

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST

Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary

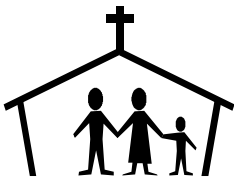
(NO Holy Communion)

Online Worship posted to website Saturday evening

Sunday, October 4, 2026

8:00 am and 11:00 am Services in the Sanctuary

(NO Holy Communion)



AS WE GATHER

Today we come to the Sixth Commandment: "You shall not commit adultery." In the Small Catechism, Luther explains it this way: "We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other." The world treats this commandment as an old-fashioned restriction. Luther saw it as a wall God builds around something precious. In the Large Catechism, he calls marriage the first of all God's institutions. It was established in the garden before there was any government, temple, or church, and God has richly blessed it. We live in a culture that treats marriage as a contract to cancel, a trial to test, or a private matter to redefine. Screens tempt us, busyness wears us down, and our own hearts wander. Jesus answers all of it the same way: "Have you not read ... from the beginning?" What God has joined, no one should separate.

This commandment speaks to all of us: the married, the single, the widowed, and the divorced. It shows us where we have failed in thought, word, and deed. But it also points us to the Bridegroom who never failed. Christ loved His Church and gave Himself up for her, washing her in Baptism and presenting her spotless before the Father. His faithfulness covers our unfaithfulness, and His forgiveness makes new hearts and renewed marriages possible.

As we prepare for worship, pray for the marriages in this congregation. Pray for husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the Church and to be honored and respected in their homes. Pray for wives to be cherished and to respect their husbands as the Church honors her Lord. Pray for the single to find joy in faithfulness, and for the hurting to find healing in Christ's mercy.

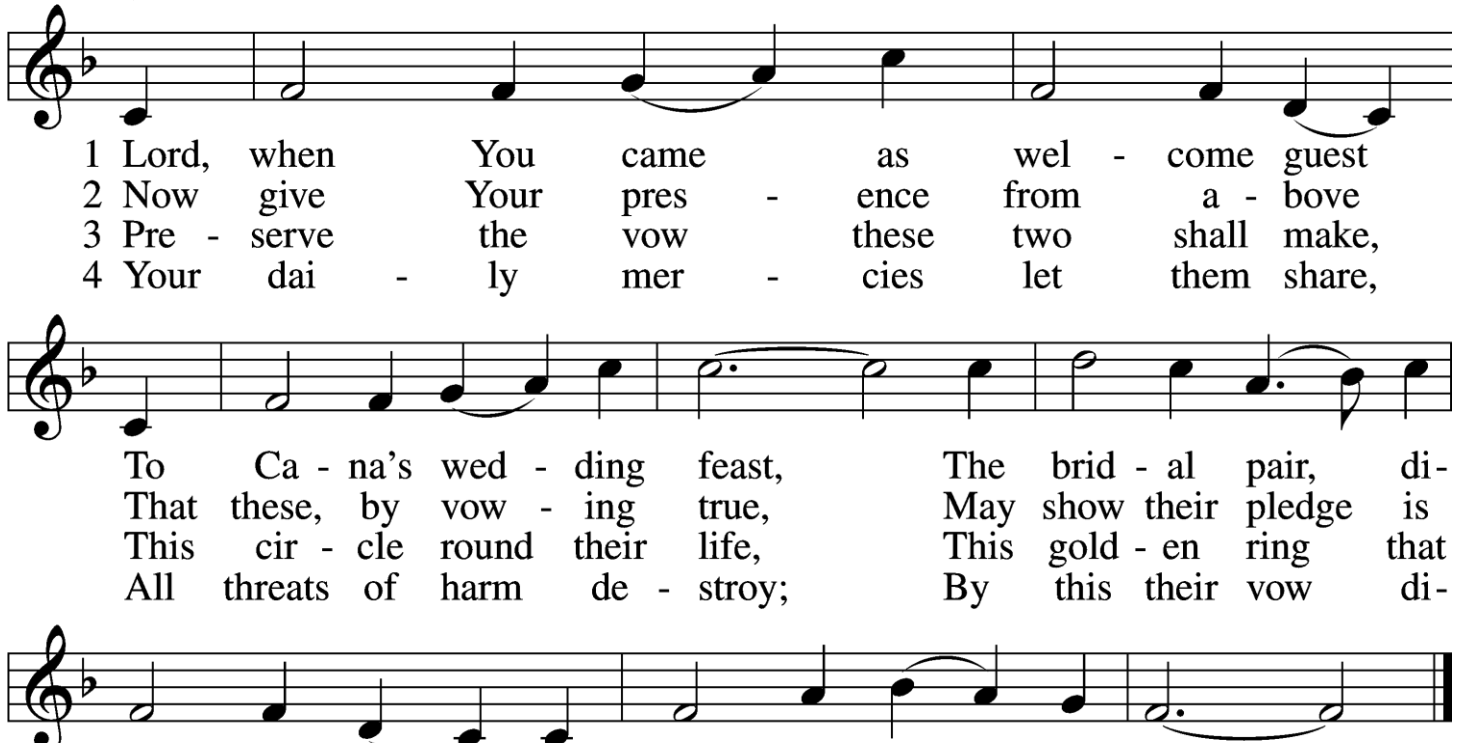
PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS (p. 19-20)

(Please stand as able and face the Cross)

OPENING / PROCESSIONAL HYMN #859 (vs. 1-6)

“Lord, When You Came as Welcome Guest”



1 Lord, when You came as wel - come guest
 2 Now give Your pres - ence from a - bove
 3 Pre - serve the vow these two shall make,
 4 Your dai - ly mer - cies let them share,

To Ca - na's wed - ding feast, The brid - al pair, di -
 That these, by vow - ing true, May show their pledge is
 This cir - cle round their life, This gold - en ring that
 All threats of harm de - stroy; By this their vow di -

vine - ly blest, Found all their joy in - creased.
 like the love Be - tween the Church and You.
 none may break Which makes them hus - band, wife.
 vide their care And dou - ble all their joy.

5 On all who thus before You kneel
 Your joyous Spirit pour
 That each may wake the other's zeal
 To love You more and more.

6 O grant them here in peace to live,
 In purity and love,
 And after this life to receive
 The crown of life above.

+ DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING ONE +
(Hymnal, p. 151)

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19b)

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(1 John 1:8-9)

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

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

People: Merciful Father, 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.

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.

(Please remain standing as able)

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”)

PSALMODY (Psalm 128)

L: ¹Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways!

People: ²You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you.

L: ³Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

People: ⁴Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD.

L: ⁵The LORD bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life!

People: ⁶May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #770 (vs. 1-3)

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
 Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

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

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

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

ALL: Lord of all power and might, author and giver of all good things, instill in our hearts the love of Your name, impress on our minds the teachings of Your Word, and increase in our lives all that is holy and just; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 20:1-14

(God’s Commandments)

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

And 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^[b] 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.

¹² “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³ “You shall not murder.

¹⁴ “You shall not commit adultery.

(After the reading...)

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING Ephesians 5:22–33

(Wives and Husbands)

Reader: The Second Reading is from Ephesians, Chapter Five.

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

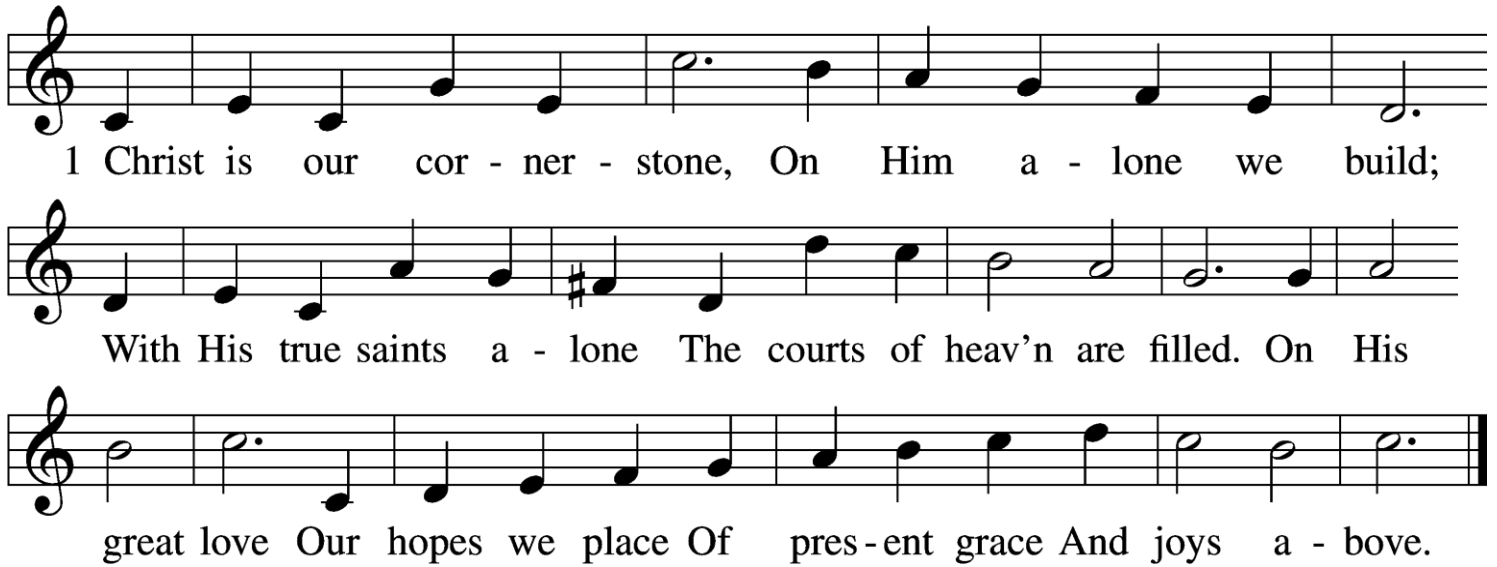
²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

(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)

VERSE #912 (v. 1)*“Christ Is Our Cornerstone”*


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 19:1–9*(Jesus Teaches about Divorce)*L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 19th Chapter.**People: Glory to You, O Lord.***(The Gospel is read)*

¹Now when Jesus had finished these sayings, he went away from Galilee and entered the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. ²And large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.

³And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, “Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?” ⁴He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, ⁵and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? ⁶So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” ⁷They said to him, “Why then did Moses command one to give a certificate of divorce and to send her away?” ⁸He said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart

Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. ⁹ And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery.”

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Explanation of the Creeds

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 Nicene Creed.

NICENE CREED

All: We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, we acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S HYMN

We invite the children to come forward as we sing:

#740 "I Am Jesus Little Lamb" (vs. 1-2)

- 1. I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me,
Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.**
- 2. Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – DCE Tim Buss

SERMON HYMN #850 (vs. 1-4)

“God of Grace and God of Glory”



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils



pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion



Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,



grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these
grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's
grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -



hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
days, For the liv - ing of these days.
goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.
dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

SERMON

Concordia's Elders or DCE Tim Buss
“WHAT GOD HAS JOINED”

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.

For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

L: For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

L: For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

L: For all the faithful, that the Spirit would lead them to cheerful giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

L: For those who are sick (especially.....), that God would grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

L: For those who mourn (especially.....), that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

L: For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they may always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

L: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: 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 #804 (vs. 1-6)

"O Worship the King"



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
 And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust
 and feeble as frail,
 In Thee do we trust,
 nor find Thee to fail.
 Thy mercies, how tender,
 how firm to the end,
 Our maker, defender,
 redeemer, and friend!

6 O measureless Might,
 ineffable Love,
 While angels delight
 to hymn Thee above,
 Thy humbler creation,
 though feeble their lays,
 With true adoration
 shall sing to Thy praise.

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:

Pastor	Rev. Mark Moretz
Organist	Cindy Golem
Pianist	Shelly Hector, Kathy Schleef
Lectors	Nancy Flicek (5:30), Sara Hillmer (8:00) Sylvia Shives (11:00)
Greeters	Volunteer (5:30) Rosella Rogers (8:00) Sylvia Shives & Rosella Rogers (11:00)
Video	Sam Moretz, Jaymes Yeakle, and Adam Brown
Visuals	Cari Lowery, Fred Tichnell and Sam Moretz
Usher	Chip Brown, Dory Brown, Maggie Brown, Adam Brown, Joe brown, Carroll Gatling, Jody Gann, Jesse Lowrey, 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; Aubrey and Tommy
Davidson; Katie Hector;
Joe, Charlotte, Andrew and Sarah Brown;
Alexis and Nethanel Lowery; Grayson and
Logan Moreland

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ken & Deb Jorae.



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 be held Mondays at 1:30 p.m, with the study of Acts, Part 2.

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

“MISSION OF THE MONTH” for Erber Family, Lutheran Missionaries.

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 October - December (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

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

Vision

Concordia Lutheran Church proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ to all people and is a dynamic, growing community of believers that welcomes everybody. The church focuses on God's Word and sacraments, serving our neighbors, worshipping our heavenly Father, and sharing those gifts with others.

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 Room

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 Bill Pekari)

- ***Open Arms Preschool***

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

