

The Concordia Courier

A Publication Of Concordia Lutheran Church

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

Christian Hope

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

Sundays 10 a.m. at Concordia's Willer Fellowship Hall.

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.

Wednesday (4), March 6. John 19:1-16a: **The Humble.** Dinner is "**potluck.**" If you'd like, bring whatever kind of dish. Do sample everyone's favorites! Really, we have this many great cooks... and those who bring dishes from great restaurants!

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!**

Ask Diane Scott (941-302-4819) how you can help. **Bring a friend!** We always leave our dinners happy, right?!

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**!"

"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!"



(photo) **Carol Hill** leads us into God's Word. Do come to church family dinner **March 7!**

Christians of Bethlehem Israel

After our weekend worship on **March 2** (Saturday, 4:30 p.m.) and **March 3** (Sunday, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.), Concordia welcomes faithful brothers and sisters from the Holy Land. With a ministry moment, your church's entryway will display **hand-carved olivewood** items from Jesus' birth town. Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels, and many other crafts... Purchase beautiful wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. **Handmade by Christian families** from Bethlehem, these artworks are their daily bread.

More than 70% of the Christians in the Holy Land depend upon tourism as their only source of income. After years of conflict, pandemic, and now war tourism plummets and other income streams are restricted. Many Christian families had to flee their homeland. Last century **the Christian population** of the Holy Land was 30%. Today it is less than 1%.

A Christian family **from Bethlehem** will tell us the story. Can we help? Let's purchase some carvings they present. All proceeds do support Christian families from Bethlehem.

"Lord, deliver us from evil. See all Your sisters and brothers. Answer especially those who look to You. Together we pray to You for **peace in the Holy Land.**"

Lent Wednesdays
Scripture + Song



Come 4:30 pm or 6:30 pm
Free Simple Supper 5:30 pm

The Cello Still Sings

Don't miss this story-telling and conversation with cellist and author **Janet Horvath**. Janet is the popular guest presenter at conservatories, bookstores, community centers, and book clubs. Inspiring and stimulating, Janet will even sign copies of her book.

Janet Horvath is a lifelong performing classical musician, soloist, speaker, and writer. The associate principal cello of the Minnesota Orchestra from 1980-2012, Horvath has performed in recital and chamber music throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe, on CBC, BBC, and NPR radio stations, and on PBS television. Her book, **The Cello Still Sings** - A Generational Story of the Holocaust and of the Transformative Power of Music, is named among **2023's 100 best** independently published books (Kirkus Reviews).

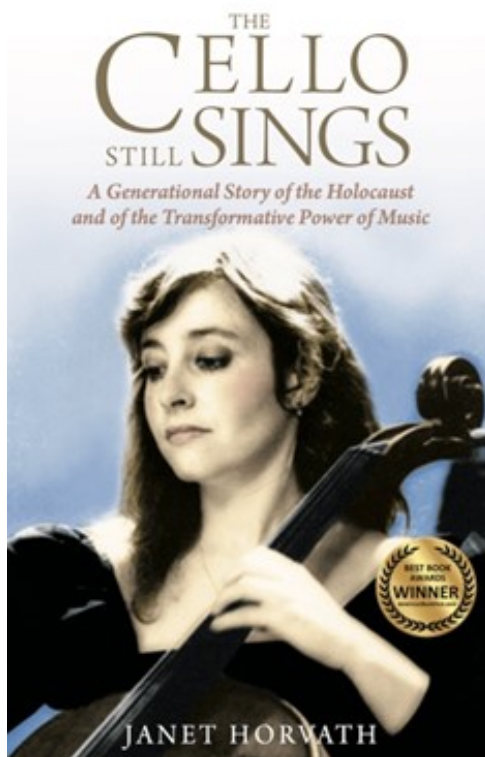
An innocent question about music leads to the revelation that the author's father played 200 morale-building concerts in the displaced persons camps of Bavaria after World War II, two of which were with Maestro Leonard Bernstein. It is the clue that leads to unravelling the past. This **true story** is a vivid and fast-pac

ed recounting of the decades of silence and deeply hidden secrets, the consequences of trauma, and the quest for truth through the **spiritual sustenance and power** of music. Her work has been described by reviewers as "lyrical," "gripping," "entertaining," and "a heartfelt story vividly and powerfully told."

Tuesday **March 5, 10:30 a.m.** to noon at **Concordia**, your Willer Hall, do bring friends.

You **must RSVP** by text or call to **651-246-6942**, our Pam Biladeau (once Janet's neighbor!). The event yet may be moved.

See at YouTube "Janet Horvath: The Cello Still Sings." Place book orders at Amazon or Barnes and Noble... or **Concordia lends** out a few copies.



Altar Guild News

The Altar Guild meets on **Thursday, March 7 at 9:30 a.m.** Altar Guild gathers in Willer Hall usually 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!**"

Kids Bell Choir

Kids (and kids at heart) Bell Choir is restarting at Concordia. Practice is prior to the **Thursday Family Nights** at 5:45 p.m. once a month. We would love to have more players so invite your child or grandchild to join us.

Questions – contact director Carol Hill 440-539-4058. Next practice is **March 7** at 5:45 p.m. in our Willer Fellowship Hall.

Family Nights

Our **dinner and faith-building fun** welcomes all on **Thursdays March 7**, April 11 and May 9 from **5:45-7 p.m.** at our Willer Fellowship Hall. This month, the Lord leads us (**Psalms 100:1**): "Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!"

RSVP at the church office (941-365-0844). "Welcome **us, our children, and little ones you love**, Jesus. Bring more to us!"

Disaster Response Training

Would you like to help a community recover after a **natural disaster**? Show the love of Christ to people in such need? Have you volunteered for a **Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT)**? Your opinion can help LCMS Disaster Response and Training improve its organization and training of LERT volunteers so that they are ready to deploy when a natural disaster strikes. Please take a **brief survey** at lcms.org/lert-survey-congregation. Let us know by March 15.

Might you join the Lutheran Church disaster response ministry? LCMS Florida-Georgia Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT) welcomes you Saturday, **March 9**, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center, **Lithia**, Florida. Basic disaster response for new volunteers. Also **free training** certified in first aid, CPR/AED, and Stop The Bleed first aid. Chain saw safety and Bobcat mini-loader operation. More info at FLGADistrict.org/LERT.

"Lord of all care, strengthen those serving with LERT training. **Give Your relief** to those struck by natural disasters!"

Daylight Savings

Daylight savings time "springs forward" on **Sunday, March 10**. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday. Please don't go cuckoo!

Good News-letter

Our **April 2024**

Concordia Courier seeks articles, due Tuesday

March 12. Can you **help**

the crew fold the news for mailing? Do tell Parish Secretary Lei Ann (941-365-0844).

Thank you to February's Courier folders: Cathy Beiber, 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**.

LWML Ladies Event

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Ladies Social and Service Event will be held at Concordia on Saturday **March 16** from **10 a.m. to noon** in Willer Hall. This will be the second social and service event for all Concordia ladies. We will **make Easter cards** for our Concordia shut-ins. Each attendee will make 2 cards for shut-ins and 1 card and 2 treats for herself.

Since our instructor, Vikki, has to order enough supplies, please **register by March 5** if possible. Text Margo Arehart (419) 810-0853 or call Lei Ann at the church office to sign up. We need at least 10 ladies to have this event. But many more are welcome!

Cost is \$10 per person will include all materials except scissors and double-sided tape. There will also be a light brunch to snack on during the class. If anyone has a Thrivent Grant available, we could use that instead of each person paying the **\$10 per person fee** to be collected for the event.

99 Cards Celebrating 99 Years

Pat Lenke will be celebrating her **99th birthday** on **March 17**. The family has asked Pat's Concordia family to send her birthday cards to show our love as she celebrates her 99th birthday. Please mail the birthday cards to: Mrs. Pat Lenke, Plymouth Harbor, 700 John Ringling Blvd. OFC, SCC-14, Sarasota, FL 34236-1588.



SURE Nehemiah Action

Join with hundreds of Biblical believers working towards a better Sarasota! Monday, **March 18**, 6:30 p.m. (to 8) at First Congregational Church, **1031 S. Euclid Ave.** (a few blocks from Concordia).

Our **Nehemiah Action** is the annual "great assembly" (see Nehemiah 5) where Concordia with more than **23 congregations** gathers to hold public officials **accountable for solving** serious problems plaguing our community.

This year, our research committees have discovered action-able steps to fix Sarasota's need for **affordable housing**. For details, please visit **SURESarasota.org**.

Sarasota United for Responsibility for Equity, SURE, is our faith-based justice ministry. We train the church's volunteer leaders to work with **community leaders and public officials** to correct inequities in the Sarasota community. We provide hope for equality of opportunity.

For over two decades, SURE has led Sarasota believers of across denomination, age, race, geography, and income to build relationships in their congregations and their communities. We work hard to discuss our concerns for our county, research solutions to serious problems we select, present them to the proper officials and work with them to **make "sure" our community is a just one**.

Life Is Beautiful! Event

The **Sarasota Pregnancy Center**, and Concordia's volunteers there, invite you to this **benefit luncheon or dinner** with a **silent auction** at **Michael's On East** (1212 S. East Avenue, Sarasota). Meal complimentary.

Donations to SPC welcome at the event. The SPC spends over \$1,200 to serve a mom and her baby, and \$1,800 to serve a family through Men's and Couple Coaching Program. Let's empower women, nurture life, equip families.

Choose one among these three events:

Wednesday **March 20** or Thursday **March 21**
Reception / Cash Bar / Silent Auction
Cocktail Attire: 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.
Dinner and Program 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday **March 21**
Reception / Cash Bar / Silent Auction
Business Attire: 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
Lunch and Program 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Register ASAP at sarasotapregnancy.com/events or (941) 702-9974. Seats fill!

This Holy Week

Concordia delights to meet Jesus in worship. Have you with us tasted His presence? **Come!** This week crowns the church year!

Palm Sunday.

Celebrate the Sunday of **Jesus' Passion**, **March 23** Saturday 4:30 p.m., or **March 24** Sunday morn, 9 a.m. (praise band) or 11 a.m. (organ, choir). "**Hosanna** to Jesus, son of King David! The Lord saves!" Jerusalem welcomed her King with a parade, waving palm branches. Jesus marched on, not to a golden throne, but to a splintered cross. Our worship will relive the grand story, told in John 12:12-19 and Matthew 26-27. What **wondrous love** is this!

Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m. March 28.

Jesus washes the disciples' feet, an example of His "**new mandate**" (so the name, "Maundy" Thursday). "A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (John 13:34)

Then, on this very night before He goes to the cross, He gives us His "**last will and testament**." "This (Passover bread) is My body. This (wine) is My blood, for your forgiveness" (Matthew 26:26-28, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25).

His will? He will have the last laugh against death. He will come to us alive. In this worship hour, He will give to us His victory's prize, true **forgiveness!**

Jesus then left the Passover feast to pray in Gethsemane's garden, preparing to be stripped of His life. Our worship concludes praying Psalm 22, as the altar guild leaders **strip the altar bare**, preparing for Friday.

Good Friday, March 29 Noon and 7 p.m., the same service **midday** and in the **evening**.

This Friday, "good"? The Innocent goes to the cross, goes through hell, "good"? See death swallowed up in victory! Guilt, death, hell He will nail and bury. "It is **finished!**" (John 19:30)

Good Friday's worship recalls Jesus' seven statements from the cross. We call the hour "Tenebrae," that is "darkness." In the successive extinguishing of candles, see **our Champion** stride into the deepening darkness. This very darkness He will defeat once and for all!

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Easter is celebrated **Saturday** 4:30 p.m. **March 30** and **Sunday** morn **March 31**. Sunday's first worship is **SonRise at 6:30 a.m.**, the second led by our praise band at 9 a.m., and then 11 a.m. with hymns and organ. (The SonRise worship gathers before dawn in the church's courtyard, next to our Willer Fellowship Hall.) You'll be invited to friendly chit-chat, the excited joy, the new love, born this day.

This is **the feast of victory** for our God! Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain. His blood set us free to be people of God! Every Sunday is a "little Easter," celebrating Him. The same Jesus who triumphed this day lives to serve us every day! Join us for worship and, when you are ready to receive Him, the Lord's Supper.

"You come, Jesus, not demanding that we serve You, but promising that **You will serve** us?! In Your own innocent blood, You have paid the ransom price. You set free all the guilty, free from every enemy! And still You come, our Living friend, to serve us today! Gather us and love on us in these holy days. Make us to be more like You, so that we may love one another. Let us give Your love to those who have yet to grasp Your touch. Let it be, **sweet God!**"

P.S. Need directions? More info? Call us. Bring a friend. Bring someone you love. Bring anyone who, like us, needs the Lord's love! Serving all people in worship, Jesus lives. **Happy Easter!**

Jesus Alive Serves All in Worship!



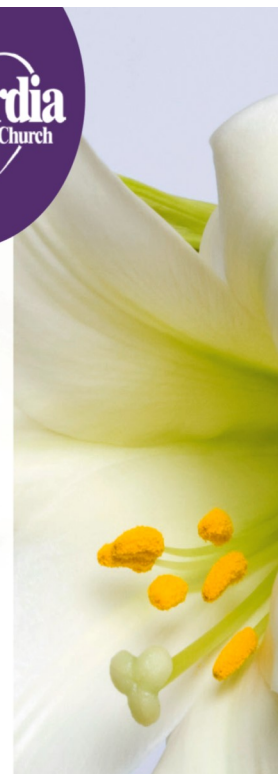
HOLY WEEK

- Maundy Thursday **7 p.m.**
- Good Friday **Noon and 7 p.m.**
- Holy Saturday **4:30 p.m.**

EASTER SUNDAY

- Easter SonRise **6:30 a.m.**
- Worship w/ Praise Band **9 a.m.**
- Egg Hunt & Breakfast **10 a.m.**
- Worship w/ Organ, Choir **11 a.m.**

Please contact me (365-0844) when I or Concordia can serve you or serve with you.
Pastor Stephen



How Is Your Family?

Table of Duties – Certain passages of Scripture for various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities (continued from last month).

To Husbands

Husbands, in the same way **be considerate** as you live with your wives, and **treat them with respect** as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. 1 Peter 3:7

Husbands, **love your wives** and do not be harsh with them. Colossians 3:19

To Wives

Wives, **submit to your husbands** as to the Lord. Ephesians 5:22

They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you **do what is right** and do not give way to fear. 1 Peter 3:5-6

To Parents

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, **bring them up in** the training and instruction of **the Lord**. Ephesians 6:4

To Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **"Honor your father and your mother"**—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3

(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.

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."



(photo) **Sunday Bible study groups**, 10 a.m., led by Pastor Gary Hill and now Pastor Bob Smith, bring dozens, God's children of all ages, into the Jesus' conversations. Come **grow** with the gangs!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
W	a	r	c	R	1	2 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, Bethlehem Guests
3 Lent 3 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion, Bethlehem Guests 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion, Bethlehem Guests	4 *** 7 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg.	5 10:30 a.m. to Noon Cellist / Author Event 2 p.m. Elder's Meeting	6 Lent Wednesday 4 4:30 p.m. Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Worship Service 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***7 p.m. AA Mtg.	7 9:30 a.m. Altar guild Meeting 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	8	9 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Gary Hill - Guest Pastor **Remember to move your clock ahead 1 hour at bedtime
10 Lent 4 Daylight Saving Time Begins 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	11 ***	12 April Newsletter Deadline 6 p.m. Council Meeting	13 Lent Wednesday 5 4:30 p.m. Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Worship Service 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	14 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	15	16 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 10 a.m. LWML Ladies Social & Service Event in Willer Hall 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
17 Lent 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	18 6:30 p.m. SURE Nehemiah Action at 1st UCC (1031 Euclid St.) ***	19	20 Lent Wednesday 6 4:30 p.m. Worship Service 5:30 p.m. Dinner 6:30 p.m. Worship Service 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	21 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	22	23 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
24 Palm Sunday 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	25 ***	26	27 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	28 Maundy Thursday No Bible study groups today 7 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, altar strip	29 Good Friday Church office closed 7:15 a.m. Downtown Faith Walk 12:00 p.m. (noon) Tenebrae Worship 7 p.m. Tenebrae Worship	30 Holy Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
31 Easter Sunday 6:30 a.m. SonRise Worship 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion 10 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion	1 Easter Monday ***	2	3 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	4 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	5	6 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.

March Birthdays

01	Ashley Gaines Bill Morse
03	Faby Napoleon-Jesse Randy Reese
05	Carol Bruggeman
06	Rose Reese
07	Juliette Lawson
08	Janet Falte Tim Kaschube
09	Margie Pocock Roger Schoolcraft
10	Jan Schnarr
12	Wayne McMullen
16	Pastor Bob Smith
17	Pat Lenke Jeffrey Schmidt
18	Luke Basinger Elise Hampton Arlene Havin
20	Regina Mann
24	Mary Reiter
25	Sophia Kenney - 13th
26	Barbara Briggs
27	Noah Lutsch
28	Teri Grimm
30	Pastor Stephen Gaulke
31	Judy Mattes

March Anniversaries

06	William Morse and Debra Namors - 28th
23	Graham and Johnora Hildebrand - 33rd
25	Alan and Barbara Thomas - 36th
31	Darwin and Nancy Hormann - 51st

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!**

Friendship, Food, Fun

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

Grasp 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.

Choir Welcome

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! Johnora Hildebrand, director
"Lord, **renew** our joy. You are our Song!"

Memorials Received

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

In memory of Franz Pielmeier, from Pastor Stephen and Ellen Gaulke.

In memory of Denny Williams, from Gary and Ruth Bogenberger for dedicated Seminarian Euder Paul Fund; from Child Protection Center of Sarasota for Seminarian Euder Paul Fund; from Susan Dahne and the Jazzercise Ladies for dedicated Seasonal Worker Fund; from Gregg and Janet Lewis for dedicated Seasonal Worker Fund; from Mary Ann Pappas for dedicated Seasonal Worker Fund; from Shirley Schwisow for dedicated Sanctuary Lighting Fund.

Special Thank You

Dear Concordia Church Family,

The family and I wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for your loving care during Denny's call home to Jesus. He now is enjoying comfort and peace with his Lord and Savior.

The cards, the calls, the hugs and the prayers helped us not only get through this difficult time but be lifted spiritually as well.

Thank you and bless you all Alice Williams

Faith-Walk Down Main Street

On **Good Friday** March 29 walk your faith in a procession down the center of Main Street. Solemn and reflective, we stop to hear **Scripture and pray** at fourteen Stations of Christ's passion journey. A community choir leads the walk.

Twenty-some Sarasota churches participate, with Concordia part of the **Sarasota Ministerial Association**. Gather at 7:15 a.m. in front of the Hollywood 11 Theater. The final station is at the Church of the Redeemer Episcopal, 222 S. Palm Ave. at 8:30 a.m.

For those who want to park at the final station at Redeemer, Siesta Trolley will transport pilgrims from that church to Hollywood 11 beginning at 6:30 a.m.

"Lord Jesus, let Sarasota walk with You on this **day of Your passion**."

Easter Break-fast

"Break the fast" of Lent on Easter morn between the worship services (**10 to 11 a.m.**) at Concordia's **Willer Fellowship Hall**. Tell Diane Scott (941-302-4819)... can you help with the cooks or clean-up crew? We'll provide the egg casseroles and sausage links, fruit and pastries, juice and coffee. If you'd like, bring some home made pastries to share. **Bring a friend!**

Easter Egg Hunt

Bring your children (or kids you know) to Concordia's Easter egg hunt, **Easter morn, 10 a.m.** Can you help? Concordia has a generous supply of **plastic eggs** in the narthex of the church that just **need filling**. Please, help yourself and fill some plastic eggs with candy, stickers, etc. But no chocolate... it melts! Then, return the filled eggs to church by Maundy Thursday, March 28. Would you like to help hide eggs Easter morn? Becky Reese (941-544-0656) or Julie Smith 813-361-7325 welcome your suggestions.

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).

"Thanks for making us **Your friends**, Lord!"

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!"

Easter Lilies

Easter Lilies will be placed in the sanctuary March 30. See the **order form right**, or pick up a copy in the back of the sanctuary.

"Let us joyfully trumpet Your resurrection, Jesus. So sweet, the **new life** You gift to us!"

Worship's Scripture

March 2, 3 - Lent 3

Exodus 20:1-17
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 2:13-22 (23-25)

March 9, 10 - Lent 4

Numbers 21:4-9
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

March 16, 17 - Lent 5

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:(32-34) 35-45

March 23, 24 - Palm Sunday

Zechariah 9:9-12
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1-15:47

March 28 - Maundy Thursday

Exodus 24:3-11
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
Mark 14:12-26

March 29 - Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 19:17-30

March 31 - Easter SonRise

Exodus 15:1-11
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
John 20:1-18

March 30, 31 - Easter

Isaiah 25:6-9
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8

Asking the Right Questions ????????????????????

Many years ago our family began to intentionally ask questions. It might have been when we first found the game called "*Ungame*," a game about asking questions. It was in the early 1970's while we were still living in Frankenmuth, Michigan. The questions did help to stimulate conversations in the Smith family and especially at mealtimes.

As a couple, Alice and I have discovered the importance of developing relationships and cultivating our marriage through questions. Through the years it has become a standard for the two of us when alone or with guests to ask stimulating questions for discussions during mealtimes.

Encouraging students to ask questions has also been important in our classrooms. We believe if a person wants to discover good answers then s/he should learn to ask smart questions. Top

students in a class will have the courage and ability to ask the correct question at the appropriate time.

The best questions are those that are open-ended. These take thought and time to explain. I cannot answer it in only one word. The answers come from my knowledge and experience of living a Christian worldview in response to today's secular, humanistic, relativistic and materialistic world.

Only the Lord knows how someone's questions or answers might inspire. We will leave that up to Him. It has been a joy to be challenged to answer these questions. The questions don't change. But your answers to the same questions may change due to acquired knowledge and experience over the years.

People in general, husbands and wives, and families have far too few opportunities to share their deepest thoughts, how to live and love with one another. All of us starve for more intimacy. We pray questions might bridge some of the gaps. Charles Schultz, the creator of "Snoopy," captures the essence of answering questions in the cartoon above. A bunch of little questions



should not bother us, but enrich our lives. It is the really big questions of life that are answered by God through the Bible or they are not answered at all.

Easter is at the end of March. Here is a question for you: **"How has Easter changed your life?"**

In His service,
Pastor Bob and
Alice
Concordia's
Winter Hospitality
Pastor

Easter Lilies

The Altar Guild welcomes your orders for Easter Lilies.

Take home your "**resurrection trumpet**" after Easter's final worship service.

Please complete this form. Place this into the offering plate along with your check made payable to "*Concordia Lutheran Church*" in an envelope you've marked "*Altar Guild Easter Lilies.*"

_____ 6-inch plants \$17 each
(12 available)

_____ 8-inch plants \$25 each
(13 available)

Plant given by _____

Please **designate** one of the following:

1) In memory of , 2) in honor of, 3) In celebration of...

A Note from the President

Greetings Concordia. Happy Easter to all of you. Lenten services have started, and we hope to see you at midweek services. There will a supper at 5:30 every Wednesday. Please come and join that fellowship. We posted year-end Financial Numbers for Concordia for 2023. Thomas Mann has done a terrific job with all Finances at Concordia. Please give him a big Thank You. Copies are still available for your review. We had a tremendous year and all the thanks and blessings for this is due to a great Congregation. The Church is strong, healthy, and getting better every day.

I want to thank Wayne Ulbrich for his service as Financial Secretary. He has given countless hours to the Church in all areas. We appreciate his service to Concordia. Ricky Reese will be serving as interim Financial Secretary until the Council has its meeting on March 9th.

A big Thank You to Dawn Mowery and the Rummage Rockers. Another successful year of helping our community with the Rummage Sale.

Crazy, the number of hours the Rockers put in to get the event ready.

Great to see all the new faces coming to

Concordia and enjoying the Worship with Pastor Stephen. The work done by all Pastors this season has been neat stuff. Pastor Bob, Pastor Gary, and Pastor Ted deserve a big Thank you as well.

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
Email: djesse@jessemarketing.com



(photo) Andrew Whitlow, another of our 7 at college, receives a **gift** from your **Concordia Foundation**

Rummage Sale Update

Thanks to all who set up, priced, worked, brought friends, shopped and cleaned up... We've **rocked another rummage** sale. You shared your talent! Such fun making friends while doing good! We sold treasures to our neighbors at great prices. More, we gave to all a glimpse of the One who freely gives Himself as the Treasure.

Thanks to a large crowd of shoppers each day, the sale garnered around **\$6,500 (and counting!)**. Final figure will be announced soon! Women's Guild will meet between Sunday services (date to be announced) for disbursement of the funds. Every Concordia woman is a member of the Women's Guild and is welcome to attend and vote.

Did you know that the sales from the books/media section go directly to **Concordia's library** to keep it updated with new reading material? This year we were blessed with collecting **\$183** at the rummage sale.

"Jesus, our Treasure, let us meet and **serve many** with **Your kindness!**"

(photo) **Rummage Sale** days start with prayer, our decades-long delight.



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 **April 2024** issue of "*The Courier*" is **March 12**. 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: MARCH 2024
Statement of Frequency: MONTHLY
Authorized Origin: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
2185 WOOD STREET
SARASOTA, FL 34237-7915
Issue Number: 03-24

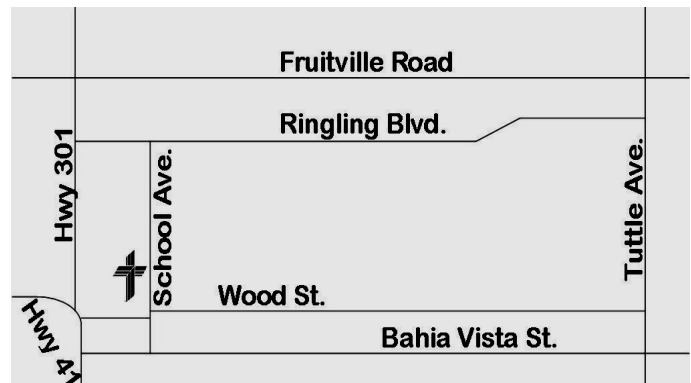
Concordia Lutheran Church

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
Concordia Lutheran Church, LCMS
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March 2024

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Concordia with Lutheran Services Florida
named Gary Thomas 2024 Good Samaritan
for leading our volunteers helping refugees

The Concordia Courier

March 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

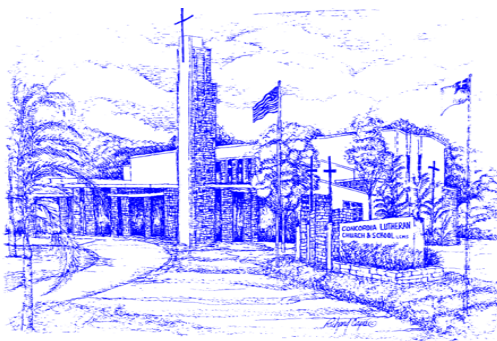
Holy Communion

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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Facebook: search Concordia Sarasota

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

