

The Concordia Courier

A Publication Of Concordia Lutheran Church

† JESUS' HARMONY FOR THE HEART OF SARASOTA † May 2023

How Do You Live New?

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

(continued)

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the **Old Adam** in us (our selfish nature) should by daily contrition (sorrow over sin) and repentance (turning to God for forgiveness) be **drowned and die** with all sins and evil desires, and that a **new man** should daily emerge and arise to **live before God** in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore **buried with Him through baptism** into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may **live a new life.**" (Romans 6:4, NIV)

Continued from last month. See also Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Titus 3:4-8, Romans 6:1-4, John 3:1-4.

By Baptism, we were "buried with Jesus"? That's what the Bible says! More wonderful than some sci-fi "wormhole," the hidden passage linking two places across space and time.

Baptism directly connects you to Jesus' death and return to life!

Jesus carried away the sin of all people to bring all people God's forgiveness. He gave Himself even to death so that you have real life with Him, now and forever. That's **some swap**, huh?

Baptism fuses you to Jesus. Now, every day, you can turn away from sin, **drowning your selfish side**. Now every day, you can turn to God, **rising up to live with forgiveness**, with love. You and I can live like Jesus, because He lives, and because **He lives in us!**

"When we were **baptized into His death**, we were placed into the tomb with Him. As Christ was brought back from death to life by the glorious power of the Father, so we, too, should **live a new kind of life.**" (Romans 6:4, God's Word translation)

From the "Small Catechism." Written by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther in 1529, the little book is treasured still by the world's 84 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.

Mother's Day

Sunday **May 14** - Happy Mother's Day to all of you moms! God bless you! We **give God thanks** for you. Bring your children. Bless your children!

"Jesus, You compare Yourself to the **mother hen** (Luke 13:34)?! Bless all the moms. Bless our memories. Bless all today who care for us with a **mother's love**. Let us love with Your heart."

Good News-letter

Our **June/July 2023** Concordia Courier seeks articles, due Tuesday **May 16**. Can you **help the crew fold** the news for mailing? Do tell Parish

Secretary Lei Ann (941-365-0844).

Thank you to April's Courier folders: Joyanne Fathauer, Gary Gates and Jayne New. Gloria Bruggeman took **260 newsletters** to the postal center.

Another **180 homes** prefer their Courier by email.

Thanks also to Sandy and Don Zaloudek for folding **worship bulletins**.

Theater Organ Concert

The **Lunch Concert** at Concordia welcomes all every **third** Friday unless there is a conflict with our guest organist. Watch our weekly bulletins for updated information. Come **Friday May 19** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (10 a.m set up.) Free admission, free cookies, free bottled water and free lemonade, thanks to the **Central Florida Theater Organ Society** (CFTOS). Donations accepted. Local restaurants will deliver lunch: we have the menus.

The event is in the **Willer Hall**, our Concordia fellowship building. Marked by signs. Please, **everybody come!** Thanks.

Worship's Scripture

May 6, 7 - Easter 5

Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

May 13, 14 - Easter 6

Acts 17:16-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

May 20, 21 - Easter 7

Acts 1:12-26

1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

May 27, 28 - Pentecost

Numbers 11:24-30

Acts 2:1-21

John 7:37-39

Bible Groups to Befriend You

Concordia loves Bible groups! **Jesus speaks** to us through His Book, especially when we share His Word with one another.

Sundays, 10 a.m. offers conversation on **"the other Scripture,"** the readings that were not the sermon theme. Gather at **Willer Hall's red double-door** main room.

Thursday, 10:30 a.m. The **men's group** now **gathers through June** in Concordia's Willer Fellowship Hall Library Room (the single red door at the north end).

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. GiFTs! The **women "Grow in Faith through Scripture."** The group now sees God's vivid promises. Visit Concordia's Willer Fellowship Hall main room (double red doors).

Pastoral Care

Pastor Stephen and family vacation Fridays **May 6 to 19.** **Pastor Dennis Liebich** preaches the weekends **May 6-7 and 13-14.**

Concordia's elders visit the homebound and hospitalized. Do you or your friend need **pastoral care**? Please notify parish secretary Lei Ann Ahl at the church office (941-365-0844). Our lead elder is Alice Williams (941-957-1090).

Family Night

Our next **dinner and faith-building fun** welcomes all on Wednesday **May 24, 6-7 p.m.** at our Willer Fellowship Hall. The theme: **David and Goliath.**

Concordia welcomes **you, your children, and little ones you love**. Bring more! Please RSVP to the church office (941-365-0844).

Our families with the children enjoyed both our March events. Did you see the **photos** at ConcordiaSarasota.org or our Facebook page?

Pentecost Sees Red

Christmas – Jesus born among us. Easter – Jesus rises for us. **Pentecost** – Jesus lives through us! **May 28** is Christendom's third great festival. Fiery red Pentecost!

Can we "dress up" the Holy Spirit's day? In many churches, worshipers **wear some red** in their clothing. Remember: the Spirit marked Jesus' friends with tongues like flaming fire?

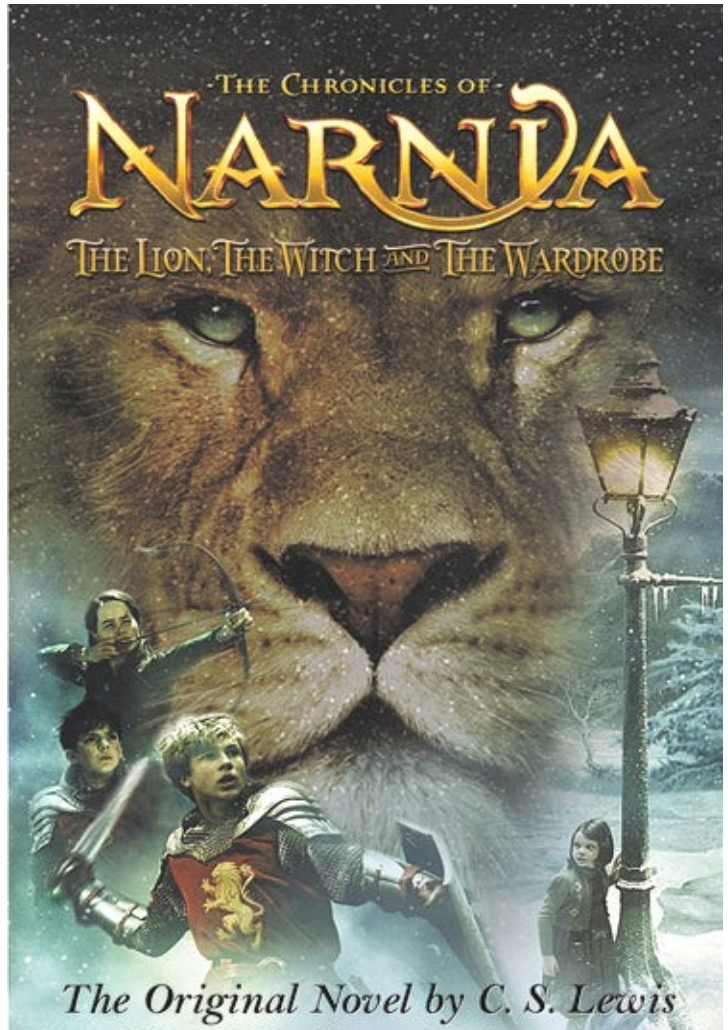
"Holy Spirit, still pour out **Jesus' fire** on His worshipers!"

All American Holidays

The weekend's worship will give God thanks in remembrance for those who gave their lives in **service to our nation.** The church office is closed on **Memorial Day Monday, May 29.**

Game On

Game Night returns to Concordia on Saturday **June 3, 5:30 p.m.** (after the 4:30 worship service). We will serve up **hot dogs, fruit and veggies** with dip, chips, slaw, and brownies. No charge, gifts welcome. Make friends playing **Bunco** or Rummikub. Or your favorite **card** game, or Sequence. Or **your favorite game** that you bring to share. **Bring a friend!** See Ellen Gaulke (941-400-6463) or Junne Ulbrich for info or to volunteer help.



Book Club

"Always winter, but never Christmas" - that line comes from the children's classic: **"The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe."** See so much of Jesus in that book, where He's dressed up as Aslan the lion. Ask Lei Ann Ahl in the church office to **borrow a copy.** Or check out the book from the public library. Do join us to discuss it on Sunday **June 11** at 6:30 pm.

We plan to read through all of C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia (7 slim books). Every two weeks we'll meet to share insights. Book Club gathers at Ellen **Gaulke's home, 5308 Sunnydale Circle North, Sarasota, 34233.**

A Note from the President

He has Risen!!!
He has Risen
Indeed!!! Greetings to all of you. It was great to see such a turnout for all services. I hope everyone enjoyed their holy week, which always reminds us that we are empty without Jesus in our heart.



The Bob White Welcome Center is coming along. With the direction of Cathy White and Junne Ulbrich, the welcome center will be a beautiful place for everyone. Also, want to thank Barbara Briggs for stepping up in the Fellowship role. Please feel free to volunteer and help us on Sundays. We appreciate the work and service of Gloria Bruggeman over the past years. All the best to you Gloria.

It is with sadness we say goodbye to Deaconess Andy and her husband Gary. I think once the role of Deaconess became more defined, Andy was able to help Concordia in many ways. We appreciate Andy for the time given to Concordia over the past years. We hope Andy and Gary stay in touch with their Concordia family.

Below is where we stand financially. As you can see, we are increasing the attendance and stewardship at Concordia. Many thanks to all of you who are making Concordia important with the Lord's House.

The Financial Year 2022:

Total Revenue \$499,057.76
Total Expenses \$516,705.26
Balance **(17,647.50)**

Through 3/31/23

Total Revenue \$133,724.35
Total Expenses \$94,893.62
Balance **\$38,830.73**

Please continue to pray for the Church, the Employees, and the Council. I will continue to make myself available for anything that is on your mind. I appreciate your support and may God Bless you this summer.

Dennis Jesse

Mobile: 614-286-0101

Email: djesse@jessemarketing.com

Silence In The Face Of Evil!

When we see evil happening in our fallen world, it naturally upsets us because we know in our souls that it's wrong. But do we speak up about it, or do we stay silent? Calling attention to evil is important yet challenging. Should we speak up or not when we witness something wrong?

Being silent about evil means ignoring the opportunities God gives us to do something redemptive in the evil situations we encounter.

It involves neglecting to bring attention to evil that's happening, rather than speaking up about it and taking action for justice. When we choose to be silent about evil, at best, we're helping that evil situation progress. Being silent about evil is essentially like agreeing with that evil. When we realize that our passive silence is actually an active choice not to stand against evil, that can motivate us to stop being silent about it.

Leviticus 5:1 points out that staying silent about evil is a sin for which people will be held accountable: "If anyone sins because they do not speak up when they hear a public charge to testify regarding something they have seen or learned about, they will be held responsible." James 4:17 declares "If anyone knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them." If we know God is calling us to speak out against evil but we choose to be silent despite that, we're sinning.

In Isaiah 58:1, God urges speaking up about sin: "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins." Ezekiel 3:18-19 urges speaking out to warn people who are sinning: "When I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their sins; but you will have saved yourself."

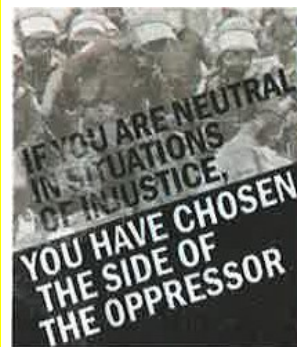
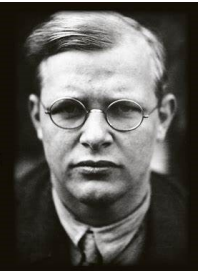
"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them" (Ephesians 5:11).

Submitted by Dr. Carl Pflug
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Christian Action News -
April 2023

"SILENCE IN THE FACE OF EVIL IS ITSELF EVIL: GOD WILL NOT HOLD US GUILTY. NOT TO SPEAK IS TO SPEAK. NOT TO ACT IS TO ACT."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

February 4, 1906 - April 9, 1945



Deaconess Notes Farewell

Four years can pass in a flash. I tend to get busy and time just passes by without noticing. Concordia was my first job as a deaconess as I am a second career person. So much to be learned and experienced.

Concordia has had some very good things happening over the past four years. We survived the pandemic and have come back strong. People have asked me what I feel I have accomplished in four years. I have only gone where God has led and I see growth here at Concordia. People are engaged and looking to the future and my part in that has only been to suggest how it might work and encourage members to step forward in faith.

Let's run down the list of things I hope are encouraging to you all as you go forward in faith with whoever comes to serve in the future.

- ◆ The men's Bible study faltered after Covid, but is now going forward with non-snowbird leaders who will continue to meet and welcome snowbirds to class again in the fall.
- ◆ A family night is active and continuing to engage families in Bible study and fun. We aren't yet ready to start up a new Sunday School or youth group but this group is reaching out to unchurched in the area and has enthusiastic leadership.
- ◆ We are moving forward with a young adult game night and have engaged several in meeting monthly to play games and grow relationships.
- ◆ The elders are engaging all of our homebound and other members are helping to transport some of our elderly to services so that they are no longer so homebound, but able to worship and commune with us.
- ◆ We had a huge attendance at Easter Services, the largest in my tenure, with at least seven new family units. Some saw our signs and came in to worship, while others found us on line. People contemplating retirement are checking out Sarasota and us and more young couples are finding us as they try out other LCMS churches in the area.
- ◆ We are just about ready to put up our new lending library, with plans to expand to possibly a food pantry offering at the same area. Members are working to erect and maintain this as we reach out to the community.
- ◆ The outreach committee is going to engage our 12 step groups by announcing all our activities in Willer Hall and presenting them with opportunities to serve on projects around the church grounds for various projects. As we engage them, we can then invite them to join us for meals and fellowship.

- ◆ Seven people attended 6 grief support gatherings and now the church owns this curriculum and can do it again as the need arises.

On the other hand:

Personally, I spent lots of time reaching out to those who have not been attending regularly and had conversations with several of them. We tried to figure out if they were attending elsewhere or have just fallen away from worship. We always try to encourage people to be fed with God's word at worship. If they are not being fed here at Concordia, are they being fed at all? Often not. How do we serve when they aren't engaging? This will always be a concern. A visit from me or Pastor is often not enough to engage them. We pray that they turn back to God and his mercy and we continue to engage.

I pray that I have shown that a deaconess can be helpful to the pastor and congregation and that deaconesses have a place in serving all in the church. I apologize if I didn't reach out to you personally in my four years here. A half-time position does have its limitations. We enjoyed our time here and will treasure the friendships grown in this time. I can honestly say that sand and humidity are not "my thing" and I won't miss that so much. People are "my thing" and I will miss you all more than you know. Until we meet again, and I know we will, God's joy and concord to you all. Deaconess Andy Gates: 30902 433rd Avenue, Yankton South Dakota 57078 (605) 660-8146.



Seasonal Worker... Who Next?

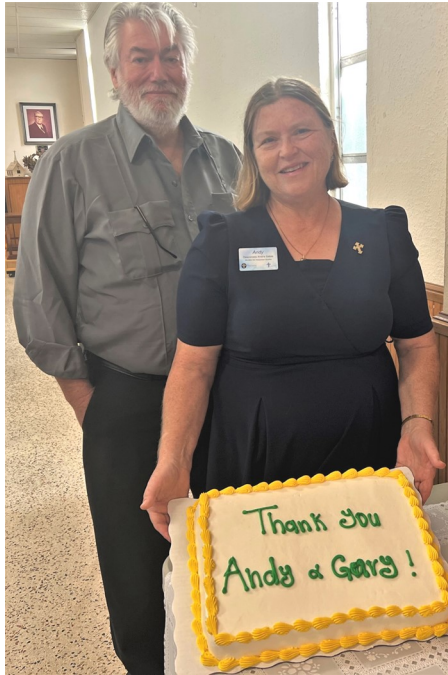
Seasonal Deaconess Andra "Andy" Gates served among us from November to April 26.

Our beloved **Deaconess for this her 4th season** helped us to: 1) **welcome** our worship guests, 2) **follow up** on guests, and 3) dialog with those who have not yet returned to worship about how we can best **share Jesus' gifts**. As the Lord enables, Dcs. Andy is also happy to 4) visit our **homebound** with our Elders, organizing their bringing Holy Communion to our homebound. And 5) she's bringing along others to train them. She helped start many new programs and projects, encouraging many more people to follow Jesus in new ventures.

Since 2018 we've hired an additional winter church worker through our **Winter Worker Fund**. Concordia donors continue to give generously to that **Dedicated Fund**. Dcs. Andy expects to be working new ministry in South Dakota next year, so will be unable to return to Sarasota next season.

Our **elders** **unanimously recommend** and Council concurred: Concordia will seek **another pastor or deaconess** to carry forward this half-year, half-time labor for Concordia's Lord! Already 4 pastors have applied. More church workers will prayerfully consider Concordia's ministry.

"Jesus, let Your Word among us draw many to Your forgiveness, Your Feast of life! Thank You for involving us all in Your wondrous work. Give **joy to Dcs. Andy** in her continued South Dakota service to You."



Summer Daze Off

The church office will be **closed on Mondays and Tuesdays** beginning **May 30** through **August 8**. **Lei Ann** will also be taking **July 5 -12** as vacation days. Lei Ann uses these as days to enjoy some summer family time.

Pastor Stephen takes **Mondays** as his year-round day off. He's regularly at the church office **Thursday** mornings. You can schedule a visit with him at **any time** and place best for you!

Aphasia Awareness Dinner

Enjoy dinner and learn from those "Living Successfully with Aphasia"

Saturday, June 24

5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Concordia Lutheran Church

Willer Hall

2185 Wood Street

Sarasota, FL 34237



Reaching new heights...Living with Aphasia

Please RSVP to reserve a seat

online aphasiasarasota.org

e-mail aphasiacommunitycenter@gmail.com

A Free Community Event

Hosted by the Aphasia Community Center

(941) 500-4748

Zoe Marie Ahl will be graduating from **Sarasota High School with her AICE Program Diploma** (Advanced International Certificate of Education) on May 19 as a **Top Decile Student** with **over 40 college credits** and graduated from the AICE program a year early. In the fall she will be attending **State College of Florida** for their **BSN Program** and then plans to

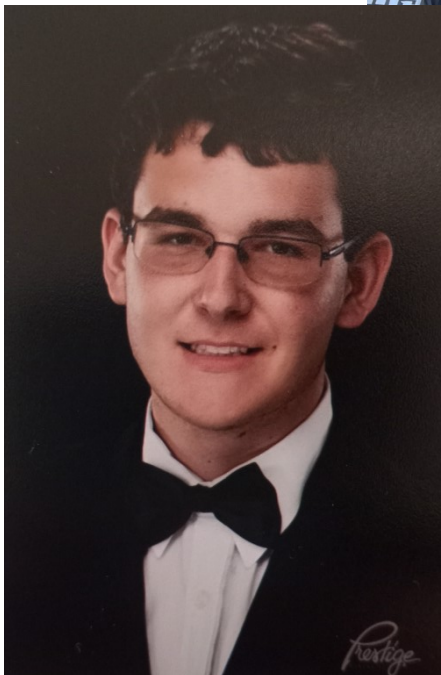
transfer to **Florida Southern College** for their **Physician Assistant Program**. Zoe is a member of **The National Honor Society**, a founding member of **Rho Kappa** (Social Studies National Honor Society) and enjoyed working with special needs students at



Sarasota High's **Our Special Place Club**. Zoe has been dancing since she was two years old, a competitive dancer at Stage Door Studios since she was seven and has enjoyed being a dance teacher's assistant since she was 11. Zoe plans to

work as a dance teacher at Stage Door Studios while attending college and hopes to start a D1 Level Dance Team at State College of Florida. Zoe was baptized at Concordia as an infant and confirmed her faith here in 2018. She is the third child and only daughter of Chuck and Lei Ann Ahl's four children.

Eli August Basinger will be graduating from **Manatee School for the Arts** on May 15. He enjoyed the **track team, throwing discus and shotput** during his time at school. Eli plans to attend **University of South Florida** in Tampa in the fall to study engineering. Eli was baptized at Concordia as an infant and confirmed his faith here in 2018. He is the youngest of Chris and Christie Basinger's three sons.



Nathanael Fred Gaulke graduates on May 6, **Summa Cum Laude**, with a degree in **Computer Science** from the **University of Central Florida**.

Nathanael worked three years as a **Resident Assistant** and two years as a **Teaching Assistant** in the

Computer Science department. He will begin work for **Charles Schwab** as a **software engineer**. He has chosen to remain in Orlando, though he will be working remotely for a team based in Phoenix. While in Orlando, he



attends St. John Lutheran Church in Winter Park. Nathanael has been a member of Concordia since 2004 when the family moved to Sarasota. He confirmed his faith in 2014. He is the fourth out of five children for Pastor and Ellen Gaulke.

Ella Grace Schaefer will be graduating from **Cardinal Mooney High School** on **May 12** in Sarasota and was active in their theatre program. She is planning on attending **Flagler College** in St. Augustine starting in the fall. Ella was



confirmed at Concordia in 2018. Ella is Dan and Vickie Schaefer's third of five children.

Thomas Keene Stochl will be graduating from **Lakewood Ranch High School** on May 17 and plans to attend the **University of Florida**. He is going in as an **undeclared major** but has an interest in **History and Geopolitics**. He's a founding member of the **Red Cross Club**, in the **National Honor Society** and a **3rd degree black belt in taekwondo**.



Thomas has been working as a lifeguard at the YMCA. Thomas was baptized as an infant at Shepherd's Creek Lutheran Church in Bradenton. He has been a member of Concordia since he was two years old, confirming his faith in 2019. Thomas is the eldest of Melissa Stochl's three children.



Nita Ball Scholarship

Concordia's "Nita Ball Scholarship Fund" is accepting **college students'** applications **now until June 6** (new date for 2023 deadline). Call Parish Secretary Lei Ann (365-0844) to have the application mailed to you. Address questions to Bob Ball (941-345-0202).

Education Grants

Did you know that your church's **Concordia Foundation** grants funds to assist those beside us at worship with their **costs of education**? That's pre-school, grammar, high school, college and technical students!

Apply now with a letter to the church office, attention to the Foundation. No application form is needed. You may apply even if you have been previously gifted by Concordia's Nita Ball Scholarship Fund.

In 2022 your Foundation awarded "**love gifts**" to help **7 of Concordia's collegians** (\$1,000 each) with "out of pocket" costs beyond tuition and board.

In 2023 your Foundation already issued a \$8,000 **matching grant** for our **St. Louis Seminary**. Your generosity can help with their costs for our own seminarian **Euder Paul's room** and board. (The Seminary and the seminarian have found other donors to cover his tuition costs.)

The Concordia Sarasota Foundation is **directed** by Sue Wiedeman (through 2023), Barbara Briggs ('24), Phyllis Kirtley ('25) and Gary Thomas ('26). We will award grants at our Thursday **August 6** meeting, 11:30 a.m.



ConcordiaSarasota.org

Is ConcordiaSarasota.org still waiting for your visit? You need not be a Facebook member to **see our photos** there. Do you have photos to share? We can display more on Facebook than we can print here.

Most weekend's **worship services** appear at ConcordiaSarasota.org.

Send the link to a friend.

May Birthdays

01	Charleen Gosselin Nathan Kelty
05	Doug Kresge
06	Graham Hildebrand
07	Micah Basinger Dave Steinman
08	Dave Brady Janet Lewis
10	David Evans Conrad Kresge Rick Reese Marya Smith
13	Nancy Hormann
14	Kylee Schaefer
16	Becky Reese Marilyn Schawk
19	Mike Granthon
20	Cosette Lawson
22	Michelle House
23	Lance Ahl Dan Schaefer
25	Russell Hart
27	Jayne New Euder Paul
28	Maes (Yarrish) Sandine Nathan Sisk Rick Wiedeman
30	Kay Oetting

May Anniversaries

11	Scott and Ruth Montgomery - 38th
15	Greg and Mary Ostermann - 46th

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 Laura Hysell, from Gloria Bruggeman for the Fellowship Fund.

In memory of Shirley Scharfetter, from John and Susan Braun for the Altar Guild Memorial Fund; from Dick and Betty Fredlund for the Altar Guild Memorial Fund; and from Rick and Audrey Smith for the Altar Guild Memorial Fund.

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

Homebound Easter Roses

Thank you to Barbara Briggs, Audrey Hart, Dawn Mowery and Paul Mowery for helping deliver Easter Roses to Concordia's homebound and friends on Good Friday. Sincerely,
Gloria Bruggeman

Easter Breakfast Thanks

Thank you everyone who helped set up tables and those who helped clean up. Really appreciate the help with washing dishes. Thanks to everyone who brought in the delicious egg casseroles, pastries, fruit and hardboiled eggs. Sincerely,
Gloria Bruggeman

2023 Attendance - Giving Overview

2018: 182 avg. att. (9,464) up 4%.
\$323,795, up 5%.
2019: 177 avg. att. (9,216), down 3%.
\$315,146, down 3%.
2020: 104 avg. att. (5,415), down 41%.
\$330,340, up 5%.
2021: 115 avg. att. (6,022) up 10%.
\$344,185, up 4%.
2022: 127 avg. att. (6,595) up 10%.
\$334,152, down 3%.

General Offerings

2022, 16 wks: 177 avg. att. (2,835)
16 weeks: \$112,211
2023, 16 wks: 180 avg. att. (2,877), **up 2%**
16 weeks: \$133,446, **up 19%**.

Some 2023 Dedicated Gifts (to Apr. 16)

Ch. Restroom Renov. \$46,017 (2019-23 total)
Foundation \$355
Haiti Mission \$786
Missionary Lawson (Russia) \$0
New Church Worker (Deaconess) \$200
Seminarian Euder Paul \$1,500

Ded. Funds total \$372,944
(Ded. Funds 2023 bal. down \$13,835)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 ***7 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg.	2 6 p.m. Council Meeting	3 ***7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	4 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Willer (library)	5 Pastor on vacation through May 19	6 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion, Dennis Liebich, Guest Pastor
7 Easter 5 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion, Dennis Liebich, Guest Pastor 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion, Dennis Liebich, Guest	8 ***	9	10 ***	11 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Willer (library)	12	13 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion, Dennis Liebich, Guest Pastor
14 Easter 6 Mother's Day 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion, Dennis Liebich, Guest Pastor 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion, Dennis Liebich, Guest	15 ***	16 June/July Newsletter Deadline	17 ***	18 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Willer (library)	19 Pastor returns from vacation 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Organ Concert in Willer Hall	20 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 8 a.m. Private event in Willer Hall 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
21 Easter 7 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion	22 ***	23	24 6p.m. Family night ***	25 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Willer (library) 2 p.m. Elders' Meeting	26	27 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
28 Pentecost 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion	29 Memorial Day Church office closed ***	30 Church office closed	31 ***	1 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Willer (library)	2	3 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. Game Night with Food

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

2023 Easter Lilies

- ❖ Lei Ann Ahl and Family in memory of mother, Anita Bixler and sister Tricia Bixler-Maxson
- ❖ Gloria Bruggeman to honor Jesus, thankful for blessings received and in memory of husband, Carl and mother, LWayway De Guzman
- ❖ Judy Christian in memory of husband, Ed
- ❖ Russell and Audrey Hart in celebration of Concordia's brothers and sisters in Christ
- ❖ Lori and David Hertzberg & Family in honor and celebration of Clayton and Jan Schnarr
- ❖ Dennis Jesse & Faby Napoleon in memory of Orphilise Napoleon
- ❖ Gail Keilty and Family in memory of parents, Joseph and Madeline Stoothoff; in memory of brother, Thomas Stoothoff
- ❖ Gail Keilty and grandsons John, Conner and Gavin in memory of Gail's daughter and mother to her grandsons, Nancy Palamara
- ❖ Tracie Malone in memory of Tom and Millie Malone
- ❖ Aaron and Judy Mattes for blessings received
- ❖ Shirley Mead in memory of parents, H. Theodore and Helen Beharrell
- ❖ Karla Porter in memory of parents, James and Helen Porter
- ❖ Rose Reese in memory of husband, Bill
- ❖ Don and Sandy Zaloudek in memory of Jim Speckmeier; in memory of Bob and Julia Murphy; and in memory of Robert and Anne Letsinger

Altar Flowers

Please consider purchasing the Lord's altar's fresh flowers. **Commemorate** a special occasion or **honor** a loved one? Altar flowers **cost \$30 for one bouquet and \$60 for both.** Find the special envelopes in the pews, and in the church entryway next to the sign up poster.

After Sunday's 11 a.m. worship we will place the flowers in a vase for you to **take home.** Or you may donate them for delivery to our hospitalized or home-bound members.

Would you like to **help care for the Lord's altar?** Please speak to Junne Ulbrich, our Guild president. Or any of the volunteers you see helping. The Altar Guild does **not meet** in the summer.

Thank you for your continued support so these flowers adorn the Lord's altar. We offer the sweet fragrance to Jesus!

"Heavenly Father, let these flowers show us the joyfulness, goodness, the beauty of You, their Creator. Let us gladly **grasp Your gifts** and find delight in serving You at Your altar."



Refugee Ministry Update

Concordia members continue to work with people of St. Armand's Key Lutheran Church and Lutheran Services Florida to impact the lives of refugees in our area. Our effort, with

God's grace provides food, clothing, furniture, and household goods.



Since the new year, we have completed eight pick ups of furniture, given out 18 bags of food, eight bags of cleaning supplies, and eight bags of personal hygiene supplies.

We have also provided three expectant mothers with furniture, car seats,

clothing, and needed newborn items. This was made possible by three separate generous donations of cribs and dressers for babies.

We have collected and given furniture and household items to two Ukrainian families, two Cuban families, and one Columbian family.

In addition, 10 bikes with helmets and tire pumps were repaired and given out to help refugees get to work and around the community.

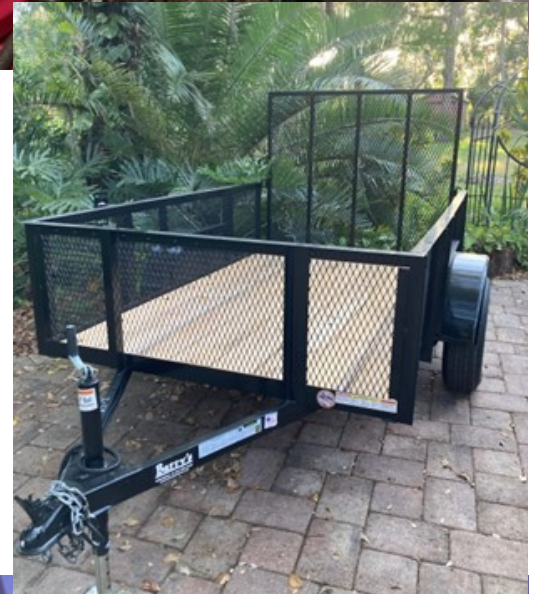
The Concordia Foundation helped by making a generous \$500 donation towards a new trailer (photo) we purchased to make it easier to collect donations. Some furniture won't fit even in a van!

We would love to have new Concordia volunteers to help retrieve and deliver donations.

Whatever you can do, you will be blessed in giving your time, talents, or treasures to this outreach ministry.

Some of the greatest blessings of helping out are seeing the joy and thankfulness on the faces of family members as they receive these gifts to get them started and settled in a new life of freedom.

If you have donations or questions contact Gary Thomas at grthomas57@gmail.com or phone on 410-868-9935.



Thank you,
Concordia's Refugee Ministry Team

Concordia Anniversary

When is Concordia's **birthday**?

On February 2, 1947 a small group gathered by Pastors Elmer **Bergt** (Tampa) and Edmund **Lammert** (Clearwater) **first worshiped** together at the Sarasota's Women's City Club.

On **May 21, 1947** at the Valentine Anderson home a group of nine founders voted to continue services, choosing the name "**Concordia Lutheran.**"

On July 16, 1947 the **first Service of Holy Communion** was celebrated at the rented Seventh Day Adventist Church. Vicar LaVern **Brack** arrived to assist Pastor Bergt. Vicar Brack and Melvin Rebber started the Sunday school. The first official voters' meeting followed on January 18, 1948

On July 27, 1952 ground was broken for our **first worship home**, now our Fellowship Hall. In 1953 Rev. Luther **Willer**, who had been serving us as District Missionary-at-Large, accepted the call as our first pastor. Ground broken on June 9, 1957, our sanctuary was dedicated February 23, 1958.

Did you notice this? From 1947 to 1953 our Concordia was **started by generous funds** from our big sister churches, the people of the **Florida-Georgia District** (and her predecessor the LCMS' Southern District). Jesus works through His family!



"When do You count Concordia's **birthday**, Jesus? We thank You for the **Spirit's work** then and today! Let us again today sacrificially and gladly give of ourselves. Make us be part of Your story, Your growing of the Father's forever family!"

Our Mission Remains the Same...

Living as Christ's Witnesses

Celebrating 75 Years of Mission



The Goal

Our GOAL is to raise \$1.5 million by September 2023. These funds will enable us to provide \$150,000 in grants to start ten congregations over the next five years.

For every \$2 given, \$1 will be matched.

Help us reach this goal to connect many more people to Jesus!

flgadistrict.org/give

"New starts reach more new people for Christ."



"Living as along-siders, means going to where people are!"

Celebrating 75 Years of Mission & Growth

The Florida-Georgia District began in 1948 with 22 congregations, today we are 192 strong. Less than 45% of the US is connected to the Body of Christ and the population of our states continues growing by nearly 2% per year.

God is calling us to "Go and make disciples" and planting new congregations is essential to reaching more with God's love and the only message of hope!



FL-GA District Anniversary

Did you know that Concordia is one of the 22 founding congregations of the Florida-Georgia District? Our LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) nation-wide network of sister churches has flourished in our state! Happy 75th **birthday** to our District church family!

You may contribute to the FL-GA District's **continued church planting** with your gift through Concordia. Please pen your check to "**Concordia**" and write on the memo line and your envelope the designation:

"District Anniversary."

Thank you!

Living As Christ's Witnesses So That All People Come to Faith

- 192 Congregations walking together
- 59 Schools and Early Learning Centers
- Mission driven since 1948
- Sharing God's love with all people in an ever-diverse society
- Offering the only true and unchanging hope for this life and eternity

"For such a time as this!" God has brought us together to be His hands and feet to a lost and hurting world.

The people of the Florida-Georgia District are committed to being a beacon of hope through the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all people!

Our task is urgent! We ask for your prayers and financial partnership so that many more will experience Christ's love now and in eternity!

"Lamb of God, make Your church to grow among us. Let Your **church grow** also through us!

"You who took away the sin of the world, show Your love and power by bringing many more of your brothers and sisters home to Your **Father's forever family.**

"Let Your **Spirit flow!** Amen."



"Every congregation is a mission planting congregation. Start something new!"



Imagine... together, we can do this!

Imagine... if each person and every congregation gave a thank offering, we would reach our goal!

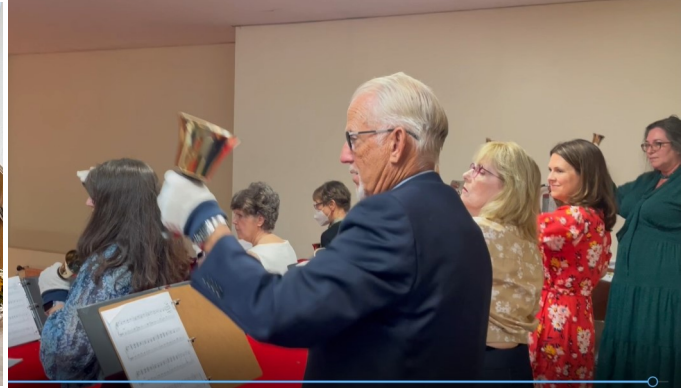
Imagine... the joy over lives transformed and each new believer.

Imagine... the renewed excitement and revitalization in our congregations.

Visit the FLGA District website to learn how you can be Christ's Witness with your financial support.



Scan the QR code or visit flgadistrict.org/celebrating75years



Pastor Stephen enjoyed April 17's week of learning in Baltimore with **Lutherans in Transitional Ministry Association** . Thanks!

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 for others, service).



Editor's Notes...



The deadline to submit articles for the **June/July 2023** issue of "*The Courier*" is **May 16**. You may mail information to the church office 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, with one June/July ISSUE. 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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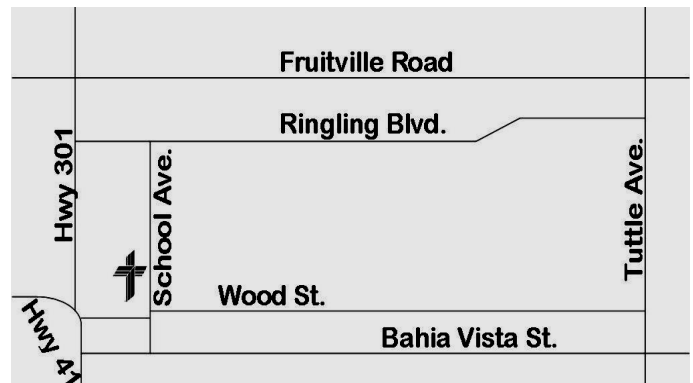
Concordia Lutheran Church

2023 Church Officers

President..... Dennis Jesse614-286-0101
Vice-President Phyllis Kirtley941-921-9150
Treasurer Thomas Mann660-379-7630
Secretary Ruth Bogenberger....941-412-4466
Financial Secretary ... Wayne Ulbrich.....815-600-4815

2023 Board Chairpersons

Worship Alice Williams941-957-1090
Education..... Julie Smith813-361-7325
Outreach..... Dawn Mowery678-230-0208
Fellowship..... Barbara Briggs941-955-1148
Service..... Margo Arehart419-810-0853
Properties Dave Meadows941-685-6711



The Concordia Courier
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The Concordia Courier

May 2023

Worship Schedule

Worship Services

Saturday Chapel Worship 4:30 pm
Sunday Contemporary Worship 9 am
Sunday School and Bible Study 10 am
Sunday Traditional Worship 11 am

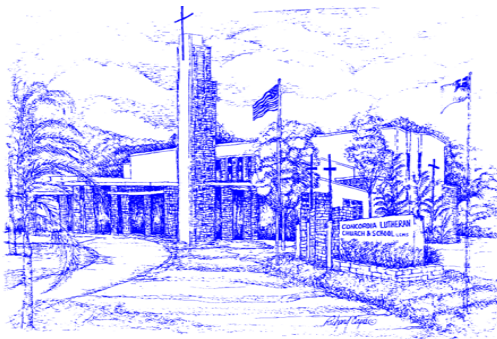
Holy Communion

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
Lei Ann Ahl Parish Secretary / Bookkeeper
Johnora L. Hildebrand Music Director
Dawn Brown Praise Band Leader



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Facebook: search Concordia Sarasota

Summer Office Hours:
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Wednesday-Friday)

