

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

“Concordia is the Church where the love of Christ is shared through our hearts, our hands, and our voices.”

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary
(WITH Holy Communion)

Online Worship posted to website Saturday evening
Sunday, September 20, 2026

8:00 am and 11:00 am Services in the Sanctuary
(NO Holy Communion)

AS WE GATHER



David Letterman had his Top Ten lists. God had His first — carved in stone on a mountain, and still standing three thousand years later. Today we look at the hinge on which the other seven commandments swing: the First, Second, and Third. Who, or what, does your heart actually trust when the bottom drops out? What comes out of your mouth when God's name is on the line? And is the Book in the pew rack in front of you something you gladly hear, or something you've quietly learned to tune out?

Martin Luther spent about twenty pages on these three commandments in the Large Catechism, because he knew what was at stake for the Christian heart, mouth, and ear. So did George Müller, who trusted God to feed hundreds of orphans without ever asking a person for money. So did William Tyndale, who gave his life so that ordinary people could hold Scripture in their own language. So did Luther himself, standing before an emperor at Worms with nothing to lean on but the truth.

Come, be still, and let God's Law show you where your heart has wandered — and let His Gospel show you your Savior, who kept these commandments perfectly in your place.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS (p. 19-20)

(Please stand as able and face the Cross)

OPENING / PROCESSIONAL HYMN #589 (vs. 1-4)

“Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”



1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word to
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near You And to lis - ten
3 Lord, Your words are wa - ters liv - ing When my thirst - ing
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let Your words in



me come near; New - born life and spir - it give me,
to Your voice; Let me ev - er love and hear You,
spir - it pleads. Lord, Your words are bread life - giv - ing;
me take root. May Your Spir - it e'er be near me



Let each prom - ise still my fear. Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward
Let Your Word be now my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,
On Your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, Your words will be my
That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing Your



strife, Wars a - gainst Your Word of life; Fill me, Lord, with
Lord, Flee in ter - ror at Your Word; But to all who
light Through death's cold and drea - ry night; Yes, they are my
praise, From my heart glad an - thems raise, Till my high - est



love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er!
feel sin's bur - den You give words of peace and par - don.
sword pre - vail - ing And my cup of joy un - fail - ing!
praise is giv - en In the end - less joy of heav - en.

+ DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE +
(Hymnal, p. 184)

INVOCATION (Matthew 28:19b)

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. (Hebrews 10:22)

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth. (Psalm 124:8)

L: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

L: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father,

People: Most merciful God, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed.

We have done things that we should not have done, and we have failed to do the things we should have done.

We have been impatient. We have grumbled. We have gossiped.

We have been critical of others and we have been difficult. We have used coarse language and have taken Your name in vain.

We have sought and received Your forgiveness and, then, we have refused to forgive our neighbor.

Father, forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may be freed from the guilt and burdens that we carry and daily strive to live under Your order and design for us. Amen.

L: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

ALL: Amen.

THE OFFICE OF THE KEYS EXPLANATION

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth and Pastors to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:22–23)

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

(1965, Luther’s Small Catechism, pg. 18; “The Office of the Keys and Confession”)

(Please remain standing as able)

PSALMODY (Psalm 19)

L: ⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

People: ⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

L: ⁹the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

People: ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

L: ¹¹Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

People: ¹²Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

L: ¹³Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

People: ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

(Please remain standing as able)

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

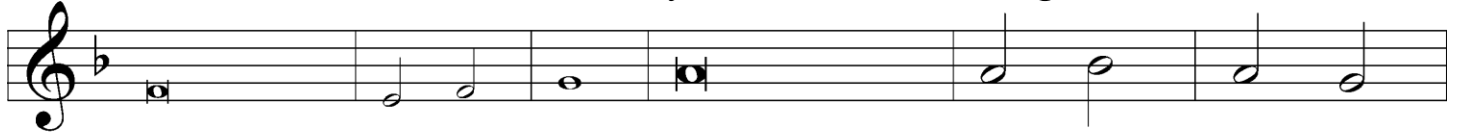


Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

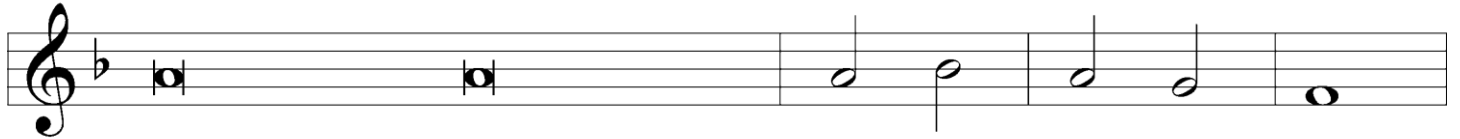
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ Glory to God in the Highest



Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward



men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,



we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.



O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;



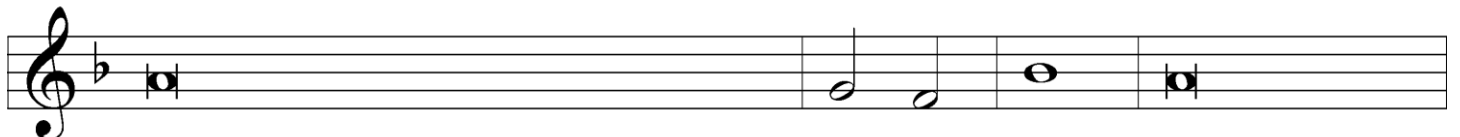
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation Explanation

The Service of the Word continues with a traditional greeting among Christians. This responsive dialogue unites the people and the pastor in corporate worship. The Hebrew greeting Shalom alechum! Alechum shalom! ("Peace be with you") is still heard in Israeli streets. Christians replaced the Hebrew wish for peace, shalom, with the Peacegiver Himself. "The Lord be [or is] with you" may be said prior to the Collect of the Day.

The Salutation has been interpreted in several ways, but its underlying emphasis is the existence of a special relationship between the pastor and the congregation. The response "And also with you," or "And with your spirit," confirms this caring relationship. This is not a prayer but an exchange of mutual love and respect. The Salutation is a much stronger greeting than the "Good Morning!" often expressed from the chancel prior to a Sunday liturgy.

The salutation signifies a spiritual tie between pastor and the people that the Lord alone brings.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)

People: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together.

ALL: Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read them, mark them, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may

embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 20:1-8

(The First through Third Commandments)

Reader: The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, Chapter 20.

¹And God spoke all these words, saying,

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹ For in six days

the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

(After the reading...)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

(Warning Against Idolatry)

Reader: The Epistle Reading is from First Corinthians, Chapter 10.

¹For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, ¹⁰nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted

beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

(After the reading...)

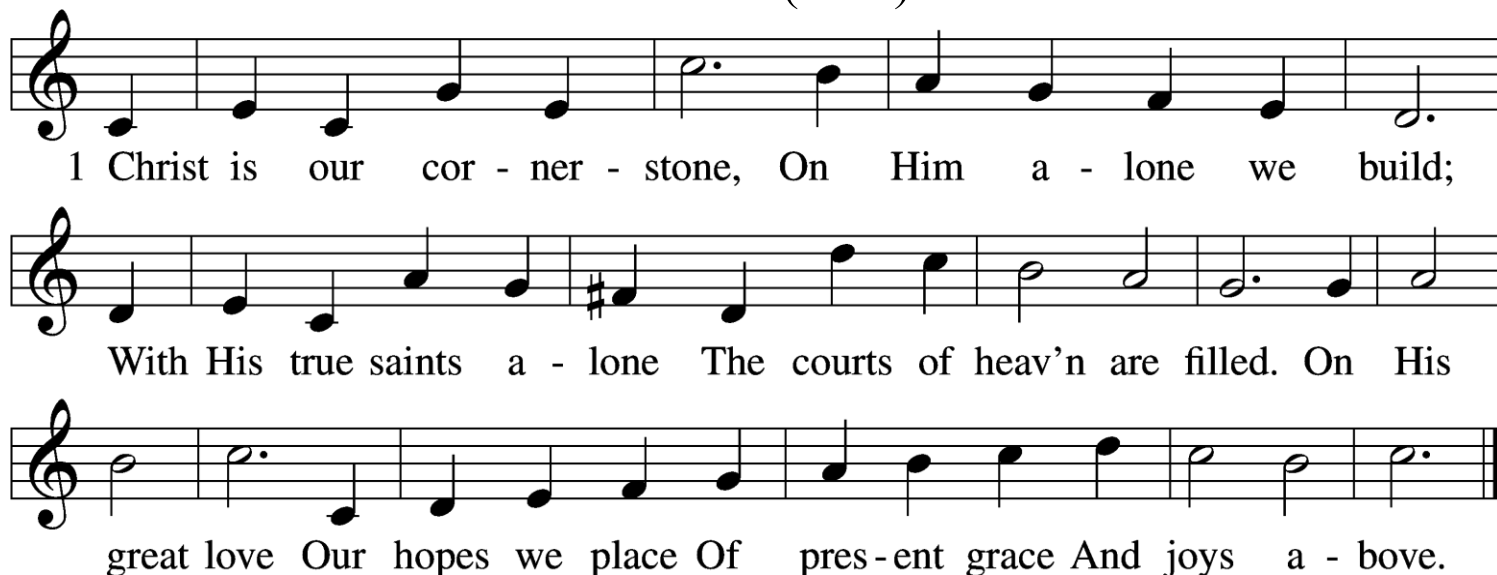
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

(Please stand as able for the Verse and the reading of the Gospel Lesson)

GOSPEL VERSE

#912 “Christ Is Our Cornerstone” (vs. 1)



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 4:1–11

(The Temptation of Jesus)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the Fourth Chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read)

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was

hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

“‘Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

“‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and

“‘On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

“‘You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.’”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Explanation of the Creed

The word “Creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” which means “I believe.” Creeds in the Church are a confession of faith in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the Triune God. Romans 10:9 says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

The Church has had the long tradition that goes back to the first centuries after Jesus’ death and resurrection. That tradition is confessing the Church’s faith in a

way that shows unity with the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps us from falling into false beliefs.

L: Now, having heard God's Word, let us join together in confessing our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S HYMN

We invite the children to come forward as we sing:

LSB 588, "Jesus Loves Me" vs. 1&2

**Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong They are weak, but He is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in.**

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – DCE, Mr. Tim Buss

SERMON HYMN #733 (vs. 1-6)

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, Our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood Or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4 A thou-sand a - ges in Thy sight Are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home:
 Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 From ev - er - last - ing Thou art God, To end - less years the same.
 Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
 Soon bears us all away;
 We fly forgotten as a dream
 Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
 Our hope for years to come,
 Be Thou our guard while troubles last
 And our eternal home!

SERMON Concordia Elder or DCE Tim Buss

“FIRST THINGS FIRST”

TITHES, PLEDGES, AND OFFERINGS

(Please stand as able for the Prayers)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

L: O Lord, Your mercy is beyond our comprehension, and Your generosity is more than we can understand. Give us grace that we rejoice to know the abundance of Your grace and testify to Your goodness in a world that hopes simply for justice. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L: O Lord, You have planted Your church like a vineyard in this world. Give us grace that we bring forth the fruits of Your mercy in our lives and so give honor to Your holy name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L: O Lord, You made all things and order them by Your Word and Your will. Bless our president and the members of Congress, our governor and legislature, all civil servants, and all justices and magistrates that their labors may honor You and serve us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L: O Lord, You created man for woman and woman for man, gave them the gift of marriage, and blessed them with children. Sustain all husbands and wives, all parents and children, the single, and those whose desire for marriage and children has not been realized. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L: O Lord, deliver the sick from their illnesses, the troubled from their afflictions, and the dying from their fear. Give grace to heal according to Your will, and comfort to those who mourn, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L: O Lord, teach us generosity that we may supply the hungry and those in need from the gifts You have supplied to us. Bless all those who protect and defend us: our military, police, firefighters, those who serve the medical arts, and relief workers. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L: O Lord, help us that we may be well-prepared to receive the Sacrament of Christ's flesh and blood and to keep in holy lives what we have tasted. Grant that what we here receive be fulfilled in the eternal feast to come, when, reunited with the saints who have gone before, we enter with joy into the eternal day. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L: O Lord, You do not forget anything You have made, and You supply us with grace sufficient for this day and all our needs of body and soul, even as You deliver us to everlasting life. Keep us content in Your mercy that we trust in Your promise always. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

L: And now, taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction Explanation

Using the words of Numbers 6:22-27, the pastor speaks the trinitarian blessing on the people. The last word of the liturgy comes from God, who hosted the service. The Benediction is more than a prayer or a wish. By His most holy name, the Benediction bestows God's blessing on the people for the rest of the week. To rephrase the Benediction as a wish (for example, beginning with "May the Lord bless..." removes the divine significance of our Host's parting declaration to His gathered guests. The Aaronic Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26) is a uniquely Lutheran choice, yet it underscores the continuity of praise with all God's people.. Worshippers also may make the sign of the cross on themselves as the pastor makes it over the whole congregation.

THE BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

L: The LORD bless you and keep you,

The LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor + and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #645 (vs. 1-5)

"Built on the Rock"



1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand E - ven when
 2 Sure - ly in tem - ples made with hands God, the Most
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, Built for His
 4 Here stands the font be - fore our eyes, Tell - ing how
 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, That, when the



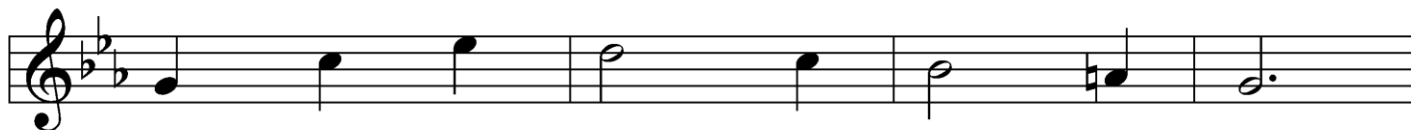
stee - ples are fall - ing. Crum - bled have spires in
 High, is not dwell - ing; High a - bove earth His
 own hab - i - ta - tion. He through bap - tis - mal
 God has re - ceived us. The al - tar re - calls Christ's
 church bells are ring - ing, Man - y in sav - ing



ev - 'ry land; Bells still are chim - ing and call -
 tem - ple stands, All earth - ly tem - ples ex - cel -
 grace us owns Heirs of His won - drous sal - va -
 sac - ri - fice And what His Sup - per here gives
 faith may come Where Christ His mes - sage is bring -



ing, Call - ing the young and old to rest,
 ling. Yet He who dwells in heav'n a - bove
 tion. Were we but two His name to tell,
 us. Here sound the Scrip - tures that pro - claim
 ing: "I know My own; My own know Me.



But a - bove all the souls dis - tressed,
 Choos - es to live with us in love,
 Yet He would deign with us to dwell
 Christ yes - ter - day, to - day, the same,
 You, not the world, My face shall see.



Long - ing for rest ev - er - last - ing.
 Mak - ing our bod - ies His tem - ple.
 With all His grace and His fa - vor.
 And ev - er - more, our Re - deem - er.
 My peace I leave with you. A - men."

THE SENDING

L: Our worship is now ended.

People: My service now begins.

L: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

IN SERVICE OF THE LORD TODAY:

Officiant	Rev. Mark Moretz
Leaders	Concordia Church Elders
Organist	Cindy Golem
Pianist	Shelly Hector, Kathy Schleef
Lectors	Al Radek (5:30) Sarah Pentz (8:00) Bob Keane (11:00)
Greeters	Volunteer (5:30) Christine Bell (8:00) Kathy Schleef & Christine Bell (11:00)
Video	Adam Brown, Sam Moretz and Jaymes Yeakle
Visuals	Cari Lowery, Fred Tichnell and Sam Moretz
Usher	Chip Brown, Dory Brown, Maggie Brown, Adam Brown, Joe Brown, Carrol Gatling, Jody Gann, Jesse Lowery, Bert Brittain, Mark Roeder, and Paul Roeder
Altar Guild	Sylvia Shives, Ron Golem, Mike and Nancy Flicek, Marian Foster, Dory Brown, and Deaconess Beverly Walling
Acolytes	Evan Moretz; Erin, Aubrey, and Tommy Davidson; Sydney and Katie Hector; Joe, Charlotte, Andrew Brown and Sarah Brown; Alexis Lowery, Nethanel Lowery; Grayson and Logan Moreland

Altar flowers age given to the glory of God Ron & Cindy Golem.



The people of Concordia have joined together to do the Lord's work in our community and around the world, and our offerings are a joyful response of our faith. If you are our guest today, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. You can bring your offering to the Lord using the plate as it is passed or online at concordiahagerstown.org under "Give".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Please check the newsletter for additional announcements]

Email addresses:

Church: concordia.hagerstown@gmail.com

Open Arms: openarms.hagerstown1@gmail.com

Gluten-free wafers are now available. Please let Pastor Mark know at the Communion Rail if you prefer these.

Sunday – 9:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Class, in the Sanctuary, Pastor Mark will lead a study of the Book of Revelation.

SUNDAY MORNING CLASS: Downstairs in the Outreach Center -Pastor Pekari will lead a study on Matthew.

MONDAY Bible Study – will begin September 14th at 1:30 p.m.

CHOIR – Choir will begin rehearsing Wednesday, August 19 at 7:30 p.m.

“MISSION OF THE MONTH” for Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Disaster Response.

Subscriptions to the Lutheran Witness are due now. The cost is \$26.00 per year. Subscription forms have been placed in the worship folders. Additional forms are on the table in the Welcome Center. Place forms (with check, payable to Concordia Lutheran Church) in specially marked basket in the office by **October 13.**

PORTALS OF PRAYER devotional books for July- September (and large print) are available in the basket in the narthex.

OPEN ARMS PRESCHOOL – Donations from the congregation of cleaning supplies would be greatly appreciated. Clorox type wipes, Lysol spray, bleach, paper towels, sanitizers, etc. Thank you, Natalie.

ALTAR FLOWERS –the price for altar flowers is \$70.00 per arrangement.

The flower chart for 2026 is on the bulletin board outside pastor's office. Member participation is encouraged and appreciated. PLEASE SIGN UP FOR A SUNDAY (or two or three).

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Request forms to have a prayer shawl made for you or a loved one are on the bulletin board outside Pastor's office. Please complete the form and put it in Jane O'Farrell's mailbox. If anyone would like to share their talent of knitting or crocheting for this ministry please contact Jane O'Farrell

CHURCH SIGN MESSAGE – All church events can be advertised on the Electric Sign. Please contact: Mark Eberly [at emark353@comcast, .net](mailto:emark353@comcast.net) or Chip Brown, 301- 797-1703.

Keep messages short and to the point. No need to call the Pastor or any Board Member for approval.

Mission

We are the Church where love of Christ is shared through our hearts, our hands, and our voices.

Vision

A welcoming community where the grace of Christ transforms lives through Word and Sacrament, equips disciples for faithful service, and shares His love with every neighbor.

Core Values

1. We believe in one God, our Father, His Son Jesus our savior and shepherd, and His Holy Spirit our helper and comforter. We believe that God comes first in our lives. Therefore, attendance and worship and active, enthusiastic, and persistent involvement in God's mission are vital to our witness.
2. We believe that trusting God's love for us all is at the heart of our relationship to Him, and to our relationships with each other, and should be a part of every aspect of church life (1 Corinthians 13; John 13:34-35).
3. We believe that every person matters to God, and therefore, all people matter to the church. Likewise, we believe that we should be a loving, welcoming, and compassionate place that actively invites our community and neighbors to join us (Luke 15; Luke 5:30-32).
4. We believe, as Christ's followers, that we have been humbled, that we should be authentic (real) about our own need for forgiveness, that we live in God's amazing grace, and that we yearn for continuous growth (Ephesians 4:25-26; Hebrews 12:1).
5. We believe that God's church is one, and holy as He is Holy, and that His love and forgiveness is universal in scope, and that we should remain faithful to the Biblical truths passed on to us by Christ and Scripture, the apostles, and expressed in Lutheran doctrine while engaging with our surrounding culture through our facility, mission efforts, and communications (1 Corinthians 9:19-

23).

6. We believe the pursuit of full devotion to Christ is normal for every believer and this includes the teaching or servanthood and putting our faith into action, stewardship and the pursuit of kingdom goals (Philippians 2:1-11; 2 Corinthians 8:7).
7. We believe God is uniting His people into one Body with His over-arching ministry of reconciliation, and that every believer is endowed with certain unique spiritual abilities and we should equip them to minister out of their gifts and passion (Ephesians 4).
8. We believe that we are to be patient, kind, gentle, honest, peaceful, loving, and that having self-control is essential to our witness and church effectiveness. This includes speaking the truth in love, communicating honestly with one another, and practicing forgiveness with one another (Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 4:15).
9. We believe excellence honors God and inspires people, and that our giving of thanks for whatever we can do, see, or find that is excellent, brings God honor. We also believe that God has given us First Article gifts with which we work to be innovative, adaptable, and dynamic in the way we minister to our communities (Malachi 1:6-14; Proverbs 27:17; First Article of The Apostles' Creed).
10. We Believe that we are to be a people of prayer as Jesus taught us, calling on God as children ask their dear Father. We pray continually for our families, for Church, for our communities, for our leaders, for our nation, and for the Holy Spirit to bring all people to faith (Matthew 6:9-15).

Worship with us!

Saturday in the Sanctuary:

Traditional (*Liturgical*) Service, 5:30 p.m.

Sunday in the Sanctuary:

Traditional (*Liturgical*) Service, 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Communion celebrated at all Services.

- ***Sunday School meets in the Education Wing, 9:30 a.m.***

Preschool (age 3-5) Community Room

Elementary (Grades 1-5) Community

Middle School (Grades 6-8) Luther Room

High School (Grades 9-12) Luther Room

- ***Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.***

Sanctuary (Pastor Mark Moretz)

Outreach Center (Pastor Pekari)

- ***Open Arms Preschool***

Registration required for 2, 3, or 4 day AM program