



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.

JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES
SUNDAY, JANUARY 3 – 9:00 AM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10– 9:00 AM
with Communion
SUNDAY, JANUARY 17 – 9:00 AM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 – 9:00 AM
with Communion
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 – 9:00 AM

Online Services will continue on Facebook and YouTube

PRIVATE COMMUNION BY APPOINTMENT
WEDNESDAY'S – 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM
THURSDAY'S - 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Pastor's Message

A Search Party for Jesus

A search party is a group of people who look for someone who's lost. If a child gets separated from his family on a camping trip and wanders off into the woods, a search party may be organized to find the youngster who's gone missing. Closer to home we try to be proactive. So that such search efforts

do not become necessary, children are taught what methods strangers will use to abduct children. They may offer a child a ride, offer candy or sweets, offer him or her money, or show the child a cute pet. And the list goes on.

During the season of Epiphany Christians are involved in another search. We may call it a search party for Jesus. Or perhaps that raises a few questions. You're thinking, I didn't realize Jesus was lost. Yes, King Herod once hoped Jesus would go missing. He even used the wise men as a search party to find the baby Jesus. But it wasn't because he was interested in the child's safety. The king wished to abduct and destroy the Christ child. In the end, however, Herod failed. Jesus did not go missing and, thankfully, no search party was ever necessary.

Our search party is coordinated, however, not because *he* needs saving, but because *we* need saving. We need to be delivered from the consequences of sin and from death. We need to be delivered eternally from the devil, who seeks to abduct every one of us belonging to God. It's why we join up with the wise men in their comprehensive search for the Christ child.

The journey was long and strenuous. But the wise men's quest was very simple; find the newborn Christ. And so, they came to Jerusalem with the question: "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?" Having traveled many days and not yet completed their search for Jesus, they spoke of a "star in the east". However, they wouldn't complete their venture until they learned from the prophet that the Christ was to come from Bethlehem. "But you, Bethlehem . . . are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."

Believers who gather for worship today, have joined the search party for Jesus. And interestingly, we too are able to complete our search by consulting Scripture. We listen to the prophets and apostles as we go to the Word. There we are reunited with our Lord and we learn that we would never find Christ unless he first found us. You see, we are the ones who truly were lost. We were lost in sin. But the Son of God found us by taking on our human flesh. Manifesting himself as a man, our Creator became one of his created. He did so even as a babe. So that he might be our substitute and live in our place according to the demands of God's Law, he became a fellow human being. So that he might be a Savior, in fact, to every nation, he chose a life which would end on the cross. So that we might not remain lost, Christ suffered the penalty of sin for every sinner on the earth.

The search party has a been organized! Do you wish to find the Christ child so that you may worship him? Join us this Sunday and each and every week as we are sure to find our Savior in his Word and Sacraments.

Pastor Preus

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – January 2021

It's a new year. It's a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It's a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often, we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So, here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions:

- Who are you?
- To whom do I give?
- And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the *Luther's Small Catechism* informs us. Are you a hearer of God's Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, and family. We don't particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties, and our questions arise in giving to the Church.

So, what is our duty as members of the Church with regard to giving? Again, the Table of Duties, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer – a member of the Church who receives instruction – St. Paul taught: "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Gal. 6:6). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord's blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the Church, He has the local congregation in mind. For "the Lord commanded that those who

proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14).

How much do we give to the local congregation?
Our only instructions are to give:

- Regularly (1 Cor. 6:1–2);
- Proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12);
- Generously (2 Cor. 8:20);
- Of our first fruits (Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30); and
- With a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

In other words, giving to the Church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: Do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

It’s that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the Gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in

service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom.

Hannah’s Quilters

The quilters were unable to meet through most of the COVID pandemic, but they still had 44 quilts to donate! Nancy Bell was able to make about 20-25 of them at home in March and April. We were able to meet once this fall and hope to start up after the New Year. Nancy delivered half of the quilts to Children's Hospital in St. Paul. They will also go to the Ronald Mc Donald house. She delivered the rest to Neighbor's in So St Paul. A special **Thank-you** to Madella Bous, Lois Groves, Muriel Rose, Jan Wilke and Nancy Bell for making this possible. We invite anyone to join us next year. We usually meet the first and third Thursdays of the month from 9-12:00.



Next Town Hall Meeting

We invite you to continue our discussions about the potential Woodbury Lutheran Church merger. Our next Town Hall Meeting will be **Sunday, January 17th, at 1:00 pm** in the sanctuary at Concordia. At this meeting we will have representatives from WLC there to answer questions and talk in more detail about some of their programs. They will also have someone from their Oak Hill Campus there to talk about their experience going through the merger process.

Private Communion By Appointment

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 will start at 11:30 am with the last appointment at 12:30 pm. Thursdays will start at 10:00 am with the last appointment at 12:30 pm. We are allowing 30 minutes for each appointment.

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](https://www.facebook.com/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!

Personal Daily Devotions

The January - March 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

Thank you

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and flowers I received during my absence for illness and the passing of my Mother. I feel very fortunate to work for Concordia where I am not just your secretary, but I have been welcomed as one of your own.
Miriam Kostecki

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

January 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Concordia Lutheran Church 255 W. Douglas St. South St. Paul, MN 55075 651-451-0309 Worship Service each Sunday 9:00 am Sunday School & Sunday Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Wednesday Adult Bible Study 10:00 am						
3 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study	4	5	6 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	7	8 9:00 am Church Cleaners	9
10 9:00 am Worship w/communion 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study	11	12	13 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	14	15 9:00 am Church Cleaners	16
17 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study 1:00 pm Town Hall Meeting	18	19	20 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	21	22 9:00 am Church Cleaners	23
24 9:00 am Worship w/communion 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study	25	26	27 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 11:30 am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	28	29 9:00 am Church Cleaners	30
31 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School & Bible Study						



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



Genesis 1:14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years."