

THE Concordia Messenger



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

September 2026

Isaiah 51:5

“On mine arm shall they trust.”

In seasons of severe trial, the Christian has nothing on earth that he can trust to, and is therefore compelled to cast himself on his God alone. When his vessel is on its beam-ends, and no human deliverance can avail, he must simply and entirely trust himself to the providence and care of God. Happy storm that wrecks a man on such a rock as this! O blessed hurricane that drives the soul to God and God alone! There is no getting at our God sometimes because of the multitude of our friends; but when a man is so poor, so friendless, so helpless that he has nowhere else to turn, he flies into his Father's arms, and is blessedly clasped therein! When he is burdened with troubles so pressing and so peculiar, that he cannot tell them to any but his God, he may be thankful for them; for he will learn more of his Lord then than at any other time. Oh, tempest-tossed believer, it is a happy trouble that drives thee to thy Father! Now that thou hast only thy God to trust to, see that thou puttest thy full confidence in him. Dishonour not thy Lord and Master by unworthy doubts and fears; but be strong in faith, giving glory to God. Show the world that thy God is worth ten thousand worlds to thee. Show rich men how rich thou art in thy poverty when the Lord God is thy helper. Show the strong man how strong thou art in thy weakness when underneath thee are the everlasting arms. Now is the time for feats of faith and valiant exploits. Be strong and very courageous, and the Lord thy God shall certainly, as surely as he built the heavens and the earth, glorify himself in thy weakness, and magnify his might in the midst of thy distress. The grandeur of the arch of heaven would be spoiled if the sky were supported by a single visible column, and your faith would lose its glory if it rested on anything discernible by the carnal eye. May the Holy Spirit give you to rest in Jesus.

1 John 1:7

“If we walk in the light, as he is in the light.”

As he is in the light! Can we ever attain to this? Shall we ever be able to walk as clearly in the light as he is whom we call “Our Father,” of whom it is written, “God is light, and in him is no darkness at all?” Certainly, this is the model which is set before us, for the Saviour himself said, “Be ye perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect;” and although we may feel that we can never rival the perfection of God, yet we are to seek after it, and never to be satisfied until we attain to it. The youthful artist, as he grasps his early pencil, can hardly hope to equal Raphael or Michael Angelo, but still, if he did not have a noble *beau ideal* before his mind, he would only attain to something very mean and ordinary. But what is meant by the expression that the Christian is to walk in light as God is in the light? We conceive it to import *likeness*, but not *degree*. We are as truly in the light, we are as heartily in the light, we are as sincerely in the light, as honestly in the light, though we cannot be there in the same measure. I cannot dwell in the sun, it is too bright a place for my residence, but I can *walk* in the light of the sun; and so, though I cannot attain to that perfection of purity and truth which belongs to the Lord of hosts by nature as the infinitely good, yet I can set the Lord always before me, and strive, by the help of the indwelling Spirit, after conformity to his image. That famous old commentator, John Trapp, says, “We may be in the light as God is in the light for *quality*, but not for *equality*.” We are to have the same light, and are as truly to have it and walk in it as God does, though, as for equality with God in his holiness and purity, that must be left until we cross the Jordan and enter into the perfection of the Most High. Mark that the blessings of sacred fellowship and perfect cleansing are bound up with walking in the light.

Director of Christian Education

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10). One can easily become anxious. Cleaning is unending, work is unending, the rain never stops, the weeds keep growing, there are emails to answer, errands to run, appointments to remember, people to care for, and responsibilities that seem to multiply rather than disappear. It can sometimes feel like the world is flooded and covered in bees.

Yet God reminds us, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). The Psalm and Bible does not promise trouble will never come. They don't promise life will always be calm, schedules will always be manageable, or everything will work out the way we want. Instead, some bad things happen to people in the Bible. Think of Joseph or Job. Even in Psalm 46, we continue to read, "Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea" (Psalm 46:2). However, when things get crazy, the Lord remains our refuge and strength. We can take time to be still and remember who God is.

We can't control everything. Honestly, we can control very little. God is the one who can calm the storms in our lives. He is the one who can bring stillness and peace. This does not mean our responsibilities don't matter. Christians are called to be faithful in our vocations. Our vocations include our roles at work, our families, and in our communities. We are called to serve in the tasks God places before us. But we do these things trusting that our lives are ultimately in His hands.

When we are anxious, God does not leave us to figure it out on our own. He promises to be with us. God is truly present with us in His Word and Sacraments. He has given us the gift of Holy Baptism, where He claimed us as His own and gives us the Holy Spirit. He continues to speak to us through His Word, reminding us of His promises and calling us to repentance and faith. And in the Lord's Supper, Christ gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. He tells us where He is, and we find Him where He promised He is.

We don't have to wonder where God is or search for a special feeling. He has already told us where He is and where He can be found. There may still be difficult circumstances in our lives; but we can stop and remember who God is. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. He is our Savior. Jesus entered into our broken and troubled world. He bore our sins, suffered and died on the cross, and rose again so that we might have forgiveness, life, and salvation. We can trust in Jesus who is true God. We can trust God when He calls for us to, "Be still, and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)."

~Sarah Shadday

Preschool

Praise God we were able to start school on time! We owe a big thank you to Andrew McNally and the men on the Board of Church Properties, Doug with Souders Roofing and Construction, Gail Brooks and the women of the LWCC, and Lori Thetford and the

Preschool staff. A big thanks to Church Properties and Souders for helping us get the damage fixed in Preschool. Thanks to all your hard work, we were able to welcome families to Back to School Night on August 11th. It was a packed house, especially for our PreK class! We had about 45 people over at Preschool for that Back to School Night.

The Preschool staff has also worked hard to get Preschool ready for the school year. We still have one spot available in our 3's class if you know anyone still looking for a Preschool. The LWML was also kind and hosted the Rummage Sale and are donating the proceeds to replace our playground equipment. We are thankful for the work they did and their generosity. We will order the new equipment soon and have it installed over Fall Break. Thank you again to everyone who helped us get ready for school. The kids are having a great time so far and are learning about Jesus, their Savior.

Sunday School/Bible Class

Sunday School 10:45am

Young Children are learning about Israel going into exile, Hezekiah, Josiah, and the Fiery Furnace this month.

Older Children will have new lessons at the start of Sunday School and have service projects or other activities for the second part of Sunday School.

Youth are attending the adult Bible Study.

Adults are meeting in the Fellowship Hall and are learning about Ephesians and will study Colossians next.

Women Tuesday Night Bible Study is 7pm-8:30pm studying parables. This study will meet August 25th, September 8th and 22nd, October 6th and 20th, and November 10th.

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 contact Pastor Scheltens.

Congregational Fellowship Events

Game Night are August 28th, September 18th, October 23rd, and November 20th 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. Feel free just to come and socialize.



Friday, **October 9**, ladies from Concordia will head to Camp Lakeview. Some may opt to join us Saturday morning, **Oct. 10** for the day.

You don't have to "belong" to any group to join us. It's an all-Concordia ladies' event. Anyone 16 to 106 is welcome to come along. Many carpool from church.

This year's Bible study is Faithful. We'll do activities, a mission craft, a game or two, walk outside, laugh a lot, and enjoy the brief time away.

Look for information and a sign-up sheet on the LWCC bulletin board by mid-September.



Saturday, **September 12** is our Charity, Crafts, and Conversation, 9 am to 11 am.

Bring your own craft or help us get Lutheran World Relief quilts knotted for ship in October.



Parade Your Purple - LWML Sunday is **October 4**

Both men and women are encouraged to wear something purple to celebrate Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML, LWCC). We hope to have a dedication of the LWR quilts and kits you have made.

LWML Announcements:

September 12 - Charity, Crafts, and Conversation, 9 am to 11 am.

September 13 - Next ladies' meeting (LWCC) is Sunday afternoon at 3:00 pm. We'll do a look ahead at upcoming events, do a little get-to-know-you, and NOT pressure you to do anything.

October 4 - LWML Sunday with dedication of quilts and kits for LWR

October 9-10 - Ladies retreat at Camp Lakeview from 4 pm Friday to 3 pm Saturday

October 16 - Lutheran World Relief semi pick up at Concordia, more details to be found in bulletin

November 7 - LWML Gathering in Fellowship Hall from 9 am to 11:30 am

LWML Mission Grants at Work

Mission Grant #1 (2026 Indiana District Convention)

Calvary India Mission

— Indianapolis —
\$4,500

Calvary India Mission (CIM) serves individuals from Tamil Nadu, India, residing in Indianapolis for education and employment. It delivers culturally relevant ministry through Tamil-language Bible Studies, worship services, home visitation, and fellowship events, providing spiritual support in the community's native language. It seeks the Holy Spirit's guidance to share Christ's love and light, encourage new faith among Tamil residents, and equip existing believers to share their faith and compassion with extended families and communities upon returning to India.

2025-2027 Mission Grant #15 (Omaha Convention)

Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA

-- Concordia Publishing House --
Concordia Gospel Outreach, U.S.
\$125,000

Concordia Publishing House, through the Concordia Gospel Outreach program, wants to share the Good News of Jesus with thousands of immigrant and refugee children in the United States. The USA is home to nearly one-fifth of the world's international immigrants, many of whom face challenges in accessing materials in their native languages.

This project will equip LCMS entities serving immigrant and refugee populations with Arch Books, free of charge, in the heart language of the children and their families. It is estimated that the translated books will reach up to 125,000 children and their families. Five Bible stories will be translated and made available in Spanish, Chinese, Telugu, Arabic, and Farsi.

This grant will fund the creation and distribution of these Arch Books — *The Story of Creation*, *Noah's 2 x 2 Adventure*, *Baby Jesus is Born*, *The Week that Led to Easter*, and *Jesus Blesses the Children*.

Church Picnic

Church Picnic will be on September 27th after Bible Class. It will be a potluck so feel free to bring something to share. Church will provide a main course. Look for a sign up in the lobby. Come and fellowship together.

September 2026 Calen-

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	31 6:30pm - Worship Service	1	2	3 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	4	5 10am - O.A.
6 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	7 Church Office Closed No School (Labor Day) 6:30pm - Properties 6:30pm - Worship Service	8 7pm - Elders 7pm - Women's Bible Study	9	10 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	11	12 9am - Charity, Crafts, and Conversation 10am - O.A.
13 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 3pm - LWCC meeting 5pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	14 6:30pm - Worship Service	15	16	17 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	18 5:30pm - Congregation Game Night	19 10am - O.A. 4pm - Dinner & Bunco - Cynthia
20 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 12pm - Yeater Baby Shower 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	21 6:30pm - Worship Service 7pm - Church Council	22 7pm - Women's Tuesday Bible Study	23	24 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	25	26 10am - O.A.
27 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School 12pm - Church Picnic 6pm - Sunday Women's Bible Sty	28 6:30pm - Worship Service	29	30	1 6:30pm - New Member Catechesis	2	3 10am - O.A. 12pm - Right To Life - Shelter House

Treasurers Report

July 2026

Income Descriptions	July 2025 4 Sundays	July 2026 4 Sundays	Total to Date
Unified Budget	\$19,443.45	\$ 16,661.50	\$ 158,642.77
Memorials (Non-Designated)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 775.00
Memorials (Designated)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Designated Gifts	\$ 2,965.50	\$ 11,422.26	\$ 15,005.63
Reimbursements & Refunds	\$ -	\$ 61.61	\$ 236.61
Rents & Wedding Fees	\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 890.00
Miscellaneous*	\$83,901.47	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$19,543.45	\$ 16,661.50	\$ 175,550.01
Average per week Unified Budget	\$ 4,885.86	\$ 4,165.38	\$ 9,331.93
Amount needed per week for Unified Budget	\$ 6,728.85	\$ 6,764.00	\$ 6,728.85

Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses	Jul-06	Total to Date
Missions - District Synod	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Lutheran High School	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Total Support	\$ -	\$ 10,500.00

Board Expenses	Jul-26	Total To Date	Total Budget
Pastoral Care	\$ 8,464.21	\$ 69,741.47	\$ 119,200.00
Christian Education	\$ 6,224.05	\$ 57,051.84	\$ 83,600.00
Congregational Worship	\$ 287.60	\$ 4,747.33	\$ 4,300.00
Missions & Outreach	\$ -	\$ 11,487.50	\$ 21,500.00
Office	\$ 1,704.22	\$ 11,463.79	\$ 32,450.00
Properties	\$22,259.90	\$ 99,967.12	\$ 90,700.00
Unified Budget Total	\$38,939.98	\$254,459.05	\$ 351,750.00

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts	07/30/2026
Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073	\$ 4,738.94
Board of Youth - Trip - 5446***	\$ 11,800.22
Building Fund - 2978**	\$ 3,046.53
Capital Improvements - 9545	\$ 14,143.17
Church Sign	\$ 997.34
Church Landscaping	\$ 902.46
Heine Family Project	\$ 1,772.40
Total Capital Improvements - \$17,815.37	\$ 17,815.37
Concordia Cares - 6370	\$ 3,576.89
Inheritance Fund - 7423	\$ 105,000.65
Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434	\$ 151.79
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	\$ 146,130.39
Interest Earned	\$ 270.43

Total In Church Checking Account	\$ 136,862.23
Total in Preschool Account*	\$ 18,578.60
Designated Offerings (included in church checking acct balance)	\$ 49,116.48

Weekly Attendance and Offerings		
Week of	2026	Offerings
Aug 2, 2026	96	\$23,920.00
Aug 9, 2026	81	\$4,775.00
Aug 16, 2026	112	\$5,144.50
Aug 23, 2026	110	\$3,267.90
Aug 30, 2026	101	\$13,805.00

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:

- John Guinn 7/30/26
- 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

- Diana Sullivan 8/25/26
- 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
- Emily McNally

Psalm 105:25

"He turned their heart to hate His people, To deal craftily with His servants."

Whatever you do work at it with all your heart. As working for the Lord, Not for Men.

-Colossians 3:23



1 Peter 3:15

"but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;"

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

9/6 "Come and See"
9/13 "Forgiveness Is a Non-Negotiable"
9/20 "High Bar to Clay Jar"
9/27 "Teachable"

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:

Distler, Albi	9/2
Barnes, Pat	9/2
Crouch, Gaby	9/4
Yeater, Jayme	9/4
Hartley, Bryan	9/6
Waltz II, Gene	9/11
Stephenson, Gini	9/14
Coffey, Jessica	9/16
Reinke, Stacy	9/18
Tinsley, Georgieanne	9/18
Inman, Linda	9/19
Boesenberg, Don	9/21
Distler, Allen	9/21
Chaudhary, Alex	9/21
Roemer, Jim	9/22
Slemons, Sherry	9/25
Beam-Garland Dianne	9/29
Scheltens, Pastor Sam	9/30

WEDDINGS:

	Years	Date
Vince & Wendy DeFabis	39	9/5
Don & Lynn Dombroski	49	9/13
Jim & Becky Lanning	52	9/14
Jennifer & Adam Musgrove	10	9/17
Mark & Marilyn Lawler	40	9/27



Proverbs 16:4

"The LORD has made
everything for its own
purpose,
Even the wicked for
the day of evil."

The Concordia Messenger

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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."

Where do surfers go for an education? Boarding school.

Did you hear about the guy who was addicted to Hokey Pokey? He turned himself around.

What's a shark's favorite saying?
"Man overboard!"

What do you call a French man wearing sandals? Philipe Fallop.

1 Peter 2:6-8

For *this* is contained in Scripture:

“BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE, AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.” This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but

for unbelievers,

“A STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE,” and, “A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”;

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed.

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Sept 2026



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**Concordia Lutheran Church
& Preschool**