# The Concordia Courier

A Publication Of Concordia Lutheran Church

### † JESUS' HARMONY FOR THE HEART OF SARASOTA † December 2019

**Eve of Thanksgiving Worship** 

Thanksgiving Eve, **Wednesday**, **November 27, 6:30 p.m.**, we worship. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! Bring a friend, your family. Give thanks at Concordia!

"To You we give **all thanks**, Lord Jesus!"

### **Because Jesus Gifted Us...**

In league with the **Lutheran Services** Florida Guardianship Program (LSFG), Visit the **Giving Tree** cheering the church narthex (entryway) even before Advent. You can send Christmas joy to individuals, many who can't care for themselves and who don't have a family support system. LSFG gave to Concordia the names of more than 20 individuals who would like Christmas gifts. Requests (suggestions only) range from clothing, cookies/candy, gift cards, DVD's, and art supplies. Cards on the tree indicate the gender, age, and wishes of the recipients. Return wrapped gifts by Sunday, **December 1**. Each gift should have a tag so that we can make sure it gets to the correct person. Your gifts will then be delivered to LSFG during the first week in December. For more info please contact Paul Mowery (404-358-4124) of Concordia's Service Committee.

"Jesus, let our gifts share Your love and reflect our joy at **receiving You!**"

### **God Born Our Brother!**

Please join us celebrating the wonder and beauty of **Jesus' coming**!

Every Saturday Worship with Communion - In the church's side chapel, 5:30 p.m.

Every Sunday Worship with Communion - Contemporary Service at 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at 10:00 a.m. Traditional Service at 10:45 a.m.

### **Advent Wednesdays** –

December 4, Advent means He Comes! December 11, Christmas and Hanukkah? December 18, Pageant with New Beginning preschoolers. Dinners at 5:30 p.m. Worship 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service -

Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 p.m., with our Sunday Schoolers' pageant

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion - Tuesday, December 24 at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Holy Communion Service - Wednesday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.

# Advent Wednesdays Dinner and Devotion

On Wednesdays **December 4, 11 and 18** Concordia prepares for the Christ's coming.

Three delicious, simple **suppers**, at **5:30 p.m.**, give us a moment to rest in the pre-Christmas scramble. Come, bring a friend, and make some new acquaintances!

Gather with us for a delicious covered dish "**pot luck**." Each Wednesday bring one of your favorite foods, whether from your kitchen or the store, if you please. Bring a main dish, side, salad, or dessert, something to share. You may give a donation towards dinner at Willer Hall's door. Please phone the church office or Norma Roembke (266-3311) or Gloria Bruggeman (924-7336) if you'd like to help.

The Wednesdays welcome us also to a **half-hour's worship** together, at **6:30 p.m.** Advent means "He comes!"

December 4 join us with favorite hymns and rejoice at the mystery: God becomes human! December 11 Alan Butterworth shows us Hanukkah connection. December 18 sees the children of New Beginning Childcare Center (our partner on campus) and pastor bring their nativity pageant. Help us welcome the families, our guests. Join the party! Our devotions celebrate Jesus the Giver! Bring your appetite. Bring your friends.

"Come, Jesus. Renew our faith, love!"



(photo) At Christmas Eve worship the children and Pastor Stephen see how the Christmas tree points up to **the Gift-Giver**.

### Jesus Will Feast with You?!

**Christian Questions** with Their Answers – Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sagrament

intend to go to the Sacrament.

After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor may ask, or Christians may ask themselves these questions:

- 1. Do you believe that you are a sinner? Yes, I believe it. I am a **sinner**.
- How do you know this?From the **Ten Commandments**, which I have not kept.
- 3. Are you sorry for your sins?
  Yes, I am **sorry** that I have sinned against God.
- 4. What have you deserved from God because of your sins?

His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal **damnation**. See Romans 6:21, 23.

- Do you hope to be saved? Yes, that is my hope.
- 6. In whom then do you trust? In my dear Lord **Jesus Christ**.
- 7. Who is Christ?
  The Son of God, true **God and man**.
- 8. How many Gods are there?

**Only one**, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

9. What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?

He died for me and shed **His blood** for me on the cross for the **forgiveness** of sins.

10. Did the Father also die for you?

He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed his blood for me.

11. How do you know this?

From **the holy Gospel**, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

12. What are the Words of Institution?

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is **My body**, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in **My blood**, which is shed for you for the **forgiveness** of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

"Christian Questions" to be continued **next month**. From the "**Small Catechism**." Written by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther in 1529, the little book is treasured still by the world's 77 million Lutherans for clearly opening the Bible's truth and celebrating the heart of the Christian faith. Translation by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis ©1992. "Christian Questions with Their Answers," designating Luther as the author, first appeared in an edition of the Small Catechism in 1551, five years after Luther's death.



### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Concordia's voters meet on **December 7** and **8**, after Saturday eve and between Sunday morn's worship.

The assembly will set our **2020 financial plan.** Our Council's proposal includes spending up to \$34,000 from Concordia's "Memorials Undesignated" fund for the stucco repair and painting of Concordia's sanctuary, fellowship hall and education building. Copies of the financial projection will be available after November 23 and 24 worship.

We will **elect nominees** for Council's President Paul Mowery, Chairs (worship) Alice Williams, (service) Cathy White, (properties) Bob White and four willing to be re-elected to a second (final) term.

We will act on a **Concordia 75**<sup>th</sup> **Anniversary** resolution to appoint a worship and banquet task force and open an Anniversary Fund to 1) renovate the sanctuary's ushers' room to be an expanded welcome area with wheelchair-accessible restroom (\$40,000), then 2) replace the sanctuary carpet (\$?), and perhaps 3) replace the sanctuary's sliding-door glass window-walls and other windows with storm grade, insulated glass (\$125,000).

Saturday or Sunday, have your voice heard, your questions answered by your leaders, and **your vote counted**. Pick your meeting! Look for your early review copy of **Council's proposed budget** after worship services, late November.

### **Altar Guild News**

Altar Guild meets in the choir room Thursday **December 5** at 9 a.m. to **decorate the sanctuary** for Christmas. The more the merrier!

If you can't attend meetings but would like to **prayerfully consider helping** the Altar Guild either as a member or a substitute, please contact Junne Ulbrich at 815-955-6215.

Our Pre-Christmas luncheon will be held on Saturday **December 14**, noon at Connors Steak and Seafood (3501 S. Tamiami Trail). All the Altar Guild's active, associate and honorary members and their spouses are invited. RSVP by December 7 to Gloria at 941-924-7336

**Poinsettia plants** for the Christmas holiday will replace the fresh flowers from December 8 through December 30. See the order form below or in the narthex of the sanctuary near either exit. Any fresh flower requests in December will be postponed until January,

Please consider purchasing the Lord's altar's fresh flowers in the new year. Commemorate a special occasion or honor a loved one. You may purchase one bouquet for \$20 or both for \$35. You will find special envelopes in the church entryway next to the sign up poster and in the pews. After the late worship service we will place the flowers in a vase for you to take home. Or you may donate them for delivery to our hospitalized or homebound members.

The altar quild is in the process of

reintroducing decorative banners to celebrate church festivals

(Christmas, Pentecost, Easter and Reformation) as well as the sacraments. We will be ordering them soon. There is a fund set up if you would like to donate to the purchase of some new banners. Just send your special donations marked banner fund on the memo line of your check made payable to Concordia into the offering plate or drop it off to Lei Ann in the church office.

Bethlehem Breakfast

All Concordia women, bring a friend! Saturday December 7 we'll enjoy ladies-only breakfast, devotion, friendship and song, 9 to 11 a.m. Bring a small gift for our homebound Christmas baskets. Look for the sign-up sheet in the church's entryway or phone the church office (365-0844). For more info call Carol Hill (440) 539-4058. Together we prepare for God's Christmas gift!

### **Homebound Christmas Cards**

Beginning **Sunday**, **December 8** please find the table set up in the narthex with slips containing names and addresses of our homebound members and friends. You'll also see a **selection of cards** with envelopes for your use. Concordia has been sending Christmas greetings for several years to those who are unable to join us during this season. Every year recipients have voiced their appreciation through the office or their visiting elders. Let's let our homebound know they are a treasured part of

our family. Please be a part of this ministry by sendina out some cards.



The Altar Guild welcomes your orders for POINSETTIA PLANTS. These decorate the sanctuary and help express the joy of Christmas! You may take your plant home any time after the Christmas Day service. Interested? Please complete the form below with your check payable to "Concordia Lutheran Church". Put into any envelope labeled Altar Guild Poinsettia and place in the offering plate. Donors will be listed in the January Courier newsletter. Thank you and happy holidays!

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	10	-inch plants	\$10.00 each
Your name:			
Tour name.			
For:			
Specify:in memory of,			
in honor of, or			
for blessings received.			
Please enclose with check payable			
to "Concordia Lutheran Church	WAR THE WAR	***	The second



### **Youth Group Next**

Our **Youth Group** welcomes all 6<sup>th</sup> thru 12th graders to our events. Come for fun, food and Jesus time. We've renovated our youth **room** (Concordia's education building, room 7). All middle school, high school and leaders college-aged, bring friends. Let's grow together!

Check Concordia's weekend worship bulletin or ask leader Nancy Frayer (953-3752) for our developing plans. Coming next...

Youth Sunday and Open House (Room 7) on Sunday, **November 24**. Help with worship and enjoy lunch following the 10:45 a.m. service.

We gather to decorate the Christmas Tree on **Saturday**, **December 7**.

Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 21**, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will also be helping a needy family during the holiday season.

Are you receiving our **emails** with the latest **event information**? If not, please email the church office - Concordia5@juno.com. Let us add you to the growing list!

### **Christmas Stocking Stuffer**

Who would you like to send across the country? To South America? Merry Christmas! Concordia has again been donated **two** "anywhere to anywhere, round trip" flights from **JetBlue**. (The airline is applauding their employee Kris for her weekly volunteering with Concordia's bread giveaways.) 100 chancetickets are available after worship services at lead the elementary aged (room 7). Karen K. our Willer Fellowship Hall or weekdays at the church office. We **suggest a \$20 donation** per chance-ticket.

Yes, a single chance-ticket wins round-trip flights for two people! Donations for the chancetickets are voluntary. The winning chance-ticket will be drawn Thursday, **February 27**. The flights must be flown between April 15, 2020 and 2021 and not on the busy "black-out" days.

Proceeds will benefit equally Concordia's

**Missionary Naumann Fund** (he's serving our Lutheran seminaries in Sri Lanka and India) and **Properties Maintenance fund**. In 2014 we raised \$1,750 for our Willer Building Addition. 2015's \$1,275 gifts helped refurbish our nursery and kitchen. In 2017 \$1,340, 2018 \$1,400, and 2109 \$1,659 gifts went to our Missionary and Properties.

2014's **winner** took her mom to New York. 2015's couple visited distant family. 2017's winners- California, 2018's- Seattle, 2019's - Peru! Maybe you'll **take a friend** to San Francisco?

### **Children's Bell Choir**

Bring the children you love, with their friends! Together we'll learn to ring the handbells. A joyful song to the Lord! And finding a love of music. Carol Hill leads **practice** on many **Wednesdays**, 6:15-7:00 p.m. We will ring "We Gather Together" at worship Sunday November 24 and "O Holy Night" on Sunday **December 8**. Ask Parish Secretary Lei Ann (365) -0844) for schedule updates.

### Choir Notes

The choir practices **each Wednesday** 7 to 8 p.m. We sing near the start of the 10:45 a.m. worship, so that also some who have worshiped at 9 a.m. can add their voice. Sing for a **great time together** and a **great purpose**. Let's serve our Lord with our time and talents!

Your music director - Johnora Hildebrand "Holy Spirit, fill our mouths with **Jesus'** praise, hearts overflowing with Father's love!"

### Time to Grow

**Pastry**, coffee, fruit drinks, priceless friendships. Bible study, **10 a.m.** at our Willer Fellowship Hall. We're diving deep into **King David's Psalms**... "The Lord is my Shepherd" and so many more! We are hearing the tune of the Son of David (1,000 years after David), the One who (another 2,000 years later) is our Song! Grow with us!

Christie Basinger teaches the **youngest Sunday Schoolers** in our educational building (room 6). Ruth Bogenberger and Nancy Frayer gives nursery care (room 6) also during the Sunday worship services.

**Spirit**, give to our minds the Father's wisdom, our hearts Jesus' love!"

### 2020 Rummage Sale

Concordia's famous Rummage Sale comes **February 21 and 22**. Red letter dates for your planner calendar! Our Willer Fellowship Hall stage must be uncluttered for Christmas events,

so please **drop off** your rummage treasures anytime after January 1. Do volunteer via our Parish Secretary Lei Ann (365-0844) to help with rummage sorting prior to the sale and with the set up and the sale. Make some friends!



### Outreach Dreamers

The Outreach Dreamers welcome you to their next brainstorming session on Tuesday, **December 10 at 6:30 p.m.** in Willer Hall's Library. We will have a short meeting with Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and coffee to stimulate our imagination! We'll wrap up our Giving Tree and Christmas cards for Prisoners projects. We'll be move on to welcoming students, teachers and parents... Suncoast School of Innovative Studies (SSIS) will again borrow Concordia's sanctuary for their December prepare or clean up after this event, do tell! 13 program. Could you help host the cookie and beverage reception in Willer Hall following their program? Let's reach out to the community during this wonderful Christmas season!

### **Homebound Christmas Baskets**

Let's assemble goodies and gift baskets on **Saturday, December 14**, for delivery to our homebound members and friends. Would you like to help with this gift-giving? Come to our Willer Fellowship Hall, 9 a.m.

We will place the baskets on a table in the narthex for delivery when finished. Each will have a name and address attached, with a telephone number if the homes need to be contacted before delivering. It is always a delight to bring joy to these fellow believers who are regularly not able to worship with us. If you have not delivered a basket in the past, you will find this an excellent way to spread the joy of Jesus' birth as it also brings joy into our own lives.

**Items for the baskets** are always needed. Homemade cookies are a big hit, and store-bought too. People have appreciated all kinds of small gifts: hard candy (won't melt), snack-sized chips, pretzels, crackers, soft granola bars, individual packets of hot chocolate, fresh fruit (apples, oranges, tangerines), dried fruit packets, lip balm, bookmarks, stationery, note pads, note cards, calendars, ornaments, small decorations, and small cute books. (No longer needed are stuffed animals and toiletry items: shampoo, lotion, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes.) If you are unsure about the suitability of certain items, call **Becky Reese** at **378-4734**.

If you would like to donate to the Homebound Basket Ministry you may bring nonperishables to the church office anytime. Perishable items can be brought to Willer Hall on be received in the church office or by Financial Friday, labeled "**Homebound**", or brought in on Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. We will be preparing 25-30 baskets, but you may donate any number of items.

"You are the Gift, Jesus. Your love give!"

### **Pre-Christmas Dinner**

Sunday, December 15, 5 p.m. our Willer Fellowship Hall hosts this favorite **Christmas event**: music, Christmas bingo and yummy food. Concordia's kitchen volunteers will provide the main dish. Would you please bring your favorite holiday side dish or dessert? We'll enjoy sampling so many! Do bring all your family and friends. We'll welcome the year's new members, too.

"Jingle all the way..." If you can help Becky Reese (378-4734) leads our festivities. Come for some genuine **Christmas bliss**!

### **Help Send Good News**

Can you help fold our next "Courier"? Join the crew on Thursday, December 19, 9 **a.m.** New friends, many smiles! Articles for the **January** newsletter are due **December 11.** 

Thank you to November's **Courier** folders: Margo Arehart, Gloria Bruggeman, Joyanne Fathauer, Joyce Fathauer, Jayne New, Loraine Tafel and Sandy Zaloudek. Loraine Tafel delivered our **325 newsletters** to the postal center. Another 70 homes receive their **Courier** via email. Please tell Concordia5@juno.com if you'd prefer the .pdf newsletter.

Hearty thanks to Don and Sandy Zaloudek for assembling weekend worship bulletins. "Jesus, share **Your concord** with us all!"

Property Work Morn

Concordia's volunteers have set aside every month's **third Saturday** for a property work morn. We need new helpers, too! Please join us **Saturday, December 21,** 9 a.m. to noon. Look forward to pastries and coffee to get the **morning** started. Come any time. Join our volunteer email list? Please email Charlie Scott at CPABuilder@juno.com. Have fun, feel good, and see the church shine!

"Lord, may neighbors see Your beauty!"

**Holly Daze** 

Our **church office** is **closed** with the parish secretary's holidays on **December 24**, 25, 31 and January 1.

### **End of Year Contributions**

Please note that all 2019 donations must Secretary Walt Naughton no later than Tuesday, **December 31** to receive a tax deduction towards your 2019 tax return. **Thanks** to all who have **generously helped** the Lord's work through Concordia!

### **December Birthdays**

01	Shirley Mead
03	Roy Williamson
04	Elijah Stergus - 2nd
07	Zach McMullen Wayne Ulbrich
09	Jane Giroux
11	Andrew Kenney
12	Audrey Hart
13	Dale Leinberger
14	Joy Wega
15	Paul Barger Kamela Schmidt - 2nd Sandy Zaloudek
16	Dale Riedler Ila Jean Wright
17	Trudi Evans
18	Holly Johnson Myers Parrish Nevin Riedler
22	Lorraine Brinker-Clark Tracie Malone
23	Susan Wiedeman
25	Carol Hill
26	Dave Meadows
28	Nancy Frayer
30	Helen Schmidt Howard Schwisow

### **December Anniversaries**

09	Guoxiang Zhu & "Nancy" Shi - 32nd
16	Kenneth & DeAnna Whitlow - 24th
22	Dick & Marilyn Reese - 65th
28	Leon and Nancy Frayer - 56th

**Birthday or anniversary missing?** Please pardon us. Tell our church office (365-0844) when we miss dates. **Share the celebration!** 

### **Memorials Received**

In memory of Duane and Evelyn Werstler, to the "Concordia Foundation" from Terry and Penny Miller.

In memory of Evelyn Werstler, from Laura Hysell, Reverend James and Barbara Roseman, Robin Slack, Elaine Staudt, Frank and Maes Yarrish.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

### Gifts to the Giver of All

Offering envelopes for your 2020 tithes and gifts will soon be found in **the church** entryway. If you have not yet been offered envelopes please speak to our Financial Secretary Walt Naughton or Parish Secretary Lei Ann (365-0844).

May all our giving in this new year be planned, proportionate, first-fruits (He's worthy of more than "leftovers"), joyfully given as **worship to the Lord!** Thanks for your generosity!

Did you know? You greatly **help our offering counters** when you use your offering envelopes. Then they need not look up your "number" with each gift, and your year-end statement is correctly tabulated. Thanks!

"Lord, receive our tithes and offerings as the **sacrificial worship** of hearts grateful for You! Move us to give to Your mission first, deliberately, as You have given to us!"

### 2019 Attendance - Giving Overview

2014: 52 weeks: 191 avg. att. (9,907total), up 2% \$262,299, up 10%

2015, 52 weeks: 183 avg. att. (9,506), down 4% \$263,568, up 0.5%

2016, 52 weeks: 189 avg. att. (9,807), up 3%. \$291,041, up 10%.

2017, 52 weeks: 176 avg. att. (9,129), down 7%. \$307,932, up 6%.

**2018, 52 weeks**: 182 avg. att. (9,464), **up 4%**. \$323,793, **up 5%**.

**2018**, first 45 weeks: 173 avg. att. (7,772 total) \$267,746 tithes and offerings

**2019**, 45 weeks: 169 avg. att. (7,627), **down 2%** \$257.879. **down 4%** 

New Church Worker Fund \$9,784 Missionary Lawson (Russia) \$1,140 Missionary Naumann (Sri Lanka) \$2,200 Haiti Mission Fund \$6,075 (post trip)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Advent 1 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 10 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship with Holy Communion LSFG Giving Tree deliveries due	***7 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg. 8 to 9 a.m	3 8 to 9 a.m. Free Bread	4 5:30 p.m. Foundation Board Meeting 5:30 p.m. Advent Potluck Dinner 6:15 p.m. Children's Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***8 p.m. AA Meeting	5 9 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting and decorating the sanctuary 10:30 a.m. Women's G.i.F.t.S. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Men's Group	9	7 8 to 9 a.m. Free Bread 9 a.m. Bethlehem Breakfast 5:30 p.m. Chapel Service with Holy Communion, Rev. Gary Hill, Preacher 6:20 Congregational Meeting Youth gathering - ask leader Nancy Frayer (953-3752)
8 Advent 2 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion, Rev. Gary Hill, Guest Pastor 10 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:10 a.m. Congregational Meeting 10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship with Holy Communion, Rev. Gary Hill, Preacher	6 <sup>‡</sup>	10 8 to 9 a.m. Free Bread 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aphasia Group in Willer Hall 6:30 p.m. Outreach/ Service "Outreach Dreamers" Meeting at church library	"Courier" articles due for December 5:30 p.m. Advent Potluck Dinner 6:15 p.m. Children's Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship with Alan Butterworth 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ****	10:30 a.m. Women's G.i.F.t.S. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Men's Group	13 7 p.m. SSIS Christmas Program	14 8 to 9 a.m. Free Bread 9 a.m. Homebound Christmas Baskets assembled at Willer Hall 12 p.m. Altar Guild Christmas Luncheon at Conoors Restaurant 5:30 p.m. Chapel Service with Holy Communion, Rev. G. Hill. Preacher
15 Advent 3 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion10 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship with Holy Communion 5 p.m. Pre-Christmas Dinner	16 ***	8 to 9 a.m. Free Bread	5:30 p.m. Advent Potluck Dinner 6:15 p.m. Children's Handbell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship with New Beginning Pageant 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	19 9 a.m. Fold the January newsletter 10:30 a.m. Women's G.i.F.t.S. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Men's Group	20	21 8 to 9 a.m. Free Bread 9 a.m. to Noon Church Clean-up Day 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Youth Group Christmas Party 5:30 p.m. Chapel Service with Holy Communion
22 Advent 4 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 10 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Study Children's Handbell Choir 10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship with Holy Communion	23 ***	24 Christmas Eve Church office closed 8 to 9 a.m. Free Bread 7 p.m. Family Candlellt Worship with Children's Pageant 11 p.m. Candlelit Worship with Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day Church office closed 10 a.m. Christmas Carol Worship with Holy Communion ***	26	27	28 8 to 9 a.m. Free Bread 5:30 p.m. Chapel Service with Holy Communion
29 Christmas 1 9 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion 10 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Traditional Worship with Holy Communion	30 ***	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b> Church office closed 8 to 9 a.m. Free Bread	1 New Year's Day Church office closed ***	9:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting and removal of decorations 10:30 a.m. Women's G.i.F.t.S. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Men's Group	ဇ	4 8 to 9 a.m. Free Bread 5:30 p.m. Chapel Service with Holy Communion

\*\*\*Concordia's Willer Fellowship Hall and (sometimes) the narthex of the church are used every Monday, Wednesday and Quarterly Saturdays by 12-step groups.

# Serving the Servant Lord in December 2019



Deaconess Linda Nobili came from Naples to "pin" **Deaconess Andra Gates** (on left in photo) at Concordia's 10:45 a.m. worship November 10. The **deaconess' cross pin** is a symbol of her carrying Jesus' mercy out into the world. In the same way, the stole cloth draped over a pastor's shoulder depicts Jesus' yoke, where the pastor is Jesus' servant distributing Jesus' Word and Sacrament at worship.

### The Role of the Deaconess in History and Now by Deaconess Andra S. Gates



**The role of deaconess** in our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS - our nationwide network of sister churches) is as diverse as the women who become deaconesses. A deaconess is a woman who desires to understand her faith better and by study grow into a closer relationship with God, her Father.

**Historically** deaconesses are first cited as those who **helped and supported Jesus** out of their own finances or served in other ways as did **Peter's mother-in-law** (Luke 4:39). Others cared for the disciples as they traveled, including **Susanna**, **Mary Magdalene and Johanna** mentioned in Luke 8:2-3. **Phoebe** was called a woman of **diakonia** (Greek for "service" or "ministry") by Paul in Romans 16:1. Finally, a description of the widows who **served in the church** in Timothy 5:5, 9-10 gives proof that women have always served in the church. In the early centuries of the church, women were first trained to assist the pastor with female baptisms because of the need to anoint the whole body prior to baptism. Deaconesses went into "heathen" houses to care for the sick or injured women and children. Many of the modern nurses from the 1800's on were trained first as deaconesses. **Florence Nightingale** is named as one who fostered this role of diakonal women. Deaconesses are credited with starting and serving in **hospitals** and care facilities throughout America's history. As early as the fourth century women like **Fabiola** started **hospices for travelers** and facilities to care for the ill. Others such as **Olympias** who was a supporter of John Chrysostom, an early father of the church, gave all of her wealth to the church and served in the church daily, **praying** and caring for the **sick and homeless**. Today's deaconess is the eyes, ears, and hands of Christ in caring for those around her. Sometimes

Today's deaconess is the eyes, ears, and hands of Christ in caring for those around her. Sometimes she is also the wheels of Christ as she travels from home to home or church to church, caring for those that God puts in her path. She provides a motherly, womanly ear and heart to hear the concerns of the congregation and work with the pastor to **bring comfort and strength to the hurting**. The deaconess works under the oversight of the pastor and church board. But she also provides support for pastoral staff's needs, and guides church leadership to **recognize the needs of the congregation** and how to respond to those needs in a way that promotes fellowship and caring for all involved.

She understands mercy and strives to share the mercy of Christ with those she meets. Today's deaconess is a **theologically trained** woman who wants to care for those around her and wants to do that in a way that lets her light as a Christian shine through the actions she takes and the interactions she has with those around her. Master's prepared deaconesses have training in: The Epistles, Gospels of Matthew and Luke, the Lutheran Confessions as well as Ministry to the Sick and Dying, Counseling, Catechesis, Church History, the Psalms, Divine Worship, including the means of Grace and the Theology of Mercy. She is a caring person by nature and a **lifelong learner**.

Deaconesses are **not pastors** and they do not preach and do not independently distribute sacrament. They are **not nuns**. They can marry and raise families. And in the older deaconess' case they may have had another career before becoming a deaconess. They come with many life experiences which is part of their diversity. Because they come with these experiences, they may have predetermined ways of dealing with problems that arise. So, part of coming into the role of the deaconess requires change, self-examination and growth as God refines her through study, trial and struggle to be the diakonal woman He desires her to be in her care of others. She is growing and coming to know her Savior in a more in-depth and personal way by **seeing Christ in others** as she serves. We put on the name of Christ when we can see him in every child that He has created and places in our path for caring service. Secondly, we **respond with the love and mercy that Christ showed** as He ministered on earth and finally when He made us His own in sacrificing His life for us. He made us sisters in His family and in the house of God for our everlasting salvation.

A deaconess is also called to uphold her sisters in Christ who also serve as deaconesses and our brothers called as pastors and missionaries. Indeed, the deaconess is called to **support all in their life vocation** and to be that **voice of mercy** for the suffering but also that **word of correction in love** for those who have fallen in their life journey and do not understand the eternal love and mercy of God.

Next month - Deaconess: Not a Pastor and Why.

### Concordia Council Minutes - Tuesday November 12th 2019

**Members in Attendance**: President-Bob White, VP-Norma Roembke, Finance-Walt Naughton, Treasurer-Phyllis Kirtley, Secretary-Wayne Ulbrich, Education-Nancy Frayer, Outreach-Margo Arehart, and Pastor Stephen Gaulke.

**Members not present:** Fellowship-Gloria Bruggeman, Properties-Scott Hoeppner, Service-Diane Horn, Worship-Thomas Mann. (No Constitutional quorum) Guest(s): Deaconess Andra Gates, Pete Theisen.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M.

**Opening Devotion:** Phyllis Kirtley read 2 Thessalonians 2-3 followed by discussion. The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Stephen.

**President's Report:** Bob White thanked all council members for their serving, all who helped worked on getting the parsonage house ready for Deaconess Gates' arrival.

**Vice President's Report:** Norma Roembke presented the nominees for church council positions, President-Paul Mowery, VP-Norma Roembke, Education-Nancy Frayer, Outreach-Margo Arehart, Properties-Bob White, Worship-Alice Williams, Fellowship-Gloria Bruggeman, Service-Cathy White. The other four officers are completing 2-year terms.

**Secretary:** Nothing to report.

Financial Secretary: Walt Naughton reported year to date attendance was down 0.4%, tithes and offerings down 4.6%.

**Treasurer:** Phyllis Kirtley presented the 2020 church budget to be proposed to Concordia's December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting. Total income is projected \$434,260 and total expense is projected \$441,995, leaving a

\$7,735 "leap of faith."

Worship Report: No report.

Education Report: Nancy
Frayer report youth
group has involved 5
teens so far. On
November 24th and
perhaps monthly the
youth group will help
with ushering and
Scripture reading.

Outreach Report: Margo
Arehart reported
purses pack day was
completed. 25 purses
contain gift cards and
various other items for
women in shelters.
Christmas cards will be
sent out to prisoners
this year. The cards will

Council Resolution Proposed to Voters' Meeting – Concordia 75th Anniversary

WHEREAS **Jesus has gathered us** as His people of Concordia to share His harmony (concord) with the heart of Sarasota, and Jesus always comes to us in worship, giving to us His Good News to share and His love to care for others; and

WHEREAS Jesus has so blessed Concordia Sarasota for **nearly 75 years** (1947's February saw the first worship service, in May the name chosen, in July the first celebration of the Lord's Supper; and the first Voters' Meeting was January 18, 1948),

RESOLVED that Concordia's people give **thanks to God** for His continued mercies, and RESOLVED that Concordia's council appoint a 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary task force to plan a **worship weekend date and banquet place**, and

RESOLVED that Concordia open an "**Anniversary Renovations Fund**" and encourage one another's gifts "over and above" our tithes so that we can care for the beautiful buildings God has given to us by the generous generations before us, and

RESOLVED that these funds be expended as received on the following projects in sequence (unless altered by some future Voters' Meeting):

- 1. Renovate the sanctuary's ushers' room to be an expanded **welcome area** with wheelchair -accessible restroom (\$40,000).
- 2. Replace the sanctuary carpet (\$?),
- 3. Replace the sanctuary's sliding-door glass window-walls and other **windows** with storm grade, insulated glass (\$125,000).

be found in the narthex. The Council suggested that the \$5,000 requested for a backpack project to bless students at our neighbor Sarasota School for Innovative Studies be kept off budget but brought to the congregation as a 2020 "Wish List" opportunity.

Fellowship Report: No report.

**Service Report:** Proposal to combine outreach and service positions was tabled at this time.

Leadership Report: Nothing to report.

Old Business: None.

**New Business:** Desiring to establish a task force for the 75th church anniversary, the council agreed on an amendment to propose to December's Congregational Meeting. (See box.)

The meeting adjourned at 7:25P.M., closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 14th 2020 at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Wayne Ulbrich, Secretary

### We Remember Ann Johnson

On October 22 the Lord brought home Ann M. Johnson. Born November 17, 1955 she was age 64. She was baptized as a baby at her parents' Lutheran church. Ann came to Concordia because her friend at Springwood, our long-time member Jeanne Black, shared with her our Portals of Prayer daily devotional booklets. She regularly (patiently!) took the SCAT bus to Saturday worship, enjoyed meeting people there, loved reading the Scripture at worship, and delighted in receiving her living Jesus in the Lord's Supper. Ann joined Concordia's family on September 22, 2019. Her memorial was October 26 at another friend's church, Grace Baptist of Bradenton. She is survived by her brother in Chicago.

### We Remember Vincent Ginex

On November 6 his friend Jesus called home Vinnie, age 92. A native of Newark, New Jersey, baptized at St. Rocco Roman Catholic, his late parents Frances and Phillip Ginex raised him in the faith. During World War II and the Korean War he served his nation in the Merchant Marine (Navy). Residing in Irvington, New Jersey, he worked with the US Post Office, then retired to Sarasota. He' enjoyed watching his favorite teams, the Yankees and the Rangers. His greatest pleasure was the love he had for his family and Jesus. He was predeceased by his brother, Frank Ginex; his sisters, Mary Machiaverna (Frank), Millie DeLorenzo (Ralph), Lillie Crecco (Bob). He is survived by a sister, Frances Wesley (Steve), many nieces and nephews and his Godson, Joe Carvagno (Maureen).

Once a neighbor near Concordia, he befriended Pastor Stephen at "our" bus stop. When he moved to assisted living in 2016, he made friends also with our elders Rich (and Mary) Reiter and Aaron Mattes, and then new neighbors Roy and Clare Williamson. He was always making friends, sharing his faith in his best friend Jesus. Pastor Stephen gives Christian burial at the Sarasota National Veterans Cemetery November 21, even as Vinnie rejoices to be with his Friend.

### We Remember Joyce Repulski

Her resurrected Savior called home Joyce Theiler-Repulski of Sarasota, Florida on November 8, 2019 at the age of 76. Joyce was born in Springfield, Massachusetts April 28, 1943. Joyce was loved and cherished by many people including: her parents, Arthur C. Oulton and Grace Oulton (Brass); her husband Édwin; her children, Hans "Jay" Peter Theiler, Jr. and Lisa Theiler Bell; her grandchildren, Hayes, Annalise, Benjamin, Kobi and Pete; her step-daughter Jill Strafaci (Frank); her step-grandchildren, Trenton and Tyler.

Her parents brought Joyce to be baptized into Jesus' family as a baby "probably at their Presbyterian church," she said. She and Edwin were joined in Christian marriage at Trinity United Methodist Church of Sarasota on January 23, 1999. When his pastor and his elder Chuck Resh began visiting her homebound husband, Joyce was eager to hear Jesus' Biblical Word and to receive His body and blood in the Sacrament for her forgiveness and strength. She became a treasured member of our Concordia church family.

Joyce will be laid to rest at the Sarasota National Cemetery. Even now Joyce' spirit rejoices with her Savior in paradise (Luke 23:43) as she awaits the day of bodily resurrection (John 11:25).

### We Remember Don Campbell

Donald G. Campbell, age 91, of Deckerville, Michigan, peacefully fell asleep in his Savior's care on November 14. He was on his way back to Sarasota after having gone to Michigan to grieve with the family of his fiancé Frances Nichol. She too had regularly worshiped with Concordia until unable to travel in recent years.

Don was born on June 3, 1928 in Detroit, the son of the late Otto and Rosella (Wellman) Campbell. He married Erma Labor on May 19, 1951 in Michigan's Custer Township. Don was a veteran of the U.S. Army serving in Korea. Don could often be found visiting with friends and relatives. He enjoyed dancing, playing cards, and spending time in the woods on his farm.

Don is survived by two sons, Curtis (Patricia) Campbell of Caledonia, Michigan, Dennis (Beverly) Campbell of Grand Rapids, and one daughter, Ruth (Robert) Barnes of Sarasota. He rejoiced in seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by Erma- his wife of 55 years, two sisters- Dorothy (Harold survives him) Graves, and Carolyn (Melvin) Lamont. Concordia mourns his welcoming grin and easy kindness.

His Michigan church, Peace Lutheran in Sandusky thanks Jesus for Don's rich faith and life on November 21. Don's family directs memorials to our sister LCMS church in Sandusky or Concordia.

Condolences may be sent on-line to apseyfuneralhome.net.



# Joyce



and Betty Rothenberg of Michigan.

A Christian memorial will give God thanks for Shirley Saturday January 11, 11 a.m. at Concordia. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be donated to Concordia or Tidewell Hospice.

### We Remember Shirley Timm

Shirley Mae (nee Samuelson) Timm, age 97, answered her living Lord's call on Thursday, November 7. Formerly of Benton Harbor, Michigan, her last Sarasota residence was The Spring's Nursing Home. A kind and loving woman, she was the devoted wife of the late Robert E. Timm, Sr. for over 42 years. Shirley's life embodied her love for family, faith, and her volunteering to help others.

Born in Chicago on November 2, 1922, her parents brought their baby into Jesus' family by baptism. Shirley confirmed her faith at her Lutheran church on May 3, 1936. She moved to Michigan as a young woman where she met her husband Robert. During WW II, Shirley joined over 16 million other American women in the war effort as a Rosie the Riveter. She moved to Sarasota 63 years ago to raise her family and remained a full-time resident. Shirley reared her children with Concordia. She sang in the choir and participated in many other church activities. Devoted to Christ and her church, Shirley's faith was her guiding light throughout her life.

Shirley was an accomplished artist, seamstress and floral designer, working many years at Siesta Flowers. She had a special fondness for music, theatre and the arts and she loved to travel. In her lifetime Shirley traveled throughout the United States and abroad. Always actively involved in her children's church, school, Boy Scout and Girl Scout activities, she also served as a volunteer for Sarasota Memorial Hospital in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit as a Cuddler; she was one of the first to perform the First Sound Hearing Program for newborns.

Shirley thanked for her helpers, including her Elder Dick and Marilyn Reese. Even after strokes took her speech, Shirley nodded delight when she heard Scripture, prayer and received her Lord's forgiveness and strength with His body and blood. Her eyes sparkled when you sang to her beloved hymns. We will next hear Shirley sing with the angels!

Shirley is survived by her brother Robert Samuelson of St. Joseph, Michigan, her loving children and their spouses





### Faith Confirmed – Thomas Stochl

At Sunday's worship August 18, confirmands Abbie Lutsch, Noah Lutsch, Thomas Stochl and Jackie Williams thanked Christ for the gifts He had given them in their Baptism. They pledged themselves to lifelong growth in His Word and holy Communion. Each of these **four teens** wrote a public testimony of personal faith. We'll printed words from one each month.

"Holy Spirit, You are the Giver of life. Bless these confirmands. In **God's Word, baptism,** and our **Lord's Supper** give them joy. Keep all of us **growing** in our trust in **Jesus**, in the Father's love we share!"

**Thomas Keene Stochl** was baptized October 23, 2005 at Shepherd's Creek Lutheran Church, Bradenton, FL by Rev. Dan Fulmer (photo). His godnarents are uncle Brian Lan and Lisa Waltrin. Tho

godparents are uncle Brian Lan and Lisa Waltrip. Thomas' confirmation verse gives Jesus' promise. ""I am the vine; you are the branches. When you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5).



### Faith Statement – What Jesus Means to Me by Thomas Stochl

**Faith**, faith is a trait practiced and believed by all Christians. It is one of the fundamental attributes that forms the basis of the **belief in Jesus Christ**. This leads to my favorite Bible story that tells of **God's love**: "Daniel and the Lions' Den". This story, while simple, delivers a very powerful and iconic message about Faith and what it can do.

Simply put, the story of **Daniel and the Lions' Den** reaches all the way back to the times of King Darius and Babylon. The king had appointed 120 subordinates to rule over Babylon, the highest of which was Daniel (a **strong believer** in God). However, the other men did not like Daniel and envied him and his position with the king. Knowing that Daniel was a follower of the God of Israel the men approached the king and persuaded him to make a new law which stated that anyone who did not worship the king and only the king would be thrown into the lions' den. Daniel knew about the law but did not budge in his belief in God and continued to pray three times

a day with the window open. When the men saw Daniel and accused him of breaking the law the King (reluctantly) sent Daniel to the lions' den. Despite him being in a den with a multitude of lions **Daniel's faith in God remained steadfast** and as a result he was safe from the lions.

This is one of my favorite examples about how much God loves everyone because it perfectly encapsulates the definition of faith. Stated shortly, faith is the undying confidence and trust in something, in this case God. Because God loves everyone, Daniel put his faith on full display and in return God protected and watched over him. Daniel clearly showed that if you put all your faith and belief in God you will have nothing to fear and you can get through anything.

This also relates to **Jesus' story** as he had faith in God and told everyone he met about it, even those who did not believe in God. Even **when Jesus was crucified**, he held steadfast and his **faith in God was fully displayed** to everyone. Faith in God may not be always shared by all his children but **he still loves us unconditionally**. And **that is a God I can have faith in**.

(photo from left) Pastor Stephen, mom Melissa, co-teacher Ruth Bogenberger, Julia, Thomas, dad Tim, Jacob.



### The Concordia Courier

### **Concordia Lutheran Church Mission Statement**

The mission of Concordia is to **share Jesus' harmony** ("concordia") with the **heart of Sarasota**. Jesus comes to us in worship, giving to us His Good News for sharing, and His love for caring!

Jesus comes to us

in worship (Jesus is our harmony!),

giving to us **His Good News** (His Word for us, education) for **sharing** (His Word for all, outreach), and **His love** (His deeds among us, fellowship)

for **caring** (His deeds among us, fellowship)

### Editor's Notes...

The deadline to submit articles for the **January 2020** issue of "*The Courier*" is **December 11**. You may mail information to the church office, fax to 365-0845, or e-mail "concordia5@juno.com". Please mark "For The Courier" on your news, along with your name. Thanks for your cooperation!

"The Courier" is published every month but June and August. The purpose is to share with the members of Concordia Lutheran Church, friends and the community Jesus' work among us. He brings harmony to the heart of Sarasota. We welcome your suggestions and contributions.

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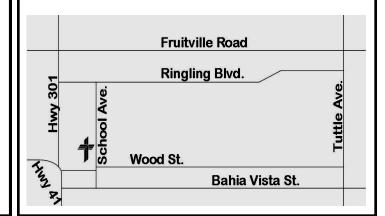
### **Concordia Lutheran Church**

### 2019 Church Officers

President	Bob White	379-2243
Vice-President	Norma Roembke	966-8113
Treasurer	Phyllis Kirtley	266-8662
Secretary	Wayne Ulbrich	815-600-4815
Financial Secretary	Walt Naughton	924-4201

### 2019 Board Chairpersons

Worship	Tom Mann	349-0601
Education	Nancy Frayer	953-3752
Outreach	Margo Arehart	.419-810-0853
Fellowship	Gloria Bruggeman	924-7336
Service	Diane Horn	.414-379-3893
Properties	Scott Hoeppner	.574-202-5987



### The Concordia Courier

Concordia Lutheran Church, LCMS 2185 Wood Street • Sarasota, FL 34237-7915

**Return Service Request** 

### December 2019

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Some of the Concordia women packing purses with loving gifts for SPARCC and Redeeming Life shelters (**photo** above)

## **The Concordia Courier**

December 2019

### **Worship Schedule**

### Worship Services

Saturday Chapel Worship 5:30 pm Sunday Contemporary Worship 9 am Sunday School and Bible Study 10 am Sunday Traditional Worship 10:45 am

### **Holy Communion**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at every weekend's worship service. Jesus promises, "This bread is My body. Drink, this wine is My blood for your forgiveness." In worship Jesus serves!

Concordia:
"Jesus' Harmony for
the Heart of Sarasota"

### **Church Staff**

Rev. Stephen Gaulke, M.Div., S.T.M.....Pastor Dcs. Andra Gates.......Hospitality Deaconess Lei Ann Ahl.......Parish Secretary / Bookkeeper Johnora L. Hildebrand ........Music Director Dawn Brown .......Praise Band Leader Nancy Frayer ...........Youth Group Leader Karen Korzecki ...........Sunday Nursery



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