

Pastor's Corner

By: Pastor Tom Eckstein



Concordia's Financial Situation as of the end of October

At our November 24th council meeting the October budget report showed that we have received around \$280,000 in offerings as of the end of Oct. In November and December we will likely spend LESS than our approved budget for this year, but we will still need to bring in at least \$60,000 by the end of the year to break even. As Concordia's members continue to give to Christ's Church we hope to end the year EVEN or, better yet, IN THE BLACK so that we can move forward in 2026 in a strong financial position and continue with ministry and mission for Christ's Church!

Christmas Decoration at Church: Friday, Dec. 5th @ 5:00PM

On Friday, Dec. 5th, Concordia members are encouraged to show up at 5:00PM to help decorate the sanctuary and set up the nativity scene for the Christmas season. If you can help,

that would be awesome!

Midweek Soup Suppers and Advent/Christmas Services in December

On Wednesdays 12/03, 12/10 and 12/17 there will be a soup supper served from 5:30PM

to 6:30PM in the basement of Concordia. There is a "free will" offering. Plan to join us!

This year's Advent sermon theme is "Every Heart Prepare" and the Advent Services will be

on Wednesdays 12/03, 12/10 and 12/17 at 7:00PM. *The Christmas EVE Service* will be on Wednesday, 12/24, at 5:00PM.

The Christmas DAY Service will be on Thursday, 12/25, at 10:00AM. Plan to join us! Also, the *Children's Christmas Service* will be on Sunday, 12/21, at 2:00PM. Come and hear our youth proclaim the Christmas Gospel through song!

Volunteers Needed for Funeral Lunches/Pot-Lucks & Communion Set-up

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for where you can sign up to help set-up and clean-up for funeral lunches and pot-lucks. We are asking Concordia members to sign up for one month. Funeral lunches are catered in, and so Concordia only needs to prepare beverages and set out catered food. In addition, there is another sign-up sheet for those who would be willing

to volunteer for one month to set up for Communion Sundays in 2026. Please consider helping in this way.

New Church Pictorial Directory in 2026

We are planning to produce an "in house" pictorial directory for Concordia starting the end of January 2026. We are planning to use an online program to print our own directory – and this means you can either 1) submit an individual or family photo for us to scan or 2) you can have your individual or family photo taken after one of the Sunday Services by one of our member volunteers. These will not be "professional" photos nor will you have to purchase any photos. In addition, this new pictorial directory can also be viewed online by Concordia members by using a special access code. What's nice about this directory is that we can keep it updated online as we get new members and print new hard copies whenever we need.

*Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Tom Eckstein*

[Newsletter Notes from Deaconess Nayva](#)



Fellowship

Grief Support Fellowship
3rd Sunday 12:00pm
 December : No Meeting

Outreach

Stephen Ministry
 Wednesdays 1pm-3pm
 December 10th
 Christmas Party

Bible Study

Hymn Study
Friday, Dec. 5th

10:00am

Marian Duff (Host)
 Ave Maria B25

Everlasting

By Christina Hergenrader

Bible Study on the Psalms
Tuesday, Dec. 9th 2:30pm

Vera Schulz (Host)
 114 12th Ave NE

Apt. 2030

Thursday, Dec. 11th
1:00pm

Eventide Nursing Home
 Karen Connell (Host)
 Eventide Room 404

Women's Bible Study

Soul Spa

By Sharla Fritz

Tuesdays
Fellowship Hall 7:00PM
December 2nd & 16th

Feel Free to join us
 anytime.

Deaconess Nayva



Main Street Living TV Program

www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com

Every Sunday on the local Fox Station at 9am

"GLORY TO GOD in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" Luke 2:14. There doesn't seem to be much peace on earth these days. As I write this article in mid-November, Russia continues to rain down missiles throughout the Ukraine,



just as it was doing 3 years ago when I wrote this month's article. Tensions continue to grow with China – and now with Argentina as well – and the political split in our own nation continues to widen. And sadly, I could list many more examples of a lack of peace. BUT there IS PEACE between God and those of us who believe in Him! This PEACE has been made possible by the Jesus we celebrate, especially at this time of the year we call CHRISTmas!

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 identified as "Fargo/Bismarck." Worship 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 5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by Credit Card or your PayPal account on the website.

God's blessing in Christ! –

Ken Koehler, MSL North Volunteer Coordinator.



LWML Circles started meeting again:

Dorcas Circle 2nd Monday 1:30pm

Ruth Circle 1st Tuesday 1:00 pm

Naomi Circle 1st Tuesday 7:00pm

Quilting will meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday from 1:00-3:00pm.

The LWML group met in November and the officers were elected:

President = Sue Corwin

Treasurer = Amy Neustel

Secretary = Ellen Walz

The LWML will be hosting the first Advent Soup Supper on Dec. 3rd at 5:30. A free-will offering will be accepted with funds designated to purchase quilting supplies.

The LWML will be hosting a Christmas Party for all the ladies of the congregation. Plan to come on December 14th at 2:00pm for food and fellowship.

The first Sunday of the month is Mite Sunday

Thank you to everyone for donating to the noisy mites. We collected **\$232.62** in November!

We collect our mites to help fund all our District and National LWML mission grant projects for this biennium....33 mission grants

were chosen at the national convention.

One grant that has been featured was #4 The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers, LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S. | \$100,500

Set Apart to Serve is a Synod-wide program focused on forming and recruiting full-time pastors and church workers. Supplying the church with church workers is one of the highest priorities of the LCMS, since pastors and commissioned church workers preach and teach the Word of Christ through which the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith. The demand for more pastors, Lutheran school teachers, and commissioned church workers is urgent.

Set Apart to Serve is providing resources to encourage intentional conversations with youth to pursue a church work vocation. This is leading to increased enrollment in the church worker formation programs at the LCMS Concordia universities and the seminaries.

For more information, go to: <https://www.lwml.org/2025-2027-mission-grant-4>

Thank you for helping to share God's word and mercy through your mites.



The Sunday School children are continuing to collect a mission offering in December. We are asking the children and all members to bring a **box of cereal** that will be given to the local food pantry.

The children are starting to learn songs for the Children's Christmas Service. We will be practicing the songs and speaking parts during the Sunday School time on the Sundays in December. The service will be on December 21st at 2pm to be followed by the Jesus' Birthday Party in the Fellowship Hall.

There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 28th or Jan. 4th.



Shirts for Sale!

*Do you want to **support the Youth** in their fundraising efforts?

*Do you have **\$20** to spend? If you answered **"YES"** to either one of these questions, then you should consider buying one of the Concordia Lutheran Church T-

shirts on sale. See Nayva for available sizes.

Youth Group in December

Friday Dec 5th 5pm
Church Decorating/Pizza

Sunday Dec. 7th Noon-2pm

Wed. Dec. 10th 4:30pm
Soup Supper

Friday Dec 12th 5pm Cookie
Decorating/Movie

Sunday Dec. 14th - 9am
Cookie Walk

Sunday Dec. 21st 2pm

Children's Christmas Service
Jesus' Birthday Party
Hot Chocolate Bar



The 2025 Chili Cook Off was **November 23rd**. We had 6 cooks competing for prizes and enough chili for everyone. The winners were:

1st prize Randy Flieth

2nd prize Pastor Tom

3rd prize Carmen McBride

Thank you to everyone who came to eat chili and bid on a pie. The Chili cookoff brought in \$131 and the pie auction raised \$342.

Volunteers for December:

Elder Schedule

December

Wed. 12/3	7 pm	Quincy B.
Sun.12/7	8am	10:30am
	Gordy L.	Doug P.
Wed. 12/10	7pm	Quincy B.
Sun. 12/14	8am	10:30am
	Dernel D.	Ed M.
Wed. 12/17	7pm	Quincy B.
Sun. 12/21	8am	10:30am
	Dernel D.	Larry W.
Christmas Eve	5pm	Larry W.
Christmas Day	10am	Josh R.
Sun. 12/28	8am	10:30am
	Gordy L.	Ed M.

Musicians:

December

Wed. 12/3	Daine Flieth
Sun.12 /7	Daine Flieth
Wed.12/10	Daine Flieth
Sun. 12/14	Carmen McBride
Wed. 12/17	Carmen McBride
Sun. 12/21	Carmen McBride
Christmas Eve	Daine Flieth
Christmas Day	Daine Flieth
Sun.12 /28	Ione Somsen

Communion/Altar preparation:

Susan & Gordy Lucht



Please pray for those serving our country...

- SFC Randy Flieth; ND Army National Guard-drilling in Fargo, ND

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

- Becky Kuhlmann
- Jan Thoreson (Sister of Leon Westerhausen)
- Larry Hewitt (Friend of Elstads)
- Gayle Schmidt (Sister of Greg Kutz)
- Hazel Thu (Sister of Rose Martin)
- Mark Eckstein (Cousin of Pastor Tom Eckstein)
- Cassie Rott (Friend of Daine Flieth)
- John Hinz (Brother of Dave Hinz)
- Marlane Middlestead; (Sister-In-Law of Shirly Genter)
- Marcella Lange (Friend of Ione Somsen)

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

- Carol Martin
- Marvin Lee
- Joan Lee
- Sue Corwin
- Pauline Stangland
- Corrine Scott
- Elden Englund
- Arianna Walch

- Delvida Obenauer
- Kathey Ziegler
- Lyn Rutherford
- Karen Connell
- Sheila Corwin
- Janna Redlin (Mother of Janna Bergstedt)
- Daniel Pollard (Friend of Bill and Tina Busche)
- Robert Olson (Son-In-Law of Berna Kunze)
- Paul Schafer III (Son of Lila Stokkeland)
- Tana Lonefight (Friend of Ione Somsen)
- Blair Baker (Cousin of Bill & Tina Busche)
- Rachel Mulder (Mother of Nayva Mulder)
- Joy Jerome (Cousin of Nayva Mulder)
- Sue Hedberg (Daughter of Gerri & Lloyd Bauske)
- Gordie Christenson (Cousin of Randy Flieth)

Please pray for those dealing with the recent loss of a loved one.

SACRED ACTS:

Confirmations

Lydia Rosin – November 23, 2025

Baptisms

Transfers

Kathey Zigler, transferred to Zion LCMS Edgeley, ND Nov. 14, 2025

Deaths

Current Membership Stats:

Baptized Members-608

Confirmed Members-456

2025

Baptisms (Child)-3, (Adult)-3

Confirmations (Junior)-1, (Adult)-2

Weddings-0

Funerals-4

Transferred In-4

Transferred Out-7

Profession of Faith-6

Removed due to inactivity-2

Miscellaneous Announcements



Christmas Decorating

Everybody likes the Christmas decorations in and around the church during this time of the year. Why not come and be a part of the festivities? We can always use more help. We'll be putting up the Christmas tree, nativity scene, and other trimmings on Friday, December 5th – starting at 5pm. and ending with PIZZA!



Gratitude Calendar

The Gratitude Calendar is a simple, powerful tool to help us grow in thankfulness and strengthen our walk with God. Each day, it prompts us to reflect on something we're grateful for. By intentionally focusing on gratitude, we shift our hearts toward God's goodness, even in difficult times. Using the calendar takes just a few minutes a day, but it can deepen our faith, build a more joyful spirit, and encourage us to see God's hand in every part of our lives. Let's use it together as a church to cultivate a heart of praise and thankfulness. See the **Grateful Hearts, Faithful Hands Calendar** attached.

thrivent®

Thank you for considering Concordia Lutheran Church when making your Choice Dollars donation. If you would like more information about the Choice Dollars program at Thrivent, call your Thrivent representative.



Did you know that Lutheran Bible Translators is using mobile apps? Across Botswana's translation projects, Scripture apps are opening new doors for engagement with God's Word. After the launch of the Shekgalagari New Testament,

translators began distributing not only printed Bibles but also micro-SD cards and mobile apps containing the text and audio.

These apps display each verse while it is read aloud, highlighting the words on the screen. Listeners can follow along as they hear Scripture pronounced correctly, helping them learn to read and increasing fluency in their own language.

For many, this is their first time seeing their language written.

Be part of bringing God's Word to every language through Lutheran Bible Translators. Your prayers, and generosity help expand the reach and impact of Bible translation around the world. Visit <https://lbt.org/#> to learn more.



A Week in the Life of LFS booklets:
LFS has developed a special booklet, filled with stories of hope, shared with us by our partners at Lutheran Family Service (LFS).

Each story is told by someone who has received life-changing, life-saving help from LFS during a difficult time and is shared in their own voice through a linked video. Read through the stories and watch the short videos this week, and know that LFS is here for you, your family, and your network of friends as help may be needed by one of them this year. Also consider including this LFS ministry in your charitable giving plans before end-of-year,

remembering that this work is provided through our church and our LCMS members. No government funds are used by LFS so as not to limit their intentionally Christ-centered mission. To see the booklet online, or print one for yourself, see the pages here:

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/LutheranFamilyService/qgys/>



The church received the following thank you notes:

*"Concordia,
Thank you for the gift card for church worker appreciation.
Thank you from the bottom of my heart. You are a wonderful congregation and I am truly blessed to be here.*

*Thanks again,
Nayva"*

Pastor and Andrea Eckstein also wish to extend their heart-felt thanks for the continued support we have here at Concordia. We are blessed to have such a loving church family. Thank you all!



The Thanksgiving Day Dinner Committee reports...

We are happy to say the Thanksgiving Dinner served 798 meals, delivered 374 and 424 picked up. "We have been blessed over the last years of being able to serve Jamestown Community with this meal. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas Season.

Sue, Lisa, Andrea, Nayva, Jim, Mikalea, Amy and Skip

Church Office Hours

If you need access to the church during the week please call the church office (252-2819), Pastor Eckstein (419-5797), or Nayva (430-9049) to see if arrangements can be made to accommodate your needs.

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



Merry Christmas!

Concordia Events Calendar – December 2025


Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train	10am-Bible Class 1pm – Quilting 4pm-9pm – Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington 7pm – Women’s Bible Study @Concordia	5:30 – 6:30 Soup Supper 5:45 – 6:45 Confirmation 7pm – Advent Service	8:30- 9:30am Men’s Bible Class 7pm - Choir	10am – Women’s Bible Study @Ave Maria - B25 (Marian Duff, Host) 5pm – Youth 5pm – Christmas Decoration at church/Pizza	7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8am & 10:30am Services (Lord’s Supper) 9-9:30am – Fellowship time 9:30am – Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 12pm-2pm – Youth Christmas Party 2- 4pm-Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian 6:30 – Hand Bells	9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train 1:30pm – Dorcas Circle	10am-Bible Class 1pm – Ruth Circle 2:30pm – Women’s Bible Study @Vera Schulz Apartment 4pm-9pm – Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington 7pm – Naomi Circle	1pm – 3pm Stephen Ministry Christmas Party 4:30 – Youth Soup Supper prep. 5:30-6:30 Soup Supper 5:45-6:45 - Confirmation 7pm – Advent Service (Lord’s Supper)	8:30- 9:30am Men’s Bible Class 1pm – Women’s Bible Study @ Eventide Room 404 (Karen Connell, Host) 7pm - Choir	5pm – Youth Cookie Decoration & Movie	7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8am & 10:30am Services 9-9:30am – “Cookie Walk” Youth fund raiser 9:30am – Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 2pm – LWML Christmas party for all ladies 2- 4pm-Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian 6:30 – Hand Bells	9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train	10am-Bible Class 1pm - Quilting 4pm-9pm – Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington 7pm -Women’s Bible Study @Concordia	5:30-6:30 Soup Supper 5:45-6:45 – Confirmation 7pm – Advent Service	8:30- 9:30am Men’s Bible Class 7pm - Choir		7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8am & 10:30am Services (Lord’s Supper) 9-9:30am – Fellowship time 9:30am – Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 2pm – Children’s Christmas Service and Jesus Birthday Party 2- 4pm-Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian 6:30 – Hand Bells	9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train	10am-Bible Class	5pm – Christmas Eve Service (Lord’s Supper) 7pm – Pastor Eckstein @Christmas Eve Service (Grace/Carrington)	10am – Christmas Day Service		7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train
28	29	30	31			
8am & 10:30am Service 9-9:30am – Fellowship time 9:30am – Adult Bible Class, NO Sunday School for children 2-4pm-Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian 6:30 – Hand Bells	9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train	10am-Bible Class 4pm-8pm – Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington	NO Confirmation Class (resumes 1/14) NO evening Service (resumes 1/14)			

***Chancel Duties:** Susan and Gordy Lucht

Mondays – Deaconess Nayva’s Day Off!

Fridays – Pastor’s Day Off!

Grateful Hearts, Faithful Hands Calendar – December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	As you write Christmas cards, express your thankfulness for the blessings you received this year.	Send a card to a missionary or ministry partner. 	Thank a church staff member or volunteer.	Reflect on a Christmas hymn that brings you joy. 	Call or visit someone who may feel lonely.	Donate food or clothes to someone in need. 
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Bake something and deliver it to a neighbor. 	Say a prayer of thanks before each meal today.	Pray for the leadership of Concordia Lutheran Church.	Share something you're thankful for with a friend.	Gratitude transforms every negative situation.	Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it.	Thank a child or teen for being part of the church.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Express your gratitude in songs of praise and joy!	Re-read your favorite Bible passage about thankfulness.	Write a note to someone who encouraged you in faith.	Pray for a family you know from church.	Give thanks for someone who has passed their faith to you.	Thank someone for their quiet service behind the scenes.	Volunteer for a church or community project. 
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Thank God for the beauty of creation – enjoy the Christmas decorations around town.	Write down a personal story of God's provision.	Support a church ministry with time, talent, or treasure.	Express your thanks to God personally, go to Christmas Eve Services.	Light a candle and reflect on God's presence in your life. 	Share a verse about gratitude on social media or in a text.	A grateful heart is a magnet for miracles
28	30	31				
Pray over your financial giving with gratitude.	Thank God for the people of Concordia Lutheran Church!	Thank God for His faithfulness in your life. 				

Concordia Lutheran

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Every Heart Prepare



Sunday, December 21st 2:00 pm

Followed by Birthday Cake & Hot
Chocolate Bar

Noisy Offering



1st Sunday of
the Month



Ladies'
BIBLE STUDY

**TUESDAYS
7:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Soul Spa

40 Days of Spiritual Renewal

By Sharla Fritz

Bible Study with a glass of Iced Tea



Concordia Youth Cookie Walk

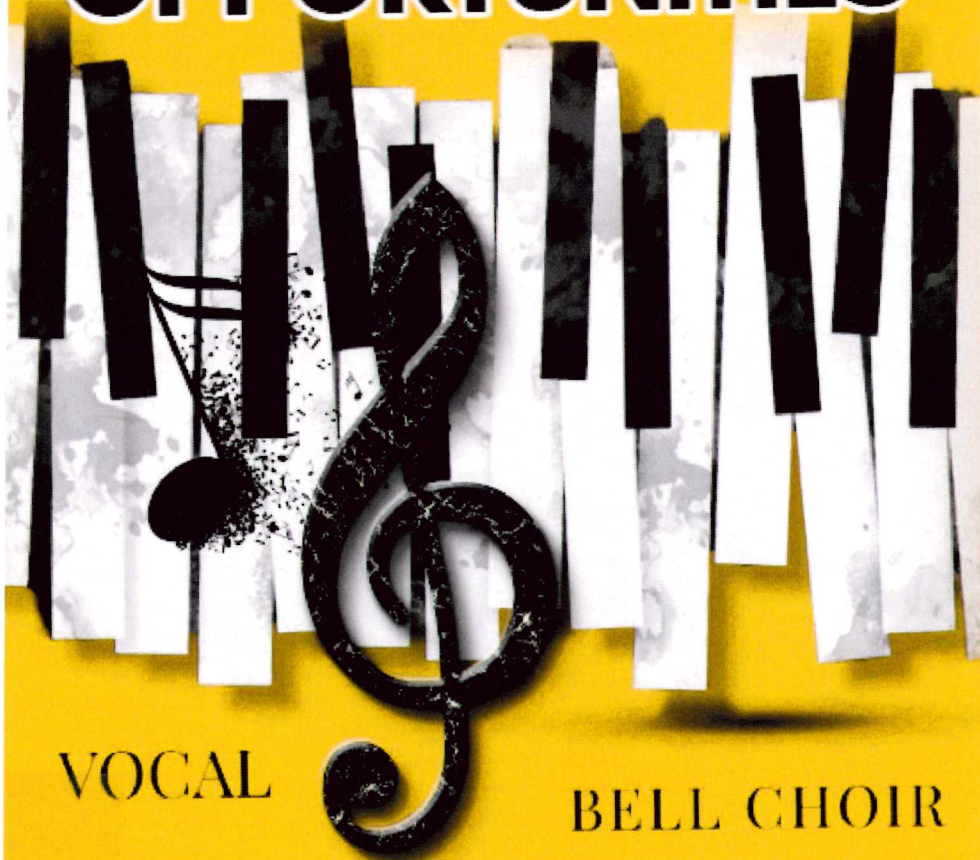
Cookie Donations
Needed

**Sunday,
December 14th
9:00 am**

CONCORDIA
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Come make a
joyful noise!*

CHOIR OPPORTUNITIES



VOCAL

BELL CHOIR

REHEARSALS

7PM
THURSDAYS

REHEARSALS

630 PM
SUNDAYS