#### Pastor's Corner

By: Pastor Tom Eckstein



#### Friday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30PM: Help Decorate Concordia for Christmas!!

Please join fellow members of Concordia on Friday, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30pm at the church as we work together to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season. The more people we have to help, the more quickly we can get this done.

# Concordia's Financial Situation as of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

As of the end of October Concordia had about a \$9500.00 DEFICIT. We are actually doing much better than last year at this time! In the past, giving in November and December is usually quite good at Concordia. Therefore, if we members of Concordia give sacrificially in the remaining weeks of 2023 we can, by God's grace, end the year EVEN or, better yet, with a budget SURPLUS. May God bless us to this end that we may continue to move forward in mission and ministry for His Kingdom!

# Important Dates/Times for December Services @ Concordia.

First, Concordia is offering Advent Services @ 7:00pm on Wednesdays 12/06, 12/13 & 12/20. In addition, there will be a Soup Supper served from 5:30PM to 6:30pm before each of these Services. See more information about these events elsewhere in this newsletter.

Second, our Christmas EVE Service will be on Sunday, 12/24 at 5:00pm.

Third, our Christmas DAY Service will be on Monday, 12/25 at 10:00am.

Fourth, on Sundays 12/24 and 12/31 there will be only ONE Sunday morning Service at 10:30am with NO 8:00am Service either Sunday! (The Sunday morning 8:00am Service will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>)

Finally, there will be NO Wednesday evening Services on 12/27/23 or 1/03/24. The Wednesday evening Service will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>.

# Pastor Eckstein & Family on vacation from 12/25/23 — 1/04/24

After the 10:00am Christmas DAY Service pastor Eckstein and his family will be leaving on vacation. They will be traveling to the St. Louis area to spend time with Joshua and his family.

Pastor Alan Eppen will be leading the 10:30am Sunday Service on December 31<sup>st</sup>. If there is a pastoral emergency while pastor Eckstein is on vacation, contact pastor Bob Hill (701-659-1860).

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Eckstein

# Newsletter Notes from Deaconess Nayva



#### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Wednesdays 1:00 - 3:30 pm

December 13th Party

Women's Bible Study

# New Women's Bible Study

"God's Provision in a Wilderness World"

By Lindsay Hausch

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and 19th Fellowship Hall 7:00

Feel Free to join us anytime.

#### **A New Song**

Bible Study on the Psalms

Fri, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00am

Marian Duff (Host) 1301 15<sup>th</sup> St SW

Thurs, December 14<sup>th</sup>
1:00 pm

Vera Schulz (Host) 114 12<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Apt. 2030



Thank you for the Church Worker Appreciation gift. I am very blessed to be a part of Concordia, Jamestown.

Deaconess Nayva



Main Street Living TV Program www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com

Every Sunday on the local Fox Station at 9am

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name of Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 Herein lies the sure HOPE of the nations – and our own sure HOPE! HOPE is something that seems to be in very short supply from the world these

days – and yet, that is the way it has always been and always will be whenever trust is put in anything or anyone other than the Creator & Savior Himself!

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 <a href="https://www.mainstreetliving.com">www.mainstreetliving.com</a> – then click on the link identified as "Fargo/Bismarck." Wordship services from the 5 other MSL broadcast areas, as well as the weekly "This Is The Life" programs, are also available for viewing on the website.

Thank you for your needed financial support! Checks may be sent to:

"Main Street Living NORTH," 821-5<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by credit card or your PayPal account on the website.

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



All the ladies of the congregation are invited to join the Christmas Social at 2:00 on December 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. The LWML will be hosting with refreshments.

The LWML council will be meeting at 3:00pm on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> and we will be discussing the plans for the new year. New officers for the next year are:

 ${\sf Sue \ Corwin-President}$ 

Ellen Walz – Secretary

Amy Neustel – Treasurer



LWML quilters meet on the first and third Tuesday at 1pm (12/5 and 12/9). Please come and join us as we put together quilts that will be given to Orphan Grain Train. No experience necessary.

#### The first Sunday of the Month is Mite Sunday.

We also continue to collect our mites to help pay for our mission grants. We are praying that we will be able to fund all our projects for this biennium. If you are able to help, please take a mite box, fill it with your change, and return it to the big mite box – or you can just place a donation in the big mite box in the narthex. Thank you for helping to share God's word through your mites.



The Children's Christmas Service will be December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. (See enclosed flyer). The children will be sharing songs and recitations and we hope that you will be able to join us for the afternoon. Thank you to the children, parents, and teachers for their dedication and hard work to prepare for this service.

There will be no Sunday School on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

--Sunday School Superintendent Sue



Youth Group

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30 pm Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm



Thank you for supporting the Food Drive. We did an awesome job. There was a total of 512 items delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution, and we qualified for the \$500 gift from Thrivent to further support the work of the Salvation Army in our community.



Attention Cookie Lovers - The Cookie Walk fundraiser is back! You can help the Youth raise money by signing up to bring cookies and/or buying a box to fill with cookies to

take home. See the enclosed flyer for more information.



We are asking **our youth** to **serve our congregation** by being an **acolyte** during services. There are still some spaces left on the list. Check out the **sign-up list** on the narthex table.



Thank you to everyone for supporting the Chili Cook-off/Pie Auction in November. It was a great success! The winners of the Chili Cook-off were:

> 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Kim Murray 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Jon Lorig 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Ellen Walz

#### Service Schedule:



Come and join us this Advent Season as we prepare our hearts for Christmas! This time of the year we have special opportunities to come and worship, in addition to the Sunday morning services at 8:00 and 10:30.

Advent services are on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Prior to the services (12/6, 12/13, 12/20) there will be a soup supper available starting at 5:30 (Free Will offering accepted)

The Advent sermon titles are as follows:

12/06 Advent Sermon:

"Look Up! The Star of Peace Draws Near"

**12/13** Advent Sermon:

"Peace to All, Near and Far"
12/20 Advent Sermon:

"Our Peace Rests on Him Alone"

The Christmas sermon titles are as follows:

**12/24** 5:00pm Christmas EVE Sermon: "The Diamond Found in the Manger"

12/25 10:00am Christmas DAY Sermon: "Christmas Can't Be Stolen"

# Volunteers in December:

#### **Musicians:**

Sun. 12/3	Carmen McBride
Wed. 12/6	Carmen McBride
Sun. 12/10	Daine Flieth
Wed. 12/13	Daine Flieth
Sun. 12/17	Carmen McBride
Wed. 12/20	Daine Flieth
Sun. 12/24	Daine/Ione
Mon. 12/25	Carmen McBride
Sun. 12/31	Ione Somsen

## Communion/Altar preparation:

Susan and Gordy Lucht

## Elder and Acolyte Schedule

Sun. 12/3	8am	10:30am
	E =Dernel D	E =Larry W.
	<b>A</b> = Alexander	A = Jason C.
Wed. 12/6	7pm	E=Quincy B.
		A = Backen
Sun. 12/10	8am	10:30am
	E =Gordy L.	E =Randy F.
	A =	A = Layla A.
Wed.12/13	7 pm	E=Quincy B.
		A = Flieth
Sun. 12/17	8am	10:30am
	E = Dave H.	E =Doug P.
	<b>A</b> = Alexander	A = Jason C.
Wed. 12/20	7pm	E =Quincy B.
		A = Lexi W.
Sun. 12/24	8am	10:30am
	No Service	E = Randy F.
		A = Jason C.
Christmas	5pm	E =Dave H.
Eve		A =
Mon. 12/25	10am	E =Dave H.
Christmas		A =
Day Sun. 12/31	8am	10:202m
3311. 12/31		10:30am
	No Service	E =Dave H.
		A = Jason C.



#### Please pray for those serving our country...

 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...

- Don Elstad
- Susan Roemmich
- Norman Anderson

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

- Rose Martin
- Delle Stinar (Mother of Jim Anderson)
- Mervin Wohler (Brotherin-law of Ann Snow)
- Mary Sandve (Friend of the Elstad family)
- Colby Schrenk (Greatnephew of Esther Koenig)
- Mike Worner (Brother-inlaw of Ann Snow)
- Maya Murray (Great niece of Shari Murray)
- Kevin Koenig (Son of Esther Koenig)
- Ronda Gjestvang (Sister of Dale Neustel)
- Marlane Middlestead; (Sister-In-Law of Shirly Genter)
- Johnny Moreno; (Friend of Shawn Schwandt)

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

- Hannah Magstadt
- Joyce Carlson
- Amanda Trudeau
- Clarice Spitzer
- Edna Norheim
- Arianna Walch
- Pam Syverson
- Joy Jerome (Cousin of Nayva Mulder)

- Hannalore Doeling (Mother of Deb Doeling)
- James Lunneborg (Brother of Ann Snow)
- Mark Lee (Son of Marvin and Deb Lee)
- Jackie Schraeder; (Friend of Tina and Bill Busche)
- Scott Barefoot; (Friend of Pastor Eckstein)
- Rachel Mulder (Mother of Nayva Mulder)
- Sue Hedberg; (Daughter of Gerri & Lloyd Bauske)
- Paul Schafer (Son of Lila Stokkeland)

#### Please pray for the families who have recently lost a loved one:

Keith Rutherford; Son of Karen Connell

#### **SACRED ACTS:**

# Baptisms Confirmations Weddings Funerals/Deaths Transferred Out

Thad and Sarah Sanke family – transferred to Victory Lutheran Church, Jamestown, ND

Heidi Jo and Mia Klein – transferred to Leeds Lutheran Church, Leeds, ND

# Transferred In Confession of Faith

# Current Membership Stats:

Baptized Members-607 Confirmed Members-460

2023

### Miscellaneous Announcements



Dear Members of Concordia Lutheran in Jamestown, ND;

Thank you so much for your financial support of "Project 24: Christ's Care for Children/Kenya." Your faithful support provides the children and young adults in these programs with their daily needs and education. See the enclosed flyer for pictures of the various orphanages in Kenya where youth received Christmas gifts back in 2022. This is possible because of your ongoing financial support.

# thrivent

Thrivent Choice dollars can be directed to Concordia Lutheran Church. These funds are then used to support various ministries at Concordia.



The Lord blessed us with another successful Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner. We served over **800** people. We thank the many people who volunteered their talents and time to make this a very happy experience for many. We pray for continued support and generosity of our church and community to be able to provide this meal for the reason it was intended. Thankful for our fellow man and rejoicing in time together.

God Bless You All,

Community
Thanksgiving Committee

If you wish to make announcements in the bulletin or newsletter, contact the church office at:

concordiajtsecretary@gmail.com

or

concordiajt@daktel.com



Bringing the Word of God to people in some places is a great risk, for the missionaries and the native people. For a glimps into the lives of these struggling Christians see the enclosed letter from Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske, Executive Director and CEO of Lutheran Bible Translators.

#### Wittenberg Chapel Needs a New Organ

Wittenberg Lutheran Chapel in Grand Forks is a campus ministry serving students at the University of North Dakota. There is currently a fundraising campaign to collect money for replacement of their organ. There is now a matching grant to multiply gifts given before January 31, 2024. For updates, more information, and to help them reach their goal, please visit: <a href="https://www.wittenbergchapel.com/organ">www.wittenbergchapel.com/organ</a>

#### **Constitution and Bylaws**

The Board of Elders has been working to revise and update the Constitutional Bylaws for Concordia Lutheran Church to better match our current practices. There is a copy of the proposed revisions on the church's website for your review. Please take time to review these revisions as they will be on the agenda at the January Voter's Meeting.

www.concordiajt.org

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3	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
200.00A   200.						Bible Class @ Marian Duff Home 6:30PM - Decorate Church for Christmas!! 6:30PM to 8:30PM -	7:30AM to 12:30PM - Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9:00AM to 12:00PM -
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10   12   12   13   14   15   16   16   16   16   16   16   16	10:30AM (Lord's Supper) Sunday School & Adult Bible Class @ 9:15AM 2:00PM to 4:00PM - Pastor Eckstein serving Trinity/Adrian 2:00PM - Ladies Christmas	Volunteer @ OGT 7:00PM - Elders/Stewardship	Class 1:00PM - Quilting 7:00PM - Women's Bible Study @	Supper 7:00PM - Advent Service	Men's Bible Class @ Concordia 12:00PM to 6:00PM - Pastor Eckstein @		Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9:00AM to 12:00PM -
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	31					•	

NO 8:00AM Service (resumes Jan 7th)

10:30AM - Service @ Concordia

Jan. 7th)

NO Sunday School or Bible Class @ Concordia (resumes Mondays = Nayva's "Day Off" // Fridays = Pastor Tom's "Day Off" //

Altar Guild Duties = Gordon & Susan Lucht

#### Concordia Lutheran

#### December 2023

**Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries**Search: =december; Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday or Wedding

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 VERNON HERMAN (b.) DAVE HINZ (b.) MATT WEGENKE (b.)	DREW MURRAY (b.) JAMES NORMAN (b.) KENDRA ROBERTS (b.)
MEL BROWN (b.) BRADY KRUEGER (b.) TRAVIS LINDBERG (b.) CHRISTINA SANDBERG (b.) KAIDA WALCH (b.)	4 SHARON DUNAWAY (b.) MIKE DRONEN and COLLEEN OSTER (w.)	5	6 AMY DIETRICH (b.) HELENA EPPEN (b.)	JAMES ROSIN (b.) (AREYNA) THOMPSON (b.) MARVIN and KAREN ROEMMICH (w.)	8 KYRA HOFFER (b.)	JIM ENGLUND (b.) DARLENE FLIFLET (b.) ARLENE HORST (b.) VERNEY JORGENSON (b.) BRUCE TOLTZMAN (b.) CARTER ZIEGLER (b.)
10 MATT and (BONNIE) LUCHT (w.)	MJ WESTERHAUSÈN (b.)	12 SHERRI HOCHHALTER (b.) KADEN MURRAY (b.) ERIC ROVA (b.)	MARK CHAPIN (b.) ISABELLA MCINTYRE (b.)	JANE LORIG (b.) EDNA NORHEIM (b.)	15	16 MATTHEW HALL (b.) BRITTNEY HETLETVEDT (b.)
17	18	DUANE GAHNER (b.) (DELILAH) JACOBSON (b.) PARKER LIPETZKY (b.) JAMIE MORLOCK (b.)	EMILY DILOCKER (b.) KATHY GOLDE (b.) RHONDA MICHEL (b.) DUANE RUDNICK (b.) ABRIANA SOULIS (b.)	21	REGGIE BRUMMOND (b.) JENNIFER SANDBERG (b.)	JESSI LOOMER (b.) DAN RUTHERFORD (b.) LAYTON TRIPP (b.)
<b>24</b> NATHAN AHNER (b.) WYATT FLIETH (b.)	25 SHELLEY ANDERSON (b.) RYAN LAUSCH (b.)	RYAN KRUEGER (b.) JAKE THOMS (b.) ADAM and (ALEE) OTTO (w.)	27 SHAWN TAXIS (b.) BRADY WHITNEY (b.)	28 RANDY KINZLER (b.) TOM and LISA BOERGER (w.)	PAUL COUNCILMAN (b.) ELLA DARROW (b.) CURTIS and DEBBIE SPEIDEL (w.)	AIDEN HOCHHALTER (b.) MASON REMMICK (b.) EVA THOMS (b.) KEVIN and JODI NELSON (w.)
31 (HATTI) CORWIN (b.) (RILEY) CORWIN (b.) BETTY HJELMHAUG (b.) ERICA MORLOCK (b.) ALI WILLEY and Darren Gau (w.)						



YOU ARE INVITED TO Concordia's





Christmas Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 2:00 pm

JOIN US AS WE ENJOY HEARING ABOUT
THE PROMISE OF PEACE

The children will be singing Christmas carols, reading scripture and verses about our savior. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear the word proclaimed.















CONCORDIA'S FELLOWSHIP HALL

Follwed by Birthday cake and a hot chocoalte bar.





Sunday, December 3, 2023 2:00 pm

FOR MORE INFO. CONTACT: Amy N, Ellen W. Sue C or Nayva



\*In this letter, the pseudonym NOLA and names Mark and Marie are used as the translation work is carried out in a sensitive location

#### **Dear Concordia Lutheran Church**,

hat would you do if your children were banned from attending school? Or if

the police showed up at your house and commanded you to sign a paper denying your faith, threatening to expel you from your community if you didn't comply? Or if you went out shopping and were prevented from purchasing necessities because of your faith in God? Every one of these scenarios, and more, are common for believers in the NOLA\* project communities.

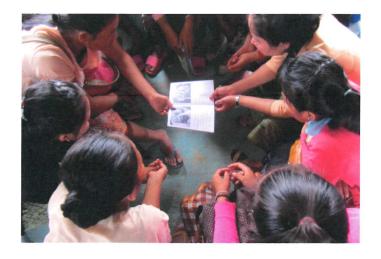
"Christianity is perceived as a foreign religion, as a tool of the West to gain control of the minds and hearts of people...traditional animistic practices or a national religion have been at the heart of the culture and community for generations. Those who become believers can be marked as having come under the influence of outsiders, and this is perceived as dangerous and not welcome," shared Marie, Lutheran Bible Translators missionary.

About seven years ago, Marie and her husband, Mark, stepped out in faith and moved inside the country where the NOLA communities live, knowing they had a unique challenge before them. Most local pastors have little to no formal training due to restrictions on religion and low literacy rates. Mark and Marie organized a team of local believers and trained them in Scripture engagement techniques. Local partners built skills to develop a curriculum and record audio Scripture so they can go out into communities where a foreign

missionary cannot. "[Our Scripture engagement team] put a lot of effort into developing Scripture teaching resources that church leaders or Sunday School teachers with low levels of education and Biblical knowledge can use to teach the Word." The team has earned a reputation among local pastors, and new church plants will often request resources to help their people learn the Word. According to Marie, in these budding churches, "there probably isn't anyone that really knows much about the Bible." so providing quality Scripture training is crucial for feeding young faith.

# "...PEOPLE HERE ARE WILLING TO TAKE RISKS FOR THE GOSPEL,"

But these training events are risky. The team must think carefully about how many people can gather, when and where will draw the least amount of attention, and what permissions they must obtain. "Our co-worker said recently, 'Every time I go out, I don't know if this will be the last time I will be allowed to do this.' People here are willing to take risks for the Gospel," says Marie.



Their willingness to take risks is blessing the church. Interactive teaching practices and audio Bible formats have dramatically changed how illiterate communities interact with Scripture. A young man, known for troubling his family as a rebel, stole his family's MP3 player to listen to music while working in the rice fields. He didn't realize the MP3 player was pre-loaded with audio Scripture and songs distributed by NOLA project partners. After a week of working, living near the fields, and listening to the MP3 player, the young man returned to his village, asking what he needed to do to become a follower of Jesus!



The NOLA project is reaching a crucial point. In an isolated area lives a group of monolingual people with nearly the lowest level of education in the country. Their community is ravaged by drug addiction and poverty. They are lost in a swirling tide of hopelessness without access to Scripture in a language they understand. But this year, God opened a door for the NOLA team to work with a small group of believers. They started an oral Bible story translation project and, in just a few months, recorded over 30 Bible stories and distributed them discreetly through

SD cards and audio players, which connect to simple picture videos on a YouTube channel.

Mark and Marie recently connected with the Bible story translation team, and the lead translator remarked, "There are so many stories that talk about things our people experience! Like the story of the sinful woman washing Jesus' feet in our village, we can relate to this because so many widows have no way to support themselves and either have to give themselves away or have become addicted to drugs. They are looked down on, but they have no way to earn money or plant fields by themselves. If they could know that Jesus still loves them and wants them to have peace and forgiveness, that would be so impactful in their lives! We need this story to get out there!"

You can play a vital role in getting Bible stories to people who need to hear them. For the NOLA project communities, Scripture is more than words. God's Word brings life, hope, and transformation amidst great suffering and heartache. Join the NOLA project today by pledging prayer or financial support.



Contributions are solicited with the understanding that Lutheran Bible Translators has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds. Lutheran Bible Translators will attempt to honor gift preferences to support particular workers, but the final decision on the use of the funds rests with the organization.



# Lutheran Women in Mission UCCCB5CR 2023

# Mite Challenge Calendar

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Spend time with friends.	Find a new LWML devotion.	Exercise while listening to music.	Facetime with family far away.	Boxing Day, learn about its history.	Christmas Day, give thanks for the birth of our Savior.	Christmas Eve, read Luke 2.  Donate 80¢
30	29	28	27	200	25	24
Pray for missionaries. <b>Donate 55¢</b>	Offer to babysit for a church worker. <b>Donate 20¢</b>	Winter Solstice. Sit by a lit Christmas tree. <b>Donate 60¢</b>	Pray for LWML leaders and committees. <b>Donate 75¢</b>	Make and share your favorite soup. <b>Donate 45¢</b>	Predict the first snowfall or already happened. <b>Donate 50¢</b>	Reflect on Sunday's Bible readings. <b>Donate 30¢</b>
23	22	N	20	1.0 0.0	P)	27
Christmas cookie baking day!  Donate 25¢	Pray for all church workers. <b>Donate 70¢</b>	Read the Christmas story to a school class.  Donate 40¢	Hot cocoa party with a friend. <b>Donate 55¢</b>	Wrap Christmas presents. <b>Donate 20¢</b>	Play Bingo at a nursing home. <b>Donate 35¢</b>	Sing your favorite Christmas carol. <b>Donate 40¢</b>
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Send Christmas cards/letters. <b>Donate 10¢</b>	Read Matthew 1, the genealogy of Jesus.  Donate 60¢	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. <b>Donate 80¢</b>	Learn the history of St. Nicholas. <b>Donate 15¢</b>	Make a new Christmas wreath. <b>Donate 25¢</b>	Decorate the Christmas tree. <b>Donate 30¢</b>	Advent begins. Start devotions. <b>Donate 75¢</b>
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Game day with family/friends. <b>Donate 25¢</b>	It's a new month, praise the Lord! <b>Donate 50¢</b>					
Saturday	Friday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Sunday

Thank God for your

2023 blessings.

Donate \$1

PROJECT 24

#### Project 24 Christmas Gift Delivery 2022

Christ's Care FOR CHILDREN: KENYA

















