

# The Concordia Chimes

# December 2024



**The Rev. Dr. Rolf Hedberg**  
*Transitional Pastor*  
Office: 860.649.5311

**Margie Gallagher**  
*Parish Administrator*  
office@concordiamanchester.org  
Office: 860.649.5311

**Ashley Salerno**  
*Concordia Nursery School Director*  
Office: 860.649.9349  
concordianurseryschool@gmail.com  
www.concordianurseryschool.org

**Richard Hicks**  
*Minister of Music Emeritus*

## Concordia's WHY/Purpose Statement:

To be welcoming, and inviting  
community empowered by the  
Word of God; so that we may  
work for social justice and  
exhibit compassion for all.



**Sunday Worship**  
10:00 a.m.

## **Concordia Lutheran Church**

40 Pitkin Street  
Manchester, CT 06040

### **Office Hours:**

Mon-Thu, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
*Closed on all Federal Holidays*

office@concordiamanchester.org  
www.concordiamanchester.org

**Phone:** 860.649.5311  
**Fax:** 860.432.9972

*The deadline for submitting articles  
or items for the Chimes is:*

*the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month or as  
communicated.*



*I am not sure about how I started to think about this – Seasonal Affective Disorder – but in some kind of odd way, it comes to mind when I think about the Church Year. You know we have to get through Advent; a period of waiting and of preparing for the coming of the Christ child at Christmas to get to Christmas, just as we go through Lent and Holy Week to get to Easter. The Church has to go through periods of penitence to get to promises of hope, forgiveness, and celebration.*

But back to Seasonal Affective Disorder – I guess we can agree that the shorthand for this is S.A.D (sad!) and that a number of people are affected by this for several reasons. There is the fact of less daylight hours in the northern hemisphere, and people are impacted by the lengthened darkness. There is also the fact that people can be put more in touch with their loneliness depending on their social and family situations. It can be difficult to see other people having a grand time around family and other social situations and one is on the outside looking in.

And so I want us to consider where the church is in the midst of all this negative mood stuff, in a season that can offer us so much more. A couple of things. First, there is this season of Advent in which we, as a people of faith, are reminded to use this time not to wring our hands but to open our hands

and hearts to receive the infant Jesus. It is a time for introspection, a time to reflect on blessings and gifts that we already enjoy and to think about what opportunities we have to serve God and neighbor with these blessings and gifts. Secondly, the fact and metaphor of darkness can also be a tremendous gift. In this time of Advent, the church (small 'c') will go through a transformation made visible in the sanctuary. The ideal is that there will be a gradual transformation from “darkness” to “light.” Greens, candles, decorations, and colorful red poinsettias will grace our sanctuary as we move closer and closer to the birth of the Savior, who is the Light of the world. Finally, that is where the Church clashes, as it were, with culture. Indeed, as I write this, we have yet to celebrate Thanksgiving, and yet I cannot begin to count the number of homes which

are fully decked out, decorated for Christmas. CVS, Walmart, Lowe’s, and Home Depot have had most of the merchandise out for weeks and so it goes. Tongue in cheek, I am waiting for Santa Claus to get into a battle royale with the Easter Bunny – just wondering, just saying.

But here, we are the Church. We know for whom we wait; we know who comes to us as the gift of God at Christmas; we know the one who comes to us in human form, baby Jesus; and we know the one who will come to us at the end of time and beyond time as we know it. And so we pray in Advent and in all of the days of our lives.

Come.  
Come, Lord  
Jesus! Come  
quickly.



Peace to you and yours,

*Pastor Rolf Hedberg*

## *Transition Update from Mark Winzler*

Approximately forty members of Concordia gathered on Sunday for an update on all things related to the transition process and to respond to questions which will aid the Council/Transition Team as we move forward. Those gathered.....

- Were provided an update about interest by a couple of churches in purchasing our building
- Were given an update about conversations about a possible partnership being held with an Episcopal church
- Reviewed a sheet of “Facts about Concordia” (see next page)
- Reviewed a Chart of Remaining Options: Partnership, Merger, Holy Closure (on page following the “Facts”)

Members then responded to the following questions at tables:

**How are you feeling at this juncture in time as Concordia considers its future?**

**What questions do you have about any of the remaining options Partnership, Merger, Holy Closure?**

**Are you ready for Concordia to move out of Maintenance Ministry (Status Quo) and make a decision about formally exploring one of the three remaining options?**

The responses gathered (each table had a Council/Transition Team Facilitator who took notes and then shared those with the whole group at the end of the meeting) will be forwarded to Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria Hammons to aid her as she prepares to meet with us on:

**Sunday, December 15**

**11:30 a.m.**

**Kaiser Hall**

A communication will be distributed beforehand with additional information.

## Facts about Concordia



- † We have about 90 people on our membership rolls (though, constitutionally, not all of them are voting members). Only those who both contribute and commune within the last year can vote. (In comparison: 50 years ago in 1974 we had 858 on the membership roll with 425 as communing/contributing.)
- † More than 85% of those on our membership rolls are over the age of 60.
- † For 2024 there were 39 pledge units.
- † For 2024 there were 13 other units of people who did not pledge, but contributed.
- † Of those who pledged, the range is from \$100/year to \$24,000/year.
- † Of those who contributed but did not pledge, the range from \$1.00 to \$2,400 (as of July 31.)
- † \$163,000 was the "pledged" amount included in the 2024 budget representing 39 pledges and those who do not pledge, but give.
- † The total budget was \$217,320.
- † The deficit was \$15,620 because of additional income sources (legacy/use of building etc.,
- † The deficit would have been \$53,000 without those additional income sources.
- † While we basically have a renovated, up-to-date building, we still have maintenance and repair issues. During 2024 those cost about \$48,000 to date.
- † We finished doing our transition study and activities three years ago in November, 2021. We have been in maintenance ministry (status quo) ever since.
- † The congregation was interested in a partnership with St. Mary's. They merged with St. John's Episcopal in Vernon.
- † The consensus of the congregation in February, 2024 was not to pursue revitalization or radical redevelopment (bilingual).
- † We cannot afford a full-time pastor based on our income.
- † If we were to call a full-time pastor, we would need at least \$100,000 in additional income (pledges).
- † Three options remain to explore: partnership, merger or holy closure.
- † If we were to be in partnership with a full-communion partner (episcopal etc.), we would need \$30,000-\$50,000 more in additional income
- † We will move immediately move into exploration of merger or holy Closure.....
  1. If we lose \$15,000 in income during any year OR a loss of \$15,000 for the following year.
  2. If our average attendance falls below 35.
  3. If we cannot meet minimum number of members to serve on Council, Legacy, or Memorial Garden.
  4. If we cannot maintain handful of people staffing the following: Ushers, Counters, Altar Guild, Lawn Mowing, Choir, Worship Assistants
- † **During 2024 we have lost 2 pledge units: one due to death, the other (just this week) as the person asked to be removed from the membership rolls.**

Concordia Lutheran Church  
Manchester, Connecticut

Merger  
(with ELCA congregations)

- Identify possible "receiving" congregations.
- Exploration ~3 months\*
- Visitation
  - Teams established to determine if good match
  - discuss culture, worship, energy, finances
  - Requires most members transfer to merger receiving congregation
- Process ~ 3months\*
- Set timeline
  - Teams continue work toward merger.
  - Legal & Policy Issues
- Need Bishop approval
- Church building/property for sale
- identify commercial realtor
  - get fair market value
  - vote on buyer preference (church, nonprofit, developer)
- Legacy Giving (financial)
- Legacy workshop to identify organizations
  - At least half \$ to new church home
  - Remainder to nonprofits of choice (within IRS & ministry guidelines)

Partnership  
(with Ecumenical Full Communion partners)

- Identify possible partnership congregations.
- Exploration ~ 3 months\*
- Visitation
  - Teams established to determine if good match
  - discuss culture, worship, energy, finances
  - Important that most members want to join with partnership congregation
- Process ~ 3 months\*
- Set timeline
- Teams continue work toward partnership
- Legal & Polity Issues
- Need both Synod & Diocesan Bishops approval
- Church building/property for sale
- identify commercial realtor
  - get fair market value
  - vote on buyer preference (church, nonprofit, developer)
- Legacy Giving (financial)
- Legacy workshop to identify organizations
  - significant funds go to ecumenical partnership
  - remainder to nonprofits of choice (within IRS & ministry guidelines)

Holy Closure (HC)

- Process ~ 4-6 months\*
- Conversation about options
- Visitation (new church home)
  - Energy level to move forward
  - Volunteers burnout
  - Financial "burn rate" defined
  - Members go their own way
- Set timeline
- Teams: real estate, property, archives, worship, finances
- Legal & Policy Issues
- Bishop informed
- Church building/property for sale
- identify commercial realtor
  - get market value
  - vote on buyer preference (church, nonprofit, developer)
- Legacy Giving (financial)
- Legacy workshop, identify orgs.
  - funds go to congregation's choice (within IRS & ministry guidelines)

\*Holy Closure process takes 4-6 months; the Merger & Partnership processes take an additional 3-6 months





## Highlights of the October 2024 Treasurer's Report

### Summary

October envelope and other funding was 17% over the monthly budgeted amount and year-to-date 9% over the year-to-date budgeted amount. Overall revenue year-to-date is 90% through October which is 7% over the percentage of the total budget for ten (10) months into the year (83%). Reminder that our 2024 budget included \$15,000 from Legacy for Mission to support our benevolence commitments.

Year-to-date expenses through October was 23% over the percentage of the total budget for ten (10) months into the year (83%) primarily due to the steeple and boiler value repair work. From an overall budget perspective, the majority of these expenses were covered by the \$45,000 congregation approved withdrawal from Legacy for Mission endowment.

Thank you for your continued financial support throughout 2024.

### Report Details

The below information represents the envelope and stretch giving for the month of October as well as the percentage against the monthly and yearly budget amounts.

Month	Actual Recd. (Envelope & Other Funding (Stretch))	Monthly Budget	Percent Received Against s Budget	Received Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Percent Received Against Year-to-Date Budget
<b>October</b>	\$16,147.52	\$13,750.00	117%	\$149,936.09	\$137,500.00	109%

### Additional October Revenue

Open Offering:	\$73.20
Church Service:	\$200.00
General Building Use:	\$650.00
Christian Indian Church Offering:	\$100.00
World Hunger:	\$23.00
Utilities Assistance:	\$170.00
Snow Removal Assistance:	\$180.00
ELCA Disaster Relief:	\$200.00
Misc. Income Non-Budget:	\$250.00 (Steeple repair donation)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,846.20</b>
<b>TOTAL OCTOBER REVENUES:</b>	<b>\$17,993.72</b>



## Highlights of the October 2024 Treasurer's Report

### Expenses

#### 1. Utilities:

Vendor	OCTOBER 2024	OCTOBER 2023
CNG	\$330.49	\$0.00 (Paid in Sept 2023)
Eversource/Earthlight	\$746.14 (\$39.94/\$706.20)	\$640.20 (\$0.00/\$640.20)
Cox	\$435.42	\$430.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,512.05</b>	<b>\$1,070.24</b>

#### Additional October Expenses:

Synod:	\$1,558.33
Staff Salaries:	\$5,930.80
Fringe Benefits:	\$411.88
Program Expenses:	\$34.43
Program Support Expenses:	\$650.83
Facility Maintenance:	\$3,584.20
Insurance:	\$3,465.75
Misc. Non-Budget:	\$1,500.00 (Building Appraisal fee (50%))
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$17,136.22</b>

**TOTAL OCTOBER EXPENSES: \$18,648.27**

#### Bank Account as of 10/31/2024 (ACS)

Beginning Balance:	\$29,627.56
Total Revenue:	\$22,358.36 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)
Total Expenditures:	\$21,078.57 (Includes MNC & Tax expenditures)
<b>Current Balance:</b>	<b>\$30,907.35</b>
<b>Monthly Cash Flow:</b>	<b>\$1,279.79 (Revenue less Expenditures)</b>

#### Special Funds (as of October 31<sup>st</sup>)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (Sept. 2024)	Current Market Value	Current Month Gain/Losses & Withdrawals	YTD Gain/Losses & Withdrawals
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$49,968.02	\$49,196.80	-\$771.22	\$2,629.13
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$67,496.40	\$66,552.33	-\$944.07	\$5,770.66
Legacy for Ministry	\$957,817.28	\$944,420.26	-\$13,397.02	\$78,369.58
<b>Total Fidelity</b>	<b>\$1,025,313.68</b>	<b>\$1,010,972.59</b>	<b>-\$14,341.09*</b>	<b>\$84,140.24</b>

\*Note: Includes \$8,800 withdrawn in April for MACC and GHIAA benevolence from Legacy. \$2,000 withdrawn from Scholarship in June. \$46,000 withdrawn from Legacy in June. \$5,300 withdrawn in August (CNS).

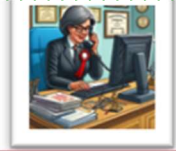
#### Memorial & Tributes Savings Account (as of October 31<sup>st</sup>)

Previous Month's Balance (Sept. 2024)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$82,851.63	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$82,951.63

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you. Carol Stoneman, Treasurer

# Approved Minutes *from the Secretary*



## Approved Minutes of the Concordia Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting

Sunday, October 13, 2024, in person

### **Present:**

Mark Winzler – President  
Jan McGarity – Vice President  
Susan Bourret – Secretary  
Pastor Hedberg  
Tina Ruggerio  
Ruth Sprong-Heyden  
Ruthie Lynch  
Bobby McKinney  
Nancy Lynn Knauff

**Excused:** Carol Stoneman - Treasurer

**Call to Order** – Mark Winzler @ 11:32 AM

**Devotions** – Tina Ruggerio

**Special Order** The transition team and council discussed the meeting with New River and Spirit of Truth church representatives. We discussed plans for our November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting prior to the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with Pastor Maria Hammons. The final building appraisal was received, the dollar amount has not changed, more detail was provided.

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes** of the September 22 meeting as modified.

### **Pastor's Report**

Pastor Hedberg continues to support us with Sunday Services, office hours and contacts with parishioners.

### **President's Report**

Transition work and Concordia Nursery School support were communicated. A sheet outlining Merger details was distributed via email and hardcopy.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The September treasurer's report was distributed and received.

### **Old Business**

GHIAA Power Summit on November 21 is our chance to stand up for social justice. People are encouraged to participate.

### **New Business**

Stewardship Sunday will be November 17<sup>th</sup>. The committee is meeting next week.  
Nursery School will be contacted to see if they need financial help going forward.  
The Legacy Committee will be working on updates to the regulations document broadening the options for distribution of funds should we choose Holy Closure or Merger.  
Agreement by common consent for Pop-up Store us of the boiler room to temporarily store furniture items being saved for specific needs identified.

### **Property**

Now that the steeple repair is complete, the organ damage will be fixed using a donation received.

### **No Motions were Submitted / Passed by Council this meeting**

**Adjournment:** Adjourned at 1:30PM.

### **Information:**

- October 19- Among Women sponsored by MNC
- October 26- Pop Up Shop
- October 27- Reformation Sunday
- November 3- All Saints Sunday (Worship in Sanctuary/Garden)
- November 3- Executive Committee
- November 10- Council Meeting
- November 21- GHIAA Power Summit
- November 24- Informal Congregation Meeting to Talk about Future
- December 15- Congregation Meeting with Pastor Maria Hammons

**Approved, and passed:** Agenda, Minutes of September Council Meeting, no motions passed.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Bourret*



# The Empty Seat at the Christmas Table

By: *Jan Bellino*

If we are lucky, we live long full lives, filled with joy, sorrow, excitement, and simple pleasures, all shared with the special people we love.

Sadly, as the years go by, we lose some of those special people whose absence is felt on our most joyous holiday of the year, Christmas. So, the void is felt. The lights seem dimmer, the music makes us sad.

I have worked for so many years as an in-hoe nurse's aide, caring for people who were healing, aged, and at the end of their life.

The agency that I worked for grew a hospice tree titled, "The Tree of Life" on the center green in Vernon. It was a fir tree decorated with white lights in memory of persons we had cared for during the year, but were no longer with us. As each year passed the tree grew and more lights were added.

On an evening shortly before Christmas, my company would invite the families of the people who had passed away, to gather around the tree in celebration of the lives of their loved ones.

I remember gazing at the beautiful glowing testament to lives gone by. The white lights against the night sky were mesmerizing, like looking at the stars in the sky.

I believe that with death comes freedom from earthly worries, pain, and sadness. So, in my mind, I did not see just white light bulbs, but instead, I felt that each light was the soul of someone now a light in Heaven and at peace.

It filled me with a feeling of spiritual calm. The families seemed to feel it too, for there were no tears or talk of sadness, just peacefulness and the sharing of memories.

My hope for you, is that at your Christmas table, you can free yourself from dwelling on



"the empty seat", and turn the holiday lights and focus on them. Let them light up forgotten memories, and like a magic carpet, take you back to that special person that you miss. If it is quiet around you, you may even hear their voice in your mind.

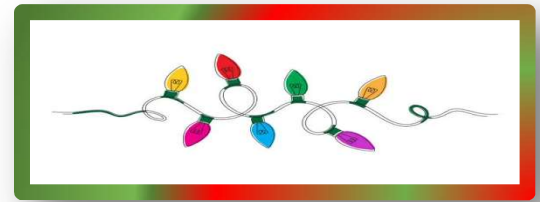
Celebrate the laughter, the special adventures spent together, even the tears. By remembering, a rather than pushing those memories back, it will bring your loved one closer. Those times are the tapestry of your life.

By remembering, you give life and form to your spirit and the spirit of your loved one. They are within you always. When you are close to a person, their mannerisms, special sayings, and wisdom become part of who you are, and the connection is always there. They are not at the seat at the table because they are living in your heart and your mind.

A world without love is dull and dry. Love gives it color and dimension. Embrace the past that has been forever shaped with love. Don't hide your memories behind a veil of sadness. Let in the light of Christmas and feel the peace that comes from loving someone and being loved in return, for that is the greatest gift of all.

## POP-UP SHOP NEWS

After my grandson's birthdays this September, I asked them which gift was their favorite. They both responded, "*The Magic 8 Ball*". I wish I had one now as I'm trying to write about something that is going to happen after you receive this Chimes article. Will people come to the Pop Up Shop this time? Will we have good attendance like last time? Come on Magic 8 Ball give me the answer I'm looking for!



These are the facts I do know. Both Jill & Krista, FRC from Highland Park School & Bowers, met with us and we are trying a new schedule so that both schools have an equal amount of families attending. In order to do this, we are expanding our hours from 9-3 rather than 10-2. Krista and Jill will be sending out announcements advertising the December 7<sup>th</sup> Christmas themed Pop-Up Shop and working the spreadsheets. We are sorting housewares, clothing, toys, and books as usual. However, we are also untangling Christmas lights, washing tree skirts, hand picking ornaments and trying to decorate 48 stocking stuffer gifts. Stocking stuffer gifts? Yes we thought it would be nice to dedicate a room in the Christmas theme. Carol Burnett will be decorating. Each family will enter our winter wonderland and receive two tickets to pick out two little gift. Since we are capping attendance to 12 Highland Park families and 12 Bowers families, that means 48 small gifts! Come on Magic 8 Ball are we going to be able to pull this off?

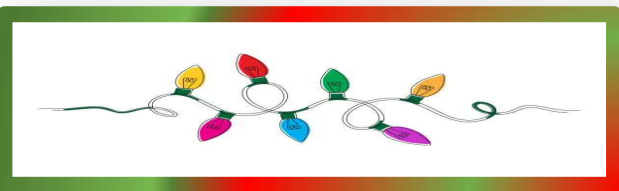


Thank you to **Ruthie Lynch** and *her friend* who works at *Bob's Discount Furniture Store* for the **\$500 gift card**. Both Jill & Krista were thrilled to hear about the card.

Thank you **Concordia & MNC** for supporting us in this cause.

Hey wait a minute, who needs a Magic 8 Ball? Mathew 7:7-8 reads, "*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives ; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.*"

**Praise God,**  
*Ruth Sprong Heyden*



# All Saints Sunday, November 3, 2024



*Concordia Lutheran Church members gather in the Worship & Memorial Garden, commemorating All Saints Day on November 3, 2024.*



The following is an excerpt from a sermon based on John 18:33-37 that was delivered by Lucy Tavares in Spanish and by me in English to Ministerio Nueva Creación on Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>. I hope you enjoy it.

*Sermon title: **What Is It Have You Done?***

*By: David Smith*

“What is it you have done?”

In today’s gospel, Jesus is on trial before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. Pilate asks this question to Jesus upon hearing his case. I have said this many times before, and I’ll say it again, I have always felt that Pilate has been given a bad rap. He could find no crime in what Jesus did and tried in numerous ways to let him go, only caving to the crowds and Hebrew leaders at the end. To be certain, I’m not saying Pilate was a great guy. One didn’t get to be a Roman governor by being a nice guy. Pilate wielded power by brutally putting down all rebellions in the province.

As a kid, whenever I would hear “save us from the time of trial” in the traditional version of the Lord’s prayer, I would always think about Jesus before Pilate, and then later about myself before St. Peter at the Pearly Gates having to account for myself in how I handled things in my life. But that is perhaps a superficial way of looking at it. One by dwelling in the past and the other by dwelling in the afterlife. What about now? In the contemporary version its “lead us not into temptation.”

“Save us from the time of trial” or “lead us not into temptation” is about asking Jesus’ protection to prevent us from facing troubles and avoiding the harm of bad decision-making. It’s about the spirit leading your heart and rendering your prayers and supplications to the Lord. It’s about taking responsibility for your life and actions and doing the things necessary to live rightly by loving our neighbors as ourselves and by helping those in need. In not doing immorally

sinful things and taking care of ourselves so as not to become burdens for others. It’s about worshiping Jesus for all he’s done for us and growing our faith beyond the four walls of the church and out there in everyday life. By sharing the good news of Christ with others and inviting them in.

We are all human. We make mistakes. We make poor judgements. We act on impulse. We fight, we gossip, we cheat whether it be on taxes or on diet, we cheat, we tell little fibs to rationalize something that isn’t totally okay. You know what we do. We all do it. The key is to recognize it when you do it, think ahead of the ramifications, and imagine yourself on trial for it, and pray for protection and forgiveness. Pray for guidance to get back on the right path.

Sometimes this means saying sorry. Sometimes it requires making amends for those you’ve hurt by your actions.

Sometimes it means being there for someone else, even if you’d rather be elsewhere. Sometimes it means cleaning up your act. By this I mean to stop doing things you know are not good for you in the long run.

What is it have you done? That is a great question we should each consider. Then consider how we need Jesus in our life to show us the way, and to be there for others who need our help. *Amen.*



## Stewardship Ministry



*<sup>32</sup>Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup>With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. – Acts 4:32-33*

We are full of gratitude for the generosity of this congregation! We have experienced a good response in estimates of giving for the upcoming year, thanks in large measure to your faith and generosity.

Thank you to everyone who brought their pledges with them to our Stewardship Sunday service on November 17<sup>th</sup> and to those who dropped off their pledges since. Your generosity enables us to continue the ministries of Concordia Lutheran Church in the coming year. Worshiping God is so important in our lives and it's what makes Concordia our spiritual home and its members part of our family. Indeed, this is **Our Common Life**.

If you haven't gotten around to sending it in or dropping it off, **there's still time!** We rely on the pledges received to put together our budget for next year and hope we'll be able to add yours too. This is a generous congregation and it's always a marvel to see how everyone responds in support of the church we love.

We look forward to all that lies ahead, knowing that God will sustain us through it and that we have one another to lean. We look forward to encouraging one another with God's grace in 2025!

*In Christ,*

David Smith, *Stewardship Committee*

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### ☀️ Prayer Blanket Ministry Revival ☀️

A few years ago, our beloved prayer blanket (or shawl) ministry had to be discontinued. But we still have a few lovingly knitted shawls left, and we're looking to breathe new life into this heartwarming effort! 🌸

Are you interested in making lap blankets for those who are ill or facing surgery? Whether you're a knitting pro or prefer sewing from fleece, your talents are needed! This time, it's all about individual contributions, so you can work at your own pace. 🧶 ✂️

If you're interested or have any questions, please call or text: **Janet Bellino at (860)977-1433.**

*Let's wrap our community in warmth and love!* 💕

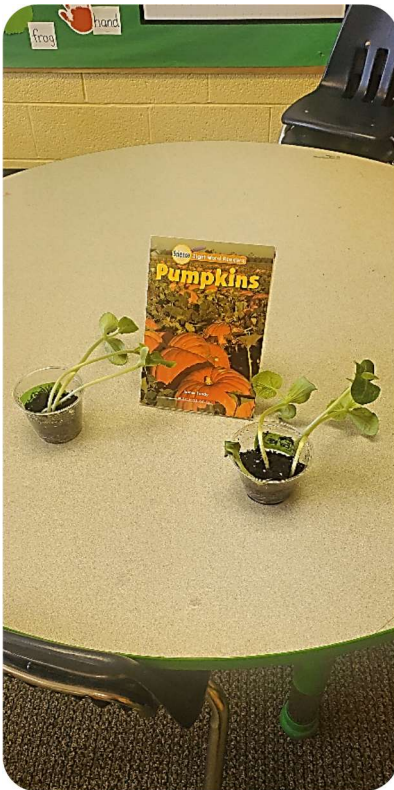
## Fun and Learning at Concordia Nursery School



This month at the nursery school, the children have been very busy being scientists! They have been learning about all of the changes that autumn brings.

They first learned all about pumpkins, using their sense of touch to discover the pulp and seeds. Children in the PK4 class then took those seeds to plant their own pumpkin plants. After reading many books, the children learned that pumpkins need soil, water and sunlight to grow. We also investigated “sink or float” using different objects from nature that we could find in the fall.

Our current focus is on being thankful, friendship and preparations for Thanksgiving and the upcoming holiday season.

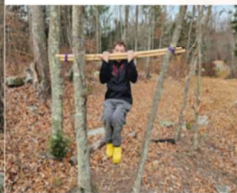


# Scouts



## November Troop 123 Patrol Competitions with Pack 47 Arrow of Lighters

November 9 - 10



## Concordia Lutheran Church Fall Clean Up with Troop 123 & Pack 47



November 16



## Fall Cleanup Thanks!

A special **Thank You!** to *Cub Scout Pack 47* and *Boy and Girl Scout Troop 123* for their effort in the Fall Cleanup on November 16, 2024. They raked, and raked, and raked, and then blew all the leaves to the curbs of Pitkin and Parker Streets. Many thanks go to **Don and Marion Slater** for bringing the Apple Cider that was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants, for **Jeanine Barber**, who brought some goodies for the kids, and, of course, I was happy to contribute dozens of donuts to keep everyone with lots of energy to finish the work.



The Cub Scouts of Pack 47 and Boy and Girl Scouts of Troop 123, and their parents, all did a wonderful job this year and their effort is **much appreciated!**

*David Smith*

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Our Member Care group delivered Pumpkin Bread and Turkeys for Thanksgiving. 





# CLC at GHIAA Power Summit, November 21, 2024

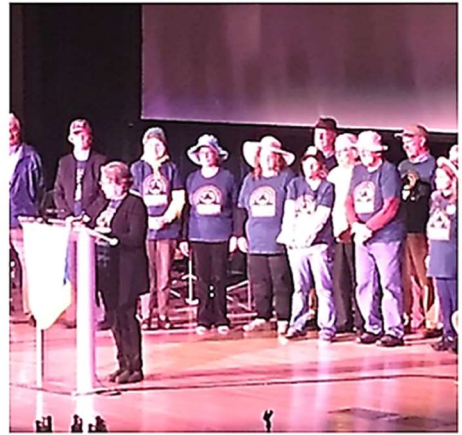
Thank you to everyone who joined us at the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA) Power Summit on November 21 at Weaver High School in Hartford, CT. We had a powerful evening filled with impactful stories and meaningful discussions.

Key highlights included:

- † Housing Affordability: Community members shared personal experiences and the urgent need for affordable housing solutions. Public officials committed to exploring policy changes to address this critical issue.
- † Fiscal Policy Reform: Attendees discussed the importance of equitable fiscal policies and urged decision-makers to consider reforms that benefit all residents, especially the most vulnerable.
- † Combating Religious and Racial Hate: Heartfelt stories of those affected by religious and racial hate crimes were shared, emphasizing the need for stronger protections and community solidarity.

Public officials who attended, pledged to take actions to combat these issues. The summit was a testament to the power of collective advocacy for justice and the importance of staying engaged in our community. Together, we are making strides towards a more just and equitable society.

*Pic of Nancy Knauff: GHIAA Hat Leader pictured 5th from left*



*Sandy Baranowski, Susan Bourret, Rebekka Almond, Ruthie & Peter Lynch.*



*Jane Casserly, Sandy Baranowski, Susan Bourret*



*Bobby, Ruth, Gail, Pam, Phil (Carol was the Flag bearer from CLC, not in the photo)*



*Tina and Bobby*



## MACC & HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SUPPORT

First of all, **THANK YOU** for your gift card donations and your monetary gifts to assist in the purchasing of gift cards for Highland Park School (HPS) and MACC families for Thanksgiving.

### **FOR CHRISTMAS:**

#### **Highland Park School**

We provided 39 gift cards to HPS families for Thanksgiving. For Christmas they have requested the same number of **\$25 gift cards to Target or Walmart**. Questions, regarding HPS should be directed to Ruth Sprong Heyden.

#### **MACC**

We adopted 8 MACC families ranging from 2 to 7 family members. Five (5) families were adopted for Thanksgiving. If you adopted a family for Thanksgiving and would like to assist the same family for Christmas or you would like to adopt one of the remaining 3 families, please contact Carol Stoneman (860-559-2208).

For Christmas, we will provide both food (monetary amount determined by number of family members) & gift cards (minimum of \$25 per family member). Gift cards should be delivered no later than **Friday, December 13, 2024**, to allow families adequate time to shop for gifts and food.

Also, if you would like to volunteer your time at the MACC emergency pantry during their extended shopping hours or assist in packing food baskets during their pantry sessions, PLEASE CONTACT: Patti Thurlow, Operations Manager, at 860-647-8003 ex. 112 or at [PThurlow@macc-ct.org](mailto:PThurlow@macc-ct.org)

#### **Seasonal Sharing Giving**

To make a monetary donation, please use the Seasonal Sharing envelope in you giving envelope box or you can donate via check and write Seasonal Sharing in the For/Note section in the lower left-hand side of your check.

Again, thank you for your continued support of this ministry. God Bless!!!  
Concordia's Outreach Team



# Concordia Lutheran Church Calendar



<u>Date of Event</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sunday, December 1, 2024	Executive Committee	Concordia Lutheran Church	After Worship
Friday, December 6, 2024	POP UP Store Set up	Concordia Lutheran Church	1 p.m. to TBA
Saturday, December 7, 2024	Pop Up Store	Concordia Lutheran Church	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday, December 8, 2024	Council Meeting	Concordia Lutheran Church	After Worship
Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, & 18	Holden Evening Prayer	Via Zoom - see flyer!	7:00-7:30 pm
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Congregation Meeting with Pastor Maria Hammons	Concordia Lutheran Church	After Worship
Tuesday, December 24, 2024	Christmas Eve	Concordia Lutheran Church	8 p.m.
Tuesday, December 24, 2024	Christmas Eve Social Gathering	Mark's House	Approx. 9:30 p.m.
<b>All throughout School Year</b>	Healthy Snacks for Highland Park Elementary School	Concordia Lutheran Church	All Day



## POP UP Store

### Healthy Snacks for



### Highland Park Elementary School

School is now *in session* and we are graciously requesting from our congregation: **healthy, non-perishable snacks (no nuts please)**.

#### Examples:



We will be collecting **all school year**, kindly shop for healthy snacks and bring them with you to our next service!

Thank you and God Bless!



## Pop Up Store



**Date:** Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin St., Manchester

Concordia, Emanuel, and Ministerio Nueva Creación



Midweek Advent Worship

### Holden Evening Prayer



Wednesdays

December 4, 11, and 18

7:00-7:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

*The Zoom Link and Dial-In Information will be disseminated each week beforehand.*

Holden Evening Prayer was originally written during the winter of 1986 while the composer, Marty Haugen, was at Holden Village in the North Cascade Mountains of Washington State. With the exception of the lessons and a couple of prayers, the majority of the liturgy is sung. The liturgy lasts about one-half hour.

While it may be used at any time during the church year, it is especially appropriate during Advent because of the Magnificat included in the liturgy.

## Midweek Advent Worship: Holden Evening Prayer December 4, 11, 18, 2024 7:00 PM

### Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87676995628?pwd=a8va2e7hfmd0bvSab8hZdtlP832ZC.1>

**Dial-In:** 1- 646-876-9923

**Meeting ID:** 876 7699 5628

**Passcode:** 403150

\*\*\*\*\*

## Christmas Eve Social Gathering

All are invited to a **Social Gathering** on Christmas Eve following the 8:00 p.m. Eucharist (*beginning approximately 9:30 p.m.*) at the home of Mark Winzler.

Come and celebrate Christmas together! There will be goodies to eat as well as "cups of Christmas Cheer" to raise!



**If you plan to attend, kindly e-mail ([markwinz52@aol.com](mailto:markwinz52@aol.com)) or call Mark (860-643-1913) OR call Margie at Church Office (860-649-5311) *no later than Wednesday, December 20.***

We have lots to celebrate and be thankful for as we come to the close of 2024.

**Please come and enjoy the company! All are welcome!**

\*\*\*\*\*




# COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS

**DECEMBER COFFEE CORNER**  
 Join us Thursday, December 12th for MACC's Coffee Corner. Discuss the latest events and projects at MACC and learn how you and your organization can get involved. If you want to sign up for our next Coffee Corner please email Operations Manager Patti Thurlow @ pthurlow@macc-ct.org



Date of Event	Event	Place	Time
Saturday, December 7, 2024	Night, Dreaming & Awakening (Concert)	St. Bernard Catholic Church, 25 St. Bernard Ter., Vernon	7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 12, 2024	MACC's Coffee Corner	MACC	See flyer
Friday, December 13, 2024	Winter Starlight	St. James Episcopal Church, 1018 Farmington Ave., West Hartford	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 14, 2024	Candlight Concinnity	Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 60 Church St., Manchester	7 p.m.
Saturday, Sep 14 - Saturday, Dec. 14	Air Painting On Horsebarn Hill	Jorgenson Gallery/UConn	Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Messiah Sing	United Congregational Church of Tolland, 45 Tolland Green	3 p.m. See Flyer!
June 22 - July 20, 2025	Lutheran Summer Music '25	Valparaiso University in IN	See flyer/Scan QR Code



Friends in Christ and friends in music.

Enrollment for the 2025 [Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival](#) (LSM) is open, and we write to provide you with easy tools to share about LSM within your congregation.

Every year, young musicians from across the country join together for an unforgettable summer, growing in music, connecting in faith, and flourishing in a joyful community. We ask that you please share about this opportunity within your children, youth & family ministries, music ministries, as well as with families with students in grades 8-12.

Below please find bulletin blurbs, presentation slides, shareable graphics and videos, and more.

Please also consider the young musicians in your congregation who would thrive at LSM, and connect them with us to learn more. You may respond to this email, or [nominate a student through this form](#).


**Lutheran Summer Music 2025**  
 Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN  
 Full Session: June 22-July 20\*  
 Half Session: June 22-July 6  
 Grades 8-12

*\*Early check-outs will be coordinated for students attending the LCMS National Youth Gathering.*

[Nominate a Student](#)

**SHARE THIS...**

Copy-paste or share these links with your congregation and youth.  
 Find all shareable promotional materials at [LSMacademy.org/promo](https://LSMacademy.org/promo).



Scan Me!

The Vernon Chorale

Presents:



# Night, Dreaming, and Awakening

**SAT. DEC. 7, 2024**  
**7:30PM**

St. Bernard Catholic Church  
25 St. Bernard's Terrace, Vernon, CT

**EHREN BROWN**  
Artistic Director

**KATHLEEN BARTKOWSKI**  
Collaborative Pianist

**AUDREY RIVETTA**  
Conducting Fellow



**TICKETS:**  
ADULTS \$20 | SENIORS & STUDENTS \$15 | UNDER 18 FREE  
Tickets available online and at the door. For more information and to purchase tickets, scan the QR code or visit [vernonchorale.org](http://vernonchorale.org).



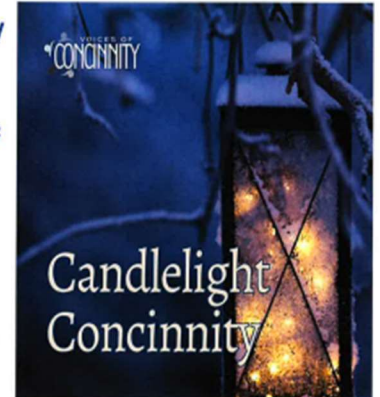
[vernonchorale.org](http://vernonchorale.org) | 860-375-0545

**FME**

FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT EMANUEL  
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES 2024 - 2025

**Saturday, December 14**  
**at 7 pm**

**Voices of Concinnity**  
presents  
an evening of  
luminescent music  
to celebrate the  
Christmas season



FREE ADMISSION

DONATIONS WELCOMED

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

60 Church Street, Manchester, CT 06040

860 - 643-1193

[FriendsofMusicatEmanuel@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofMusicatEmanuel@gmail.com)

[www.FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel.org](http://www.FriendsOfMusicAtEmanuel.org)

WEST HARTFORD  
WOMEN'S CHORALE

Presents

# WINTER STARLIGHT

FRIDAY  
DECEMBER 13, 2024  
7:30 P.M.

**St. James Episcopal Church**

1018 Farmington Ave.  
West Hartford, CT 06107

Tickets: \$15

At the Door, or Online at: [www.whwchorale.org](http://www.whwchorale.org)



# Messiah

\*Part 1 & Hallelujah Chorus

**Sunday, December 15**  
**3:00 PM**

**FEATURING:**

Elizabeth Miller

Susan McAdoo

Paul Patinka

Jermaine Woodard

Directed by Allan Conway

This event is free and open to the public, though donations are happily accepted to help defray costs. You are urged to bring your own score, if you have one, though some copies will be available to borrow.

**United Congregational Church of Tolland**

45 Tollan Green

Contact: (860) 875-4160

Web: [www.ucctolland.org](http://www.ucctolland.org)

## Prayers of the Community



Contact parish office for Prayer requests. Names will be held in prayer for one month, *unless otherwise requested*.

Date Requested	Praying For (person/family)	Prayers For	Requested By
11/24/2024	The family and friends of Eleanor Symecko	As they grieve the passing of Eleanor Symecko	Lanie Turner
11/17/2024	The Family of Megan Fleckenstein	As they grieve the passing of Megan Fleckenstein	Joel & Sandra Baranowski
11/14/2024	Andy Vincens	A swift and smooth recovery as he goes through rehab at Glastonbury Healthcare	Jan Salvatore
11/12/2024	The family of Sindi Pietrorazio	As they grieve the passing of Sindi Pietrorazio	Lanie Turner
11/6/2024	Andrew Troppman	Strength and hope and perserverance as he goes through chemotherapy	Carol & Phil Stoneman
10/29/2024	Jeanne and Al Williams	As they grieve the passing of Jeanne's mother, Lana Brown	Wendy Donagher
10/27/2024	Robert Feder	<i>Resilience, comfort, and healing amidst profound health challenge since March 2023.</i>	Gail Feder
10/27/2024	Dan Burnett	<i>Strength, comfort, and healing during this significant health challenge.</i>	Carol Burnett

For Concordia's ongoing transition process.

The Intentions of this Community:

- ❖ Concordia Nursery School Students and their families
- ❖ The work of MACC
- ❖ For our Cub Scout Pack and Scout Troop
- ❖ For Licensed Lay Minister Beatrice Luciano and Ministerio Nueva Creación
- ❖ For Pr. Simpson and the people of New Horizons
- ❖ For our Friends at Emanuel Lutheran and former members of St. Mary's now merged with St. John's Episcopal Church in Vernon.

### Concordia Lutheran Church

Reverend **Rolf Hedberg**, *Transitional Pastor*  
Mrs. **Margie Gallagher**, *Parish Administrator*

✉ 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040
☎ (860)649-5311  
✉ [office@concordiamanchester.org](mailto:office@concordiamanchester.org)
🌐 [www.concordiamanchester.org](http://www.concordiamanchester.org)

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

# Poinsettias for Christmas



Each Christmas we invite members and friends of Concordia to purchase poinsettias for our worship space. Please consider making a gift of flowers to Concordia this Christmas.

We are also delighted to report that a brass quartet will provide special music Christmas Eve; gifts may be made to offset that expense as well. Financial gifts to support our ministries are also welcome.

Each poinsettia plant costs \$15. Gifts for musicians and ministries are given at the giver's discretion. Please attach payment with this form, and return to the church office by Tuesday, December 17th. Thank you.

I/We give \_\_\_\_\_ *poinsettia(s)* to Concordia this Christmas Eve:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We give \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Concordia for *musicians*:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We give \$\_\_\_\_\_ to *support Concordia's ministries* in honor/in memory:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number or E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Poinsettias may be taken home after the December 24th service.  
Poinsettias that remain will adorn our worship space through the  
Christmas season.*

