

# The Concordia Courier

A Publication Of Concordia Lutheran Church

† JESUS' HARMONY FOR THE HEART OF SARASOTA † September/October 2024

## How Can You Live?

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS (God's Law, continued)

#### The Fourth Commandment

Honor your **father and your mother**.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

#### The Fifth Commandment

You shall not **murder**.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

#### The Sixth Commandment

You shall not commit **adultery**.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

#### The Seventh Commandment

You shall not **steal**.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him improve and protect his possessions and income.

#### About the Commandments

(last stanzas of Luther's 1524 hymn)

You have this law to see therein  
That you have not been free from sin,  
But also that you clearly see  
How **pure toward God** life should be.  
Have mercy, Lord!

Lord Jesus, help us in our need;  
Christ, You our go-between indeed.  
Our works, how sinful, marred, unjust!  
Christ, You our **one hope and trust**.  
Have mercy, Lord!

Find the Ten Commandments at **Exodus 20** and **Deuteronomy 5**. Q & A 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, ©1992.

## God for Us: the New Birth, Feast

Would you delight to **know Jesus better**? To firmly grasp His **promise and purpose** for you? "I would!" says Pastor Stephen.

**Try** Concordia's Sunday (10 to 10:45 a.m.) Bible discussions. Rejoice in the **beautiful basics of our faith**. As Luther's Small Catechism outlines: Ten Commandments (He loves!), Apostle's Creed (He's faithful), Lord's Prayer (He hears), Baptism (He cleanses) and the Lord's Supper (He feeds us). The Bible's awesome theme: "God is for us!"

All who worship at Concordia and other guests, families and friends from the neighborhood, all ages, **all are welcome**.

With "God For Us" you can...

- 1) **Go deeper** into Jesus' Good News (feel His touch on your heart!),
- 2) **Respond** to Jesus (simple, heart-felt discussions and prayers),
- 3) Build **new friendships** (with friends who really care!),
- 4) See Jesus **reach others** with His joy (also through you),
- 5) Say "YES!" to the **vision and mission** Jesus gives to you, and to Concordia!

Who can you bring with you? Would a weekday group, or evening group, better fit your schedule?

Who else would enjoy these **faith-sharing discussions**? Who could grow with a loving and truthful church family? No pressure, no obligations. But a chance to rejoice in "**God for Us!**"

"Jesus, let us take to heart Your care, so that we may **share Your heart**."

## Altar Flowers Return Sept. 1

Please consider purchasing the Lord's **altar's fresh flowers**. **Commemorate** a special occasion or **honor** a loved one? Altar flowers **cost \$32.50 for one bouquet and \$65 for both**. Find the special envelopes in the pews, and in the church entryway next to the sign up poster.

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

## God Bless the American Worker

The church office is closed on **Monday, September 2** celebrating **Labor Day**.

## Pastoral Care

Pastor Stephen and Ellen vacation **September 9 to October 9**. Our retired member **Pastor Roger Schoolcraft** preaches Saturdays and Sundays those weekends of September 15, 22, 29 and October 6.

Concordia's elders visit the homebound and hospitalized. Do you or your friend need **pastoral care**? Please notify parish secretary Lei Ann Ahl at the church office (941-365-0844). Our lead elder is Cory Biladeau (612-532-3771).

## Altar Guild News

The Altar Guild will **meet again** on **October 3 at 9:30 a.m.**

You are welcome to help **care for the Lord's altar** every season. Help us set the altar for Holy Communion, change the altar cloths, care for the candles and more. Any season, you can **help the Guild**. Please call Junne Ulbrich at 815-955-6215. Thanks!

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

## Annual Women's Guild Meeting

Sunday **October 13**, at 10 a.m. between the worship services. **All Concordia women**, "snowbirds" too, are members of the Women's Guild. All are encouraged to join in its activities. Please come to the annual meeting. Here we'll review our updated **Guild mission statement**, hold the election of **officers** and **disburse the 2023 rummage sale profits (approximately \$6,662)** to the church's special causes and charitable organizations selected.

Our current Guild President Cathy White and all the women welcome your help and wisdom. **What organizations** would you recommend to be blessed by Guild profits?

## Email My Courier

Are you **reading this on paper**, but would prefer to receive the emailed .pdf copy? Just let your church office know. Send your email **request** to Concordia5@juno.com.

Or, here reading **on a screen**, do you wish you had the printed version? Ask, and it will be mailed to you! Thanks!

Our **November 2024** Concordia Courier seeks articles, due Tuesday **October 22**. Can you **help the crew fold** the news for mailing? Do tell Parish Secretary Lei Ann (941-365-0844).

"Jesus, send Your Good News to every home! Let our neighbors find Your joy welcomed by Your Concordia family."

## Quilt Raffle

Don't miss your chance to win a gorgeous handmade quilt in our upcoming raffle! This beautifully crafted Christmas tree quilt is a true labor of love, donated by quilters Jane Marcantonio, Diane Scott, and Lynn Yates. You



can see more of their handiwork at the craft fair.

Tickets are five dollars each and will be **available in October**. Proceeds support Concordia's outreach projects. Whether you are looking for a cozy addition to your home or a meaningful gift, this quilt is a treasure you won't want to pass up!

## Fall Festival and Craft Fair

As the cooler autumn air settles in and the leaves turn shades of red and gold, Concordia is excited to host our annual Fall Festival and Craft Fair on **Saturday, November 9 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.** This event promises a day of fun, fellowship, and fantastic finds perfect for the whole family!

One of the highlights of the day is our craft fair showcasing the talents of local artisans. You'll find unique, handmade items that make perfect gifts or personal treasures. From handcrafted jewelry to cozy quilts this is your chance to support local crafters and find something truly special

For the little ones there will be face painting, maybe a bounce house, and other fun activities to keep them entertained! And don't miss our free hotdogs and quilt raffle!

So, mark your calendars and invite your friends and neighbors. We look forward to seeing you there for a day of joy and community spirit. And if you'd like to volunteer in any way, please contact Diane Scott at 941-302-4819 or Junne Ulbrich at 815-955-6215.

## Good News-letter

Thank you to August Courier folders: Gloria Bruggeman, Joyanne Fathauer and Loraine Tafel. Gloria took **260 newsletters** to the postal center. **Another 160 homes** prefer their Courier by **email**. Your choice?

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

## New Church Photo Directory

See the **second "almost done" draft** your Concordia family directory, now in the church entryway. Take this "last chance" to **mark in red** any further corrections. If you see you are not listed, please **add your name** and any info you would like. Soon this directory will be published for all worshipping with Concordia. Thanks!

"**Father** of all, help us know our **sisters, brothers.**"

## Bible Befrienders

Concordia loves Bible groups!

**Sundays, 10 a.m.** Pastor Stephen leads us into the Bible's beautiful basics. Gather at **Willer Hall's** red double-door main room.

**Thursday, 10:30 a.m.** The **men's group** soon again gathers in Concordia's Willer Hall **Library Room** (the single red door at the north end). Gary Thomas leads the guys.

**Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.** GiFTS! The **women "Grow in Faith through Scripture."** The group recently has been exploring the **Letter to the Hebrews**, sent to the first generation of Jews trusting in Jesus. Visit Concordia's Willer **Fellowship Hall** main room (double red doors).

"**Jesus, speak** to us through Your Book. Let us share Your Good Word with one another."

## Family Dinner Nights

We soon resume. Watch for info in the weekly bulletins.

"Let us learn, O Wisdom, this **amazing school year!**"

## Portals of Prayer

"Portals of Prayer," our **daily devotional** booklets for **October through December**, are available on the literature tables beside the church's entrance doors.

Pocket size or large print? Either way, wake up with Jesus and feed on His Word!

"Good Lord, give Your glad **Good News** every day."

## Let's Brew Joy Together

The Fellowship committee looks for you to join our Sunday **coffee crew!** If you enjoy creating a **warm and welcoming** environment, we invite you to lend a hand in brewing coffee and setting up the coffee station on Sundays. It's a fantastic opportunity to contribute to the

**friendship at Concordia.** Your commitment, no matter how small, will make a big difference. Interested in this heartwarming initiative? Please contact Diane Scott at 941-302-4819.

"You have made us **Your friends**, good Lord!"

## Lutheran Church Extension Fund

**Investing** has its advantages. Grows wealth. Beats inflation. Protects you from unforeseen expenses. Preserves you from breaks in employment. It allows you to retire comfortably.

The advantages are endless. But here's one more benefit you might not have thought about: investing can also **strengthen the church.**

LCEF recently offered new investments a 4.5% 6-month term note, or 5% 18-month, fixed rate. See **LCEF.org**. Or ask Pastor Stephen for more information.

LCEF is the "**church bank**" serving our nationwide Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) network of sister congregations. Your investment earns interest and enables LCEF to build ministry with wise loans to growing congregations. Thank you!

"You gave Your life for us, Jesus. May we wisely handle what You loan, to be **Your blessing.**"

## Worship's Scripture

### Aug. 31, Sept. 1 - Pentecost 15

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Ephesians 6:10-20

Mark 7:14-23

### Sept. 7, 8 - Pentecost 16

Isaiah 35:4-7a

James 2:1-10, 14-18

Mark 7:(24-30) 31-37

### Sept. 14, 15 - Pentecost 17

Isaiah 50:4-10

James 3:1-12

Mark 9:14-29

### Sept. 21, 22 - Pentecost 18

Jeremiah 11:18-20

James 3:13-4:10

Mark 9:30-37

### Sept. 28, 29 - Pentecost 19

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

James 5:(1-12) 13-20

Mark 9:38-50

### Oct. 5, 6 - Pentecost 20

Genesis 2:18-25

Hebrews 2:1-13 (14-18)

Mark 10:2-16

### Oct. 12, 13 - Pentecost 21

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Hebrews 3:12-19

Mark 10:17-22

### Oct. 19, 20 - Pentecost 22

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Hebrews 4:1-13 (14-16)

Mark 10:23-31

### Oct. 26, 27 - Pentecost 23

#### Reformation Festival

Jeremiah 31:7-9

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52



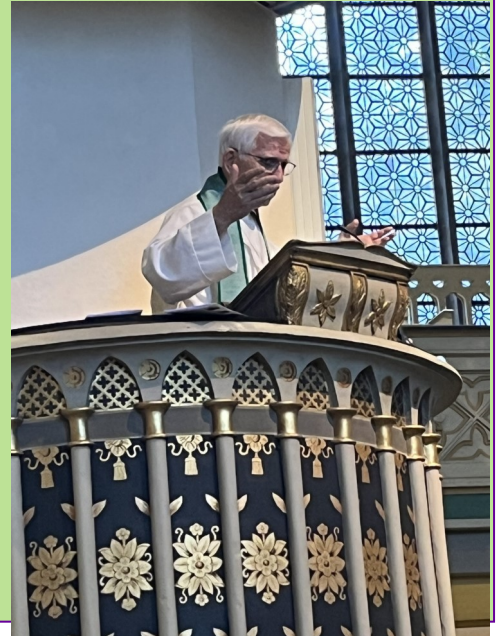


## A Note from the President

Greetings Concordia. We have made it through the hard months and Concordia continues to be as strong as ever. Financially this Church is on solid ground. Thanks to all of you, we are ready to head into the new Church year on an incredibly positive note. We want to thank Debbie Leslie for stepping up and being a member of the Council. She will be taking Margo's position in Service. We want to thank Margo Arehart for her many years on Church Council and helping Concordia in many ways. For those of you who do not know Margo moved back to Toledo, Ohio.

As we head into the new year, we have projects that will be in process and completed hopefully by November. The Council just recently met, and events will be planned to kick off the new year. Please stay tuned for the details.

Once again, I want to thank Dawn Mowery for getting the Church Directory completed.



Please get with Lei Ann on how you want to receive your Directory. Many options are available so please ask Lei Ann. Also, continue to thank Dave Meadows for all the demanding work on properties. This task is not easy, and we appreciate his efforts.

As many of you know Pastor Bob Smith and wife Alice will be coming back this November to help during the season and new year at Concordia. We are extremely excited to have Bob return and hopefully he will share about his travel at Wittenberg, Germany. *(photo right: preaching at the Castle Church.)*

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.

Dennis Jesse  
614-286-0101; djesse@jessemarketing.com

**Financial Update** See below the January-June comparison figures for Concordia's 2018-2024 records. Look for a financial report quarterly. Questions? Thomas Mann, Concordia's Treasurer, will be happy to answer at 630-379-7630. **Thanks** for your generosity. May our stewardship of God's gifts **bless His work**.

"Lord, receive our tithes and offerings as the **sacrificial worship** of hearts grateful for You! Move us to give to Your mission and ministry first, deliberately, as **You have given** to us!"

### January 1st-June 30th Financial Information

Year	General Income	Dedicated Funds Income	Total Income	General Expenses	Dedicated Funds Expenses	Total Expenses	Surplus/ Deficit
2018	\$ 230,947.21	\$ 31,859.05	\$ 262,806.26	\$ 223,363.62	\$ 59,819.16	\$ 283,182.78	\$ (20,376.52)
2019	\$ 229,613.54	\$ 39,679.27	\$ 269,292.81	\$ 203,591.60	\$ 53,683.39	\$ 257,274.99	\$ 12,017.82
2020	\$ 254,963.05	\$ 80,392.40	\$ 335,355.45	\$ 209,590.60	\$ 99,687.45	\$ 309,278.05	\$ 26,077.40
2021	\$ 218,414.09	\$ 34,982.98	\$ 253,397.07	\$ 223,973.18	\$ 68,611.94	\$ 292,585.12	\$ (39,188.05)
2022	\$ 230,962.26	\$ 78,928.95	\$ 309,891.21	\$ 255,582.90	\$ 70,504.14	\$ 326,087.04	\$ (16,195.83)
2023	\$ 249,621.46	\$ 41,325.41	\$ 290,946.87	\$ 204,540.70	\$ 80,172.58	\$ 284,713.28	\$ 6,233.59
2024	\$ 248,539.86	\$ 117,177.10	\$ 365,716.96	\$ 250,605.66	\$ 124,693.52	\$ 375,299.18	\$ (9,582.22)

## September Birthdays

01	Angela Amend Brad Taylor
02	Bob Krnacik Mackenzie Schaefer - 12th
03	Frank Moore
04	Stephen Whitlow
05	Duane Hartz
06	Ken Horn
07	Kathi Eberle Janine Shaulis Dunn
08	Shawn Smith
09	Pam Biladeau Kathleen Yarrington-Crossman
11	Junne Ulbrich
12	Chuck Resh
16	Raydine Alexander Richard Wega
20	Rick Nief
21	Ruth Montgomery
23	Alexander Woodham
24	Joyce Hartz
25	Darrin Hennessy Elfriede Hinck
26	Greg Ostermann
27	David Smith - 12th
28	Barbara Accola Joan Maegli
29	Tom Bosman Steve Estok Ben Stauss
30	James Best Kathleen Nief

## September Anniversaries

06	Tim and Margaret Kaschube - 50th
10	Duane and Joyce Hartz - 69th
18	Frank and Susie Moore - 14th
21	Mike and Tina Granthon - 22nd
26	Dave and Pam Battles - 44th Wayne and Jennifer McMullen - 27th

**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!**

## October Birthdays

01	Janet Meyers
02	Patti Best
03	Cleve Crossman
04	Lisa Gaines Aaron Mattes
05	Cheryl Griesbach
06	Alex Bogenberger Megan Bogenberger Greg Lill Joanne Mitchell
07	Susan Powter Julia Stochl - 13th
08	Luke Ahl - 14th Ryan Hicks Margo Arehart Gavin Weeks
10	Gracie Estok
12	Logan Ahl Christopher Keilty
13	Ron MacRitchie
15	Gary Gates Shirley Gerstenberger
16	Johnora Hildebrand
17	Jason Schmidt
18	Dejan Endriss Geraldine Schlotterback
20	Zoe Ahl Marilyn Reese Conner Weeks
21	Kathy Albrecht Tanner Evans Guoxiang "Zoo" Zhu
22	Suzanne Stein
23	Dennis Grau
24	Ellen Gaulke
26	Almuth Pardo Alice Parrish
29	Cody Snapp
30	Peggy Naughton
31	Elizabeth House

## October Anniversaries

22	Dale and Janet Leinberger - 47th
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# September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1 Pentecost 15</b> 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	<b>2 Labor Day</b> Church office closed ***7 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> ***7 p.m. AA Mtg.	<b>5</b> 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	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>8 Pentecost 16</b> 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	<b>9</b> <b>Pastor on vacation until October 10</b> ***	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> ***	<b>12</b> 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	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor
<b>15 Pentecost 17</b> 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor	<b>16</b> ***	<b>17</b> 6 p.m. Council Meeting	<b>18</b> ***	<b>19</b> 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	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor
<b>22 Pentecost 18</b> 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor	<b>23</b> ***	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> ***	<b>26</b> 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	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. District Al-Anon Meeting in Willer Hall 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor
<b>29 Pentecost 19</b> 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor	<b>30</b> ***	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> ***	<b>3</b> 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild meets 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	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor

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

# October 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>29 Pentecost 19</b> 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor	<b>30</b> ***7 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg.	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> ***7 p.m. AA Mtg.	<b>3</b> 9:30 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting 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	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor
<b>6 Pentecost 20</b> 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion, Pastor Roger Schoolcraft - Guest Pastor	<b>7</b> ***	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> ***	<b>10</b> Pastor back from vacation 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	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>13 Pentecost 21</b> 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 10 a.m. Women's Guild Meeting 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion	<b>14</b> ***	<b>15</b> 6 p.m. Council Meeting	<b>16</b> ***	<b>17</b> 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	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>20 Pentecost 22</b> 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	<b>21</b> ***	<b>22</b> November Courier Article Deadline 2 p.m. Elder's Meeting	<b>23</b> ***	<b>24</b> 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 11 a.m. Sarasota Ministerial Meeting at Concordia	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
<b>27 Reformation Festival—Pentecost 23</b> 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	<b>28</b> ***	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> ***	<b>31</b> 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	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

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## We Remember Debbie

Deborah Jo (Spees) Ainslie entered this world on September 20, 1951 in Milwaukee, WI, a petite thing of only 10 pounds, 4 ounces. She was the daughter of a delightful Southern belle and a heroic Northerner. The day after her 5th birthday Deb received twin brothers, who quickly became the focus of her life. She never quite got over not being able to take them to Show & Tell, though. Deb had what some called a "sickly" childhood, but she knew no different. Any day she could play outside instead of watching others through a window was a good day. That attitude carried her through life. She spent many years as a military spouse and also worked for the U.S. Army. She said the military life was the best thing she ever experienced. Imagine moving to a strange place but knowing you already had thousands of "family" waiting for you. Yeah, it was a great life. She married the true love of her life, James Ainslie, in 1985 at Ft Knox, KY. They had wanted to get married on April Fool's Day but, alas, Jim was going to be out of town. So instead, they got married on this nation's most important holiday – Ground Hog Day. It was glorious – ground hogs were in attendance, a blizzard raged through the area, a memorable day. Debbie was raised in the Lutheran church, and cherished her faith. She was a lover of life and all it represented. Although she did not fear death, she never welcomed it – and fought as hard as she could against it. She always had plans for more adventures, more joy, more help for others. You can't do that from the grave. So rest assured she's probably a bit miffed about having to leave the party early. Deb was pre-deceased by her beloved brother, Matthew, and the parents she adored, Robert and Lena (Tillie Bland) Spees. Deb is survived by her amazing and devoted husband, Jim; her siblings Donna Arkowski (Christopher Korch), Rhett Spees, Rodney Spees (Deloris), and step-daughter Jamie Brandt (step granddaughters Sophie and Dori). A special shout out to her many nieces and nephews who were her heart and soul. She wants you to know you were her favorite. Be kind, be generous, love.

(Above written by Debbie. The following by Concordia.)

Her parents brought their newborn Deborah Jo to baptism's new birth into Jesus' family at Mt. Olive Lutheran, Milwaukee. There she confirmed her faith in 1965. "We moved fairly often," given Jim's military career, she said. The couple found many a church family, happy to



hear Jesus' Good News and be fed by the One resurrected. Worshiping with us since 2020, the Ainslies formally joined Concordia Sarasota in February 2023. In the end, Debbie grinned, "I am going to see Jesus." Even as today she lives with her Savior in paradise, Debbie awaits the Day of bodily resurrection.

## We Remember Richard

Richard Lee Bixler, was born June 11, 1945 in Sarasota, FL to Carl Hawley Bixler and Elizabeth (Albritton) Bixler, the first of their four children. He grew up in Sarasota, was a member of FFA and graduated from Sarasota High School in 1962. Richard was baptized into Christ's family at Friendship Baptist Church in Sarasota as an adult.

He met Anita, the love of his life, through friends. and They married on January 24, 1970, at First United Methodist in Sarasota. Richard worked for Winn-Dixie Borden Dairy and then Velda Farms, while Anita was a homemaker once their children were born. They were blessed with three children, daughter Lei Ann; son, Richard Troy; daughter, Patricia "Tricia" Louise. Richard's love for his family, outlandish jokes and love for The Andy Griffith Show will never be forgotten.

As he trusted, Richard's risen Savior called him home on July 8 at the age of 79, while surrounded by his family. Survivors include daughter, Lei Ann (Chuck) Ahl of Sarasota; sons, Troy (Shelley) Bixler of Sarasota and Christopher Maxson (Amber) of St Louis; grandchildren Lance, Logan, Zoe and Luke Ahl, Robert McPeeks and Valerie Bixler of Sarasota; Alyssa, Zachary and Jacoby Maxson of St. Louis; great-granddaughter Sophia Bixler; sister JoAnn (Pete Waller), sisters-in-law Cheryl Bixler and Alice Bixler and many nieces and nephews. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, wife Anita, daughter Tricia Maxson, brothers Morgan and David Bixler and nephew David Lee Bixler.

Richard's family thanks all the family and friends for their love and support. Your hugs and prayers have been a true blessing. Memorial donations in Richard's name may be given to Concordia Lutheran Church or the charity of your choice.







## We Remember Brian

Brian Meadows passed peacefully on June 13th of 2024 in the arms of God. He was born in Columbus, Ohio October 24, 1967 and moved from Akron with his family, father David and Barbara Meadows. He is predeceased by his mother Rita Miller and step mother Barbara Meadows. Survived by David and his siblings Marlene Thompson (Jerry), Diane Scott (Charlie), Mary Ann Hall Dabrowski (Ron), Phyllis Schirle (Paul). He also has a daughter Rebecca Naughton, grandson Jacob and several nieces and nephews.

Brian's career after High School covered many interesting vocations. Starting out in the food industry prepping in many restaurants in the Sarasota area, later as a waiter at the Colony Restaurant and other local establishments. Positions as bartender and manager helped hone his skills. Helping others was a passion and a gift he shared with many. That included managing a rehab house in the Venice area for a short time. His easy manner and conversations continued to be one of his best traits. His resume includes being the dining room manager at the Oaks Country Club before he joined his father in the insurance business and completed his career as an agent with Wichert Insurance Agency.

Among the things he loved was tinkering with computers, golf, sports especially being an avid Bucs fan. Also a special caring of pets especially cats, Bill his rescued favorite, helped fill his time. He will be missed greatly by all. Donations, in lieu of flowers can be made to Concordia Lutheran Church Memorial Fund or Hospice of Sarasota.

## Memorials Received

"**Blessed** are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them. (Revelation 14:13).

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

**In memory of Debbie Ainslie**, from Jim Ainslie.

**In memory of Richard Bixler**, from Chuck and Lei Ann Ahl and Family; from Barbara Atkins, dedicated Sanctuary Lighting funds; from Randy and Christine Beckner, dedicated Sanctuary Lighting funds; from Gloria Bruggeman, dedicated Altar Guild funds; from Aaron and Judy Mattes, dedicated Property Board funds; from Jan Schnarr, dedicated Altar Guild funds; and from Jim Thomas, dedicated Sanctuary Lighting funds.

**In memory of Patti Fred**, from Ellen Gaulke.

**In memory of Brian Meadows**, from Gloria Bruggeman; from Debbie Leslie; from Richard Matson; from Aaron and Judy Mattes, dedicated Property Board funds; from Sue McConnell; and from Phyllis Schirle.

"**Blessed** and holy are those who share in the first resurrection [baptism]. The second death [hell] has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him." (20:6).

"**Blessed** are those who wash their robes [baptized], that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the [heavenly] city" (22:14).

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

## Special Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their hugs, prayers and love shown during the difficult time of losing my father. Thank you to Pastor for showing up in the hospital on his day off to help us start the grieving process and reminding us Jesus' was waiting for dad. Also thank you to Diane Scott, Jan Schnarr, Barbara Briggs and Carol Pyle for all your work on making the luncheon one less thing to worry about.

After the service several of his friends felt the warmth and love of Concordia. They all stated it was one of the best memorial services they had ever attended.

Sincerely,  
Lei Ann Ahl, Troy Bixler and family

# 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 **November 2024** issue of "*The Courier*" is **October 22**. 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 near every month. 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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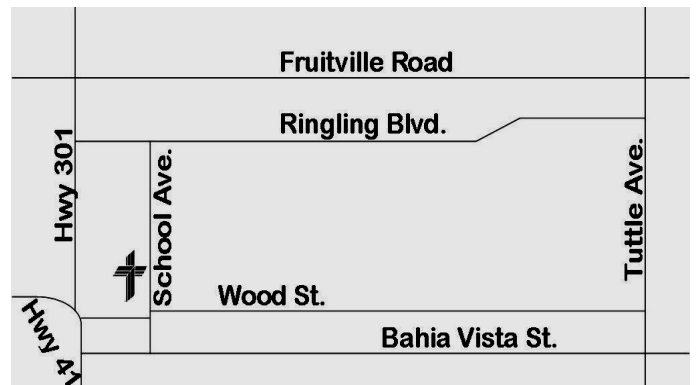
## Concordia Lutheran Church

### 2024 Church Officers

President ..... Dennis Jesse .....614-286-0101  
Vice-President ..... Alice Williams.....941-957-1090  
Treasurer ..... Thomas Mann .....660-379-7630  
Secretary ..... Ruth Bogenberger ...941-412-4466  
Financial Secretary .... Rick Reese .....941-544-0656

### 2024 Board Chairpersons

Worship ..... Cory Biladeau .....612-532-3771  
Education..... Julie Smith .....813-361-7325  
Outreach..... Dawn Mowery .....678-230-0208  
Fellowship..... Diane Scott .....941-302-4819  
Service..... Debbie Leslie .....941-726-9306  
Properties ..... Dave Meadows .....941-685-6711



## Concordia Council Minutes Tuesday, May 14

**Members in attendance:** President-Dennis Jesse, Vice President-Alice Williams, Secretary-Ruth Bogenberger, Worship-Cory Biladeau, Properties-Dave Meadows Fellowship-Diane Scott and Pastor Stephen Gaulke.

**Not present:** Treasurer-Thomas Mann, Outreach-Dawn Mowery, Education-Julie Smith, Financial Secretary-Rick Reese

### Constitutional Quorum in person

The meeting was called to order by Alice Williams at 6:03 P.M.

**Opening Devotion:** Acts 2:1-8, 11 was read and discussed.

**Leadership Report:** Pastor Stephen mentioned that Euder Paul finishes his seminary studies on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, he will begin his vicarage on August 1<sup>st</sup> in Lake Worth, Fl. At Pastor Stephen's suggestion the Council voted unanimously on a motion by Diane Scott and seconded by Dennis Jesse to offer the parsonage to Euder for 10 weeks.

**President's Report:** Dennis Jesse announced that Service Chair, Margo Arehart, will be spending most of her time in Toledo with family. Therefore, Dennis will search for a replacement for Margo on the Council.

Pastor Bob Smith is seeking \$1100 in travel expenses for his return to Michigan. As this is not a covered expense in his employment contract, the Council unanimously opposed reimbursing this expense. The motion was put forward by Alice Williams and seconded by Cory Biladeau. The Council unanimously approved adding a survey to the Courier asking members their preferred method of receiving the Courier; mailed to their home or emailed. The motion was made by Dennis Jesse and seconded by Ruth Bogenberger.

**Vice President's Report:** Alice Williams had nothing to report.

**Secretary's Report:** March's meeting minutes were read by Ruth Bogenberger and unanimously approved after the addition of Diane Scott's report. Dennis Jesse made the motion which was seconded by Cory Biladeau.

**Worship Report:** Cory Biladeau talked of a possible change in the Christmas Eve worship schedule. He wondered if a 5 p.m. service should be added or maybe the 7 p.m. service should be moved to 5 or 6 p.m.

**Fellowship Report:** Diane Scott reported that our regular cleaning crew is not deep cleaning the kitchen once a month.

She suggested a new banner on the fence as the current one is faded.

Additionally, Diane believes the parking lot should be resurfaced.

**Properties Report:** Dave Meadows mentioned that a construction company to begin work in the area approached him to possibly rent 40 spaces in our parking lot for their workers. This would be for a term of two years and occur mostly on week days. The Council unanimously approved moving forward in negotiations with this company. A motion was made by Dave and seconded by Alice Williams.

Dave made another motion to hire a part-time employee (hours to be capped) to help with maintenance on the church campus. Dennis Jesse seconded the motion and the Council unanimously approved.

**Old Business:** None **New Business:** None

Dennis Jesse made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M. The motion was seconded by Ruth Bogenberger and unanimously approved by the Council. The meeting closed with the praying of the Lord's Prayer in unison.

**The Next Council meeting** is scheduled for **August 13, 2024**, at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted, Ruth Bogenberger, Council Secretary





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

Return Service Requested

**September/October 2024**

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Permit No. 1230



# The Concordia Courier

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



## Concordia Lutheran Church, LC-MS

2185 Wood Street  
Sarasota, FL 34237-7915  
Ph: (941)365-0844  
E-Mail: "concordia5@juno.com"  
Website: [ConcordiaSarasota.org](http://ConcordiaSarasota.org)

Facebook: search Concordia Sarasota

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





## Foundation Thanks

Our Concordia Foundation gave \$1,000 "love gifts" to 11 of Concordia's college students. Here are a few of the many "thanks" you've received.

Dear Foundation Board,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the scholarship award. This scholarship will significantly alleviate the financial burden and allow me to focus on my academic goals. In addition to my studies, I plan to be actively involved in the St. Luke's Lutheran church in Oviedo while away at school. Once again, thank you for investing in my future. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and giving back to the community in meaningful ways!

Blessings, **Rebecca Hicks** -UCF



photos (above, left to right): Rebecca Hicks, Phyllis Kirtley, Jackie Williams, (to left) Andrew Whitlow, Eli and Luke Basinger, Barbara Briggs.

Dear Foundation Board,

I wanted to say thank you to the Foundation for giving me the scholarship money for the new school year.

Sincerely, **Luke Basinger** -USF

Dear Foundation Board,

Thank you for awarding me the scholarship money for the new school year.

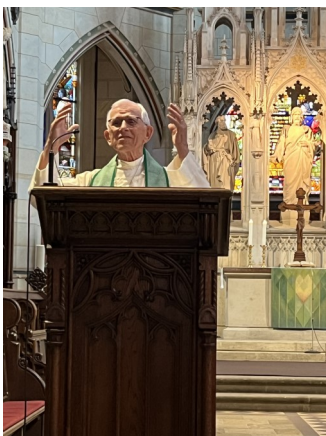
Sincerely, **Eli Basinger** -USF



"Father, let us and all Your children **learn of Your Wisdom** and Your world's wonders."

## Thanks from Pastor Bob

Our Winter Welcome Pastor, Pastor Bob Smith and Alice, completed their 2-weeks service among the English-speaking tourists and citizens in Wittenberg, Germany. He writes, "Preaching here in Wittenberg has been **the highlight** of my career as a pastor. (Next to serving in Sarasota, he means.) Praise the Lord for the opportunity. Just think, I gave 8 messages. But Luther gave over 2000 in the same places. Please continue to look at **Wittenberg English**



**Ministry** on Facebook. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support."

Our Concordia Sarasota Foundation awarded a 1,000 grant to help the Smith's with their ministry expenses. **Thank you!** His new 6-month's work with us begins with November.

"Wherever You give us opportunity, Holy Spirit, inspire us to share Jesus' **welcoming love!**"

