member Catechesis	2	3 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	4	5 10am - O.A.

Treasurers Report

June 2026

<u>Income Descriptions</u>	<u>June 2025</u> <u>4 Sundays</u>	<u>June 2026</u> <u>4 Sundays</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Unified Budget	\$ 19,283.50	\$ 18,588.40	\$ 141,981.27
Memorials (Non-Designated)	\$ -	\$ 675.00	\$ 775.00
Memorials (Designated)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Gifts	\$ 61,168.60	\$ 922.26	\$ 3,583.37
Reimbursements & Refunds	\$ -		\$ 175.00
Rents & Wedding Fees	\$ 120.00	\$ 120.00	\$ 390.00
Miscellaneous*	\$ 6,901.47	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 19,283.50	\$ 19,263.40	\$ 146,904.64
Average per week Unified Budget	\$ 4,820.88	\$ 4,647.10	\$ 8,351.84
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>Jun-26</u>	<u>Total to Date</u>
Missions - District Synod	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Lutheran High School	\$ 750.00	\$ 4,500.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Total Support	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 10,500.00

<u>Board Expenses</u>	<u>Jun-26</u>	<u>Total To Date</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>
Pastoral Care	\$ 8,575.72	\$ 61,277.26	\$ 119,200.00
Christian Education	\$ 5,939.45	\$ 50,827.79	\$ 83,600.00
Congregational Worship	\$ 1,055.50	\$ 4,459.73	\$ 4,300.00
Missions & Outreach	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 11,487.50	\$ 21,500.00
Office	\$ 1,464.55	\$ 9,759.57	\$ 32,450.00
Properties	\$ 4,243.44	\$ 77,707.22	\$ 90,700.00
Unified Budget Total	\$ 22,528.66	\$ 215,519.07	\$ 351,750.00

<u>Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts</u>	<u>06/30/2026</u>
Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073	\$ 4,738.94
Board of Youth - Trip - 5446***	\$ 11,800.22
Building Fund - 2978**	\$ 3,046.53
Capital Improvements - 9545	\$ 14,125.21
Church Sign	\$ 996.06
Church Landscaping	\$ 901.29
Heine Family Project	\$ 1,770.14
Total Capital Improvements - \$17,792.70	\$ 17,792.70
Concordia Cares - 6370	\$ 3,576.89
Inheritance Fund - 7423	\$ 105,000.65
Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434	\$ 151.79
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	\$ 146,107.72
Interest Earned	\$ 261.20

Total In Church Checking Account \$ 149,722.25

Total in Preschool Account* \$ 18,283.47

Designated Offerings (included in church checking acct balance) \$ 37,694.22

***Reimbursed church for payroll & payroll taxes**

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Week of</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>Offerings</u>
July 5, 2026	84	\$4,340.00
July 12, 2026	90	\$3,040.00
July 19, 2026	98	\$4,071.50
July 26, 2026	102	\$5,210.00

GOOD STEWARDSHIP & GIVING IN SECRET Luke 16:11

"If you cannot be trusted with worldly riches, then who will trust you with true riches? "

Matt 6:1-4

"Take care not to practice your righteousness in the sight of people, to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.² "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, so that they will be praised by people. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your charitable giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

INTERCESSION and PRAYER
(Matthew 8:17)

**Concordia Members
Surgery/Testing/
Recovery:**

- Jim Lanning 6/12/26
- Phillis Infante 5/14/26
- Philip Caruana 12/3/25
- Craig Smith 9/30/25
- 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
- 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 (1024 Massachusetts Ave NE, Apt 9, Washington DC 20002)
- Airman 1st Class, Alexander J. Economou, Air Natl Guard, Ft. Wayne, IN

Expecting Mothers

- Emily Zhu

Some June VBS Pictures



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

8/2 "Why Jesus Told Parables"
8/9 "Extreme Neighborliness"
8/16 "Look At Me"
8/23 "Real Riches"
8/30 "Tell Me A Story!"

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
WTTV 4 (CBS) 6:00 AM

BIRTHDAYS:

Hartley, Benjamin	8/3
Wilson, Vicki	8/4
Boesenberg, Cindy	8/7
Dewar III, Wes	8/9
McNally, Mary	8/9
Poole, Suzann	8/10
Akers, Hannah	8/10
Hayes, Kay	8/13
Lanning, Becky	8/13
Scifres, Jill	8/16
Whitrock, Heidi	8/17
Bontrager, Cole	8/18
Fein, Leah	8/18
Olmos, Alexis	8/19
Miller, Carol	8/20
Sellers, Mark	8/21
Stephenson, David	8/22
Horn, Becky	8/23
McNally, Selah	8/24
Kaiser, Andrea	8/25
Scifres, Hannah	8/25
McNally, Emily	8/25
Barkes, Marvin	8/26
DeFabis, Vince	8/26
Patton, Carla	8/26
Smith, Diane	8/31

WEDDINGS:

	Years	Date
Larry & Anne Guthrie	48	8/1
Mike & Tamara Spray	37	8/8
Sam & Isabel Scheltens	4	8/14
Daniel & Jessica Coffey	35	8/17
Ron & Carol Feeney	51	8/23
Tommy & Kris Ragsdale	55	8/29



Psalm 139:16

"Your eyes have seen my
formless substance; And in
Your book were written All
the days that were ordained
for me, When as yet there was
not one of them."

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."

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.

Did you hear about the kidnapping at the school? It's okay, he woke up!

Did you hear about the wig thief who escaped from prison? Police are combing the area to find him.

Galatians 5:19-25

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

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August 2026



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& Preschool
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