

The Concordia Chimes

March 2025



Sunday Worship | 10:00 a.m.

The Reverend Dr. Rolf Hedberg
Transitional Pastor

☎ (860)649-5311

Margie Gallagher
Parish Administrator

✉ office@concordiamanchester.org

☎ (860)649-5311

Ashley Salerno

Concordia Nursery School Director

✉ concordianurseryschool@gmail.com

☎ (860)649-9349

Richard Hicks

Minister of Music Emeritus



Concordia Lutheran Church
40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 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 contents for The Chimes is the **25th of each month**, or **as communicated**.

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.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I do not know how to begin this newsletter, so I begin with these questions:

How are things going in your lives? How are things going here at Concordia? How are things going in our country?

I am not going to answer these questions for you. This is, will be your job to respond to these questions. As for me, I have been out of the pulpit for three consecutive Sundays, one to see my family in Arlington, Virginia, one because of weather (*snow*) and another because the church was closed so people could visit other congregations. Well, I too visited other congregations and heard some marvelous sermons which in different ways spoke to a multiplicity of problems facing our country and needs at home and abroad.

So to these ends I have recently received via e-mail two letters from the bishop of the New England Synod Nathan Piphio in which he addressed needs and concerns.

In the first letter he begins this way:

“The choice is clear:

Meanness or Mercy,

Cruelty or Compassion,

Conformity or Freedom..”

Here I paraphrase, but in essence our Bishop says that the President of the United States has chosen meanness, cruelty, and conformity. We can choose this path or we can choose the path of mercy, compassion, and freedom, a path that Jesus has invited us to walk and has shown us the way. On this path we “see in all our neighbors the image of God”. On this path “Jesus calls us to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, care for the sick, and visit the prisoner regardless of citizenship status.” And on this path led by Jesus and guided by the Holy Spirit, we are filled “with boldness to love, serve, build, create and enact relationships and communities announcing the dignity and worth of all people.” The choice is ours and the choices are clear.

Then in a separate communication, our Bishop listed the ministries that Ascentria Care Alliances (formerly Lutheran Social Services of New England) is heading up in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Maine. I am going to give you an overview without the \$ amounts and the number of employees which is quite considerable. These include senior care services for rehab and skilled care, foster care services, young parent living programs, disability services, in-home services, specialized foster care services, language bank (providing interpretation and translation services for Medical, legal, academic and social service), Good News Garage, and mental health and disability services. It is a truly beautiful collage of how we Lutherans in New England are responding to Jesus injunction in **Matthew 25:40** “*Truly I tell you, just as you care for the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, and the prisoner, who are members of my family you cared for me.*” – Jesus.

And with that, I close,

Pastor Rolf

P.S. Contributions towards these ministries come from churches and individuals but the bulk comes from federal grants. *Just saying.*

Transition Update from Mark Winzler:

Change of Date: Transition Meeting with Pastor Maria Hammons Sunday, March 23

Because weather has impacted the ability for us to visit each of the 3 Lutheran churches.....**the meeting with Pastor Maria has been moved from Sunday, March 9 to Sunday, March 23.**

Therefore, for those members who have not completed their visits of other churches, you can visit one each on **March 9 and March 16**. There will be worship on March 9 and 16 at Concordia as scheduled, but members can still visit other churches.

As noted previously, it is important for all members to experience worship at all three churches in preparation for the discussion with Pastor Maria on March 23. Please come prepared to share your thoughts and experiences.

Related to our Transition

At the February 23 semi-annual meeting, those present voted to provide financial assistance (\$30,000 from the Scholarship Fund) which will allow the Concordia Nursery School to open again for the 2025-2026 **provided that the enrollment is at least 12 children**. If not, the school will not open. (Please see the note of thanks from Ashley Salerno, the Director of the Concordia Nursery School in this newsletter.)

By this action we have committed for Concordia to remain open through May/June 2026. **This does not mean that we will not make a decision until then. The decision making process will continue.**

Whatever avenue the congregation chooses, it will take time (see timeline previously sent out from Pastor Maria for the various options). Should the congregation wish to pursue a partnership with another nearby Lutheran Church, given what we know of the situations of each of the churches, it may take that long for conversations to be held, votes to be taken, the building to be inventoried and sold and the list goes on.

Peace,

Mark Winzler



Highlights of the January 2025 Treasurer's Report

Summary

As I write this report, we have not yet met to pass a 2025 budget, therefore, the monthly and yearly percentages against the budget have not been calculated. That being said, the actual envelope and other funding giving received in January was well over what the calculated monthly budget would be based on the preliminary budget being presented by the Council at the semi-annual meeting. This is due to one full year pledge and half of a full year pledge being received in January. Special Funds, specifically the Legacy for Ministry and Community Cares had gains totaling \$32,329.55 in January. Scholarship information for January was not obtained due to Thrivent's new process for accessing the information.

Month	Actual Recd. (Envelope & Other Funding (Stretch))	Monthly Budget	Percent Received Against Monthly Budget	Received Year to Date	Year to Date Budget	Percent Received Against Year-to-Date Budget
January	\$32,506.51			\$32,506.51		

Report Details

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

January Additional Operating Revenue

Open Offering:	\$85.00
Initial Offering:	\$120.00
Festival Offering:	\$227.00
Church Service:	\$80.00
Christian Indian Church Offering:	\$100.00
Utilities Assistance:	\$252.00
Snow Removal Assistance:	\$240.00
Miscellaneous Income Non-Budget:	\$108.00 (Fastnacht)
Total:	\$1,212.00

TOTAL JANUARY OPERATING REVENUES: \$33,718.51

January Non-Operating Revenue

World Hunger Gifts:	\$133.00
ELCA Miscellaneous (World Relief/CA Wildfires):	\$200.00
Total:	\$333.00

Expenses

1. Utilities:

Vendor	JANUARY 2025	JANUARY 2024
CNG	\$1,142.53	\$1,225.91
Eversource/Earthlight	\$616.93 (\$267.13/\$349.80)	\$298.86 (\$23.86/\$275.00)
Cox	\$470.43	\$434.07
TOTAL	\$2,229.89	\$1,958.84



Highlights of the January 2025 Treasurer's Report

Additional January Expenses:

Staff Salaries:	\$5,780.80
Fringe Benefits:	\$423.88
Program Expenses:	\$978.77
Program Support Expenses:	\$1,729.35
Facility Maintenance:	\$4,068.32 (\$2,424.50 – snow removal)
Insurance:	\$3,222.25
Seasonal Sharing:	\$1,108.00
Miscellaneous – Non-Budgeted:	\$727.12 (Special Mtg. Lunch/staff gifts)
TOTAL:	\$18,038.49

TOTAL JANUARY EXPENSES: \$20,268.38

Bank Account as of 1/31/2025 (ACS)

Beginning Balance:	\$27,931.02
Total Revenue:	\$36,636.10 (Includes pass-through revenue from Synod (MNC) & CNS Taxes)
Total Expenditures:	\$22,611.76 (Includes MNC & Tax expenditures)
Current Balance:	\$41,955.36
Monthly Cash Flow:	\$14,024.34 (Revenue less Expenditures)

Special Funds (as of January 31, 2025)

Fund	Previous Month Market Value (Dec. 2024)	Current Market Value	Current Month Gain/Loss	YTD Gain/Loss
Thrivent				
Scholarship	\$49,518.94			
Fidelity				
Community Cares	\$68,082.99	\$70,211.24	\$2,128.25	\$2,128.25
Legacy for Ministry	\$966,141.36	\$996,342.66	\$30,201.30	\$30,201.30
Total Fidelity	\$1,034,224.35	\$1,066,553.90	\$32,329.55	\$32,329.55

Memorial & Tributes Savings Account (as of January 31, 2025)

Previous Month's Balance (Dec. 2024)	Deposit	Withdrawals	Current Month Balance
\$85,886.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85,886.72

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.
Thank you. Carol Stoneman, *Treasurer*

GHIAA 2025 INITIATIVES UPDATE

Fiscal Policy / Moral Budget

- On Monday, February 3, GHIAA clergy participated in a joint action with our allies from SEIU 1199 and CT For All. They gathered for prayer at Emanuel Lutheran Church (Hartford), marched to the Legislative Office Building for a press conference, and delivered a letter from area clergy calling on our state leaders to reform the fiscal roadblocks and create a moral budget.
- A bill has been proposed that would enact some fiscal policy reforms. Many of the reps who were present at our GHIAA Power Summit are among those who introduced this legislation. GHIAA will be offering educational sessions on fiscal policy reform in the coming weeks, and we will keep you posted on next steps.

Just Cause Eviction Protections

- Last week, the Housing Committee raised a bill which would expand just cause protections to include most tenants in the state. We anticipate that there will be a public hearing for this bill before the end of February.
- GHIAA offered a testimony-giving workshop in preparation for the public hearing. Numbers matter here, and the importance of having as many people submit written testimonies as possible was heavily emphasized. Whatever your own housing history and current situation may be, your voice will help! Bea Santiago (bsantiago@cljct.org) is available to provide guidance, and Rebekka Almond (rebekkakate@yahoo.com), who was in attendance, is more than happy to share resources and assistance as well.
- We are also specifically seeking testimony from anyone who has experience as a housing provider renting to others, so if you or anyone you know fits this category, please do reach out!

Municipal Housing Action Teams (HAT)

- HAT leader trainings have begun, with power analysis and affordable housing basics training. If you would like to learn more or join this effort in your town, contact GHIAA Organizer [Bea Santiago](mailto:bsantiago@cljct.org) (bsantiago@cljct.org) to get linked up with other leaders in your area.

Combating Racial & Religious Hate

- "Broadening Understanding, Deepening Solidarity" (BUDS) is GHIAA's initiative to combat racial and religious hate. There will be a series of four workshops in Spring 2025, to be followed later in the year by specific trainings on antisemitism, anti-Muslim bigotry, and racism. In the spring series, members of GHIAA congregations will come together to listen, share, and gain skills and tools for becoming active participants in the work of combating racial and religious hate. This series begins on February 25, and registration is available at cljct.org/buds.

Thank You Note to Concordia from 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



MACC FOOD COLLECTION CONTINUES!

Concordia has a long history with the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) as one of its establishing and charter members. We have had a great tradition of providing items for the on-going needs of the Manchester community by donating to the pantry. With the price of groceries and personal care items increasing at a historical rate, the need is greater than ever. There is a table in the back of the church where donated items can be placed for delivery to MACC. Below is a list of the current items the pantry is in need.

Thank you for your previous and continued support.

Food items: Instant potatoes, canned chili, beef stew, soup, canned veggies, sugar, flour, fresh fruit and veggies, jelly

Toiletries: Shampoo, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, body soap (liquid), toilet paper

Additional items: Paper towels, dish detergent, laundry detergent

Snacks still needed for Highland Park School – Thank You!

Pop Up News

On February 15th we had our winter shop. Fifteen families from Bowers and Highland Park Schools came and left with bags, upon bags, and bags of free items. We found 4 plastic sleds that were stored in the club scout classroom and put them out in the hallway. They didn't even last 5 minutes. I wish I could take pictures of the kids and the joy they express when getting a brand-new sled!

(Thank you, **Joanne**, for donating those; it was a find that excited everyone!)



Hallway with princess dresses & clothing....

We displayed our undies tree and people were so thankful for the socks, tights and underwear. One Pop who brought his granddaughter so amazed at the concept that he asked when he could bring by donations. An expectant mother was able to take home a stroller, maternity clothes, & baby items. Stuffed toys are also a delight for the children. We also had princess dresses in the hallway on display. Not one was left!



Socks, Tights, and Underwear!

Sorting days are Tuesday from 10-12. Anyone is welcome to come. Our next shop is in the planning stages for April, before Easter! Anyone wanting to donate Easter articles, now is the time. We are in disparate need of children's clothing more so than adult. Large size tote bags like the ones in the picture below would be really appreciated.

Bags ready to go!



We are so grateful for all the donations. MNC, Concordia and our community are working at this together and it is so rewarding. The families are getting more comfortable we us and we are getting/giving hugs & how are you's!

I was taking a winter break from bible study but **Pam Olson** got me out of my funk and back to bible study. Thanks Pam! This session is entitled "Pray First" and I am really enjoying it. I never heard the prayer of Jabez before (1Chronicles 4:10). Chris Hodges explains that once God gives us his blessing, he wants us to take that blessing and use it to make a difference in people's lives. I believe MNC & Concordia are doing that through the Pop-Up Shop.



One happy little girl! 😊

Lord, use us so that we might make an eternal impact on the lives of others.

Gratefully,
Ruth on behalf of the Pop-Up

The following is an excerpt from a sermon based on Luke 5:1-11 that was supposed to be delivered by Lucy Tavares in Spanish and by me in English to Ministerio Nueva Creación on Sunday, February 9th, but wasn't due to church being cancelled because of the snowy weather. So now you can receive it exclusively in the Chimes! I hope you enjoy it.

Sermon title: **All in!**

By: **David Smith**

It appears we have a fish story in today's Gospel reading. Fish stories are recognized for their embellishments and exaggerations. For example, someone who catches a small fish will often say it's a larger one. Someone who catches a larger one will say it's an even bigger one often using their arms outstretched to show just how big the fish was that they caught. However, in today's reading there are several clues that indicate this was not that type of

The first clue is that the haul was so big that it nearly broke their freshly washed nets. The second clue is the catch was so big it couldn't all fit in one boat. The third clue is the catch was so big that it completely filled two boats, so much so that they nearly sank before making it to shore. One could quibble over how many fish there actually were, but rest assured it was an awful lot of fish, but the impact is not in doubt. The fisherman, Simon, Andrew, James, and John knew they were dealing with the Lord.

Especially when Jesus makes this not a fish story at all when he declares they are now to be fisher of people.

There is a term in gambling called 'All in.' Firstly, I don't endorse gambling or think it's a particularly smart thing to do, but it is popular, and some people really do win but keep in mind the odds are never in your favor. The house wins more often than not. I shudder to think about the sums people pay for lottery tickets. I used to be a clerk in a convenience store in town, around the time when scratch-off tickets were new, and let's just say people spent a lot on them, but that's another sermon. 'All in' in gambling means putting all your money, or chips, on a single bet. Imagine pushing a big pile of chips to the center of the table for one hand in poker.

The term 'All in' was my reaction to how Jesus' first disciples came to him. Jesus merely said 'follow me' and they left their overflowing boats and did just that. There was no side bet, or qualifying when they would join him later, they knew he was the

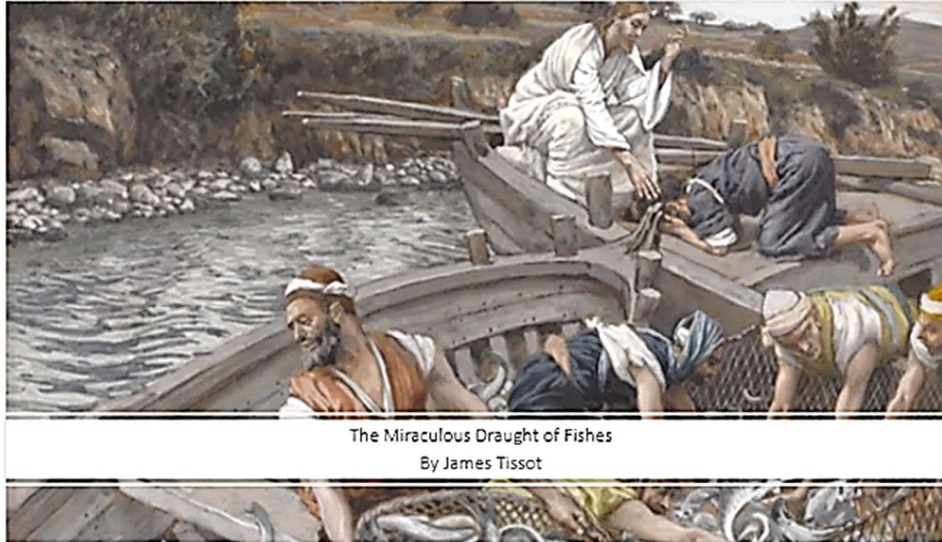
Lord and immediately followed. Now the pragmatist in me says, wow, could I do that? Is this one of those things where 'you just had to be there' to really understand it. Simon, Andrew, James, and John were 'All in' after their first encounter with Jesus.

There was something about Jesus that drew those fishermen to him and inwardly trust he was the Lord. Like so many other gospel readings, I wonder what it was really like, watching this young person perform miracles, teaching to crowds of people and healing those who were ill. It must've been absolutely awesome! Look at it this way, if I were to say to you, drop everything going on in your life and follow me, would you? Unless your life was absolutely terrible, I would think the answer would be no.



Here we are 2,000 years later; we are worshiping Jesus thanks to these disciples and others like them that followed Jesus. As Christians it's up to us to be fishers of people too. I encourage you all to invite people to this service if they're in the area. If you watch online, share the link with others; when someone seems lonely or struggling help them out and point them to church. We're 'All in' when we're with Jesus.

Amen.



The Miraculous Draught of Fishes
By James Tissot

MEMBER CARE

Happy Valentine's Day to Edna, Linda, Joanne, Irene, David, and the Goodrich family from member care. If you are in need of shopping, transportation, or support of another kind, please call *Janet Bellino* at **(860)977-1433** 🙏❤️.



Introductory Notes on Lent and Ash Wednesday

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday.

(from Common Worship, Lent, Church of England)

Midweek Lent and Holy Week 2025

Concordia | Emanuel | Ministerio Nueva Creacion

Wednesdays in Lent

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

7:00 p.m. via Zoom (Concordia Hosts)

Holden Evening Prayer

Thursdays in Lent

March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10

7:10 p.m. in-person at Emanuel

Holden Evening Prayer

Holy Week - 7 p.m.

April 17- Maundy Thursday at *Emanuel*

April 18 - Good Friday at *Emanuel*

April 19 - Easter Vigil at *Concordia*

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The nursery school children are so excited that we finally had some snow to play in! We made snow angels, built igloos for polar bears, made snow people, rolled down the hill and stacked ice blocks on top of each other.

Our March curriculum will be all about literacy! We will conduct author and illustrator studies, learn about fiction versus non-fiction and explore early literacy concepts like rhyming.



SCHOOL!



*Thank You Letter to Concordia Congregation
from Ashley Salerno, Director of Concordia Nursery School*



From: concordia.asalerno@gmail.com
To: markwinz52@aol.com
Sent: 2/25/2025 8:46:29 AM Eastern Standard Time
Subject: **Re: Action of the Congregation Re: Nursery School**

Good Morning Mark,

I want to first extend my sincerest thanks to you and the congregation for your ongoing support of our program. We are so grateful to be able to continue this program for one more year and provide a quality education for the families we serve. I am so appreciative and will do what I can to assist the church in any way I can. I know our returning families will be relieved to hear this news and are feeling eager to register! We have conferences this week and it will be wonderful to share this with them.

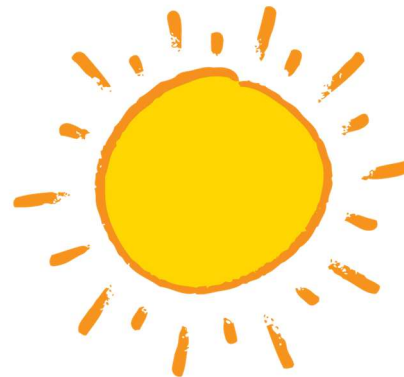
As I have stated before, I am feeling relatively confident in being able to enroll at least 12 families. Our current families have been networking and referring our program to their friends and family. There was also some interest for part-time programming at the fair we attended and I have scheduled a tour in mid-March for someone else who reached out online. I will keep you informed as we get closer to the end of our employment contract (June 30) on where we stand as I think we'd need to make a deadline a bit closer to that.

Sarah and I are brainstorming some different fundraising options and will reach out to families about their ideas as well. I am hopeful that even a little bit of additional funds coming in will make some impact to our financial needs.

Again, I truly thank you all for your support and look forward to our continued partnership.

Warmly,

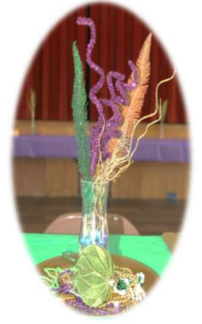
Ashley Salerno, *Director*
Concordia Nursery School
40 Pitkin Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860)649-9349





Fastnacht Dinner at Concordia's Kaiser Hall, March 2, 2025

The goodies, and the goody-doers!



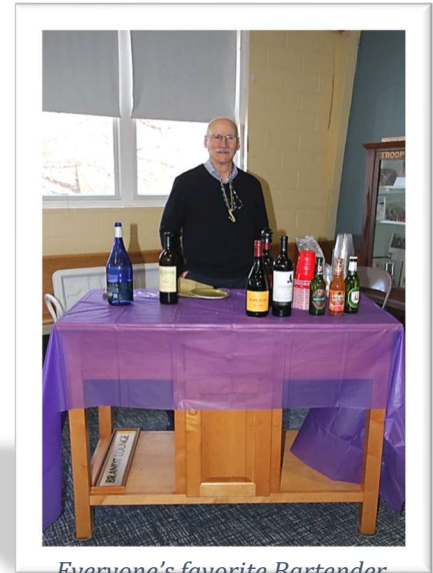
Ruth manning the entrance desk.



Ed Gawlinski from Emanuel Lutheran Church



David Beauregard and Carol Stoneman



*Everyone's favorite Bartender...
Phil Stoneman*

Mark, Carol, and Tina



Rebekkah Almond setting up the dessert area.





The attendees....



Jim Britton, and his daughter, Jill on his right.



*Jan McGarity
and her
friend, Carol
Weber, from
St. Mark's*



Jane Casserly sitting across from Jim Britton



From Left to Right: Don and Marian Slater, Gwen Feder, Gail Feder



*From left to right: Lucy Taveras, Paul Goodrich,
Nancy Lynn Knauff, and Margie Gallagher*



*From Left to Right: Ruth Sprong Heyden, Lee Hilliard, Linda Hilliard, Nancy
Lynn Knauff, Paul Goodrich, Ken Heyden*



From Left to Right: Jan McGarity, Carol Weber, Lois Hedberg, Pastor Rolf Hedberg, Elaine Briggmann



Thank you note from Lanie Turner:

Fastnacht Dinner

From **Lanie Turner** <lrgran@sbcglobal.net>
 To **Concordia Lutheran Church** <office@concordiamanchester.org>
 Cc **Mark Winzler** <markwinz52@aol.com>
 Date **Sun 6:50 pm**

THANK YOU, THANK YOU From my heart. All your hard work and a delicious dinner today with fun, companionship, singing etc. was wonderful.

Please share my heartfelt thanks for all the hard work of so many and for all the delight in being together this afternoon!

YOU ARE ALL APPRECIATED!

Lanie Turner





Fastnacht Thanks

Fastnacht 2025 was a great success!

Around 75 were in attendance from Concordia (and their friends), Emanuel Lutheran, and Ministerio Nueva Creacion.

An event of this magnitude does not come about by itself, hence I would like to thank the following people:

- Jill (Britton) Mack, Bobby McKinney and Carol and Phil Stoneman for the decorations and set-up.
- Susan Bourret, David Beauregard (who also made the applesauce), Claudia Danna and Tina Ruggiero for serving as the “kitchen crew” on Saturday and/or Sunday.
- Phil Stoneman for overseeing the beer and wine for those attending, and Rebekkah Almond for dessert table.
- Ruth Sprong Heyden for checking in people/accepting monetary donations.
- Those who favored us by bringing a delicious dessert to share. They were scrumptious.
- Ed Gawlinski from Emanuel Lutheran Church who played the accordion before dinner! The music truly added to the festive atmosphere.
- The Kitchen clean-up/dishwashing crew: David Beauregard, Claudia Danna, Lois Hedberg, Bobby McKinney, Ruth Sprong Heyden, Bea Santiago and Lucy Taveras.
- Those who helped in any way to clean up the hall. Those extra pairs of hands truly made clean up go much quicker.
- Everyone who came and enjoyed! It was a wonderful sight to see people mingling with one another with big smiles, hearty laughter and ongoing conversation. It was wonderful!

Special thanks and recognition to **Carol Stoneman** who partnered with me in the planning and organization and implementation of all things related to Fastnacht including, but not limited to: grocery shopping, food preparation, and clean-up.

Thanks again for everything! It was a great event!

Mark Winzler





March | April | May *B i r t h d a y s*



- 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)
- Petey Goodrich (30)
- Irene Schack (30)



- Carol Bowen (7) | Janis Barber (8)
- Julie Cosmini (8) | Susan Bourret (15)
- Tommy Donagher (20) | Jeanine Barber (28)
- Sean Stoneman (28) | Mark Winzler (29)



H a p p y B i r t h d a y ! ! !



- MAY**
- Heather Adams (2) | Kathy Noyes (3) | Zachary Baranowski (4)
 - David Smith (14) | Karin Turek (16) | EJ Chiffer (17)
 - David Beauregard (18) | Mark Wilson (18) | Donald Briggmann (20)

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
2/24/2025	Kathi & David Almond	Healing and comfort	Kathi Almond
02/19/2025	Jan Salvatore	Undergoing treatment for a medical condition.	Mark Winzler
02/19/2025	Jan Bellino	Recuperating after surgery.	Mark Winzler
02/19/2025	David Turek	Timely healing amidst health issues.	Susan Bourret
02/01/2025	Concordia Congregation	Peace	Anonymous
10/20/2024	<i>Robert Feder</i>	<i>Comfort & Healing amidst profound health challenges since March 2023.</i>	<i>Gail Feder</i>
10/27/2024	<i>Dan Burnett</i>	<i>Strength, comfort, and healing during this significant health challenge.</i>	<i>Carol Burnett</i>


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 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 (Vernon)

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

Reverend **Rolf Hedberg**, *Transition Pastor* |  (860)649-5311 |  www.concordiamanchester.org

Margie Gallagher, *Parish Administrator* |  office@concordiamanchester.org
*Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. | Closed on **all** Federal Holidays.*

F l o w e r s f o r E a s t e r

Each Easter we invite members and friends of Concordia to purchase Easter flowers for our worship space. Please consider making a gift of flowers to Concordia this Easter. We are also happy to report that **Atrium Brass Quintet** will provide special music for our service; gifts may be made to offset that expense as well. Financial gifts to support our ministries are also welcome.



Each plant cost \$12.00. Gifts for musicians and ministries are given at the givers discretion. **Please attach payment with this form and return to the church office by Sunday, April 13th.** Thank you!



I/We give _____ Easter Flower(s) to Concordia

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 Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone Number and/or E-mail: _____



Please return this form in its entirety to the church office by Sunday, April 13, 2025.



**Concordia's Annual Easter Breakfast Returns!
Sunday | April 20, 2025 | 8:30 A.M.**



You are cordially invited to join us for breakfast, delightful treats, and engaging conversation.

We eagerly anticipate celebrating Easter Morning with you and your family.
A free-will offering will be collected.

Contribution:

- I can bring: _____ Coffeecake or muffins

Assistance:

- I can help with:
 - _____ Set Up
 - _____ Serving Breakfast
 - _____ Clean Up

Name(s): _____

Number Attending: _____

Phone Number and/or Email: _____

Please submit this form to the church office by **Wednesday, April 16, 2025.**

From Bishop Nathan Pipho:

The choice is clear:

Meanness or *Mercy* ...

Cruelty or *Compassion* ...

Conformity or *Freedom* ...

With a flurry of Executive Orders in his first week in office, the President of the United States has made his choice clear. He is choosing meanness and cruelty and demanding conformity.

In the love of Jesus Christ, as a bishop in Christ's church, and speaking on behalf of all those targeted by these Executive Orders, I speak against the mean and divisive actions of the President of the United States. While I respect that elections have consequences and winners can enact policies that reflect the will of the majority, the massive amount of swift Executive Orders, on all aspects of American life, reflect a vision for division that do not reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ nor do I believe, ultimately, reflect the will of a majority of Americans.

All January 6th insurrectionists are pardoned ... governmental workers are encouraged to snitch on their coworkers as programs encouraging diversity, equity, and inclusion are banned ... permits for wind energy are rescinded while those for oil and natural gas are expanded ... citizens forced into gender conformity that does not align with their lived experiences ... neighbors forced into fear over ICE raids, afraid that at any moment they may be caught without the paperwork proving their legal residency in the United States and instantly flown out of the country.

These actions are **mean**, they are **cruel**, and they demand conformity to the vision of one man imposed upon the country.

I speak out today because when I was elected Bishop of the New England Synod in June 2024, I shared that my top three priorities would be to **tell the story of Jesus, nurture relationships, and do racial justice.**

At this moment in time, the story of Jesus I tell is told in Matthew 25 where Jesus tells a parable of a king separating sheep and goats for reward and judgment. Apart from the scenes of judgment which can be difficult for Lutherans, I see a beautiful incarnational promise. Jesus makes the stunning point that when we serve our neighbors in need we serve Christ himself. The sheep judged righteous are told "*Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me*" (Matthew 25:40). On the other hand, the goats judged unworthy are told, "*Truly, I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me*" (Matthew 25:45). To be in relationship with the stranger, the sick, the prisoner is to be in relationship with Christ himself! To fail to serve the least among us is to fail to be in relationship with Christ himself!

In an already polarized society where the United States Surgeon General has warned of an epidemic of loneliness as social connections come apart, and where one study among transgender adults in the United States found that 81% had thought about suicide and 42% had attempted suicide, the President is actively sowing division, breaking apart relationships, and ignoring the least among us. He is incurring judgment upon us as a nation in implementing policies that turn us away from one another and from caring for the least among us.

The choice is clear. We can choose the President's path in our silence and inaction, by yielding to despair, and by throwing up our hands in frustration if we believe the lie that there is nothing we can do. **Or**, we can retain our power and authority as baptized children of God and choose the path of Jesus Christ in our daily interactions, in our community service, and in our public advocacy.

The path of Jesus is mercy, compassion, and freedom ... it calls us to see the image of God in all our neighbors and celebrates a diversity of lived experiences ... it invites us to understand that Christ-like sacrificial service for our neighbors is the key to life.

The path of Jesus leads us into trouble for eating with the outcasts, sinners, and others society reviles ... it calls us to welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, care for the sick, and visit the prisoner regardless of citizenship status ... it calls us into relationships with our transgender siblings and all who are bullied and targeted by the President's actions.

The path of Jesus Christ celebrates and welcomes the Holy Spirit guiding, leading, and sustaining us in community with one another... it finds its strength and power in the Holy Spirit filling us with boldness to love, serve, build, create, and enact relationships and communities announcing the dignity and worth of all people.

The choice is ours. In my words and deeds as the Bishop of the New England Synod I choose the path of Jesus Christ. I choose the path of mercy, compassion, and service that leads to the life, healing, and salvation of the world.

I invite you to join me on the path of Jesus. As you do so, be encouraged and emboldened by the faith of the psalmist who sang: *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells."* Psalm 46:1-4

May our actions and service for our neighbors in Christ's name be the glory we give to God!

Bishop Piph

Attention Ladies! Mark your calendars!

The image contains two event flyers. The left flyer is titled "Among Women Entre Mujeres" and features a theme: "Your mind is like a GARDEN. How do you tend to it?" and "HELLO Spring". It includes a QR code with the text "Scan me!". The right flyer is for a "Taco Potluck" on Saturday, March 29 at 1:00 pm at Malika's, 1302 Windsor Station Drive, Windsor, CT 06095. It also includes the phone number (860) 656-4124 and notes that the entrance to the building is at 69 Mechanic Street. Both flyers are decorated with colorful floral patterns.



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**

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
40 Pitkin Street
Manchester, CT 06040

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED