

Concordia Lutheran Church
4210 Johnson Ave NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026

Announcements for November 15, 2026

Sunday (15)	8:30 am Contemporary Worship & Live Stream 10:00 am Adult Bible Class 11:00 am Harvest Dinner 6:00-8:00 pm Youth Group
Monday (16)	4:30-6:00 pm Irish Class
Tuesday (17)	9:00 am Holy Chair Yoga 7:00 pm Church Council
Wednesday (18)	5:30-6:30 pm STEPP Up & Confirmation Class 6:00 pm Bells 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study
Saturday (21)	6:00-9:00 pm Family Game Night
Sunday (22)	8:30 am Worship with Holy Communion & Live Stream 10:00 am Adult Bible Class 6:00-8:00 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: 41 Planned returning: $3,136 Actual returning: $1,360 YTD: ($24,473)

Reminder - Butter Braids will be delivered on November 16th. Proceeds will go towards the 2028 Mission trip. Thank you for supporting our youth group.

Mark your calendars – Sunday, December 13 – Voters' Meeting following service.

Looking for cookies this holiday season? Join us for our Annual Cookie Walk on December 13th after worship service, before the Voters' meeting. If you would like to bake cookies, please sign up on the bulletin board. Youi can drop off your cookies on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10-11 am or before service on Dec. 13th. The youth group thanks you for your support.

Please join us – **Annual Harvest Dinner**. You're invited to a pork dinner with vegetables and potatoes today at 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome!

Share and Care Preschool is selling t-shirts and sweatshirts size toddlers – adults. This isn't a fundraiser, but it is a great tool in keeping Share and Care's name out in the community. If you are interested in purchasing one, please go to https://share-and-care.itemorder.com/

Stewardship Campaign for 2027. Please return your completed packets as soon as possible so we can organize the information. Thank you for your continued support!

Singles: Zion Lutheran Church in Hiawatha has a singles group for ages 18-100 that meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. They will not meet in December. **Sunday, November 22**: Meet fellow Lutherans at a potluck at **noon** at Zion Lutheran. We will play card or board games at 12:30pm. Bring a dish to share and your favorite game. Pulled pork sandwiches, paper products and water will be provided. 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.

Building Healthy Families: Still Growing, Still Giving, Still Loved! Who says growing older means your best days are behind you? Certainly not God! The later years of life can bring a cascade of unwelcome changes. Departed loved ones are missed, familiar routines change, and some days feel really lonely. But one thing never changes: God's love for you and His promises in Christ Jesus. The wisdom you've gained, the prayers you offer, the encouragement you share, and the faith you've lived through life's joys and sorrows are precious gifts to your family, congregation, and community. Psalm 92:14 reminds us that even in old age, God's people *"still bear fruit."* What a wonderful reminder! Keep praying, encouraging, sharing your stories, and reminding younger generations of God's faithfulness. You are never too old to make a difference in someone's life, and you are never beyond the loving care of your Savior. Lutheran Family Service | www.LutheranFamilyService.org

An experienced educator and school builder joins our founding team Christ Lutheran High School is blessed to welcome Dr. Ben Troge as its founding principal. Ben is a Martin Luther College graduate with a Doctor of Education in Educational Administration. He spent more than two decades teaching and leading in Florida's private schools, where he helped start a new high school.

Entering into the Joy of Our Master

As We Gather

The prophet Zephaniah calls for silence as the day of the Lord draws near. The Lord has prepared the sacrifice and invited His guests to witness what happens next (Zephaniah 1:7). The people believe that the Lord is apathetic and indifferent (v. 12), which has given them license to do as they please. The day is coming when the people will realize how wrong they are. Paul has a similar warning for the Thessalonians and anyone who believes that everything is fine just the way it is, especially those who act in the darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:2–4). Finally, Jesus describes the day of the Lord with the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30). In the end, the Lord will reveal the ways we have misjudged His character. Until then, He points us to the place where His most crucial character trait is revealed. It is the sacrifice of the only One worthy of hearing those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," so that you might be invited to enter into the joy of your Master.

PREPARATION

BOB #27 Bring Forth the Kingdom of God

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

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 for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the Kingdom of God!

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!

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 blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the Kingdom of God!

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 143:1

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;
C **give ear to my pleas for mercy!**

Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as children of the light. We have fallen into complacency, forgetting who You are and who we are. We have grown comfortable in habits that do not honor You. We have buried what You have given us rather than loving our neighbor with those gifts. We have become complacent in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. God has not destined you for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

WORD

Introit

Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
C **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

P Enter not into judgment with Your servant,
C **for no one living is righteous before You.**

P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done;
C **I ponder the work of Your hands.**

P I stretch out my hands to You;
C **my soul thirsts for You like a parched land.**

P Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God!
C **Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**

P For Your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
C **In Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**

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.

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
C **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

Saints of God, the Faithful Band – (Lift Up Your Hearts page 53)

1. **Saints of God, the faithful band, Alleluia!**
   Trust the Father's mighty hand. Alleluia!
   Trust his promise, ever sure; Alleluia!
   Trust his Word, which will endure. Alleluia!

2. **Saints of God, the white-robed throng, Alleluia!**
Sing to Christ an endless song. Alleluia!
Sing the love which conquers sin, Alleluia!
Sing the Kingdom of the Lamb. Alleluia!

3. **Saints of God, the countless host, Alleluia!**
Glorify the Holy Ghost. Alleluia!
Glorify his pow'r and care, Alleluia!
Glorify the gifts he shares. Alleluia!

4. **Saints of God, awake, at rest, Alleluia!**
Saints of God from east to wet, Alleluia!
Saints of God of every race, Alleluia!
Join your hands and shout his praise. Alleluia!

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 1:7–16

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."

14 The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5

P These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
C **Blessèd are those whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Matthew 25:29a

P For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance.
C **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

14 [Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have

received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Blest Are They – page 16 Lift Up Your Hearts

1. **Blest are they, the poor in spirit;**
   Theirs is the kingdom of God.
   Blest are they, full of sorrow; they shall be consoled.

Refrain: **Rejoice and be glad!**
Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

2. **Blest are they, the lowly ones;**
   They shall inherit the earth.
   Blest are they who hunger and thirst;
   They shall have their fill.

Refrain: **Rejoice and be glad!**
Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

3. **Blest are they who show mercy;**
   Mercy shall be theirs.
   Blest are they, the pure of heart;
   They shall see God!

Refrain: **Rejoice and be glad!**
Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

4. **Blest are they who seek peace;**
   They are the children of God.
   Blest are they who suffer in faith;
   The glory of God is theirs.

Refrain: **Rejoice and be glad!**
Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

5. **Blest are you who suffer hate,**
   All because of me.
   Rejoice and be glad, yours is the kingdom;
   Shine for all to see.

Refrain: **Rejoice and be glad!**
Blessed are you, holy are you.
Rejoice and be glad!
Yours is the kingdom of God!

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

BOB #12 As the Deer

1, As the deer panteth for the water, so my soul longeth after Thee.
You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship Thee.

Chorus: You alone are my strength, my shield;
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

2. You're my friend and You are my brother even though You are a King.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.

Chorus: You alone are my strength, my shield;
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

3. I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye.

Chorus: You alone are my strength, my shield;
To you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

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.

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.**

BOB #183 Peace Be Yours

1. **Peace be yours. May the Lord be with you**
As we gather now and your whole life through,
Blessing and mercy and wholeness too.
May God's peace be yours.

2. **Peace be yours as you scatter from here.**
Anywhere you go, God is always near,
Loving and calming your deepest fear.
May God's peace be yours.

3. **Seek your strength where the Lord does abide**
When the greatest evil is at your side,
In Word and Sacrament, Christ resides.
May God's peace be yours.

4. **Always know He has conquered the one**
Who defies your life in God's only Son.
Yours is the struggle that Christ has won.
May God's peace be yours.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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