

The Concordia Courier

A Publication Of Concordia Lutheran Church

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

How Can You Live? THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

(God's Law, continued)

The Eighth Commandment

You shall not give **false testimony** against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

The Ninth Commandment

You shall not **covet** your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment

You shall not **covet** your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Close of the Commandments (Exodus 20:5f)

What does God say about all these commandments? He says: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, **punishing** the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but **showing love** to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments"

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But he promises grace (*free forgiveness!*) and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what he commands.

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, St. Louis ©1992.

Pastor Stephen Retiring

At the end of September 1 worship, Pastor Stephen with Ellen announced:

"I will retire as Concordia's pastor the first week of **March 2025**. I look forward to six months more **following Jesus** with you.

"Soon enough, Concordia will rejoice welcoming the next pastor Jesus gives to you. And Ellen and I will have new adventures with the Lord leading us in our retirement. **Please pray** for us. We pray for you.

"The Lord has been so good to me and my family serving with Concordia. For 20 years, we have been **grateful for your love** and support.

"We will always treasure the Christian life we have shared. Even more, with you we look forward to the still better gifts **Jesus has yet to give** to us all."

Pastor Stephen

"Jesus, bless us each and **Your church family**. Gather us to Yourself in worship and send us out to share **Your harmony** with the heart of Sarasota!"

All Saints (with You)!

Worship **November 2 - 3** celebrates All Saint's Day. Concordia thanks Jesus on this ancient festival (c. 300 A.D.).

What has Jesus' forgiveness accomplished? We, with all Jesus' blood-bought, are "All Saints!" We thank God also for those **faithfully departed** from our church family in 2024. Jesus brings us home!

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

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday **November 3** is the end of Daylight Saving Time. "Fall back" as you go to bed on November 2, setting back your clocks one hour.

Altar Guild News

The Altar Guild will **meet** on **November 7 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. Apart from our meetings, you can **help the Guild**. Please call Junne Ulbrich at 815-955-6215. Thanks!

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

**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
2185 WOOD STREET
SARASOTA, FL**

***COMMUNITY
HARVEST FESTIVAL
& CRAFT FAIR***

CRAFT FAIR VENDORS | QUILT RAFFLE

FIRE TRUCK | JUMP HOUSE |

FREE FACE PAINTING |

YOUR PARAGRAPH TEXT

CHILDREN'S GAMES & ACTIVITIES |

BAKE SALE | FREE HOT DOGS

**Saturday, November 9
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

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. to 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! Don't miss our **free hotdogs!**

So, mark your calendars and **bring 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.

Quilt Raffle

Don't miss your chance to win a gorgeous **handmade** quilt in our craft fair raffle! This beautifully crafted Christmas tree quilt is a true labor of love, donated by quilters Jane Marcantonio, Diane Scott, and Lynn Yates. See more of their handiwork at the **craft fair.**



\$5 tickets, available **after worship in the church entryway,** and November 9 at our Craft Fair. Proceeds support Concordia's outreach projects. Are looking for a cozy addition to your home? Or a meaningful gift, this quilt is an **artwork** you won't want to pass!

Bake Sale Goodies Needed

Get out your baking sheets, your pie pans and muffin tins! Concordia's Fall Festival - Craft Fair November 9 includes a **Bake Sale.** We need you!

Drop off your delicious baked goodies and treats on **Friday** November 8 or **Saturday** at the start of the Fall Festival/Craft Fair. Please have items individually wrapped and in disposable containers if possible.

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

Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet in the church narthex. Diane Scott 941-302-4819 is happy to answer any **questions.**

Volunteers Needed

We need lots of **volunteers** to help set up tables for the Craft Fair on **Thursday, November 7** and tear down and cleanup on **Saturday, November 9** after 2 p.m. Diane Scott 941-302-4819 offers the details.

Email My Courier

Are you **reading this on paper,** but would prefer 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 for the printed version? Ask, and it will be mailed to you! Thanks!

Our **December 2024** Courier seeks articles, due Tuesday **November 12.** Can you **help the crew fold** the news for mailing? 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."

Pastoral Care

Pastor Stephen and Ellen vacation **November 17 to November 29.** Our retired member **Pastor Gary Hill** preaches Saturdays and Sundays those weekends of November 17 and 24. Our Winter Hospitality **Pastor Bob Smith** will preach Wednesday at the November 27 Thanksgiving Eve service, 6:30 p.m.

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).

Eve of Thanksgiving Worship

Thanksgiving Eve, **Wednesday, November 27, 6:30 p.m.,** we worship. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! Bring a friend, your family. The heart of Thanksgiving at Concordia!

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

Giving Thanks to the Giver

Our church office closes on **November 28 and 29** in celebration of **Thanksgiving Day.**

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

Memorial Received

In memory of Eileen Zeugin, from Aaron and Judy Mattes.

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

All Singers Welcome

Your choir now resumes practices **each Wednesday 7 to 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome!** We sing near the start of the 11 a.m. worship. Also some who have worshiped at 9 a.m., after 10 a.m. coffee and Bible study, add their voice. Sing for a **great time together.** With our time and talents, we praise the Lord and **sing His Good News.** Johnora Hildebrand, director

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

Read Scripture at Worship

Volunteer, please, to join the many who read Scripture at our worship services. By text or email, we'll invite you to the next week's **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!"

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 **Fruit of the Spirit.** How is Jesus' Spirit making your life produce productive? He brings flavor to those who savor you! 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."

Help after Hurricanes

Can Concordia help **you or your neighbors** after hurricanes **Helene and Milton**? Would you like to **volunteer**, locally or in a harder-hit community? Would you be blessed offering financial help through Concordia's **Good Samaritan fund** or the funds we offer with our FL-GA LCMS **sister churches**? Please contact Parish Secretary Lei Ann (941-6-0844) for details. A check written to "Concordia Luth. Ch.," with "Hurricane" on the memo line and envelope, will bring real relief. Thank you!

"When we pass through the waters, Lord, You will be with us; and when we pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over us (Isaiah 43:2). With Your never-failing help, **help us help the hurt.**"

Dcs Andra - Arkansas

Deaconess Andy Gates served Concordia as **our winter hospitality worker**, 2019 to 2023. On September 1 she was **installed at Redeemer Lutheran** in Mountain Home, Arkansas. Working part-time, Dcs. Andy also continues studies with our Ft. Wayne Indiana seminary. She aims to complete her **Doctorate in Missiology** in 2026.

"We live very close to **Branson.** If you are ever in the area, Concordia friends, feel free to stop in and **visit.**" Their new **address** is 706 East 2nd Street, Mountain Home AR 72653. Phone numbers are unchanged.

"Bless Dcs. Andy and Gary in their **new home**, new vocations, Lord. Let them, us and all Your people find delight in Your care for each!"

Worship's Scripture

Nov. 2, 3 - All Saints' Day

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

Nov. 9, 10 - Pentecost 25

1 Kings 17:8-16
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44

Nov. 16, 17 - Pentecost 26

Daniel 12:1-3
Hebrews 10:11-25
Mark 13:1-13

Nov. 23, 24 - Last Sunday of the Church Year

Isaiah 51:4-6
Jude 20-25
Mark 13:24-37



Advent Wednesdays

Dinner and Devotion

On Wednesdays **December 4, 11 and 18** Concordia prepares for the Christ's coming.

Three delicious, simple **suppers**, at **5:30 p.m.**, give us a moment to rest in the pre-Christmas scramble. Come, bring a friend, and make some new acquaintances! Please phone the church office or Diane Scott (941-302-4819) if you'd like to help.

The Wednesdays welcome us also to a **half-hour's worship** together, at **6:30 p.m.** Advent means "He comes!"

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

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

Homebound Christmas Cards

Beginning **Wednesday, December 4** please find on the church entryway's table the paper slips giving **names and addresses** of our homebound members and friends. You'll also see a **selection of cards** with envelopes for your use. For countless years, Concordia has sent Christmas greetings to those who are unable to come to worship. Every year recipients have voiced their appreciation through the church office or their visiting elders. Let our homebound know they are a treasured part of Concordia's family. Please enjoy this ministry!

"As we send these cards, let us be part of **Your care** for Your sisters and brothers, Jesus!"

Bethlehem Breakfast

Join us for our Annual Bethlehem Breakfast on **Saturday December 7, 10 a.m.** at our Willer Fellowship Hall. This special morning will be filled with delicious food, warm fellowship, and inspiring reflections that remind us of the Joy brought by the birth of Christ. Whether you're a longtime member or visiting for the first time, come and experience the true spirit of the season with us! Watch for the sign up sheet in the narthex or call the church office (941-365-0844) to sign up. This year we will again be collecting small prepackaged snack packs for Concordia's homebound Christmas Baskets.

"Lord, ready us all for Your **Christmas gift!**"

Nominate - Voters Meet

Concordia's voters meet briefly on **December 7, 5:15 p.m.**, after Saturday eve worship and **December 8, 10 a.m.**, between Sunday morn's services.

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

The assembly will set our **2025 budget.** The voters may respond to any other items previously announced at our weekend worship.

Our Constitution requires that our **Council Nominations Task Force** be comprised of a majority who are not currently council members. Could you prayerfully help us **find new leaders?** Or would you like to nominate someone to council (even yourself)? Please speak **a.s.a.p.** to our congregation's Vice President Alice Williams (941-957-1090).

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

Homebound Christmas Love

Let's assemble **goodies and gift baskets** on **Saturday, December 14 at 9:30 a.m.**, for delivery to our homebound members and friends. Would you like to help with this gift-giving? Come to our Fellowship Hall, 9:30 a.m.

We will place the baskets on a table **in the narthex for delivery** when finished. Each will have a name and address attached, with a telephone number if the homes need to be contacted before delivering. What a delight always to **bring joy** to these fellow believers who are regularly not able to worship with us. Have you not yet delivered a basket? You will find this an excellent way to spread the joy of Jesus' birth. He'll bring joy also into your life.

"You are the Gift, Jesus. **Your love give!**"

Pastor Bob Serving Seasonal Pastor Bob Smith (and Alice!) serves among us **now through May 1.** Learn more about the Smiths at their personal website: Keepmeandkeepall.com.

Pastor Bob is busy helping us to: 1) **welcome** our worship guests, 2) **follow up** on guests, and 3) dialog with those who have not yet returned to worship about how we can best **share Jesus' gifts.** He's bringing along others in his tasks. Can Pastor Bob show you how **you might help** with any of these or other loving works?

Since 2018 we've hired an additional winter church worker through our **Winter Worker Fund.** Hearty thanks to Concordia's donors who have totally filled that **Dedicated Fund** for 2024!

"Jesus, let Your Word among us draw many to Your forgiveness, Your Feast of life! Give **joy to Pastor Bob** in his service to You."

November Birthdays

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

November Anniversaries

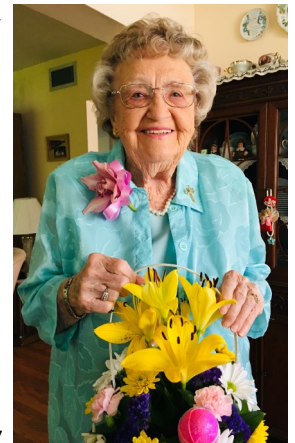
03	Jeffrey and Gabriela Schmidt - 51st
05	Thomas and Regina Mann - 30th
19	Chuck and Lei Ann Ahl - 30th
21	Charlie and Diane Scott - 38th
23	Bill and Raydine Alexander - 56th Jason and Tara Schmidt - 11th
29	Jeremy and Helen Schmidt - 16th

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!**

We Remember Eileen

Eileen Audrey Zeugin, age 95, passed away on September 1, 2024. Even now as she awaits the day of bodily resurrection, Eileen's spirit rejoices with her Savior in paradise. She was ready to reunite with her two loved boys Craig and Kurt. Eileen was a beloved mother, wife, grandmother, and great-grandmother to her family.

Eileen was born on June 19, 1929, in Affton, Missouri, where she married Vernon and raised her three children. She followed her mother and father to Sarasota, Florida in 1967. She worked briefly as a bank clerk but soon became the primary caregiver for her husband with Alzheimer's and later her mother in their final years. Eileen loved to bowl (named bowler of the year once), crochet hats for premature babies, worship with her church family at Concordia Sarasota Lutheran Church, and support her kids and grandchildren with their life successes. Her family was her passion throughout her years. We would be remiss if we didn't also mention the immense joy her puppy Ebie brought her in the last decade of her life.



Eileen is survived by her daughter Janice Yocum, her daughter-in-law, Dawn Zeugin, and her grandchildren: Tim Yocum (Michelle), Travis Zeugin (Amy), Jessica Riotti (Steven), and Jenna Klimovich (Greg). Her great-grandchildren: Austin and Morgan; Kaina and Annlee; Alessia, Jordan and Dominic; and Elijah, Macklin and Adelina. She is predeceased by her husband Vernon, and sons Craig and Kurt. Her memory will be cherished by all who knew her.

Many thanks to the excellent care of Sue Jennings who spent the last years with Eileen. She was truly more than a caregiver; she was exceptionally patient and devoted to Eileen. In addition to the care from her daughter, the support from Tidewell Hospice was appreciated.

Eileen (nee Ryan) was newborn baptized in July 1927. She and Vernon followed Jesus first in Affton (St. Louis) Missouri. Then they were leaders at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church, a mission in Manchester Missouri. In our Concordia family, for years she helped Vern make his elder calls to the homebound and hospitalized, often delivering cassette tapes of Concordia's worship. Until 1986, Eileen served as our Greeter Coordinator. She was welcoming! Eileen took to heart Jesus' forgiveness, rejoiced to hear of the resurrection and to receive Jesus' sacramental Body and Blood, prayed with her pastor and elders, and spoke of her faith. Her motto: "The Lord says: Trust in Me and do not worry."

The family thanks you for your prayers, loving support, memorials to the Alzheimer's Association.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>November 2024</h1>						
3 All Saints' Day Daylight Saving Time... Clocks "fall back" 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	4 ***7 p.m. Al-Anon Mtg.	5 Election Day	6 2 p.m. Elder's Meeting 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	8	9 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fall Festival and Craft Fair 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion
10 Pentecost 25 9 a.m. Worship with praise band, Holy Communion 10 a.m. All-Ages Bible Study 11 a.m. Worship with organ, hymnal, Holy Communion 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Private Event	11 Veterans Day ***	12 6 p.m. Council Meeting December Courier article deadline	13 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. 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 Gary Hill - Guest Pastor
17 Pentecost 26 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 Pastor Gaulke on vacation until 11/29	18 ***	19	20 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 11 a.m. Sarasota Ministerial Meeting at Concordia	22	23 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Free Panera Bread 4:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Gary Hill - Guest Pastor
24 Last Sunday of the Church Year 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	25 ***	26	27 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service, Pastor Bob Smith - Guest Proclaimer 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal ***	28 Thanksgiving Day Church office closed No Women's Bible G.i.f.t.S. at Willer Hall No Men's Group at Willer Hall Library room	29 Church office closed Pastor Gaulke back from vacation	30 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.

Christmas Bingo

Join us for a festive night filled with **fun, food**, and Christmas cheer! **Bingo** brings friendly play with plenty of prizes to win. Savor delicious food and refreshments. **Ham and rolls** provided, but you may bring any **holiday dish** to share. Sing along to your favorite **Christmas carols**, filling the night with holiday spirit. Please bring friends and family. Together we celebrate the season, perfect!! Festivities begin **5 p.m. on Sunday, December 15.**

"Give us Your cheer, **joy to share**, Lord!"

All Book Lovers Welcome

Remember Concordia's Book Club? We were in the middle of reading through **The Chronicles of Narnia** and time slipped away...

I propose that we spend one evening, **Sunday, January 12**, finishing up all of the books in C.S. Lewis' delightful series. We left off with Prince Caspian. And on to The Last Battle – my favorite! What lively discussion we'll enjoy.

And then, a book that has had a great impact on me in so very many ways: Evelyn Waugh's **Brideshead Revisited**. I will put two copies of the book on the front pew at church. I feel an urgency to share this book as my husband's retirement nears. Let's aim for **Sunday, February 16.**

Both Book Club nights will be at the Gaulke home. 5308 Sunnydale Circle N, 34233. We will begin at 6:15. Even if you have not read the books but desire to join us, **you are welcome!**

Ellen Gaulke

Concordia Women's Guild

A heart-felt **thank you** to all who helped Concordia's Annual **Rummage Sale!** If you donated or volunteered or shopped, you shared God's blessings with our neighbors.

Each sale morning the workers gathered for prayer asking God to bless our efforts. And He did! Nearly **\$7,000** was raised, **new friends** were made, and hundreds were blessed with previously-loved **goods.**

Between worship services on Sunday October 13, Concordia women gathered as our **Women's Guild** to disburse gifts. **Seven charities** will **each receive \$1,000:** All Faiths Food Bank, Aphasia Community Center, LCMS - Hurricane Relief, Meals on Wheels, Mothers Helping Mothers, Project Rouj (Haiti) and Sarasota Medical Pregnancy Center.

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.**

Thanks to Carol Pyle and Ruth Bogenberger for making sure the **pews look amazing** for our members and guests.

News Editors, Media Managers

Every month (almost) this Courier brings you **news, invitations and photos** from Concordia's leaders and church family. Please keep these coming! The newsletter gets laid out by our friendly parish secretary, Lei Ann. Pastor Stephen then has helped as an editor. Others have volunteered to proofread that almost final draft. Before Pastor Stephen retires (March 2), would you be willing to let him or Lei Ann show you how these **Couriers get edited?** We'll also be looking for some new **poofreaders.** (If you just read "poof" rather than "proof," poof, you're the one!)")

In the same way, Concordia will benefit from **new media managers** for your website **ConcordiaSarasota.org**, and your church family's **Facebook** page, and your **YouTube** page. There, your weekly worship videos gather about 30 views each week. Those curious about Jesus and Concordia often visit our social media before worshipping with the church. Can you help us make that **good first impression?**

"No **Word is faultless** but Yours, Jesus. Help us share Your Good News, all Your forgiveness and the resurrection to come!"

August 13 Council Meeting Notes

All present (list here on page 11), except excused Vice President Alice, Secretary Ruth and Service Chair Elect Debbie. Becky Reese, guest.

Notes taken by Dennis Jesse, Council President

Approve the Jim Thomas Lighting to commence asap
Rip the rest of red carpet in the Church done asap
Debbie Leslie has agreed to join the Council replacing Margo, I make a motion to approve her

Make a motion to do the Courier every 2 months starting in 2025

Move next Council Meeting to 9/17/24

Budgets will be due in September Council Meeting 9/17/24

Comments on Summer Schedule

Overall, the Church is in great health

A Note From the President

Greetings Concordia. I do not know about you, but I am done with Hurricanes for 2024. I feel battered after the last two. The Church sustained no real damage and now we will get the shutters put on to ensure us better. I want to thank Lei Ann for coordinating the difficult tasks we had during the storms. We were able to continue with services without a hitch during the 3-week span. She is a valuable member of the Church, and I appreciate you. Please let her know. We are moving into the new Church year with activities planned. The annual Craft Fair will be on the second weekend of November. Please plan to attend and support the event.

As you know Pastor Stephen has announced his retirement effective March 2nd of 2025. I have been working with District on policies and coordination, to begin the process of moving forward in the coming months. Please take this time to reflect on how you want Concordia to be going into the future. You can share any thoughts with me or any Council Member. It will be business as usual until then, and we can enjoy the next months of Stephen's preaching and being a solid spiritual advisor to Concordia. Please pray for Stephen and Ellen as they prepare for their next stage.

We are continuing to work on projects at the Church, I am hoping everyone is enjoying the fresh look of the Church without carpet. The lighting system will get underway very soon. I ask that we all do our part especially in stewardship area to help in keeping the Church beautiful.

Pastor Bob and Alice Smith will be arriving soon to Concordia, we look forward to having them for another season. We look forward to hearing the experience they had in Germany in August.

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-September 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-September 30th Financial Information

Year	General Income	Dedicated Funds Income	Total Income	General Expenses	Dedicated Funds Expenses	Total Expenses	Surplus/ Deficit
2018	\$ 314,040.76	\$ 40,612.45	\$ 354,653.21	\$ 308,403.93	\$ 67,657.60	\$ 376,061.53	\$ (21,408.32)
2019	\$ 293,444.40	\$ 56,957.46	\$ 350,401.86	\$ 302,188.13	\$ 64,452.11	\$ 366,640.24	\$ (16,238.38)
2020	\$ 366,642.14	\$ 90,321.77	\$ 456,963.91	\$ 333,702.48	\$ 113,604.41	\$ 447,306.89	\$ 9,657.02
2021	\$ 303,533.11	\$ 56,410.52	\$ 359,943.63	\$ 321,711.17	\$ 91,732.51	\$ 413,443.68	\$ (53,500.05)
2022	\$ 372,176.15	\$ 202,253.83	\$ 574,429.98	\$ 412,917.54	\$ 203,487.25	\$ 616,404.79	\$ (41,974.81)
2023	\$ 353,642.33	\$ 84,225.50	\$ 437,867.83	\$ 321,828.54	\$ 130,321.96	\$ 452,150.50	\$ (14,282.67)
2024	\$ 386,826.09	\$ 199,479.68	\$ 586,305.77	\$ 381,915.18	\$ 297,655.53	\$ 679,570.71	\$ (93,264.94)

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.



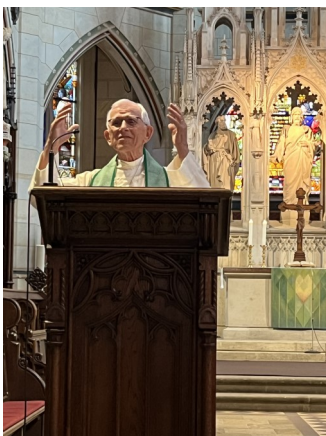
Dear Foundation Board,
I wanted to say thank you to the Foundation for giving me the scholarship money for the new school year.
Sincerely, **Luke Basinger** -USF

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!**"



The Concordia Courier

Concordia Lutheran Church Mission Statement

The mission of Concordia is to **share Jesus' harmony** ("concordia") with the **heart of Sarasota**. Jesus comes to us in worship, giving to us His Good News for sharing, and His love for caring!

Jesus comes to us
in **worship** (Jesus is our harmony!),
giving to us **His Good News** (His Word for us, education)
for **sharing** (His Word for all, outreach),
and **His love** (His deeds among us, fellowship)
for **caring** (His deeds for others, service).



Editor's Notes...



The deadline to submit articles for the **December 2024** issue of "The Courier" is **November 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 nearly 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.

U.S. POST OFFICE I.D. STATEMENT

Title: "THE COURIER"
Issue Date: NOVEMBER 2024
Statement of Frequency: ALMOST MONTHLY
Authorized Origin: CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
2185 WOOD STREET
SARASOTA, FL 34237-7915
Issue Number: 11-24

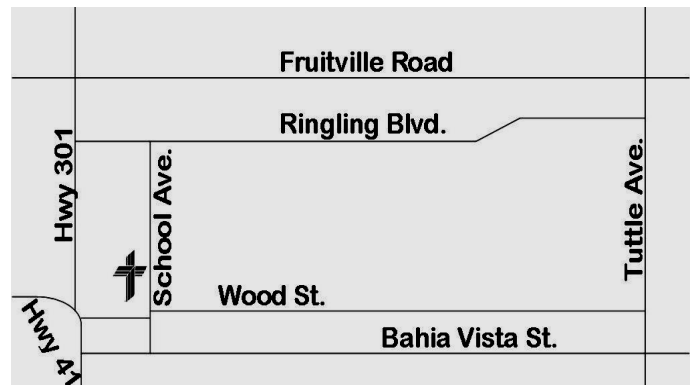
Concordia Lutheran Church

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 Rick Reese941-544-0656

2024 Board Chairpersons

Worship Cory Biladeau612-532-3771
Education..... Julie Smith813-361-7325
Outreach..... Dawn Mowery678-230-0208
Fellowship..... Diane Scott941-302-4819
Service..... Debbie Leslie941-726-9306
Properties Dave Meadows941-685-6711



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

Return Service Requested

November 2024

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



The Concordia Courier

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



Concordia Lutheran Church, LCMS

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

Facebook: search Concordia Sarasota

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

