

The Concordia Courier

A Publication Of Concordia Lutheran Church

† JESUS' HARMONY FOR THE HEART OF SARASOTA † June/July 2023

Can You Hear, "I Forgive You"?

What is confession?

Confession has two parts. First that we confess our **sins**, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, **forgiveness** from the pastor as **from God Himself**, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of **all sins**, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but **before the pastor** we should confess only those **sins which we know and feel** in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider **your place in life** according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you **hurt someone** by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

What is the Office of the Keys?*

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to **forgive the sins of repentant sinners**, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?*

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, **they are forgiven**; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22-23)

What do you believe according to these words?*

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ **our dear Lord dealt with us Himself**.

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.

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 to 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!

Worship's Scripture

June 3, 4 - Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Acts 2:14a, 22-36
Matthew 28:16-20

June 10, 11 - Pentecost 2

Hosea 5:15-6:6
Romans 4:13-25
Matthew 9:9-13

June 17, 18 - Pentecost 3

Exodus 19:2-8
Romans 5:6-15
Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-20)

June 24, 25 - Pentecost 4

Jeremiah 20:7-13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

July 1, 2 - Pentecost 5

Jeremiah 28:5-9
Romans 7:1-13
Matthew 10:34-42

July 8, 9 - Pentecost 6

Zechariah 9:9-12
Romans 7:14-25a
Matthew 11:25-30

July 15, 16 - Pentecost 7

Isaiah 55:10-13
Romans 8:12-17
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 22, 23 - Pentecost 8

Isaiah 44:6-8
Romans 8:18-27
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 29, 30 - Pentecost 9

Deuteronomy 7:6-9
Romans 8:28-39
Matthew 13:44-52



Game On

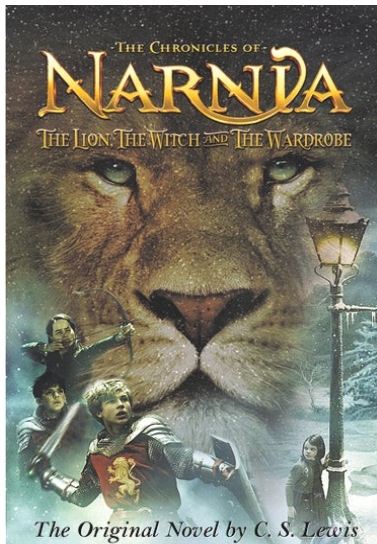
Game Night returns to Concordia on **Saturday June 3**, 5:30 p.m. (after the 4:30 worship service). We will serve up **hot dogs, fruit and veggies** with dip, chips, slaw, and brownies. No charge, gifts welcome. Make friends playing **Bunco** or Rummikub. Or your favorite **card** game, or Sequence. 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.

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 (941-365-0844) to have the application mailed to you. Address questions to Bob Ball (941-345-0202).

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 in the church office to **borrow a copy**. Or check out the book from the public library. Do join the discussion 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). Perhaps every two weeks we'll meet to share insights. Coming dates to be announced in the worship bulletins. Book Club gathers at **Ellen Gaulke's home**, 5308 Sunnydale Circle North, Sarasota, 34233.

Young Adults Game Night

Please join us on **Thursday June 15** at 6 p.m. for a rousing evening of fellowship, fun and food :) The second time, **Thursday July 20!**

This gathering is meant for **singles, couples** and those who are young at heart. (Sarasota "young" is a relative thing... if wondering, please join us.)

Feel free to bring your **children**. As well as your favorite games. And **friends!**

For ideas and to R.S.V.P., please phone Lei Ann at the church office (941-365-0844).

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

Open Console Organ Treat

The **Lunch Open Organ Opportunity** at Concordia welcomes all nearly very **third** Friday unless there is a conflict with our guest organist. Watch our weekly bulletins or call the church office for updates. Come **Fridays June 16 and July 21** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (10 a.m set up.) Do you play? Please bring your music and let us listen. Do you listen? Bring your friendship. 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.

Father's Day

Sunday, **June 19** - Happy Father's Day to all of you dads! God bless you, and all of you men who care for us with a **father's love**.

Who knows? You may get lots of hugs at our weekend's worship. We do **give God thanks** for you. As you've done before, this day bless your children!

July (Only) Worship Blended

On July 2, with our **Independence Day** worship celebration, we begin our July (Only) Sunday service schedule:

9 a.m. Bible study – Friendship, cool drinks, coffee, pastries. Here's an extra moment to digest Jesus' good Word and His wonders in our lives today.

10 a.m. Worship – Worship begins with praise band songs and prayer projected on the screen (like other month's 9 a.m. worship). After we take to heart God's Word in the sermon, the hymnal and organ (like other month's 11 a.m. worship) will lead us to the Lord's Supper. We'll commune with Christ and with His people, including friends from "the other service"!

Our **Saturday 4:30 p.m. worship** continues "as is" year round. Here's your great **alternate opportunity**, no matter the month!

As in previous years we'll blend only **July's worship**. **Sunday August 6** returns to our "11 month" Sunday schedule.

"**Come to us, Jesus**, in our worship. In every season speak to us Your sweet Word and feed us with Your faith-sustaining sacramental Body and Blood!"

God Bless America

Our **July 1 and 2** worship asks God's continued **blessing on the U.S.A.!** Our Parish Secretary receives the day off Tuesday July 4.

Good News-letter

Our **August 2023** Concordia Courier seeks articles, due Tuesday **July 18**. Can you **help the crew fold** the news for mailing? Do tell Parish Secretary Lei Ann (941-365-0844).

Thank you to May's Courier folders: Gloria Bruggeman, Joyanne Fathauer, and Loraine Tafel. Gloria Bruggeman took **260 newsletters** to the postal center. Another **180 homes** prefer their Courier by email.

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

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.

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).

Social & Service Gathering

BLESSED ARE THE CAREGIVERS

Join us to fill baskets with snacks for the caregivers of
Concordia's nursing home residents.

Tuesday, July 25 - 6:30 p.m.

At the home of Pastor and Ellen Gaulke

5308 North Sunnysdale Circle, Sarasota

Questions: Call Margo Arehart (419-810-0853)



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

What giant killer could take down the **killer giant Goliath**?

None less than any one of these little " **Davids**," like you, armed with the Lord's sure slingshot!
Life's **all from Jesus**, all the joy for you. Fear not!



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. We've begun our interviews... Pray!

"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. In Your mercy, as You gave to us Dcs. Andy, send **another servant** shaped by Your heart!"

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."



June Birthdays

03	Janet Leinberger Debra Namors
07	Amy Bogenberger
08	Lynda Williams
09	Gabriela Schmidt
10	Melissa Stochl
13	Lee Frayer
14	June Hennessy
16	Al Harants Kenneth Whitlow
17	Tina Granthon
18	Mel Collins
19	Eileen Zeugin
20	Gary Bogenberger Ruth Bogenberger Dawn Mowery
21	Kyle Brown
22	Judy Christian Tom Mann
23	Natasha Kenney Jacob Stochl - 16th
24	Michelle Kuchta
26	Wade Hanrahan
29	Stephanie Hoepfner-Johnson
30	Ryan Brown

June Anniversaries

06	Tony and Carol (Brink) Coluccio - 2nd Jerry and Patty Lawson
07	Steve and Linda Garrisi - 48th
11	Rich and Mary Reiter - 22nd
12	Cory and Pam Biladeau - 19th
14	Pastor Stephen and Ellen Gaulke - 42nd Brian and Cheryl Griesbach - 37th
20	Gary and Deaconess Andy Gates - 43rd Terry and Penny Miller - 53rd
21	Sean and Nikki Lutsch - 26th
25	Rick and Becky Reese - 40th
27	Paul and Dawn Mowery - 53rd

July Birthdays

02	Sue Pryer-Bell Denny Williams
04	Norm Johnson Nancy Shi
05	Chris Brown Ethan Schaefer
06	Mary Gaulke Dick Reese
07	Carlos Miranda
08	Brian Griesbach Lucas Hoepfner-Johnson - 6th
10	Ella Schaefer
11	Pam Battles
12	Eli Basinger - 18th Diane Horn Jim Simpson
15	David Billingsley Gary Gosselin
19	Darwin Hormann
22	Diane Scott Sharon Woerner
28	Gail Keilty
29	Bill Easterday
31	Ethan Cruzio - 9th

July Anniversaries

07	Dan and Vickie Schaefer - 16th
13	Mark and Kathleen Witte - 41st
21	Dave and Trudi Evans - 28th
24	Cleve Crossman & Kathleen Yarrington 2nd
25	Tom and Sue Bosman - 57th
27	Wayne and Junne Ulbrich - 43rd
28	Norm and Nancy Johnson - 33rd
29	Carlos and Jeana Miranda - 4th Mike and Kay Oetting - 61st

Birthday or anniversary missing? Please pardon us. And let us know (941-365-0844) when we miss dates. **Share the celebration!**

JUNE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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
Holy Trinity 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	5 Church office closed ***7 p.m. AI-Anon Mtg.	6 Church office closed	7 ***7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	8 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)	9	10 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
11 Pentecost 2 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 6:30 p.m. Book Club at the Gaulke's, 5308 Sunnydale Circle North, Sarasota	12 Church office closed ***	13 Church office closed	14 ***	15 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) 6 p.m. Young Adult Game Night (with food)	16 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Console Organ Concert in Willer Hall	17 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
18 Pentecost 3 Father's Day 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	19 Church office closed ***	20 Church office closed	21 ***	22 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)	23 Set-up for a private event in Willer Hall	24 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. Aphasia Dinner Event
25 Pentecost 5 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	26 Church office closed ***	27 Church office closed	28 6:30 p.m. Outreach Mtg. ***	29 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)	30	1 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship 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.

JULY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Pentecost 5 9 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 10 a.m. July (Only) Combined Worship with Holy Communion	3 Church office closed ***7 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg.	4 Independence Day Church office closed	5 Lei Ann on vacation through July 12 Church office closed ***7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	6 Church office closed 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall	7 Church office closed	1 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion 8 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
9 Pentecost 6 9 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 10 a.m. July (Only) Combined Worship with Holy Communion	10 Church office closed ***	11 Church office closed 2 p.m. Elder's Mtg.	12 Church office closed ***	13 Lei Ann returns from vacation 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall	14	15 8 a.m. Private event in Willer Hall 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
16 Pentecost 7 9 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 10 a.m. July (Only) Combined Worship with Holy Communion	17 Church office closed ***	18 Church office closed August Newsletter Deadline	19 ***	20 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall 6 p.m. Young Adult Game Night (with food)	21 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Open Console Organ Concert in Willer Hall	22 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
23 Pentecost 8 9 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 10 a.m. July (Only) Combined Worship with Holy Communion	24 Church office closed ***	25 Church office closed	26 ***	27 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall	28	29 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
30 Pentecost 9 9 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 10 a.m. July (Only) Combined Worship with Holy Communion	31 Church office closed ***	1 Church office closed	2 ***	3 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall	4	5 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship 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.

A Note from the President

Greetings to all of you. Summer has started in Florida. I hope you are staying cool and remember to get prepared for the upcoming Hurricane Season.



Concordia continues to be a busy place. Many events are planned for the coming months, so we hope to see you there. Since the start of the year, we have replaced 2 people at Church Foundation and have replaced 3 people on the Council. Council has wrapped up for a couple of months. Again, I want to thank everybody for their time and service. This is a thankless job, but it is much appreciated. Our next meeting will be August 8th. The new people are energetic and want to help in bringing more of Jesus' spirit to Concordia. Over the last month we lost a great brother in Walt Naughton. His service to Concordia will be missed and we ask that you continue to pray for the Naughton Family. After many conversations, Tom Mann has agreed to fill in as Treasurer. Tom is very qualified to handle the duties at Concordia. Tom, thank you for stepping up and helping the team.

Church attendance and offerings continue to grow. I want to thank all of you for increasing your giving. Giving six dollars more a week helps us in achieving our goal to reach \$8,200.00 in weekly offerings. We are blessed to have great members who are helping achieve this goal.

Below is where we stand financially. Many thanks to all of you who are making Concordia important.

Through 4/30/23
 Total Revenue \$183,229.99
 Total Expenses \$133,077.56
 Balance **\$50,146.43**

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

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, 20 wks: 164.50 avg. att. (3,292)
 20 weeks: \$139,733
2023, 20 wks: 166.25 avg. att. (3,325), **up 1%**
 20 weeks: \$156,264, **up 12%**

Some 2023 Dedicated Gifts (to May 14)

Ch. Restroom Renov. \$46,017 (2019-23 total)
 Foundation \$1,560
 Haiti Mission \$786
 Missionary Lawson (Russia) \$0
 New Church Worker (Deaconess) \$200
 Seminarian Euder Paul \$1,700
Ded. Funds total \$371,858
 (Ded. Funds 2023 bal. down \$14,921)

Memorials Received

In memory of Shirley Scharfetter,
 from Heather Carroll for the Altar Guild
 Memorial Fund.

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

Special Thank You

I would like to thank Concordia and the Deaconess so much for the walker with the seat on it. It makes it so much easier to get around in the house.

God's Blessings,
 Ila Jean Wright



Concordia Council Minutes Thursday, March 16, 2023

Members in attendance: President-Dennis Jesse, Vice President-Phyllis Kirtley, Secretary-Ruth Bogenberger, Financial Secretary-Wayne Ulbrich, Worship-Alice Williams, Outreach-Dawn Mowery, Education-Julie Smith, Fellowship-Gloria Bruggeman, Properties-Dave Meadows, and Pastor Stephen Gaulke.

Members not present: Treasurer-Walt Naughton, Service-Margo Arehart

Guests present: Deaconess Andy Gates and Judy Dennis

Constitutional quorum in person

The meeting was called to order by Phyllis Kirtley at 6:00 P.M.

Opening Devotion: Ephesians 5:8-14 was read and discussed.

Secretary's Report: January's minutes were unanimously approved with the following correction suggested by Alice Williams: The suggested paid workers increase is 8.7% cost of living plus 0.5% merit. The motion to approve January's meeting minutes was made by Phyllis Kirtley and seconded by Ruth Bogenberger.

Vice President's Report: Phyllis Kirtley had nothing to report.

Outreach Report: Dawn Mowery said that the advertisement of Concordia and church events will increase. A radio commercial will invite people to our Easter breakfast and egg hunt. The Biladeaus are holding a young adults event on April 14th. Attendance at the fire pit doubled from last year, including 10 first timers participating. 30 new people will attend friendship dinners on March 21st and sometime in April. The next Outreach meeting will be held on April 25th. All are welcome to attend.

Properties Report: Dave Meadows said that New Beginnings preschool leaders asked if the church planned to replace the removed tree from the playground to regain shade. Because the cost of a mature tree is prohibitive, wind sails may be a more economical alternative. Dave plans to organize a leaf cleanup soon. The roofs need to be power washed as well. Dave's search for the best property insurance rates is ongoing. The greatest component will be wind/storm insurance. Phyllis Kirtley called for a vote on these two items: Accepting \$7,000 from the Women's Guild to improve the appearance of the Narthex and naming the new Welcome Center after the late member, Bob White. Dawn Mowery made the motion and Dennis Jesse seconded. The vote for both items was unanimously carried.

Leadership Report: Pastor Stephen reminded the Council that a financial review still needs to be completed. Margo Arehart agreed to do that some time ago. Pastor Stephen said that the elders unanimously recommended the hiring of a new seasonal worker for the 2023-2024 term. The Council approved the elders' recommendation. The Lutheran Services Florida Good Samaritan award will be presented in church on March 26th to the four ladies instrumental in carrying out the rummage sale each year. Deaconess Andy said that she is working with committees to make sure her programs will continue when she returns to South Dakota.

Education Report: Julie Smith said that family nights are occurring each month.

Fellowship Report: Gloria Bruggeman tendered her resignation effective April 10th.

Highlights of the May 2, 2023 Concordia Council Meeting

(Complete minutes will be published after approval at the August 8th meeting)

Actions taken:

- ❖ The Council approved Phyllis Kirtley's suggestion to accept Tom Mann for the Treasurer position vacated by the passing of Walt Naughton.
- ❖ The Council approved Phyllis Kirtley's suggestion to accept Barbara Briggs for the Fellowship Chair position vacated by the resignation of Gloria Bruggeman.
- ❖ Tom Mann and church secretary/bookkeeper Lei Ann Ahl will consolidate unused dedicated funds for transfer to the General Fund. Their recommendations will be presented to the Council for approval.
- ❖ The Council voted to substitute the better Allen organ for the current Baldwin organ.

Council Minutes (continued)

Financial Secretary's Report: Wayne Ulbrich said that deposits are being done successfully. Wayne referred the Council to Pastor Stephen's report which says attendance is up 5% year to date and offerings are up 14% for the same period.

Worship Report: Alice Williams reported that the elders are serving 27 homebound members. She further stated that we have four individuals interested in the seasonal worker position. Alice shared Pastor David Dahlke's suggestions for the health and healing of our church. The elders have a plan in place and are speaking to the 15 church members who signed the letter in January outlining their grievances. She stated that some responses have been positive and some have not.

President's Report: Dennis Jesse and Ruth Bogenberger suggested some new procedures for the Voter's Meeting in order to streamline and validate the process. Going forward, ballots must be signed for, and results will be tallied directly after the meeting in the church building. Phyllis Kirtley made a motion which was seconded by Dennis Jesse. The motion passed unanimously. Dennis recommended a new policy for paid church workers beginning in 2024 that all personal and vacation days may not carry over to the following year. A motion made by Dennis Jesse and seconded by Phyllis Kirtley was unanimously approved by the Council. Dennis further announced that performance appraisals should be available in May or June. The Synod has models that may be considered for each position. The council was asked to consider acquiring a third organ. Dennis Jesse made a motion which was seconded by Ruth Bogenberger not to accept a third organ. The motion was unanimously approved by the Council. Dennis suggested a change in how Council minutes are reported. Minutes will no longer be published before the next Council meeting where they will be read aloud by the secretary and all present may suggest any necessary corrections. The Council secretary will prepare an overview of actions taken within a week of the meeting as a way to inform congregants before the next meeting, which may be two or three months away.

Old Business: None

New Business: Pastor Stephen suggested that the Council formulate a plan on how to address length of service when an incoming Council member assumes someone else's term before it is complete.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 P.M. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The Next Council meeting is scheduled for **May 2, 2023**, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Bogenberger
Council Secretary

Seminarian Paul Thanks

Dear Pastor Stephen and Council Members,
Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I trust you are all doing well. I want to say a special thanks to you for accepting to be my spiritual and economic supports during this year in my formation. This all your special economic supports allowed me to study and had better sense of discernment during my time on campus for my formation and my vocation. I want to be a Lutheran pastor, without your supports, I couldn't be and I can't be on campus to continue this process.

May God continue to bless you for your services, helps and your ministry into the Church as the body of Christ in our world and the daily life of other brothers and sisters.

I continue to say thank you for your helps. I continue to seek your prayer's support as I continue my formation to the M. Div. program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. I am so thankful and grateful for everything. Jesus continues to come to us through His Word, and Sacraments. Yes, it is true. We Christians believe now with eyes of faith until we see Jesus in glory with the eyes in our head.

Euder Paul, seminarian
Concordia Seminary
St. Louis MO

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 **August 2023** issue of "*The Courier*" is **July 18**. 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.

U.S. POST OFFICE I.D. STATEMENT

Title: "THE COURIER"
 Issue Date: JUNE/JULY 2023
 Statement of Frequency: MONTHLY
 Authorized Origin: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
 2185 WOOD STREET
 SARASOTA, FL 34237-7915
 Issue Number: 06/07-23

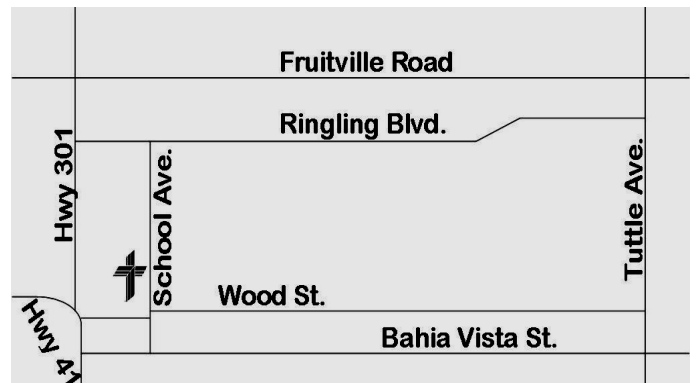
Concordia Lutheran Church

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

Return Service Requested

June/July 2023

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Manasota,
Florida
Permit No. 1230



The Concordia Courier

June/July 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

July Only Worship Services

Saturday Chapel Worship 4:30 pm
Sunday School and Bible Study 8 am
Sunday Blended Worship 10 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!

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



Concordia Lutheran Church, LC-MS

2185 Wood Street
Sarasota, FL 34237-7915
Ph: (941)365-0844

E-Mail: "concordia5@juno.com"
Website: www.ConcordiaSarasota.org

Facebook: search Concordia Sarasota

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

