

The Concordia Courier

A Publication Of Concordia Lutheran Church

† **JESUS' HARMONY FOR THE HEART OF SARASOTA** † November 2023

How Do You Wake Up? Tuck In?

Daily Prayers – How the head of the family should teach his household to pray morning and evening.

Morning Prayer

In the morning when you get up, make the **sign of the holy cross** and say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little prayer:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would **keep me this day** also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For **into Your hands** I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then **go joyfully** to your work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion may suggest.

Evening Prayer

In the evening when you go to bed, make the **sign of the holy cross** and say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Then kneeling or standing, repeat the **Creed** and the Lord's Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little prayer:

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would **forgive me all** my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go to sleep at once and in **good cheer**.

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.

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** will begin to meet again in December 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).

Choir Rehearsal

The choir practices **each Wednesday** 7 to 8 p.m. **Everyone is welcome!** We sing near the start of the 11 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
"Lord, You are **our Song!**"

Altar Guild Meeting

Altar Guild bids you to meet with us on

Thursday November 2 at 9:30 am. in Willer Hall.

If you cannot attend meetings but would like to **help the Guild**, please call Junne Ulbrich at 815-955-6215. You may serve.

"Let us serve as You serve us, living Lord!"

Worship's Scripture

Oct. 28, 29 - Reformation Day

Revelation 14:6-7
Romans 3:19-28
Matthew 11:12-19

Nov. 4, 5 - All Saints' Day

Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

Nov. 11, 12 - Pentecost 24

Amos 5:18-24
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Nov. 18, 19 - Pentecost 25

Zephaniah 1:7-16
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Nov. 22 - Thanksgiving Eve

Deuteronomy 8:1-10
1 Timothy 2:1-4
Luke 17:11-19

Nov. 25, 26 - Last Sunday of the Church Year

Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24
1 Corinthians 15:20-28
Matthew 25:31-46

Bake Sale Goodies Needed

Get out your baking sheets, your pie pans and your muffin tins! Concordia's Fall Festival and Craft Fair on Saturday, November 4 includes a Bake Sale and we need you!

Drop off your delicious baked goodies and treats on **Friday, November 3 or before the start** of the Fall Festival/Craft Fair on Saturday.

Please have items individually wrapped and in disposable containers if possible.

We also need some Gluten Free treats (last year we had some folks appreciate the availability of GF goodies).

Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet in the church narthex.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Briggs (941) 232-4397 or browningbriggs@yahoo.com or Sara Thomas (410) 868-9934 or sara.thomas117@gmail.com.



Welcome Worker

The Lord has blessed Concordia with another worker eager to serve with us for Sarasota. He says, "In fact, you'll get two!" **Pastor Bob Smith with Alice** has consented to serve as Concordia's November through April "seasonal hospitality pastor."

Pastor Bob and Alice Smith have lived and worked in Frankenmuth **Michigan, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Nigeria, South Korea, and Indonesia**. He has led mission trips to Russia, Hong Kong, Guatemala, Philippines, India (Calcutta), and within Indonesia. He has conducted **prayer retreats** and spoken on the topic of prayer in Thailand, South Africa and Ghana. He has written a book on prayer called "Keep Me and Keep All."

Alice is an author, Bible teacher, and international speaker. She is a member of the Speakers Bureau for Stonecroft Women's Ministries. Alice has led retreats for women and served as an **inspirational speaker** at conferences, luncheons, and other events in the USA and internationally.

Additional information about the Smiths can be found on **their personal website:** Keepmeandkeepall.com.

Since 2018 Concordia has hired an additional church worker through our **Winter Worker Fund**. Donors continue to generously support that **Dedicated Fund**.

"Lord of the harvest, **bless Pastor Bob and Alice** as they serve in your Frankenmuth field. Bless us all as we prepare and join in your Sarasota work. Make us together grow in Your **goodness**, even as Your Good News of **forgiveness** grows around this world You have loved to Your death. Give to us Your bliss, living Savior!"

Quilt Raffle

Have you seen the beautiful new **quilt** by one of us for Concordia's sale?

It is located in the narthex of the sanctuary.

Raffle tickets are offered after each worship service (**\$5 each**). The winning ticket will be drawn during our Fall Festival, **Saturday, November 4.**



Fall Festival and Craft Fair

Planning is in full swing for Concordia's Fall Festival and Craft Fair Event! Plan to be a part of the event on **Saturday, November 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Several **outdoor spaces** are **still available** to sell your crafts. Indoor spaces have completely sold out! Come out and start your Christmas shopping early. If you are a crafter, reserve an outside booth now as last year we sold out! For additional craft information call the church office (941) 365-0844 or Junne Ulbrich (815) 955-6215.

To help the day of the Fall Festival or for more information call or text Diane Scott at (941) 302-4819. This is a fun, family friendly event.

All Saints (with You)!

Worship on **November 4 or 5**, celebrating All Saint's Day. Concordia thanks Jesus on this ancient festival (c. 300 A.D.). What has Jesus' forgiveness accomplished? We, with **all Jesus' blood-bought**, are "All Saints!" And we'll give God thanks for those who walked the faith before us, especially those He has called home to Himself in the year past.

"Remind us, dear Spirit, that we **live always with our Lord, the Father's Son!**"

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday **November 5** is the end of Daylight Saving Time. "Fall back" as you go to bed on November 4, setting back your clocks one hour.

Dedication of the new Bob White Welcome Center

Sunday, November 12 between worship services we will be dedicating Concordia's new Welcome Center in loving memory of Bob White. Join us in celebrating the beautiful changes to the narthex of our sanctuary.

Good News-letter

Our **December 2023** Concordia Courier seeks articles, due Tuesday **November 14**. Can you **help the crew fold** the news for mailing? Do tell Parish Secretary Lei Ann (941-365-0844).

Thank you to October's Courier folders: Gloria Bruggeman, Joyanne Fathauer, Cheryl Ma, 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**.

Rummage Sale Rockers

Join the Rummage Rockers gathering for Q&A and idea sharing:

Come **Tuesday, November 14** at **5 p.m.** over nibbles at the Mowery home, 1738 Illehaw Drive, Sarasota, FL.

Contact Dawn Mowery 678-230-0208 or the Church Office (941) 365-0844 with questions and opportunities to support the rummage sale.

Eve of Thanksgiving Worship

Thanksgiving Eve, **Wednesday, November 22, 6:30 p.m.**, we worship. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! Bring a friend, your family. Celebrate the heart of Thanksgiving at Concordia!

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

Giving Thanks to the Giver

Our church office will close on **November 23 and 24** in celebration of **Thanksgiving Day**.

Parish Secretary will also enjoy Mondays **November 6, 13** and **27** and Tuesday, **November 28** as vacation days. Lei Ann regularly serves Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pastor Stephen often reserves Mondays for his week's day of rest.

Advent Wednesdays

Dinner and Devotion

On Wednesdays **NOT November 29, December 6, 13 and 20** 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! Please phone the church office or Barbara Briggs (941-924-7336) 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!"

Our devotions celebrate Jesus the Giver! Bring your appetite. **Bring your friends.**

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

Nominate - Voters Meet

Concordia's voters meet briefly on **December 2, 5:15 p.m.**, after Saturday eve worship and **December 3, 10 a.m.**, between Sunday morn's services.

We will **elect council leaders** (where 1st or maximum 2nd terms have ended, at least) for Concordia's vice-president, treasurer, chairs of worship, outreach, service and fellowship ministries. Let's gratefully continue the good work of those who have served!

The assembly will set our **2024 budget**. We will hear an update on the **Concordia 75th Anniversary Renovations Fund**, agreed in 2021, to renovate the ushers' room as a welcome center with handicap-accessible restroom. The voters may respond to any other items previously announced at our weekend worship.

Our Constitution requires that our **Council Nominations Task Force** be comprised of a majority who are not currently council members. Could you prayerfully help us **find new leaders**? Or would you like to nominate someone to council (even yourself)? Please speak **a.s.a.p.** to our congregation's Vice President Phyllis Kirtley (266-8662).

"Lead us, Lord Jesus. Always **give us leaders** who seek Your heart!"

A Note from the President

Greetings to all of you. Fall is here and the weather is changing. For those of us who stayed in the summer months, this is a badly needed change. I just participated in the annual Florida-Georgia Equip Conference in Orlando. The conference had record attendance



in providing great speakers for the event. The best part was being able to socialize with many people and share great moments. Oktoberfest was a complete success, with many people turning out for a fun evening. Many thanks to Phyllis Kirtley and Barbara Briggs and the crew for putting on a great time. November is the annual Craft Fair Show, please make sure you plan to come and enjoy those festivities. We are excited to welcome Pastor Bob and Alice Smith from Michigan on November 1st. We are excited to have them come and help make Concordia an even better place to call home. Also, set the date. We will be dedicating "The Bob White Welcome Center" on November 12th. This will be done between the two worship services. Come out and support Cathy. Please plan to attend this wonderful event.

Below is where we stand financially. Many thanks to all of you who are making Concordia important. September was a very hard month, but we are in the best position that we have been in years past. If you need an update on your Financial Giving, please do not hesitate to ask Lei Ann for assistance. Again, we appreciate the stewardship all of you have done.

Through 9/30/23

Total Revenue \$437,867.83
Total Expenses \$452,150.50
Balance **\$(14,282.67)**

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 fall.

Dennis Jesse

Mobile: 614-286-0101

Email: djesse@jessemarketing.com

Keep Calm and Rummage On!

2024 rummage sale dates: **Friday and Saturday February 2 and 3.**

Set up days: Sunday, January 28 between the services thru Thursday, February 1

Rummage drop off accepted **only after November 26.** Thanks!

Cruising with the Hills in 2024

Pastor Gary and Carol Hill set sail on a 7-Night Caribbean Cruise leaving out of Port Canaveral on the Norwegian Escape February 17-24, 2024. Enjoy the sights of Puerto Plata, St. Thomas, Tortola and the Great Stirrup Cay. For those who are interested, **contact Pastor Gary and Carol Hill** (440-539-5306). Flyers with additional information are available in the church office. A deposit of \$250 per person is required to reserve your spot. Thanks!

Altar Flowers

Please consider purchasing for the Lord's altar's fresh flowers. **Commemorate** a special occasion or honor a loved one? Altar flowers cost **\$30 for one bouquet**, or **\$60 for both**. Find 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 your 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.

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."





Deaconess Andy's Greetings

I just completed the first two classes at Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne working towards my **Ph.D. in Missiology**. I have attached this picture of my classes, full of pastors. Many of them are **international students or missionaries** already. I got to study **Animism** (worship of things, spirits, and ancestors) and **Paul's Missionary Trips**. Next classes are in January and will be on **Anthropology/Sociology** and **Research Development**. In each class we teach one class and write a 20-page research paper and maybe a couple of shorter ones. I find it all **very interesting**. But as you can imagine, conversation with a dozen men can be trying when I need to figure out **guy talk and humor** from my female perspective. I could finish in about **3 years** if I am able to stay on track. But if grandkids come along, all bets are off!



November Birthdays

02	Don Zaloudek
03	Joyanne Fathauer Kyle McMullen Suzie Moore
06	Betsy DiGruttolo
08	Jacquelyn Williams
09	Rachel Gaulke Denise Scott
10	Bill Alexander Andy Gates
11	Emily Sisk Jean Williams
12	Vivian Powter
15	Jeremy Schmidt
16	Dennis Jesse
17	Lorene Simpson
18	Brendan Lutsch Rich Reiter
21	Steve Garrisi
22	Nathanael Gaulke Simeng Zhu
23	Zacharias Quamina - 14th
25	Bob Ball Scott Montgomery
27	Dave Battles Jennifer McMullen
30	Tambry Schoolcraft



November Anniversaries We Remember Pete

Benedict Peter Theisen II was born on January 27, 1945 in Detroit, Michigan. Pete joined Concordia's family February of 2015. Previously he had followed the Lord in Presbyterian and Roman Catholic churches. Very glad for the classic Lutheran grasp on Jesus' Word, with his gleeful grin he would surprise Pastor with his Biblical insights. To Concordia Pete brought his love for organ music. He posted our organist Johnora's tuneful offerings on Facebook every week. He enabled almost monthly concerts with the Central Florida Theater Organ Society. He delighted to keep our grounds pristine, also humbly tending to the trash cans he placed on our property's border. Earlier in his career he helped people as an acupuncturist. Recently he served as a security guard, loved by the kids at Payne Park's Skate Park. Our brother answered His risen Lord's call home on October 9, 2023. He is survived by his sister Virginia in Michigan. His sister will lay Pete's remains to rest with their parents in Michigan, waiting for the resurrection Day. To

Memorials Received

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

In memory of Donna Shaulis, from Gloria Bruggeman for the Altar Guild Fund.

In memory of Clayton Schnarr, from Anthony and Edna DiBianca for the Sanctuary Bathroom Renovation Fund; from Larry and Jean Kamberg for the Sanctuary Bathroom Renovation Fund.

"Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" (19:9).

	Jeffrey and Gabriela Schmidt - 50th
05	Tom and Regina Mann - 29th Denny and Alice Williams - 46th
09	Bob and Sandee Ball - 2nd
19	Chuck and Lei Ann Ahl - 29th
21	Charlie and Diane Scott - 37th
23	Bill and Raydine Alexander - 55th Jason and Tara Schmidt - 10th
29	Jeremy and Helen Schmidt - 15th

Concordia Celebrates You

Are we missing your birthday or anniversary dates? Please pardon us. And let us know (941-365-0844) when we miss dates. Let us **share the celebration!**

November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29 Reformation 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	30 ***7 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg.	31 Halloween	1 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	2 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall	3	4 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fall Festival and Craft Fair 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion - All Saints
5 All Saints' Day Daylight Savings Time Ends 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 Church office closed ***	7	8 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	9 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall	10	11 Veterans Day 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
12 Pentecost 24 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 10:15 a.m. Bob White Welcome Center Dedication 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion	13 Church office closed ***	14 December Newsletter Deadline 5 p.m. Rummage Sale Rockers Mtg. at Mowery's home, 1738 Illehaw Drive, Sarasota	15 6 p.m. Council Mtg. 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	16 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall 6 p.m. Family Dinner and Bible Story Hour	17	18 8 a.m. District Al-Anon Meeting 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
19 Pentecost 25 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	20 ***	21	22 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	23 Thanksgiving Day Church office closed	24 Church office closed	25 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Chapel Worship with Holy Communion
26 Last Sunday of the Church Year 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 Rummage Sale donations now being accepted	27 Church office closed ***	28 Church office closed	29 5:30 p.m. Advent Dinner 6:30 p.m. Advent Worship 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	30 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall	1 9 a.m. Decorate the Sanctuary/Willer Hall for Christmas	2 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 annex of the church are used every Monday, Wednesday and quarterly Saturdays by 12-step groups.

Concordia Council Minutes Tuesday, August 8, 2023

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

Members not present: Treasurer-Tom Mann

Guests present: None

Constitutional quorum in person

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

Opening Devotion: Romans 10:11-16 was read and discussed.

Phyllis Kirtley told the Council that a request had been made of the Foundation to donate \$600 to Pregnancy Solutions in Venice for a new computer. Dennis Jesse made a motion which Dawn Mowery seconded. The motion failed to pass by a margin of 3 yeas, 5 nays and 2 abstentions. *(Pastor Stephen's note: Our Foundation's charter suggests "Lutheran charities." This very worthy pro-life ministry does not identify as "Lutheran.")*

Upon a motion made by Dennis Jesse and seconded by Phyllis Kirtley, the Council unanimously approved reimbursing Pastor Ted Wuerffel for travel expenses of gas and lodging.

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

Secretary's Report: May's minutes were unanimously approved.

Financial Secretary's Report: Wayne Ulbrich said that deposits are being done successfully and timely. Wayne referred the Council to published reports which say attendance is up 2% year to date and offerings are up 19% for the same period.

Worship Report: Alice Williams reported that the elders are serving 24 homebound members. She told the Council that church elders agreed to use the government rate of employee compensation for Concordia's paid workers. Alice made a motion which was seconded by Barbara Briggs to compensate Rev. Ted Wuerffel as follows: Weekend preaching compensation to be taken from the guest preacher fund. Weekday pay will be taken from undedicated memorials. The motion passed unanimously.

Education Report: Julie Smith said that family nights are suspended for the summer.

Outreach Report: Dawn Mowery said that the Bread Breakers dinner on August 1st was successful. There are flyers in the Narthex to invite new members to future dinners. A few existing members dine with new members during these meals. Dawn mentioned that Junne Ulbrich is overseeing the craft fair for the November 4th Harvest Festival. Dawn asked for a volunteer to manage the festival portion of the event. Dawn said that only 90 tickets are available for the Octoberfest.

Service Report: Margo Arehart said that Concordia's LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) and some new church members prepared and distributed caregiver baskets to senior centers where Concordia members are living. The baskets included snacks and were well received by the caregiver staff. Plans are underway for LWML Sunday and mite boxes. Margo mentioned that we need a SURE representative. Most Sarasota churches are members of SURE. Our \$500 annual fee is not a budgeted item. Church members interested in representing Concordia should contact Margo for more information.

Fellowship Report: Barbara Briggs had nothing to add.

Bread Breakers Dinner Events

Friends new to your church family with others who have worshiped here for years gathered on a recent Tuesday evening for **great food and conversation.**

Would you like to **help** with Concordia's next social event? Know someone you would like to **bring**? Are you **new** to Concordia and would like to get to know others in a small group gathering. Or, do you have other **ideas** to **share Jesus' welcome**? Please contact Dawn Mowery, Outreach Chair, with questions or suggestions, 678-230-0208.

"Friend of sinners, Lord of forgiveness, by Your love draw us all to Your **feast!**"

Council Minutes continued

Properties Report: Dave Meadows said that we are a few weeks away from finishing the ADA bathroom. (Some worker injuries have caused the delay.) Dave stated that a new air conditioning unit has been installed for the classrooms. Parsonage updates are as follows: A new clothes dryer has been purchased for \$400. Additionally, a fence will be installed 6 feet from the building to deter children on the playground from knocking on the parsonage windows.

President's Report: Dennis Jesse worked with Tom Mann and presented a recap of envelope giving. Dennis mentioned that the consolidation of dedicated funds is nearly complete and will be presented to the Council at a special meeting on September 12th. Dennis introduced some items to be included in employee reviews. He asked the Council members for their input. He shared an employee handbook from another Lutheran church and suggested that Concordia's handbook be updated because it hasn't been revised in 14 years. Dennis told the Council that \$389,000 was transferred from our LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund) accounts to Fifth Third Bank where the funds could earn a higher rate of interest. A small balance of \$5,000 remains on deposit with the LCEF.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

With no further business to discuss, Dennis Jesse made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Phyllis Kirtley and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer in unison.

The Next Council meeting is scheduled for **September 12, 2023**, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Ruth Bogenberger, Council Secretary

Florida-Georgia Conference

Concordia's Congregational **President Dennis and Faby Jesse** attended the Florida-Georgia District President's Equip Conference in Orlando. The Conference blessed a **record attendance of 1,038**, all leaders of our nearest Lutheran churches. "An amazing time of fellowship and learning with our sister churches," say the Jesses.



Pastor Stephen's Vacation Thanks

We had so much fun! And growth. Ellen and I are grateful you **sent us off**. We used up those vacation weeks we had missed during the pandemic.

We traveled first to **Scandinavia**. We journeyed part with another couple (friends since our college days) and part with our son Ben, Michelle and their Anna (age 4). We explored roots for a few days in the fishing village that was Ellen's grandmother's home.

The next two weeks the two of us served with Wittenberg English Ministry. (See wittenbergenGLISHministry.com, and their Facebook page.) Leading eight worship services, from **Martin Luther's pulpits** I proclaimed God's Son to the English-speaking tourists and residents.

The final two weeks Ellen's sister Karin and Fritz explored with us the **Bavarian** villages where their other grandparents grew up. So many adventures!

Thanks for your prayers for us and all Concordia's travelers. Thanks to **Pastor Ted Wuerffel**, our snowbird member, come from St. Louis to care for you these past four weeks.

"As our needs drive us to Your throne, we always **thank You, Jesus**, for our Concordia sisters and brothers. You've got **the whole world** in Your nail-pierced hands!"



Seminarian Euder Paul

We recently received this note and photos from **Euder Paul, our Haitian member** now continuing his third-year of graduate studies towards **becoming a pastor**. If you would like to join those supporting the **seminary's costs** for our brother, please write your check to "Concordia" with the memo line reading "Seminarian Paul." Our Concordia Sarasota Foundation offers **\$8,000 to match** your gifts. Thanks! P.S. See more photos on Concordia's **Facebook** page.



Dear **Concordia friends**,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus!

I am very happy to share with you some details about my life in **Saint Louis**, Missouri during this summer 2023. Often I am the **liturgist** at Timothy Lutheran Church, where are **Rev. Ted and Mrs. Abby Wuerffel (photo)** as members. I like to lead the **Bible study** also with 10 or 15 people. I lead that study once a month as part of my "Resident Field Education." I thank God, the heavenly Father because He has given us various "offices" (roles and responsibilities) in our lives. I ask Him to grant us faithfulness in these callings, that we may see them as gifts through which we serve Him, the Church and our fellowmen.

Another thing very important for me during this summer was the **elementary Hebrew class**. The goal is to help me "to have an introductory knowledge and understanding of both the diversity and the Christological coherence of the word of God, remaining mindful of the Lutheran principle that Scripture interprets Scripture." Thank God my quizzes, tests and exams are going very well. Finally, this elementary Hebrew will help me "to grow in the ability to faithfully relate the **word of God** to Lutheran doctrine and the **present day lives** of the people of God..."

Now I am waiting for the **US embassy in Haiti** to reopen. The embassy recently closed for Haiti's political instability and insecurity. We hope to see if **my wife Judelande** can come to Saint Louis. I will have to travel to Haiti any time there is an opportunity. Only the US embassy there can interview me to renew my student visa (F-1). Then, we pray, my wife Judelande can get the F-2 visas. **Please pray** for me and my wife Judelande, for this process. **God can open doors** very soon. May God give us capacity to say: "Light shines on the righteous and joy on the upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name" (Psalm 97: 11-12).

Once again, **thank you** for all your supports, dear members of Concordia Lutheran, Sarasota.

All the different people in my Florida-Georgia District, thank you for all you are doing to help me to become a Lutheran pastor. You all are in my prayers.

May **God bless you all**.
Euder and my wife,
Judelande

P.S. An update, as the Miami Herald reports: "Because regular visa services remain suspended due to Haiti's ongoing escalation in gang violence, the first available openings aren't **until 2026**." Unless the US Embassy in Haiti can reopen sooner, Judelande will not be able to come to the US. Neither will Euder be able to visit her in Haiti. "Lord, have mercy!"



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 **December 2023** issue of "The Courier" is **November 14**. 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: NOVEMBER 2023
Statement of Frequency: MONTHLY
Authorized Origin: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
2185 WOOD STREET
SARASOTA, FL 34237-7915
Issue Number: 11-23

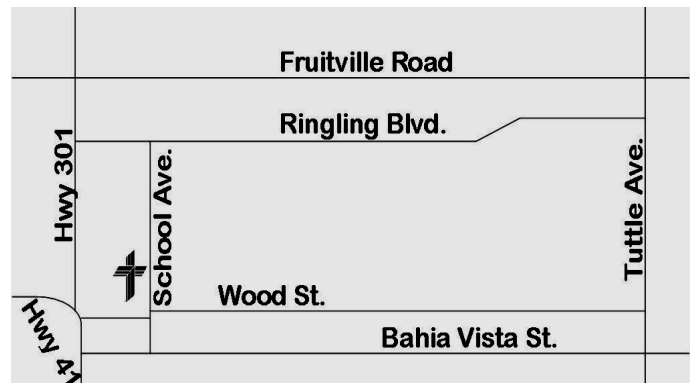
Concordia Lutheran Church

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

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Education..... Julie Smith813-361-7325
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Fellowship..... Barbara Briggs941-955-1148
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Concordia Lutheran Church, LCMS
2185 Wood Street • Sarasota, FL 34237-7915

Return Service Requested

November 2023

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



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November 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
Rev. Bob Smith..... Seasonal Hospitality
Lei Ann Ahl Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper
Johnora L. Hildebrand . Music Director/Organist
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

Usual Office Hours:
M-F, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Maximize the Moments

Our legacy becomes increasingly important as we age. Although some older adults spend days deciding who will get the family china, others turn in a different direction. They focus on the impact of their **legacy**.

That makes sense. After all, there are more days behind us than ahead. **Time is precious.**

Take these **four steps** to maximize the moments:

Prioritize. What matters the most to you?

To transmit Christian virtues to the next generation, prioritize praying for your grandchildren (or the other youngsters God has placed in your life) by name every day. To ease the transition of your volunteering to a new leader, write a leader's manual. To comfort friends who are grieving, sign-up for an e-card service or buy a box of stationery. Invest in **what's important**.

Remember the why. Connect the goal to the meaning.

Remind yourself why your legacy matters. This mental process increases the "stickiness." We **stay motivated** when we reflect on the reason we pray daily for that teenage neighbor or plug away at downsizing. Focus on the core purpose to prevent a wandering mind.

Be realistic. Approach goals in a way that makes sense.

As we move through the **"Go go, Slow go and No go" seasons** of aging, it becomes harder to meet long term goals. We need more frequent "wins" to keep us engaged. Be realistic by building micro-habits.

Breaking big plans into more **do-able segments** makes it quicker to meet goals. We stay motivated when the starting point and finish line are close together.

Serve. Our legacy will be reflected in those we help.

Although it's tempting to feel "been there, done that" when asked to serve, we bring years of experience. We aren't competing anymore; we can celebrate the power of collaboration. We know how to mentor. The legacy of others is now reflected in our own lives. Our influence is magnified when we serve.

Mary Manz Simon, **ALOA** Board of Directors

You'll find resources for many aspects of ministry to those in the second half of life in the resource section of ALOA's website: aloaserves.org. **Adult Lutherans Organized for Action** is a nationwide resource to the church that strengthens ministry by and for adults in the second half of life. ALOA offers events for individuals and provides resources to encourage adult ministry in Lutheran congregations.



Christian Stewardship Is...

"Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of **the child of God** and God's family, the church, in **managing all** of life and life's resources **for God's purposes.**"

The above definition of Christian Stewardship has been used in our church for a few decades. It contains **only 29 words**, but what a mouthful when you consider the application of the various parts of this definition.

"Free and joyous." Many people do not think of stewardship as being free and joyous but it really can be when we have the calm assurance that our God richly provides all that we need for the support and wants of our body and life.

"Child of God." What a beautiful title for God's people! The opening verses of 1 John 3 speak of the lavish love of God resulting in making us His very own children. What great good news and what a powerful reminder of the proper motivation for our stewardship activity – love to our God who first loved us.

"God's family, the church." This phrase reminds us that our stewardship is not a solo performance but is done within the Christian community to honor God and benefit others.

"In managing all of life and life's resources." Part of our stewardship struggle is that we think we "own" all those things that surround us when, in truth, we are managers. Another part of our struggle is that we may think that Stewardship is just about money, time and talents. Christian stewardship is about those things and more; Christian stewardship involves our whole life--everything that God has entrusted to us to manage as faithful stewards.

"For His purposes." Maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons. All we do as Christian stewards is to be done to the glory of God and for the welfare of others as well as ourselves. Who said stewardship was easy? If it were, everyone would be doing it!

Little Library for Neighbors

Concordia's new little library already offers **beneficial books** to our neighbors. Have you seen it, like a large mailbox? Look beside the north driveway our big parking lot, near **Payne Park** and the **Legacy Trail**.

Do you have a **good book** you would like to offer? Please bring it to the church office, week-days between 8 AM and 4:30 PM. Or deliver your gift book to any of Concordia's leaders after worship. We will usher your book to the church office. Thanks for your **help and prayers!**

P.S. Do you know also about **Concordia's big library**? That's behind the single red door at the north end of your Willer Fellowship Hall. Find **hundreds** of great books, many of them faith-based. For **adults and children, free** reading. If you find the library door locked, please stop by the church office.

"Word of God, You who came to be our flesh and blood Brother, let these books shared lead someone also into the wonders of **Your Book.**"

Free Bread - Help Needed

Did you know? Concordia distributes for **free Panera's day-old bread and pastries**. Visit our Wood Street "circle driveway" Saturdays, 8 to 9 a.m.

Our **bread brigade** welcomes **new helpers**. Might you pick up the baked goodies at the Panera at Ridge Road and Cattlemen Road, **2nd Friday of the month** at 8 p.m.? You could help even once a month. Call the church office at 941-365-0844. Our lead volunteer Sandy Z. can **show you how** you can be a big bread brigade blessing!

"Bread of life, give free to all Your **life-giving love!**"

INCOME STATEMENT	2022
Interest - Checking	278.27
Interest LCEF 163020253	1,811.65
Interest LCEF 2810	690.34
Donations Concordia	11,560.00
Bette Schoenherr Fund Income	2,169.85
TOTAL INCOME	16,510.11
State of FL Registration	61.25
Gifts College Students	6,250.00
Gifts Preschool Students	0.00
Other Gifts	0.00
Concordia Painting Contribution	0.00
Concordia 75th Anniversary	0.00
Concordia Missionary Fund	0.00
Office Supplies	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	6,311.25
Net Income	10,198.86

Balance Sheet	12/31/22
LCEF Checking Account	12,920.64
LCEF Certificate 163020253	121,911.37
LCEF Certificate 2810	41,717.86
A/R Concordia Lutheran Church	2,000.00
A/R Schoenherr Endowment	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	178,549.87
Retained Earnings	168,351.01
Current Earnings	10,198.86
TOTAL LIABILITIES + EQUITY	178,549.87