



OUR MISSION

Creating a Christ-Centered community gathered together...To joyfully worship our God... To grow in faith and knowledge...To love one another...And to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

April Worship Services

WEDNESDAY,	April 1– 6:30 PM
SUNDAY,	April 5 – 9:00 AM
MAUNDY THURSDAY,	April 9 – 6:30 PM with Communion
GOOD FRIDAY,	April 10 – 6:30 PM
EASTER SUNDAY,	April 12 – 9:00 AM with Communion
TUESDAY,	April 14 – 11:00 AM (Shut-in Service)
SUNDAY,	April 19– 9:00 AM
SUNDAY,	April 26 – 9:00 AM with Communion

Please watch the website at concordia-ssp.org for further announcements about resuming church services and activities.

Pastor's Message

Musing along the highway.

Today, as I was coming around the turn west onto 494, I was thinking/ musing about the positive side of looking ahead. (This is one of those days when the news opinion reports shared their insight into the positive news) "The president is urging the nation to reenter economic activity so that we do

not kill the economy over our immobilization related to the Covid-19 virus. Various opinions in support were shared. A few contrary were featured. Actually, I feel more optimistic today. I think I can see an end to our isolation just over the horizon.

Christians should be optimistic. We are assured by our Lord that he responds to faithfulness."⁵ Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."⁶ So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13)

Now there's a Promise and commitment from the Lord Himself! The Lord is our helper. His helpfulness is evident through the promise of a joyful end of all things. Ahead for us all is the end of our daily walk under the sun. At that very junction the beauty of the daily creation will give way to the spectacular beauty of eternity. The Lord will walk with us through the trauma of the end and hold our hand into the true radiance of his presence. As we struggle with decisions and puzzles between now and then, he will counsel us with His word through the insight of His Spirit. As we face temptations, the Lord promises us there is a way of escape that we may be able to bear it and that He may be glorified. (1 Corinthians 10:13) Should we face a life

threatening issue and come to or end, it will be but a beginning for us. One of our hymns supports the notion of the greater value of our eternal hope. In verse one it says, "What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure When You, and You alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure! You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be; You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!

None of us knows when the threat of the Covid-19 virus will diminish. Will it be with the warmer weather and humidity? Will it come because we have been inspired and we are led by the Lord to discover a brilliant solution leading to its demise? Will it happen next week. Will it happen next year? Through it all we will have learned the valuable lesson of looking beyond the curve of the road to the destination ahead and finding our true hope.

And so, I continue to muse. This time about my least favorite topic. MONEY. The crisis in worship attendance across the nation and our region has caused many of our churches to close the doors of worship. Worship is where we share the Word and Sacraments for the blessing of God's people and anyone who should be in attendance. It is the worship environment that provides the channel of weekly support for the work of the Lord and so our leaders are concerned.

Our financial status has been "goodish." You all have remained faithfully supportive through the past months. We have been able to eek by weekly. But now that worship has been suspended, your channel of support has been disrupted. Here is our hope. People will adjust in light of our future plans. We will resume worship as soon as the ban on public gatherings is lifted. When we do, we will start over. How about a welcome Home Sunday celebration when we start over? In the interim we all can do two things.

First, we can regularly pray for the sustaining power of the Lord to work in behalf and through us all. Secondly, we can send in our offerings to the church office through the mail. They will not be lost. Our office staffer, Miriam, will retrieve them weekly and pass them on to our counter. They will be counted

and deposited. We will then give you an accounting of where we stand regularly. This may be the time when you might consider using the channel of electronic giving instead of the mail in approach as others already do.

It is crucial for this all to happen. I am soon going to terminate my six months of service at Concordia. Our leaders are interviewing Pastoral candidates and making commitments of remuneration with them. Without the assurance of support, how can an honest commitment take place?

At Concordia our lead negotiator, Neil, is still talking and listening to regional church leaders to explore ways to continue our mission in South St. Paul. When he has more information, we all will hear. These are tense times at Concordia even without a viral scare. But we who share faith in Christ have seen the restoration of the church in the past.

The Lord, in fact, promises a watchful eye upon His people. I am reminded of Paul's letter to the Corinthian faithful, He wrote," I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." We learn from that passage the truth of the gospel. We trust a God who is faithful. He will sustain us all.

I encourage you all to respond and watch for the day, soon, when we can worship together again in the familiar surroundings of our favorite space.

Yours in Christ Who loves us all,

Rev. Larry Wesolik

Interim Pastor

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – April 2020

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: “How much should I give?” But what they really mean is this: “Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?” So, let’s look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn’t* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn’t tithe because it isn’t expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no “Thus saith the Lord” and no “should” for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn’t tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won’t have enough to get the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn’t specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the

giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here’s another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism’s* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we’re not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let’s answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I’d expect that conversation would be something like this: “I’m glad you’re still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God’s promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I’d really like you to try to attain it.”

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It’s not specifically

commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you're giving when you're giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

Coffee and Treats

Thank you to the following people for providing coffee and treats after worship services in the month of March: Mark & Cindy Stoltenow, Bruce & Gail Avenson, Donn & Lori Anderson, Paul Helgerson, and Don & Shirley Volbrecht. There are slots available to sign up for this fellowship opportunity.

April's Coffee and Treats sign-up sheet is posted on the new "sign-up table". This is important way for us to spend time together in fellowship after worship service. Please stop by and sign up for a Sunday to provide treats. Coffee and lemonade are provided by the church. For those of you who would like to participate, but feel they cannot serve, feel free to donate money for a Sunday treat to Sue Ogorek. I will help facilitate buying the treat and serving. If you have any questions, please see me. Thank you.

Presidential Primary Election

Tuesday, March 3rd Concordia was a polling place for the Presidential Primary Election. A special thank you to Mark and Cindy Stoltenow, Keith and Sue Ogorek, Paul Helgerson, Muriel Rose, Irene Weber, Marcia Lally, Don Volbrecht, Kris Westad and Carol Zellmer for monitoring the church property during this time. Your time commitment to Concordia is deeply appreciated.

Life Line Screening Thank You

Thank you for opening your doors for our community health screening in your community. It is because of your generosity that Life Line Screening continues to be able to bring these health screenings into your area and for that, we are very appreciative.

We look forward to working together again!

We appreciate all your help and support with hosting this community outreach event.

Sincerely,
Cathy Bush
Life Line Screening

Special Voter's Meeting

Please plan to attend the Special Voter's Meeting scheduled for Sunday, April 19th at 10:15 am. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Study held that Sunday.

If You Ordered Altar Flowers During Church Closure

No orders were filled for altar flowers during our canceled services. If you ordered flowers and paid for them, please choose another date for your bouquet.

Personal Daily Devotions

The April-June Portals of Prayer have arrived and are now available. We would like to get them into the hands of all who would like their copy as soon as possible. As we go forward day by day, Portals of Prayer continues to provide us all with readings, messages, and prayers in our walk with God.

We would like to offer to make that happen in a couple of ways:

1. If you would like to go for a drive and pick one up at the church, we can meet you in the parking lot and bring one to your window.
2. We can deliver one and drop it off outside your home.

To work out details with you of either option, please contact Mark at: 651-457-3819 (please leave message if we miss your call) or cstoltenow@gmail.com

Mark Stoltenow

Did You Know?

That you can help donate to Concordia Lutheran Church at no cost to you just by shopping on Amazon? If you want to help Amazon donate to us, you will need to start each shopping session with the URL smile.amazon.com. The first time, you will need to pick your organization, look for Concordia Lutheran Church. There are many, so you may have to scroll a few pages in to find us. Click on the correct Concordia Lutheran Church and any shopping you do, from now on, Amazon will donate 0.5% directly to Concordia Lutheran Church. Remember to always use smile.amazon.com when shopping on Amazon.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bruce Avenson
Paul Helgerson
Neil Olson
Kris Westad

BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Board of Community Activities – Sue Ogorek
Board of Elders – Mark Stoltenow 651-283-9541

SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS

Bruce & Gail Avenson and Cathy Johnston

Announcement And Servant Article Deadline

The deadline for turning in bulletin announcement articles is Wednesday each week by 9 am. The deadline for turning in Servant articles is the third Thursday of each month by 9 am. Email is the preferred method for delivering your article(s). concordiachurch@qwestoffice.net

Serving in God's House

Month: April 2020

Please add to your calendar; this is the only notification you will receive.

Thank you!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Communion Helpers</u>	<u>Usher Team Captain</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Apr 1 6:30 pm		Ladies of the Congregation	Pastor	
Palm Sunday Apr 5 9:00 am		Bruce Avenson	Bruce Avenson	Php 2:5-11
Maundy Thursday Apr 9* 6:30 pm	Mark Stoltenow	Ladies of the Congregation	Pastor	1Co 11:23-32
Good Friday Apr 10 6:30 pm		Ladies of the Congregation	Pastor	2Co 5:14-21
Easter Sunday Apr 12* 9:00 am	Keith Ogorek	Paul Helgerson	Paul Helgerson	1Co 5:6-8
Apr 19 9:00 am		Kim Huebscher	Bob Kilb	1Jn 5:4-10
Apr 26* 9:00 am	Paul Dale	Nancy Bell	Paul Dale	1Pt 2:21-25

*Designates Communion Service

Altar Guild	Nancy Bell & Sue Dale
Greeters	Muriel Rose & Irene Weber
Counters	Paul Helgerson & Mark Stoltenow



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
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God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).