

Pastor's Corner

By: Pastor Tom Eckstein



Concordia's Financial Situation as of December 31st, 2023

Praise the Lord! Because of the sacrificial giving of offerings by Concordia's members, we were able to end 2023 with a \$13,000 **SURPLUS** over our 2023 approved budget. As Concordia's members continue to give sacrificially in 2024 in response to Jesus' love for them, we will continue to move forward in mission and ministry for God's kingdom!!

Special Sermon Series Begins on February 11th!

Sunday, February 11th, is Transfiguration Sunday – and this is the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, which begins the Church season of Lent. Starting on Transfiguration Sunday, pastor will preach a special sermon series titled "Jesus' Letters to Us!" based on Jesus' letters to the seven churches as found in Revelation chapters 2 &

3. The dates/titles for these sermons are as follows:

1. **Sunday, Feb. 11th**: "Dear Lost Love"
2. **Sunday, Feb. 18th**: "Dear Poor, Yet Rich"
3. **Sunday, Feb. 25th**: "Dear Politically Correct"
4. **Sunday, March 3rd**: "Dear Hold On!"
5. **Sunday, March 10th**: "Dear Wake Up!"
6. **Sunday, March 17th**: "Dear Brotherly Love"
7. **Sunday, March 24th**: "Dear Luke Warm"

Lent Services Begin On February 14th !!

The Church season of Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14th, with our 7:00PM Ash Wednesday Service. Pastor Eckstein's Lenten sermon series theme for 2024 is: "The Way of Grace" – and the sermon titles are as follows:

1. **Feb. 14th, 7:00PM**: "Seventy times Seven!"
2. **Feb. 21st, 7:00PM**: "You Are Forgiven!"
3. **Feb. 28th, 7:00PM**: "Adoption Papers!"
4. **March 6th, 7:00PM**: "Baptism: The Gift of Death and Life"
5. **March 13th, 7:00PM**: "Yahweh's Feast"
6. **March 20th, 7:00PM**: "Virtual Presence"
7. **Maundy Thursday, March 28th, 7:00PM**: "Something New, Until ALL Things Are New!"
8. **Good Friday, March 29th, 7:00PM**: "Father, Forgive Them"
9. **Easter Sunday, March 31st**: "Remember His Words!"

Lenten Soup Suppers Begin on Wednesday, Feb 21st!!

Various groups will be hosting "Soup Suppers" at Concordia from 5:30PM to 6:30PM on the following Wednesdays: **2/21; 2/28; 3/06; 3/13; and 3/20.**

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Eckstein

Newsletter Notes from Deaconess Nayva



Women's Bible Study

New Women's Bible Study

"God's Provision in a Wilderness World"

By Lindsay Hausch

1st and 3rd Tuesdays
Feb 6th and 20th
Fellowship Hall 7:00

Feel Free to join us
anytime.

A New Song

Bible Study on the
Psalms

Fri, February 2nd
10:00am

Marian Duff (Host)
1301 15th St SW

Thurs, February 8th
1:00 pm

Vera Schulz (Host)
114 12th Ave NE
Apt. 2030

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Wednesdays Feb 14th
and 24th
1:00 – 3:30pm

GRIEF SHARE

Sundays Feb 4th
through May 5th
2:00pm
Fellowship Hall

Deaconess Nayva



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

**"GIVING HEARTS DAY 2024" on
Tuesday, Feb 8th** will be a special
opportunity to show support for your
Main Street Living North Media

Ministry! This will be a first for our
ministry organization! You can add
your support online at
(<https://app.givingheartsday.org/>),
or send a check to Main Street
Living, 821 – 5th Ave. S. Fargo, ND
58103 and write "Giving Hearts Day"
in the memo line.

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, Volunteer Coordinator of
MSL.



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

The LWML council will meet on
February 6th at 3pm and we will
be planning for the tea on Feb.
18th and the soup suppers in
March. We will also be talking
about delegates to the LWML
convention in June this year.



The LWML is hosting a Valentine
Tea Party on February 18th at
2pm. We invite all ladies and
young women of the
congregation to join us for an
afternoon of fellowship and fun. If
you have a favorite tea cup please
bring it with you. We will have
other beverages for those who
don't drink tea as well. We hope
that you will be able to join us for
a fun afternoon.

The first Sunday of the Month is Mite Sunday



Listen up for the **NOISY
OFFERING** on Feb 4th. Our young
people will be passing the bucket
for coins to give towards mites.
We continue to collect our mites
to help pay for mission grants and
we pray that we will be able to
fund all our projects for this
biennium....like Mission Grant #2
**A Healing Space for At-Risk
Children - Dakota Boys and Girls
Ranch, ND**– (\$100,000) is now
PAID IN FULL (See the attached

flyer to read more about this project)

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



Sunday School continues on Sunday mornings at 9:15. We hope that your child will join us as we learn of Jesus and His love for all of us.

--Sunday School Superintendent Sue



Youth Group

Friday, February 2nd 6:30 pm

Friday, February 23rd 6:30 pm

Youth serve Soup Supper
February 21st

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.

Volunteers in February:

Communion/Altar preparation:

Don and Nancy Elstad

Musicians:

Sun. 2/4	Carmen McBride
Wed. 2/7	Daine Flieth
Sun. 2/11	Carmen McBride
Wed. 2/14	Carmen McBride
Sun. 2/18	Daine Flieth
Wed. 2/21	Daine Flieth
Sun. 2/25	Ione Somsen
Wed. 2/28	Ione Somsen

Elder and Acolyte Schedule

Sun. 2/4	8am	10:30am
	E=Dernel D. A = Alexander	E = Doug P. A = ---
Wed. 2/7	7pm	E=Ed M. A = ---
Sun. 2/11	8am	10:30am
	E= Dave H. A = ---	E =Ed M. A = ---
Wed. 2/14	7 pm	E= Ed M. A = ---
Sun. 2/18	8am	10:30am
	E = Curt S. A= Alexander	E =Doug P. A = ---
Wed. 2/21	7pm	E =Quincy B. A = ---
Sun. 2/25	8am	10:30am
	E =Dave H. A = ---	E = Josh R. A = Layla A.
Wed.. 2/28	7pm	E = Quincy B. A = ---



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...

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

- Rose Martin
- Delle Stinar (Mother of Jim Anderson)
- Mervin Wohler (Brother-in-law of Ann Snow)
- Mary Sandve (Friend of the Elstad family)
- Colby Schrenk (Great-nephew of Esther Koenig)
- **Mike Worner (Brother-in-law of Ann Snow)**
- Ronda Gjestvang (Sister of Dale Neustel)
- Marlane Middlestead; (Sister-In-Law of Shirley Genter)

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

- Hannah Magstadt
- Arianna Walch
- Les Wimer (Brother-in-law of Lila Stokkeland)
- Collins Arnold (Friend of Daine Flieth)

- Evelyn Bollinger (Great grand-daughter of Kathey Ziegler)
- **Marilyn Worner (Sister of Ann Snow)**
- Roger Strander (Brother of Verny Jorgenson)
- 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)
- Scott Barefoot; (Friend of Pastor Eckstein)
- Rachel Mulder (Mother of Nayva Mulder)
- Sue Hedberg; (Daughter of Gerri & Lloyd Bauske)
- Braxton Hoff (Friend of Jason Carter)
- Kari Knecht (Friend of Daine Flieth)
- Ethan Igl (Friend of Cullen Flieth)
- Mark Joy (Friend of Daine Flieth)

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

Kevin Koenig (Son of Esther Koenig)

Carol Stahlhut (Sister of Joyce Price, Niece of Esther Koenig)

SACRED ACTS:

Baptisms
Confirmations
Weddings

Funerals/Deaths Transferred In

Wolfram Anderson, infant son of Brandon and Luella Anderson

Confession of Faith

Luella Anderson, wife of Brandon Anderson

Current Membership Stats:

Baptized Members-609

Confirmed Members-462

2024

Baptisms (Infant)-o, (Adult)-o

Confirmations (Junior)-o, (Adult)-o

Weddings-o

Funerals-o

Transferred In-1

Transferred Out-o

Profession of Faith-1

Miscellaneous Announcements



Thank you to everyone for the thoughts and prayers shown during Kevin's cancer struggle, and after his passing. We deeply appreciate the cards and expressions of sympathy.

God's blessings to all
Esther Koenig & family

thrivent®

Thrivent Choice dollars can be directed to Concordia Lutheran Church. These funds are then used to support various ministries at Concordia. So far in 2024, through the Thrivent Choice program, we have received \$544. Thank you to the following who have directed contributions:

Rev. Tom Eckstein
Gerald Guthmiller
Janice Guthmiller



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

As many of you know, the OGT North Dakota Branch has been raising funds to purchase a "new" truck. The good news is that we collected enough money to complete the purchase process and we are eagerly awaiting its arrival. Thank you to all who helped in our fundraising campaign!



Get ready for the **Mercy Meals** packing event, coming up on **February 24th @ Concordia** from **2-4pm!** This is a family-friendly and fellowship-focused activity

for all ages. Gather your friends and come for a fun afternoon. We'll be preparing food packets for our brothers and sisters in Christ in Liberia who need help with basic necessities. See the attached flyer for more information about the Liberian Children's Ministry and the people they serve.



Have you wondered what life would be like for a Bible translator? Becky Grossmann, the LBT missionary that we support, gives us a glimpse of her travels in her most recent newsletter. You can see pictures and read about her experiences in Yekepa, Liberia. See the attached flyer for more information.

Council Meeting Minutes:

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

January 8, 2024

Present: Sue Corwin, Kim Murray, Doug Pieske, Don Elstad, Pastor Eckstein, Randy Flieth, Daine Flieth

Absent: Nayva Mulder, Kevin Nelson

President Randy called the meeting to order and Pastor Eckstein opened with prayer.

Treasurers' report: The Treasurer's report was presented. An overview was given for 2023.

Pastor's report: Pastor continues to take several individuals through adult instruction for future membership.

Pastor is planning to give a lecture at the Arts Center on Tuesday, Feb. 6th in response to the "1946 Documentary" which was shown on Dec. 12th which distorted what Scripture teaches about sexuality. Several other congregations in Jamestown are supporting this event and plan to add their names to an ad that will be published in the Jamestown Sun. The rental fee and various materials will be paid from the Thrivent Choice Dedicated account.

Pastor continues to serve the vacancy at Grace in Carrington on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Grace will find out if they will be able to call a seminary candidate in April. If they are not able to get a candidate, other options will be discussed at that time.

Deaconess report: The Youth will be hosting "BINGO" following the potluck on Jan. 28th.

A "Grief Share" informational meeting will be held on Jan. 21st @ 2pm. This is open to anyone who has experienced or is currently experiencing grief!

Bible Studies and visits continue to go well.

Board of Education: Sunday School has approximately 8 kids on average.

VBS will be discussed at the next Board meeting along with Easter breakfast plans.

Board of Elders report: The February schedule was planned and discussion held on Pastor's vacancy and the "1946 Documentary".

Board of Evangelism: No report.

Board of Social Ministry: No report.

Board of Stewardship: There was brainstorming on goals for 2024 to include more congregational participation events. Discussion was held on attempting to host a pinochle tournament in the coming months.

The Board will continue to send out greeting cards and will include visitors who sign our guestbook.

Financial advisor, CJ Hager, will be asked about the possibility of doing a presentation at Concordia.

Board of trustees: Branches were picked up from the December ice storm.

Double D Lawn Service has offered a year-round service which has been accepted and will include snow removal on our sidewalks for a flat monthly fee. Lux will continue to do snow removal for our parking lot.

Old business: Discussion was held on doing pictorial directories to be available by summer of 2025.

New business: A motion was made by Doug and seconded by Sue to invest a portion of our available funds into CD's at Unison Bank with the following details: Purchase 3 CD's each at \$25,000 for 6-month terms at 5.25%. The motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by :
Daine Flieth
Council Secretary

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

concordiajtsecretary@gmail.com

BIBLE TRIVIA!

Test your Bible knowledge about angels. (answers on bottom of page)

1. How many angels rescued Lot and his family from the doomed city of Sodom?
2. What apostle was released from prison by an angel who opened the prison's iron gate?
3. The angel of the Lord instructed Philip to go to Gaza. What person did Philip encounter afterward?
4. What Roman official was visited by an angel who told him God had heard his prayer?
5. Who was commissioned by an angel to save Israel from the Midianites?
6. What kind of angelic beings guarded the entrance to Eden?
7. Who had his lips touched by a live coal held by a seraph?
8. What ungodly ruler in New Testament times was struck down by an angel?
9. Who had a dream about angels and goats?
10. Which gospel says that an angel rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb?

February, 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8:30AM to 9:30AM - Men's Bible Class @ Concordia 1:00PM to 6:00PM - Pastor Eckstein at Grace/Carrington	2 10:00AM - Women's Bible Class @ Marian Duff Home 6:30PM to 8:30PM - Youth Group	3 7:30AM to 11:30AM - Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9:00AM to 12:00PM - Volunteer @ OGT
4 Services @ 8:00AM & 10:30AM (Lord's Supper) Sunday School & Adult Bible Class @ 9:15AM 2:00PM to 4:00PM - Pastor Eckstein serving Trinity/Adrian 2:00PM - "Grief Share" support group at Concordia	5 9:00AM to 12:00PM - Volunteer @ OGT 7:00PM - Elders & Stewardship 8:00PM - Council	6 10:00AM - Bible Class 1:00PM - Quilting 6:30PM to 8:30PM - "The Bible & Sexuality" lecture at Jamestown Arts Center 7:00PM - Women's Bible Class @ Church	7 5:45PM - Confirmation 7:00PM - Service (Lord's Supper)	8 8:30AM to 9:30AM - Men's Bible Class @ Concordia 1:00PM to 6:00PM - Pastor Eckstein at Grace/Carrington 1:00PM - Women's Bible Study @ Vera Schulz apartment	9	10 7:30AM to 11:30AM - Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9:00AM to 12:00PM - Volunteer @ OGT
11 Services @ 8:00AM & 10:30AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class @ 9:15AM 2:00PM to 4:00PM - Pastor Eckstein serving Trinity/Adrian 2:00PM - "Grief Share" support group at Concordia	12 9:00AM to 12:00PM - Volunteer @ OGT 1:30PM - Dorcas Circle	13 10:00AM - Bible Class 1:00PM - Ruth Circle 7:00PM - Naomi Circle	14 1:00PM to 3:30PM - Stephen Ministry Meeting 5:45PM - Confirmation 7:00PM - Ash Wednesday Service (Lord's Supper)	15 8:30AM to 9:30AM - Men's Bible Class @ Concordia 1:00PM to 9:00PM - Pastor Eckstein at Grace/Carrington	16	17 7:30AM to 11:30AM - Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9:00AM to 12:00PM - Volunteer @ OGT
18 Services @ 8:00AM & 10:30AM (Lord's Supper) Sunday School & Adult Bible Class @ 9:15AM 2:00PM to 4:00PM - Pastor Eckstein serving Trinity/Adrian 2:00PM - "Grief Share" support group at Concordia	19 9:00AM to 12:00PM - Volunteer @ OGT	20 10:00AM - Bible Class 1:00PM - Quilting 7:00PM - Women's Bible Class @ Church	21 5:30PM to 6:30PM - Soup Supper 5:45PM - Confirmation 7:00PM - Lent Service (Lord's Supper)	22 8:30AM to 9:30AM - Men's Bible Class @ Concordia 1:00PM to 9:00PM - Pastor Eckstein at Grace/Carrington	23 6:30PM to 8:30PM - Youth Group	24 7:30AM to 11:30AM - Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9:00AM to 12:00PM - Volunteer @ OGT 2:00PM to 4:00PM - "Mercy Meals" packing event at Concordia
25 Services @ 8:00AM & 10:30AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class @ 9:15AM 2:00PM to 4:00PM - Pastor Eckstein serving Trinity/Adrian 2:00PM - "Grief Share" support group at Concordia	26 9:00AM to 12:00PM - Volunteer @ OGT	27 10:00AM - Bible Class	28 1:00PM to 3:30PM - Stephen Ministry Meeting 5:30PM to 6:30PM - Soup Supper 5:45PM - Confirmation 7:00PM - Lent Service	29 8:30AM to 9:30AM - Men's Bible Class @ Concordia 1:00PM to 9:00PM - Pastor Eckstein at Grace/Carrington		

1/25/2024

01:54 pm

Concordia Lutheran

February 2024

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

Search: february; Who = (everyone except removed); Filter = Birthday or Wedding

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 JESSE DENHAM (b.)
4 MIKAELA COFIELD (b.) KARLENE SERFOSS (b.) SOPHIE SPITZER (b.)	5 GERRI BAUSKE (b.) DOUG PIESKE (b.)	6	7 SHEILA BLOCK (b.) GREGG KUTZ (b.)	8 LARRY WALZ (b.)	9 CATHY NANNENGA (b.) WILL and AMBER MCINTYRE (w.)	10
11 ADRIAN NANNENGA (b.) (DESTINY) TOLTZMAN (b.)	12	13 BLAINE MURRAY (b.)	14 LIANE BRAUN (b.) SHIRLEY STEPINA (b.) RICK and LORI LIPETZKY (w.)	15 DUSTIN HUST (b.)	16 (NEVAEH) PALMER (b.) KIM and (LINDA) NORHEIM (w.)	17 JACK BETHKE (b.) AUTUMN ROBERTS (b.) ELISE ROBERTS (b.) RYKYR WALCH (b.) TWYLA and (CHAD) ANDERSON (w.)
18 MADISEN BJONE (b.) CARMEN MCBRIDE (b.)	19	20 DON ELSTAD (b.) CARTER MALVIN (b.)	21 (DAMEN) FLETCHER (b.) BLAKE HOCHHALTER (b.)	22 EMMA FLIETH (b.) SHIRLEY HUST (b.) AARON ROBERTS (b.)	23 DAWN MARAGOS (b.) DARON and JOLYN BIERI (w.) KAREN and (EZRA) JUNG (w.)	24 BRENDA LUER (b.) HEATHER MARTELL (b.) MICK and DEBORAH FODE (w.)
25 DUANE DUPPONG (b.)	26 (GEORGIA) PAHL (b.)	27 MARLYN BERTSCH (b.)	28 ESTHER KOENIG (b.) SUE LUCHT (b.) ROBERT PURCELL (b.)	29		

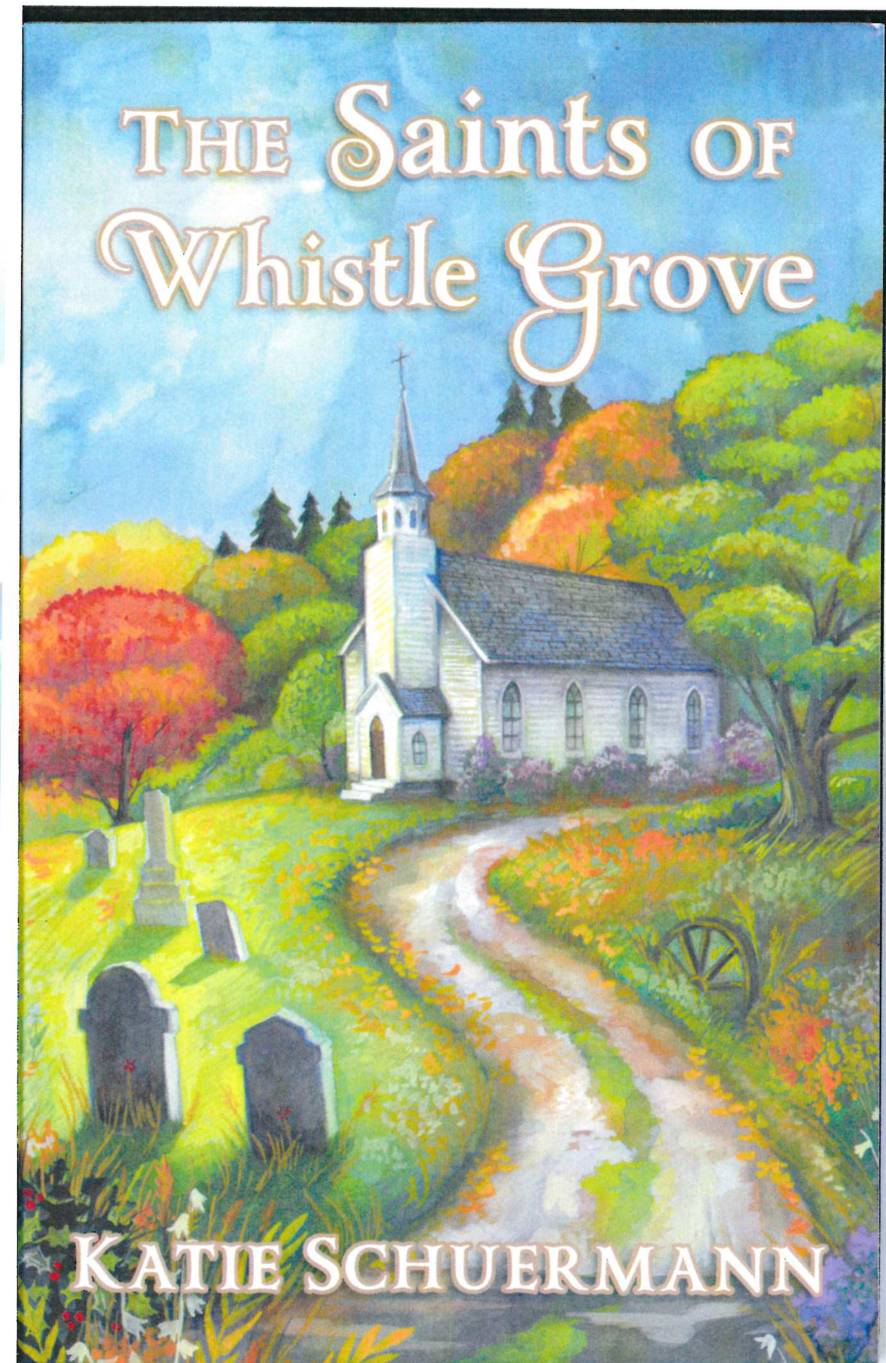
JOIN US
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
7:00 PM

Concordia's New Adventure

BOOK CLUB

We will be discussing
the book at our meeting.

Made with PosterMyWall.com



ASK NAYVA FOR DETAILS.



TRAVELS

When I arrive in Liberia, I usually start checking with a team the next day, so each team gets a full week of my time. Weekends are for travel, recovery, and preparation for meeting the next team. I don't take time or get the opportunity to just enjoy the countryside. Last August/September trip I took some time out of the travel days to visit some sites on or near the way. I also stayed in a new location when checking with the Dan team.



The Dan team met in Yekepa for checking. We didn't meet in Bahn because translator Levi Yentee is recovering from a stroke. Yekepa is a mining town up near the border with Guinea. It is surrounded by significant hills where the iron ore is mined. This provided some beautiful scenery.



Many of the miners stay in these pods. Rev. Amos Benda thought it would be a good experience for me to stay in one and benefit from the cafeteria which serves Western type food three times a day. His church sponsored me to stay there. I can't say I didn't miss having homecooked Liberian food.



My pod was big enough for a bed, a small fridge and narrow table with a small bathroom at the other end. We decided to do our work here most days because there is 24-hour power. We moved the table by the bed so I sat there and the two translators sat on the other side. There was no room to do it any other way. I was thankful to get out and walk after the day was done.



I walked past a truck stuck on the road. The one on the right is stalled. I wondered how the other one was going to make it by as the shoulder dropped here and any shifting of cargo would cause the moving truck to tip over. The driver expertly maneuvered his vehicle, scraping their loads slightly as he passed by.





There are several "blue lakes" in Liberia. When I heard there was one near Yekepa, I thought it would be fun to go and see it. These are lakes formed in places where mining has taken place. Even though it was cloudy, the lake did not disappoint. The area is a preserve now and a guest house is being built where people can stay. I was told there are monkeys and other wild animals that nature buffs will enjoy.



On the way up to Yekepa, we stopped at the Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center. The last time I stopped here only the foundations existed. Now the school is running daycare up to 6th grade, adding a grade per year. They also have training for adults in tailoring, soap making and baking. Proceeds from the sold products help keep the program running. A poultry farm and garden provide some income and food for the meals served daily to the children. The school has a robust library. I was told social studies books are a favorite. You can read more about the school here: <https://mailchi.mp/88ba9362ae7c/gbarnga-lutheran-training-center?e=e19dc66c48>

TRANSLATION TIDBITS

Two humorous renderings occurred recently. In Bandi Joshua 24:12 where God sends the Amorites into a panic, an idiom was used: "God sent the bees out ahead." Think of the panic if a swarm of bees is coming at you! The other in Maan Ezekiel 20:39 where the Good News version renders the verse "And now, all you Israelites, suit yourselves!" This was translated "All you people of Israel, dress!" Yes, we have some good times when we translate.

Thanks for keeping us on our way.

Becky

Becky is YOUR HEART IN ACTION. She serves you as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia, West Africa by using your prayers and support to fulfill your desire to "PUT GOD'S WORD IN THEIR HANDS." Becky rejoices that she is part of your Lutheran Bible Translators team and values this special relationship.

PRAYER REQUESTS

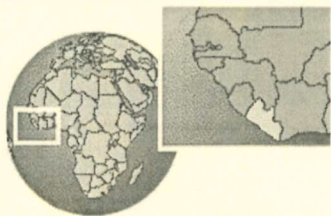
- Pray for Levi's full recovery from his stroke.
- Praise that Charles has his prosthetic leg and is now walking.
- Pray for relief for Mary from back pain.
- Praise for peaceful elections and concession by the ruling party to the newly elected president.
- Pray for the Maan and Dan teams striving to complete their Bibles this year.

CONTACT

Becky.Grossmann@LBT.org
Cell: 269-267-6248, Google Voice: 269-628-5520
28210 12th Ave, Gobles, MI 49055
Give at LBT.org/Grossmann

"See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:10 NIV

November 2023
Vol. 20 Issue 5



THE LIBERIAN CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Celebrating the True Meaning of Christmas with Big Bowls of Rice

Dear Partner In Mission,

When I was a child, all I wanted for Christmas was a big bowl of rice. On Christmas day, we would dress up in our new or old outfits and walk door to door in the village, visit our grandparents, friends and relatives – and wait for our big bowl of rice.

I did not know the true meaning of Christmas then. I was raised by my grandparents and they did not know the true God. They worshiped idols.

Today, over 6500 children in our schools in rural Liberia still look forward to a big bowl of rice on Christmas day. But unlike me, when I was a child, they know the true meaning of Christmas because of you. Thank you for helping us share Christ with the children and their families through our school ministry.

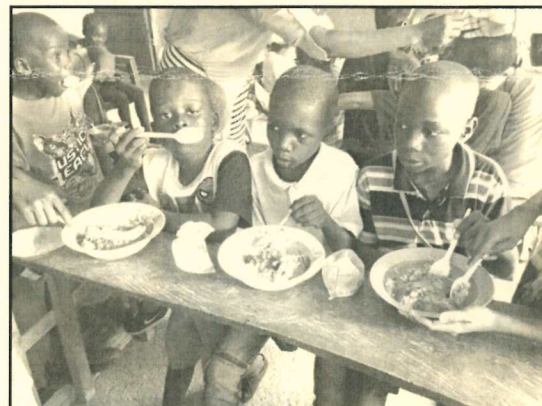
Our utmost goal and prayer is to make Christ known to every child we serve in our schools. You played an important role in helping us do this. **Your prayers and financial support enable us to share Christ's love and the true meaning of Christmas with the children and their families.**

We want to also thank **Orphan Grain Train (OGT)** for providing the food (the rice and beans) for the children in our schools. Many children come to our schools with empty stomachs and empty hearts. But **God is using the food and other supplies from OGT to help fill the stomachs and hearts of the children.** And the Holy Spirit is changing the lives of the children and their parents for eternity.

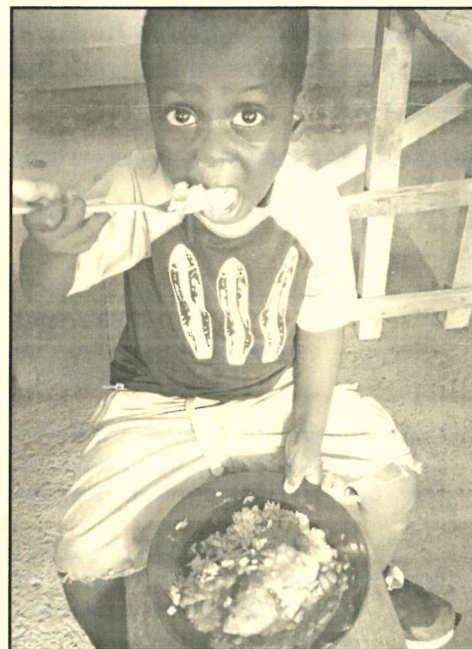
During this Thanksgiving and Christmas season, and throughout the year, **God is using you to act as angels to bring joy and hope to the children in our schools.** Thank you for helping the children to hear about Jesus and to know the true meaning of Christmas.

On behalf of our family, and the children of Liberia and their families, **Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.**

In Christ,
Joe Boway



God is using your gifts to bring joy, hope, and big bowls of rice to 6500 children in our schools in rural Liberia, and their families, this Christmas





2024 Special Mission Projects

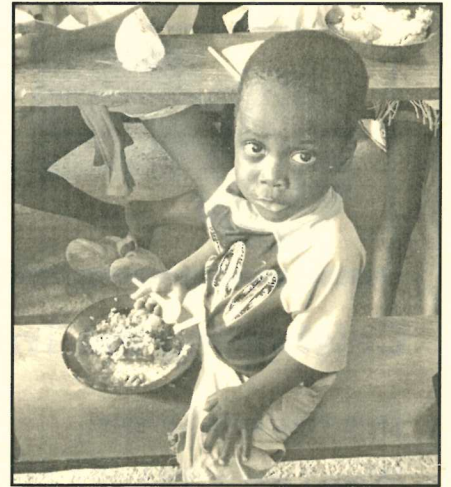


THE LIBERIAN
CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY

PAGE 2

November 2023
Vol. 20 Issue 5

Listed below are some **Special Mission Projects** that will bless the children of Liberia. Thank you for prayerfully considering helping with one, two, or more of these projects. Your support will help us to share the Love of Christ with the children and their families.



ADOPT A SCHOOL: \$3,000 - \$5,000 - OR SPONSOR A CHILD: \$25

It cost \$3,000 - \$5,000 to run a school with 200 or more children per year. Your prayers and financial support enable us to run our 15 schools with over 6500 students. Seven schools are now funded for the 2023-2024 school year. Funds are needed for eight schools for the 2023 -2024 school year.

Your one-time gift of \$25 will provide a Christ-centered education for a child for a year and your gifts of \$25 a month will provide an education for 12 children for a year.



A 40 FT CONTAINER WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO LIBERIA: \$3,000

Help with the shipping cost for a 40-foot container with school desks, chairs, and other supplies. It cost \$6000 to ship the container. We already have \$3,000 for the shipping cost. What's needed now is the balance of \$3,000.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS: \$500 PER WORKSHOP

Most of the teachers in our schools do not have degrees in teaching. They love the Lord and the children and want to make a difference in the lives of the children. Attending a teacher's training workshop once or twice a year will help equip them. Four workshops are expected to be held during the 2023-2024 school year.

HELP BUILD A 7-CLASSROOM SCHOOL: \$18,000

Construction Cost for a Seven Classroom Building include:

Metal Roofing	\$2,500
Cement (Bricks for foundation, laying of bricks for walls and for classroom floors)	\$6,500
Steel rods, nails, paint and hardware for doors	\$3,500
Transportation (for all materials from Monrovia to rural Liberia - 340 miles)	\$3,000
Labor costs	<u>\$2,500</u>

Total cost for a seven classroom building: \$18,000

To sponsor any of these projects or for more info, please call, email, or return the enclosed envelope

If you need a speaker for your Church, School, or Organization, Joe, Glendora, Joe Weatu Jr., & Joshua Glenn Gbweah Boway would be happy to come to tell stories about the children of Liberia and encourage your group in missions.

Contact info: Joe & Glendora Boway
5120 Cloverbrook Dr., Ft. Wayne, IN 46806
Tel: 260-447-7639; email: Bowayj@aol.com

Contributions: New Life Lutheran Church
2424 S. Coliseum Blvd., Ft. Wayne, IN 46803
Tel: 260-420-3024; email: info@NL4U.org

Make checks payable to: New Life Lutheran Church. (Contributions are tax deductible)

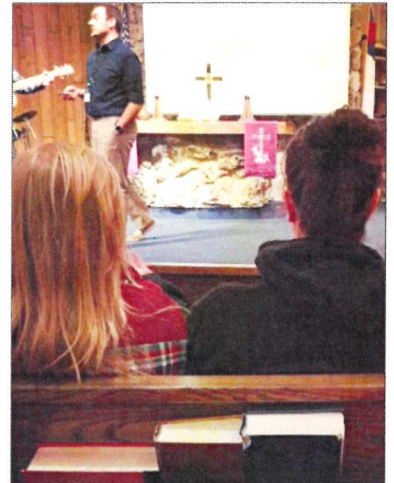
Online Donation: go to <http://www.nl4u.org/give/> Use the links under "Online giving through Tithe.ly"

On the drop menu next to the box "Give To:" change the option to "Liberian Children's Ministry" before you make your donation. There is also an option for automated giving.

2023–2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 2

A HEALING SPACE FOR AT-RISK CHILDREN

DAKOTA BOYS AND GIRLS RANCH, NORTH DAKOTA | \$100,000



A Special Chapel — Offering Hope and Healing for At-Risk Children

The Christ-centered, healing ministry of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch creates an eternal, life-giving impact in the lives of children ages 10 to 18, who have faced heartbreaking abuse, neglect, and trauma. Established in 1952, the Ranch touches the lives of more than 2,000 children and families each year, from all corners of the United States. The childhood trauma these children faced leaves them with debilitating emptiness and loneliness. Most children who come to the Ranch have little or no faith background and the Ranch is often the first place they learn about Jesus. The discovery of our Savior's mercy is often the most vital part of a child's healing.

The Ranch's Bismarck, North Dakota, campus was built in 2003. Since then, programming for the campus' children has evolved to be a psychiatric residential treatment facility. The children who now come into care at this campus are survivors of significant trauma. The campus currently includes a gym to care for physical needs, a school to supply educational needs, and therapy rooms to care for psychiatric and sensory needs. To fill a gap in spiritual care, a specialized chapel facility has been designed to be a space where these at-risk children can find hope in the unfailing promises of God. The new chapel will provide a healing space to minister to each child's spiritual needs, where they can find the hope and healing that comes only from Christ. The Ranch's Board of Directors has worked with architects who specialize in design for traumatized children, as well as liturgical experts, specializing in facilities that embody the Gospel. The resulting chapel will be a 3,175 square foot addition to the campus' main building, providing a space for the spiritual needs of Ranch children and staff.

This mission grant will help with building costs of the new chapel, where the hearts of these precious children can know and experience the mercy of Christ and His healing power.

But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God" (Luke 18:16).

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; (Psalm 28:7a).

FEBRUARY

Use this prayer guide for the month of February. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. What a joy it is to lift these needs to our Father's listening ears!



1. For your LWML sisters.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #4.
3. For Bolivia, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
4. For your church organist.
5. For those fighting cancer.
6. For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Christian Life.
7. For the country of Botswana.
8. Pray the LWML Pledge.
9. For the needs of those on the mission field.
10. For the country of Brazil.
11. For those in the Armed Forces.
12. For the President of the United States.
13. For love in your heart for your neighbor.
14. For Christ's sacrifice for us.
15. For the country of Cambodia.
16. For the LWML Kansas District.
17. For those who are caregivers.
18. For an opportunity to share your faith.
19. For the country of Cameroon.
20. For those who write devotions and Bible studies.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #5.
22. For those facing the loss of a loved one.
23. For the country of Canada.
24. For the LWML Missouri District.
25. For your LWML district officers.
26. For the country of Chile.
27. For your LWML group members.
28. For the lonely to feel God's presence.
29. For God's gift of another year of your life.

Mercy Meals



Packing Event
February 24th
Concordia
Fellowship Hall
2:00 - 4:00 pm

all ages welcome to come and help!



Noisy Offering



1st Sunday of
the Month



All ladies and young women are invited to a

Tea Party



Sunday, February 18th, 2024

Two O'Clock in the afternoon

Concordia's Fellowship Hall

Please bring your favorite tea cup.



include visitors who sign our guestbook.

Financial advisor, CJ Hager, will be asked about the possibility of doing a presentation at Concordia.

Board of trustees: Branches were picked up from the December ice storm.

Double D Lawn Service has offered a year-round service which has been accepted and will include snow removal on our sidewalks for a flat monthly fee. Lux will continue to do snow removal for our parking lot.

Old business: Discussion was held on doing pictorial directories to be available by summer of 2025.

New business: A motion was made by Doug and seconded by Sue to invest a portion of our available funds into CD's at Unison Bank with the following details: Purchase 3 CD's each at \$25,000 for 6-month terms at 5.25%. The motion carried.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by :
Daine Flieth
Council Secretary

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

concordiajtsecretary@gmail.com

BIBLE TRIVIA!

Test your Bible knowledge about angels. (answers on bottom of page)

- 1. How many angels rescued Lot and his family from the doomed city of Sodom?
- 2. What apostle was released from prison by an angel who opened the prison's iron gate?
- 3. The angel of the Lord instructed Philip to go to Gaza. What person did Philip encounter afterward?
- 4. What Roman official was visited by an angel who told him God had heard his prayer?
- 5. Who was commissioned by an angel to save Israel from the Midianites?
- 6. What kind of angelic beings guarded the entrance to Eden?
- 7. Who had his lips touched by a live coal held by a seraph?
- 8. What ungodly ruler in New Testament times was struck down by an angel?
- 9. Who had a dream about angels and goats?
- 10. Which gospel says that an angel rolled away the stone from Jesus' tomb?

- 10. Matthew (Matthew 28:2)
- 9. Jacob (Genesis 31:11-12)
- 8. Herod (Acts 12:23)
- 7. Isaiah (Isaiah 6:5-7)
- 6. Cherubim (Genesis 3:24)
- 5. Gideon (Judges 6:11-23)
- 4. Cornelius (Acts 10:1-8)
- 3. The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39)
- 2. Peter (Acts 12:1-19)
- 1. Two (Genesis 19:1-2)

Answer Key: