

Pastor's Corner

By: Pastor Tom Eckstein



"A Christian Response to the Transgender Issue" - by pastor Tom Eckstein

There is an LCMS woman by the name of **Katie Lennon** who transitioned from female to "male" at age 18 – which included taking hormones, a double mastectomy, and a full hysterectomy at 21 years of age. Katie, a biological female, now regrets her decision and has said: ***"I thought that in the end I could become a man but all I became was a mutilated and abused version of myself."*** Sadly, Katie was failed and misled by her family, friends and especially the medical profession.

Katie suffered from a mental illness that for years was known as "Gender Identity Disorder" (now commonly called "Gender Dysphoria"), and those who have this disorder are not comfortable with their actual biological sex and perceive themselves as being the opposite sex. Such people need two things: **1.** They need to learn from Scripture that God has created us as male and female, and that God does not want them to deny their biological sex. **2.** They need

compassionate counseling that will help them accept their biological sex and become comfortable with it. *But in recent years many with "Gender Identity Disorder" have been led to believe a lie!*

We should have compassion on those afflicted with "Gender Identity Disorder." But we do NOT help them by affirming their disorder and leading them to believe that they can change their biological sex via various drugs and mutilating surgeries. The fact is that a biological female can NEVER become a biological male and a biological male can NEVER become a biological female.

Some with "Gender Identity Disorder" are happy with the transitioning process, but their happiness is based on a lie and a delusion. It would be like trying to make a person with schizophrenia happy by affirming their delusions. We do NOT help people with mental health issues by affirming their delusions - even if affirming their delusions makes them happy. Those who push hormones and mutilating surgeries for those with "Gender Identity Disorder" are guilty of abuse! It would be like a doctor affirming the delusion of a golb anorexic woman who wants to lose 30 more pounds and have liposuction because she thinks she's obese. Affirming her delusion and giving her what she wants, even though it makes her happy, would be abuse!

But the fact is that many who are in the transitioning process are NOT happy and are often suicidal because, deep down, they realize they can NEVER actually become the opposite sex. In addition, more and more people who have transitioned now have deep REGRET over their

decision - *but the mutilating surgeries they received can't be REVERSED!*

Katie Lennon knows that God forgives her for denying her biological sex. She is a precious and beloved child of God! However, others misled her into receiving mutilating surgeries to her body that cannot be reversed – *and she now speaks publicly about the modern lie of "transgenderism" so that others can avoid the mistakes she made.* Please keep people with "Gender Identity Disorder" in your prayers and speak the Truth in love to them when God gives you the opportunity.

Pastor Tom Eckstein

Newsletter Notes from Deaconess Nayva



Stephen Ministry Training

Wednesdays
1:00 – 3:30 pm

Please let Nayva know if you have any questions.

Women's Bible Study

"Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply"

By Deb Burma

(May 2nd & 16th)

Fellowship Hall 7:00

Feel Free to join us anytime.

In-home Bible Study opportunities:

"A New Song"

Bible Study on the Psalms

Friday May 5th @10:00 am

1301 15th St. SW

Marian Duff (Host)

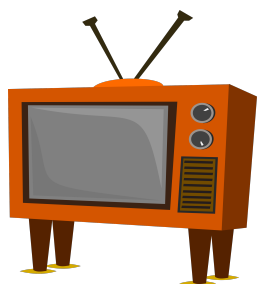
Thurs. May 11th @ 1:00 pm

114 12th Ave NE

Meet in 2nd Floor Community Area

Vera Schulz (Host)

-Deaconess Nayva



Main Street Living TV Program
www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com

Every Sunday on the local Fox Station at gam

"Mass shootings, floods and other natural disasters, a decaying moral culture – these are evidences of the fallen creation 'groaning in travel' all around us!" These are the same words I used four years ago for the introduction to that month's MSLN article – and they continue and even accelerate today. And yet, those whose trust is in Jesus can live with a "peace that passes all understanding" and a sure hope in the sure promise of the resurrection! This is the message broadcast weekly by our MSL Media Ministry.

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". Worship services from the five other MSL broadcast areas, as well as 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



The LWML will meet on May 2 at 3:00 to make plans for the summer. The national LWML convention will be held in Milwaukee June 24-26 and Nayva Mulder will be the delegate to the convention from the ND Central Zone. They are taking an ingathering of gift cards from Wal-Mart and if you would like to help with this you can give it to Nayva to take with her when she goes. You can find information on the LWML website about the convention and it will also be livestreamed if you would like to watch some of it. The website is LWML.org.

The LWML quilters will meet for the last time this season on May 2nd before taking a summer break. The quilting ladies gave 30 quilts to Orphan Grain Train after they were displayed at the church. Thank you quilters for all your work on these quilts.

We will be recognizing our seniors this year on May 14th and this year we only have one, Kyra Hoffer. We will be presenting her with a quilt that the ladies have made for her.

The first Sunday of the Month is Mite Sunday.

Mites are collected to help support 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 #28– Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries.

Please see the attached page for more information about the project and a prayer guide.



Our last Sunday for Sunday School will be on May 21st. We would like to thank our teachers for teaching our children this year. They are Jen Hoffer, Chad Hoffer, Tami Lindberg, Shelly Anderson, Layla Anderson, Don Elstad, Nancy Elstad, Nayva Mulder. Also the board of Ed members Sue Corwin, Nayva Mulder, Nancy Elstad, Jen Hoffer, Susan Lucht. And lone Someson and Carmen McBride for playing for music during Sunday School.

Vacation Bible School will be held June 4-8th from 6-8 p.m. Please look for the registration form in the newsletter and fill it out and return to the church. There are also forms in the narthex that you may fill out. We would like to know who is coming as we will be ordering shirts for everyone and will need their sizes. You can look for a sign-up sheet for items that may be needed in the narthex in May. Our theme this year is "God's Living Water". We look forward to having your child join us for this fun event.

--Sunday School Superintendent Sue

Amazon Smile

Although Amazon has discontinued their program (as of Feb. 20, 2023), we may expect additional disbursements until

the end of May, based on what funds were accrued in the first quarter of 2023. Thank you to those who have used this avenue for the last 10 years to make contributions to Concordia.



Youth group activities in May/June:
Friday, May 5th 6:30pm

Sunday May 14th Flower sale

Friday, June 2nd 6:30 pm

**Thank you for
supporting the
Youth Easter
Breakfast!**

Concordia Youth

**Thank you for all the
delicious
muffin/pastry
donations.**

Volunteers in April: Musicians:

Wed. 5/3	Daine Flieth
Sun. 5/7	Carmen McBride
Wed. 5/10	Carmen McBride
Sun. 5/14	Daine Flieth
Wed. 5/17	Daine Flieth

Sun. 5/21	Phyllis Denchfield
Wed. 5/24	Phyllis Denchfield
Sun. 5/28	Ione Somsen
Wed. 5/31	Ione Somsen

Elder/Acolyte Schedule

Wed. 5/3	7pm	E=--- A= Lexi W.
	8am	10:30am
Sun. 5/7	D= Dernel D A= Jason C	E= Doug P. A= Sankey
Wed. 5/10	7pm	E=Quincy B. A= ---
	8am	10:30am
Sun 5/14	E=Gordy L. A=Alexander	E= Ed M. A= Layla A.
Wed. 5/17	7 pm	E=---- A= Backen
Sun. 5/21	8am	10:30am
	E=Dernel D. A= Jason C.	E = Larry W. A= Hoffer
Wed. 5/24	7pm	E=Quincy A= ---
	8am	10:30am
Sun. 5/28	E=Josh R. A= Alexander	E=Gordy L. A=Hoffer
Wed. 5/31	7pm	E=--- A= ---

Communion/Altar preparation:

Marjorie Patzer

Thrivent Choice Dollars

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.

Thank you to for the **April deposit of \$1,149** in Thrivent Choice Dollars contributed by:

Shirly and Larry Genter
Jan and Gerry Guthmiller
Lawrence Jorgenson
Janice Kidd

Sharon Murry
Corrine Scott
Robert Whitney
Pastor Tom and Andrea Eckstein



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...

- Susan Roemmich
- Jennifer Randall

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

- Ronda Gjestvang (Sister of Dale Neustel)
- Tammy Michaelson (Sister-in-law of Carmen McBride)
- Carol Stahlhut (Family of Esther Koenig and Sherri Hochhalter)
- Marlane Middlestead; Lung (Sister-In-Law of Shirley Genter)
- Johnny Moreno; Hodgkin's Lymphoma (Friend of Shawn Schwandt)

- Kevin Koenig (Son of Esther Koenig)
- Colby Schrenk (Great-nephew of Esther Koenig)
- Maya Murray (Great-niece of Shari Murray)
- Andrea Trampe (Wife of Pastor Heath Trampe)

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

- Terese Carter; Medical tests
- Chad Anderson; Heart problems
- Lawrence Jorgenson; Ill health
- Cammy Ost; Broken elbow
- Arianna Walch; Batten's Disease
- Thelma Kinsler; Recovering at home (Mother of Randy Kinsler)
- James Lunneborg; Ill health (Brother of Ann Snow)
- Chantel McAllister; Difficult pregnancy (Niece of Nayva Mulder)
- Rachel Mulder; Healing (Mother of Nayva Mulder)
- Jackie Schraeder; Complications from diabetes (Friend of Bill and Tine Busche)
- Scott Barefoot; Leg Infection (Friend of Pastor Eckstein)
- Sue Hedberg; Kidney Disease (Daughter of Gerri & Lloyd Bauske)
- Keith Rutherford (Son of Karen Connell; Friend of Lone Somsen)

- Paul Schafer (Son of Lila Stokkeland)

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

- Family of Wyatt Luck
- Family of Rodney Fink

SACRED ACTS:

Baptisms Confirmations Weddings Funerals/Deaths

Elsie Hieb – Born 9/26/1924 --- Passed away 12/26/2022, Funeral was held at Concordia 4/21/2023

Transferred In Transferred Out Profession of Faith

Current Membership Stats:

Baptized Members-615
Confirmed Members-466

2023

Baptisms (Infant)-0, (Adult)-0
Confirmations (Junior)-0, (Adult)-0
Weddings-0
Funerals-5
Transferred In-0
Transferred Out-1
Profession of Faith-0

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Misc. Announcements



During this Easter season we remember and honor those who have gone on in glory to join the church triumphant. Allelujah! Thank you to everyone who sponsored an Easter Lily in remembrance of someone special, and contributed to the beautiful display in our Sanctuary. The following individuals were honored by their loved ones:

The parents of Gerry and Jan Guthmiller

The family of Larry and Ellen Walz
Edwin and Emma Hust
Emmanuel Eckstein

Charlie Nemec

The family of Sue Corwin

David Hanson

Cathy Herman

Bertha Remmick

Barbra Remmick

Shirley Bertsch

The parents of Elden and Mary Englund

The parents of Darrell and Marjorie Patzer

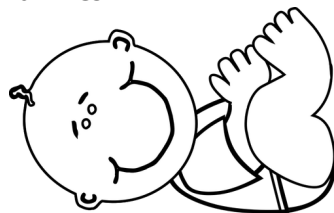
The parents of Vern Herman
Cathy Herman



Thank you to all who donated socks for the Central Zone Spring rally to be given to Orphan Grain Train. We collected 143 pairs of socks here. At the rally the total amount from other units including Jamestown was 671 pairs of socks that went to Orphan Grain Train. We are very thankful for these items.

Congratulations !

Members of our church have been blessed with a new addition to their families:



Brody Russell Blumhagen

(Baby boy Born 4/19/23;
Grandson of Becca and Jim Anderson, Brother to Eli and Reagan Anderson)

Ameila Josephine Wolla

(Baby girl Born 4/14/23;
Granddaughter of Jane and Jon Lorig, Great-granddaughter of Ellen and Larry Walz)



Orphan Grain Train is in need of some items for hygiene and layette kits if you would like to help with these you can put them

in the box in the narthex. Items needed are bath towels, wash cloths, soap boxes, nail clippers, travel size Kleenex, cloth diapers, rubber pants, and large safety pins. Thank you for any help you can give.



This newsletter is now available in 3 formats:

1. Printed on paper – delivered to your church or home mailbox
2. Digital copy – delivered to your email address
3. Digital copy – posted on the website to view or download

Please let the office know how you would like to receive the newsletter from now on. Watch out for a bulletin insert to fill out, or just call the church office at **252-2819**. (If you are home-bound and already receiving a paper copy in the mail, no changes will be made unless you request it).

Council Minutes

Council Minutes of April 3 2023

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

Absent: Daine Flieth

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

Treasurer's Report: No report was available.

Pastor's Report: There are new visitors in church and others are going through adult confirmation. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services are at 7:00 pm. No Wednesday evening service during Holy Week. Easter Sunday services are 7:00 and 10:30 am with Easter breakfast at 8:00 am. Pastor will resume his Exodus Sermon Series after Easter. Pastor will be starting a new topic for Tuesday morning Bible class on Holy Baptism. Pastor will be attending the ND District pastors conference in Fargo May 1-May 3

Elders report: They set up their schedule.

Deaconess report: Youth will be serving Easter breakfast on Easter Sunday. They will be preparing on Friday afternoon for the breakfast. There were 7 youth that went to the Fargo event and 6 that went to the retreat in Carrington. Bible studies are going well and there are 7 people taking the Stephen Ministry course. Nayva will be on vacation April 19-26.

Board of Education: No Sunday School on Easter Sunday. The last day of Sunday School will be May 21. We will be having VBS June 4-8th from 6:00 to 8:00pm. There are registration forms in the newsletter. The theme for VBS is "God's Living Water." Teacher appreciation will be in May.

Board of Trustees: They are waiting for warmer weather to replace the back door. The plexiglass on the stained glass will be replaced when it is accessible.

Board of Stewardship: No report.

Board of Evangelism: No report.

Old Business:

New Business:

We will be looking into the facility's needs and make assessment and a support plan as to things that will need to be done.

Pastor is working with the company for the new webpage and will hopefully be done by the end of the month.

Insurance claim for the furniture and window replacement for the LWML room has been made. The insurance has a \$1,000 deductible. The cost for the window is \$1,300 and for the furniture is \$2,900 and they will remove the old furniture that is damaged. We will get an estimate on the carpet in the room.

We will give an update on the furniture and window to the voters on April 30th.

The next meeting will be on Monday, May 8 at 8:00 pm.

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



A few ladies decided to celebrate Easter with a vintage tradition...wearing Easter Bonnets. We might try the same thing for Mother's Day.

Concordia Events Calendar – May 2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
4/30	1	2	3	4	5	6
Pastor Eckstein leaves for Pastor's Conference in Fargo, gone until 5/3	9-12pm- Orphan Grain Train (OGT)	10am- Bible Class 1pm- Quilting 3pm- LWML Mtg. 7pm- Ladies Bible Study	1- 3:30pm – Stephen Ministry Training @church 7pm-Service	8:30am- Men's Bible Class @church 6:30pm- Youth Group	10am- Ladies Bible Study @ Home of Marian Duff	9-12pm- Orphan Grain Train (OGT)
7 Mite Collection Sunday!	8	9	10	11	12	13
8am & 10:30am-Services (Lord's Supper) 9:15am- Sunday School, Youth & Adult Bible Study 2pm- Pastor @ Trinity-Adrian	9-12pm- OGT 1:30pm- Dorcas Circle 7pm- Board of Elders & Stewardship 8pm- Council	10am - Bible Class 1pm- Ruth Circle 7pm- Ladies Movie Night presents "The Book of Ruth"	1- 3:30pm – Stephen Ministry Training @church 7pm-Service (Lord's Supper)	8:30am- Men's Bible Class @church 1pm- Ladies Bible Study @ Vera Schulz apartment		9-12pm- OGT
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
8am & 10:30am-Services 9:15am- Sunday School, Youth & Adult Bible Study 2pm- Pastor @ Trinity-Adrian Youth – Flower sale between services	9-12pm- OGT	10am- Bible Class 7pm- Ladies Bible Study	1- 3:30pm – Stephen Ministry Training @church 7pm- Service	8:30am- Men's Bible Class @church	6:30pm- Youth Group	9-12pm- OGT
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8am & 10:30am-Services (Lord's Supper) 9:15am- Sunday School, Youth & Adult Bible Study 2pm- Pastor @ Trinity-Adrian	9-12pm- OGT	10am- Bible Class	1- 3:30pm – Stephen Ministry Training @church 7pm-Service (Lord's Supper)	8:30am- Men's Bible Class @church		9-12pm- OGT
28	29	30	31			
8am & 10:30am-Services 9:15am- Adult Bible Study 2pm- Pastor @ Trinity-Adrian	Memorial Day (church office closed)	10am- Bible Class	1- 3:30pm – Stephen Ministry Training @church 7pm- Service			

***Fridays are Pastor Eckstein's Days off!**

***Mondays are Deaconess Nayva's Days Off!**

***Chancel Duties: Marjorie Patzer**

4/20/2023

Concordia Lutheran

May 2023

02:53 pm

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 EMERIE MCINTYRE (b.) ETHAN MCKENNEY (b.) AMY NEUSTEL (b.)	2	3 DAWN MIELKE (b.)	4 BRANDON DOCKTER (b.) AMBER SPITZER (b.) DON WIRRENGA (b.)	5	6 GERALD CHAMPAGNE (b.) THOMAS ECKSTEIN (b.)
7 DEB HAGEL (b.) LORI LIPETZKY (b.)	8	9	10 JACOB FISCHER (b.) ANDREW WESTERHAUSEN (b.)	11 KAI BACKEN (b.) JACOB ROBERTS (b.)	12 BILL DUNAWAY (b.) (AMANDA) IRISH (b.) GORDY LUCHT (b.)	13 MARK and TAMMY CHAPIN (w.)
14 BIRGITTA ECKSTEIN (b.) JOYCE PRICE (b.) COLE RASMUSSEN (b.) (SHANNON) WIEST (b.)	15 ASHLEY FOX (b.) LYNN FOX (b.) SARAH MICKELSON (b.)	16 NORMA MORLOCK (b.)	17 NICOLE HOCHHALTER (b.) (HESSTON) KINZLER (b.) AARON SERFOSS (b.) RHONDA TARNO (b.)	18 (JASONDRA) SCHMIDT (b.) KEN SCHMIDT (b.) MATTHEW and KRISTEN HALL (w.)	19 SHERI DRENTH (b.) MARIAN DUFF (b.) DONALD MIELKE (b.) COREY MURRAY (b.)	20 LUCA HOCHHALTER (b.) MAKENZIE ANDERSON and (ERIK) LOFTSGARD (w.)
21 CHARLES HALL (b.) MICHELLE MORLOCK (b.) WADE SPITZER (b.)	22 TRACY ARNDT (b.) CODY LAUSCH (b.) DUKE MIEMIETZ (b.) MARY PURCELL (b.) ANDY and LEONA BRAUN (w.)	23 ANDY BRAUN (b.) LYDIA ROSIN (b.) LAWRENCE and VERNEY JORGENSEN (w.)	24 ACE OTTO (b.) MICAH SANKEY (b.) AERALYNN VEN HUIZEN (b.)	25 MINON BENDER (b.) AUSTIN OTTO (b.) RYAN TARNO (b.)	26 JOYCE CARLSON (b.) DYLAN MARSOLEK (b.)	27 JODI NELSON (b.) TERRY PURCELL (b.) TREVOR SCHMITT (b.)
28 MARLENE PIESKE (b.) AL and ELLEN EPPEN (w.)	29 DALON DEHNE (b.) BRODY HETLETVEDT (b.)	30 DOUG SABINASH (b.) BENJAMIN SANKEY (b.)	31 TWYLA ANDERSON (b.) TOM MAYHAIR (b.)			

Mite Challenge Calendar



BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL: *"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy" (Matthew 5:7).*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	¹ Say a prayer for school principals. Donate 10¢	² Treat a teacher today. Donate 90¢	³ Sing LSB #706 Love in Christ is Strong and Living. Donate 40¢	⁴ Participate in the National Day of Prayer. Donate 70¢	⁵ Invite someone for Mexican food. Donate 15¢	⁶ Pray for nurses today. Donate 55¢
⁷ Call a friend and discuss today's sermon. Donate 30¢	⁸ Read Matthew 5:1-12. Donate 95¢	⁹ Go for a walk, thanking God for His creation. Donate 50¢	¹⁰ Pray for those working overnight. Donate 20¢	¹¹ Express how blessed you are to those you meet. Donate 80¢	¹² Donate to a backpack program. Donate 35¢	¹³ Have a piece of apple pie with someone. Donate 75¢
¹⁴ Mother's Day Praise the Lord for Godly mothers. Donate 60¢	¹⁵ Send a "thinking of you" card. Donate 25¢	¹⁶ Count the trees in your yard and give 10¢ each or Donate 65¢	¹⁷ Clean out a drawer or cabinet today. Donate 45¢	¹⁸ Sing a praise song as you wash your dishes. Donate 85¢	¹⁹ Invite someone to share a pizza. Donate 10¢	²⁰ Pray for those in the Armed Forces. Donate 90¢
²¹ Start reading a Christian book. Donate 40¢	²² Graciously tip waitstaff today. Donate 70¢	²³ Read Matthew 25:35-40. Donate 15¢	²⁴ Pray for siblings to love one another. Donate 55¢	²⁵ Brown bag it for lunch today. Donate 30¢	²⁶ Write out your prayer requests. Donate 95¢.	²⁷ Tape a list of blessings where you will see it. Donate 50¢
²⁸ Pentecost! Praise the Lord for the Holy Spirit. Donate 20¢	²⁹ Memorial Day! Remember those who served. Donate 80¢	³⁰ Sing LSB #848 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service Donate 35¢	³¹ Read Lamentations 3:22-24. Donate 75¢			

Pray for the Hmong people as they hear and learn about Jesus in their native language through St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries.

Prayer #1

Lord, we thank and praise You for bringing the Hmong people to the United States. Shine Your light and reveal Your Holy Word to them in their native language. Turn their heart and souls away from their animist religion and ancestor/spirit worship. Help them come to know and trust in You as their Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #2

Heavenly Father, continue to bless the Hmong Language School and its outreach. Bless the use of the grant funds so that programs started in Merced can expand to other congregations located in Hmong population areas. Send Your Holy Spirit to dwell among the Hmong people. Open their hearts to respond to the Gospel message so that they too may receive forgiveness through Your suffering and death on the cross and become children of God. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #3

Lord, thank You for the blessing of language and the written Word that helps us learn about Your love, forgiveness, grace, and mercy. Thank You for the ministry and outreach of the Hmong Language School and New Year's Festivals as they sow the seeds of the Gospel message in the Hmong language. Thank You for the blessing of multigenerational families who are coming to know the truth, and are set free from the bondage of Satan, animistic religion, and ancestor/spirit worship. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer #4

Dear Jesus, thank You for pastors, vicars, servant leaders, and faithful Christians who are willing to share Your story of salvation with the Hmong people in their own language. Lord, shine Your light on the Hmong people so they can know and receive Your grace, joy, peace, and freedom from the bonds of Satan and animistic religion of ancestor/spirit driven worship. In Your name we pray. Amen.



lwml.org/mission-grants

CUT OR FOLD THIS LWML PRAYER GUIDE ON THE DASHED LINE AND KEEP IN YOUR BIBLES FOR DAILY MISSION SUPPORT REMINDERS.



Changing Lives — Christ-Centered Materials in the Hmong Language

Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries— \$70,208

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined (Isaiah 9:2).

An outreach ministry to the Hmong people began fifteen years ago at St. Paul Lutheran in Merced, California. Their goal is to “prepare God’s people for works of service, so the body of Christ may be built up.” (Ephesians 4:12). They are building up the body of Christ through leadership training, church planting, and mentoring pastors, vicars, servant leaders, and Christians who participate in outreach ministry to the Hmong people. Outreach ministry includes the Hmong Language School, participation in Hmong New Year’s festival, and providing Christ centered resources in their own language.

The Hmong people came to the United States as refugees after serving alongside the United States during the Vietnam War. They settled in California, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Eighty-five percent of the Hmong people are animists. In their religion, Hmong Spiritism, they believe spiritual powers are inherited in all things, living and non-living. They practice shamanism and praise the spirits of their ancestors but not the Creator. They offer animal sacrifices. People who are influenced by Spiritism are afflicted, oppressed, and live in constant fear. Only God’s grace and mercy, through faith in Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit can break Satan’s bondage.

The Hmong Language School reaches out to the Hmong community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in their own language. A strong cultural pressure exists for all family members to speak and read the language. The Hmong Language School teaches Hmong to speak and read their own language. The teaching materials are Biblical materials translated into Hmong. The students learn to speak and read and then share with older family members in their home. The Word spreads to the extended family

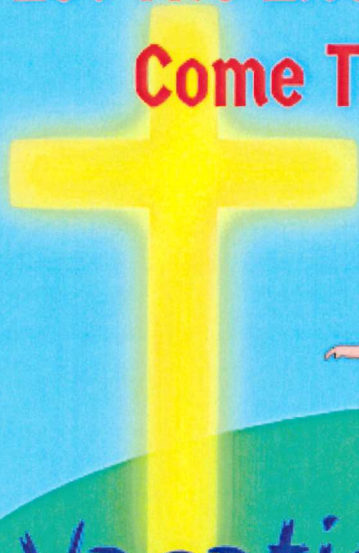
The tradition of soul calling and celebrating the New Year has been practiced for centuries by the Hmong. It is believed that a person’s soul may have wandered off, gotten lost, or could not find its way back to unite with its own body during the past year. During the New Year’s celebration, the soul is called to return to the body. The festival celebration brings thousands of Hmong together. The Hmong Christians in Merced sponsor a booth at the festival and share Jesus with the people. They distribute Hmong Christian materials including Divine Drama, Arch Books, Children’s Garden Bible Stories, the Small Catechism, and information about the Hmong Language School and its activities.

There are also large populations of Hmong people in Minnesota and Wisconsin. LCMS churches in these states are asking for assistance in implementation of the Hmong Language School programs. With money from this grant Hmong Outreach, started in Merced, California, can expand to other congregations and districts.

Learn more about this mission grant at lwml.org/mission-grants



Let The Little Children
Come To Me...



Vacation Bible School



God's Living Water
covered in Jesus Grace

★ June 4 - 8
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. ★

Age 3 - 6th Grade

Concordia Lutheran Church

502 2nd Ave N Jamestown, ND 58401

Concordia Lutheran Jamestown, ND
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION
(One form per child, please)

*Student First Name: _____

*Student Last Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Age: _____

Gender: Male Female

Grade just finished: _____

Home Church (if applicable): _____

Allergies: _____

Medical Issues or Special Needs: _____

Place my child in the same group as (child's name): _____

*Parent Name (first and last): _____

*Address: _____

*City: _____

*State: _____

*Zip: _____

*Email: _____

*Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Other Phone Number: _____

Emergency Contact (first and last name): _____

Emergency Phone: _____

Alternate Pickup (first and last name): _____

Alternate Pickup Phone: _____

General Information: _____

T-Shirt Size: XS Ym YL XS S M L XL

Medical Release: I give my permission for the VBS staff to administer basic first aid to my child (named above) in the event of an injury. I understand that the VBS staff will contact emergency services in the event of a significant injury and all expenses for such emergency services will be paid by me.

Photo Release: I hereby grant the above named church permission to copyright and use photographs/videos taken at VBS of the minor designated above in any manner or form for any purpose lawful at any time. I waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or written copy, that may be used in conjunction therewith, or the use to which it may be applied.

Permission to Attend: I give permission for my child (named above) to attend the Vacation Bible School (VBS) listed above. I understand that the information I give for this registration will only be used by the VBS hosting church, and that all registration information will be removed from the hosting site by December 31 of this year.

Parent Signature

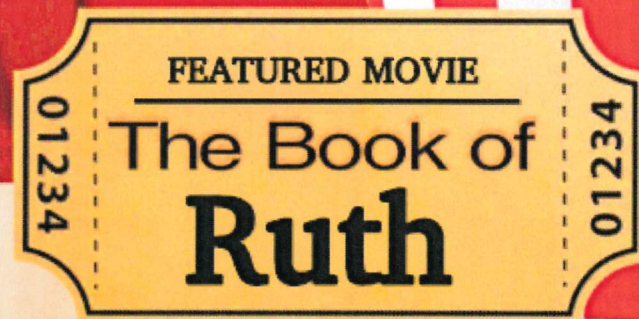
Date

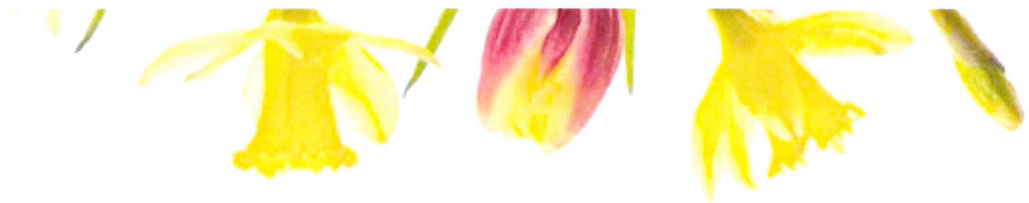
POSTERMYWALL
PRESENTS

Ladies MOVIE NIGHT

Tuesday
May 9th 7:00pm

Concordia Lutheran Church





MOTHER'S DAY
May 14th

Flowers for Mom

Carnations for \$1

