

The FORTRESS

February 2025

Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Preschool & Academy



Dear People of God,

Sickness abounds in our house. For almost 2 weeks a few different sicknesses have made their rounds. "Cover your mouth, please!" and "Wash your hands!" and "Don't drink from his cup!" have all been said many times over. There isn't a household that doesn't experience this. I've even heard some schools didn't hold session due to the number of students absent for sickness. It's believed winter and the cold air should be helpful to "freeze sicknesses" or "clean the air." Actually, low temperatures can increase the likeliness of getting sick. No one likes being sick. "Ramp-up your regimen of vitamins" we say, "Eat good foods!", "Get some sleep and stay warm!", "Practice good hygiene!"

And still we get sick. It's a serious problem we will never be rid of in this life.

God, and His people, take the sickness of sin even more seriously. He sets the Cross before our eyes, telling us both, what sin has done, and what He has done to remove our guilt and do away with the sickness of our sin. In Holy Baptism He applies the cross to us. Washed away is our sin! The Holy Spirit regenerates us! regenerates us with His Spirit! We are justified by His grace! Sin-sick people have the hope of eternal life!

With this faith and hope, Christians are bold to confess our sin sickness to be cleansed daily in the remembrance of our Baptism, and often in Confession and Absolution.

With the Psalmist, we pray:

Have mercy on me, O God,

according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy

blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin!

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51:1-2, 7)

With St. Paul we rejoice:

[Christ sanctifies the Church], having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. (Ephesians 5:26-27)

The sickness of sin does stick with us until our death, or until Christ returns first. Though we yet feel and experience it, sin is gone in Christ. We are washed, cleansed, and redeemed by the blood of Jesus. The Church is the hospital for sinners--the place where our sin and guilt is treated; the place where the dead in sin are given life in Christ; the place we are refreshed every Sunday as we open our hands and our mouths (and sing and pray!) to receive and share the Cup of Blessing and drink the cleansing and life-giving blood of Jesus.

Peace in Christ! ~Pastor Mueller

In Christ,

Pastor Mueller

SPECIAL VOTER'S MEETING

Sunday, February 9th at Noon

Discussions and votes: on staircase railing & metal trim painting and CID convention lay delegate & alternate

Thank you for joining us at this additional meeting!

2nd
ANNUAL
FAMILY
NIGHT

Euchre Style



♥ A FUN-DRAISER FOR CONCORDIA LUTHERAN ACADEMY! ♥



Friday, February 14 ♥ 5:30 PM

Lasagna Supper from 5:30-6:30 ♥ Childcare Provided from 6:30-9:00

Sign up for a fun night out »—» no experience necessary!

At Concordia Lutheran Church ♥ (309) 944-3993 ♥ 316 S. Oakwood Ave. ♥ Geneseo

Lent 2025 - "Reflections on Repentance"

In our Lent Midweek services, as we prepare ourselves in self-examination and repentance for the celebration of Easter, we will explore the topic of "Reflections on Repentance" in a sermon series from Northwestern Publishing House.



Using the penitential verses of Psalm 51 as an outline, the 2025 Lenten sermon series, Reflections on Repentance, teaches the characteristics of repentance through nine sermons, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Most important, this powerful worship series emphasizes the overwhelmingly undeserved grace God shows to all who believe in the redemptive work of their Savior Jesus.

Midweek Services & Suppers begin on March 5th - Ash Wednesday. Suppers served at 5:30 with services at 7:00.

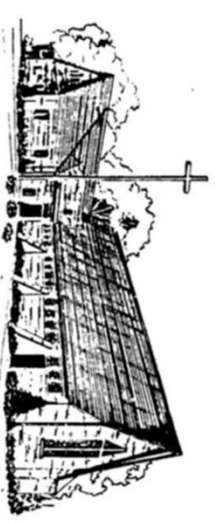
Preschool and Academy Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will start soon!


Timeline for enrollment:

- › Concordia members and other LCMS families begins February 17
- › Current Preschool & Academy Families begins February 24
- › Open to the public on March 3

Contact the office with questions or to register!

February 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 8:00 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 AM Service 12:00 PM Adult Instruction</p>	<p>3 6:30 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>4 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>5 YOW! 3:30 PM SPARKS 5:00 PM Meal 5:30 PM Catechism Class 5:30 PM ROCKS</p>	<p>6 6:30 PM BOE Meeting</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 8</p>
<p>9 8:00 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 AM Service 12:00 PM Special Voter's Meeting 12:00 PM Adult Instruction</p>	<p>10 <i>Pastor at Circuit Pastor's Wink</i> 6:30 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>11 10:00 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM L WML Mtg 4:00 PM Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>12 YOW! 3:30 PM SPARKS 5:00 PM Meal 5:30 PM Catechism Class 5:30 PM ROCKS</p>	<p>13 1:00 PM CLL Meeting 4-7 PM Swaddling Clothes Open 6:00 PM Care Committee Meeting</p>	<p>14 5:30 PM Euchre Night</p>	<p>15 </p>
<p>16 8:00 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 AM Service 12:30 PM Deacon's Meeting 12:00 PM Adult Instruction</p>	<p>17 6:30 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>18 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>19 YOW! 3:30 PM SPARKS 5:00 PM Meal 5:30 PM Catechism Class 5:30 PM ROCKS</p>	<p>20 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9 AM - 12 PM Swaddling Clothes Open</p>
<p>23 8:00 AM Service 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 10:30 AM Service 12:00 PM Adult Instruction 3:00 PM Pastor at Allure for Service</p>	<p>24 6:30 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>25 10:00 AM Bible Study</p>	<p>26 YOW! 3:30 PM SPARKS 5:00 PM Meal 5:30 PM Catechism Class 5:30 PM ROCKS</p>	<p>27 6:30 PM Evangelism Meeting 6:30 PM Trustee Meeting</p>	<p>28</p>	

February 2025



Members who
are 18 years old
and younger

5	Bennett Newman
6	Brinley Anselmi
10	Sofia Klavon
17	Avery Clementz
24	Madison Jahn



2 Bill & Liz Parrish 45 years



Carmen Pamperin

DEACON SCHEDULE

8:00 AM:
Derek Drockelman
& Greg Wisely

10:30 AM:
Dick McMullen
& Don Miller



© Child Birthday - 12 years or younger

* Senior Birthday - 80 years or older

1	Noah Girtman
	Sherry Wechsler
2	James Glazier
4	Henderson Kuelper ©
5	Eileen Eiklor *
	Isla Kotovsky ©
6	Julieta Kuse *
12	Madison Jahn ©
13	Nate Blaser ©
	John Erickson
	Lloyd Foster
	Miles Haverland ©
14	Marta Licht
15	Avery Anselmi ©
17	Joyce Dodge *
	Ben Kramer
18	Sharon Blackert *
20	Barb Printy *
	Sherilyn Wethington
22	Esther Brown
	Andrea Wagoner
24	Janine Persefield
25	Kathryn Nelson *
27	Joann Kinnard



2	This Sunday is available.
9	This Sunday is available.
16	Peg Moriarity
25	This Sunday is available.



Happy New Year Concordia Church Family!

As we enter 2025, we praise God our Father for his faithfulness and steadfast love. He continues to guide and bless us in and out of the preschool classroom as we seek to carry his message to families in Geneseo and surrounding communities. I am excited for the year ahead and can't wait to see what God will do through the preschool and through you who support us.

Our December flew by! Our Christmas celebrations were filled with joy and fellowship. For our Christmas program, we partnered with our Concordia Lutheran Academy students in presenting a re-enactment of the Nativity. The CLA students told the story with Bible readings and poems (memorized!) while our preschool students were in costume and acted out their parts. Collectively they sang songs throughout the program, telling the miraculous story and praising the Lord. We treasured this partnership and loved presenting the Christmas story of our Savior's birth together.

Our classes resume on January 6th after a two-week Christmas break. As we return to the classroom, we look forward to new discoveries and continue to prepare students for the next steps in their education. We are looking forward to National Lutheran Schools week from January 26 - 31. Our theme this year is "Endure" and our scripture reference is Hebrews 12:1-3:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (ESV)

We look forward to exploring this word with our youngest learners and sowing seeds that will grow with God's grace and truth. We appreciate your prayers and continued support at the preschool as we carry out the mission of spreading the Good News. Blessings to all of you in the year ahead!

In Christ, Amy Roberts



One of Concordia's missions is right here in our church!

Concordia Lutheran Preschool is the only preschool program in Geneseo that shares the message and love of Jesus with its students every day. What an amazing way to share the love of God with children that may otherwise not hear the word of our Lord! Want to help give the blessing of a Christian education? Donate or even sponsor a preschool student!

Please contact the office for more details.



Concordia Lutheran Academy 2024-2025

Celebrating Faith, Learning, and Fellowship at Concordia Lutheran Academy

This January, Concordia Lutheran Academy celebrated a vibrant month of learning, fellowship, and faith. A highlight was National Lutheran Schools Week, during which students engaged in activities that reflected our shared commitment to Christ-centered education and service. The theme of NLSW 2025 was “Endure,” and students participated in scripture readings, chapel talks, and themed activities centered around Hebrews 12:1-3. To cap off the week, students enjoyed a memorable field trip to the Family Museum in Bettendorf, Iowa, where they explored interactive exhibits promoting creativity and curiosity and attended a workshop titled Push Pull Forces. Following the museum visit, the group gathered at Happy Joe’s Pizza Parlor for an educational tour, time of joyful fellowship, and delicious food.

We give thanks to God for the opportunity to grow together as a community in faith, knowledge, and love!



“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6



Concordia LWML met on a cold winter day with a potluck at noon.

Our business meeting started at 1:00 after the potluck. Kathy Kramer started the business meeting with prayer. Kathy gave our last monthly series of Faithful women on the story of Esther.

Roll call was answered by telling our favorite Christmas gift. There were 12 members present. The minutes were read and after a few changes were approved.

The treasurer's report was given by Barbara Miller and we have a total of \$2,393.87.

Correspondence: We received several newsletters. Cards were mailed out to members for birthdays and anniversaries. A thank you was received from our seminary student Josh Bieri.

Old Business: Kathy thanked all our members who helped with the Cookie Walk sales. In spite of the bad weather and cancellation of the downtown activities our Cookie Walk was successful. January is the month that we divide the monies received from the Cookie Walk to send to Missions. A motion was made and seconded that we send \$256.00 to the each of the following missions:

Dakota Boys/Girls Ranch
Pregnancy Resources
Women's Choice Center
Cristo Rey/Hispanic Ministry
Orphan Grain Train
Lutheran Heritage Foundation

The rest of the money was kept for our monthly expenses. One of our expenses every month is to send \$50.00 to two seminarians and a mission worker (PABLO). A motion was made and seconded to raise the amount sent each month to \$60.00. The seminarians are Josh Bieri and Marmoset Gobbed and the missionary is Joy Hudson. Thanks be to God that we are able to help these people.

Pastor Mueller gave a Bible study on the "Baptism of Our Lord".

The MITES were collected.

LWML invites all ladies of Concordia to come and join us the second Tuesday at 1:00 each month. Also if you work outside your home you can participate in our Mail Box Members. See Joyce Dodge about this if you have questions.

Respectfully submitted, Patricia Kohrell

Concordia Ladies League

Concordia Ladies League met on January 9, 2025 with 8 members present. We started off with a potluck with Sherry Wechsler and Arline Sigwalt hosting.

Mary Hull took attendance and it was decided that we would pay our dues in February 2025.

We discussed what activities we would have in the coming year. There will be a question of the month and conversation branching out from that.

A suggestion was made to find out if we can have a tour at the Geneseo Museum and Carriage House.

Joy Noard reported that she sent Christmas cards to: Darlene Ball, Fama Prokup, and Doris Paxton; a thank you card to Fama Prokup; a get well card to Paul Mosher; and Thinking of you cards to Wendy Grunwald, Eileen Eikler, and Marcia Himmelman.

It was mentioned that Stephanie is going to print our booklets for 2025.

We closed our meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hull, Secretary

Congratulations to our members who will make these marital milestones in February!



2nd - Bill & Liz Parrish - 45 years

This is a reminder to please put your name on pew envelopes. We want to give you credit for all your contributions on your year-end records. We appreciate your generosity to all the various missions/activities we sponsor and support!

Large Print Portals of Prayer are available to our members with vision difficulties.

If you are in need of one, please contact Linda Hull or the church office.

Swaddling Clothes

For those who would like to volunteer the duties are simple - welcoming those who come to utilize our program, having them sign a waiver, and then helping them pack up the items they will take home. There may also be clothes to sort or diapers to count and package. Please consider helping and sign up on the sheet on the Swaddling Clothes bulletin board outside of the nursery! God bless you for your help!

Shopping hours will be held on: **February 13th from 4:00-7:00 PM** and **February 22nd from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**



Voter's Meetings - Become a voting member of our congregation and help make decisions for our church! The only conditions are being 18 years of age and a current member at Concordia. Please talk to Brian Wahlheim (Church President) or the church office for more details. Next Voter's Meeting: **May 18th - 1:30 PM**

REMEMBER: Please contact the office to inform us of any name, address, marital status, email, or phone changes.

Reminder...when you enter a hospital, be sure to say you are a member of Concordia Lutheran or have a family member or friend call the office or Pastor Mueller. Otherwise, we may not be aware of your hospitalization. **Thank you.**

Check out the greeting cards in the display rack!

For only \$1.00 you can get a pretty card for your occasion and the money goes to LWML missions.



The Fishbowl for the roof and window loans were so successful, it was decided we would continue with the Fishbowl in the back of the church. We will now use the funds collected to repair our musical equipment, as in our organ.

Do you know your Deacon Team?

Each deacon team is assigned a section of the alphabet that covers the **last names** of members. Please feel free to contact your deacon team with any matters pertaining to the welfare of the congregation!

A - C Shawn Anderson & Brian Wahlheim

L - N Dick McMullen & Don Miller

D - G Mark Ouart & Andy Raschke

O - R Bill Kramer & Jeremy Dodge

H - K Greg Wisely & Derek Drockelman

S - Z Ryan Hull & Kenny Grom

Concordia Middle and High School youth - sign-up today!

Higher Things registration is open and filling up fast!

In 2025, we will be going to the *All Things New* conference at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, MI - July 29-August 1.

Contact the office for more details or visit: higherthings.org/events/all-things-new-2025/



March Deadline: February 15th



Go to goodshop.com to get the latest coupons and offers at thousands of top retailers like Amazon, Macy's, Target, and Best Buy.

Then, a percentage of your purchases is donated to your chosen cause.



BUDGET REPORT

January

Year-to-Date

Funds Status as of January 31, 2025

Approved 2025 budget is \$346,182

Income	\$ 28,356.00	\$ 28,356.00
Expenses	\$ 32,589.60	\$ 32,589.60
Income less expenses	\$ - 4,233.60	\$ - 4,233.60

Please continue to pray for Concordia and the important work planned and approved by the Voters of Concordia. As Christian stewards, let us constantly be reminded and thankful that all gifts – time, talent, and treasure – are gifts from God; and be encouraged to use them in God pleasing ways.



Happy New Year! The Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is open: Mondays 9:00 am to 7:00 pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; and Fridays 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The clothing room is closed on Fridays. The Food Pantry will be **closed on President's Day, Monday, February 17**. Food is distributed, and donations are gratefully accepted during business hours. We also have collection boxes in the vestibule at Fareway, NOSH, and at Inspire Continuing Care for donations. **If the Geneseo Schools are closed due to weather, the Food Pantry is also closed.**

Because of the community's generous support, the Food Pantry provided food and emergency assistance to **340** households in December. In addition to our regular food distribution, we provided each of these families with Christmas baskets. Thanks to the many donors who make all this possible!



We are a **full choice** food pantry, which means guests choose the food they take home. Households that meet requirements may receive food once per month. Anyone may shop in the clothing room once per week.

Do you want to achieve significant life changes and receive help and support setting and reaching your goals? Then the **Five Loaves** program at Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry is for you! Call 309-944-3165 or visit geneseofoodpantry.org for more information.



These are a few of the 39 volunteers who assist guests in shopping for food, sort donations in the clothing room, pick up donations, pack school supplies bags, sort toys and assist in the Christmas toy room. We appreciate every one of them!

On January 30, Dietitians from Hammond-Henry Hospital taught a free healthy cooking class in the Matthew 25 Center at the Food Pantry. The Dietitians will be back to teach another **free dietitian class on February 20 at 1:00 at the Food Pantry**, and the public is invited.

The Food Pantry partners with two nurses to provide two **Foot Care Clinics** to the public each month. Nurses soak feet, trim, and file toenails, help with ingrown toenails, and give a light foot massage with lotion. Please call 309-944-3165 or email geneseopantry1@gmail.com to make an appointment. Cost is \$37 but Food Pantry guests are given a voucher.



Thank you to all who donated money, food, clothing, personal care items, and toys to the Food Pantry. Thank you to those who organized angel trees, food drives, coat drives, toy drives, collected monetary donations, and made deliveries to the Food Pantry. Thank you to the donors who provided Christmas gifts for 56 families in need. Thank you to those who provided food or monetary donations for Christmas food baskets. Thank you for making it possible for the Food Pantry to help those in need and may God bless you all!

Food needs: Tea, low sodium soup, cereal, crackers, 100% juice

Non-food needs: Lotion, feminine hygiene products, household cleaners, pain relievers, and ziploc bags.

Clothing room needs: Fall & cold weather clothing items, hats, gloves, boots, snowpants, men's clothing (all sizes), women's XS clothing, bath towels, blankets.



CONCORDIA EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
316 S. Oakwood Ave.
Geneseo, IL 61254

Join Us for Worship at Concordia!

Important Dates to Note:

February 9 - Special Voter's Meeting -12:00 PM

February 14 - Euchre Night - 5:30 PM

February 16 - Circuit Forum at St. John's in East Moline

Worship Schedule

Sunday Services - 8:00 AM
& 10:30 AM

Sunday School &
Adult Bible Study - 9:30 AM

Rev. Stephen M. Mueller, Pastor
Parsonage phone (309) 944-2827

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program:

<u>Station</u>	<u>City, State</u>	<u>Freq</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
WGEN	Kewanee, IL	1500 AM	Sun	5:30 AM
WKEI	Kewanee, IL	1450 AM	Sun	5:30 AM
WGN	Chicago, IL	720 AM	Sun	6:30 AM
WMT	Cedar Rapids, IA	600 AM	Sun	6:30 AM
KCLN	Clinton, IA	1390 AM	Sun	9:30 AM



Updating Prayer List

As we pray continually for all the saints of God and for our Church family, there have been questions, by praying members, wondering how people on our prayer list are doing. Please contact the church office and let us know how the person you asked to be added to the prayer list is doing.

Please continue to pray for:

Concordia Family: Joline Parrish, Lenore Vandevoord, Elizabeth Erdman, Chris Grom, Paul Mosher, Jenni DeGerengel, Wendy & Jon Grunwald, Roger Hull, Jackson Kinnard, Phil Jahn, Cindy Wagoner, Fama Prokup, Martin Fleming, Sue Smithson, Carol Kennett, Darlene Ball, Julie Kuse, Janine Persefield, Lois Misfeldt, Brad Watters, our inactive members

Friends of Concordia: Craig, Jim Garner, Jeff McQuaid, Kathy Remick, Jayson Sheldon, Barbara Sigwalt, Joe Moriarity, Debbie DelFiacco, Debbie Hardesty, Justin Rittenhouse, Megan & Daxton Crain, Ann Key, A.J. Gale, Judy & Gary Magnuson, Julie Fiers, Karen Wright, Helen Stewart, John Cross, John Gravitt, Tony Snell, Cameron Mayo, Joan Maier, Chris Frisk, Connie Wagner, Alice Wright, Ed Schulmeister, Stephanie Kursock, Joan McCarron