

Pastor's Corner

By: Pastor Tom Eckstein



Concordia's Financial Position as of January of 2023

Concordia Lutheran ended 2022 about \$22,000 in the RED – which means our spending was \$22,000 MORE than our offerings. We were able to cover that \$22,000 DEFICIT with “padding” that we have in our general checking account – and we still have around \$70,000 in “padding” left. However, if we continue to have a \$22,000 DEFICIT in coming years that \$70,000 “padding” will soon be used up. As God's love moves the members of Concordia to continue to give regular and sacrificial gifts, we can continue to move forward in mission and ministry for the Lord and avoid future deficits.

In fact, in 2022 there were 117 giving units at Concordia. In other words, this means that 117 households gave something to Concordia. If each of those 117 giving units gave an extra \$200.00 in 2023, that would more than make up for our \$22,000

deficit!! Now, some of those 117 giving units may not be able to increase their 2023 giving by an extra \$200.00 whereas other giving units may be able to increase their 2023 giving by far more than \$200.00. **The point is that as the members of Concordia work together we can meet our 2023 budget and continue to move forward in mission and ministry for the Lord's Kingdom.**

Congregations like Concordia who are faithful to God's Word are very important to our community and wider culture where so many Christian denominations have compromised God's Word. Congregations like Concordia have much to offer our community and wider culture as we continue to proclaim God's Word in its truth and purity. May God bless us to this end!

Missions Supported by Concordia's Offerings in 2023!

As many of you know, 5% of Concordia's offerings were used to support District and Synod LCMS missions in 2022. In 2022 we gave \$20,905 to our North Dakota District of the LCMS – and 35% of that was forwarded on to the national LCMS to help support mission work on the national and international levels. Praise the Lord! We plan to continue this mission giving to District & Synod in 2023 – except that in 2023 we are giving 6% of our total offerings for this purpose.

In addition, in 2023 Concordia will support the following missions with our offerings:

- 1) \$1,080.00 in support of “Mesiaki Nairinka” (orphan in Kenya)
- 2) \$2,000.00 in support of “Cullen Flieth” who is studying to be a Director of Christian Education at Concordia University in St. Paul MN
- 3) \$2,500.00 in support of the “Women's Care Center” in Fargo (a pro-life pregnancy center that helps needy parents so they can keep their children or give them up for adoption)
- 4) \$1,000.00 to support the work of missionary “Becky Grossmann” with Lutheran Bible Translators
- 5) Concordia has budgeted \$2,500.00 for “social ministry” in 2023 to help needy individuals/families in our congregation and community.

“Go Fund Me” for Kevin Koenig (son of Esther Koenig)

Keven Koenig (son of Esther Koenig) has been fighting a battle with cancer and has not been able to work since September of 2022. A “Go Fund Me” has been established to help him with living/medical expenses. If you want to donate to this, go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/kevin-koenig-cancer-battle>

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Eckstein

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thrivent Choice dollars can be directed to Concordia Lutheran Church which then are used to support various ministry opportunities not only at Concordia but also in the community.

AmazonSmile

Thank you for those of you who have been using **SmileAmazon.com** and choosing Concordia Lutheran Church as your charity! Due to changes at the Amazon corporation, they have made the decision to "focus our philanthropic efforts in the communities where our employees live and work." They are going to **wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023**. Until that date, you will still be able to make contributions to Concordia through your purchases.



Main Street Living TV Program
www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com
Every Sunday on the local Fox Station at gam

But He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed." Isaiah 53:5 The Christian season of Lent begins this month – and with it comes a special time to prepare for two of the most important historical events of the Church year, the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord! As we consider our fallen sinful condition and need for a Savior, may God's Holy Spirit strengthen our faith that we may more fully understand and

receive the redeeming work of our Lord!

Please continue to share information about our LCMS "Main Street Living" media ministry with others. In addition to being broadcast each Sunday morning, you can view archived programs anytime at www.mainstreetliving.com – then click on the link under the picture identified as "Fargo."

Thank you for your needed financial support! Checks may be sent to "Main Street Living NORTH," 821-5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by Credit Card or your PayPal account on the website. God's blessing in Christ!

God's blessing in Christ! –Ken Koehler, Volunteer Coordinator of MSL

Newsletter Notes from Deaconess Nayva



Women's Bible Study

"Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply"

By Deb Burma

1st and 3rd Tuesday

(February 7th & 28st)

Fellowship Hall 7:00

Feel Free to join us anytime.

In-home Bible Study opportunities:

New Song

Bible Study on the Psalms

Thurs., February 16th @ 1:00 pm

114 12th Ave NE

Meet in 2nd Floor Community Area

Vera Schulz (Host)

"Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply"

By Deb Burma

Fri., February 3rd @10:00 am

1301 15th St. SW

Marian Duff (Host)

–Deaconess Nayva



The LWML will meet on February 7 at 3:00 pm.

The quilting ladies will meet on February 7 and 21 in the Fellowship hall at 1:00. Plan to join us as we put together quilts to give to those who are in need of warm blankets.

The LWML will be hosting a Valentine Tea on Feb. 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the church. We invite all ladies to join us for an afternoon of visiting and food. We invite you to bring your favorite tea cup and teapot if you have one. You may also bring your favorite mug if you wish. We hope that you will be able to join us for an afternoon of sipping tea and fun.

We continue to collect items to celebrate 80 years of the LWML. Items needed are: cloth diapers, rubber pants, travel soap dishes, nail clippers, washcloths, bars of soap, combs, toothbrushes, and bandaids. These items will be used to put together hygiene kits and layette kits for Orphan Grain Train.

If you are able to help, please put the items in the box in the Narthex. Thank you for helping celebrate 80 years of the LWML!

The first Sunday of the Month is Mite Sunday.

We also continue to collect our mites to help pay for our mission projects. You may take a box home to collect your change and return to the Church and put in the large mite box in the Narthex. The focus this month for International LWML is **Mission Grant #25 – Missionaries to America Project of Mission Nation Publishing.** Please see the attached page for more information about the project and a prayer guide.



Sunday School classes continue at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. We look forward to having your child join us as we learn of God's love for us..

--Sunday School Superintendent Sue



Youth group activities for February:

Friday, February 3rd at 6:30-8:30pm

Friday, February 24th 6:30-8:30pm

Sunday, February 26th Taco Bar Fundraiser



Nayva and the Concordia Youth would like to thank you for supporting Sunday Bingo.

Volunteers in February:

Communion/Altar preparation:

Nancy and Don Elstad

Elder/Acolyte Schedule

Wed. 2/1	7pm	E = N/A A = Backen
Sun. 2/5	8am	10:30am
	E = Dave H. A = Alexander	E = Doug P. A = Hoffer
Wed. 2/8	7pm	E = Quincy B A = Flieth
Sun. 2/12	8am	10:30am
	E = Josh R. A = Jason C.	E = Ed M. A = Layna H.
Wed. 2/15	7pm	E = N/A A = Lexi W.
Sun. 2/19	8am	10:30am
	E = Dave H. A = Alexander C.	E = Larry W. A = Sankey
Wed. 2/22	7pm	E = Dave H. A = Backen
Sun. 2/26	8am	10:30am
	E = Dernel D. A = Jason C.	E = Ed M. A = Hoffer

Musicians:

Wed. 2/1	Phyllis Denchfield
Sun. 2/5	Carmen McBride
Wed. 2/8	Carmen McBride
Sun. 2/12	Phyllis Denchfield
Wed. 2/15	Phyllis Denchfield
Sun. 2/19	Daine Flieth
Wed. 2/22	Daine Flieth
Sun. 2/26	Ione Somsen

Memorials

Memorials have been given to Concordia LCMS in the memory of Marlys Pieske. Thank you to H.E. Hale, Vera Schulz, and Richard Pieske.



Please pray for those serving our country...

- Nick Cherney; ND Army National Guard-drilling in Fargo, ND
- SFC Randy Flieth; ND Army National Guard-drilling in Fargo, ND
- Darren Kuhlman; Whiteman Air Base, MO

Please pray for those having or recovering from Surgery...

- Cheryl Leean
- Susan Roemmich
- Jennifer Randall; Spinal

Please pray for those that are dealing with cancer...

- Clarice Spitzer
- Art Mielke
- Pastor Toby Heller
- May Murray (Great niece of Shari Murray)
- Kevin Koenig (Son of Esther Koenig)
- Ronda Gjestvang (Sister of Dale Neustel)
- Judy Lill (Sister of Sue Corwin)
- Pastor Barrie Henke (Friend of Pastor Eckstein)
- Andrea Trampe (Wife of Pastor Heath Trampe)

- Marlane Middlestead; Lung (Sister-In-Law of Shirley Genter)
- Johnny Moreno; Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Friend of Shawn Schwandt)
- Jennifer Randall (Friend of Clint & Tracy Arndt and Don & Nancy Elstad)

Please pray for those dealing with various health issues...

- Kendal Scott; Heart Attack (Son of Corrine Scott)
- Berna Kunze (Pneumonia)
- Chantel McAllister; Difficult pregnancy (Niece of Nayva Mulder)
- Jackie Schraeder; Complications from Diabetes (Friend of Tina and Bill Busche)
- Scott Barefoot; Leg Infection (Friend of Pastor Eckstein)
- Pastor Brandon Woodruff
- Sue Hedberg; Kidney Disease (Daughter of Gerri & Lloyd Bauske)
- Keith Rutherford; Covid (Son of Karen Connell; Friend of Lone Somsen)
- Arianna Walch; Batten's Disease
- Paul Schafer (Son of Lila Stokkeland)

Please pray for those who have recently lost loved ones...

- Marlys Pieske
- Barbara Remmick
- Mona Leuhr (Niece of LouAnn Wayne)

SACRED ACTS:

Baptisms
 Confirmations
 Weddings
 Funerals/Deaths

Marlys Pieske 10/21/43 - 1/1/23
funeral 1/6/23 at Concordia Lutheran Church

Barbara Remmick 3/28/51 - 1/15/23
funeral 1/19/23 at Concordia Lutheran Church

Transferred In
 Transferred Out
 Profession of Faith

Current Membership Stats:

Baptized Members-618
Confirmed Members-469

2023

Baptisms (Infant)-0, (Adult)-0
 Confirmations (Junior)-0, (Adult)-0
 Weddings-0
 Funerals-2
 Transferred In-0
 Transferred Out-0
 Profession of Faith-0



I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns. Thanks and praise be to God for his answered prayers.

Clarice Spitzer

Concordia Lutheran Church Council Minutes January 9, 2023

Present: Pastor Eckstein, Sue Corwin, Kim Murray, Kevin Nelson, Doug Pieske, Don Elstad, Nayva Mulder.

Absent: Daine Flieth, Aaron Roberts

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Pastor Eckstein.

Treasurers' report: We ended 2022 in the red by (22,920). The bank balance the end of December was \$84,446.70. Lueck memorial has a balance of \$95,641.86. The offer for us to purchase bells from another congregation fell through. We will go back to the voters concerning the prior approval of \$8000 for that purchase.

Pastor's report: On January 8th Pastor began a new Sunday Bible

study on the Gospel of Matthew. Pastor is preaching on Epiphany themes and will resume his sermon series on the Book of Exodus the end of February. The new digital church sign has been working well lately and hopefully the company has all the bugs worked out. Voter's meeting will be January 29th.

Elders report: They set up their schedule.

Deaconess report: Youth group is going again after the holidays. They will be doing Bingo on January 29th.

Continuing to do Bible Studies at Eventide, Marion Duff's home and Tuesday night women's Bible study. Waiting for more information on Stephen's Ministry.

Board of Education: Sunday School started again on January 8th. Will be planning events for Easter. Also, will begin working on VBS and will be held the week of June 4th. Last day of Sunday School for the year will be May 21st.

Board of trustees: Some of the outlets are not working so will contact an electrician to look at them. Kim will check into the status of the new phone system. Replaced lights that were out. The back door will be replaced in February or March.

Board of Stewardship: They did Valentine cards to be sent to the shut-ins and discussed some of the bylaws and changes they will be looking at.

Old business: no report

New business: no report

The next meeting will be Monday, February 6th at 8:00 p.m. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Sue Corwin, Secretary pro-tem

If you wish to make announcements in the bulletin or newsletter, contact the church office at:
concordiajtsecretary@gmail.com
or
concordiajt@daktel.com