



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.

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 – 9:00 AM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 – 9:00 AM

with Communion

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – 9:00 AM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 – 9:00 AM

with Communion

**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

A Penny for Your Thoughts, God!

September 2020

The saying “a penny for your thoughts” is an English idiom. You’re asking someone to volunteer what he or she is thinking. “Is something bothering you?” Naturally, the phrase is not meant to be taken literally. The speaker is not offering to pay to the listener for his thoughts. The expression is a polite way of offering that someone the opportunity to express his or her ideas or concerns.

It's something we'd like to say to God on occasion. We want to be respectful, to be sure. However, if it seems that God is preoccupied and not focused on our lives, it's one way we may put it: “A penny for your thoughts, God.” Yes, God has already shared *many* of his thoughts with us. One such thought is that he has known us from eternity. And this did not distract him from creating us with exceptional skill. Despite what he would know about our sinfulness, out of his great love for us he chose to make us in a most magnificent way. David writes: “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made . . . My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there were none of them” (Psalm 139:13-16). Truly, God planned out from eternity who we would be; his child who is both unique and precious. God's thoughts, it is very apparent, are wonderful, more than we can comprehend.

Unfortunately, we're not always satisfied with the thoughts God has revealed. We want him to disclose more of his thoughts. To be specific, we'd like to know *why* he made us the way he did,

knowing it would lead to our current condition. We agree, to be sure, that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. But why, Lord, did you not give any thought to what this would mean for me *today*? You've known me from eternity! Did you not anticipate that I would develop heart disease, colon cancer, or depression? Does it not matter to you that I'm unable to function as I once did, that I suffer, that my life has significantly been shortened?

Yes, it does. But God sees a much fuller picture than you are capable of seeing. He sees more than the illnesses and ailments that have taken their toll on you. He sees an entire world that's been hurting since the fall and which continues to suffer under the wages of sin. Yes, he's known you from eternity. But that's why he chose to know you and understand you in yet another way. He chose to know the burden of your sin by taking that burden on himself. And his knowledge and understanding go even further. Long before he created you and brought you "forth in iniquity" (Psalm 51:5), he planned out your salvation through Jesus Christ. He planned your Baptism. He planned to give you faith in his Son through the Gospel. And he planned to sustain you by these same means. God knows more than your shortcomings and sorrows. He knows how he will keep you under his care so that no one can snatch you out of his hand (John 10:28). He knows every one of your needs and how he will meet those needs.

As for what *you* need to know, it is quite simple. If God can plan that you will be his child in heaven from *eternity*, despite your sin and your defects, he can certainly plan how he'll take care of you *today*. Every one of God's plans, you see; everything he would know about you, is based on his grace. And there's nothing surprising or unforeseen about that!

How grateful we may be that God charges no fee for his thoughts. "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them" (Psalm 139:17)!

Pastor Preus

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Newsletter article – September 2020

"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl 9:10). God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us.

As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord's Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them.

As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God's will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are lived in conformity with God's will). Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God's temporal justice for a purpose.

As members of God's own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to do good works in accordance with God's

will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts.

Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

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

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. Starting Sept 16, Wednesday Private Communion Starts after Bible Study with the last appointment at 12:30 pm.

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!

Presidential Primary Election

Tuesday, August 11th

The results are in...we had 365 people walk through our doors to cast their votes. A special thank you to Paul Helgerson, Marica Lally, Muriel Rose, Mark and Cindy Stoltenow, Irene Weber, Kris Westad, and Carol Zellmer for donating their time to monitor our church during the election.

Happy To Be Back In Person

We are thrilled to see people back to church and safely enjoying our worship service together once again...praise God! We have revised the protocols as of August 16th. The revisions are minor. The revised protocols can be found on the Sanctuary table as you enter church. They can also be found on our website. Revisions will be continual made as situations change. As always, if you have any suggestions, please let us know. Thank you, Paul Helgerson and Sue Ogorek.

Bible Study And Sunday School

Bible Study and Sunday school resumes at Concordia on Sunday, September 13th at 10:15 am. Bring your own bible and facemask and plan on joining us shortly after church in the fellowship hall. We have plenty of space to social distance and share in God's word. Pastor is excited to share a number of studies he has prepared for us. **Wednesday Bible Study** resumes on September 16th at 10 am in the fellowship hall as well.

Grace, Faith, Scripture & Christ Alone . . .

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: The Word "Light" in the Bible, The Vocation of Singleness, Old Testament Judge Joshua, 6th Century Bishop of Rome Gregory the Great and more. You can listen on-demand at [issuesetc.org](https://www.issuesetc.org), the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

Thank You For All You Do

For the upkeep of our building this summer in preparation to re-open for summer services beginning June 28th and working to keep it safe and sanitary since:

- ❖ Ralph Swanson, Paul Dale, Muriel Rose, Sue Ogorek (developed safety procedures), Vickie Peterson, Keith Ogorek, Greg Peterson, Paul Helgerson (developed safety procedures), and Mark Stoltenow

For the upkeep of the grounds this summer including mowing, weeding, watering, trimming, and recently spreading a fresh layer of mulch in our courtyard:

- ❖ Keith Ogorek, Sue Ogorek, Paul Dale, Joe Groves, Cindy Stoltenow, and Mark Stoltenow

For the recording, editing and participation in creating weekly services since April 19th for our members and friends who have not been able to worship with us in person:

- ❖ Beth Ekblad, Kris Westad, Pastor Wesolik, Neil Olson, Pastor Preus, Sue Dale, Pastor Heggen, Paul Dale, and Mark Stoltenow

Just A Note Of Information

For those that have inquired, we are still accepting aluminum cars 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.



September 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1 10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	2 10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	3 10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	4 9:00 am Church Cleaners	5
9:00 am Worship	6 Labor Day	8 10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	9 10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	10 10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	11 9:00 am Church Cleaners	12	
9:00 am Worship/Comm 10:15 am Bible Study & Sunday School	13	15 10:00 am Bible Study 11:15am - 12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	16 10:00 am Bible Study 11:15am - 12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	17 10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	18 9:00 am Church Cleaners	19	
9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study & Sunday School	20	22 10:00 am Bible Study 11:15am - 12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	23 10:00 am Bible Study 11:15am - 12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	24 10:00am-12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	25 9:00 am Church Cleaners	26	
9:00 am Worship/Comm. 10:15 am Bible Study & Sunday School	27	29 10:00 am Bible Study 11:15am - 12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	30 10:00 am Bible Study 11:15am - 12:30pm Private Communion by Appointment	Concordia Lutheran Church 255 West Douglas Street South St. Paul, MN 55075 651-451-0309 Worship each Sunday 9:00 AM (2nd and 4th Sunday includes Communion)			



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



Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.