



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.

December Worship Services

SUNDAY,	December 1– 9:00 AM
SUNDAY,	December 8 – 9:00 AM with Communion
SUNDAY,	December 15 – 9:00 AM
TUESDAY,	December 17 – 11:00 AM (Shut-in Service with Communion)
SUNDAY,	December 22 – 9:00 AM with Communion
TUESDAY,	December 24 – 4:00 PM with Communion
WEDNESDAY,	December 25 – 9:00 AM
SUNDAY,	December 29 – 9:00 AM

Pastor's Message

Musing Along the Highway 1

I have been down this trail before, thank You. There is a wonderful season ahead of us at Concordia. While I am learning about you and your customs, I am responsible for the ministry among you in my role as Vacancy Pastor. I am committed to serve you until the Lord makes it evident among us just what is the path he has chosen for your future. He is a gracious Lord. He knows your past and has a future clearly in mind. His mind is to walk with you no

matter the road you take. Isaiah the prophet shares with us how the Lord monitors our pathway,

Isaiah 30:20 "And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left." The assurance is that the Lord follows his people and will persist in His care for us all. I look forward to the day when our future is clearly before us and we can step ahead with confidence.

The season immediately ahead of us is a season of thanks and praise. It is my privilege to serve you during the months ahead. We are rapidly moving toward Thanksgiving worship on the evening of the 27th when along with a divided nation we turn to the Lord who is our unifier and provider. We will worship Him the evening of the 27th and celebrate as one in joy and thanks. I hear it is also evening of the annual, "pie fest."

We then rapidly move on to the wonderful themes of Advent when on Sundays we repeat the ancient theme of, "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel."

December closes with the celebration of the birth of our Savior with services on Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM and Christmas Day at 9:00 AM.

In all this time of worship and Bible Study we hear again the good news of our assuring relationship to the Lord. He has called us and made us His own children. As His children we walk through each day under His grace. I pray my ministry will serve to assure you of those truths.

Thanks for having me over!

Yours in Christ Who loves us,

Pastor Wesolik

Just a few reminders

1. Hospitalization - If you or another member of Concordia is Hospitalized PLEASE contact the church office and let us know where You are. The Pastor is available for Hospital calls.
2. Shut Ins – If you or another member is confined to your home or another place, please let us know the pastor and others are available to call and comfort.

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – December 2019

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

But you say: “I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell.” Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you

have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god. It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

Jesus says this: Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need – food and clothing, house and home, etc. – and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. Those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.

Coffee and Treats

Thank you to the following people for providing coffee and treats after worship services in the month of November: Paul Helgerson, Paul & Sue Dale, Bruce, Gail, Brent & Sarah Avenson, and Mark & Cindy Stoltenow. There are slots available to sign up for this fellowship opportunity.

Trunk or Treat

Trunk or Treat was a success! We had roughly 70 children this year. We had 9 cars join in the fun. We listened to children's Halloween music, spent time visiting and enjoyed seeing the unique costumes. Thank you to Kris Westad, Mike and Jan Weir, Muriel Rose, Mark and Cindy Stoltenow, Kim Huebscher, Paul Helgerson, Greg and Vickie Peterson and Keith and Sue Ogorek for opening their trunks. Also, thank you to those of you who generously donated candy. A special thank you to Jan Weir for baking chocolate chip cookies for the candy givers; what a nice treat! All in all, it was a perfect Halloween night. Thanks be to God!

Many Thanks To You

Thank you to Kevin Huebscher for generously donating and beautifying our Church with the wonderful Fall/Thanksgiving decorations. *1 Chronicles 16:34; Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

Thank You Continued

Thank you to everyone that came out to decorate our church for the Christmas Season.

Thank you to the choir for providing the pies for the Pie Social which was held after the Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. Thank you for the time you spend practicing each week and for the singing during the service. Thank you to Beth Ekblad for the time and energy you spend creating beautiful music each week.

Booya Fellowship Dinner And Game Day

It was a fun event. It was a special day where we could socialize and enjoy a bowl of Concordia's Booya. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this day.

December Fellowship Dinner

With the busy Christmas season soon upon us, there will be no Fellowship Dinner in the month of December. Look for further announcements in January.

Hannah's Quilters Christmas Luncheon and Quilt Presentation

Hannah's Quilters will be hosting their Christmas Luncheon on Thursday, December 5th at 11:00 am. At this time they will present the quilts they have created this past year to Neighbors, Inc. and Children's Hospital. The quilts will be on display over the backs of the pews Sunday, December 1st.

Happy Holidays!

This Christmas Concordia will be participating in the Neighbors, Inc. Holiday Gift Program. We are very excited to support the community with Neighbors and this program. Neighbors has selected two young men for us to help provide a warm and happy Christmas with items they are in need of. We will be collecting gifts from their "wish lists", until Sunday, December 8th. If you would like to donate please contact Kimberly Olson for more information.

Congregational Meeting

Concordia's next congregational meeting will be held Sunday, December 15th at 10:15 am. There will be no Bible Study or Sunday School that day. At this meeting, we will be voting on the 2020 budget.

Christmas Shut-In Service & Luncheon

Concordia Lutheran will again host a worship service and luncheon for our shut-ins that cannot attend service regularly. This will be held on Tuesday, December 17th at 11:00 am. Please plan to attend to provide fellowship. Potluck lunch will be served immediately after the service. Please see Cathy Johnston with any questions. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, if you would like to contribute to the luncheon.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship Services

Christmas Eve service will be 4:00 pm, December 24th with communion. Christmas Day service is scheduled for 9:00 am. Please join us in celebration of the Lord's birth! *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"* Matthew 1:23

Ushers Needed

Ushering on Christmas Eve w/communion (4:00 PM) and Christmas Day (9:00 AM.) We are in need of crews for both services. If you can help out, please sign up on the sheet on the small table in the hallway. Up to 4 individuals would be ideal. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Stoltenow (651-283-9541).

Also, if you are interested in ushering for the upcoming year on a regular basis, please let me know. A commitment of once during every 4-5 weeks would be ideal. If you would be available on a less regular basis, let me know that as well.

Thank you,

Mark Stoltenow

Winter Weather Maintenance

The ground will be white soon. The South St. Paul City Ordinance requires all sidewalks to be cleared of snow within 12 hours of the snowfall. If any of you are willing to help with clearing our sidewalks this winter, please see Keith Ogorek.

Winter News

With winter soon approaching, please review the church closing policy:

Worship Services/Events Cancellation and Church Closing Policy

Worship services and other events will proceed as scheduled unless notice is given. As always, if you feel you cannot safely proceed to worship services/events, please make the best decision for you and your family.

When worship services (or other church events) are cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be announced on:

- **WCCO website:** Go to WCCO.com/closings and look for "Concordia Lutheran Church"
- **Radio:** Listen for WCCO-AM (830) to announce "Concordia Lutheran Church"
- **Church website:** Visit www.concordia-ssp.org look for an announcement on the first page
- **Social Media:** Find information at <https://m.facebook.com/concordia.church.southstpaul> or <https://mobile.twitter.com/concordiassp>

On weekdays, the Church office will close during business hours due to inclement weather according to the same guidelines as the South St. Paul Schools. (If the schools close for the day, the office is closed for the day. If the schools are on a two-hour delay, the office is on a two-hour delay.)

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

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: December 2019

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>Epistle</u>
Dec 1 9:00 am		Keith Ogorek	Tami Gooch	Rom. 13:(8-10) 11-14
Dec 8* 9:00 am	Keith Ogorek	Cathy Johnston	Cathy Johnston	Rom. 15:4-13
Dec 15 9:00 am		Bruce Avenson	Paul Dale	James 5:7-11
Dec 22* 9:00 am	Mark Stoltenow	Kim Huebscher	Peggy Kilb	Rom 1:1-7
Dec 24* 4:00 pm	Bruce Avenson	Paul Helgerson	Pastor	1 John 4:7-16
Dec 25 9:00 am		TBD	Pastor	Heb. 1:1-6 (7-12)
Dec 29 9:00 am		Ladies of Concordia	Paul Helgerson	Gal. 4:4-7

*Designates Communion Service

Altar Guild	Nancy Bell & Sue Dale
Greeters	Muriel Rose, John & Marcia Lally
Counters	Nancy Bell & Sue Dale

December 2019						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee & Treats 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study	2 Pastor's Day Off	3	4 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5  11:00 am Hannah's Quilters Christmas Luncheon & Quilt Presentation	6 8:00 am Church Cleaners 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship	7
8 9:00 am Worship w/communion 10:00 am Coffee & Treats 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study	9 Pastor's Day Off	10	11 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice	12 Meals on Wheels	13 8:00 am Church Cleaners 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship	14
15 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee & Treats 10:15 am Congregational Meeting	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 11:00 am Christmas Shut-in Worship & Lunch 	18 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Choir Practice	19	20 8:00 am Church Cleaners 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship	21
22 9:00 am Worship w/communion 10:00 am Coffee & Treats 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study	23 Pastor's Day Off	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Worship w/ communion 	25 Christmas Day 9:00 am Worship 	26	27 8:00 am Church Cleaners 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship	28
29 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee & Treats	30 Pastor's Day Off	31	<p style="text-align: center;">Concordia Lutheran Church 255 West Douglas Street South St. Paul, MN 55075 651-451-0309</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship Service each Sunday at 9:00 am (Communion every 2nd & 4th Sunday) Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Wednesday Adult Bible Study 10:00 am</p>			



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



December

