



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.

JULY WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, JULY 5 – 9:00 AM

SUNDAY, JULY 12 – 9:00 AM

SUNDAY, JULY 19 – 9:00 AM

SUNDAY, JULY 26 – 9:00 AM

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

PRIVATE COMMUNION BY APPOINTMENT

SUNDAY'S - 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

WEDNESDAY'S - 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

THURSDAY'S – 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Pastor's Messages

Confessing the Faith: Is It Such a Challenge?

July 2020

It may be regarded as the single greatest challenge for many Christians: confessing the faith, expressing the particulars of what we believe. However, if we take a moment to define the verb “to confess” we may ask whether it’s such a challenge, after all. To confess means to “say the same thing”. We say back to God the same thing that he has said to us.

He tells us we’re a sinner, and we say back to him “I’m a sinner”. He tells us he’s our Savior, and we say back to him “you are my Savior”. The Lord tells us his name, and we confess in church and to the world that salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

Jesus prays for this in the Gospel of John stating: *“Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one”* (John 17:11). Here Jesus is praying that his disciples remain faithful in their confession. He’s also praying for us, that we may faithfully confess the name of our God. How this is done is very simple. We confess not something *similar* to what he’s given us to confess. We confess the same message we’ve received from him. When God tells us that he’s Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we confess the only true God to be Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When God tells us that he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, that he suffered died, was buried and rose again on the third day, that’s exactly what we confess back to him. And it’s what we confess for others to hear.

In a certain sense, we may call it reproducing a perfect copy. I enjoy photography because I enjoy a challenge. I see a beautiful sunset, a foggy

landscape, an impressive mountain or waterfall, and I want to share the image with others who were not so fortunate to witness the scene. I want to show people what I saw. Some will consider it a great challenge because you can easily mess things up by not having your camera on the right setting; the proper shutter speed or aperture, or by not holding the camera straight. In recent years, however, I have determined that it's not such a challenge, after all. True, you should have a decent camera. You also need to understand some basics about picture taking. However, once you purchase that digital camera, meeting the challenge may be simplified significantly by doing two things. 1) Shoot in *raw* rather than *jpeg*. 2) Edit your photos with an uncomplicated photo program. You follow those two principles and it will soon become second nature replicating that near perfect image that you see before you.

Is it a challenge to reproduce a perfect copy of what God gives us to confess? Not really. Unfortunately, some people prefer a challenge where God gives us no challenge. People want us to correct what's outdated. They want a confession they believe will be more appealing to the ears. They want us to enhance our message so that it catches the attention of those whom might not listen otherwise. In short, they want us to change God's name and change his means of saving us.

But the church needn't accept such a challenge. The only challenge we must face is the reality of living *in* the world but not *of* the world. Our challenge is to resist the alluring talk articulated by the world. Furthermore, we're up for the challenge, because we know God's Word will tell us just what we need to hear. You see, we haven't changed since the day we were baptized, and neither has God changed. We're still sinners in need of God's forgiveness, and God is still the One who died for us and gives out his forgiveness in his Word and Sacraments. We still require the Law so that we might see our sin and need the Gospel so that we might see our Savior.

Thank our heavenly Father for keeping us in his name just as he kept the disciples in his name.

Thank God for our simple confession which keeps us in the truth and keeps us believing.

Pastor Preus

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – July 2020

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.

We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.

Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this

world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.

We Have Resumed Services

Sunday, June 28th, started gathering again for worship services at 9:00 am. To see all safety procedures we will be taking, please see attached sheet. For those that cannot join us yet, we will continue to record our worship services and have them available on Facebook and YouTube. At this time there will not be communion during services, you are encouraged to take advantage of our private communion by appointment.

Private Communion By Appointment

Furthermore, 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 starting on Wednesdays or Thursdays the 15th to make an appointment for the Sunday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the following week. Sunday appointments start at 10:30 am with the last appointment at 11:30 am. Wednesdays and Thursdays will start at 10:00 am with the last appointment at 12:30 pm. We will serve communion in individually wrapped containers.

Corrections to your New Church Directory

Last month included in your newsletter mailing we provided a separate membership directory. I have been informed of a few corrections to the directory. I am including those corrections so you can change your directory to reflect these changes.

- Edward Fleury
Veteran's Home
5101 Minnehaha Ave S
Bldg. 21, 2nd Flr., Rm. 248
Minneapolis, MN 55417
612-721-0225
- Jo Sobaski should read JoAnn Sobaski
- Kimberly Grieger
Zip code should read 55337-2888
Cell phone should read 952-217-9916
- Vivian Gondringer please removed the phone number 651-455-4493 as that number is disconnected. The second phone number 651-457-7791 is for Vivian's daughter Julie who accepts her phone calls for her.

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.

These Protocols have been Developed based on Current Guidance Issued by the World Health Organization and the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Other Public Health Authorities

**Concordia Lutheran Church
Protocols for Beginning Limited Public Worship Service
(no Sunday School or Bible Studies at this time)
June 28, 2020**

The following precautionary measures will be put in place:

- The Fellowship Room, kitchen, Sunday School rooms, Courtyard Room and the nursery will be closed off. The only open spaces will be the women and men's restrooms, the Narthex and the Sanctuary.
- The parking lot doors will be the only entrance into and out of the church. Abiding by the rules of social distancing (6 feet), we kindly request that you proceed to the sanctuary once you enter the building and leave promptly after the service is over. Please do not greet others with touching.
- Hand sanitizer stations (2) will be available upon entering the Sanctuary and when leaving the building.
- Pews will be roped off so that people cannot sit closer than 6 feet (unless they are members of the same household living together).
- All hymnals, special offering envelopes and the Rite of Friendship pads will be removed from the pews. The Order of Service will be printed on paper, and the organist will provide music (no singing).
- Communion practices will be determined.
- Collection plates will not be passed person to person. There will be a box on a table where your offering can be placed as you leave worship.
- People are encouraged to bring their own face masks.
- The open spaces will be thoroughly sanitized before each service.
- Continue to follow normal safe practices, e.g. wash your hands often, cough or sneeze into a shirtsleeve, handkerchief or tissue, avoid touching the eyes, nose and mouth.
- **Lastly, no one is obligated to come if they do not feel safe. In addition, anyone showing any symptoms of sickness, or anyone who has a household member who is sick or showing symptoms of sickness should not attend.**

July 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
Concordia Lutheran Church 255 West Douglas Street South St. Paul, MN 55075 651-451-0309 Worship each Sunday 9:00 AM Online Services on Facebook & Youtube Private Communion by Appointment			10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	10:00am-12:00pm Private Communion by Appointment	8:00 am Church Cleaners	 HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 am Worship 10:30 am - 11:00 am Private Communion by Appointment			10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	10:00am-12:00pm Private Communion by Appointment	8:00 am Church Cleaners	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 am Worship 10:30 am - 11:30 am Private Communion by Appointment			10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	10:00am-12:00pm Private Communion by Appointment	8:00 am Church Cleaners 9:00 am Coffee Fellowship	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 am Worship 10:30 am - 11:30 am Private Communion by Appointment			10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	10:00am-12:00pm Private Communion by Appointment	8:00 am Church Cleaners	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9:00 am Worship 10:30 am - 11:30 am Private Communion by Appointment			10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	10:00am-12:00pm Private Communion by Appointment	8:00 am Church Cleaners	



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



“So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8:36