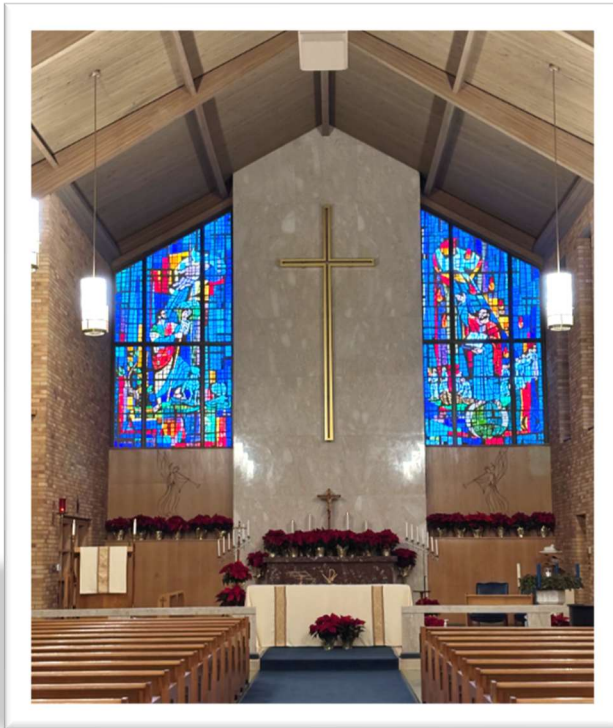


The Concordia Chimes

January 2025



Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.



Concordia's WHY/Purpose Statement

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

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 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 25th of each month or as
communicated.*

From Our Transition Pastor



January 2025 – *New Year*

A blessed New Year to you all, and this I hope and pray for each of you. I know that this can seem a little too easy to say, but I truly mean it. Health, happiness, and loving, solid relationships can seem elusive and, at best, something hoped for and prayed for. But I also know that by loving God, we are always encouraged to pray for what seems impossible, especially if we believe in faith that all things, not just a few things for a few people, are possible with God.

Furthermore—and I do this in my prayers every day—we must pray for peace in our world. God knows what a horrible few years it has been among the nations of the world. One would either be living under a rock or be in massive denial if places like Gaza, Ukraine, Israel, and what is coming to light in Syria did not move us towards the dire need for peace among nations. And there is the need for peace at home in our own country. Too much bickering, too many factions, too much separation between the haves and the have-nots, too much economic disparity. Here, I almost smile in disbelief. Being a millionaire is almost nothing when we measure the top ½ of 1% by talking about billionaires. Then the unthinkable: there is one person approaching becoming a trillionaire (*just to give you a heads-up, it isn't me!*). But at the other end of this spectrum is social unrest and the unthinkable happening again with school shootings in Madison, Wisconsin.

Now, if you have read this far, some of you may be thinking that it is time for me to stop all this “Debbie Downer” kind of stuff. It is, but all this stuff is real. But there is one more thing, and it is a ray of hope bringing light to this messy world, and it is this: we may not be able to solve everything, but we know a God who holds us (*and yes, our beloved Concordia*) in His heart and loving hands. Beyond that, God knows the future and holds us in that future for all eternity. Believe that! Hold on to that. Pray that! Then you will have a Blessed New Year!

Pastor Rolf





40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, Connecticut 06040

email: office@concordiamanchester.org

telephone: 860-649-5311

A Congregation of the New England Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dear Fellow Members of Concordia,

Earlier in 2024, the Congregation Council updated the membership roll as it had not been done since 2009. A number of people were removed from the membership roll at that time. This was done in accordance with the ELCA Model Constitution and Concordia's Bylaws as follows:

From the Constitution

***C8.05.** Membership in this congregation shall be terminated by any of the following:

- a. death;
- b. resignation;
- c. transfer or release;
- d. disciplinary action in accordance with ELCA constitutional provision 20.41. and the accompanying bylaws; or
- e. removal from the roll due to inactivity in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

From the Bylaws

REMOVAL OF MEMBERS DUE TO INACTIVITY

C8.05.01 Members may be removed from the rolls of this congregation due to inactivity (see C8.05e above). Inactivity is defined by the following conditions:

- a. no recorded giving and/or no observed attendance for a period of 3 years; or
- b. Inability to contact a member by all reasonable means for a period of 1 year.

Note: Pastoral visits and visits in which Holy Communion is administered qualify as observed attendance.

As of the date of this letter, there are ninety-six names listed on the membership roll of Concordia. Those people:

- a) have made a record of giving within the last three years **OR**
- b) have been in attendance at worship over the last years **OR**
- c) both "a" and "b"

Being on the membership roll, however, does not automatically grant a person the right to vote. There is a further stipulation in the constitution which defines who is eligible to vote:

C8.02. c. *Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, **during the current or preceding calendar year**, shall have communed in this congregation **AND** shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.

Note: A contribution of record must be financial in nature. Serving on a committee or being otherwise involved in the life of the church does not qualify as a contribution of record.

This information about Voting Members was included in the June 2024 Semi-Annual Booklet of Reports as well as in the Concordia Chimes on a couple of occasions during the past year.

This information is being repeated as we approach some very important votes over the next couple of months.

Please be advised that in order to vote at any meetings of the congregation, you will need to satisfy both of the conditions noted in Section C8.02 c of the Constitution noted on the first page of this communication. If you do not, unfortunately you will be unable to vote.

If you have any questions regarding your contribution of record now or in the future, please contact Financial Secretary Ruth Sprong Heyden.

If you have any questions about membership or voting members, please contact Mark Winzler.

On behalf of the Concordia Council and Transition Team,

Mark Winzler
President

Harpsichord Update

Though it had not been used in many years, there was a harpsichord in the choir loft. This was built out of a kit by a number of Concordians including former Pastor Burt Strand among others. It was used many a time at concerts and worship over the course of time. Over the past couple of decades, it was collecting dust and falling into disrepair due to a lack of care.

Linda Hilliard informed us a couple of years ago that a musical group in which she was playing was in need of a harpsichord and asked whether, if she arranged to have it repaired by someone who was expert in doing so, it could be used by this group. After conversation with Council, they wholeheartedly supported this. This was no longer being used at Concordia and if it could be “back brought to life” and used by another group, Concordia would be thrilled.

This note was sent by Linda Hilliard a few weeks ago to us:

“I think you might be happy to know that the restored harpsichord (by Chris Walton, organist at South United Methodist in 2022) will be used this Christmas in Boston, to accompany a community presentation of the Messiah! My contact is Juan Mesa, an expert in playing, tuning and transporting.

I am truly thrilled that this instrument was saved from ruin by Chris, and the Northeast CT Community Orchestra, which I was a member of, at the time.

The first time we tried to move it out of the balcony, the glue literally crumbled, and the base came apart. Thank goodness we had many hands, and placed the instrument on the kneeling racks safely.

Thank God for its second life!!!!”

Below is a picture of the restored harpsichord being used in Quincy, MA shortly before Christmas. We rejoice in its restoration and that it is back in use!





Highlights of the November 2024 Treasurer's Report

Summary

Although the November envelope and other funding is 90% of the monthly budget amount, the year to date is 7% **over** the YTD budget amount. A little change to the below revenue information this month. Previously all revenue except for envelope and other funding was listed by revenue category. This month, the revenue we receive for MACC, World Hunger, etc., is listed separately as non-operating revenues, since these "donations" cannot be used for our operating expenses. This format will be used going forward.

We are on track to end the financial year in the black, however, this was achieved due to the following:

- A generous gift from a non-parishioner
- Congregation approval to withdrawal \$45,000 from our endowment fund for repairs to the steeple and additional building repairs
- Council approval to withdraw from the following funds:
 - Foundation Fund (part of the Memorial & Tributes savings account) for the purchase of cemetery plots at East Cemetery (\$3,000) and building appraisal fee (\$3,000)
 - Capital Replacement (part of the Memorial & Tributes savings account) for the purchase of new doors to the boiler room and former youth room (\$2,528.00)
 - Designated memorials to building maintenance, church service and operations (\$4,226.60)

Special Funds (Scholarship, Community Cares and Legacy for Ministry) experienced the highest gains of any month this year.

Thank you to everyone that honored their giving commitment throughout the year and to those who faithfully give to support our ministry.

The below information represents the envelope and stretch giving for the month of November 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
October	\$12,334.37	\$13,750.00	90%	\$162,270.46	\$151,250.00	107%



Highlights of the November 2024 Treasurer's Report

November Additional Operating Revenue

Open Offering:	\$15.00
Festival Offering:	\$205.00
Church Service:	\$65.00
General Building Use:	\$400.00
Christian Indian Church Offering:	\$100.00
World Hunger:	\$131.00
Utilities Assistance:	\$181.00
Snow Removal Assistance:	\$180.00
Miscellaneous Gifts:	\$45.00
Total:	\$1,322.00

TOTAL NOVEMBER OPERATING REVENUES: \$13,656.37

November Non-Operating Revenue

MACC Pantry:	\$131.00 (Sent to MACC)
ELCA Miscellaneous – Disaster Relief:	\$200.00 (Sent to Synod)
Total:	\$331.00

Expenses

1. Utilities:

Vendor	NOVEMBER 2024	NOVEMBER 2023
CNG	\$328.58	\$319.80
Eversource/Earthlight	\$799.54 (\$119.74/\$679.80)	\$561.00 (\$0.00/\$561.00)
Cox	\$472.91	\$434.94
Sewer & Water	\$209.23	\$102.78
TOTAL	\$1,810.26	\$1,418.52

Additional November Expenses:

Synod:	\$1,558.33
Staff Salaries:	\$5,480.80
Fringe Benefits:	\$411.88
Program Expenses:	\$200.00
Program Support Expenses:	\$1,304.07
Facility Maintenance:	\$1,825.83
TOTAL:	\$10,780.91

TOTAL NOVEMBER EXPENSES: \$12,591.17



Highlights of the November 2024 Treasurer's Report

Bank Account as of 11/30/2024 (ACS)

Beginning Balance: \$28,244.62

Total Revenue: \$13,294.42 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)

Total Expenditures: \$15,887.51 (Includes MNC & CNS Tax expenditures)

Current Balance: \$25,651.53

Monthly Cash Flow: **-\$2,593.09** (Revenue less Expenditures)

Special Funds (as of November 30th)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (Oct. 2024)	Current Market Value (Nov. 30 th)	Current Month Gain/Losses & Withdrawals	YTD Gain/Losses & Withdrawals
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$49,196.80	\$50,890.24	\$1,693.44	\$4,322.57
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$66,552.33	\$70,067.14	\$3,514.82	\$9,285.48
Legacy for Ministry	\$957,817.28	\$944,420.26	\$49,877.54	\$128,247.12
Total Fidelity	\$1,010,972.59	\$1,064,364.95	\$53,392.36*	\$137,532.60

*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 November 30th)

Previous Month's Balance (Oct. 30 th)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$82,951.63	\$775.00	\$0.00	\$83,726.63

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

Thank you. Carol Stoneman, *Treasurer*

Approved Minutes of the Concordia Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting

Sunday, November 10, 2024, in person

Present:

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

Excused:

Call to Order – Mark Winzler @ 11:42 AM

Devotions – Susan Bourret

Special Order The transition team and council discussed the current status of New River and Spirit of Truth church interests in purchase of the building. We discussed a possible partnership and other options for moving forward. We worked on plans for our November 24th meeting prior to the December 15th meeting with Pastor Maria Hammons. The October 24th zoom meeting with Pr. Maria Hammons has been made available for viewing by the congregation, online and in the lounge on November 23rd at 1:00PM.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of the October 13th meeting as written.

Pastor's Report

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

President's Report

Transition work was discussed with the transition team.

Treasurer's Report

The October treasurer's report was distributed and received.

Old Business

GHIAA Power Summit on November 21st is our chance to stand up for social Justice. Twelve or more people will be attending the summit.

The Legacy Committee submitted a draft of the updates to the regulations document broadening the options for distribution of funds should we choose Holy Closure or Merger. They will meet again and submit the updated document at the next council meeting.

Nursery School will need to know if they will be able to provide a 2024-2025 session soon.

New Business

Stewardship Sunday is November 17th. Nancy Lynn did a temple talk this Sunday.
Seasonal Sharing sign-up has begun.
2025 Budget is needed for the next meeting.

Property

The pipe organ will be tuned for Christmas.

No Motions were Submitted / Passed by Council this meeting

Adjournment: Adjourned at 1:55PM.

Information:

- November 17- Stewardship Sunday
- November 21- GHIAA Power Summit
- November 24- Informal Congregation Meeting to Talk about Future
- December 1 – Executive Committee meeting
- December 8 – Council Meeting
- December 15- Congregation Meeting with Pastor Maria Hammons
- December 24 – 8:00pm Christmas Eve Eucharist

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

**Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Bourret**

POP UP SHOP NEWS

At the last shop 29 families registered and 24 families participated. People loved the Christmas room in Brandt Lounge.

Thank you to **everyone** who donated, helped us set up & take down, delivered furniture and worked all Saturday to make this a huge success!



Besides the Christmas room & clothing, we gave away: dolls, trucks, puzzles, blankets, a heated mattress pad, a bicycle, beanie babies, coffee makers, jewelry, stuffed animals, games, and the list can go on forever.

We delivered a crib, changing table, rocking chair and foot stool, a dining/kitchen table.

For January we would like to collect **new packages of children's underwear, socks & girl's tights** especially in small sizes for kindergarten children who might need them while at school. The nurses at the schools really need these items. If you can donate any

of these items, please leave them in HPS basket in the back of church.

On Tuesday, December 17, the following text was received from Jill, the Family Resource Coordinator at Highland Park School:

"Hi again! The church has already done so much for us so I hate to even ask this, but is the church able to contribute to an Airbnb gift card for our **homeless family so they can spend Christmas together for a few days?** I've raise \$500 of the \$800. Let me know your thoughts and please feel free to say no! I'm so grateful for all you do!" Jill

A quick text was sent out to council and it was agreed by common consent to take \$300 out of available Outreach Funds.

Acts 20:35 The Lord Jesus himself said: "***It is more blessed to give than receive.***"
With a thankful heart to be part of this giving community that is Concordia, **Ruth**

Merry Christmas From Member Care

On Thursday December 19th, a merry band of Christmas carolers (i.e. The Concordia Pips, Jan B., Jan S., Ruth and Jane) brought cookies, laughter, hugs, and carols to Irene Schack, and Joanne Murphy. We also brought cookies to Edna Nekiunas, Linda Lange, David Stoneman, Bob Feder, and the Goodrich family. It is definitely “ the most wonderful time of year!

Jan Bellino



The following is an excerpt from a sermon based on Luke 2:41-52 that was delivered by Lucy Tavares in Spanish and by me in English to Ministerio Nueva Creación on Sunday, December 29th. I hope you enjoy it.

Sermon title: Where else would I be?

By: David Smith

I'm going to reminisce with you for a moment. When I was small, my mother used to take me with her when she'd get her hair done. It was at a plaza on Broad Street called "Cut & Curl." Permanent wave hairstyles were all the rage back in the 1970s and what I remember most about that place was the unbelievable chemical smell inside. I swear, it would burn your eyes upon entering. I used to joke with my mother that I was taking my last gasp of good air before entering the place. The chemicals they used back in the day to bend and shape hair were really harsh. I shudder to think about the health of the people that worked there day in and day out.

I never wanted to go there, and when I was a little older, I would just sit on the curb and wait outside rather than go in. However, the only reason I agreed to go with my mom at all, was right next to *Cut & Curl* was a toy store called, "Spree!" The deal was that if I went with her to *Cut & Curl*, I could get something at *Spree!* afterward. There were of course conditions, it couldn't be too big or too expensive, but a modest toy I could get. So, I said, OK.

The reason I bring up *Spree!* is it's the first store where I felt that feeling of terror and abandonment that only a kid can feel when they suddenly lose sight of their parent and are "lost." It happened to me at *Spree!* where I was so consumed with whatever toy I was trying to pick out, my mother wandered off without me realizing it, nor her realizing I wasn't tagging along behind her. I'll never forget that feeling of abject terror of being left

alone in the middle of a huge store. I darted from aisle to aisle looking for her and couldn't find her. I think literally she was rounding the corner of one aisle looking for me as I was rounding the corner going away from her at the other end, and we kept missing each other for a few minutes, but to me it seemed like hours before a clerk noticed I was frantically searching for someone, and he went on the intercom and asked for my mom to report to that aisle. What a relief to see her again!

When you're lost, where would you like to be found? When Jesus was lost, he was found in the temple asking questions of the scholars. It took three days of searching before his parents found him there, and when they asked him about it, he basically says, "where else would I be?" There is wisdom in this.

Many are lost today without even realizing it. They may not be lost in the traditional sense where they are seeking to be found, nor are people necessarily looking for them. These are people who are unchurched. They have not found God in their lives, or maybe something bad happened and they've abandoned God. People can also be churchgoers and likewise be lost. They may lose faith and do wrongly, or are just going through the motions, sitting in the pews, and not really grasping anything. If things aren't going well for you in your life, you need to find that faith focus, you need to find Jesus, and as in today's gospel, look for him in the church and you will find him. You are so close, he's right here among us.

Amen.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

MACC

A heartfelt thank you to everyone that "adopted" families and gave monetary gifts for this year's MACC Joy of Community Sharing. Because of your generosity we were able to provide grocery store gift cards for 35 individuals for both Thanksgiving **and** Christmas plus gift cards for those same individuals for Christmas gifts. When the cards were delivered to the 8 families, each of them expressed great appreciation.

As always, Concordia continues to support MACC during the holidays and throughout the year with assisting to feed and clothe those less fortunate than us in the Manchester community.

HIGHLAND PARK SCHOOL

For both Thanksgiving and Christmas, Concordians provided 39 gift cards to families at Highland Park School. Hats and mittens were collected by Concordia Nursery School which were given to HPS.

A special need came to our attention by Jill Morey, the HPS Family Resource Coordinator regarding a family who has been separated due to unavailable housing. The mother has been living in her car and the 3 kids are living with various family members and one living with a foster family. To allow them to spend Christmas and a few days following, the HPS staff donation \$500 to secure an AirBNB for them, however they were \$300 short. Jill reached out to Ruth Sprong Heyden to see if Concordia could help. In an emergency vote by Council, the \$300 was approved unanimously to be taken out of the Outreach fund in the Memorial & Tributes savings account. Knowing this family could spend the Christmas season together is extremely heartwarming.

God Bless and Thank you!!!
The Outreach Committee

Thank you note from MACC to Concordia:



Building partnerships to break cycles of poverty in our community

P.O. Box 3804 – Manchester, CT 06045-3804 – www.macc-ct.org

December 20, 2024

Dear Concordia Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,000.00 to MACC Charities through a former members bequest. Your support plays a vital role in helping us assist those in need, especially during the holiday season when the need is greatest.

Your kindness and commitment to making a difference are truly inspiring. With your contribution, we are able to continue our mission of providing critical services and resources to those who find themselves struggling. The impact of your generosity will be felt by many in our community, bringing comfort and hope to those who need it most.

Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those who need it most. As we reflect over this last year, MACC realizes its greatest strength comes from the support and partnership of people like you. People who are passionate about creating a community where everyone feels they belong. *Thank You!!*

Many Blessings,

Shannon Baldassario – CEO
sbaldassario@macc-ct.org
(860.647.0440)



"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold." ~ Aristotle

"No goods or services were given in exchange for this financial gift."

Thank you note from Center for Leadership & Justice to Concordia:



**CENTER for
LEADERSHIP
& JUSTICE**

| cljct.org |

47 Vine Street
Hartford, CT 06112

| P. 860.527.9860
F. 860.727.9558

Dear Concordia Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1,000 to support the Center for Leadership and Justice in our work of developing leaders who act collectively for social justice in Greater Hartford.

Through neighborhood-based organizing and the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, our work has paid off in terms of concrete policy change. By amplifying the voices of those most impacted by issues of injustice and by building collective power together. This year we will focus on housing affordability with Just Cause Eviction Protections, state fiscal policy reform to Connecticut's fiscal guardrails, and combating racial & religious hate.

Your essential support makes all this possible. We are grateful for your generosity and for your commitment to the work of justice. We invite you to continue deepening your relationship with CLJ by visiting us online at www.cljct.org or on Facebook @cljaction, or by reaching out to a member of our staff team. We would love to connect with you.

Again, thank you for your contribution. As required by IRS regulations, this letter confirms that no goods or services were provided in exchange for this wholly charitable gift. Please retain this letter as a receipt of your donations.

Gratefully,

Cori Mackey
Executive Director

Christmas Eve Service - *Poinsettias*, Music & Ministries



Poinsettias Given in Memory of:

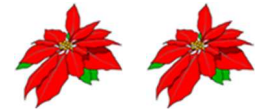
By:

Michael & Clara Sibrinsz	Karen Schauster
Eva & Romuald Roman	
Florence & Harold Slater	Don & Marian Slater
Russell Turner	
George & Louisa Johnson	
Ray & Mary LeFrancios	Lanie Turner
Marie Roy	Patsy Sheehan
Andy & Irma Vincens	Jan & Bill Salvatore
My dear sister, Viola K. Stenger	Irene Schack
Daughter, Kimberly Fournier	Ed & Gail Adams
Ronnie Nason	
Anna McCann	
Woodrow McCann	Sharon & John Jaworski
Klaus Todte	
Agnes McNamara	Kelly & Rich Todte
William & Marilyn Baranowski	
Anthony & Betty Baranowski	
Ronald O. Schack	Joel & Sandra Baranowski
Jim Casserly	
Karen Miller	Jane Casserly
To Everyone Who has Loved Me	Lisa Taylor
Edward Nekiunas	
Jane Nekiunas	Edna Nekiunas
Anna & Robert Sprong	Ruth Sprong Heyden
William & Lois Feder	
Richard Feder	
John & Julia Kluck	Gail Feder
Helga M. Wehr	
Klaus Todte	Karen Kervick
My parents, Katherine and Fred	
My brother, Fred	
Ed DiGiovanni	
Mayland Clark	Mark Winzler
Karen S. Beauregard	George Beauregard



Poinsettias Given in Honor of:***By:***

Lisa Haberern Taylor	Lisa Taylor
Irene Schack	Joel & Sandra Baranowski
Ronald Haberern	Sharon & John Jaworski
Our Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren	Ed & Gail Adams
My dear Children and Grandchildren	Irene Schack
Our wonderful Family	Jan & Bill Salvatore

***Music Given in Memory of:******By:***

Russell Turner	Lanie Turner
Lynelle Knauff & John Brown	Nancy Lynn Knauff
Ronald O. Schack & Zander Schack	Irene Schack
Karen Grant	Joel & Sandra Baranowski
Gene Sprong	Ruth Sprong Heyden
Our parents, Frank Wilson; Ben & Angela Prasser	Mark & Candace Wilson
Gertrude & George Stoneman	
Bill Mansfield	
Paul C. Stoneman	Carol & Phil Stoneman
My brother, Fred	
My mother, Katherine	
Pastor Burt, Beverly and Luke Strand	
Pastor Joe Bourret	
Barbara E. Baker	
Eddie & Tessie Kehl	
Marlene Blake	
Gert Waters	Mark Winzler
Helga M. Wehr	Karen Kervick
Karen Beauregard	David Beauregard
Karen Beauregard	George Beauregard





Music Given in Honor of:

By:

Laura McKay	
Ronald W. Schack	
Amy Schack	Joel & Sandra Baranowski
Member Care Committee	Irene Schack
Our Choir and Musicians	Jan & Bill Salvatore
Jan Bellino	Nancy Lynn Knauff
John Anderson	
John Corl	Carol & Phil Stoneman
My fellow members of the Congregation Council and Transition Team	
My former Synod Staff Associate to the Bishop	
Colleagues: Pastor Sara Anderson, Pastor Steven Wilco, Pastor Maria Hammons, and Kim Bergstrand	Mark Winzler

Gifts Toward Music Given by:

Irene Schack
Don & Marian Slater
Robert Copeland
Jane Casserly



Gifts to Support Concordia's Ministries:

In Memory of:

Barbara E. Baker
Our Parents
Russell Turner

By:

Joel & Sandra Baranowski
Randy & Pamela Olson
Lanie Turner

In Honor of:

Douglas Barclay
The Pop-Up Shop Team & Transition Team

By:

Joel & Sandra Baranowski
Carol & Phil Stoneman



A Gift of Front and Office Door Wreaths

In Memory of:

My aunts, Mary, Kate & Dorothy
My grandparents, Katherine & John

By:

Mark Winzler



The Staff of Concordia Lutheran Church and their Families

Thank you for your good wishes, sweet gifts, willing hands, beautiful voices, and generous kindness this season. Merry Christmas!

Pastor Rolf Hedberg
Margie Gallagher



CHRISTMAS TREE SET UP



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS AT CONCORDIA





Wonderful time was had by all!

West Hartford Women's Chorale December 13th, featuring our own Nancy Lynn!



St. James Episcopal Church
1018 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford, CT 06107



CONCORDIA NURSERY SCHOOL

The month of December brought lots of excitement for the children at Concordia Nursery School! There are so many wonderful things to look forward to during this time of year.



We have been celebrating **Advent** and counting down the weeks until Christmas. Each week we lit a candle to help us know that Christmas is getting closer. We learned that Christmas is **Jesus's** birthday and that he is so special because he was sent by **God** to teach us about love.

The nursery school also collected many winter hats, gloves and warm socks for Highland Park School families in need. We are so happy that many children will be warm this winter and so appreciative of our families!



This Christmas, sincere thanks are given to



- ★ **Members of Concordia** for their faithfulness in giving of their time, talents and treasures.....especially during Seasonal Sharing and for their ongoing support and contributions for students and families Highland Park School
- ★ **Pastor Hedberg** for his service as Concordia's Transition Pastor, for his guidance and direction and most of all, his pastoral presence
- ★ **Pastors Rebecca Bourret, Gloria Connery, Bruce Steinway and Ann Lovejoy Johnson** who have served as supply pastor when Pastor Hedberg has been away.
- ★ **Margie Gallagher** for her dedication, enthusiasm and gifts she brings to her role as Parish Administrator
- ★ **John Anderson** for continued willingness, faithfulness and dedication serving Concordia as supply organist
- ★ **Linda Hilliard** for serving as supply organist when John is away and for leading our choir so masterfully and creatively
- ★ **Worship Assistants Sandy Baranowski, Jeanine Barber, Wendy Donagher, David Smith, Erich Stoneman, Candace Wilson, and Mark Winzler**
- ★ **John Corl and Carol Stoneman** for picking out the hymns
- ★ **John Haid** for serving as our Sound Technician
- ★ **Concordia Choir members (Jan Bellino, John Corl, Wendy Donagher, Nancy Lynn Knauff, David Smith and Carol Stoneman)** for the leadership during worship
- ★ **Carol Stoneman** for leading Seasonal Sharing
- ★ **Offering Counters Gail Adams, Jane Casserly, Gail Feder, Nancy Lynn Knauff, John Haid, Ruth Sprong Heyden,**
- ★ **Ruth Sprong Heyden** for leading efforts for Highland Park School.
- ★ **Those who oversee the Pop-Up Shop: Ruth Sprong Heyden, Carol Burnett, Jan McGarity, Bobby McKinney, Nancy Lynn Knauff, Bea Santiago, Pam Olson, and Carol Stoneman**
- ★ **Member Care (Jan Bellino, Jan Salvatore, Jane Casserly, Ruth Sprong Heyden, Carol Burnett)** for their remembrance of and deliveries to our homebound members
- ★ **Bea Santiago and Lucy Taveras** for leading Bible Study
- ★ **Mark Winzler** for making sure the church is set-up for worship every Sunday and securing supply pastors in Pastor Hedberg's absence



- ★ Joel Baranowski and members of the Property Team and Lawn Mowers and Phil Stoneman, David Beauregard, John Corl, Randy Olson, Don Slater, Zach Baranowski for ensuring that our building and grounds are kept in pristine condition.
- ★ Don Slater for delivering the donations to MACC
- ★ Ruth Sprong Heyden, Susan Bourret and Members of the Worship & Memorial Garden for beautifully tending to the garden
- ★ Member Care: Jan Bellino, Jane Casserly, Jan Salvatore, Ruth Sprong Heyden for visiting congregational members Heyden
- ★ Ushers Jan Salvatore, Don and Marian Slater, Tina Ruggerio, Phil Stoneman, John Jaworski, Tom Taylor, Carol Burnett
- ★ Susan Bourret and Carol Stoneman for keeping Coffee Hour “alive” and those who donate food for Coffee Hour and those who clean up and prepare: Pam Olson, Bobby McKinney, Lois Hedberg, Rebekka Almond, Jeanine Barber, Tina Ruggiero, Jan Salvatore
- ★ Those who cut down, delivered and decorated the Christmas Tree in our chancel: Kay and John Corl, Ruthie and Peter Lynch, Randy and Pam Olson Carol and Phil Stoneman
- ★ Carol Burnett and Carol Stoneman for preparing the Advent Wreath
- ★ Carol Stoneman and Pam Olson for preparing the window greens.
- ★ Susan Bourret and Jeanine Barber who (behind the scenes) change the color of the paraments/altar frontal to meet the season and put up/take down banners
- ★ Susan Bourret, Carol Stoneman, Jeanine Barber and Mark Winzler for transforming the sanctuary/chancel into Christmas
- ★ Members of the Congregation Council (C) and Transition Team (T) for their leadership during our time of transition and discernment: Sandy Baranowski (T), Jeanine Barber (T), Susan Bourret (C and T), John Corl (T), Pastor Hedberg (C and T) Ruth Sprong Heyden (C), Nancy Lynn Knauff (C), Ruthie Lynch (C), Jan McGarity (C), Bobby McKinney (C), Tina Ruggerio (C), David Smith (T), Carol Stoneman (C and T), Mark Winzler (C and T), Pastors Maria Hammons & Sara Anderson for their leadership in our discernment about our future.
- ★ Rebekka Almond for the piano tuning
- ★ GOD for all that we are and that we have so we can share with others!





Save the Date!

Fastnacht Dinner With Traditional German Fare

Sunday March 2, 2025
Concordia Lutheran Church

Social hour 11:15-12:30

Cheese/crackers
Beer and wine

Dinner 12:30

Roast Pork, German Potato Salad,
Red Cabbage, Salad, Applesauce

Please Join Us!

Suggested Donation \$13.00 per person



Name: _____

Total Number Attending _____ I can bring a dessert _____

Please submit this reservation form by February 23, 2025



JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

Philip Stoneman (6)
Eric Slater (8)
Dana Donagher (9)
John Corl (11)
Bob Feder (13)
KathySmith (25)

FEBRUARY

Janet McGarity (9)
Ryan Adams (13)
Robert Copeland Jr. (17)
Ann Kehl (24)

MARCH

Laura McKay (4)
Kristin Link (5)
John Haid (6)
Rachel Adams (18)
Sandra Baranowski (19)
Doug Larson (20)
Gail Adams (25)
Joanne Murphy (26)
Tom Taylor (27)
Cynthia Goodrich (30)
Irene Schack (30)



**Save the Dates:
Upcoming Meetings**

**Information about each of these meetings will be
communicated in writing beforehand.**

Sunday, January 19

11:30 a.m.

Kaiser Hall

Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria Hammons

Consensus Poll on Option to Pursue

Sunday, February 9

11:30 a.m.

Kaiser Hall

**Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
(Finance/Budget)**

Sunday, March 9

11:30 a.m.

Kaiser Hall

Associate to the Bishop Pastor Maria Hammons

Special Congregational Meeting to Vote on Final Option





40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, Connecticut 06040
email: office@concordiamanchester.org
telephone: 860-649-5311

A Congregation of the New England Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

December 30, 2024

Ron Brown and Staff
Brown's Flowers, Inc.
163 Main Street
Manchester, CT 06040

Dear Ron,

On behalf of everyone at Concordia Lutheran Church, we wish to acknowledge and thank you for these many years when you have served as the florist for our church.

Your staff and you have always been most professional, accommodating and caring. Your floral arrangements have always been beautiful.

I personally know how all of you have gone "above and beyond" many times in your service. There was a time not long ago that I neglected to pick up the flowers on Friday. You were able to "track me down" and specially opened up your business the following morning so Concordia would not be without flowers. This is just one example of your kindness and devotion to your customers.

Please be sure to thank all of your employees for their assistance over the years. They too were always there and also went the "extra mile" to ensure that "all was well". All of you will be sorely missed.....this is heartfelt!!!!

As you retire, you are now off to spend some well-deserved time with your children and grandchildren. We all hope that you will make the most out of this time after many years of serving the Manchester community.

Know that our sincere thanks and gratitude go with you as you begin this new, welcome phase of your life.

On behalf of us at Concordia,

Mark Winzler
President



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
12/11/2024	The family of Mark Waxenburg	As they grieve the passing of Mark Waxenburg	Lanie Turner
12/2/2024	The family of Andy Vincens	As they grieve the passing of Andy Vincens	Jan Salvatore
12/1/2024	Ed Brainerd	Healing from virus	Jane Casserly
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
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
- † The work of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA)
- † For our Cub Scout Pack
- † 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 (Vernon)

Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Rev. Rolf Hedberg, *Transition Pastor*, Phone: 413-544-4859 (cell) 413-596-8011 (home)

Office Ph: 860-649-5311 Email: office@concordiamanchester.org Web: www.concordiamanchester.org

Margie B. Gallagher, *Parish Administrator* Church Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs., 9 AM-2 PM