



Concordia Lutheran Church
4210 Johnson Ave NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2026

Announcements for September 20, 2026

Sunday (20)	8:30 am Contemporary Worship & Live Stream Voters' Meeting following worship service 6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group
Monday (21)	4:30-6:00 pm Irish Class
Tuesday (22)	9:00 am Holy Chair Yoga
Wednesday (23)	5:30-6:30 pm STEPP Up & Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study Begins
Saturday (26)	8:00-9:00 am Can/Bottle Drop Off 6:00-9:00 pm Family Game Night
Sunday (27)	8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Live Stream 10:00 am Adult Bible Class 6:00-7:30 pm Youth Group

Welcome Concordia members & guests – please be sure to fill out the attendance/communion cards located in each pew. Thank you!

Last week at Concordia: Attendance: 42 Planned returning: \$3,136 Actual returning: \$1,550 YTD: (\$19,847)

Attention Youth 6th -12th grade – Youth Group has started back up again for the school year! Please join us every Sunday from 6-7:30 pm in the Youth Room downstairs. Contact Wes Aquice if you want to learn more or have any questions.

Youth Group Can/Bottle Drive – Saturday, September 26th – please save your recyclable cans/bottles for the youth can drive. Drop off is on September 26th from 8-9 am in the fellowship hall.

REMINDER – Voters' meeting this morning following worship service. All members are invited and encouraged to attend if possible. Voters' packets are available on the Welcome Desk.

Support TLS with Your Receipts! Thank you for helping our Parent Teacher League bring in \$3,177.09 to cover needs at TLS. Keep saving and turning in Hy-Vee receipts from Marion and Cedar Rapids Hy-Vee stores and gas. Receipts need to be dated April 1, 2026 - March 31, 2027. Thank you for supporting TLS!

Singles: Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha has a singles group for ages 18-100. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.
Sunday, September 27: It's a great time for a fall walk through Wikiup Hill (10260 Morris Hills Rd, Toddville). Please meet at 1:00 p.m. for either a hike or you can go inside the learning center and educate yourself about the area. If it rains, we will go through the learning center only. Please RSVP to either Zion at 319/393-2013 or Cindy Gewecke at 319/929-3077 (text accepted with your name) 24 hours in advance of the event. RSVP helps to provide notification in case of cancellation of the event.

Building Healthy Families: Do you find that hurtful or disrespectful words sometimes come out of your mouth during the week as you interact with your spouse or family? If so, know that continuing this habit unchecked is damaging to your relationships in ways that you might not even realize. Try memorizing this verse and call it to mind when you are tempted to bite at someone you love this week: "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." (Psalm 19:14) You – and your relationships – will be better for it!
www.LutheranFamilyService.org **Lutheran Family Service**

FREE MEAL – “The Neighbors’ Table” Thursday, September 24th from 4:30-6:30 pm. Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church 720 Edgewood Rd NW. **ALL ARE WELCOME.** NO RSVP required.

Do Not Begrudge God's Generosity

As We Gather

On the surface, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard seems wrong. Shouldn't the worker receive the wages he or she deserves for his or her time and labor? It offends our sense of fair play that one who worked less should receive the same as one who worked more. If you only focus on the perspective of the laborer, that might seem true, but if you focus on the generosity of the vineyard owner, you get a very different perspective. God's mercy is not the reward for our labor but a pure gift of grace given to those who deserve none of His kindness. When you begin to look at this parable from that perspective, God's abundant generosity becomes clear. The Lord does what none of us would do—forgives all our sins, no matter how great, and bestows upon us the mercy and salvation we did nothing to earn and could never deserve. How can anyone begrudge Him such generosity?

723 The Lord Is My Light

sts. ref-3

ref The Lord is my light and my salvation,
The Lord is the stronghold of my life.
Since the Lord is my life, my strength, and my all,
Whom then shall I fear?

1 There is one thing I ask of the Lord:
To dwell in His house forever,
To gaze on the beauty of the Lord
All the days of my life. Refrain

2 Do not hide Your face, O Lord;
Ev'ry day I will seek Your face.
Though my father and mother may forsake me,
The Lord will receive me. Refrain

3 Teach me, Lord, and keep me on Your paths;
Guide me, Lord, along a level way.
I will gaze on the goodness of the Lord
In the land of all the living. Refrain

Text: tr. Lorraine Florindez, 1926–2011; tr. Jon D. Vieker, 1961
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PREPARATION

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Almighty God,
C Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, and judge of all people, we confess to You that we have sinned. We have turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Because of the obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgiving us all that is past and granting us the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future.

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent. The Lord keep you in His grace and favor and bring you to everlasting life. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

WORD

Introit

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.

What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.

Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.

O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

**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.**

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.

Once Life Was Hopeless arranged by Marilyn Blume Seefeld (Sung to the tune of LSB 723 Praise and Thanksgiving)

1. **Once life was hopeless,
We were despairing,
Once days were gloomy,
All was forlorn...
We lived in darkness,
We lived without Him,
Our lives were centered,
Deep within sin.**
2. **But Someone loved us,
Somebody cared, too,
Just like a Mother,
Cares for her child.
He came among us,
Lived and He died here:
He came to free us,
Save us from death.**
3. **Yes, Jesus loves us,
He cares about us,
So we remember
All that He did.
As we partake of
His Holy Body,
And of His Blood, we
Thank and praise Him.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

P Alleluia. By grace you have been saved through faith.

C And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a

denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

21 Lift Up Your Heart - Seek Ye First

1. **Seek ye first the Kingdom of God,
And his righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you!
Allelu, Alleluia!**
2. **Ask and it shall be given unto you,
See and ye shall find.
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you!
Allelu, Alleluia!**
3. **Man does not live by bread alone,
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.
Allelu, Alleluia!**

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

C 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.

Prayer of the Church (each petition after ends)

...let us pray to the Lord, Lord, have mercy.

Offering

#155 BOB Make Me a Servant

Make me a servant, humble and meek,
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
Ane may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.

(Repeat)

@Concordia-Lutheran-CR



Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
C Thanks be to God.

#27 BOB Bring Forth the Kingdom

1. You are the salt of the earth, O people:
Salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the kingdom of God!

Refrain: Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God!

2. You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light in the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the kingdom of God!

Refrain: Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God!

3. You are a seed of the word, O people:
Bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the kingdom of God!

Refrain: Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God!

- 4. We are a blessed and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the kingdom of God!**

**Refrain: Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God!**

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