



## The CONCORDIA TRUMPET     June/July 2021

---

Concordia Lutheran Church, 818 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601  
The Rev. Paul D. Luisi                      Church: 315-777-8880

---

Pastor Luisi may be reached at home 315.782.1436 or [pluisi@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:pluisi@twcnny.rr.com).

### **+ From Your Pastor +**

*“So teach us to number our days that we may gain a wise heart.”*  
Psalm 90:12

The final countdown is upon us! Concordia will reopen for in-person worship Saturday, June 12 at 4 p.m. and Sunday, June 13 at 10 a.m. While some people availed themselves of the 8 services offered last October and November, for others this will be the first time at Concordia in almost 15 months. May our reunion be a blessing as we remember to treat one other with respect and kindness.

By now everyone should have had the time and opportunity to receive their vaccination which will make our reunion much smoother. The Council has established protocols for your return to the pews. They are listed on page two of this newsletter. If you have a question, comment, or concern regarding these guidelines, please contact Ginny or me this week. Please do not wait until you are walking in the door the day of the service. We welcome thoughtful suggestions which have at their core the well-being of all.

This is a time of new beginnings for all of us – not everything will be as we remembered or perhaps as we would like it to be. We will do our best to learn and grow together.

As we move forward we also honor Concordia’s rich past. In September we will observe the 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our congregation as well as 50 years since the dedication of the Arsenal Street building. I hope you will prayerfully consider what is best for our future as we *“number our days that we may gain a wise heart.”* It is wonderful to finally say, *“See you in church!”*

**Pastor Luisi**



## Concordia Re-Opens for Worship Services on June 12 & 13

Pastor Luisi and the church council are pleased to remind you that in-person worship services will resume on Saturday, June 12 at 4:00 pm and on Sunday, June 13 at 10:00 am. We want our church to be a safe sanctuary for everyone and **mask wearing will be mandatory**. We will also continue to follow social distancing guidelines. If you are medically able to receive the coronavirus vaccine, you are encouraged to do so.

Due to health situations, some members of our congregation may be more vulnerable than others. We will follow precautions to keep ourselves and those around us as safe and healthy as possible. As the church council decides to change the precautions, we will keep you informed. If you do not feel well, please do not attend church services until you are healthy again.

We look forward to once again sharing worship services in our sanctuary!!



Upstate New York Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

### *Annual Synod Assembly Highlight: Election of New Bishop*

The 34<sup>th</sup> Synod Assembly of the Upstate NY Synod was held June 4 and 5 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Pittsford, NY. Pastor Luisi attended online as the delegate for Concordia.

One of the important items of business was the election of a new bishop to replace outgoing Bishop John Macholz. The Rev. Lee Miller II was elected to a 6-year term on the 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. He is the son of the Bishop Lee and Joan Miller and is the Senior pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Buffalo.

The Miller family has a special place in the Luisi family history because the father of Bishop-elect Miller ordained Pastor Luisi on November 8, 1992 at Concordia.



*Figure 1: Bishop-Elect Lee Miller II*



The Church Council will meet  
on **Sunday, June 13** and  
**Sunday, July 11**  
at 9:15 a.m.  
before the worship service.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the council and participating in the decision-making and stewardship of Concordia, please contact Pastor Luisi or Ginny Hasseler. No special skills are required other than a love of God and neighbor/others.



**June 20, 2021**

Dear Lord, please bless all fathers and other men in our lives. Amen.



**Thank You** to those who donated red flowers for Pentecost.

**A special Thank You** goes to **Eric Holloway**

for the wonderful care and maintenance he gives to our church lawn and flower beds. When you are "in-person" at Concordia, you might want to walk out on the front lawn and admire the colorful plantings around our sign.

### **A Change in our Altar Flowers**

Due to an increase in the price of our flowers from Gray's Flower Shop and the inconvenience of accepting the delivery of the flowers on Saturdays, the church council has decided to try something different for a while. When a person signs up for flowers for a particular date, it is up to that person to get and bring the flowers to church. You may want to cut flowers from your own garden; purchase flowers from the grocery store; bring a plant; or cut and bring wild flowers. **It is your choice!** You may bring just one vase/arrangement or two, and placement can be either on the altar or on a flower stand in front of the altar. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. If the flowers are given for a particular reason, give the information to Pastor to read in the opening service announcements.





A Memorial was given in memory of **Martin “Marty” Schneider** by the Busy BG’s Senior Club of which Martin was a member.



### Have You Wondered About This?

If you see people masked after the CDC removed masking requirements, please remember:

- + People may have cancer
- + People may have autoimmune diseases
- + People may have unvaccinated children at home
- + People may have high-risk loved ones they are protecting
- + People may have asthma and realized over the last year that their symptoms are alleviated by a mask outdoors
- + People may have symptoms but be unable to stay home; they could be protecting you from the flu or a cold

That woman wearing a mask, alone in her car? She may be on her way to pick up a cancer patient, a newborn, or an unvaccinated family member and not want any chance of her breathing in that vehicle making her passenger sick.

That guy who appears healthy to you, masking in a store that doesn’t require it? He could be at high-risk, unvaccinated, or protecting a loved one at home from exposure.

People wearing masks have their reasons. Give them space; treat them respectfully like human beings; and remember, it’s their choice!

~ received from a friend



Because Concordia supports the Watertown Urban Mission, I thought the following article which was printed in the *Watertown Daily Times* on Sunday, May 30, 2021 might be of interest to you. I found parts of it to be quite eye-opening. ~ Ginny H., editor

### **Urban Mission Thrift Store to Reopen** By Rachel Burt

The long-awaited grand reopening of the Impossible Dream thrift store [took place June 2.] While closed during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Urban Mission had stacks upon stacks of boxes filled with donations. The store, at 247 Factory St., opted to delay reopening until it could process some of the backlog of donated merchandise, most of which was donated in the months ahead of the pandemic.

Though the store wasn't accepting donations, many were dropped off anyway, and about 75 to 80% was unsalable, said Dawn M. Cole, executive director of the Urban Mission, including socks that don't have mates, broken mugs, and even used underwear. These sorts of items take time to sort through and are an expense to haul out in the trash.

"When folks make a donation of goods, we're grateful for it, but we ask that maybe they make a thoughtful donation, give some thought to it," Ms. Cole said. "I always encourage people to ask themselves the question: Would I donate this to a family member, friend or someone I care about? And if the answer is no, and if you're torn between taking it to the dump or taking it to the mission, we respectfully request taking it to the dump, because it costs us money to dispose of garbage."

For many years, the mission had contracts and was able to take stained, ripped, and unsalable clothing and they were sold to developing countries as rags, shredded and used for insulation, according to Ms. Cole, but the pandemic interrupted that recycled textile market, and right now the mission has no means to dispose of the textiles.

"That's been difficult for people because they're so accustomed to being able to bring those here, but it costs us money. I have no way to dispose of them," Ms. Cole said. "We've been working with Development Authority of the North Country with the recycling coordinator to try to find a textile recycler, but so far we've not had any luck."

The mission has received couches with no cushions, things left out in the pouring rain. The other day, Ms. Cole said she came to work and found a bag of shoes that were all mismatched.

"I've even been greeted with a cat litter box with signs of the cat still in it," Ms. Cole said. "We're very grateful for donations, but we sure would appreciate just a little thought into whether or not this is an appropriate donation to the mission."

She said she'll never forget last Christmas Eve, when she was reduced to tears after having been so excited to go in to work that day and getting in early.

Someone had left a couch in the parking lot that was in such disrepair and stained and possibly had something living in it, like maybe it had been in somebody's garage. Ms. Cole and her staff had to drag it to the dumpster, and she said it felt so demoralizing on Christmas Eve that that's how little someone would think of the mission, or how little they think of people that come to the mission. *(continued on next page)*

*(Urban Mission... continued)*

The past few months, the Impossible Dream has been closed to allow for the construction of the new CARE Center, which also [opened June 2.] While some of the first-floor level will be taken for the CARE Center, the store will have a portion of the downstairs available as part of the store and the rest for storage.

The thrift store generates unrestricted revenue that can be used to cover the cost of doing business. In the organization, which relies heavily on donations, donors often direct their gifts --- they want to support the food pantry or buy school supplies for children. Donors don't walk in the door and give money to keep the lights on or pay the staff, Ms. Cole said. That's why the store is so important, it provides a source of revenue to pay the overhead.

The pandemic interrupted and stalled that funding stream when the store closed for three months last year when the pandemic first hit. When operations came back online, on a much smaller operation, it wasn't able to accept donations from the public. With such a backlog of donations that came in prior to the pandemic, and added safety concerns, the mission spent the meantime gearing up for what was next.

According to Ms. Cole, the store is generally pretty busy, with store hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. The store will continue to operate under those business hours for the time being. Proceeds from the Impossible Dream store sales support various programs, including Jefferson County's largest food pantry, Meals on Wheels, Critical Needs, Bridge and the Getting Ahead workshop series.

The store will have low, set prices on items, as well as bag clothing sales for \$7, which was popular with people when the store was previously open. To kick off the reopening, the store has some furniture, décor and a large amount of housewares and clothing available.

Given the wake-up call the store received as a result of the pandemic, there are some things that it most likely won't accept moving forward, such as stuffed animals, because it's very hard for them to sanitize them in a way that's going to be safe for children.

"It's important that things that come to the thrift store be clean and usable and salable because really you're helping the mission when you make those gifts," Ms. Cole said.

*Thank You!*



**Thank You** to all who support the Urban Mission with donations of food, personal care items and monetary donations. As of June 4, because of your generosity, Concordia has been able to contribute \$2,215 to the Mission in 2021.

We have also received a Thank You letter from Dawn Cole, executive director of the Mission, which included a hand-written addition- *Thank you for your continued prayers, support and partnership! We truly appreciate all you do.*



## PATRIOTIC DAYS



**Flag Day** June 14, 2021

**Independence Day** July 4, 2021

### God Bless America!

You may want to display your American flag on these days if you don't already do so.



## Concordia Lutheran Church Council Members and Other Volunteers

The Rev. Paul D. Luisi, Pastor  
Ginny Hasseler, President, Christian Education Chair  
Phil Lueders, Vice President, Social Ministry Chair  
Katherine Robertson, Secretary & Treasurer  
Eric Holloway, Property Co-Chair  
Pat Ryan, Youth Group Chair  
Sid Wheeler, Property Co-Chair  
Carl Zimmer

Pastor Luisi, Worship & Music Chair  
Mary Luisi, Worship Bulletin  
Carol Stacey, Financial Secretary  
Ginny Hasseler, Newsletter

If you are on Facebook, check out and "Like" our page.

## Birthdays



7 Joshua Schneider  
12 Nicole Scheppard  
19 Marie Franklin  
22 Ginny Hasseler  
22 Cody Mitchell  
25 Derek Schall  
26 Summer Schneider  
27 Justin Schall  
28 Kathleen Gruber  
28 Aaron Schall  
29 Alex Mitchell  
30 John Allen

June 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



2 Sandy Watts  
4 Joshua Dietterich  
14 Pia Schneider  
19 Maria Horeth  
25 Janet Young  
26 Pastor Paul Luisi  
28 Margarete Hall

July 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH  
818 Arsenal Street  
Watertown, New York 13601

*The Concordia Trumpet*  
June/July 2021



**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

818 Arsenal St.  
Watertown, New York 13601  
The Rev. Paul D. Luisi, Pastor  
315-777-8880

**Beginning June 12:**

**Saturday Worship Service: 4:00 pm**

**Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 am**

Facial Masks required.

Website: [www.concordialutheranwatertown.com](http://www.concordialutheranwatertown.com)

Find us on Facebook.

Our Mission Statement:  
**See, Grow, and Serve in the Ways  
of the Christian Faith.**