



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.

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 – 9:00 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 – 9:00 AM

with Communion

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 – 9:00 AM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 – 9:00 AM

with Communion

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 – 9:00 AM

**Online Services will continue on Facebook and
YouTube**

PRIVATE COMMUNION BY APPOINTMENT

WEDNESDAY'S – 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

THURSDAY'S - 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Pastor's Message

The Christian's Sense of Belonging

August 2020

Sometimes a sense of belonging is difficult to come by. You move into a new neighborhood. The homes are quite beautiful, but you don't know anyone. Your only chance to visit with the guy next door is when he picks up his mail or is outside doing some yard work. "Is this really where I belong?" you ask. Or you get a new job. You soon feel you're going to have to earn everyone's respect. Until you "learn

the ropes", few of your fellow employees include you in their conversations. Or you retire and you don't know what to do with your time. You don't belong in the office anymore. But you don't belong at home either, not as far as you're concerned, not day in and day out. Or there's a death in the family. It is suddenly apparent that your primary calling in life is going to change. You used to be a wife. Now you're just the mom the children stop and visit once a week. You want to move out of the house. It's not the same place. But where would you move, into a care facility for the aged? It seems you don't belong anywhere.

Another time you may struggle with a sense of belonging is when you end up in the hospital. "This isn't my bed!" you're thinking. "I wouldn't have prepared my dinner this way! Boy, there's a lot of commotion in this place! My roommate sure isn't very friendly! The only thing the two of us have in common is we have the same doctor who performed the same surgery on us both." You feel out of place, not just because of the change in surroundings. There are the recent changes to your health. You're sore. You're exhausted. Even if these people would permit you to get up and walk around, how would you pull that off? You haven't even the strength to get out of bed!

It is something we're all bound to experience sooner or later. We're not what we used to be. We're feeling inadequate; like we don't fit in anywhere. We're feeling alone. Our situation reminds us of the effects of sin upon God's creation. St. Paul teaches us that "the wages of sin is death." What this means for us today is that we're aging and can do nothing to turn back the clock. As each year passes, both the world and our body confirm that we're not who we used to be. In as much as we're unable to function as we once did, we're just not as important as we used to be. We feel, maybe we just don't belong.

Fortunately, it is neither the world nor we who make this decision. It is the Lord. As Isaiah assures us: *"But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, **you are mine**" (Isaiah 43:1).* No statement from Scripture articulates the fact with greater clarity. We are God's possession, as surely as the Father has created us, as the Son has redeemed us, and as the Holy Spirit has called us by name through the living waters of Baptism. We belong to God and no one else on earth or under the earth, can claim us as his own. Neither may any tragic circumstance deprive us of God's care or protection. Isaiah continues: *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior" (Isaiah 43:2-3a).*

The world, to be sure, has much to say to us about our eligibility to belong. If we are in control and to some extent are able to assert ourselves, we may believe that we belong. But what if we lose our independence and our ability to hold our own? The world has no real answer. The Christian, however, may know beyond any doubt that he belongs. The proof is in the Word. On the cross Christ removed your sin from God's sight. Hence, there is nothing that may exclude you from God's love or attention, and you needn't be concerned how you fit in with those of the world. Your standing with God is perfect and foolproof. Let this life threaten you! You

belong to the Lord! And the final proof is coming. Having escorted you down the path he has chosen for you, your God and Savior will receive you safely into his Kingdom.

Pastor Preus

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – August 2020

Winston Churchill reportedly said, "we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking "How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?" to "What have they done for me lately?" We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the

fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Communion During Service

Holy Communion is available the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month. We will continue Private Communion appointments on Wednesdays & Thursdays only.

Private Communion By Appointment

We will offer private communion to those capable of traveling to church during the coming weeks. This must be by appointment and not in large groups to preserve our distances. You can choose this option by calling the church office on Wednesdays or Thursdays to make an appointment for Wednesday, Thursday, of the following week. Wednesdays and Thursdays will start at 10:00 am with the last appointment at 12:30 pm. We are allowing 30 minutes for each appointment. We will serve communion in individually wrapped containers.

Online Worship Service Still Available

You can watch our Concordia services and listen to beautiful organ music just by going to our Facebook page at [concordiassp](#) and choosing Concordia Lutheran, on the left hand side of the page click on videos and choose the one you want to watch or watch it on YouTube by searching Concordia Lutheran Church SSP, be sure to hit the subscribe button. Thank you to everyone involved in making this available to the congregation!

Primary Voting Polling Place

Concordia Lutheran is pleased to be a polling location for the Minnesota Primary on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. The narthex and social hall will be in use the entire day for this event.

Just A Note Of Information

For those that have inquired, we are still accepting aluminum cans for recycling. They can be placed in the smaller bin next to the larger recycling bin.

We are also still accepting non-perishable grocery and paper goods donation for Neighbors, Inc. food shelf. The donation bin is still located in the narthex. Monetary donations for the food shelf are accepted also. We ask that when you make out your check, you include Concordia Lutheran in the memo line.

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.

August 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Concordia Lutheran Church 255 West Douglas Street South St. Paul, MN 55075 651-451-0309						
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM Communion each 2nd and 4th Sunday						
9:00 am Worship	2	3	4	5	6	7
			10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	9:00 am Church Cleaners	
9:00 am Worship w/ comm.	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Voting Day Voter's Polling Place	10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	9:00 am Church Cleaners	
9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Board of Directors	16	17	18	19	20	21
			10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	9:00 am Church Cleaners	
9:00 am Worship w/ comm	23	24	25	26	27	28
			10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	9:00 am Church Cleaners	
9:00 am Worship	30	31				29
					10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
255 WEST DOUGLAS STREET
SOUTH SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55075



**Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity! David 133:1**