

The Concordia Courier

A Publication Of Concordia Lutheran Church

† JESUS' HARMONY FOR THE HEART OF SARASOTA † February 2024

Rummage Sale February 2 & 3 Donate * Volunteer * Shop

The Concordia Rummage sale has been blessing **our church family and the community** for over **45 years!!!**

The 2024 Rummage Sale is slated for **Friday, February 2 and Saturday, February 3 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Come and shop for clothing, accessories, housewares, jewelry, outdoor items, electronics, holiday and more.

Please donate items for the sale. Also, **bags** of all kinds are needed for purchases!

Got an hour or 2? Here's where **you are needed:**

1. Help set up **Sunday, January 28 between services**
2. Come **Monday, January 29 thru Thursday, February 1 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.** to unpack and start pricing.
3. Work the sale on your schedule **8 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, Friday and Saturday, February 2 and 3**
4. Help tear down and pack up **Saturday, February 3 at 2 p.m.**

Be a **Rummage Rocker**. Talk to Dawn Mowery 678-230-0208 to hear more.

Family Nights

Our **dinner and faith-building fun** welcomes all on **Thursdays February 8, March 7, April 11 and May 9 from 5:45-7 p.m.** at our Willer Fellowship Hall. This month, the Lord leads us (**Romans 12:16**): "Live in harmony."

RSVP at the church office (941-365-0844).

"Welcome **us, our children, and little ones you love**, Jesus. Bring more to us!"

Transfiguration

His figure transformed atop the mount, Jesus shines! The weekend's worship **February 10 and 11**, sees our beautiful Savior unveil **who He is**. Then you'll gladly follow as He goes down into the dark valley. **Christ alone** rescues us!

Good News-letter

Our **February 2024** Concordia Courier seeks articles, due Tuesday **February 13**. Can you **help the crew fold** the news for mailing? Do tell Parish Secretary Lei Ann (941-365-0844).

Thank you to January's Courier folders: Gloria Bruggeman, Joyanne Fathauer, Bev Kinton, Jayne New 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**.

Ash Wednesday...

The 40 days of Lent begin **February 14**, Ash Wednesday. Lent Wednesdays invite you to worship Him who gave Himself for you! Join us at **4:30 p.m.** (still daylight!), or at **6:30 p.m.** (the same service repeated for those arriving after their day's work).

You may be marked with the ashes of repentance, the cross signing forgiveness. Ash Wednesday's devotional service will also celebrate the **Lord's Supper**.

"As we worship, Jesus will **feed our souls!**"



Ash Wednesday Dinner

An Ash Wednesday Dinner will be served **Wednesday, February 14, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.** in our Willer Fellowship Hall. Come between the Ash Wednesday services. Served by friends with a heart for Haiti, a **free-will offering** will give you opportunity to support the **Haiti Lutheran church's missions** (Elder Care center, orphan home, children feeding program, and more).

We help our sister church through the LCMS' Ministry in Mission partner. (See **MinistryInMission.com**.) Enjoy the food and fellowship!

Lent Wednesdays

What kind of a Lord is this? The whole world captivated by self-serving desires, falling to the grave. And He comes to serve? The **Lord of life to die?** Life-giving love!

Lent takes us to **the heart** of our faith. Lent leads to our Easter life. Forgiven, free, full!

Lent gives us **another opportunity**, beyond our weekend's worship. Our **Wednesdays'** devotions ponder St. John's glorious account of Jesus going to the cross (Gospel of John, chapters 18 and 19). These six Wednesdays see six sparkling facets of Jesus. Life, love, shining for you! Choose the **4:30 or 6:30 p.m.** devotions. Dine with His friends, 5:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, February 14.
John 18:1-11: **The I Am. Dinner 5:30 p.m.** is served by friends with a heart for Haiti. Enjoy the food and fellowship.

Wednesday (2), February 21.
John 18:12-27: **The Accused. Dinner 5:30 p.m. is "potluck."** Please bring a covered dish to share, according to your last name's initial: A-G main dish; H-N side vegetable dish; O-S salad; T-Z fruit or dessert.

Wednesday (3), February 28.
John 18:22-40: **The King. Another covered dish** to share, once more according to your last name's initial: A-G side vegetable dish; H-N salad; O-S fruit or dessert; T-Z main dish.

Wednesday (4), March 6. John 19:1-16a: **The Humble. Dinner** once more "potluck." This week, bring whatever kind of dish. Sample everyone's favorites! Really, we have this many great cooks!

Wednesday (5), March 13. John 19:16b-27: **The Brother. Dinner is chili** – pick hot or not, prepared by our elders. If you'd like, bring your own chili or alternative to share.

Wednesday (6), March 20. John 19:28-42: **The Finisher. This final dinner** is prepared by our kitchen leaders. Please **bring nothing but your appetite!**

Maundy Thursday, March 28 rejoices in the **Lord's Supper**, His Self-giving love.

Good Friday, March 29 receives the **Lord's sacrifice** full of forgiveness.

Then comes "the **Third Day**!"
Ask Diane Scott (941-302-4819) how you can help. **Bring a friend!** We always leave our Willer Hall happy, don't we?!

"Jesus, **fill our hearts** with Your Good News. Fill our ears with friendly talk. You even fill our mouths with great food! Let our Lent Wednesdays ready us for Resurrection Day!"

New Year, New Opportunities!

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

Looking for an opportunity to serve? We need you! The **Fellowship Committee** asks for your help with various activities around Concordia. For example, you could host a Sunday morning **coffee**, and/or help with the Lent **dinners**. You can pick and **choose** what you'd like to do - a little or a lot!

Here's your great chance to get to know your church family and make new friends. Look for the signup sheet on the church entryway bulletin board. Or contact Diane Scott at 941-302-4819.



(photo) January 22 mission conference gathered leaders from our **10 Suncoast sister churches**. "Spirit, will You lead us to birth a **new church**?"

Vacation Time

Our church **office closes** from **February 19 to 23**. Parish Secretary Lei Ann is blessed to sail with the Concordia friends cruise.

Lei Ann regularly serves Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Pastor Stephen** often reserves Mondays for his day of rest.

Refugee Task Force Thanks

Thanks to all who contributed **necessaries and other gifts**. Concordia volunteers help **welcome new Americans** - local, legal refugees from many nations. Our refugees thrive with Lutheran Services Florida care.

Gifted by the Wise Men (Magi), hunted by King Herod, fleeing to Egypt, Jesus Himself was a refugee (Matthew 2:13-25). What we do for our sisters and brothers, we do for Jesus (Matthew 25)! Ask our church office (365-0844)... **you can help** in 2024!

"Father, let Your Good News and **kindness** flourish for **all Your children** in this land of the **free**, home of the **brave**."

"Anxious for Nothing" Sundays

Do you feel weighed down with worry? Does the **uncertainty and chaos** of life keep you up at night? Are irrational fears your constant companion? Could you use some calm? For us, God has a wonderful promise (Philippians 4:4-6), "Do not be anxious about anything, but...present your requests to God. And **the peace of God**... will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ."

You are invited to explore God's promise on **Sundays** now **through February 11 at 10 a.m.** With coffee, juice, and pastry, gather at Concordia's Willer Fellowship Hall. Pastor Gary Hill will lead the conversation along with a video by Christian author Max Lucado.

February 18 Pastor Bob Smith launches our next discussion and Scripture study. How do we best **share our Christian hope** with those who do not yet know Jesus?

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. Pastors Gary Hill and Bob Smith lead us this month. Gather at **Willer Hall's** red double-door main room.

Thursday, 10:30 a.m. The **men's group** now gathers in Concordia's Willer Fellowship Hall **Library Room** (the single red door at the north end). Pastor Ted Wuerffel leads the guys who **"Dare to be Different."**

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m. GiFTS! The **women "Grow in Faith through Scripture."** The group recently has been hearing from the **"minor prophets,"** some of the Bible's shortest books. Visit Concordia's Willer **Fellowship Hall** main room (double red doors).

"Thank You for taking us as **Your friends,** Jesus!"

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, **renew us** with joyous song. You are our Song!"

Altar Flowers

Fresh flowers will go to Jesus' altar as soon as possible. Due to a family emergency our current floral shop has temporarily stopped business. Be patient with us as we wait for them to notify us they are returning to business as usual or as we begin searching for a new floral shop.

Thank you to all who have supported the Altar Guild with their donations for the beautiful flowers that adorn the Lord's altar!

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

Altar Guild News

There will be **no meeting** in **February** due to the Rummage Sale. Altar Guild gathers in the choir room on the first Thursday of the month, November through May.

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

"Lord, bless our serving, just as You have **served us!**"

Worship Seeks Bible Readers

Volunteer, please, to join the many who read Scripture at our worship services. In our Courier newsletter, month by month we will print the **schedule.** You would be assigned to read the Old or New Testament Scriptures for **your**

preferred worship service, Saturday or Sunday. The church office can then email to you **on Thursday the exact text translation** you will speak. If you can't serve on the weekend selected for you, you need only let your church office know. We, or you, will find a substitute. Please **volunteer** with Parish Secretary Lei Ann (941-365-0844) or Worship Chair Cory Biladeau (612-532-3771).

"Lord, let us hear **Your Word on the lips** of even more of Your sisters and brothers!"

Worship's Scripture

Feb. 3, 4 - Epiphany 5

Isaiah 40:21-31

1 Corinthians 9:16-27

Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 10, 11 - Transfiguration

2 Kings 2:1-12 or Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-13 (14-18); 4:1-6

Mark 9:2-9

Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-19

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Feb. 17, 18 - Lent 1

Genesis 22:1-18

James 1:12-18

Mark 1:9-15

Feb. 24, 25 - Lent 2

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Romans 5:1-11

Mark 8:27-38

What About Your Government?

Table of Duties – Certain passages of Scripture for various vocations, admonishing us about our duties and responsibilities (continued from last month).

Of Civil Government

Everyone must **submit himself** to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what **God has instituted**, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority?

Then **do what is right** and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:1-4

Of Citizens

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. Matt. 22:21

It is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you **pay taxes**, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Romans 13:5-7

I urge, then, first of all, that **requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving** be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior. 1 Timothy 2:1-3

Remind the people to be subject to rules and authorities, to be obedient, to be **ready to do whatever is good**. Titus 3:1

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 1 Peter 2:13-14

(to be continued...) 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.



Baptism of Dakari and Archen Douglas, with grand-uncle Seminarian Euder Paul.

ConcordiaSarasota.org

Have you visited **our website**? You'll find an easy link there to our **Facebook** page. "Like" us and share the link. You'll also see our **YouTube** page, filled with **our worship**, songs, sermons and Bible studies. The website also offers the latest **Courier newsletter** and those of the previous year. Guests often first "**visit**" **Concordia** by seeing ConcordiaSarasota.org. How can you **help us** improve?

"Jesus, lead people to You! You delight to **serve all people**, in worship giving to us Your Good News and Feast. Help us **welcome** those You love!"

(photo) Rummage Sale's **Art Alley** with Gary Thomas



Valentines - Pastor Bob Smith, Concordia's Winter Hospitality Pastor

Having shopped at Publix, CVS, and other stores in the days following Christmas, I again realize how quickly these places change their emphasis on marketing to the next season to sell various items. The month of February brings Valentines Day.

Have you ever thought where the word Valentine came from? There are a number of historical theories. I have adopted this one: Valentine was a young Christian priest who lived in ancient Rome during the reign of Claudius II. At this time young Roman men were not overly eager to leave home to fight in the emperor's unpopular, and seemingly unceasing wars. According to one story, the emperor placed a ban on marriage for all of Rome's young men. His opinion was, if his men didn't have a love connection to wife and family, they would more readily march away to distant lands.

Valentine felt sorry for the unhappy Christian men and their sweethearts, so he secretly and illegally performed a large number of Christian marriages. He was put in prison. According to legend, St. Valentine signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended. Eventually Valentine was put to death because of his faith in the Savior on February 14th A. D. 270. He has become known as the patron saint of lovers.

This theory about St. Valentine may not be accurate but we do know the greatest love story. It is God's shocking love for this sinful world. It is so great that He gave His Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

Love is the essential element that gives meaning to all the other acts of compassion. Without love all those other things, as powerful and as important as they are, lose their meaning. Therefore, love is the measure of all things. If you want to know what love is, look at Jesus, look at His body broken and His blood shed for us. He is the eternal, unconditional self-sacrificial love of God in the flesh! It will motivate us to love others as we are loved. The main evidence of maturity in the Christian life is a growing love for God and for God's people, as well as a love for lost souls.

We want everyone in our family, our friends, or anyone who crosses our path to know the love of Jesus. Witnessing occurs in everyday conversations whenever we tell what Christ has done for us. We need to avoid the trap of making witnessing more complicated than it is. A Christian's duty as a witness is only this: To tell how God has had mercy on you and to leave the results to Him.



Pastors Bob Smith and Ted Wuerffel

When Jesus called His disciples, they were novices, unprepared to proclaim His salvation to the world. So, Jesus promised them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Mt. 4:19...). Who is the "I" in this verse? Not you but Jesus! During this Valentine month, touch everyone in reach with the love of Jesus. Bring someone to Concordia to experience God's love shared by the people of this congregation. Alice and I know it is here because we have experienced it!

In His service,
Pastor Bob and Alice

P.S. We want to take this moment to express our gratitude for your kindness, hospitality, generosity and love. Your gifts and well wishes at Christmas touched our hearts and made our Christmas season brighter! Thank you.

TRUE LOVE!

For God so lo **V** ed the world,
That He g **A** ve
His on **L** y
Begott **E** n
So **N**
T hat whosoever
Believeth **I** n Him
Should **N** ot perish,
But have **E** verlasting life.
John 3:16

February Birthdays

03	Alan Thomas
06	Gloria Bruggeman Rick Williams
07	Jacob Gallo - 8th Janet Stauss
08	Terry Miller
09	Cameron Snapp - 5th
11	Julie Bauer Jim Thomas
15	Barbara Gmitter
18	Dakari Douglas - 4th
19	Bob Domin Phyllis Kirtley
21	Judy Dennis
22	Bonnie Kaluk Dave Spitler
23	Nancy Brown
24	Chase Hampton
25	Susan Bosman
26	Carolyn Piano
27	Larry Krause
28	Tony Lombino Jonathan Sisk

February Anniversaries

02	Jim and Debbie Ainslie - 39th
12	Randy and Terri Reese - 41st Richard and Joy Wega - 24th
20	Don and Sandy Zaloudek - 26th

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!**

Church Workers' Christmas

With joy, as our privilege, we serve the Newborn King with you at Concordia. **Your generous gift** was a blessing. We thank God for you; our hearts full.

Gratefully, Pastor Stephen, Parish Secretary Lei Ann, Music Director Johnora, and Band Leader Dawn

PS Thank you for including me - so very **blessed** by Concordia! Lei Ann

PSS In addition to the total surprise of this

Memorials Received

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

In memory of Kimberly Bartolacchi, from Dick and Marilyn Reese.

In memory of Marilyn Billingsley, from Dick and Marilyn Reese.

In memory of Joyce Fathauer, from Dick and Marilyn Reese.

In memory of Ila Fiebig, from Lynne Franks; from Dick and Marilyn Reese.

In memory of Sandy Harants, from Philip and Candance Hoffman; from Dick and Marilyn Reese; from Shirley Schwisow for the Sanctuary Lighting Fund.

In memory of Jim Kaluk, from Dick and Marilyn Reese.

In memory of Paulette Krnacik, from Dick and Marilyn Reese.

In memory of Barbara Meadows, from Phyllis Schirle.

In memory of Walt Naughton, from Dick and Marilyn Reese.

In memory of Shirley Scharfetter, from Dick and Marilyn Reese.

In memory of Clayton Schnarr, from Dick and Marilyn Reese; from Shirley Schwisow for the Sanctuary Lighting Fund.

In memory of Donna Shaulis, from Dick and Marilyn Reese.

In memory of Pete Theisen, from Dick and Marilyn Reese.

In memory of Denny Williams, from Barbara Briggs for Seminarian Euder Paul Fund; from Gloria Bruggeman for designated Altar Guild Fund; from Duane and Joyce Hartz for dedicated Seasonal Worker Fund; from Aaron and Judy Mattes and family for dedicated Seasonal Worker Fund; from Terry and Penny Miller for dedicated Seasonal Worker Fund; from Dick and Marilyn Reese for Designated Altar Guild; from Rose Reese for Seminarian Euder Paul Fund; from Chuck Resh and Jaclyn Resh for Seminarian Euder Paul Fund; from Jan Schnarr for dedicated Seasonal Worker Fund.

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

wonderful gift, I am grateful for the fellow worshippers and unsung volunteers here at Concordia, with, of course, special mention to **singers and ringers**. Thank you all, so very much! Johnora

PSSS Thank God for His **praise band!** Dawn

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Epiphany 4 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study (in chapel) 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion After 10 a.m. Rummage Sale set-up	29 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rummage Sale set-up ***7 p.m. All-Anon Mtg. (moved to our sanctuary)	30 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rummage Sale set-up	31 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rummage Sale set-up 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***7 p.m. AA Mtg. (moved to our sanctuary)	1 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Rummage Sale set-up 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. (moved to our sanctuary) 10:30 a.m. Men's Group at Willer Hall Library room 2 p.m. Elders Meet	2 Groundhog Day 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rummage Sale	3 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rummage Sale 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
4 Epiphany 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	5 9 a.m. LCMS Circuit Pastors Meeting ***	6 Pastor Stephen's rest day (usually Monday)	7 Pastor Stephen's rest day (usually Monday) 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	8 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m. Men's Group at Willer Hall Library room 5:45 p.m. Family Dinner - Bible story, bells, craft	9	10 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Gary Hill - Guest Pastor
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion, Pastor Gary Hill - Guest Pastor 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion, Pastor Gary Hill - Guest Pastor	12 ***	13 March Newsletter Deadline	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day 4:30 p.m. Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Worship Service 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	15 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at our Willer Fellowship Hall 10:30 a.m. Men's Group at Willer Hall Library room	16	17 8 a.m. District All-Anon Meeting in Willer Hall 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
18 Lent 1 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 Church office closed 4:30 p.m. Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Worship Service 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	22 Church office closed 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at Willer Hall 10:30 a.m. Men's Group	23 Church office closed	24 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
25 Lent 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	26 ***	27	28 4:30 p.m. Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Worship Service 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	29 10:30 a.m. Women's Bible G.i.F.t.S. at Willer Hall 10:30 a.m. Men's Group at Willer Hall Library room	1	2 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. 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.

(photo) Joyful Sounds bell choir



Special Thank You Notes

Thank you for the Christmas gift basket. I think of all the good times in church and bell choir for so many years.

Thank you for coming to see me and giving me the Lord's Supper once a month. It means a lot to know I'm not forgotten.
Sincerely, Ila Jean Wright

Thank you so much for my Christmas basket of goodies. There was so many treats that I'm still munching on a few.

Thank you to all of you who sent Christmas cards to me. It is a busy season and I appreciate your thoughtfulness. God bless you!

Most Sincerely, Elaine Staudt

Poinsettias

Thank you to all who provided the lovely poinsettia plants, celebrating Jesus' birth.

Richard Bixler, Lei Ann Ahl and family in memory of wife and mom Anita Bixler and daughter and sister Tricia Bixler-Maxson
Gloria Bruggeman in memory of husband Carl Bruggeman

Elfriede Hinck in memory of husband and father Henry Hinck; in memory of her daughter Diane Hinck; in memory of Pastor Rehwinkel; in memory of her parents Harry and Joanne Kiks; in memory of brother Harry Kiks Jr.; in memory of husband's father and mother; blessing for Pastor Stephen and Ellen Gaulke; honor of daughter Susan Runge's birthday December 7.

Tim and Margaret Kaschube for blessings received and their family

Gail Keilty in memory of parents Joseph and Madeline Stoothoff and brother Thomas Stoothoff

Gail Keilty and grandsons John, Conner and Gavin, in memory of devoted daughter and grandsons' mother, Nancy Palamara

Aaron and Judy Mattes for blessings received
Shirley Mead in memory of parents Theodore and Helen Beharrell

Janet Meyers for loved ones' blessings

Rose Reese in memory of husband Bill

Jan Schnarr in loving memory and honor of Clayton Schnarr

Cathy White in loving memory of husband Bob

Sharon Woerner in memory of Ken and Shaun Naumann

Snowbirds Warmly Welcomed!

Concordia is blessed with many "snowbird" friends who worship with us several months of the year. Many of you already have joined Concordia's **Associate Membership**. If you have not yet, please do so! Your **primary membership stays "home,"** as you settle in for the season to your Concordia church "here." Speak to Pastor Stephen (365-0844).

We promise our associate members:

- 1) A faithful ministry of **Jesus' Word and sacrament**.
- 2) **Pastoral care** and spiritual counsel when requested.
- 3) Our heartfelt prayers (and your birthdays, anniversaries, news, in our "Courier" newsletter) and warm **friendship**.
- 4) Our support as you seize every **opportunity to serve** with Jesus, both in the congregation and in the community, as He leads you.

5) Stewardship helps to spur your spiritual growth, offering envelopes, and an annual record of your tithes and **gifts to God** given at Concordia (also for the taxman!).

We invite our associate members to participate fully in **all the blessings** of Concordia's membership!

So, what's the difference between associate and **full members**? Only that you can not exercise the formal vote at the congregational meetings of both Concordia and your home church. And, you probably don't get to enjoy the Florida summertime sun as much as the rest of us! Help Concordia to serve you, and to serve Jesus with you, as best as we can!

"Thank You, Lord, for Your snowbirds! Bless also their home churches, our faithful sisters."

We Remember Denny

Paul Dennis **"Denny" Williams** was born July 2, 1951 at Home Hospital in Lafayette, Indiana to Charles E. Williams and Juanita Mae nee Hinkle. Denny was baptized at St. James Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Indiana in 1951 and confirmed at Concordia Lutheran Church in 1965. On May 6, 1956 the family had moved to Bernard Avenue in Manatee County (since reclaimed for Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport), when Denny was not yet 5 years old. They then moved to Bayshore Road.

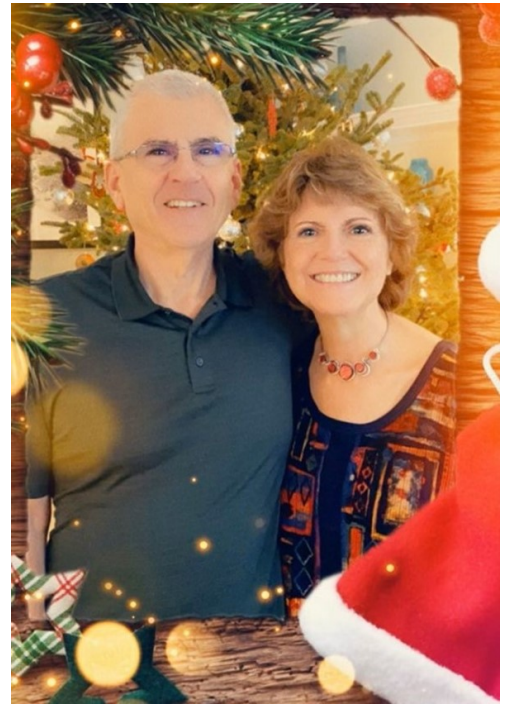
Denny attended Bay Haven School for Basic Plus, Sarasota Junior High and Sarasota Senior High. He then attended Manatee Junior College where he graduated Summa Cum Laude with an AS degree. On November 5, 1977, Denny married Alice after meeting her on a blind date August 13, 1976. Together they enjoyed 46 years with their blended but beautiful family.

He worked full-time for Pratt Whitney from 1969-1971, worked with his father from 1971-1972 and then Florida Power and Light from 1972. He was downsized out in November 1995. Denny then took care of his mother, planned annual vacations, became Mr. Mom around the house. He enjoyed NASCAR, Tampa Bay Rays, Tampa Bay Bucs, American Civil War, reading non-fiction, Ninja Kitty and his grandchildren. He was a fantastic limerick writer, quick witted and had a dry sense of humor.

Denny passed away on December 27, 2023 surrounded by his family. He is preceded in death by his father Charles Williams, mother Juanita Williams, nephew Jason Crady of Sarasota and his mother-in-law Helen Merrill of Fredonia, NY. He is survived by his wife Alice of Sarasota, son Stephen (Selene) of Lebanon, TN, daughter Tina (Mike) Granthon of Sarasota, granddaughters Emma Granthon of Sarasota and Beatrice Williams of Lebanon, TN and grandson Matthew Williams of Lebanon, TN, brother Kerry (Robin) Williams of Brevard, NC, sisters Barby (Bob) Crady of Sarasota and Carol (Andy) Van Clefe of Greer, SC, sister-in-law Dorothy Potter and brother-in-law Jen (Karen) Merrill of Fredonia, NY and numerous nieces and nephews and their children.

Denny faithfully followed Jesus with His Concordia family. He delighted to hear God's Word and receive Jesus' Sacrament, and to lift us with Spirit-born hope.

The entire family thanks you for your prayers and loving support. Memorial donations may be made to Concordia dedicated to either the Seminarian Euder Paul or the Seasonal Worker funds.



A Note from the President

Greetings Concordia, I hope everyone is off to a good start in 2024. The Lenten season is right around the corner. Things are happening so quickly. Ash Wednesday and Valentines Day will be on the same day along with the extra day February (Leap Year). I want to thank the Congregation for a momentous year 2023, and we are taking that momentum into 2024. We are very blessed to have each one of you. Please take note of the Bible Study between Worship services, we are seeing an increase of fellowship during that 10 am hour. Also, it is great to see the overall attendance picking up as well.

Diane Scott has joined the Council as Fellowship Leader. We are in the process of re-working that area of our Ministry to where we will get more people involved in serving the Church. We thank Diane for coming forward to serve. We will be publishing year end numbers soon once we get bank statements processed. Preliminary it looks like the Concordia Congregation stepped up and celebrated the Birth of Jesus. Thank you again. Our Concordia membership is incredible.

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 Lenten Season.

Dennis Jesse mobile: 614-286-0101 or Email: djesse@jessemarketing.com



Concordia Council Minutes - Tuesday, November 15, 2023

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

Constitutional Quorum in person

The meeting was called to order by Phyllis Kirtley at 5:59 P.M.

Opening Devotion: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 was read and discussed.

Leadership Report: Pastor Stephen said that Seminarian Euder Paul is being brought to Concordia and will preach the weekend after Christmas.

Pastor Stephen announced that the 10 churches of the LCMS Sarasota district will meet at Concordia on January 22nd to begin planting the next church plant in our circuit.

President's Report: Dennis Jesse thanked Dave Meadows for his help during the past month with the Fall Fest and getting Pastor Bob and Alice Smith situated in the parsonage. He said he is very excited for 2024.

Vice President's Report: Phyllis Kirtley is looking for someone to fill in for Barb Briggs as the fellowship chair in the coming new year. Barb suggested that fellowship needs a committee since there is too much work for one person.

Secretary's Report: October's minutes were unanimously approved after a few minor clarifications. Phyllis made the motion which was seconded by Alice Williams.

Financial Secretary's Report: Wayne Ulbrich had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Mann presented the proposed 2024 budget which will be voted on by the congregation at the voters' meetings to be held on December 2nd and 3rd. Margo Arehart noted that her budget request and a \$500 SURE donation were missing from the budget. Tom agreed to add them.

Alice Williams made a motion to accept the budget and Phyllis Kirtley seconded the motion. The budget passed by a unanimous vote of the Council.

Worship Report: Alice Williams reported that 22 homebound members are being served by Concordia elders. Based on employee evaluations submitted by Council members and elders, it is suggested that paid workers receive a 3.2% raise plus a 0.5% merit increase for a total increase of 3.7%. Alice further stated that the elders unanimously approved Cory Biladeau as their next worship chairperson.

Education Report: Julie Smith said that a Family Night would be held on November 16th. She hoped that some new families that attended Fall Fest would come to the gathering. Julie also said that no gathering will be held in December due to scheduling conflicts among the organizers.

Outreach Report: Dawn Mowery shared that the fire pit event will be held in January when more members return from their holiday travels. Dawn also said that new members are volunteering to help with the rummage sale being held in February

Fellowship Report: Barbara Briggs said that family members of the deceased usually provide the food for a funeral luncheon and Concordia supplies the beverages.

Service Report: Margo Arehart said that an LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission League) event will be held the 2nd or 3rd week in February to make Easter cards for Concordia's shut ins. Margo reminded the Council that Concordia needs a representative for SURE. A recipient of Lutheran Services of Florida's good Samaritan award needs to be nominated. Pastor Stephen nominated a church member and Margo Arehart offered to write up the nomination form. The award goes to church members helping those outside the church in a tangible way. Margo presented a motion to accept the individual. The motion was seconded by Ruth Bogenberger and unanimously approved by the Council.

Properties Report: Dave Meadows is still waiting on a fence to separate the playground from the parsonage. Dave made a motion which was seconded by Ruth Bogenberger to not increase the preschool rent in 2024. The motion unanimously passed. Dave said that one of the classrooms may be rented by someone other than the preschool. Dennis Jesse made a motion which was seconded by Margo Arehart to try to negotiate a monthly rate of \$1,000. The council unanimously approved this motion.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

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 **January 9, 2024**, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Ruth Bogenberger - Council Secretary

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 **March 2024** issue of "*The Courier*" is **February 13**. 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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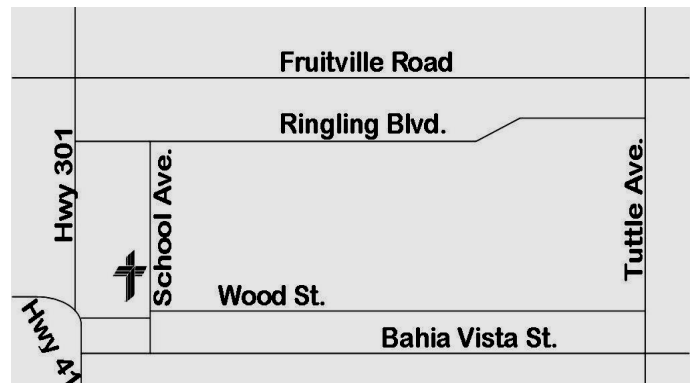
Concordia Lutheran Church

2024 Church Officers

President..... Dennis Jesse614-286-0101
 Vice-President Alice Williams.....941-957-1090
 Treasurer Thomas Mann660-379-7630
 Secretary Ruth Bogenberger....941-412-4466
 Financial Secretary Vacant.....

2024 Board Chairpersons

Worship Cory Biladeau612-532-3771
 Education..... Julie Smith813-361-7325
 Outreach..... Dawn Mowery678-230-0208
 Fellowship..... Diane Scott941-302-4819
 Service..... Margo Arehart.....419-810-0853
 Properties Dave Meadows941-685-6711



The Concordia Courier
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The Concordia Courier

February 2024

Worship Schedule

Worship Services

Saturday 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, M.Div. Seasonal Hospitality
Lei Ann Ahl Parish Secretary/Bookkeeper
Johnora L. Hildebrand . Music Director/Organist
Dawn Brown Praise Band Leader/Pianist



Concordia Lutheran Church, LC-MS

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

