



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.

May Worship Services

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

Pastor's Message

Musing along the Highway
May, 2020

As I approached the task of extending private communion to our members, I have been having an internal debate. What word do I share with you all? Should I assure you that you will not be harmed? A verse I have frequently seen sighted does just that. ⁵ You need not fear the terrors of the night, the arrow that flies by day, ⁶ the plague that stalks in the darkness, or the disease that ravages at noon. (Psalm 90) The simple truth is that trusting and believing Christians can contract the disease that plagues the world around us. Were they unfaithful in some way? No, the text says we need not fear. There is immunity based on our faith in the Lord. There is however a promise, He who is above all things can and will deliver us into his presence at the end of our appointed time. He will be with us through it all. I have elected not to make promises that are easily misunderstood.

I would rather assure people with that which is sure. That is the promise of the constant persistence of the Lord's love. Hear Romans 8: ³⁸ "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor heavenly rulers, nor things that are present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Nothing in this life can separate us from the guiding hand and sure love of the Lord. That is timeless and sure. Hear the message and take heart, my friends.

Month seven draweth nigh. As I type this message it is becoming apparent more and more that my period of service at Concordia is drawing to a close. I remember quite clearly the Voter's meeting when you selected me to be your interim Pastor. We then came to the early get acquainted phase of a parish where I was anxious to hear from you all about your life and experiences. I remember the eating events we shared and being introduced to "Booyah." Bible classes visitation, crises and funerals soon followed.

I have come to appreciate you all but soon will face the inevitable departure. The good news is that

your leaders are diligently at work finding a replacement. I do appreciate their service and commitment. Soon a new face will pop up in service to our small community.

One of the questions surrounds the issue of returning to worship together in church. The leaders of our parish are committed to relaunch corporate worship as soon as it is safe for us to be together and with a mind to follow the mandates of the civil authorities. As of the date of this writing, the return to worship is still uncertain. In the interim, we will continue to prepare a video message every Sunday. Those messages have been well received. Remember, the message is on our church website. Just go to the Home page, click on the videos tab and you will find a collection of current and past video offerings recorded. Click on your choice and your Word for the Day.

Day to day we are still offering private communion to our members. If you would like to receive the sacrament, please call the church office (651-451-0309) between the hours of 10:00 am and 2:00 pm to make an appointment for the following week. Communion is served between the hours of 10:00 am and 11:45 on Sundays, and 10:00 am – 1:00 pm on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This procedure offers an opportunity for our members to receive the blessings of the sacrament in an environment that is not crowded and observes the conventions of distance and cleanliness deemed so necessary in these days of an international pandemic.

Finally, we thank you all for your support of the Lord's ministry through Concordia South St. Paul. Many have sent their offerings in by mail. Some have presented them personally. Thank you for making the ministry possible. Your offerings have been generous, and we have managed them well. It is important for this support to be abundant enough to provide resources beyond my ministry and for the next person to come into service.

Finally, how are you all doing? Feel free to contact me by email. My email address is lwesolik@gmail.com. I have heard from a few.

Remember Nancy Dieterich as she recovers from surgery. Remember our shut-ins in your prayers.

Pastor Wesolik

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter Article – May 2020

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.” (John 13:15) We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God – that job’s already done!

But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow Jesus’ example of generous giving. And this is not merely an example alone. It’s also our Lord’s command. “The one who contributes, (let him give) in generosity.” (Rom. 12:8)

So, when we give to help others who are in need, and when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. So, we should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought, but according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world.

So, when it comes to our offerings to the Lord, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability – and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3) – we can and should give a generous portion of the income that God provides us to honor the Lord.

So also, we should give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. Nor do we give grudgingly. We should give freely and cheerfully because we want to out of thanksgiving. “Each as he purposes in his heart,” as the Lord says. (2 Cor. 9:7) There is no New Testament ceremonial

law involved here. Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us.

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of love – love for Him and for our neighbor. Genuine love is always love in deed (1 John 3:18), love such as Jesus showed us all. It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we give for a good purpose to thank the Lord and support His gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously for the service of God's gospel purposes, to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle. For that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly – so abundantly that they had to be told to stop giving. (Ex. 36:5-6)

In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord's work of bestowing His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in our congregations through the preaching and teaching of His Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. We should support the Lord's work of caring for those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

Watch A Service Anytime

Now you can watch a Concordia service 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!

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 the 15th of April and make an appointment for the Sunday, Wednesday, or Thursday of the following week. Sunday appointments start at 10:15 am with the last appointment at 11:45 am. Wednesdays and Thursdays will start at 10:00 am and continue through the noon hour. We will serve communion in individually wrapped containers.

Coffee and Treats

We are looking forward to our Fellowship Coffee and Treats again, hopefully soon!

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.

Thank You

I want to thank everyone from Concordia for recognizing me on Administrative Assistant's Day. During this strange time when we feel so cut off from everyone, it is heartwarming to be thought of. I appreciate the card, gift card and when you come back to church, check out my new name plate on the office door. I feel that I am the lucky one that should be thanking all of you for your loving acceptance into your church family. Be well, stay safe and I can't wait for the celebration we will have when we can be together again!

Miriam Kostecki

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.

Church Calendar

Regarding the posted church calendar in this newsletter, it is subject to change as we navigate our new normal. As soon as we have any change in opening to a more public worship service, we will be notifying you by letter to inform you of our plans to keep social distancing during services. At the time of this printing, we have no new information to share with you. Please take advantage of the private communion appointments, watching the services online, and social distance. Idea for today: reach out by making 2-5 phone calls to let people know you are thinking of them.

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

MAY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Concordia Lutheran Church 255 West Douglas Street South St. Paul, MN 55075 651-451-0309 Worship Services available on Facebook and You Tube					
			CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE			
3 Online Worship Service Private Communion 10:15 am - 11:45 am	4	5 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	6 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	7 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	8	9
10 Mother's Day Online Worship Service Private Communion 10:15 am - 11:45 am 	11	12 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	13 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	14	15	16
17 Armed Forces Sunday Online Worship Service Private Communion 10:15 am - 11:45 am 	18	19 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	20 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	21 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	22	23
24 Online Worship Service Private Communion 10:15 am - 11:45 am	25 Memorial Day 	26 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	27 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	28 Private Communion 10:00 am-12:45 pm	29	30
31 Online Worship Service Private Communion 10:15 am - 11:45 am						



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



"... as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage ..." Joshua 1:5-6