Third Sunday of Advent



Concordia Lutheran Church



40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, Connecticut, 06040

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

December 15, 2024

Hearing devices for the service are available upon request - kindly contact an Usher

Introduction: Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

We prepare for worship in quiet prayer and meditation

Prelude: Advent (from Embertides Suite) – Hilary Tann John Anderson, Organist

Welcome

Confessions and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

The assembly may kneel or be seated.

People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ.

Maranatha!**

Come, Lord Jesus!

God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

God with us, God beside us, comes soon to the world he has made.

Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

All stand as able.

We are God's children, we seek the coming Christ. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us A kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of the kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Maranatha is an Aramaic (the language Jesus spoke) phrase that can be translated as "Come, Lord!" It is used especially in the season of Advent when we call on the Lord to come again to set things right once more.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God.

Gathering Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ELW 311

As we encircle this wreath with blessing, as it is gradually illumined, let our hearts and minds be stirred up to greet your reign.

Rouse your household from its sleep, O God. Make us to beat our swords of war into plows that work in peace. Then nation will not lift up sword against nation and all your children will be ready to welcome your promised day of peace.

We welcome your presence now With the lighting of this candle, Whose flame brings warmth to winter And fills this place with the glow of hope. **Amen.**

Lighting of Advent Candle Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (verse 3) ELW 240

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

All are seated.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song



The First Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-20

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,

he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst:

you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

18 as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm:

Isaiah 12:2-6



Tone



In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)

- ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not | be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become | my salvation.
- ³ With joy you | will draw water from the wells | of salvation. R
- ⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name | is exalted.
 - ⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done | gloriously; let this be known in | all the earth.
 - ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, 0 | royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel. **R**

Second Reading:

Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

All stand as able.

The Gospel Acclamation



I am sending my messen- | ger before you,* who will prepare your | way before you. *Alleluia. (Matt. 11:10)*

The Holy Gospel:

Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke...

Glory to you, Oh Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated.

The Sermon Pastor Rolf Hedberg

All stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!

ELW 246

H Nicene Creed

Together with all the people of God, let us confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters especially the Philippines, Libya, El Salvador and Haiti. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. We pray especially for those in our prayer list. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here at Concordia Lutheran Church. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Iesus Christ.

Amen.

Exchange of Peace

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All are seated.

MEAL

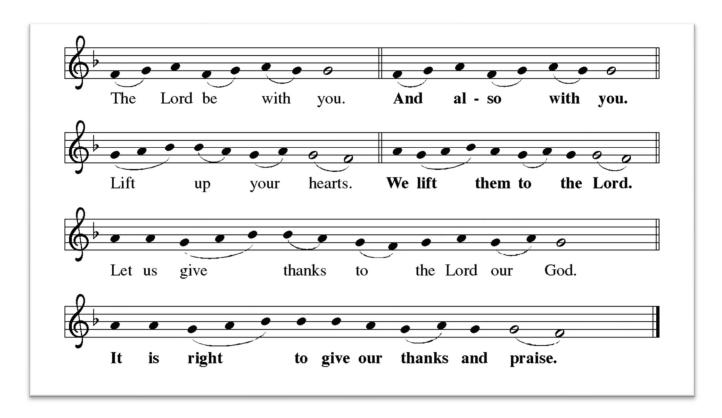
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The Table is prepared.

The Offering Prayer

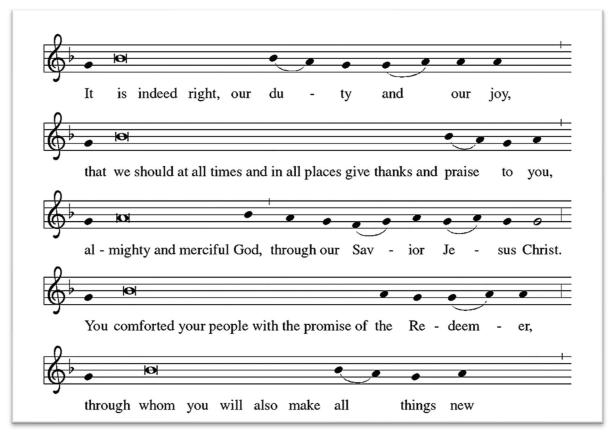
Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

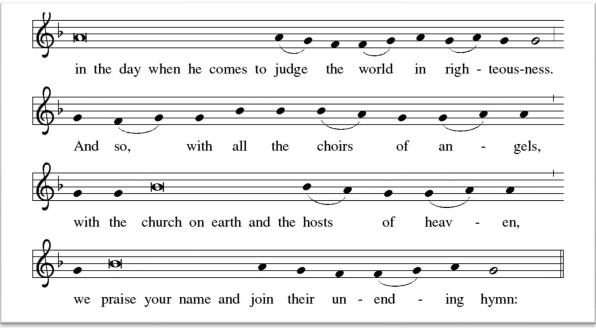
Dialogue





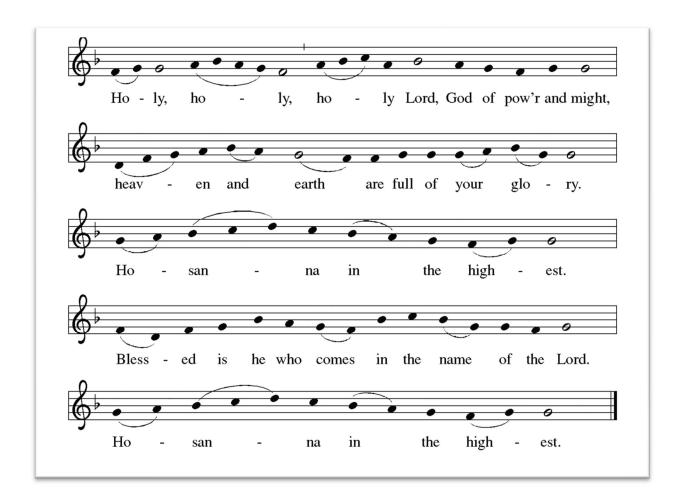
Proper Preface

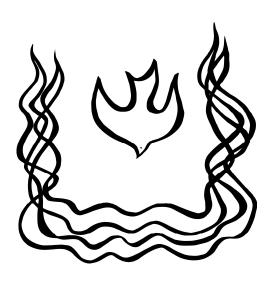






Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy)





Eucharistic Prayer (Adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book)

Creator God,

We praise you for your love in coming to us, Unworthy though we are.

Give us grace to accept the Christ who comes in your name, and the courage to be Christ for others.

We praise and thank you Creator God, For you have not left us alone. Each year you come to us, Emmanuel, God with us in a manger. Each time you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. In time or out of time you will be revealed And we shall see you face to face.

Give us courage, God our strength, To see your Christ in all who suffer, To be hands to the helpless, Food for the hungry, And justice for the oppressed.

And so we remember, that in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

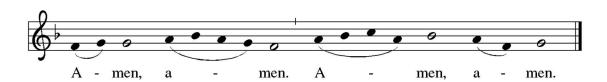


Therefore loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service for your kingdom.

United with Christ with all the saints who stand before you in earth and heaven, with John the Baptist, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon and Anna, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever.



The Lord's Prayer



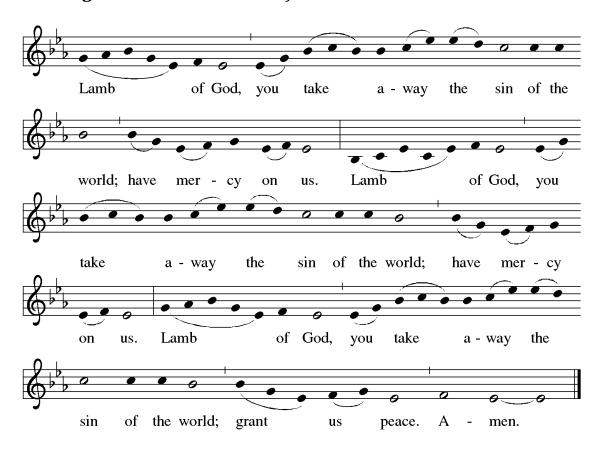
Invitation to Communion

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.



Communion Song

Lamb of God





The Distribution of Holy Communion



Communion Anthem

Come, We That Love the Lord

ELW 625

Blessing after Communion

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey,

+ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

In Thee is Gladness

ELW 867

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. $\,$

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: In Thee Is Gladness - Paul Manz

John Anderson, Organist

+ + + To God Be the Glory + + +

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding: Reverend Rolf Hedberg Assisting Mark Winzler

Ushers: Jan Salvatore Minister(s): Sandy Baranowski

Organist: John Anderson

Daily Readings

December 16 - 22





<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Isaiah 11:1-9	Isaiah 11:1-9	Isaiah 11:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7
Numbers 16:1-19	Numbers 16:20-35	Micah 4:8-13	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 13:7-17	Acts 28:23-31	Luke 7:31-35	Hebrews 10:10-18
<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>	Sunday, December 22, Fo	ourth Sunday of Advent
Psalm 80:1-7	Psalm 80:1-7	Micah 5:2-5a	
Isaiah 42:10-18	Isaiah 66:7-11	Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7	
Hebrews 10:32-39	Luke 13:31-35	Hebrews 10:5-10	
		Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]	

NOTES: The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. Selected liturgical texts from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License.



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	Resilience, comfort, and healing amidst profound health challenge since March 2023.	Gail Feder
10/27/2024	Dan Burnett	Strength, comfort, and healing during this significant health challenge.	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 Pastor 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



www.concordiamanchester.org

Date of Event	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
	Congregation Meeting with		
Sunday, December 15, 2024	Pastor Maria Hammons	Concordia Lutheran Church	After Worship
Wednesday, December 18, 2024	Holden Evening Prayer	Via Zoom - see flyer!	7:00-7:30 pm
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.
	Healthy Snacks for Highland		
All throughout School Year	Park Elementary School	Concordia Lutheran Church	All Day

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



 $\label{thm:com_link} \textit{The Zoom Link and Dial-In Information will be disseminated each week beforehand.}$

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=a8va2e7hfmd0bvSab8hZdtIlP832ZC.1

<u>Dial-In</u>: 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 (<u>markwinz52@aol.com</u>) or *call* Mark (860-643-1913) <u>OR call</u> Margie at Church Office (860-649-5311) <u>no later than *Wednesday, December 20*</u>.

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!

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!

COMMUNITY UPCOMING EVENTS

Parking Ban starts Dec. 1

Published on November 26, 2024

Parking Ban starts Dec. 1

Overnight parking is not allowed on public streets or municipal parking lots between the hours of 2:00 AM and 6:00 AM from December 1st to April 1st. Parked vehicles are one of the biggest obstacles to effective snow removal. Please support our efforts by parking your vehicle in conformance with the winter parking ban.



Anyone violating this ordinance shall be fined fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

The Chief of Police may also declare a parking ban if a significant snow event is forecast or in progress. Residents are asked to remove vehicles from the street when a snowstorm is occurring.

Messiah Sing Halleluja Sunday, December 3:00 PM FEATURING: ected by Allan Co

United Congregational Church of Tolland 45 Tolland Green

Contact: (860) 875-4160 Web: www.ucctolland.org

HIP HOP FOR THE HOMELESS 2024



Don't miss the 11th Annual Hip Hop for the Homeless. Joey Batts will bring the music and fun to The Main Pub on Saturday, December 21st, at 8 PM. That night, all proceeds will go to supporting MACC and our continued fight to help the unhoused individuals in our community.



MACC's Reverse Advent Calendar

Collect one item each day of the month of December and donate it after the Holidays! MACC proper is closed for Christmas and will not be open again until Monday, December 30th

1. CAN OF CORN 2. CAN OF PEAS 3. CAN OF CARROTS 4. CAN OF FRUIT 6. STICK OF DEODERANT 7. JAR OF MAYO 8. BOTTLE OF KETCHUP 9. JAR OF JELLY 10. CAN OF BEEF STEW 11. CAN OF CHILI 12. BOX OF CAKE MIX

13. BOX OF BROWNIE MIX 14. PACK OF INSTANT POTATOES 15. BOX OF PASTA 16. JAR OF PASTA SAUCE 5. BOTTLE OF SHAMPOO 17. PACKAGE OF BABY WIPES 18. CAN OF COFFEE 19. CAN OF MIXED VEGGIES 20. JAR OF GRAVY 21. JAR OF PEANUT BUTTER 22. PACK OF RAMEN NOODLES 23. BAG OF DOG OR CAT FOOD 24. YOUR FAVORITE

NON-PERISHABLE ITEM!

CAFE AURA GUEST BARTENDER MAYOR JAY MORAN

Join Mayor Jay Moran at Café Aura for Guest Bartender Night. He'll be serving up smiles and collecting food donations for the MACC Community Emergency Food Pantry! Don't miss this great event on Tuesday, December 17th from 5 PM to 7 PM, Café

Aura, 45 E Center St.



EMERGENCY OF HUNGER 2024

Thank you to everyone who did their part during the 2024 Emergency of Hunger Food Drive. This generous community donated 93 turkeys, 36 turkey breasts, 3 chickens and 4 hams. A total of 7 ambulances were filled with nonperishable items along with generous monetary donations. A special thank you to Highland Park Market and Stop and Shop Manchester, Pizza Mia, CJ's Pizza, Dominos Manchester, Andi's Pizza and all of the MACC and ASM volunteers for making this event possible!

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

MACC proper will be closed December 25th, 26th and January 1st. The Community Kitchen will be serving lunch these days as an essential service. The Community Kitchen will be serving lunch on Sunday, December 22nd.

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 <i>musicians:</i>
In memory of:
In honor of:
I/We give \$ to <i>support Concordia's ministries</i> 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.

