

JUNE 2025

THE FORTRESS

Newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Preschool & Academy

DATES TO NOTE

6.7 . Church Workday . 8:30 AM

6.9-6.13 . VBS . 9-11:30 AM

6.21 . CLA Golf Outing

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Swaddling Clothes

Sign-up or contact Jamie Kotovsky

VBS

Contact Bonnie Myers or the office

Baby Bottle Donations

In the the Fellowship Hall

CLA Golf Outing

Contact Rachel Kramer

CLP 25th Anniversary Celebration

Contact Stephanie Prochaska

YOW!

Contact the Board of Ed

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOOK!

From the Office

As our building is getting a few updates to create a more warm, welcoming, and future thinking environment, so is some of our media – including our website. I know it can take some time to get used to change but, as we all know, Lutherans welcome a challenge. 😊

One thing that will never change, however, is the truth and purity of God's Word taught here at Concordia. Walls can be painted, furniture updated, and layouts changed, but the Word of the Lord remains.

I truly appreciate the grace and patience with the changes that have occurred and are continually worked on; many are for efficiency of time and resources, but can have bumps none the less. Feedback is always welcome as needs and opinions vary between us all. Please feel free to stop by or call with questions or concerns!

We are instructed to **hear** His word, **live** out the faith given to us by grace, and unapologetically **share** the message of Christ so the Holy Spirit may draw all hearts to Him. This is reflected in Concordia's mission statement: The purpose of this congregation shall be to **give honor and glory to the Triune God**, to **carry out His will**, to **proclaim the Gospel** of Jesus Christ to all the world, to **manifest the unity of our faith** in Jesus Christ as God and Savior, to **foster Christian fellowship and love**, to **extend a helping hand in human need**, and to achieve our objectives by the **preaching of the Word of God**, by the **administration of the sacraments**, and by the **religious instruction** of all its members according to the Confessional Standard of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

It takes the whole body of the Church coming together to achieve this mission, as it has since this church was first founded in 1864. We have a rich history filled with God-fearing members striving to further His work through Concordia. As this mission continues, let us support one another in prayer (grab a Prayer Connection Card!), grace filled words, loving action, and a heart that points others to Christ.

- Stephanie

P.S. Check out the updates to our church website!
www.concordiageneseo.com



PRESCHOOL PRESS

From Mrs. Roberts

Blessings and Greetings to our Concordia Church Family! We've run the race this year and have completed our learning adventures for the 2024-2025 school year. We had a final whirlwind of activities as we crossed the finish line, right up to the very last day of school on May 16. We celebrated our last day at the park and made tie-dye shirts to kick off our summer break.



This year is CLP's 25th anniversary!

We are celebrating God's blessings in a big way this summer:

August 1st
Preschool Trivia Night
to support the Tuition
Assistance Fund -
Theme: Totally 2000

August 2nd
Preschool Lawn Party
- Join us for a day of
fun, food, and
friends at
Concordia!

August 3rd
Services of
Dedication &
Celebration of God's
Faithfulness -
8 & 10:30 AM

Each year the preschool uses the offerings from chapel to bless a local organization and share the love of Jesus. This year, the Henry County Humane Society was the recipient of that blessing. Our preschool families provided additional gifts of pet supplies, and those items were presented to a board member, Kristen VerStraete, along with a monetary donation. We loved supporting an organization that cares so well for God's creatures.

As we said good bye for now and God bless to our precious preschoolers, we pray for them to remember that God loves them and is always with them. God's blessings to you this summer! Thank you for all your prayers and support!



ACADEMY ANNOUNCEMENTS

From Mrs. Coppejans

As we turn the final pages of our 2024-2025 school year, we do so with hearts brimming with gratitude and joy. God has blessed this year abundantly—from laughter-filled learning days to the deepening of friendships and faith.

In May, our class enjoyed a special visit to Sol's Legacy Ministries, where scholars experienced the wonder of God's creation through hands-on learning at their equine facility. It was a day of discovery, joy, and meaningful connection—both with each other and the gentle animals we met.

We concluded our school year with a joyful Class Picnic and Field Day, filled with games, sunshine, and the sweet fellowship of our school family. It was a fitting celebration of the growth and accomplishments of each scholar this year.



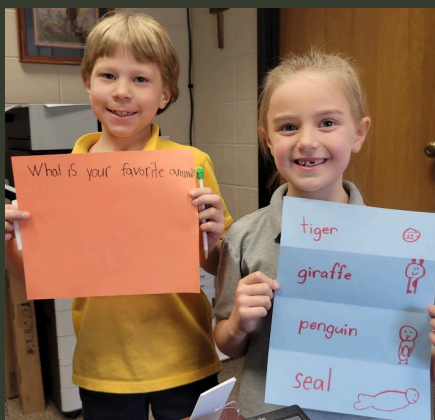
As my first year at CLA comes to an end, I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to teach, learn, and walk alongside these incredible scholars. It has been a joy and honor to witness their curiosity flourish and their faith take root and grow. Thank you to our families, congregation, and friends of CLA for your unwavering encouragement and partnership in this mission.

Looking ahead, the CLA Squad has been working hard to prepare and host our Annual CLA Golf Outing Fundraiser on Friday, June 21. This event not only supports our school's continued growth but also provides a wonderful opportunity

for fellowship and fun. We invite all supporters and friends of CLA to join us!

As our school continues to grow, we kindly ask for your continued support. In the coming summer months, we will share specific opportunities to contribute to our curriculum and classroom needs. Your donations directly impact the daily learning and spiritual formation of our scholars.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. We look forward to a restful, rejuvenating summer—and to all the blessings God has in store for CLA in the coming year.



Memorize a verse with us!

*He died for all, that those who
live might no longer live for
themselves but for him who for
their sake died and was raised.
2 Corinthians 5:15*



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN ACADEMY'S
3RD ANNUAL

SWING FOR THE KIDS



FUNDRAISER

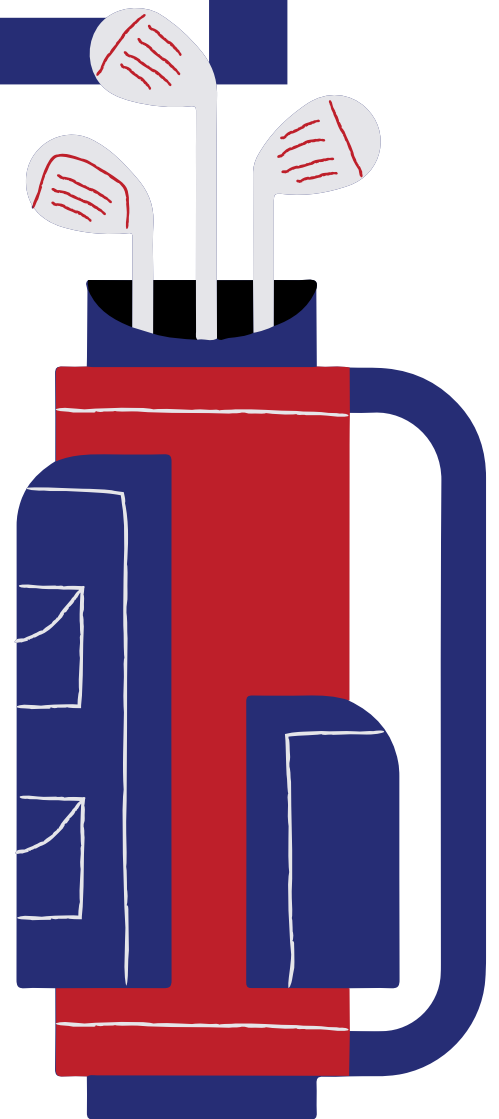
- RAFFLES, AWARDS, PRIZES

-

CHANCE AT \$10,000
HOLE-IN-ONE

-

LEARN MORE ON OUR
FACEBOOK PAGE -
CLA GOLF OUTING
2 PLAYERS, CART,
LUNCH, SWAG BAG **\$160**



JOIN US THE MORNING OF
21 JUNE 2025

📍 VALLEY VIEW
9701 ILLINOIS HIGHWAY 82
CAMBRIDGE, IL 61238

SCAN TO REGISTER



OR CALL (309) 944-3993



Our LWML began at noon on May 13, 2025 with a potluck. Pat Kohrell was hostess for the day and furnished a delicious Woolworth Cheesecake for desert. Kathy Kramer led us in a Bible study titled “Our Daily Bread”. We finished half of the study and next week Joyce Dodge will be our leader for the last part. Our business meeting opened with prayer. We sang hymn 872, “Oh God of Mercy, God of Might”. Kathy led us in prayer. Roll call was answered with a bedtime prayer that we said as a child. The common prayer was “Come Lord Jesus” and also a few others that were different. There were 13 members present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Treasurer’s report was given by Barb Miller and we have a balance on hand of \$1,032.02. A report was given by Kathy on cards that were sent and correspondence received.

Old Business: Kathy gave a report on the 2 day CID LWML Convention at Lincoln, IL. that was attended by several members from our society. Missionary Gary Heinz was the speaker. Thank you to our congregation for the socks and underwear that were donated for the Orphan Grain Train. Thanks to all who cooked and participated in the Maundy Thursday Luncheon.

New Business: It was suggested that we receive instruction for assembling and operating the chaffing pans that Sherry and Bob Wechsler donated to Concordia. **Kathy read a mite box devotion about how the mites fund Lutheran charities. This year our mites funded the following: Student Aid for church workers - \$30,000; CID Dollars for Missions & \$25,000; LCMS Disaster Relief - \$10,000 for 1 year.** If you would like a mite box to save your change and help fund the charities see a LWML member. The mites are collected once a month.

Our next meeting will be on June 10, 2025 at 1:00. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us on the second Tuesday of the month. Come and see what we are all about!

SIGN-UP FOR VBS 2025!

MONDAY, JUNE 9 - FRIDAY, JUNE 13 FROM 9:00 - 11:30AM

This year’s VBS will be the ultimate woodsy adventure where northern lights glow over racing rivers, majestic lakes, and glistening glaciers. Your kids will explore how easy it is to lose sight of what’s true in our wild world and learn that Jesus is a faithful friend we can trust, our True North forever! Each day at True North VBS, kids will trek the tundra in field-tested rotations that reinforce relevant Bible truths and life-changing faith formations.

VBS is for ages 3–yrs–old to entering 6th grade in fall 2025.

Volunteers have a very special role in helping kids know and grow in Jesus’ love.

Areas to serve include crew leaders, games, snacks, and more.

Volunteer sign-up is available in the Fellowship Hall!



OPEN FOR SHOPPING - JUNE 12TH 4-7 PM & JUNE 28TH 9-NOON

SWADDLING CLOTHES

Sharing the mercy of Christ with our neighbors through the gifts of clothing, food, friendship, and the forgiving Word of God.

Volunteer to help our community today!

In our prayers...

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

Friends of Concordia: Steve Lee, Dan & Lisa Gordon, Tammy Bruns, 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

Our church workers. Our Synodical leaders: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison - Synod President, Rev. Michael Mohr - CID President. **Our nation's leaders:** especially President Trump and Governor Pritzker. **The Armed Forces, law enforcement officers, and firefighters.**

If you wish to submit a prayer request, please contact Pastor or the office. If you or a member of your family have a medical procedure planned or are admitted to the hospital, please call the church office. In the event of an after-hours emergency please contact Pastor at (309) 944-2827.

Funds Status as of April 31, 2025

Approved 2025 budget is \$346,182

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.



	April	Year-to-Date
Income	\$26,816.70	\$124,129.33
Expenses	\$26,025.77	\$127,597.38
Income Less Expense	\$790.93	\$3,468

Odds and Ends

- Some things remain the same but are important none the less!

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.

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 a name, address, marital status, number, or email change.

If you admitted to 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 in the back of the church is a collection for the repair of our musical equipment. We are blessed to have wonderful instruments to help us "make a joyful noise"; let's keep them tuned up and in good condition!

2025 Graduates



Ava Anderson

Ava plans to start classes this summer at Blackhawk for Elementary Education.



Esther Brown

Esther is graduating from Elmhurst College with her BS in Nursing. She will begin working as an OB nurse at Genesis East Davenport.



Emma Drockelman

Emma will be attending St. Ambrose College majoring in Elementary Education. She will be a cheerleader there as well.



Michael Franklin

Michael is enrolling in the United States Marine Corp. Thank you Michael for serving our county!



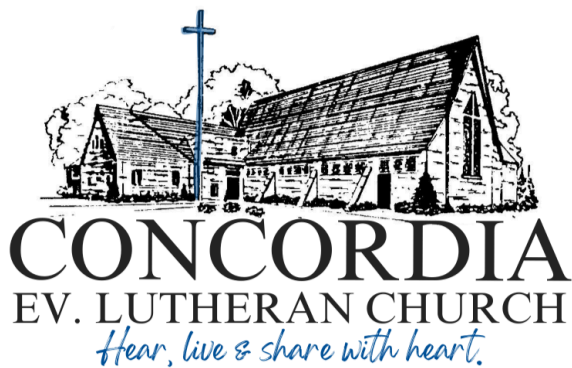
Anna Poel

Anna is graduating from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a Bachelor of Music Education. She is graduating as a College of Fine and Applied Arts James Loyalty Scholarship. She has accepted a position teaching music at Northside Elementary in Geneseo, IL.



Julia Poel

Julia completed her Master's in Education Policy from the Teachers College at Columbia University. She will continue towards her PhD at Stanford University.



316 S Oakwood Ave, Geneseo, IL 61254
(309) 944-3993 · office@concordiageneseo.com
www.concordiageneseo.com

CHURCH LEADERSHIP:

Brian Wahlheim - President
Allison Drockelman - Secretary
Mindy Brown - Treasurer

DEACONS & MEMBER LAST NAMES:

Shawn Anderson & Brian Wahlheim	A-C
Mark Ouart & Andy Raschke	D-G
Derek Drockelman & Greg Wisely	H-K
Dick McMullen & Don Miller	L-N
Bill Kramer & Jeremy Dodge	O-R
Kenny Grom & Ryan Hull	S-Z

NEXT FORTRESS DEADLINE:

Sunday, June 15

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday
School Year - 8am-3pm
Non-School Day - 9am-Noon

DIRECTORY

Rev. Stephen Mueller

pastor@geneseolutheranchurch.com
(309) 944-2827

Stephanie Prochaska, Office Administrator
concordia@geneseolutheranchurch.com

Amy Roberts, Preschool Teacher
preschool@geneseolutheranchurch.com

Katherine Coppejans, Academy Teacher
kcoppejans@concordialutheranacademy.com

Erica Johnson, Resource Secretary
resource@geneseolutheranchurch.com

Mindy Brown, Treasurer
bookkeeper@geneseolutheranchurch.com

Nicky Litwiler, Custodian
custodian@geneseolutheranchurch.com

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

Every Monday (Sept-May)
6:30 PM - Bible Study

Every Tuesday (Sept-May)
10:00 AM - Bible Study

Every Wednesday (Sept-May)
YOW!

3:30 PM - SPARKS
5:00 PM - Breaking Bread Meal
5:30 PM - Catechism Class
5:30 PM - ROCKS

1st Thursday
6:30 PM - BOE Meeting

2nd Tuesday
1:00 PM - LWML Meeting
4:00 PM - Stewardship Meeting

2nd Thursday
1:00 PM - CLL Meeting
4-7 PM - Swaddling Clothes Open
6:00 PM - Care Committee Meeting

2nd Sunday of Jan, May, Oct
1:30 PM - Voters Assembly

2nd Monday (Aug-May)
Pastor at Circuit Pastor's Winkel

3rd Sunday
12:30 PM - Deacon's Meeting

3rd Thursday
6:30 PM - Council Meeting

4th Thursday
6:30 PM - Evangelism Meeting
6:30 PM - Trustee Meeting

4th Saturday
9 AM-Noon - Swaddling Clothes Open

4th Sunday
3:00 PM - Pastor at Allure for Service

June Special Dates:

7 th	Church Workday	8:30 AM
9 th -13 th	VBS	9-11:30 AM
21 st	CLA Golf Outing	7:30 AM