Pastor's Corner

By: Pastor Tom Eckstein



Pastor Eckstein authors 2024 Advent Series for CPH!

Pastor Eckstein was asked to author the 2024 Advent Sermon Series for Concordia Publishing House.

In addition to writing the sermons for this series, pastor Eckstein also authored the bible studies for this

series as well as the Advent Devotional Booklet for this series. Below is a sample of one of pastor

Eckstein's devotions that will appear in the 2024 Advent Devotional Booklet from Concordia Publishing House:

Did God Really Say?

[The serpent] said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" -Genesis 3:1b

Christian apologist, Frank Turek, asks skeptics of Christianity this question: "If Christianity were true, would you want to be a

Christian?" Sadly, many skeptics say "No!" This shows that their problem with Christianity is not lack of evidence. Their problem with Christianity is that they don't like God's Wonderful Counsel in Holy Scripture.

The devil deceived Adam and Eve by tempting them to doubt God's Word. (Genesis 3:1; Revelation 20:2; 2nd Corinthians 11:3) The devil continues to tempt us to doubt God's Wonderful Counsel – and every time we sin in desire, thought, word or deed we are guilty of believing the devil's lie just like Adam and Eve did.

The good news is that God's Son has defeated Satan and our sin for us! The devil tried to tempt Jesus to doubt God's Word (Luke 4:1-12), but He remained faithful. Even when Christ was on the cross, the devil worked through people to tempt Him to save Himself. (Luke 4:13; 23:35-39). But God's Son stayed on the cross FOR YOU because He loves you!

The Holy Spirit moves us to trust God's Wonderful Counsel because His Son loved us enough to die for our sins of doubting His Word.

Dear Jesus, thank you for dying for my sin of doubting Your Word and help me to trust Your

Wonderful Counsel.

Pastor Eckstein "out of town" 5/06 – 5/08

Pastor Tom will be attend the ND District LCMS pastors conference in Fargo from Monday, May 6th through Wednesday, May 8th.

There WILL still be a 7:00PM Wednesday evening Service on May 8th!

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Eckstein

Newsletter Notes from Deaconess Nayva



Deaconess Nayva

Women's Bible Study

"God's Provision in a Wilderness World"

By Lindsay Hausch

1st and 3rd Tuesdays May 7th and 21st Fellowship Hall 7:00

Feel Free to join us anytime.

A New Song

Bible Study on the Psalms

Fri, May 3rd 10:00am

Marian Duff (Host) 1301 15th St SW

Thurs, May 9th 1:00 pm

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

<u>Outreach</u>

Stephen Ministry

Wednesdays
1:00 - 3:30pm
Please let Nayva know if you have any questions.

Grief Share

Sundays 2:00pm Fellowship Hall

Fellowship

Book Club

Book: <u>Prairie Comrade</u>
BY: Troy Gunderson
We will be talking with the Author
on May 11th at 2:00pm.

Sign up to purchase the book. \$15



Main Street Living TV Program www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com

Every Sunday on the local Fox Station at 9am "SO SHALL MY WORD BE that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah **55:11.** These are exceedingly reassuring words, and all the more as the world seems to increasingly crumble around us! May God continue to bless the works sent out through our MSLN TV broadcasts and internet pathways!

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.



The LWML will meet on May 7th at 3:00pm to make plans for the spring and summer.

There is still time to register for the LWML convention being held in Bismark June 14-16. There is information in the spring newsletter. Our delegates from Concordia are Nayva Mulder and Carmen McBride.

The Central Zone rally was held on April 6th in Edgeley. Thank you to everyone who helped us in collecting stuffed animals to take with us to the in gathering - the total was 302 stuffed animals to be donated to Orphan Grain Train.

The first Sunday of the Month is Mite Sunday

Thank you to everyone for helping with the noisy mites. We collected \$197.67 in April. We will be doing this again the first Sundays in May and June. Bring your change to help raise funds for our mission offerings.



Listen up for the **NOISY OFFERING** on May 5th.

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. The ND District LWML has been able to pay the rest of the Mission grants for this biennium. We thank and praise God that we were able to fund them all!

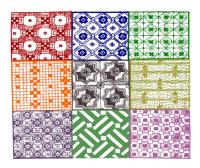
We continue to pray that we will be able to fund all our National LWML mission grant projects for this biennium....like Mission Grant #7 MENTAL HEALTH

TRAINING AND OUTREACH LCMS Life Ministry | \$96,500

There is a need and opportunity for Lutheran outreach to people struggling with mental illnesses and disorders. However, it is challenging for pastors, church workers and lay leaders because they need ongoing training to provide effective and appropriate care. LCMS Life Ministry received an LWML Mission Grant of \$96,500 to help meet the cost of developing materials for training church workers as they minister to those suffering from mental illnesses. Follow this link to learn more about this grant:

https://www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-7

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



The Concordia LWML quilters will be presenting quilts to our graduating seniors this year on May 5th after both services. The seniors this year are Kai Backen, Aydyn Walch, Peyton Spitzer, and Joe Lindberg.

The quilters will have their final quilting session for the season on May 7th. As a result of this busy season, they have been able to complete 28 quilts.



On Palm Sunday we had special activities for an intergenerational group. Those who participated heard the story, watched a video presentation, and had "hands-on" learning activities. Here we see Easter story block construction creations telling the story of Easter, and a puzzle to go with it.



Sunday School continues to meet upstairs Sunday mornings at 9:15 until May 19th. This will be our last day of Sunday School before the summer break. (But don't miss our VBS opportunity to Celebrate the Savior)



Our **VBS** this year will be held June 2nd -6th from 6-8pm. We hope your child will be able to come and hear of God's love for all of us. Our theme this year is **Celebrate the Savior**. **Jesus gives us Joy**. Look for the registration form in the newsletter, fill it out, and return it to the church office.

We ask that you please register your children soon so we can plan for supplies.

--Sunday School Superintendent Sue



Youth Group in May/June

Friday, May 3rd - 6:30 pm

Friday, June 7th – 6:30 pm

Thank you for supporting the

Youth Easter Breakfast! Concordia Youth

Thank you for all the delicious muffin/pastry donations.

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

Volunteers in April:

Musicians:

Sun. 5/5	Carmen McBride
Wed. 5/8	Carmen McBride
Sun. 5/12	Daine Flieth
Wed. 5/15	Daine Flieth
Sun. 5/19	Daine Flieth
Wed. 5/22	Carmen McBride
Sun. 5/26	Ione Somsen
Wed. 5/29	Ione Somsen

Elder and Acolyte Schedule

Sun. 5/5	8am	10:30 am	
	E= Curt S.	E = Gordy L.	
	A =	A =	
Wed.5/8	7pm	E=Quincy B	
		A =	
Sun.5/12	8am	10:30am	
	E = Dernel D.	E= Ed M.	
	A =	A =	
Sun.5/19	8am	10:30am	
	E= Dave H.	E = Doug P.	
	A =	A =	
Wed. 5/22	7pm	E=Quincy B.	
		A =	
Sun. 5/26	8am	10:30am	
	E =Josh R.	E= Larry W.	
	A =	A =	

Communion/Altar preparation:

Marleen Councilman



Please pray for those serving our country...

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

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

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

- Rose Martin
- Ann Schulz
- Shirley Flieth (Grandmother of Randy Flieth)
- Jeff Pansch (Uncle of Tom Boerger)
- Jamie Jo Rawley (Friend of Lila Stokkeland)
- Delle Stinar (Mother of Jim Anderson)
- Mervin Wohler (Brotherin-law of Ann Snow)
- Mary Sandve (Friend of the Elstad family)
- Ronda Gjestvang (Sister of Dale Neustel)
- Marlane Middlestead; (Sister-In-Law of Shirly Genter)
- Marcella Lange (Friend of lone Somsen)

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

- Arianna Walch
- Terese Carter
- Delvida Obenauer
- Marlene Pieske
- Joe Hunt (Friend of Kendall Scott)
- Tyanna Weeks (Niece of Duane Remmick, Nell Essig, and Char Kapp)
- David Stout (Son of Rev. Tim Stout)
- Evelyn Bollinger (Great grand-daughter of Kathey Ziegler)
- Roger Strander (Brother of Verny Jorgenson)
- Joy Jerome (Cousin of Nayva Mulder)
- Hannalore Doeling (Mother of Deb Doeling)
- James Lunneborg (Brother of Ann Snow)
- 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)
- Eric Lucht (Son of Gordy and Sue Lucht)
- Mark Peske (Friend of MJ and Leon Westerhausen)

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

Gail Bischoff Roberta Schmidt Sheila Krapp

SACRED ACTS:

Funerals/Deaths

Gail Bischoff – passed away April 4, 2024; private burial at Courtenay Cemetery

Roberta Schmidt – passed away April 6, 2024; funeral on April 12, 2024 at Concordia

Current Membership Stats:

Baptized Members-607 Confirmed Members-458

2024

Baptisms (Infant)-2, (Adult)-0 Confirmations (Junior)-0, (Adult)-0 Weddings-0 Funerals-4 Transferred In-1 Transferred Out-0 Profession of Faith-1

Miscellaneous Announcements

thrivent

Thank you for considering
Concordia Lutheran Church when
making your Choice Dollars
donation. This month we received
\$352 through the Thrivent Choice
Dollars program. The following
have asked to have funds directed
to Concordia through this program:

Janice J Guthmiller Verney J Jorgenson Lynn Kosel Rebecca Kuhlmann Clarice Spitzer



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE CHANGING, (again)!

Our church secretary has been able to adjust the schedule back to previous hours. Effective immediately, the church office will be open on Tuesday from 1:00-4:00pm and Wednesday through Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. As usual, if you need access to the church at different times, call 252-2819 during office hours to see if arrangements can be made to accommodate your needs.



Concordia has a resource you might not know about..... The Lutheran Hour Ministries' booklet ministry, Project **Connect,** is designed to provide down-to-earth insight about things people deal with every day—grief, stress, prayer, relationships—and more. You can share Project Connect booklets with friends and neighbors. Check out our handy Project Connect display rack in the church narthex. Nearly 60 topical booklets are currently available!.



Relief for Human Need Worldwide
People frequently ask what kinds
of items OGT is collecting. There
are some items that we are always
looking for to help make our
hygiene and layette kits:
Plastic soap boxes, Full-sized soap
bars, Toothbrushes, Combs,
Bandaids, Fingernail clippers,
Washcloths, Full-sized towels
Pocket-sized tissue packets,
Cloth diapers, Rubber pants/diaper
covers, Diaper pins, Onesies,
Sleepers, Receiving blankets, and
Baby blankets

Any of these items can be placed in the container marked "Orphan Grain Train" found in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued support.



Do you play pinochle? The Board of Stewardship is looking for anyone who is interested in playing pinochle. Contact Don Elstad for more information (a) (701) 251-2590.

SAVE THE DATE!



publicdomainvectors.org

Mark your calendar for June 21st. Concordia is hosting an evening of Praise and Worship music featuring local musicians. A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the Orphan Grain Train's ministry in our community. For more information, contact the church office or Carmen McBride.

Easter Celebrations

Thanks Ladies for your efforts to bring back a fun Easter tradition. You've got the right idea in starting them young!





Blessing Bags!

The youth have assembled some "Blessing Bags" for us to hand out to anyone in need. Each bag contains hygiene items, socks and snacks. You can pick one up from the tote in the narthex. Pastor even suggests that you can add a Christian pamphlet to provide spiritual care. As you travel around town or to other places, consider taking one with you to share blessings with others.

Praise the Lord!

This is a new feature in the newsletter. We've made a space where you can post your words of praise and positive comments about what's going on in our church community or your own life.

I'm going to start by giving my "thumbs up" to everyone who has been participating in the **Noisy Offerings** lately. I think this has been a great idea to get everyone involved in supporting the LWML and their missionary projects. Plus, it raises awareness of the LWML mission and ministry. Praise God for the faithful work of the LWML in our church!

Now it's your turn. Let me know who or what you have to praise God for and let us share it on this page.

Council Minutes April 15, 2024

Members Present: Sue Corwin, Don Elstad, Daine Flieth, Nayva Mulder, Kim Murray, Kevin Nelson, Doug Pieske, Randy Flieth Absent: Pastor Eckstein

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

Financial Report: The financial report was presented. 2 of the 6 CDs were renewed for 6-month terms at 5%

Pastor's Report: Randy passed on Pastor's report which stated that he will continue to serve Carrington until they get a Pastor.

The "Everyone His Witness" materials will be presented to the leaders of Concordia (Elders, Council members, and Stephen Ministers) in mini-classes per the following schedule: 7-8pm on Mondays: May 20, June 17, June 24, July 1 and July 8.

Deaconess Report:

*Youth: They recently attended an LYF Retreat in Carrington. The youth are putting together blessing bags. Attending Shepherd's Hill Summer Camps have been encouraged.

- * Grief Share: 10-12 people have been regularly attending and includes some non-members as well.
- * Stephen Ministry: 6 Stephen Ministers have been trained.
 - *Bible Studies: No new report.
- ***Shut-In Visitations:** No new report.

Elders Report: The May schedule was planned. They plan on grilling for the April potluck.

Education Report: May 19th will be the last Sunday School session until the fall. VBS is planned for June 2-6 form 6-8pm. Mercy Meals will be the recipient of the VBS offerings.

The LWML will be presenting the Senior Quilts to the seniors on Sunday, May 5th.

Trustee Report: The window has been replaced in the northeast side room by Northland Windows and Doors.

Sue moved to have Service Master contacted to re-wax the floor in the Fellowship Hall. Kim seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Discussion was held on putting together a "Special Event" cleaning list to have Service Master come in after events such as funerals and weddings to do a special cleaning.

Arneson's was contacted and they have all the needed parts to replace the A/C units in the offices upstairs. If they are not able to get the units replaced by the end of May, another company will be contacted to do the job.

Stewardship Report: The financial planner CJ Hager with Ameriprise Financial will be coming in to do a presentation on Sunday April 21st at 1pm.

Social Ministry Report: No report

Evangelism Report: No report

Old Business:

 Inactive Members – A list of members with no current contact information will be brought to the May council meeting to discuss options. Parking Lot Repairs/Stripping

 A discussion was held and decided to contact Dakota paving for a current estimate on repairs and re-stripping.

New Business:

- Agenda for the April 28th
 Voter's Meeting Various
 maintenance items and
 parking lot information
- Organ Discussion was held on the possibility of replacing the organ as it occasionally stops working. Daine will check on information on replacement organs and also on available service agents to fix the organ.

The Quarterly Voter's Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28 at 11:30 and the next Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 13 at 8pm.

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

Submitted By,

Daine Flieth Council Secretary If you wish to share pictures or make announcements in the bulletin or newsletter, contact the church office at:

Concordiajtsecretary@gmail.com
Or

concordiajt@daktel.com

Concordia Events Calendar - May 2024

	3.6			its Calendar – Ma	1	T a
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			7pm - Service	8:30- 9:30am Men's Bible Class 1pm-6pm — Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington	10am – Women's Bible Class @ Marion Duff home 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group	7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
"Noisy Offering" for LWML mites 8am & 10:30am Services (Lord's Supper) Sunday School & Bible Class @ 9:15 2pm – Grief Share meeting 2- 4pm Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian	9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train **Pastor in Fargo for pastor conference until Wed. 5/8 Church Office	10am-Bible Class 1pm -Quilting 7pm -Women's Bible Study @Concordia Church Office	1pm-3:30pm – Stephen Ministers 7pm - Service (Lord's Supper)	8:30- 9:30am Men's Bible Class 1pm - Women's Bible Study @ Vera Schultz apartment 1pm-6pm — Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington		7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train 2pm – Book Club @ Concordia
2 ipii rustor e riinty/riurui	Closed	Closed	Closed			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8am & 10:30am Services Sunday School & Bible Class @ 9:15 2- 4pm-Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian	9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train 1:30 pm Dorcas Circle 7pm –Elders & Stewardship meeting 8pm – Council meeting	10am-Bible Class 1pm -Ruth Circle 7pm -Naomi Circle	1pm-3:30pm – Stephen Ministers 7pm - Service	8:30- 9:30am Men's Bible Class 1pm-6pm — Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington		7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8am & 10:30am Service (Lord's Supper) Sunday School & Bible Class @ 9:15 2-4pm-Pastor @ Trinity/Adrian	9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train 7pm – "Everyone His Witness" meeting for Elders/Council/Step hen Ministers	10am-Bible Class 7pm -Women's Bible Study @ Concordia	7pm - Service (Lord's Supper)	8:30- 9:30am Men's Bible Class 1pm-6pm — Pastor Eckstein @ Grace/ Carrington		7:30am – 12:30pm Pastor Eckstein serving Grace/Carrington 9-12pm-Orphan Grain Train
26	27	28	29	30	31	
8am & 10:30am Service Adult Bible Class @ 9:15	9-12pm- Orphan Grain Train	10am-Bible Class		8:30- 9:30am Men's Bible Class		

*Fridays-Pastor's Day Off!

^{*}Mondays-Deaconess Nayva's Day Off!

^{*}Chancel Duties: Marleen Councilman

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

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

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



MAY

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings.



Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from Lutheran Women in Mission at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!

- 1. For flowers. Bring some to a friend or neighbor.
- 2. For school teachers, school workers, and students.
- 3. For Ethiopia, one of the 83 countries where LWML has supported a grant.
- 4. For the LWML Ohio District.
- 5. For nurses and healthcare workers.
- 6. For the opportunity to be able to invite someone to lunch so you can get to know them better.
- 7. For the country of Guinea.
- 8. For godly mothers.
- 9. For the opportunity to help a young mom.
- For our Lutheran Women in Mission Vice President of Organizational Resources.
- 11. For LWML Mission Grant #11.
- 12. For God to strengthen ordained pastors everywhere.
- 13. For the country of Haiti.
- 14. For the many things you can be thankful for today.

- 15. For our national LCMS Council of District Presidents.
- 16. For the country of Hong Kong.
- 17. For the LWML English District.
- 18. For Mite Goals in all the districts.
- 19. For friends and strangers you meet today.
- 20. For the country of India.
- 21. For flower and vegetable gardens.
- 22. For firefighters.
- 23. For LWML Mission Grant #12.
- 24. For the country of Indonesia.
- 25. For the LWML SELC District.
- 26. For your neighbors and for ways to serve them.
- 27. For an opportunity to buy someone a cup of tea or coffee.
- 28. For the country of Israel.
- 29. For the armed forces who gave their lives and for their families left behind.
- 30. For the LWML Eastern District.
- 31. For the country of Latvia.

2023-2025 MISSION GRANT NO. 7

MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING AND OUTREACH

LCMS LIFE MINISTRY | \$96,500







Upheld by God's Hand - Mental Health Outreach

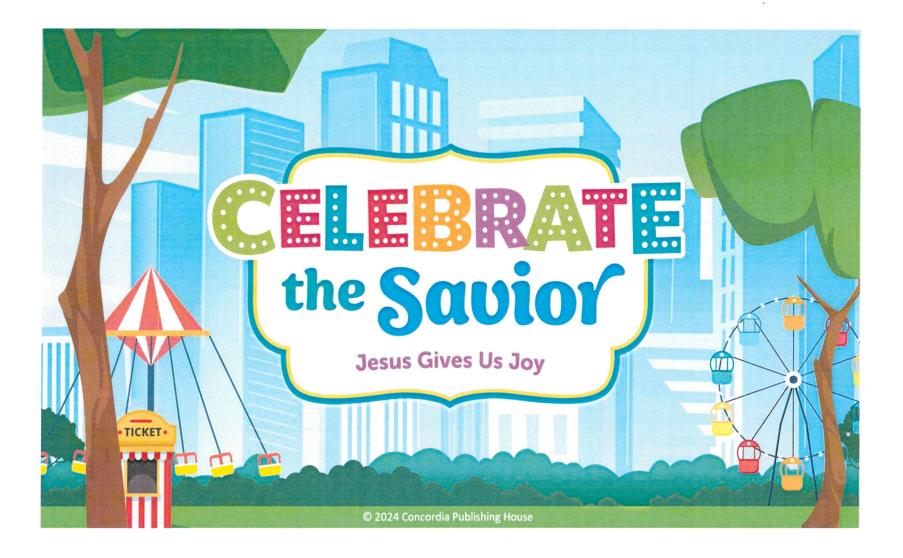
Care for mental illness was a concern prior to the pandemic, but now it has become critical. LCMS church workers have expressed concern about the rise of anxiety, depression, and other mental disorders. Our teachers, youth leaders, pastors, and other church workers are continually requesting resources and training to be equipped for outreach and Christian care.

Millions of people in the United States and around the world are suffering with mental illnesses and disorders. There is a tremendous need and opportunity for Lutheran outreach to both the people struggling with mental issues and their family, so that they may receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastors, church workers, and lay leaders are challenged in dealing with these problems because they do not have enough training to provide effective and appropriate care.

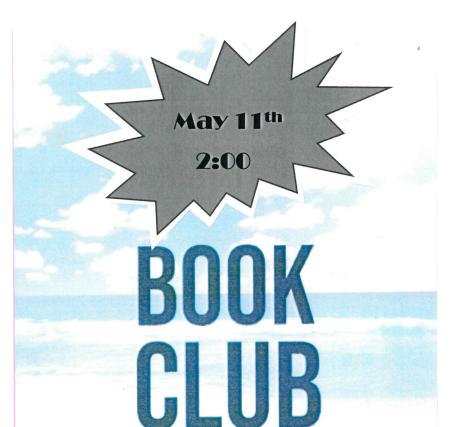
Public health researchers have conducted studies that indicate people with mental illnesses or disorders are more likely to approach a pastor or professional church worker than a medical doctor or counselor. A mental illness or mental disorder has a downward spiral effect in families that may include behavioral malfunctions, addictions, marital problems leading to divorce, loss of job, incarceration, and suicide. It is estimated that 90 percent of people committing suicide suffer from a diagnosable mental illness (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention). Training and outreach for mental illnesses and disorders are effective in combatting stigma, allowing more people to get the help that they need.

The LCMS Task Force for Mental Illness, Health, and Wellness collaborating with expert LCMS contributors will develop the materials, resources, and training programs. LCMS Life Ministry will coordinate the production of materials and rollout of the training for church workers.

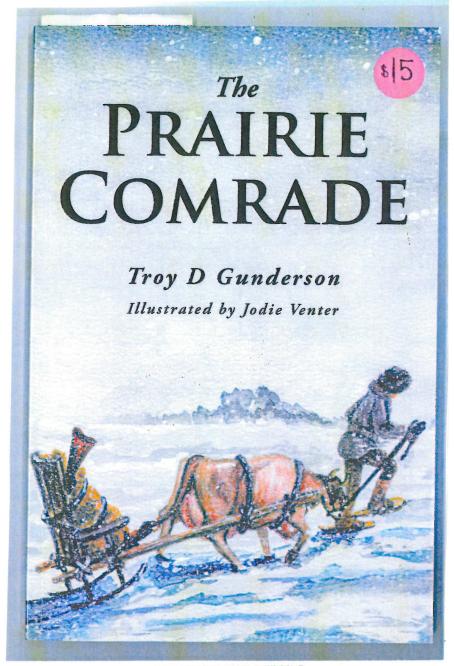
You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you, "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand (Isaiah 41:9-10).



POSTERMYWALL PRESENTS **Tuesday** May 14th 7:00pm Concordia Lutheran Church FEATURED MOVIE



We will be discussing the book at our meeting & and talking to the author.



ASK NAYVA FOR DETAILS.