

THE Concordia Messenger



“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

December 2024

John the Baptizer Points Everyone to the Messiah

The coming of God in all His unveiled power at Mount Sinai was terrifying to the people of Israel. The thundering voice of the Lord puts sinners in fear of death (Deut. 18:15–19). God, therefore, raised up a prophet like Moses—the Messiah, the Christ. God came to His people veiled in human flesh. The skies poured down the Righteous One from heaven; the earth opened her womb and brought forth Salvation (Introit) through the blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of the Lord (Luke 1:39–56). The fruit of her womb is the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, the One whose sandal strap John was not worthy to loose (John 1:19–28). In Jesus we are delivered from fear and anxiety. In Him alone we have the peace of God which surpasses all understanding (Phil. 4:4–7).

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<http://lcms.org/worship>

Sunday School

Young Children are learning about Waiting for God’s Messengers (December 1), the Birth of John the Baptist (December 8), celebrating a Christmas Party with the whole congregation (December 15), Jesus’s Birth and Presentation (December 22), Boy Jesus in the Temple (December 29).

Older Children are doing Bible lessons with science experiments. These kids meet in the Luther Room. On December 15th, they will join the Congregation’s Christmas Party.

Youth finished Hosea and are starting to go through the Minor Prophets. These youth meet upstairs in the youth room. On December 15th, they will join the Congregation’s Christmas Party.

Director of Christian Education

My mom and I used to go to craft fairs when I was younger. I always thought it was kind of fun. There were usually pretty things to look at and if I was lucky there was kettle corn when we were done. My family amassed a beautiful collection of Christmas decorations from these craft fairs. My house had an angel room, a nativity room, a snowman room, and a santa room. We eventually had two Christmas trees. One

had the handmade ornaments, vacation ornaments, and others. The other tree was special. We bought special ornaments for it that were only white and gold. The tree went in the front room of our house.

My first year at Concordia, I loved seeing the Christmons on the tree. It reminded me of our Christmas tree at home. I also thought it was beautiful seeing all of those ornaments pointing to Christ. Christmons are a relatively new term and concept. Francis Kipps Spenser from Ascension Lutheran Church wanted a special way to decorate a Christmas tree in the sanctuary and to celebrate Jesus’s birthday. The first Christmon was created in 1957 and was the Chi Rho (X and P) which was Jesus’s name on the tree (like you would put a name on a birthday cake).

A Christmon is the combination of the words “Christ” and “monogram” Latin words Monograma Christi. For it to be considered a Christmon, the design must proclaim some truth about Jesus. Eventually this expanded to include the Bible and early church. They are often white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of Jesus. There are hundreds examples of Christmons. Some of the ones on our tree at Concordia include: the ichthus (fish), Bible and sword (Word of God), crown, angel, lamb, and spoon candle.

Why mention all of these Christmas ornaments, decorations, or Christmons? It is so easy to have a secular Christmas. I’ve watched enough Hallmark Christmas movies to know. The secular world can have decorations, music, and gift giving without pointing to Christ at all. We can easily fall into that entanglement as well. We can have a holiday where we don’t acknowledge Christ as the reason we celebrate or in our celebrations. That’s true in our daily vocations as well. It is so easy to fall out of the habit of going to church, attending Bible Study, reading the Bible, or even praying. It is easy to put our head down and go day to day without realizing our sin and need of a Savior.

It is easy to put our trust in the things of this world: money, jobs, doctors, ourselves, government, and other things. Choose what is hard this Advent and Christmas season (and every day). With the Holy Spirit’s help, throw off the sin which so easily entangles. With God’s help, take small steps like praying, reading the Bible, or attending church. Be surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, not the things of this world. Recognize how God provides. We are Christ’s witnesses in all we say, think, and do. Let’s look to the author and perfecter of our faith. We need not grow weary or faint hearted. Instead, we can trust the one who has done all things for us this season and every season, Jesus.

December Congregational Fellowship Events

We have a lot of opportunities to fellowship together with the congregation in December. These include:

Advent Dinners starting at 5pm on Wednesday, December 4th and 11th. Join us for dinner and fellowship any time between 5pm-6:15pm. Advent services begin at 6:30pm.

Church Christmas Party will take place during the Sunday School hour on Sunday, December 15th. Enjoy fellowship, refreshments, and crafts. We will also be making gifts for the shut ins during this event so all are welcome to bring Christmas cards to add to these gifts. We'll also be celebrating someone special during this party along with Jesus.

Preschool Christmas Service and Cookie Reception is on Wednesday, December 18th. The 3rd week in Advent service begins at 6:30pm. A cookie reception in Fellowship Hall will immediately follow the program.

Christmas Wrapping Room is a place to wrap presents away from prying eyes. We'll have wrapping paper, bows, tags, tape, and scissors available for people to come and wrap gifts. The wrapping room is free to use. There will be a free will donation basket if you would like to donate to the youth who will attend the National Youth Gathering in July. The wrapping room will be available the following days:
Wednesdays December 4th and 11th 5pm-8:30pm
Sundays December 8th, 15th, and 22nd 12:00pm-2:00pm

Preschool

We would like to thank the members of Concordia who helped with Preschool Trick or Treating and with our Preschool Thanksgiving Feast. We aren't able to do it without our wonderful volunteers.

Our Preschool students are working hard on their Christmas Program. This program will take place on Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30pm. Since this is also our 3rd Advent service, we would love to have many members of the congregation come as well. All are invited to stay after the program for a cookie reception in Fellowship Hall.



LWML Mission Grants at Work

2024 Indiana LWML District Convention Small Grant Recipient #5

Resurrection Lutheran Academy – \$4,500 – Security Upgrade

The funds will enable the Academy to add shatter-proof and bullet-resistant window film to the building's front-facing windows and side exit doors.

2023-2025 Mission Grant #19
(Milwaukee Convention)

Tanzania Children's Homes – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Africa — \$74,500

The Tanzania Children's Home welcomes albino children to offer security, care, and education. Albinism (limited melanin pigment in the skin, eyes, and hair) is especially prevalent in Tanzania. Children with albinism face health risks of skin cancer and visual impairment. Threatened by the pagan practices of tribal religions, the children receive false information that their body parts have magical powers to make them rich, successful, and powerful. The home offers security and specialized care for the children their families cannot provide. Located on the Lutheran Boarding School campus in Mwadui, the children at the Tanzania Children's Home are raised in the knowledge and love of the Lord and receive transportation to the Mwadui Lutheran Secondary School for their education.

This grant will help purchase a bus for the safe transportation of the children and will contribute to their support.



In July 2022, a group from St. John, Bingen (Decatur, IN) traveled to Tanzania to meet the pastors, deaconesses, church leaders, and children at the home they funded for their 175th anniversary.

2023-2025 Mission Grant #25
(Milwaukee Convention)

Bringing God's Word to India – India Bible Translation Project — \$100,000

Thirty-two million Christians living in India do not have access to a study Bible in their language that has abundant, doctrinally sound study notes and commentary to help in understanding God's Word. The India Bible Translation Project's mission is to publish the study notes and commentary from The Lutheran Study Bible into the Tamil and Telugu languages.

This grant will provide funds to complete the translation work. With The Lutheran Study Bible translated into their heart language, indigenous Indian pastors, seminarians, and members of Lutheran churches in India and Sri Lanka will better understand and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. The Indian Lutheran Study Bible will significantly bless the India Evangelical Lutheran Church and Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church members in Sri Lanka.



"The Lutheran Study Bible" translation project began at this meeting in South India in 2018. These are the translators who started working on the Tamil language translation.



Advent Glow

Ladies, please plan to attend our celebration of Advent as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Sign up to join us Sunday, December 8 at 2:30 pm. Bring a friend to enjoy refreshments, a devotion, and musical entertainment by Brad and Dave.

We are looking for a few women to decorate tables. It can be as simple as a table cloth and centerpiece. (The "Marthas" among us are welcome to do tablescapes.) Our church has tablecloths, if needed.

Also needed are appetizers and desserts. Please put your foods onto pretty serving plates and bring them ready for the buffet table. We are supplying cups, forks, and plates.

The sign-up sheets to decorate a table or bring refreshments are on the LWCC bulletin board along with the attending sheet.

Thank you

Honey Sunday-collected \$140 that will be sent directly to the Dakota Boys and girls ranch. Your order will be sent directly to you. If you ordered more than 1 they will come separately.

Samaritan Christmas shoe box - thanks to everyone who gave so generously.

Thanksgiving baskets - another success!

Holiday Concordia Lutheran Church Worship Service schedule:

- **Thanksgiving Eve**, Nov. 27 at 7:00 pm
- **Advent Wednesdays**, Dec. 4, 11, 18 at 6:30 pm
- **Christmas Eve**, Dec. 24 at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm
- **Christmas Day**, Dec. 25 at 9:30 am

December 2024 Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Dec 1</p> <p>First Sunday in Advent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Worship <p>2 more</p>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6:30pm Properties ● 7pm Elders 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm Wrapping Room Oper ● 5pm Advent Dinner 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am O.A.
<p>8</p> <p>Second Sunday in Advent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Worship <p>3 more</p>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7pm Women's Tuesday Bit 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 5pm Wrapping Room Oper ● 5pm Advent Dinner 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9am Quilting ● 10am O.A.
<p>15</p> <p>Third Sunday in Advent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Worship <p>3 more</p>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 7pm Church Council 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6:30pm Preschool Advent ● 7pm Cookie Reception 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>[F] St. Thomas, Apostle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am O.A.
<p>22</p> <p>Fourth Sunday in Advent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Worship <p>3 more</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>The Nativity of Our Lord (Ch)</p> <p>The Nativity of Our Lord (Ch)</p>	<p>25</p> <p>The Nativity of Our Lord (Ch)</p> <p>The Nativity of Our Lord (Ch)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>[F] St. Stephen, Martyr</p>	<p>27</p> <p>[F] St. John, Apostle and Evl</p>	<p>28</p> <p>[F] The Holy Innocents, Mar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am O.A.
<p>29</p> <p>First Sunday after Christma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 9:30am Worship <p>2 more</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>[F] New Year's Eve</p>	<p>Jan 1</p> <p>[F] Circumcision and Name</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10am O.A.

Treasurers Report

October 2024

<u>Income Descriptions</u>	<u>Oct 2023</u> <u>5 Sundays</u>	<u>Sept 2024</u> <u>4 Sundays</u>	<u>Total to</u> <u>Date</u>
Unified Budget	23,339.55	16,482.00	230,036.20
Memorials (Non-Designated)	-	-	2,130.00
Memorials (Designated)	-	45,029.75	45,179.75
Designated Gifts	1,633.15	546.61	31,903.84
Reimbursements & Refunds	533.64	-	-
Rents & Wedding Fees	120.00	195.00	535.00
Miscellaneous	-	-	74,352.13
Total Income	25,626.34	18,844.25	384,136.92
Average per week Unified Budget	4,667.91	4,258.00	6,765.77
Amount needed per week for Unified Budget	6,570.00	6,728.85	6,728.85

<u>Support is included in Unified Budget Expenses</u>	<u>Oct-24</u>	<u>Total to</u>
Missions - District Synod	2,500.00	7,000.00
Lutheran High School	750.00	7,500.00
Lutheran Hispanic Ministry	187.50	1,875.00
Total Support	3,437.50	16,375.00

<u>Board Expenses</u>	<u>October 2024</u>	<u>Total To Date</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>
Pastoral Care	2,360.72	55,111.13	125,400.00
Christian Education	6,181.89	77,282.74	81,800.00
Congregational Worship	500.77	3,314.41	7,200.00
Missions & Outreach	4,495.22	19,247.04	21,500.00
Office	1,682.04	11,436.59	32,500.00
Properties	7,526.87	163,400.14	81,500.00
Unified Budget Total	22,747.51	329,792.05	349,900.00

<u>Lutheran Church Extension Fund Steward Accounts</u>	<u>Balance 10-31-2024</u>
Anniversaries & Birthday - 1073	4,621.30
Board of Youth - Trip - 5446	7,145.58
Building Fund - 2978	19,757.88
Capital Improvements	10,373.11
Church Sign	963.46
Church Landscaping	871.76
Heine Family Project	1,712.48
Total Capital Improvements - \$13885.53	13,920.81
Concordia Cares - 6370	3,488.11
Inheritance Fund - 7423	124,146.61
Preschool Landscaping & Gardening - 2434	148.03
Total in LCEF Steward Accounts	173,228.32
Interest Earned	517.20

<u>Our Spiritual Response in Worship, Bible Study and Giving to our Lord</u>			
	Children SS	Youth SS	ADULT SS
October 27, 2024	0	0	0
November 3, 2024	9	3	20
November 10, 2024	11	3	21
November 17, 2024	9	3	0

Worship	2023	2024	Tithes
October 27, 2024	77	89	\$3,362.00
November 3, 2024	102	96	\$1,415.00
November 10, 2024	83	94	\$9,748.00
November 17, 2024	95	114	\$3,560.00

INTERCESSION and PRAYER
(Matthew 8:17)

**Concordia Members
Surgery/Testing/
Recovery:**

- Mike Emkes
- Diane Smith
- Gene Waltz
- Jim Roemer
- Peter Economou
- Tommy Ragsdale



Friends of Concordia

- Tyshae Smith 8/28/24
- Josephine Shafer 8/13/24
- Leeroy & Vernon Good 6/10/24
- Ralph McGraw 1/2/24
- Alexandria Carrier 9/1/23
- Connie Henderson 5/14/23
- Rick Wildrick 3/30/23
- Family members and Konny Hanneman; Sandy Risner 11/13/22, Hazel, Levi, Joshua & Savannah Bragdon 11/13/22, Marianne & Charles Huckleberry 12/21/21 Sylvia, Steve & Nicole Perrish 12/21/21
- Terry & Diana Deamron 9/10/22
- Beverly Stephens 8/20/22
- Ed Stephens 2/18/24
- Terry Haskett 5/15/22
- Missy, Austin & Travis Golden 4/20/22
- Judy Heine 11/22/21
- Pat Brooks 9/23/21
- Tami Economou 8/17/21
- Rose Swenson 7/27/21
- Susan Soggs 1/7/21
- Rev. Howard Fabricius 1/2/21
- Minna Van Arsdale 8/7/19
- Brandon Frederking 5/2/19
- Steve Stephenson 4/28/19
- Thomas Clark 12/16/18

Battling Cancer / MS

- Kelsey Merena 10/25/22
- David Buuck 9/27/21
- Brandi Soggs 1/9/20

Homebound Concordia Members

- Sharon Bruhn, 1375 Nicole Dr. Unit 329, Franklin IN 46131-0028
- Konny Hannemann, 6818 Cadwell Circle, Indianapolis IN 46237

Military Servicemen & women.

- Erica Stephenson, Army, National Guard
- LTJG Chloe (Owen) Munoz, 8153 Village Gate Ct, Jacksonville, FL 32217
- Ivan Munoz, (USS Gravelly)
- Zach Goins, 822 Timbervale Trail, Highlands Ranch, CO, 80129 (Navy Reserve)
- CPL Jadon Ranbarger (2166 Marmande St., Kailua, HI 96734)

Congregation Anniversary Dinner



Lutheran Hour Ministries Radio Schedule

The Lutheran Hour—Sundays
 WIRE (91.1 FM) 7:30 AM
 WCBK (102.3 FM) 7:00 AM
 WMCB (1540 AM) 8:00 AM
 WLW (700 AM) 7:00 AM

12/1 Will Everything Sad Come Untrue
12/8 Completely Ordinary Human
12/15 Sorrow Welcomed Here
12/22 Does It Matter If Jesus Is God?
12/29 No Getting Better Than This

Lutheran Hour is now broadcast on American Forces Network (AFN).

Worship Anew—Sundays
 WRTV (TV 6) 7:00 AM

The Concordia Messenger

Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church
 305 N Howard Road
 Greenwood, IN 46142-3836

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E-mail: office@concordia-lcms.com
Website: http://www.concordia-lcms.com



Sunday Worship Services
 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes
 10:30 a.m.



Pastor Vacant

Staff

Sarah Shadday—*Director Christian Education*

Erica Stephenson - *Deaconess*

Sarah Shadday—*Preschool Director*

Brad Wheeler- *Admin. Assistant*

Office hours Mon. - Fri. 8am - noon

Dec. Wedding Anniversaries:

Don & Jill Scifres (43) 12/5	Marvin & Linda Barkes (61) 12/28
Dan & Diana Sullivan (50) 12/14	Michael & Sarah Marot (30) 12/30
Doug & Heidi Kearns (40) 12/15	
Shawn & Gabriele Reed (9) 12/19	

December Birthdays:

Brooks, Gail	12/4	Sullivan, Joe	12/18
Reed, Gabi	12/6	Forster, Chris	12/19
Thetford, Emily	12/6	Tinsley, Adele	12/24
Cummings, Donna	12/9	Ragsdale, Kris	12/27
Dombroski, Don	12/10	Brooks, Chris	12/30
Roncicka, Laura	12/14	Heine, Dawn	12/31
Pardieck, Mike	12/15		
Bontrager, Shanda	12/16		
Krause, Sabrina	12/18		

Church Council

President
 Bruce Markel

Vice-President
 Chris Brooks

Mike Emkes, Elder

Mike Finger, Elder

Mike Ford

Emily McNally

Julia Yeater

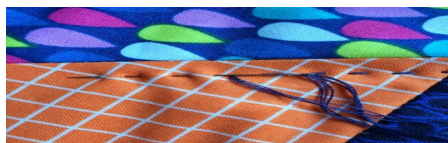
Recording Secretary
 Edie Masters

Treasurer
 Tammy Owen

Financial Secretary
 Carol Monroe

HUMOR CORNER

Proverbs 17:22 "A merry heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."



Quilting We will take a break for the Advent and Christmas season. We will again start up on January 11 at 9 am weather permitting. We will be needing donations of clean and unstained flat sheets to use as backing for the quilts if you have any that you would like to be put to good use. Consider coming and helping with the tying.

THE *Concordia Messenger*

December 2024



**Concordia Lutheran Church
& Preschool**
305 N Howard Road, Greenwood, IN 46142